



Business R&D Performed in the United States Reached \$356 Billion in 2015

by Raymond M. Wolfe¹

Businesses spent \$356 billion on research and development performance in the United States in 2015, a 4.4% increase over the \$341 billion spent in 2014 (table 1). Funding from the companies' own sources was \$297 billion in 2015, a 5.0% increase from the \$283 billion spent in 2014. Funding from other sources was \$59 billion in 2015 and \$58 billion in 2014. Data for this InfoBrief are from the Business R&D and Innovation Survey (BRDIS), developed and cosponsored by the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics within the National Science Foundation and by the U.S. Census Bureau.

R&D Performance, by Type of R&D, Industrial Sector, and Source of Funding

In 2015, of the \$356 billion companies spent on R&D, \$22 billion (6%) was spent on basic research, \$56 billion (16%) on applied research, and \$278 billion (78%) on development. The distribution was unchanged from 2014 (table 1). In 2015, companies in manufacturing industries performed \$236 billion (66%) of *domestic R&D*, defined as R&D performed in the 50 states and Washington, D.C. (table 2). Most of the funding was from these companies' own funds (83%). Companies in nonmanufacturing industries performed \$120 billion of domestic

R&D (34% of total domestic R&D performance), 84% of which was paid for from companies' own funds.

The U.S. federal government was the chief source of *external funding for R&D* (also referred to as *R&D paid for by others*) across all industries. Of the \$59 billion paid for by others, the federal government accounted for \$27 billion, most of which came from the Department of Defense (\$18 billion) (data available in full set of data tables). Ninety-one percent of federal government funding went toward aerospace products and parts (North American Industry Classification System [NAICS] code 3364), professional, scientific, and technical services (NAICS 54), and computer and electronic products (NAICS 334). Next among external funders were foreign companies (\$16 billion)—including foreign parent companies of U.S. subsidiaries—and other U.S. companies (\$15 billion) (table 2). (See “Survey Information and Data Availability” for information on the availability of data tables with full industry detail.)

R&D Performance, by Company Size

Micro-, small-, and medium-sized companies (5 to 249 domestic employees) performed 12% of the nation's total

business R&D in 2015 (table 1). In these companies, the R&D-to-sales ratio (or R&D intensity) was 5.8%, compared with 3.9% for all companies overall (tables 1 and 3). These companies accounted for 8% of sales, employed 12% of the 18.9 million who worked for R&D-performing or R&D-funding companies, and employed 23% of the 1.5 million employees engaged in business R&D in the United States.

By contrast, large companies with 250 to 24,999 domestic employees performed 52% of the nation's total business R&D in 2015, and their R&D intensity was 4.1%. They accounted for 50% of sales, employed 47% of those who worked for R&D-performing or R&D-funding companies, and employed 51% of R&D employees in the United States. The largest companies (25,000 or more domestic employees) performed 36% of the nation's total business R&D in 2015, and their R&D intensity was 3.4%. They accounted for 41% of sales, employed 41% of those who worked for R&D-performing or R&D-funding companies, and employed 26% of R&D employees in the United States.

R&D Performance, by State

Business R&D is concentrated in a relatively small number of states.

TABLE 1. Funds spent for business R&D performed in the United States, by type of R&D, source of funds, and size of company: 2014–15
(Millions of U.S. dollars)

Selected characteristic and company size	2014	2015
Domestic R&D performance	340,728	355,821
Type of R&D ^a		
Basic research	21,936	21,792
Applied research	53,415	56,472
Development	265,377	277,558
Paid for by the company ^b	282,570	296,677
Basic research	16,107	16,306
Applied research	39,012	44,344
Development	227,451	236,027
Paid for by others	58,158	59,144
Basic research	5,829	5,486
Applied research	14,403	12,128
Development	37,927 i	41,530
Source of funds		
Federal	26,554 i	26,990
Other ^c	31,604	32,154
Size of company (number of domestic employees)		
Micro companies ^d		
5–9	3,295 i	2,988 i
Small companies		
10–19	5,063 i	5,680 i
20–49	10,542 i	10,249 i
Medium companies		
50–99	10,178 i	11,509
100–249	13,492	13,602
Large companies		
250–499	12,203	13,553
500–999	13,262	15,217
1,000–4,999	57,551	58,094
5,000–9,999	38,202	38,838
10,000–24,999	54,445	59,328
25,000 or more	122,495	126,763

i = more than 50% of the estimate is a combination of imputation and reweighting to account for nonresponse.

^a R&D is planned, creative work aimed at discovering new knowledge or developing new or significantly improved goods and services. This includes (1) activities aimed at acquiring new knowledge or understanding without specific immediate commercial applications or uses (basic research), (2) activities aimed at solving a specific problem or meeting a specific commercial objective (applied research), and (3) systematic use of research and practical experience to produce new or significantly improved goods, services, or processes (development).

^b Includes foreign subsidiaries of U.S. companies.

^c Includes companies located inside and outside the United States, U.S. state government agencies and laboratories, foreign government agencies and laboratories, and all other organizations located inside and outside the United States.

^d The Business R&D and Innovation Survey does not include companies with fewer than five employees.

NOTES: Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Statistics are representative of companies located in the United States that performed or funded R&D. Excludes data for federally funded research and development centers.

SOURCE: National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, and U.S. Census Bureau, Business R&D and Innovation Survey.

In 2015, companies reported \$297 billion of domestic R&D paid for by the company. Businesses in California alone accounted for 32% of this amount (table 4). Other states with large amounts of business R&D paid for by companies' own funds in 2015 were Massachusetts (6% of the national total), Washington (6%), Michigan (5%), Texas (5%), New York (4%), New Jersey (4%), Illinois (4%), and Pennsylvania (3%).

Sales, R&D Intensity, and Employment of Companies that Performed or Funded R&D

U.S. companies that performed or funded R&D reported domestic net sales of \$9 trillion in 2015 (table 3).² For all industries, the R&D intensity was 3.9%; for manufacturers, 4.4%; and for nonmanufacturers, 3.2%. Manufacturing industries with high levels of R&D intensity in 2015 were pharmaceuticals and medicines (NAICS 3254) (12.9%), computer and electronic products (NAICS 334) (9.8%), and aerospace products and parts (NAICS 3364) (8.5%). Among the nonmanufacturing industries, industries with high levels of R&D intensity were scientific R&D services (NAICS 5417) (26.8%), computer systems design and related services (NAICS 5415) (9.5%), and software publishers (NAICS 5112) (8.2%).

Businesses that performed or funded R&D employed 18.9 million people in the United States in 2015. Approximately 1.5 million (8%) were R&D employees.³ Not surprisingly, industries with high levels of R&D intensity also had high numbers of R&D employees in 2015: computer and electronic products (NAICS 334) (263,000 R&D employees), pharmaceuticals and medicines (NAICS 3254) (120,000), and

TABLE 2. Funds spent for business R&D performed in the United States, by source of funds and selected industry: 2015
(Millions of U.S. dollars)

Industry, NAICS code, and company size	All R&D	Paid for by the company ^a	Paid for by others				
			Total	Federal	Companies		All other organizations ^c
					Domestic	Foreign ^b	
All industries, 21–33, 42–81	355,821	296,677	59,144	26,990	14,595 i	16,317	1,242
Manufacturing industries, 31–33	236,132	195,792	40,340	21,552 i	5,008	12,907	873
Chemicals, 325	68,196	58,769	9,427	410	1,546	7,413	58
Pharmaceuticals and medicines, 3254	58,675	50,242	8,432	138	1,465	6,772	57
Other 325	9,521	8,527	995	272	81	641	1
Machinery, 333	13,426	12,544	881 i	222	203 i	438 i	18 i
Computer and electronic products, 334	72,110	63,765	8,345	4,213	1,474	2,459	199
Electrical equipment, appliance, and components, 335	4,335	3,852	483 i	50 i	16 i	396 i	21 i
Transportation equipment, 336	49,274	29,224	20,050 i	16,515 i	1,304 i	1,690	541 i
Automobiles, bodies, trailers, and parts, 3361–63	19,078	16,636	2,441	200 i	547 i	1,602 i	92 i
Aerospace products and parts, 3364	27,464	11,138	16,326 i	15,064 i	738 i	76 i	448 i
Other 336	2,732	1,450	1,283 i	1,251 i	19 i	12 i	1 i
Manufacturing nec, other 31–33	28,791	27,638	1,154 i	142 i	465 i	511 i	36 i
Nonmanufacturing industries, 21–23, 42–81	119,690	100,885	18,804	5,438	9,587 i	3,411 i	368 i
Information, 51	65,513	64,578	935	51	D	D	D
Software publishers, 5112	33,248	32,500	747	22	D	D	D
Other 51	32,265	32,078	188	29	D	D	D
Finance and insurance, 52	5,366	5,329	38	0	6 i	0	32 i
Professional, scientific, and technical services, 54	38,626	21,915	16,710	5,323	9,074 i	2,048 i	265 i
Computer systems design and related services, 5415	14,333	12,418	1,915 i	605 i	1,112 i	127 i	71 i
Scientific R&D services, 5417	16,329	3,896	12,433	2,939	7,669 i	1,684 i	141 i
Other 54	7,964	5,601	2,362 i	1,779 i	293 i	237 i	53 i
Nonmanufacturing nec, other 21–23, 42–81	10,185	9,063	1,121	64	D	D	D
Size of company (number of domestic employees)							
Micro companies ^d							
5–9	2,988 i	1,972 i	1,016 i	412 i	396 i	166 i	42 i
Small companies							
10–19	5,680 i	4,434 i	1,246 i	317 i	452 i	445 i	32 i
20–49	10,249 i	7,933 i	2,316 i	1,024	767 i	477 i	48 i
Medium companies							
50–99	11,509	8,803	2,706	532	1,279 i	855 i	40 i
100–249	13,602	11,037	2,566	1,006	723	740	97
Large companies							
250–499	13,553	11,368	2,185	723	449	934	79
500–999	15,217	13,194	2,023 i	183	634	1,175 i	31 i
1,000–4,999	58,094	48,264	9,830	1,644 i	1,942 i	6,152	92 i
5,000–9,999	38,838	34,660	4,178	891	1,143	2,050	94
10,000–24,999	59,328	48,450	10,878	4,244	3,519 i	2,936	179 i
25,000 or more	126,763	106,562	20,201	16,013 i	3,290	388	510 i

D = suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information; i = more than 50% of the estimate is a combination of imputation and reweighting to account for nonresponse.

NAICS = North American Industry Classification System; nec = not elsewhere classified.

^a Includes foreign subsidiaries of U.S. companies (\$6.8 billion).

^b Includes foreign parent companies of U.S. subsidiaries (\$12.6 billion) and unaffiliated companies (\$3.7 billion).

^c Includes U.S. state government agencies and laboratories (\$0.1 billion), foreign government agencies and laboratories (\$0.6 billion), and all other organizations located inside (\$0.5 billion) and outside the United States (\$0.1 billion).

^d The Business R&D and Innovation Survey does not include companies with fewer than five employees.

NOTES: Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Statistics are representative of companies located in the United States that performed or funded R&D. Industry classification was based on dominant business code for domestic R&D performance, where available. For companies that did not report business codes, the classification used for sampling was assigned. Excludes data for federally funded research and development centers.

SOURCE: National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, and U.S. Census Bureau, Business R&D and Innovation Survey, 2015.

TABLE 3. Sales, R&D intensity, and employment for companies that performed or funded business R&D, by selected industry and company size: 2015

Industry, NAICS code, and company size	Domestic net sales (US\$millions) ^a	R&D intensity (%) ^b	Domestic employment (thousands) ^c	
			Total	R&D ^d
All industries, 21–33, 42–81	9,049,901	3.9	18,915	1,543
Manufacturing industries, 31–33	5,358,542	4.4	10,151	916
Chemicals, 325	1,023,512	6.7	1,373	167
Pharmaceuticals and medicines, 3254	456,424	12.9	553	120
Other 325	567,088	1.7	820	47
Machinery, 333	360,719	3.7	989	82
Computer and electronic products, 334	734,610	9.8	1,355	263
Electrical equipment, appliance, and components, 335	150,020	2.9	330	28
Transportation equipment, 336	1,187,996	4.1	1,754	185
Automobiles, bodies, trailers, and parts, 3361–63	795,662	2.4	899	101
Aerospace products and parts, 3364	324,873	8.5	671	70
Other 336	67,461	4.0	184	14
Manufacturing nec, other 31–33	1,901,685	1.5	4,350	191
Nonmanufacturing industries, 21–23, 42–81	3,691,358	3.2	8,764	627
Information, 51	1,105,520	5.9	1,972	279
Software publishers, 5112	403,153	8.2	634	145
Other 51	702,367	4.6	1,338	134
Finance and insurance, 52	709,990	0.8	1,246	32
Professional, scientific, and technical services, 54	421,966	9.2	1,592	246
Computer systems design and related services, 5415	151,626	9.5	587	92
Scientific R&D services, 5417	60,922	26.8	264	82
Other 54	209,418	3.8	741	72
Nonmanufacturing nec, other 21–23, 42–81	1,453,882	0.7	3,954	70
Size of company (number of domestic employees)				
Micro companies ^e				
5–9	27,796	10.7	99	26
Small companies				
10–19	65,205	8.7	220	50
20–49	180,807	5.7	534	91
Medium companies				
50–99	172,345	6.7	575	83
100–249	317,168	4.3	855	100
Large companies				
250–499	280,846	4.8	805	86
500–999	349,397	4.4	801	77
1,000–4,999	1,292,971	4.5	2,676	254
5,000–9,999	993,904	3.9	1,668	147
10,000–24,999	1,629,495	3.6	2,935	228
25,000 or more	3,739,967	3.4	7,745	402

NAICS = North American Industry Classification System; nec = not elsewhere classified.

^a Includes values for goods or services rendered to customers outside the company, including the U.S. federal government, foreign customers, and the company's foreign subsidiaries. Included are revenues from a company's foreign operations and subsidiaries and from discontinued operations; excluded are intracompany transfers, returns, allowances, freight charges, and excise, sales, and other revenue-based taxes.

^b R&D intensity is domestic R&D paid for by the company and others and performed by the company divided by domestic net sales of companies that performed or funded R&D.

^c Data recorded on 12 March represent employment figures for the year.

^d Includes researchers, R&D managers, technicians, clerical staff, and others assigned to R&D groups.

^e The Business R&D and Innovation Survey does not include companies with fewer than five employees.

NOTES: Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Sales, R&D intensity, and total domestic employment statistics are representative of companies located in the United States that performed or funded R&D; R&D employment statistics are representative of companies located in the United States that performed R&D. Industry classification was based on dominant business code for domestic R&D performance, where available. For companies that did not report business codes, the classification used for sampling was assigned. Excludes data for federally funded research and development centers.

SOURCE: National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, and U.S. Census Bureau, Business R&D and Innovation Survey, 2015.

TABLE 4. Funds spent for business R&D performed in the United States, by state and source of funds: 2015
(Millions of U.S. dollars)

State	All R&D	Paid for by the company	Paid for by others	State	All R&D	Paid for by the company	Paid for by others
United States	355,821	296,677	59,144	Montana	225 i	200 i	25
Alabama	1,561	875	686	Nebraska	578	539	39 e
Alaska	66 e	32 e	34	Nevada	381	329	52 e
Arizona	5,515	4,450	1,065	New Hampshire	1,932	817	1,115
Arkansas	302	271	32 e	New Jersey	14,113	11,627	2,486
California	107,982	95,020	12,962	New Mexico	502	254	249
Colorado	4,362	3,665	698	New York	15,329	11,897	3,432
Connecticut	8,533	6,441	2,092	North Carolina	8,572	6,428	2,144
Delaware	2,681	2,049	632	North Dakota	211	191	19 e
District of Columbia	299	198	101	Ohio	9,044	6,149	2,895
Florida	5,816	3,788	2,028 i	Oklahoma	661	605	57 e
Georgia	4,614	3,821	793 i	Oregon	6,357	6,103	254
Hawaii	186	123 i	63	Pennsylvania	10,354	9,022	1,332 i
Idaho	1,554	1,304	251	Rhode Island	751	679	72
Illinois	12,710	11,467	1,242	South Carolina	1,289	1,129	160
Indiana	6,252	5,346	906	South Dakota	139	115	24
Iowa	2,539	1,916	623	Tennessee	1,570	1,345	225
Kansas	2,126	1,515	612	Texas	17,350	14,790	2,561
Kentucky	1,292	763	529	Utah	3,274	2,685	589
Louisiana	400 i	325	75 e	Vermont	247	204	43 i
Maine	298	259	39	Virginia	4,486	2,719	1,768 i
Maryland	5,136	2,825	2,310	Washington	16,940	16,313	627
Massachusetts	21,484	17,719	3,765	West Virginia	201	158	42 i
Michigan	17,136	15,620	1,516	Wisconsin	4,676	4,052	623
Minnesota	6,820	6,290	530	Wyoming	177	137	40
Mississippi	216	186	30 e	Undistributed funds ^a	10,504	8,188	2,316
Missouri	6,078 i	3,737	2,341 i				

e = more than 50% of the cell value is imputed due to raking of state data; i = more than 50% of the estimate is a combination of imputation and reweighting to account for nonresponse.

^a Includes data reported on Form BRDI-1 not allocated to a specific state, as well as data reported on Form BRDI-1(S) by multi-establishment companies. For single-establishment companies, data reported on Form BRDI-1(S) were allocated to the state in the address used to mail the survey form.

NOTES: Detail may not add to totals because of rounding. Statistics are representative of companies located in the United States that performed or funded R&D. Excludes data for federally funded research and development centers.

SOURCE: National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, and U.S. Census Bureau, Business R&D and Innovation Survey, 2015.

aerospace products and parts (NAICS 3364) (70,000). Nonmanufacturing industry groups with high numbers of R&D employees were software publishers (NAICS 5112) (145,000), computer systems design and related services (NAICS 5415) (92,000), and scientific R&D services (NAICS 5417) (82,000) (table 3).

Capital Expenditures

Companies that performed R&D in the United States in 2015 spent \$559 billion

on assets with expected useful lives of more than 1 year (table 5). Of this amount, \$28 billion (5%) was spent on structures, equipment, software, and other assets used for R&D: \$17 billion by manufacturers and \$12 billion by companies in nonmanufacturing industries. Manufacturing industry groups with high levels of capital expenditures on assets used for R&D in 2015 were semiconductor and other electronic products (NAICS 3344) (\$2.9 billion), pharmaceuticals and medicines (NAICS

3254) (\$2.9 billion), communication equipment (NAICS 3342) (\$2.5 billion), automobiles, bodies, trailers, and parts (NAICS 3361–63) (\$1.3 billion), and aerospace products and parts (NAICS 3364) (\$0.6 billion). Among the nonmanufacturing industries with high levels of capital assets used for R&D were software publishers (NAICS 5112) (\$1.4 billion), telecommunications services (NAICS 517) (\$1.4 billion), and computer systems design and related services (NAICS 5415) (\$2.2 billion).

TABLE 5. Capital expenditures in the United States and for domestic R&D paid for and performed by the company, by type of expenditure, industry, and company size: 2015
(Millions of U.S. dollars)

Selected industry, NAICS code, and company size	Total ^a	Used for domestic R&D				
		Total ^{a,b}	Structures ^c	Equipment	Capitalized software	All other and undistributed ^d
All industries, 21–33, 42–81	558,899	28,203	3,674	13,704	6,970	3,856
Manufacturing industries, 31–33	229,229	16,626	2,789	9,241	1,738	2,858
Chemicals, 325	52,704	3,839	849	2,116	457	417
Pharmaceuticals and medicines, 3254	15,931	2,949	771	1,546	398	234
Other 325	36,773	890	78	570	59	183
Machinery, 333	12,295	725 i	66	487 i	43 i	129 i
Computer and electronic products, 334	25,473 i	7,192 i	1,100 i	3,945 i	642 i	1,505 i
Communication equipment, 3342	8,944 i	2,469 i	644 i	1,475 i	228 i	122 i
Semiconductor and other electronic products, 3344	9,369 i	2,866 i	41 i	1,594 i	250 i	980 i
Other 334	7,160 i	1,857 i	415 i	876 i	164 i	403 i
Electrical equipment, appliance, and components, 335	4,414	351 i	16 i	157 i	46 i	131 i
Transportation equipment, 336	63,080	2,039	412	1,089	178	360
Automobiles, bodies, trailers, and parts, 3361–63	42,378	1,307	122	774	129	282
Aerospace products and parts, 3364	17,348	621	269	261	48	43
Other 336	3,354	111	21	54	1	35
Manufacturing nec, other 31–33	71,263	2,480	346	1,447	372	316
Nonmanufacturing industries, 21–23, 42–81	329,670	11,577	885	4,464 i	5,231	998
Information, 51	103,200	4,291	416	2,500 i	1,100 i	274
Software publishers, 5112	10,771	1,371	294	780	120	178
Telecommunications services, 517	74,818	1,402	2	952 i	434 i	14 i
Other 51	17,611	1,518	120	768 i	546 i	82
Finance and insurance, 52	12,950	2,394	24	201	1,958	211
Professional, scientific, and technical services, 54	18,456	3,389	219	1,116	1,747	306
Computer systems design and related services, 5415	6,997	2,183	145	579	1,407	52
Scientific R&D services, 5417	1,663	737	73	357 i	74	232 i
Other 54	9,796	469	1	180	266	22 i
Nonmanufacturing nec, other 21–23, 42–81	195,064	1,503	226	647	426	207
Size of company (number of domestic employees)						
Micro companies ^e						
5–9	1,235 i	213 i	10 i	63 i	47 i	94
Small companies						
10–19	3,682 i	444 i	44 i	251 i	74 i	75 i
20–49	5,939 i	749 i	65 i	356 i	212 i	116
Medium companies						
50–99	6,206 i	767 i	70	454	160 i	84 i
100–249	11,986 i	1,094	172	573	202 i	147 i
Large companies						
250–499	10,363 i	1,022	108	523	233	158
500–999	22,997 i	1,119	93	637	253	135
1,000–4,999	61,319	4,197	602	2,191	872	533
5,000–9,999	70,879	3,630	640	1,714	637	639
10,000–24,999	113,859	4,304	535	1,544	1,340	884
25,000 or more	250,432	10,664 i	1,335 i	5,399 i	2,941 i	990 i

i = more than 50% of the estimate is a combination of imputation and reweighting to account for nonresponse.

NAICS = North American Industry Classification System; nec = not elsewhere classified.

^a Capital expenditures are payments by a business for assets that usually have a useful life of more than 1 year. The value of assets acquired or improved through capital expenditures is recorded on a company's balance sheet. BRDIS statistics exclude the cost of purchased land and assets acquired through mergers and acquisitions.

^b Capital expenditures for long-lived assets used in a company's R&D operations are not included in its R&D expense, but any depreciation recorded for those assets is included in its R&D expense. For 2015, depreciation associated with domestic R&D paid for and performed by the company was \$11.3 billion and with domestic R&D performed by the company and paid for by others was \$1.1 billion.

^c Includes the cost of purchased or improved buildings and other facilities that are fixed to the land.

^d Includes the cost of other capital expenditures, including purchased patents and other intangible assets, and expenditures not distributed among the categories shown.

^e The Business R&D and Innovation Survey does not include companies with fewer than five employees.

NOTES: Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Statistics are representative of companies located in the United States that performed R&D. Industry classification was based on dominant business code for domestic R&D performance, where available. For companies that did not report business codes, the classification used for sampling was assigned. Excludes data for federally funded research and development centers.

SOURCE: National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, and U.S. Census Bureau, Business R&D and Innovation Survey, 2015.

Survey Information and Data Availability

The sample for BRDIS was selected to represent all for-profit, nonfarm companies that are publicly or privately held and have five or more employees in the United States. Estimates produced from the survey and presented in this InfoBrief are restricted to companies that perform or fund R&D, either domestically or abroad. Because the statistics from the survey are based on a sample, they are subject to both sampling and nonsampling errors (see technical notes in the data table reports at <https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/industry/>).

In this InfoBrief, money amounts are expressed in current U.S. dollars and are not adjusted for inflation. A *company* is defined as a business organization located in the United States, either U.S. owned or a U.S. affiliate of a foreign parent, of one or more establishments under common ownership or control that performs or funds R&D.

For 2014, a total of 44,162 companies were sampled to represent the population of 1,998,858 companies; for 2015, a total of 44,824 companies were sampled, representing 2,029,436 companies. The actual numbers of

reporting units in the sample that remained within the scope of the survey between sample selection and tabulation were 40,953 for 2014 and 40,806 for 2015. These lower counts represent the number of reporting units that were determined to be within the scope of the survey after all data collected were processed. Reasons for the reduced counts include mergers, acquisitions, and instances where companies had fewer than five paid employees in the United States or had gone out of business in the interim. Of these in-scope reporting units, 72.5% were considered to have met the criteria for a complete response to the 2014 survey; 79.6% met the 2015 survey response criteria. Industry classification was based on the dominant business activity for domestic R&D performance where available. For reporting units that did not report business activity codes for R&D, the classification used for sampling was assigned.

The full set of data tables from this survey will be available in the report *Business R&D and Innovation: 2015* (<https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/industry/>). Individual data tables and tables with relative standard errors and imputation rates from the 2015 survey

are available in advance of the full report. For further information, contact Raymond M. Wolfe.

Notes

1. Raymond M. Wolfe, Research and Development Statistics Program, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 965, Arlington, VA 22230. (rwolfe@nsf.gov; 703-292-7789).
2. Determining the amount of domestic net sales and operating revenues was left to the reporting company. However, guidance was given to include revenues from foreign operations and subsidiaries and from discontinued operations and to exclude intracompany transfers, returns, allowances, freight charges, and excise, sales, and other revenue-based taxes.
3. Employment statistics in this InfoBrief are head counts. Full-time equivalent statistics are available in the data tables. R&D employees include scientists and engineers, their managers, and the technicians, technologists, and support staff members who work on R&D or who provide direct support to R&D activities.

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