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Government budget appropriations or outlays for R&D, 2024/2025

– Research and development –

In 2024, RSD 38 996 571 thousand of budget funds were spent for research and development (R&D) activities in the Republic of Serbia, which is an increase of 22.7% compared to the previous year, 2023.

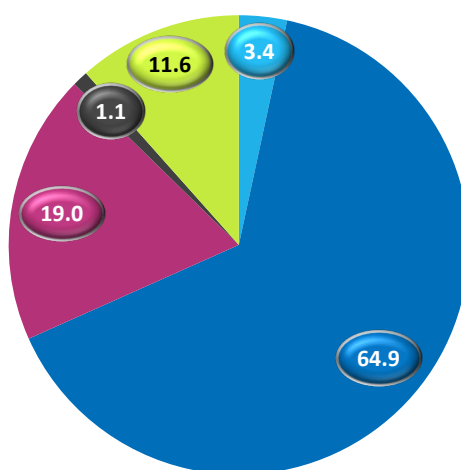
The share of total budgetary funds for R&D in GDP reached 0.4% in 2024.

The largest percentage of budget funds for R&D went to the government sector (64.9%), followed by the higher education sector (19%), then by funds from abroad with 11.6%, non-financial (business) sector with 3.4%, while 1.1% were allocated to the non-profit 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 general university funds – 18%, followed by the objectives General advancement of knowledge – R&D financed from other sources with 17.5%, and Industrial production and technology with 17.1%. The least funds were spent for the objective Exploration and exploitation of the earth – 0.4%.

Funds planned for the R&D budget for 2025 (before the budget revision) amounted to 39 275 075 RSD thousand. Most funds, 18.2%, are planned for the goal General advancement of knowledge – R&D financed from general university funds.

Graph. 1. Total expenditures for R&D in 2024, by sector, %



- Non-financial (business) sector
- Government sector
- Tertiary education
- Private non-profit sector
- Foreign sector

Table 1. Budgetary funds of the Republic of Serbia for R&D in 2024,
by types of programmes and sectors

thous. RSD

Programmes	Total	Non-financial (business) sector	Government sector	Tertiary education	Private non- profit sector	Foreign sector ¹
TOTAL	38996571	1315187	25321076	7423164	428643	4508500
Programs and projects of scientific research	2611933		2363843	210290	37800	-
Doctoral and postdoctoral fellowship programs	697505	-	385838	53589	258077	-
Programs and projects of technological research and development activities	698473	-	698473	-	-	-
Dedicated institutional financing of scientific activities	21977094	1309860	13793188	6874046	-	-
Scientific and publishing infrastructure	582217	5327	331314	179345	66230	-
Training program for new scientists	225577	-	53148	105893	66536	-
Scientific equipment and infrastructure	3558600	-	3558600	-	-	-
International participation in programs and projects that have the characteristics of research and development	4508500	-	-	-	-	4508500
- National contributions to transnational public R&D contractors	464631	-	-	-	-	464631
- National contributions to transnational public research and development programs across Europe	41177	-	-	-	-	41177
- National contributions to bilateral or multilateral public research and development programs established between the governments of EU countries, candidate countries and EFTA countries	75772	-	-	-	-	75772
- National contributions to other international programs and projects that have the characteristics of research and development	3926919	-	-	-	-	3926919
Other expenditure on research and development	4136672	-	4136672	-	-	-

Graph. 2 The share of budget funds for R&D in 2024 according to programs, %



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

Table 2. Budgetary funds of the Republic of Serbia for R&D (actual outlays) in 2024,
by socio-economic objectives and sectors

thous. RSD

Socio-economic objectives of researches	Total	Non-financial (business) sector	Government sector	Tertiary education	Private non-profit sector	Foreign sector
TOTAL	38996571	1315187	25321076	7423164	428643	4508500
Exploitation and exploration of the earth	287700	30677	248023	9000	-	-
Environment	1197422	19651	1137521	27000	13250	-
Exploration and exploitation of space	148715	-	148715	-	-	-
Transport, telecommunications and other infrastructure	4153522	35354	4099168	19000	-	-
Energy	432136	7278	412858	12000	-	-
Industrial production and technology	6661066	664724	5972342	20000	4000	-
Health	2358487	17774	2304988	35724	-	-
Agriculture	4082217	431011	3632369	18837	-	-
Education	1864022	5327	1103820	354431	400443	-
Culture, recreation, religion and mass media	1377618	-	1350268	21300	6050	-
Political and social systems, structures and processes	1821080	2022	1777009	42049	-	-
General advancement of knowledge – R&D financed from General University Funds:	7024446	101369	65592	6857485	-	-
In natural sciences	1436663	7173	40963	1388527	-	-
In engineering and technology	2193318	76915	14345	2102058	-	-
In medical and health sciences	1064493	11802	6345	1046346	-	-
In agricultural sciences	505493	5480	-	500013	-	-
In social sciences	1300331	-	3939	1296393	-	-
In humanities	524148	-	-	524148	-	-
General advancement of knowledge – R&D financed from other sources	6826479	-	2306742	6337	4900	4508500
In natural sciences	993946	-	529315	-	-	464631
In engineering and technology	5198342	-	1154473	-	-	4043869
In medical and health sciences	404438	-	404438	-	-	-
In agricultural sciences	4619	-	4619	-	-	-
In social sciences	102767	-	100468	699	1600	-
In humanities	122368	-	113430	5638	3300	-
Defence	761662	-	761662	-	-	-

Graph. 3. The share of budget resources for R&D in 2024, by the socio-economic objectives (actual expenditure), %

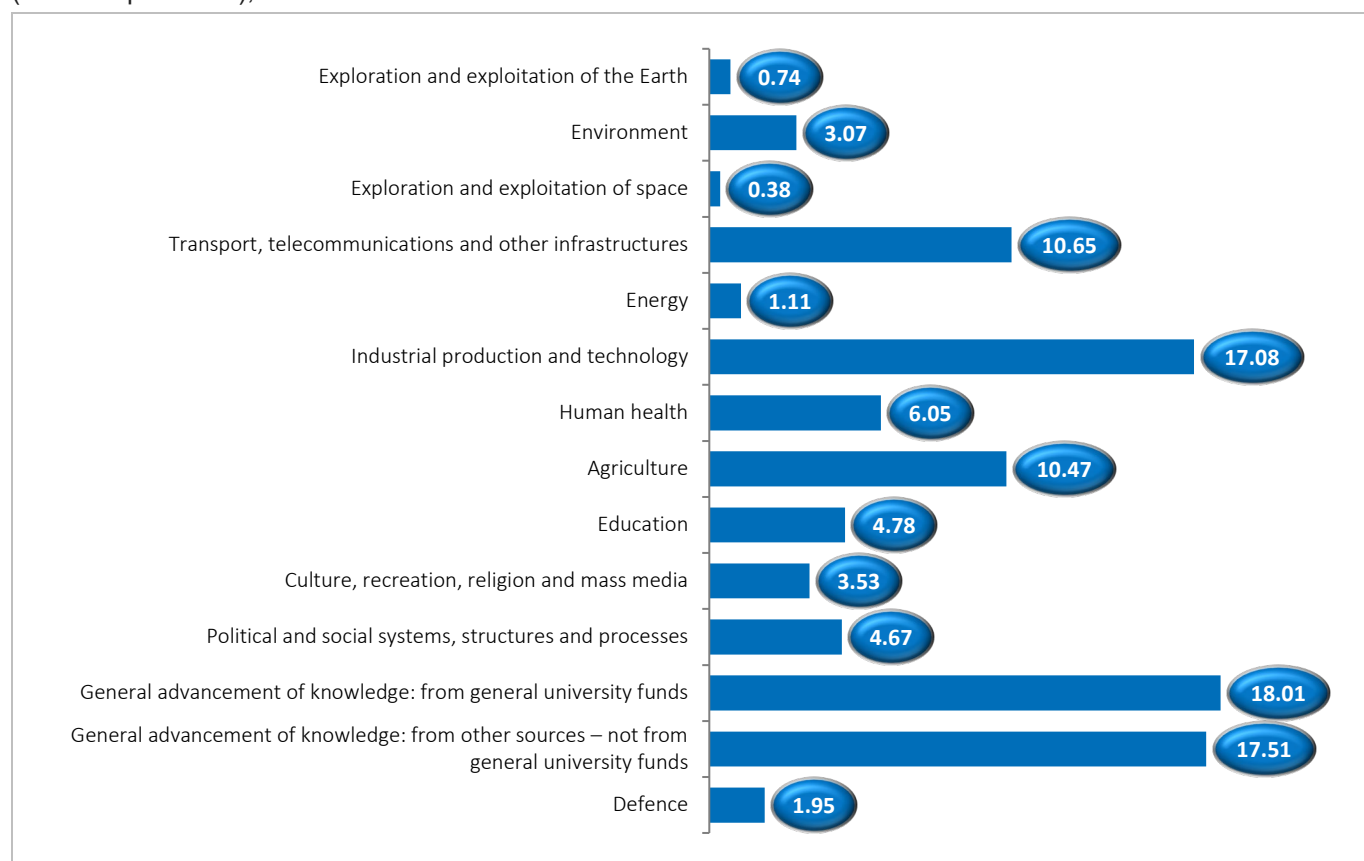
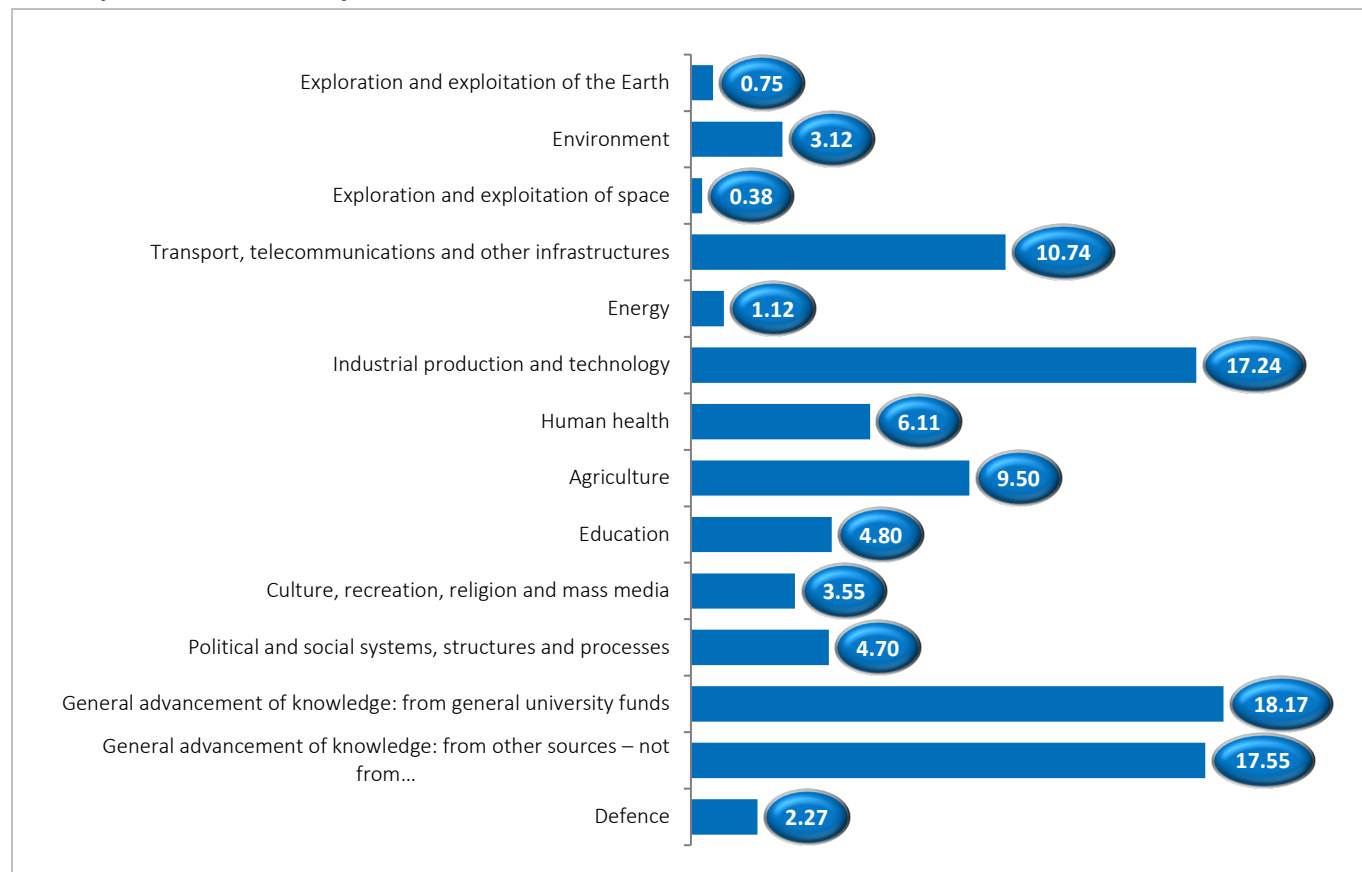


Table 3. Planned budgetary funds of the Republic of Serbia for R&D for 2025, by socio-economic objectives, (adopted budget, prior to budget adjustment)

thous. RSD

Socio-economic objectives of researches	Planned budget for 2025
TOTAL	39275075
Exploitation and exploration of the earth	293196
Environment	1225721
Exploration and exploitation of space	151114
Transport, telecommunications and other infrastructure	4216219
Energy	439743
Industrial production and technology	6771933
Health	2398001
Agriculture	3730373
Education	1884457
Culture, recreation, religion and mass media	1394251
Political and social systems, structures and processes	1847730
General advancement of knowledge – R&D financed from General University Funds:	7137762
In natural sciences	1459838
In engineering and technology	2228700
In medical and health sciences	1081665
In agricultural sciences	513648
In social sciences	1321308
In humanities	532604
General advancement of knowledge – R&D financed from other sources	6893075
In natural sciences	1009980
In engineering and technology	5282200
In medical and health sciences	410962
In agricultural sciences	4694
In social sciences	100666
In humanities	84573
Defence	891500

Graph. 4. The share of planned budget funds for R&D (adopted budget before adjustment), for 2025, by socio-economic objectives, %



METHODOLOGICAL 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 Research and 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 whose primary activity is the market production of goods and services and their sale 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 political boundaries 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, EU, etc.