

The high and medium-high technology sector generated 8.9% of value added and 9.3% of people employed in the Basque Country in 2020

This sector spent 73.6% of total internal expenditure on R&D and accounted for 44.7% of companies that carried out R&D

In 2020, the high and medium-high technology sector (HTS) generated 8.9% of the total gross value added of the Basque economy, according to Eustat data. This sector, which covers all activities with a sound technological base and a fast renewal of knowledge, generated 93,732 jobs, 9.3% of the total. The number of companies carrying out these activities was 4,946, with a total turnover of 19,836 million euros.

As regards the high and medium-high technology sector in Spain, the Basque Country accounts for 5.3% of its companies and generates 7.9% of its GVA. However, the high and medium-high technology sector has the greatest weight in the manufacturing industry, accounting for 7.0% of companies and 10.5% of value added.

Main magnitudes from the high technology sector in the Basque Country by province and economic activity (thousands of euros). 2020

	Enterprises (1)	Turnover	Gross value added cf	Jobs
High and medium-high-tech sector	4.946	19.836.024	6.391.263	93.732
Province				
Araba / Álava	710	5.674.656	1.113.366	16.372
Bizkaia	2.613	6.500.381	2.654.140	36.664
Gipuzkoa	1.759	7.660.987	2.623.757	40.696
High- and medium-high-tech manufacturing industry	1.502	16.538.708	4.438.312	64.405
High technology	188	2.083.826	736.623	10.085
Medium-high technology	1.314	14.454.882	3.701.689	54.320
High-tech or state-of-the-art services	3.444	3.297.316	1.952.951	29.327

(1)The territorial sum of the number of companies may not match the total

They have been counted once in each historical territory in which they have activity and only once in the total of the C.A. from Euskadi

Date August 31, 2022

Source: Eustat. High technology scoreboard

In relation to the previous year, the number of businesses increased, up 0.4%. However, job posts were down 1.1%, therefore registering an average of 19 people employed in companies dedicated to this activity in 2020. Turnover and value added decreased by 11.6% and 8.8%, respectively.

13.2% of companies in the high and medium-high technology sector carried out R&D activities, a percentage that is far higher than the total for all sectors (1.0%). Furthermore, this sector, representing 3.2% of total companies, accounted for 44.7% of those

undertaking R&D in the commercial sector and, with 841.8 million euros, carried out 73.6% of the total expenditure on internal R&D in the commercial sector.

With regards to people working in R&D in this sector, it should be pointed out that in 2020 there were 9,731 people employed in “full-time equivalent jobs (FTE)”, 70.5% of personnel dedicated to R&D in the commercial sector, or 49.9% if the comparison is made with personnel dedicated to these activities across all sectors. There were 3,187 women, representing 32.7%. Of the total number of personnel in full time equivalent jobs, 6,527 belonged to the category of researchers; 2,147 were women (32.9%).

Establishments and F.T.E. staff dedicated to R&D within the high technology sector in the Basque Country by province and economic activity according to occupation and sex. 2020

	Number or establishments	FTE personnel			Researchers FTE		
		Total	Women	Women %	Total	Women	Women %
TOTAL R&D	1.531	19.510,9	7.130,0	36,5	13.628,7	4.953,3	36,3
Business Sector R+D	1.464	13.800,5	4.244,7	30,8	9.097,0	2.851,2	31,3
High and medium-high-tech sector I+D	654	9.731,1	3.186,9	32,7	6.527,0	2.146,7	32,9
Province							
Araba / Álava	91	886,7	324,5	36,6	631,2	216,7	34,3
Bizkaia	268	3.635,2	1.262,1	34,7	2.563,3	892,2	34,8
Gipuzkoa	295	5.209,2	1.600,3	30,7	3.332,4	1.037,8	31,1
High- and medium-high-tech manufacturing industry R+D	315	3.339,3	805,4	24,1	1.870,7	482,8	25,8
High technology	64	991,0	291,4	29,4	686,5	201,3	29,3
Medium-high technology	251	2.348,3	514,0	21,9	1.184,2	281,5	23,8
High-tech or state-of-the-art services I+D	339	6.391,8	2.381,5	37,3	4.656,3	1.663,8	35,7

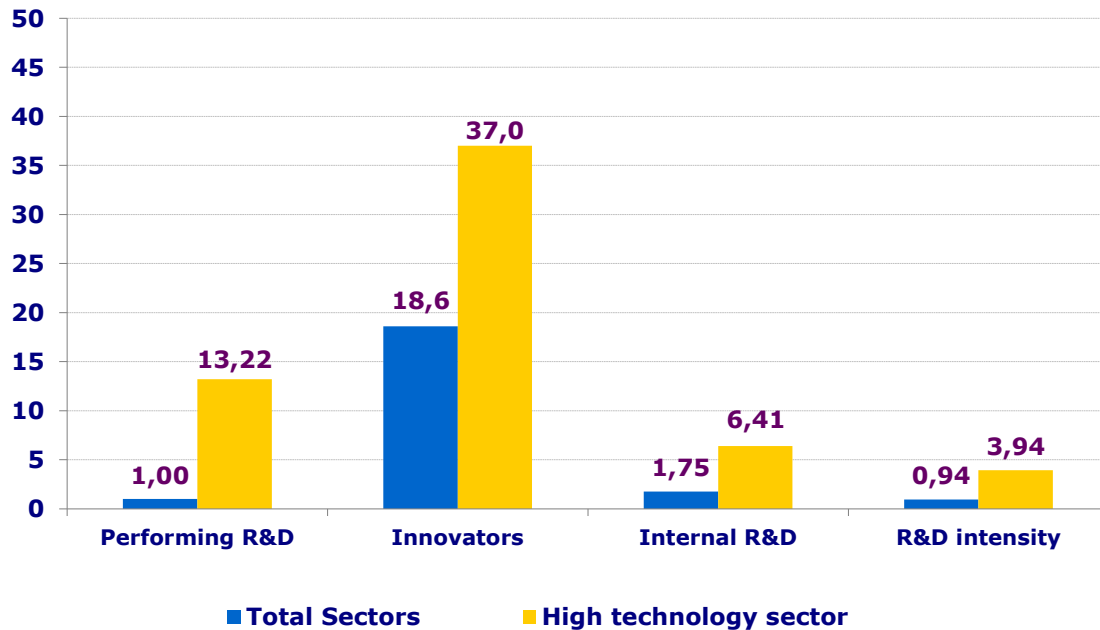
E.D.P.: Equivalent to full time

Date August 31, 2022

Source: Eustat. High technology scoreboard

Regarding innovation, as with R&D, there were significant differences between the total for all sectors and for the high and medium-high technology sector. In 2020, 37.0% of establishments in the sector were innovators compared to 18.6% of the total for all sectors. For establishments with 10 or more employees these percentages reached 57.7% in the first case and 31.4% in the second.

R&D and innovation in companies within the high technology sector and in all sectors (%). 2020



Source: Eustat. High technology scoreboard

High and medium-high technology establishments spent a total of 1,459 million euros on innovation activities in 2020, 52.3% of total expenditure across all sectors. Of this expenditure, 1,307 million corresponded to establishments with 10 or more employees, which was 54.9% of the total expenditure by companies of that size on this activity.

This sector allocated a greater proportion of resources towards R&D+i and e-commerce than the average for all sectors as a whole

It was also clear that the high and medium-high technology sector allocated a greater proportion of resources towards R&D+i than the other sectors, observing the “innovation” and “internal R&D” intensity ratios, i.e. the amounts that this sector spends compared to the turnover figure. Specifically, *innovation intensity* in this sector was 6.41% compared to 1.75% for all economic sectors as a whole. In the case of internal R&D, the ratio was 3.94% for the sector and 0.94% for all the economic sectors.

Internal innovation and R&D intensity from the high technology sector in the Basque Country by province and economic activity (%). 2020

	Total		10 or more employees	
	Innovation Intensity (1)	Internal R&D Intensity (2)	Innovation Intensity (1)	Internal R&D Intensity (2)
TOTAL SECTORS	1,75	0,94	2,31	1,36
High and medium-high tech sector	6,41	3,94	6,14	3,92
Province				
Araba / Álava	4,21	1,50	4,27	1,49
Bizkaia	8,02	4,59	7,55	4,56
Gipuzkoa	6,04	4,56	5,80	4,56
High- and medium-high-tech manufacturing industry	3,58	1,74	3,70	1,80
High technology	7,83	2,76	8,06	2,84
Medium-high technology	2,76	1,55	2,86	1,60
High-tech or state-of-the-art services	17,18	12,26	16,93	13,30

(1) Innovation Intensity: (Spending on innovation/turnover)*100

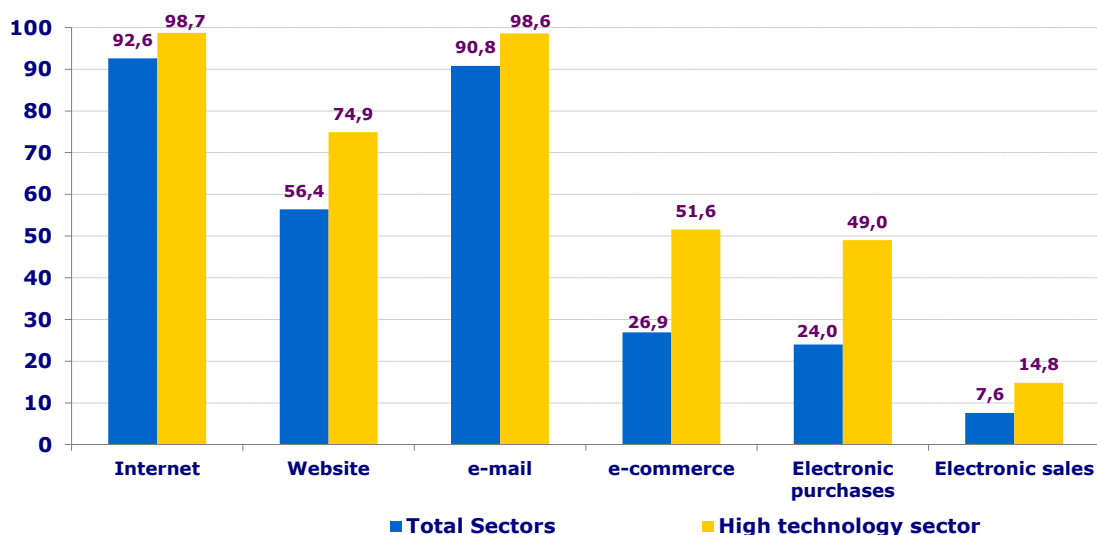
(2) Internal R&D intensity: (Spending on internal R&D/turnover)*100

Date August 31, 2022

Source: Eustat. High technology scoreboard

Both the use of Information & Communications Technology (ICT) and e-commerce were much more widespread amongst the companies in this sector than in the total of all sectors. In 2020, 51.6% of establishments in this sector participated in e-commerce compared to 26.9% of those in all sectors as a whole.

Use of ICT technologies (%). 2020



Source: Eustat. High technology scoreboard

These percentages were determined by the 49.0% of the establishments in this sector that made online purchases, compared to 24.0% of establishments that made online

purchases across all sectors; and 14.8% of establishments in the technology sectors that made online sales, a figure that stood at 7.6% in the case of all sectors.

On the other hand, the impact of this sector on the foreign trade of goods was not particularly significant. Whilst exports accounted for 709.7 million euros out of a total of 21,124.2 million, imports stood at 603.1 million out of the 15,868.4 million of total imports. These figures represented 3.4% and 3.8% of the total exports and imports, respectively.

Standing out among the most common products traded in terms of exports were: *Machinery and Mechanical Equipment* (38.4%), *Manufacture of Aircraft and Spacecraft* (17.3%) and *Electronic material, Radio, TV, and Communications Equipment* (14.9%). Of particular note in imports were *Electronic Material, Radio, TV and Communications Equipment* (40.2%); *Scientific Instruments* (22.5%); and *Manufacture of Aircraft and Spacecraft* (10.2%).

Turnover in the high and medium-high technology sector rose by 13.3% since 2010

As of 2010, from a more long-term perspective, this sector has continuously increased its contribution since 2015, with the exception of the last published year, 2020, which marked the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since 2010, turnover in the HTS sector has been above 16,800 million euros, having exceeded 20,000 million in 2017 and reaching its record in 2019 with 22,430 million, which represented an increase of 4,918 million in respect of 2010, up 28.1%. However, this figure decreased to 19,836 million in 2020, 11.6% less than the previous year.

For the same period, 2010-2020, the total number of employed people in HTS companies saw a rise of 2,218 people, after having been below 90,000 between 2011 and 2017. During the last year of this analysis, the total figure reached 93,732 people in employment, exceeding the figure recorded in 2010 by 2.4%.

In turn, during the last 10 years the number of High and Medium-High technology companies has remained above the threshold of 4,600, with percentages out of the total of Basque companies standing at around 3%, going from 2.9% in 2010 to 3.2% in 2020. As can be seen, there is a slight percentage increase that translates into 116 more HTS companies than in 2010.

Lastly, the gross value added stood at 6,391 million in 2020, 285 million more than in 2010, since when it had maintained a figure above 5,700 million. In this case, as can be observed in Job Posts and Turnover figures, the record was reached one year prior, in 2019, with 7,011 million euros (14.8% more than in 2010).

Main magnitudes of the high-tech sector. 2010-2020

	Number of companies	Jobs	Turnover (1)	Gross value added at factor cost (1)
2020	4.946	93.732	19.836.024	6.391.263
2019	4.927	94.777	22.430.228	7.010.523
2018	4.881	93.458	21.336.764	6.777.987
2017	4.789	89.710	20.306.692	6.516.869
2016	4.852	87.727	19.198.452	6.251.960
2015	4.787	85.100	17.696.422	5.989.997
2014	4.745	84.419	16.872.644	5.746.375
2013	4.718	86.571	17.085.535	5.806.417
2012	4.646	87.746	17.847.872	6.134.652
2011	4.742	89.726	18.748.825	6.373.258
2010	4.830	91.514	17.511.934	6.106.721

(1)Thousand euros

Date August 31, 2020

Source: Eustat. High technology scoreboard

Methodological note:

The sectors that belong to the high technology sector are those that, given their degree of complexity, require an ongoing research effort and a sound technological base. The activities included in this sector, according to the CNAE 2009, are listed on the [Eustat website](#). [Methodology file: The high technology statistics sector](#)

For further information:

[Eustat - Euskal Estatistika Erakundea / Basque Statistics Institute](#)

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