

# Expenditures at Federally Funded Research and Development Centers in the United States



## The FFRDC Research and Development Survey

Federally funded research and development centers (FFRDCs) are valuable sources of research and development (R&D) activity in the United States. Federal government agencies provide most of the funding for FFRDCs, as they support the agencies' missions, expand expertise and knowledge, and provide technical advice.

## What is the FFRDC R&D Survey?

The FFRDC R&D Survey is an annual census that collects information on R&D expenditures at these centers. The FFRDC R&D Survey is conducted by the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) within the National Science Foundation.

## How can I use the FFRDC R&D Survey?



Data from the FFRDC R&D Survey can answer questions like

- How many FFRDCs are there in the United States?
- Which federal agencies fund FFRDCs, and how much is spent on R&D each year?
- What were the total R&D expenditures at a specific FFRDC in a certain year?
- Which specific FFRDCs had the highest expenditures, and which federal agencies funded them?
- How have FFRDCs' expenditures increased over the past several years?

## Why is the FFRDC R&D Survey important?

The FFRDC R&D Survey is the primary source of information on separately accounted for R&D expenditures at FFRDCs in the United States. It collects R&D expenditure data by source of funds and types of research and expenses. These data can help provide a valuable perspective on FFRDCs' R&D activity and funding.

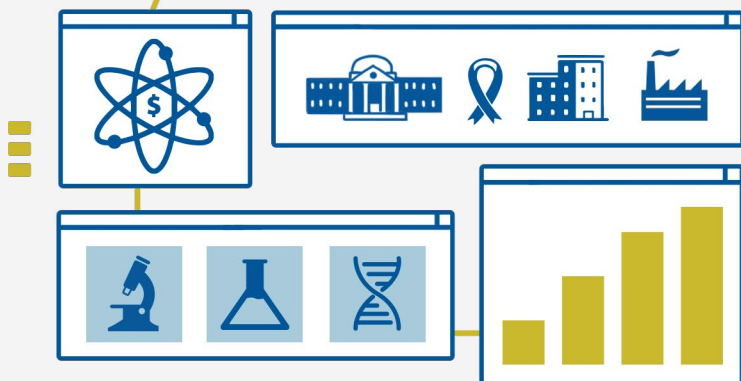
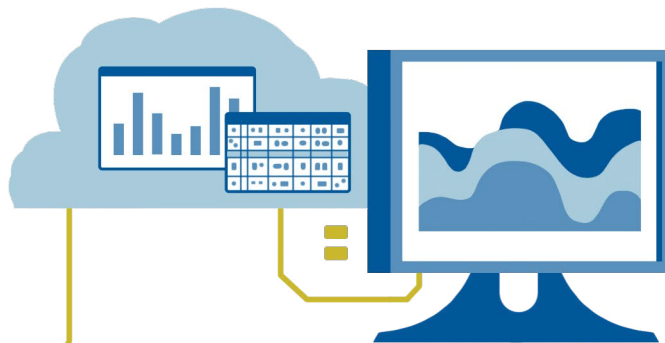
For more information, the [FFRDC R&D Survey homepage](https://ncses.nsf.gov/surveys/ffrdc-research-development) (<https://ncses.nsf.gov/surveys/ffrdc-research-development>) features additional details about the survey, its questionnaires, and links to related publications and products.



## Data details

### Where can I find FFRDC R&D Survey data?

On the survey's homepage, the Data tab offers data tables that can be downloaded by users, and the Analysis tab chronicles all NCSES publications that use the survey's data. Additionally, microdata can be found at the FFRDC R&D public use files page ([https://nsf.gov/statistics/ffrdc/pub\\_data.cfm](https://nsf.gov/statistics/ffrdc/pub_data.cfm)). The current Master Government List of FFRDCs that is used for this survey's data collection can be found at <https://nsf.gov/statistics/ffrdclist/>.



### Eligible FFRDCs report information such as

- R&D expenditures by
  - Source of funds (federal, state and local, business, nonprofit, and other)
  - Federal agency source
  - Type of R&D (basic research, applied research, and experimental development)
- Total operating budget

The FFRDC R&D Survey contains data regarding expenditures, funding, and types of research at FFRDCs. For detailed information regarding postdoctoral researchers employed at FFRDCs, see the **Survey of Postdocs at FFRDCs** (<https://ncses.nsf.gov/surveys/ffrdc-postdocs/>).

## Products supported by FFRDC R&D Survey data

FFRDC R&D Survey data are used in the NCSES publication series *R&D Expenditures at Federally Funded R&D Centers*, *National Patterns of R&D Resources*, and *Science and Engineering Indicators*.



### Survey specifics

**Frequency:** Annual

**Initial survey year:** 2001

**Reference period:** Fiscal year

**Response unit:** FFRDC

**Sample or census:** Census

**Population size:** 42 FFRDCs

**Sample size:** The survey is a census of all known eligible FFRDCs



## National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES)

For more information about NCSES's products and data collection process, visit <https://ncses.nsf.gov>. You can also explore our Surveys page at <https://ncses.nsf.gov/surveys> to learn more about NCSES surveys and the FFRDC Postdoc Survey, as well as its methodology, survey design, and questionnaires.