

A small growth in the R&D-expenditure in the Nordic countries

In 2011 the Nordic countries all together spent approximately 300 billion NOK on R&D activity. This gives a small real growth of almost 2 per cent after two years with real decrease (2009) and zero growth (2010). 230 000 R&D person-years were performed in the Nordic countries in 2011, of which 155 000 R&D person-years were performed by researchers. This is at the same level as the year before.

Denmark's share of Nordic R&D expenditures is increasing

Sweden accounts for almost 40 per cent of total Nordic R&D expenditure, Finland accounts for 23 per cent, Denmark for nearly 22 per cent, Norway accounts for 15 per cent and Iceland for 1 per cent. Sweden's percentage share has decreased since 2001, while Denmark's share has increased.

R&D expenditure in the Nordic countries in 2011 by sector of performance and share of GDP. Billion national currency.

Sector of performance	Denmark		Finland		Iceland		Norway		Sweden	
	DKK	%	EUR	%	ISK	%	NOK	%	SEK	%
Business enterprise sector	37,4	68	5	71	24,6	55	23,5	52	81,8	69
Government sector	1,4	3	0,7	10	10,4	22	7,5	17	5,5	5
Higher education sector	16,5	30	1,4	20	11,6	25	14,5	32	30,8	26
Total	55,4	100	7,2	100	39,2	100	45,5	100	118,1	100
Percentage of GDP, 2011	3,09		3,78		..		1,66		3,37	
Percentage of GDP, 2010	3,07		3,90		..		1,68		3,40	
Percentage of GDP, 2009	3,16		3,94		..		1,76		3,60	
Percentage of GDP, 2008	2,85		3,70		2,65		1,58		3,70	

Source: OECD/MSTI 2012-2 and national sources (Iceland 2008).

Note: Private non-profit sector (PNP) is small in all countries and has been incorporated in the government sector in this Table.

Sweden had the highest R&D real growth in 2011

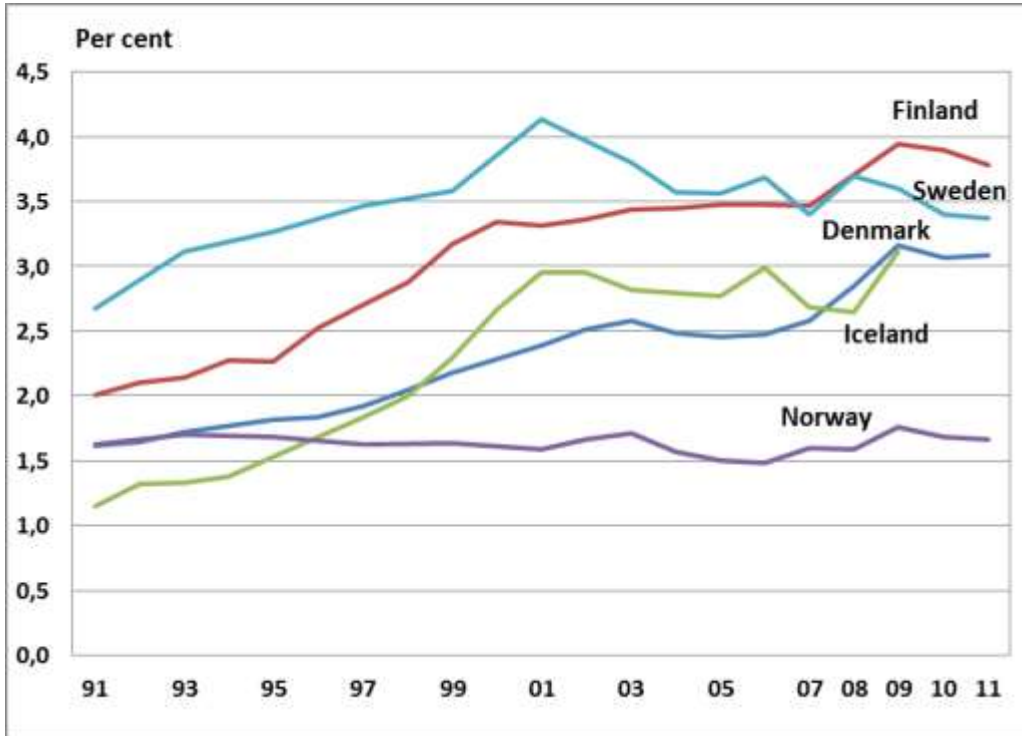
The average annual real increase¹ in R&D expenditure from 2001–2011 was close to two per cent for the Nordic total, the same as from 2010–2011. The year 2008 represents the peak year in the Nordic countries; afterwards the growth has been smaller and partly negative. During the ten-year period, Denmark experienced the strongest growth followed closely by Finland and Norway. All three countries had more than 3 per cent annual real growth. Sweden had zero growth in the last ten-year period. From 2010 to 2011, however, Sweden had the largest real increase of more than 3 per cent, followed quite closely by Norway and Denmark, while Finland experienced a small decrease. Iceland has not published R&D statistics after 2009, but for the previous years, there was an average annual increase of above 2 per cent.

No change in the R&D expenditure/GDP ratio

In all the Nordic countries the R&D expenditure as a percentage of GDP remained unchanged or decreased from 2010 to 2011. From 2008 to 2011 this ratio decreased in Sweden and increased in Denmark, while it remained almost unchanged in Finland and Norway. From the middle of the 1990ies the R&D/GDP ratio increased in all the Nordic countries, besides Norway, for which this ratio has remained almost the same since the last part of the 80ies. The R&D/GDP ratio in Norway is still well below 2 per cent, while the rest of the Nordic countries have reached the EU target of at least 3 per cent of GDP to be invested in R&D. Both Finland and Sweden achieved this goal several years ago.

¹ The fixed prices are calculated in PPP\$ (purchasing power parity).

R&D expenditure as a percentage of GDP in the Nordic countries 1991–2011.

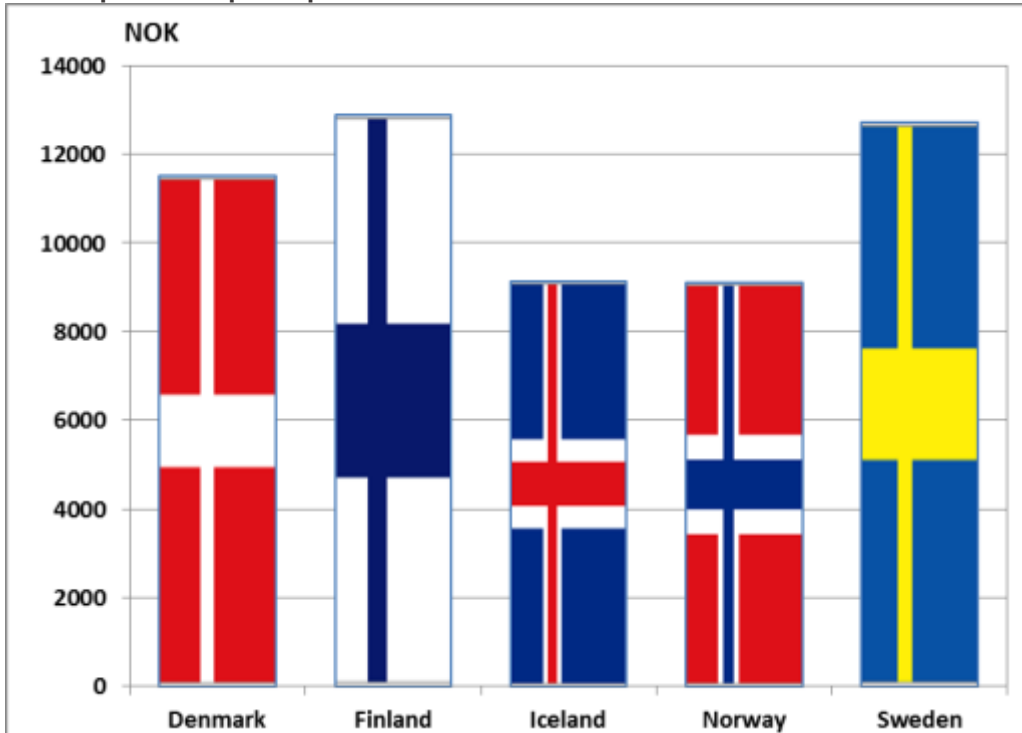


Source: OECD/MSTI 2012-2 and national sources.

Finland and Sweden have the highest R&D expenditure per capita

Finland and Sweden saw R&D expenditure of close to 13 000 NOK per capita in 2011. The corresponding figures were 11 500 NOK for Denmark. In Norway 9 100 NOK per capita was spent on R&D in 2011, the same as in Iceland in 2008.

R&D expenditure per capita in the Nordic countries in 2011. NOK.



Source: OECD/MSTI 2012-2 and national sources (Iceland 2009).