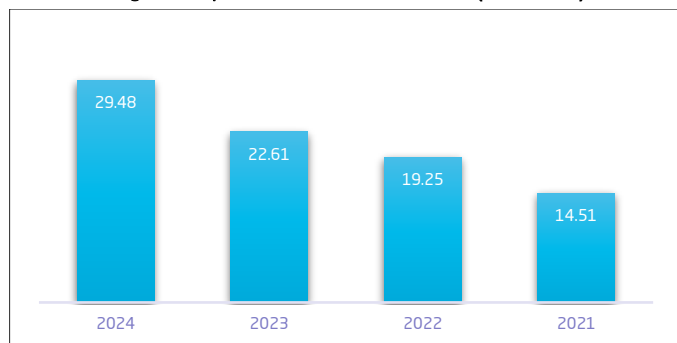


Expenditure on research and development increases by 30.4% in 2024

The results of research and development (R&D) statistics in the Kingdom for the year 2024 indicated a 30.4% increase in R&D expenditure, reaching SAR 29.48 billion compared to 2023. The number of employees in the field of R&D also grew by 14.7%, with the total number of employees rising to 56,593 employees. Moreover, the number of researchers increased by 12.8% compared to 2023, reaching a total of 41,562 researchers in 2024 (Figure 1).

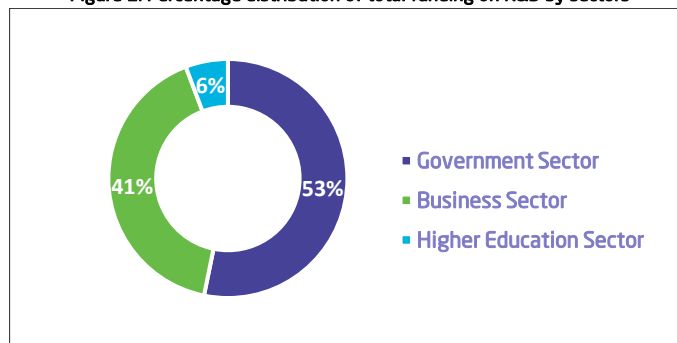
Figure 1. Expenditure on R&D in billion SAR (2021-2024)



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 from the government sector reached SAR 15.69 billion, representing 53.2% of the total funding provided for research and development, constituting the largest share of funding compared to other sectors. Meanwhile, the amount of funding from the business sector amounted to SAR 12.10 billion, accounting for 41.1% of the total funding amount, while the percentage of funding from the higher education sector was 5.7% of the total funding with a value of SAR 1.69 billion (Figure 2).

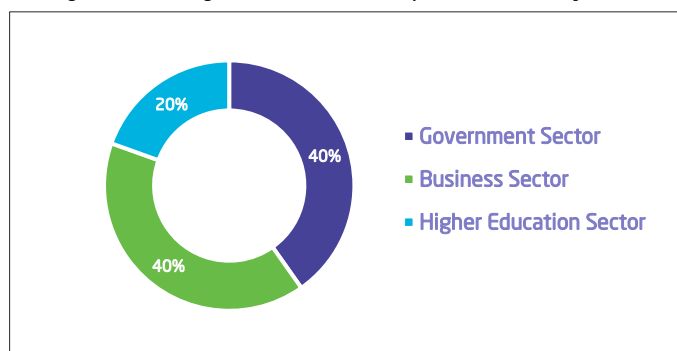
Figure 2. Percentage distribution of total funding on R&D by sectors



Research and development expenditure by sector

Based on the percentage distribution of expenditure on R&D between sectors, it is noted that the business sector topped all sectors in terms of expenditure, accounting for 40.3% of total expenditure on R&D with a value of SAR 11.87 billion, followed by the government sector which accounted for 40.2%, with a value of SAR 11.86 billion, and then the higher education sector which accounted for 19.5% with a value of SAR 5.75 billion (Figure3).

Figure 3. Percentage distribution of total expenditure on R&D by sectors



Research and development expenditure by economic activity

Mining, manufacturing, electricity, and water activities accounted for 31.4% of total R&D expenditure, followed by financial, insurance, real estate, and business services at 22.3%, and social and personal services at 19.9%. All other economic activities combined accounted for 26.4% of total R&D expenditure.

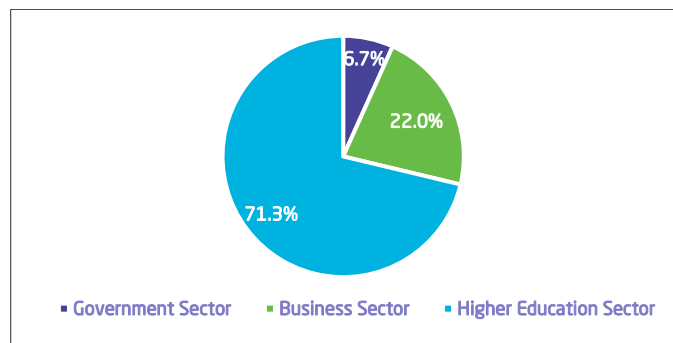
Research and development expenditure by size

The percentage distribution of expenditure in the field of R&D by size indicates that the value of expenditure in the field of research and development for large entities amounted to SAR 29.02 billion, representing 98.5% of the total expenditure on R&D, while the value of expenditure by micro, small and medium entities amounted to 1.5%, with a value of SAR 0.45 billion of the total expenditure on R&D.

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 40,331 thousand employees, representing 71.3%, followed by the business sector, with 12,455 thousand employees, at 22.0%, then the government sector, with 3,807 thousand employees at 6.7% (Figure 4).

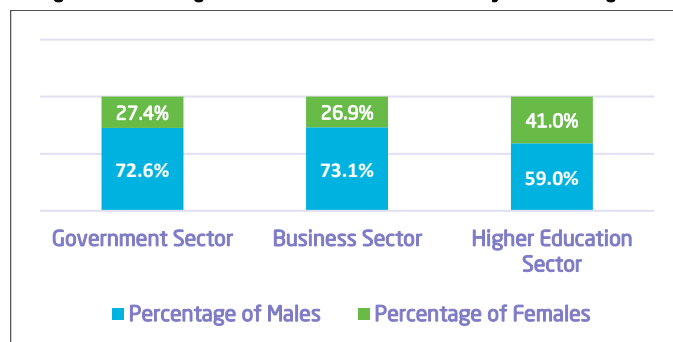
Figure 4. Percentage distribution of R&D employees by sector



Number of researchers in research and development field by sector

The percentage distribution of researchers in the field of R&D at the level of sectors shows that 83.4% of total researchers were in the higher education sector, totaling 34,664 researchers, of whom 72.6% were male and 27.4% were female. This was followed by the business sector, representing 11.6% with 4,803 researchers, 73.1% male and 26.9% female. The government sector ranked third with 5.0%, totaling 2,095 researchers, 59.0% male and 41.0% female (Figure 5).

Figure 5. Percentage distribution of R&D researchers by sectors and gender



Methodology and quality

Research and Development Statistics (R&D) are compiled annually and concerned with the field of R&D in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, providing economic indicators about the expenditure on the field of R&D and its employees.

For more details, click here: [Methodology and Quality](#) , table