

Considerable increase in Norway's R&D

Preliminary figures for 2015 show that Norway spent more than 60 billion NOK on research and experimental development (R&D). This represents an increase of 12 per cent from 2014, or 6.5 billion NOK. The R&D share of GDP increases from 1.72 to 1.93 per cent. Close to 42 700 full-time equivalents (FTEs) were performed on R&D in 2015, this is almost 2 400 more than in 2014.

In current prices, the industrial sector¹ had the largest growth in R&D expenditure from 2014 to 2015; 13.2 per cent, followed by the institute sector and higher education sector with 11.0 and 10.6 per cent growth, respectively. However, the health trusts, included in the higher education sector (university hospitals) and the institute sector (other hospitals) had almost 18 per cent increase in R&D expenditure from 2014 to 2015.

In the industrial sector, the service industries had the largest growth, and at the same time the number of enterprises with R&D was higher in 2015 than in 2014. For more details on R&D in the industrial sector, see Statistics Norway <http://www.ssb.no/>.

In the institute sector, large capital investments, including marine research vessels, contributed to the strong growth in R&D expenditure. In the higher education sector, the increase in the number of R&D personnel contributed to growth in R&D activity. Some of the increase in the health trusts' R&D expenditure has technical explanations, caused by a change in their pension system in 2014. Adjusted for this, the increase was about 5 per cent.

The preliminary figures indicate a considerable real increase in Norway's total R&D expenditure from 2014 to 2015. Final figures will be published February 2017.

Total R&D expenditure in 2013, 2014 and 2015¹ by sector of performance. Million NOK.

Performing sector ²	2013	2014	2015	% change 2014–2015 current prices
Industrial sector	22 557	24 802	28 110	13.3
Higher education sector	16 001	16 720	18 500	10.6
Institute sector	12 190	12 345	13 700	11.0
Total	50 748	53 867	60 310	12.0
<i>of which health trusts</i>	<i>3 471</i>	<i>3 436</i>	<i>4 049</i>	<i>17.9</i>
R&D share of GDP (%)	1.65	1.72	1.93	

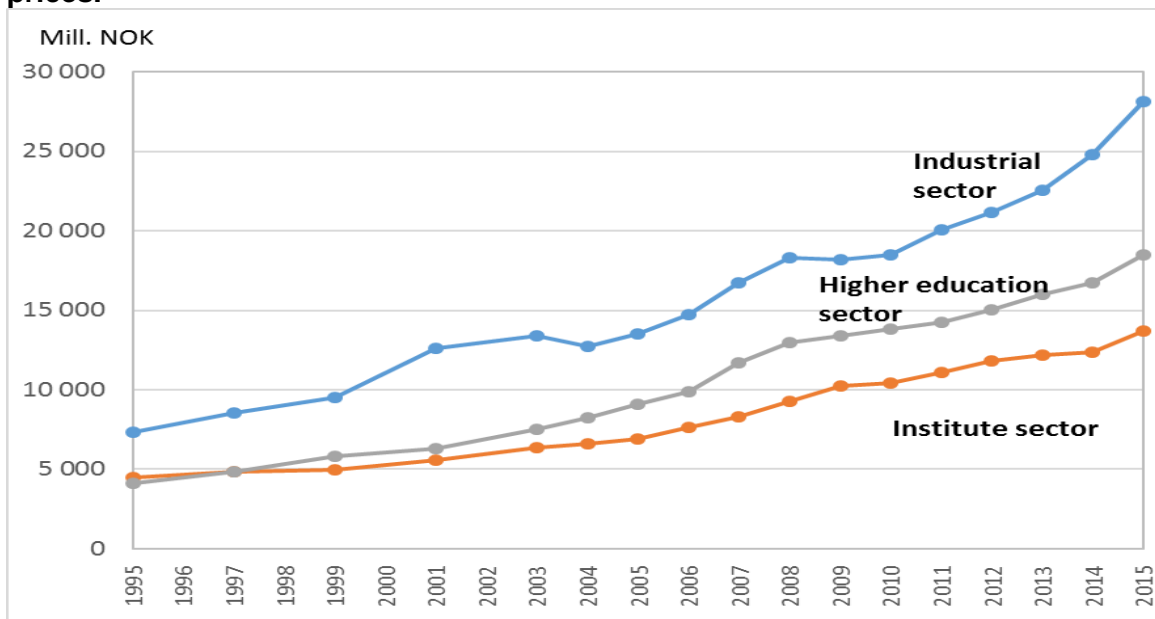
¹ Preliminary figures for 2015.

² By national sector classification.

Source: NIFU and Statistics Norway.

¹ National classification of R&D performing sectors: The industrial sector covers enterprises aimed at commercial production of goods and services. The institute sector includes research institutes mainly serving industry (the business enterprise sector in OECD's classification), research institutes controlled and funded by government (government sector in OECD's classification, and health trusts not conducting education. The higher education sector is the same in national and international classification.

Total R&D expenditure by sector¹ of performance 1995–2015². Million NOK. Current prices.



¹ National sector classification.

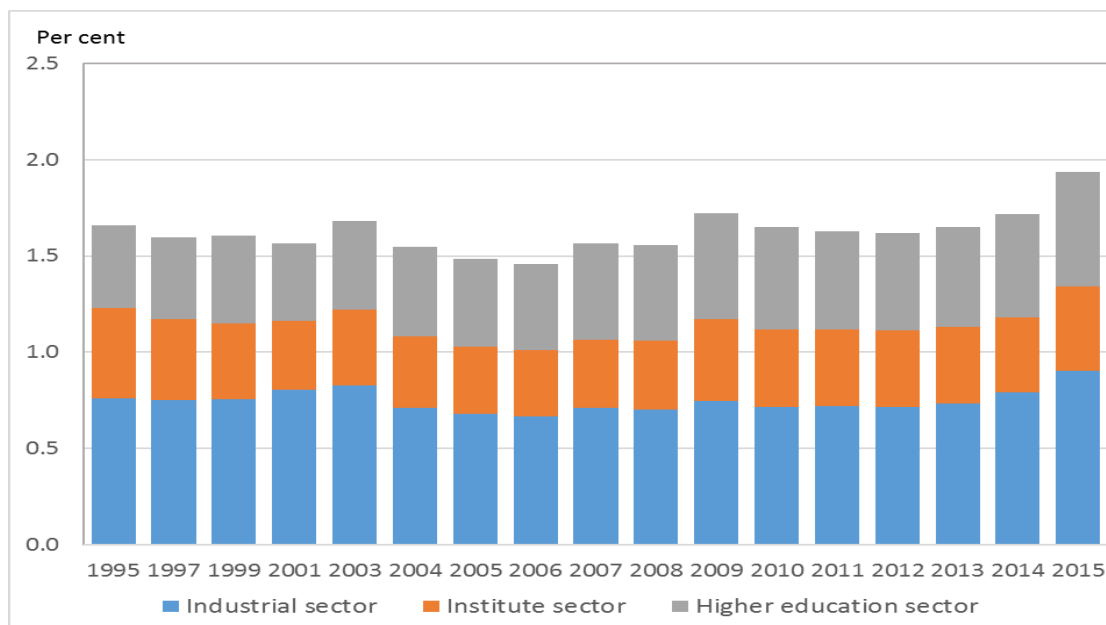
² Preliminary figures for 2015.

Source: NIFU and Statistics Norway

Increased R&D share of GDP

Total R&D expenditure are estimated to 1.93 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) in 2015. This is a large increase compared to 2014 when the share was 1.72 per cent. The fact that the estimate for GDP in 2015 is somewhat lower than in 2014 contributes to the rise in R&D share of GDP. However, it is important to bear in mind that figures for total R&D expenditure as well as the estimate for GDP in 2015 are preliminary.

Total R&D expenditure as share of GDP in Norway by sector of performance 1995–2015¹. Per cent.



¹ National sector classification.

² Preliminary figures for 2015.

Source: NIFU og SSB

2 400 more FTEs on R&D

Preliminary figures show that close to 42 700 full-time equivalents on R&D were carried out in 2015, 2 400 more than in 2014, thus representing a 6 per cent increase. 46 per cent of the FTEs were affiliated with the industrial sector, a 3 percentage points higher share of total FTEs than the year before. The higher education sector and the institute sector had 32 and 22 per cent of the FTE's in 2015, respectively.

In the period 2013 to 2015, the industrial sector had the largest increase in FTEs. The number of FTEs on R&D in the institute sector has been stable in this period.

The health trusts' share of total FTEs was 8 per cent in 2015. These institutions had almost 12 per cent increase in FTEs from 2013 to 2015.

R&D full-time equivalents (FTEs) in 2013, 2014 and 2015¹ by sector of performance.

Sector	2013	2014	2015	Share per sector (%)
Industrial sector	16 371	17 932	19 499	46
Higher education sector	12 715	13 010	13 746	32
Institute sector	9 449	9 355	9 450	22
Total	38 535	40 297	42 695	100
<i>Of which health trusts</i>	<i>2 978</i>	<i>3 019</i>	<i>3 326</i>	<i>8</i>

¹ Preliminary figures for 2015.

Source: NIFU og SSB

Final and more detailed R&D statistics will be published February 2017.

The national R&D statistics for Norway are prepared and published annually on commission by The Research Council of Norway. NIFU is responsible for the higher education sector and the institute sector (the Norwegian institute sector includes government sector and non-profit research institutes serving enterprises), while Statistics Norway is responsible for the industrial sector. NIFU is also responsible for compiling the sector data into the total R&D statistics for Norway and to report statistics to international organisations. The statistics are prepared in line with the OECD guidelines, as published in the Frascati Manual. The R&D statistics are reported to the OECD data bases for Science & Technology as well as to Eurostat.

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The national R&D statistics for Norway are published by NIFU <http://www.nifu.no/en/statistics/> and the Research Council of Norway http://www.forskningsradet.no/en/Home_page/1177315753906. In the R&D Statistics Bank the users may choose data and define statistical tables by their own choice: <http://www.nifu.no/en/statistics/databaser-og-registre/rd-statistics-bank/>. More information on the industrial sector is available on http://www.ssb.no/fou_en/