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|  | Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia | ISSN 0353-9555 |
| **STATISTICAL RELEASE** | | **IR10** |
| Number 156 • Year LXXIV, 27.06.2024. | |  |
| **Statistics of science, technology and innovation** | | SRB156 IR10 2700624 |

Government budget appropriations or outlays for R&D, 2023/2024

− Research and development −

In 2023, RSD 31 770 047 thousand of budget funds were spent for research and development (R&D) activities in the Republic of Serbia, which is an increase of 15.8% compared to the previous year, 2022.

The share of total budgetary funds for R&D in GDP reached 0.4% in 2023.

The largest percentage of budget funds for R&D went to the government sector (54.6%), followed by the higher education sector (22.4%), then by funds from abroad with 17.8%, non-financial (business) sector with 4.8%, while 0.4% were allocated to the non-profite sector.

Regarding socio-economic objectives, most of the budget funds allocated for R&D were spent for the objective General advancement of knowledge – R&D financed from other sources – 22.6%, followed by the objectives General advancement of knowledge – R&D financed from general university funds with 20.6%, and Industrial production and technology with 15.1%. The least funds were spent for the objective Exploration and expoitation of the earth – 0.4%.

Funds planned for the R&D budget for 2024 (before the budget revision) amounted to 37 366 619 RSD thousand. Most funds, 22.5%, are planned for the goal General advancement of knowledge – R&D financed from other sources.

**Graph. 1.** Total expenditures for R&D in 2023, by sector, %

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**Table 1.** Budgetary funds of the Republic of Serbia for R&D for R&D in 2023,

by types of programmes and sectors thous. RSD

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Programmes | Total | Non-financial (business) sector | Government sector | Tertiary education | Private non-profit sector | Foreign sector[[1]](#footnote-1) |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOTAL** | **31770047** | **1529350** | **17347024** | **7127499** | **113036** | **5653138** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Programs and projects of scientific research | 2480388 | 437430 | 1530353 | 486095 | 26600 | - |
| Doctoral and postdoctoral fellowship programs | 388692 | - | 385838 | 2854 |  | - |
| Programs and projects of technological research and development activities | 6604934 | - | 203172 | 6401762 | - | - |
| Dedicated institutional financing of scientific activities | 12989751 | 1086001 | 11753991 | 149759 | - | - |
| Scientific and publishing infrastructure | 479663 | 5919 | 327883 | 87118 | 58742 | - |
| Training program for new scientists | 47694 | - | 20000 | - | 27694 | - |
| Scientific equipment and infrastructure | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| International participation in programs and projects that have the characteristics of research and development | 5653138 | - | - | - | - | 5653138 |
| - National contributions to transnational public R&D contractors | 482167 | - | - | - | - | 482167 |
| - National contributions to transnational public research and development programs across Europe | 116444 | - | - | - | - | 116444 |
| - National contributions to bilateral or multilateral public research and development programs established between the governments of EU countries, candidate countries and EFTA countries | 74539 | - | - | - | - | 74539 |
| - National contributions to other international programs and projects that have the characteristics of research and development | 4979989 | - | - | - | - | 4979989 |
| Other expenditure on research and development | 2346687 | - | 2346687 | - | - | - |

**Graph. 2** The share of budget funds for R&D in 2022 according to programs, %

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**Table 2.** Budgetary funds of the Republic of Serbia for R&D (actual outlays) in 2023, by socio-economic objectives and sectors thous. RSD

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| Socio-economic objectives of researches | Total | Non-financial (business) sector | Government sector | Tertiary education | Private non-profit sector | Foreign sector |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOTAL** | **31770047** | **1529350** | **17347024** | **7127499** | **113036** | **5653138** |
| Exploitation and exploration of the earth | 246157 | 32060 | 211197 | 2900 | - | - |
| Environment | 1061923 | 17923 | 1023280 | 16200 | 4520 | - |
| Exploration and exploitation of space | 130196 | - | 130196 | - | - | - |
| Transport, telecommunications and other infrastructure | 549631 | 37149 | 497362 | 15120 | - | - |
| Еnergy | 345549 | 7580 | 330569 | 7400 | - | - |
| Industrial production and technology | 4781015 | 545362 | 4209853 | 21500 | 4300 | - |
| Health | 3052364 | 8602 | 3006450 | 37313 | 0 | - |
| Agriculture | 2924529 | 349810 | 2557069 | 17649 | 0 | - |
| Education | 1482360 | 5919 | 840519 | 540887 | 95036 | - |
| Culture, recreation, religion and mass media | 1206837 | 2190 | 1170467 | 26500 | 7680 | - |
| Political and social systems, structures and processes | 1684413 | 1837 | 1641746 | 40830 | - | - |
| General advancement of knowledge – R&D fincnace from General University Funds: | 6555150 | 85678 | 74871 | 6394600 | - | - |
| In natural sciences | 1287080 | 6114 | 40784 | 1240182 | - | - |
| In engineering and technology | 2107790 | 64372 | 19175 | 2024243 | - | - |
| In medical and health sciences | 1053856 | 10213 | 11551 | 1032092 | - | - |
| In agricultural sciences | 466866 | 4979 | - | 461887 | - | - |
| In social sciences | 1192252 | - | 3361 | 1188891 | - | - |
| In humanities | 447306 | - |  | 447306 | - | - |
| General advancement of knowledge – R&D financed from other sources | 7171815 | 435240 | 1075337 | 6600 | 1500 | 5653138 |
| In natural sciences | 1014087 | 217620 | 314300 | - | - | 482167 |
| In engineering and technology | 5593678 | 43524 | 379183 | - | - | 5170971 |
| In medical and health sciences | 323648 | 87048 | 236600 | - | - | - |
| In agricultural sciences | 48524 | 43524 | 5000 | - | - | - |
| In social sciences | 83962 | 21762 | 58900 | 1800 | 1500 | - |
| In humanities | 107916 | 21762 | 81354 | 4800 | - |  |
| Defence | 578108 | - | 548108 | - | - | - |

**Graph. 3.** The share of budget resources for R&D in 2023, by the socio-economic objectives (actual expenditure), %

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**Table 3.** Planned budgetary funds of the Republic of Serbia for R&D for 2024, by socio-economic objectives, (adopted budget, prior to budget adjustment) thous. RSD

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| --- | --- |
| Socio-economic objectives of researches | Planned budget for 2024 |
|  |  |
| **TOTAL** | **37366619** |
| Exploitation and exploration of the earth | 314538 |
| Environment | 1268493 |
| Exploration and exploitation of space | 152601 |
| Transport, telecommunications and other infrastructure | 638502 |
| Еnergy | 405100 |
| Industrial production and technology | 8163949 |
| Health | 1017592 |
| Agriculture | 3507703 |
| Education | 1718522 |
| Culture, recreation, religion and mass media | 1381488 |
| Political and social systems, structures and processes | 1935951 |
| General advancement of knowledge – R&D fincnace from General University Funds: | 7683198 |
| In natural sciences | 1508568 |
| In engineering and technology | 2470511 |
| In medical and health sciences | 1235210 |
| In agricultural sciences | 547207 |
| In social sciences | 1397421 |
| In humanities | 524281 |
| General advancement of knowledge – R&D financed from other sources | 8405216 |
| In natural sciences | 1188597 |
| In engineering and technology | 6556271 |
| In medical and health sciences | 379343 |
| In agricultural sciences | 56874 |
| In social sciences | 103108 |
| In humanities | 121023 |
| Defence | 773766 |

**Graph. 4.** The share of planned budget funds for R&D (adopted budget before adjustment), for 2024, by socio-economic objectives**, %**

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**🗈** МЕTHODOLOGICAL EXPLANATIONS AND DEFINITIONS

**⮊** DATA SOURCE

Data are the result of the survey on budgetary appropriations and outlays for R&D (IR) – BIN, carried out in 2023. The survey refers to institutions that finance the R&D activity, direct budgetary funds beneficiaries, which financed in 2023 or were expected to finance the R&D activity in 2024 – direct budgetary funds beneficiaries taking part in the allocation of financial resources for R&D in the Republic of Serbia.

**⮊** COVERAGE AND COMPARABILITY

The survey is intended to collect data on budget appropriations and outlays for R&D by socio-economic objectives, including all financing of R&D international programmes or institutions abroad. The survey measures R&D government policy through its financing of R&D activities.

The methodology for the survey is harmonised with the international standards set up by OECD and published by the latter in the Frascati Manual (The Measurement of Scientific and Technological Activities - Proposed Standard Practice for Surveys of Researchand Experimental Development - Frascati Manual).

The Nomenclature for the Analysis and Comparison of Scientific Programmes and Budgets – NABS 2007, which is linked with the Frascati Manual, was used in monitoring the allocation of the Government Budget appropriations or outlays according to the socio-economic objectives. This Nomenclature classifies the spent funds for R&D in 14 categories.

**⮊** DEFINITIONS OF THE MAIN CHARACTERISTICS

Science is a set of systematised and argument-based knowledge, i.e. facts, concepts, principles, data, information, theories, laws and patterns in a selected historical period about objective reality, i.e. nature and society, obtained through the application of objective scientific methods, and which main purpose and objective is to apprehend the laws and patterns about the past, the present and future of natural and social phenomena, as well as to improve efficient work in all fields of human activities.

Scientific research is theoretical or experimental work undertaken for acquiring new scientific knowledge and increasing human stock of knowledge. Scientific research implies basic and applied research.

Basic research implies research that increases the general stock of scientific facts and knowledge, and determines new fields of human knowledge and perception, but not involving or not necessarily involving any direct application of the obtained results.

Applied research is a theoretical or experimental work undertaken in order to acquire new knowledge, and directed towards resolving any practical task, i.e. achieving any practical objective.

Experimental (development) research is systematic work, based on knowledge acquired through basic or applied research, i.e. practical experience, which is primarily directed towards introducing new processes, products and services.

Scientific development work is a systematic activity which, through the application of scientific methods, brings new scientific knowledge, i.e. uses creatively existing knowledge for new applications. This is creative work on acquiring new knowledge, which is aimed to raise the general civilization level of society and touse that knowledge in all fields of socio-economic development.

**⮊** EXPENDITURE ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BY TYPES ARE DIVIDED INTO CURRENT COSTS AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURES.

**Current costs include**: labour costs; other R&D employees’ remuneration costs, other current costs (material costs for R&D work – raw materials, supplies, energy; payments based on work by contract and work for hire; daily allowances, travel costs, representation, etc).

Capital expenditures include expenditures on land and buildings; machines and equipments; patents, licences, studies and projects; software and hardware (implying total expenditures related to the purchase of computers, devices, systems, components and equipment, as well as purchase costs or costs for software development for own account), and other expenditures.

Non-financial (business) sector includes business entities and organizations which primary activity is the market production of goods and services and theirs ale at economically significant prices, as well as R&D incorporated units.

Tertiary education includes higher schools and universities within corporate units, faculties, academies and R&D institutes, whatever the sources of finance and legal status. This sector covers also research institutes and clinics under the direct control or administration of a tertiary education organisation.

Government sector includes organisations, offices and other bodies, except tertiary education, furnishing to the community free common services which could not be provided under market conditions, and which reflect the economic and social policy of the society; by definition this sector covers the activities of the administration, defence and public order enforcement; health, education, culture, recreation and other social services.

Non-profit sector includes non-market private non-profit organisations serving households without charging or at a low price. Those organisations may be founded by citizens’ associations, for providing goods and services to the members or for general purposes.

Sector abroad includes organizations and individuals being outside the politica lboundaries of a country, as well as corresponding land owned by those organisations. It covers also all international organisations, including their buildings on domestic territory. Are to be excluded from the sector Abroad general contributions to organizations such as: UN, OECD, ЕU, etc.

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1. The foreign sector includes organizations and individuals located outside the political borders of the country, as well as appropriate land owned by these organizations. It includes all international organizations, including their facilities in the domestic territory. The foreign sector should not include general contributions to organizations such as the UN, OECD, EU, etc., and should include allocations for all other organizations such as, among others, CERN, ESA, CGIAR, ESRF, EMBO, IAEA, COST and EUREKA [↑](#footnote-ref-1)