Table 26. Headcount and FTEs of R&D personnel at higher education institutions in the standard form survey population, by personnel function and sex: FYs 2020–25

(Number)

Personnel functions	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
	Headcount	FTEs	Headcount	FTEs	Headcount	FTEs	Headcount	FTEs	Headcount	FTEs	Headcount	FTEs
All personnel functions	961,995	450,500	968,540	468,523	1,032,211	497,888	1,057,699	513,653	1,085,640	525,994	1,098,601	546,899
Female	NA	na	NA	na	516,223	na	532,950	na	548,942	na	550,543	na
Male	NA	na	NA	na	491,671	na	501,087	na	509,497	na	506,419	na
Sex unknown or not stated	NA	na	NA	na	24,317	na	23,662	na	27,201	na	41,639	na
Researchers	343,640	176,416	357,206	187,115	367,816	195,934	378,045	198,919	393,905	208,879	402,795	216,701
Female	NA	na	NA	na	153,501	na	161,761	na	170,918	na	173,902	na
Male	NA	na	NA	na	206,043	na	208,925	na	214,477	na	213,864	na
Sex unknown or not stated	NA	na	NA	na	8,272	na	7,359	na	8,510	na	15,029	na
R&D technicians	355,994	176,530	369,824	181,907	389,530	180,798	401,991	193,328	411,697	203,776	412,088	210,523
Female	NA	na	NA	na	199,916	na	206,992	na	212,979	na	212,125	na
Male	NA	na	NA	na	181,223	na	187,463	na	190,002	na	188,214	na
Sex unknown or not stated	NA	na	NA	na	8,391	na	7,536	na	8,716	na	11,749	na
R&D support staff	262,361	97,554	241,510	99,500	274,865	121,156	277,663	121,406	280,038	113,339	283,718	119,675
Female	NA	na	NA	na	162,806	na	164,197	na	165,045	na	164,516	na
Male	NA	na	NA	na	104,405	na	104,699	na	105,018	na	104,341	na
Sex unknown or not stated	NA	na	NA	na	7,654	na	8,767	na	9,975	na	14,861	na

NA = not available; headcount demographic subfields are not available for FYs 2020 and 2021. na = not applicable; FTEs by sex are not collected.

FTE = full-time equivalent.

Note(s):
FTE R&D personnel are calculated as the total working effort spent on R&D during a specific period divided by the total effort representing a full-time schedule within the same period. This table includes only institutions reporting $1 million or more in total R&D expenditures in FY 2024. Institutions reporting less than $1 million in total R&D expenditures in FY 2024 completed a shorter version of the survey form in FY 2025 that did not include this question.

Source(s):
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Higher Education Research and Development Survey.