

Business R&D and Innovation Survey (BRDIS)

Key Personnel

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Funding

National Science Foundation (NSF)
(80%)
U.S. Census Bureau (20%)

URLs

www.nsf.gov/statistics/srvyindustry/

Type of Data

Governmental

Availability of Data Set

Restricted access (free)
Published Reports

Activity Measured

2008—2014 annually

Data Collected

2008—2014 annually

Number of Observations

~45,000 companies annually

Date of Overview Update

22 April 2015

KAUFFMAN
Compendium on
Entrepreneurship
and Innovation
Data

OVERVIEW

The Business Research and Development and Innovation Survey, successor to the [Survey of Industrial Research and Development](#) (1953-2008), is the primary source of information on research and development performed or funded by businesses within the United States. The survey is conducted by the Census Bureau in accordance with an interagency agreement with the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics. Results are used to assess trends in the performance and funding of business R&D. The annual survey examines a nationally representative sample of companies in manufacturing and nonmanufacturing industries.

PROCEDURES FOR ACCESSING THE DATA SET

BRDIS data are published in NCSES InfoBriefs and Detailed Statistical Tables Reports in the Business and Industrial R&D series, available at <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/industry/>. Data from BRDIS are also used in the biennial report Science and Engineering Indicators, available at <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/seind/>.

The BRDIS contains confidential data that are protected under Title 13 and Title 26 of the U.S. Code. Restricted microdata can be accessed at any of the 15 secure Research Data Centers administered by the [Center for Economic Studies \(CES\)](#) at the Census Bureau. Researchers interested in analyzing microdata can apply for data use by submitting a proposal to the CES, which evaluates proposals based on their benefit to the Census Bureau, scientific merit, feasibility, and risk of disclosure. To learn more about the [Research Data Centers](#) and how to apply, please visit the [CES page on research opportunities](#). For additional information about the application process, including how to initiate a project, please contact the administrator at the primary site where the research will be conducted.

METHODOLOGY

BRDIS data are collected from a probability sample of for-profit companies, which are classified in select manufacturing and nonmanufacturing industries. The BRDIS is administered both to companies known to have performed R&D and to companies with no known history of R&D activity. The survey is sent to a single coordinator within each company, but it is organized into sections that help the coordinator collect specific types of information from different experts (human resources, accounting, R&D managers, etc.) in the company. Foreign-owned companies are instructed to report only for company operations owned by the U.S. subsidiary and, for purposes of the survey, to treat their foreign owners as if they were unrelated third parties.

SURVEY INSTRUMENTS

Survey questionnaires and the instructions for 2008—2014 are at <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/srvyindustry/#qs>.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The latest full set of detailed statistical tables will be available in Business R&D and Innovation: 2012 scheduled for release by the end of 2015; in the meantime the tables are available upon request (rwolfe@nsf.gov). Selected final statistics are summarized in NCSSES InfoBrief: "Business R&D performance in the United States tops \$300 billion in 2012" (NSF 15-303) at <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/2015/nsf15303/>.

The latest published full set of detailed statistical tables are available in Business R&D and Innovation: 2011 (NSF 15-307) at <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/2015/nsf15307/>. Selected final statistics are summarized in NCSSES InfoBrief: "Business R&D performance in the United States Increased in 2011" (NSF 13-335) at <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/infbrief/nsf13335>.

For commentary and statistics on:

Geographic data collected at the state and metropolitan level collected during the 2011 cycle of BRDIS, see NCSSES InfoBrief: "2011 Data Show U.S. Business R&D Highly Concentrated by State and Metropolitan Location" (NSF 14-315) at <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/infbrief/nsf14315/>.

Extramural funding of business R&D using data collected during the 2011 cycle of BRDIS, see NCSSES InfoBrief: "Extramural R&D Funding by U.S.-Located Businesses Nears \$30 Billion in 2011" (NSF 14-314) at <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/infbrief/nsf14314/>.

Business and academic activities using data collected during the 2010 cycle of BRDIS and the FY 2011 cycle of NSF's Higher Education Research and Development Survey, see NCSSES InfoBrief: "Two NSF Surveys on R&D Document Varied Relationships between Businesses and Academia" (NSF 13-333) at <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/infbrief/nsf13333/>.

Geographic data collected at and below the state level collected during the 2008 cycle of BRDIS, see NCSSES InfoBrief: "Businesses Concentrate Their R&D in a Small Number of Geographic Areas in the United States" (NSF 12-326) at <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/infbrief/nsf12326>.

Intellectual property (IP) data collected during the 2008 cycle of BRDIS, see NCSSES InfoBrief: "Business Use of Intellectual Property Protection Documented in NSF Survey" (NSF 12-307) at <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/infbrief/nsf12307>.

Line of business data collected during the 2008 cycle of BRDIS, see NCSSES InfoBrief: "New Data on Line of Business Improve Understanding of U.S. Industry R&D Statistics" (NSF 13-306) at <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/infbrief/nsf13306/>.

Patent data collected during the 2008 cycle of BRDIS, see NCSSES InfoBrief: "One in Five U.S. Businesses with R&D Applied for a U.S. Patent in 2008" (NSF 13-307) at <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/infbrief/nsf13307>.

R&D application data collected during the 2008 cycle of BRDIS, see NCSSES InfoBrief: "Health and Defense Applications Account for 40% of Business R&D in the United States" (NSF 12-329) at <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/infbrief/nsf12329/>.

Statistics from the 2008 full-scale pilot of BRDIS:

SRS InfoBrief: "U.S. Businesses Report 2008 Worldwide R&D Expense of \$330 Billion: Findings from New NSF Survey" (NSF 10-322) at <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/infbrief/nsf10322>

SRS InfoBrief: "New Employment Statistics from the 2008 Business R&D and Innovation Survey" (NSF 10-326) at <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/infbrief/nsf10326/>

SRS InfoBrief: "NSF Releases New Statistics on Business Innovation" (NSF 11-300) at <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/infbrief/nsf11300>.