

STATISTICS ON TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (R&D) ACTIVITIES Year 2001

EXPENDITURE ON R&D ROSE 4.2% IN THE A.C. OF THE BASQUE COUNTRY IN 2001

This expenditure in relation to GDP (1.49%) was higher than the Spanish average (year 2000, 0.94%) and below the European Union-15 average (1.94%).

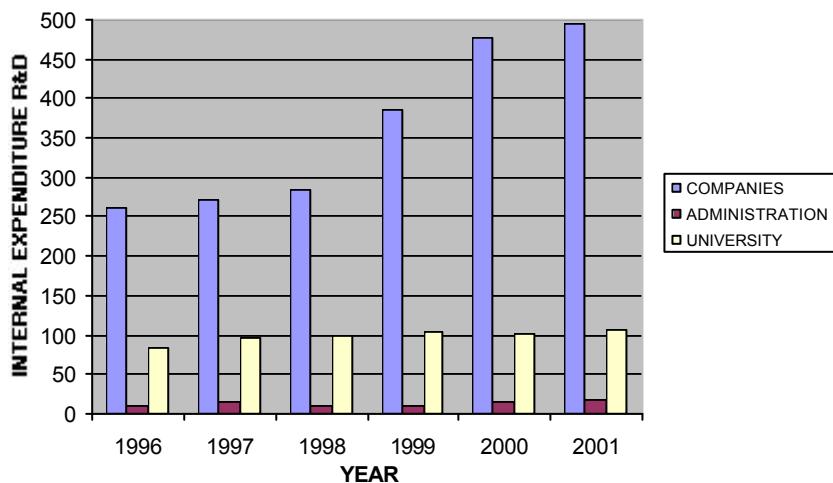
In the year 2000 a total of 619 million euros were invested in the Basque Country in Scientific Research and Technological Development activities (R&D), 4.2% more than the previous year, according to EUSTAT data. This amount represents 1.49% of the GDP, which is above the State average (year 2000, 0.94%), but below the European Union average (1.94%). However, this represents point zero two less than in 2000 due to the higher growth of the GDP (5.4%) with regard to expenditure on R&D in the last year.

A positive relation is shown between the level of GDP per inhabitant and the percentage of GDP dedicated to R&D. The richest countries invest more on R&D, i.e. over 2.5% of their GDP: Sweden, Japan, Finland and the USA. Among countries with intermediate investment, between 1.5% and 2.5% of their GDP are Germany, France, Denmark, UK, Norway, Austria, Iceland and Canada. Low investment on R&D is found in Italy, Poland, Hungary, Spain and Portugal.

By autonomous communities, the Basque Country still occupies second position in the ranking of investment on R&D only surpassed by the Community of Madrid, with 1.67% expenditure with regard to GDP in 2000, due to the concentration of a large number of public centres dedicated to R&D. No autonomous community, therefore, surpasses the European Union-15 average.

With regard to sectors, companies consumed 80% of expenditure on R&D, 17% dedicated to university research and the remaining 3% on different public bodies dependent on the Administration. In this sense there is also an important difference with the results of the Spanish State, where companies only employed 54% of expenditure on R&D during 2000.

EXPENDITURE ON R&D ACCORDING TO SECTOR (million €)



Source: EUSTAT

The scientific discipline that spent most and employed the highest number of personnel is engineering and technology, as 79% of resources were used and 75% of personnel were employed in R&D.

Focusing on industrial companies, mechanical machinery and equipment and aeronautical and space construction should be pointed out as the most relevant researched products. Between the two sectors they consumed 27% (-2% with regard to 2000) of all current expenditure on R&D by companies.

As for services, it is telecommunications, software and R&D services companies which dedicated most resources, amounting to 17% between them (+1% with regard to 2000) of current expenditure on R&D.

From the point of view of finance, private finance through companies destined 411 million euros on research, 66% of the total, public finance reached 27% and 7% of funds were raised abroad. The A.C. of the Basque Country was among the countries with highest private finance, at the same level as the USA, Switzerland and Sweden.

Total personnel employed in R&D activities in the A.C. of the Basque Country came to 10,621 persons, 12.28 per thousand of employed population, of which 5,809 are researchers, 6.71 per thousand.

R&D INDICATORS

	A.C. of the Basque Country		SPAIN	EUROPEAN UNION-15
	2000	2001	2000	2000
EXPENDITURE R&D (%) of GDP	1,51	1,49	0,94	1,93
EXPENDITURE R&D (%) ACC. TO FINANCE				
Companies	69,0	66,1	49,7	55,5
Administration	27,4	26,5	43,4	35,0
Other sources	0,4	0,1	2,0	2,2
Abroad	3,2	7,3	4,9	7,3
PERSONNEL IN R&D E.D.P. (*)				
Total personnel	9.091	10.621	120.618	1.716.637
Researchers	5.494	5.809	76.670	919.318

(*) E.D.P.: Equivalent to full time dedication

Source: A.C. of the Basque Country: EUSTAT- Spain: INE- European Union: EUROSTAT

As a result and indicator of research in the A.C. of the Basque Country, the number of patents published both through Europe and through the State reached the figure of 202 during 2001, particularly in the branches of metal articles and machinery, as between them they account for a total of 94 patents. With regard to utility models, 168 were generated, although in this case metal articles, manufactured and machinery stand out.

For further information:

 Eustat	Euskal Estatistika Erakundea / Instituto Vasco de Estadística Donostia-San Sebastián, 1 01010 Vitoria-Gasteiz Tel:+34-945-01 75 00 Fax:+34-945-01 75 01 E-mail: eustat@eustat.es Contact person: Susana Rabuñal Mol Tel:+34-945-01 75 48 Fax:+34-945-01 75 01
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