

Research and development In Italy

Years 2016-2018

In 2016, in current price terms Italy's gross domestic expenditure on Research and Development (GERD) was nearly 23,2 billion euro. It increased by 4.6% compared to 2015.

The R&D intensity (the ratio of GERD to GDP) was 1.38%, while the value observed in 2014 was 1.34%.

The expenditure on intramural Research and Development increased on the previous year for the Business enterprises (+9.3%), was steady for the Government, while Higher education and Private non-profit sectors registered a reduction (respectively -1.0% and -18.6%) ¹

The private component of expenditure on the intramural R&D (Business enterprises+Private non-profit sector) rose to 63.3% in 2016 (+1.9 percentage points). The contribution of the Higher education sector was 24.4%, the Government's one was 12.6%.

In 2016 the number of public and private employees involved in R&D activities (measured in terms of "full-time equivalent units") amounted to 290,039.5 units; it increased by 11.9% compared to 2015. Growth covered two sectors with different values: +20.3% in Business enterprises, +4.4 in the Higher education sector. Both Private no profit institutions and Public institutions encountered a reduction (respectively -0.9% and -0.5%).

In 2016 the number of researchers (in terms of full-time equivalents) was equal to 133,705.7 units, a 6.2% increase compared to 2015. The growth was visible in all the four sectors, especially in Business enterprises (+11.3%) and Higher education sector (+4.0%).

The preliminary data for 2017 showed an increase in GERD (+1.8%) both for the Business enterprises and the Government (Data on universities are not yet available).

The preliminary data for 2018, compared to the previous year, confirmed a rise for the Public institutions (+5.6%), the Private non profit sector (+4.9%) and the Business enterprises (2.9%).

The Italy's Government support for R&D activities, measured by the Government budget appropriations or outlay for R&D (GBAORD), reduced compared to the forecast expenditure settled in 2016, passing from 8,7 billion euro to 8,6.

¹ This result is conditioned by the shift of some units between sectors following corporate and institutional transformation events.

R&D INDICATORS. Year 2016

EXPENDITURE INTRAMURAL FOR R&D (THOUSAND EURO)	
Expenditure intramural for R&D	23,171,612
% of intramural expenditure R&D on GDP	1.38%
EXPENDITURE INTRAMURAL FOR R&D INSTITUTIONAL SECTOR (THOUSAND EURO)	
Business Enterprises	14,088,196
Universities	5,596,912
Public Institutions	2,911,327
Private no Profit Institutions	575,177
R&D PERSONNEL INSTITUTIONAL SECTOR (FULL TIME EQUIVALENT UNIT) TOTAL	
Business Enterprises	164,470.0
Universities	80,226.4
Public Institutions	38,489.8
Private no Profit Institutions	6,852.6
Total	290,039.5

For more details please refer to the Italian version

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