

### Expenditure on research and development increases by 17.4% in 2023

The results of research and development statistics in the Kingdom for the year 2023 indicated a 17.4% increase in R&D expenditure, reaching 22.61 billion SAR compared to 2022. The number of employees in the field of R&D also grew by 12.2%, with the total number of employees rising to 49,337. Moreover, the number of researchers increased by 22.1% compared to 2022, reaching a total of 36,832 researchers in 2023. (Figure 1) (Figure 2)

Figure1. Expenditure on Research and Development in billion SAR (2021-2023)

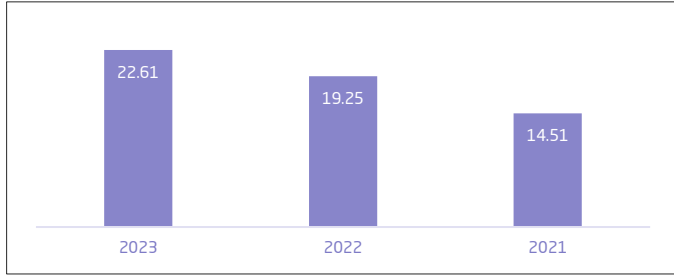
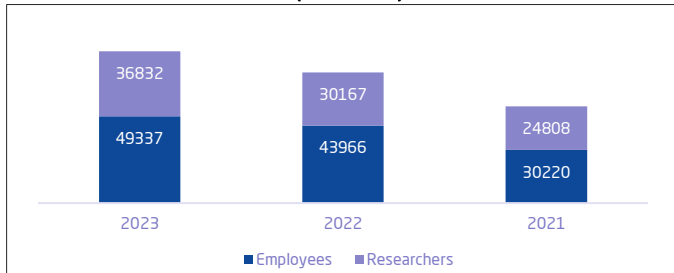


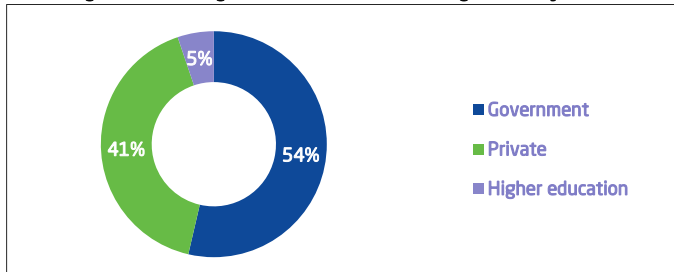
Figure2. Employees and researchers of research and development Field (2021-2023)



### Research and development funding by sector

The Percentage distribution of funding in the field of R&D at the level of different sectors indicates that the amount of funding in the government sector reached 12.12 billion SAR, which means 53.6% of total R&D funding, constituting the largest share of funding compared to other sectors. However, the amount of funding in the private sector amounted to 9.31 billion SAR, accounting for 41.2% of the total funding amount, while the percentage of funding in the higher education sector was 5.2% of the total funding with a value of 1.17 billion SAR. (Figure 3)

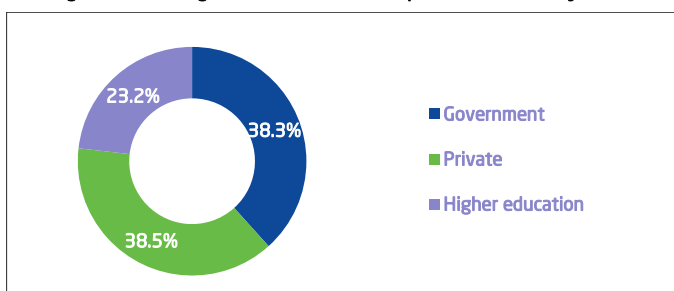
Figure3. Percentage distribution of total funding on R&D by sectors



### Research and development expenditure by sector

Based on the percentage distribution of expenditure on R&D between sectors, it is noted that the private sector topped all sectors in terms of expenditure, accounting for 38.5% of total expenditure on R&D with a value of 8.70 billion SAR, followed by the government sector accounted for 38.3%, with a value of 8.66 billion SAR, then the higher education sector accounted for 23.2% with a value of 5.24 billion SAR (Figure4).

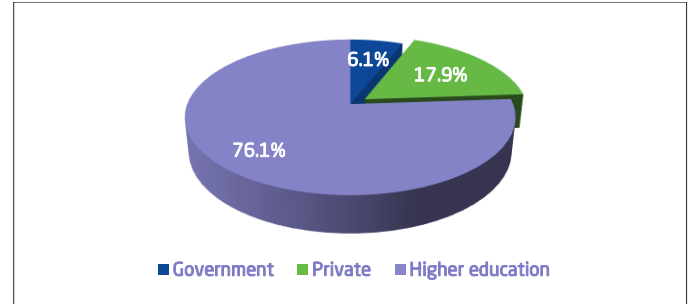
Figure4. Percentage distribution of total expenditure on R&D by sectors



### Number of employees in research and development field by sector

The percentage distribution of employees in the field of R&D at the level of different sectors indicates that the number of employees in higher education reached 37,540 thousand employees, representing 76.1%, followed by the private sector, with 8,810 thousand employees, at 17.9%, then the government sector, with 2,987 thousand employees, at 6.1% (Figure 5).

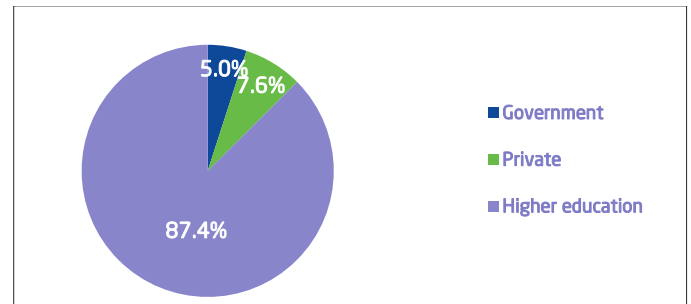
Figure5. Percentage distribution of R&D employees by sectors



### Number of researchers in research and development field by sector

The percentage distributions of researchers in the field of R&D at the level of sectors shows that 87.4% of the total researchers were in the higher education sector with 32,209 thousand researchers, followed by the private sector at 7.6%, with 2,790 thousand researchers, then the government sector at 5.0%, with 1,833 thousand researchers. (Figure 6)

Figure 6 . Percentage distribution of R&D researchers by sectors



### Methodology and Quality

Research and Development Statistics (R&D) is an annual statistic concerned with the field of research and development in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It aims to provide economic indicators about the expenditure on the field of research and development and its employees. For more details, click here: [Methodology and Quality - Table](#)