

Research and Development expenditure at SAR 14.5bn in 2021

Research and Development statistics for 2021 by the General Authority for Statistics indicate that total expenditure on research and development reached 14.5 billion SAR. Moreover, the total number of employees in this field amounted to 30,220 employees, whereas total number of researchers in the field of research and development was 24,808 in 2021.

Total expenditure on research and development

Total expenditure on research and development in Saudi Arabia reached 14.5 billion SAR in 2021. The highest share of expenditure on R&D came from the government sector (50% out of total expenditure), followed by the private sector (35%). 15% of R&D expenditure was related to the education sector. (Figure1)

Over 30,000 employees work in research and development

Total number of employees in research and development sector was 30,220 employees in 2021. Employees of the education sector represent the highest share in the R&D area (83% with 25,178 employees). Employees of the government sector make up 2,967 employees (10% to total employees in the field of research and development). On the other hand, the private sector ranked last with 2,075 employees (7%) in 2021. (Figure2)

Researchers in the field of research and development

24,808 researchers worked in the field of research and development in Saudi Arabia in 2021. According to the R&D statistics, the education sector showed the highest share of researchers (88%, 21,823 researchers). 1,761 researchers (7%) worked in other government sectors, followed by 1,224 researchers (5%) in the private sector. (Figure3)

Figure1: Relative contribution of expenditure on R&D by sector

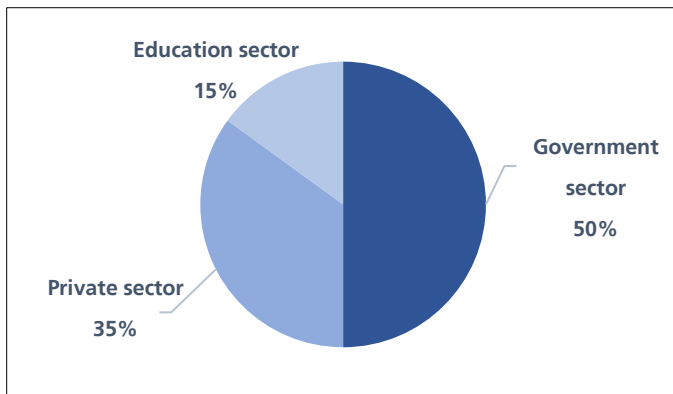


Figure2: Total number of employees in R&D field

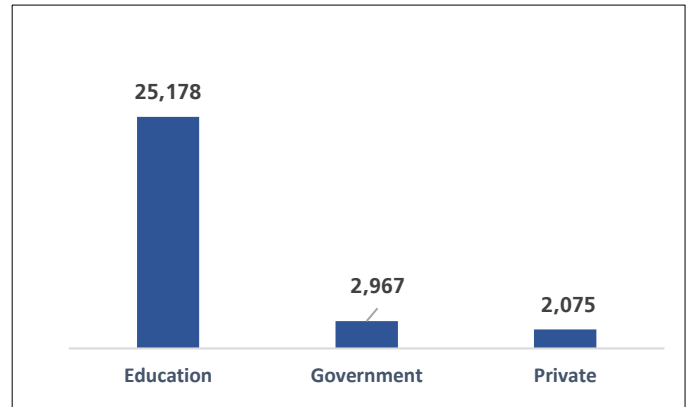
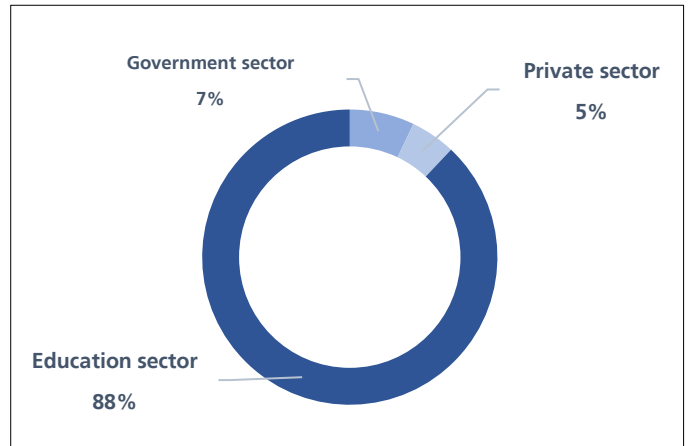


Figure3: Percentage of R&D researchers by sector



Reference Metadata

Research and Development Statistics (R&D) are annual statistics that focus on the research and development field in Saudi Arabia. These statistics aim to provide economic indicators about expenditure on research and development field and its employees. More details can be viewed through the following link: [Reference Metadata](#)