

Research and experimental development in Poland in 2025

22.10.2026

1.50%

R&D intensity indicator

In 2025, gross domestic expenditure on R&D (GERD) amounted to PLN 58.8 billion which is 14.2% more than in the previous year. R&D intensity indicator, which defines the share of intramural R&D expenditure in GDP, increased to 1.50% (in 2024 – 1.41%). Gross domestic expenditure on R&D per capita amounted to PLN 1 571 and was higher by 14.6% than in the previous year.

Table 1. Selected data on R&D

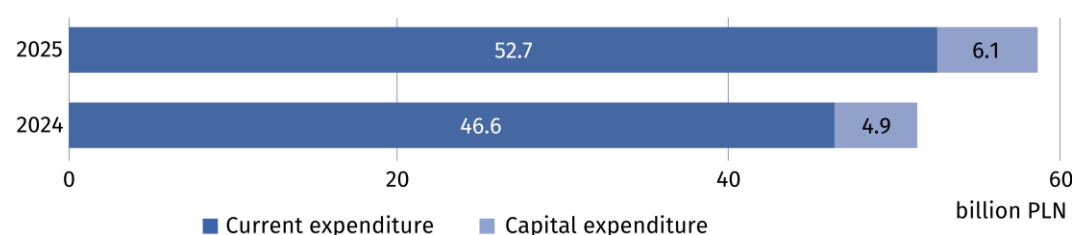
Specification	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of entities in R&D	6 381	7 370	7 431	7 549	7 272	7 018
Gross domestic expenditure on R&D (GERD) in million PLN	32 402	37 676	44 702	53 116	51 478	58 763
Relation of GERD to GDP (in %)	1.37	1.42	1.44	1.56	1.41	1.50

Gross domestic expenditure on R&D increased by 14.2% compared to the previous year, while the number of entities decreased by 3.5%

Intramural expenditure on research and development

The structure of intramural expenditure on R&D activities by type of costs was invariably dominated by current expenditure. They accounted for 89.7% of all gross domestic expenditure incurred on research and development projects.

Chart 1. Intramural expenditure on R&D by type of costs



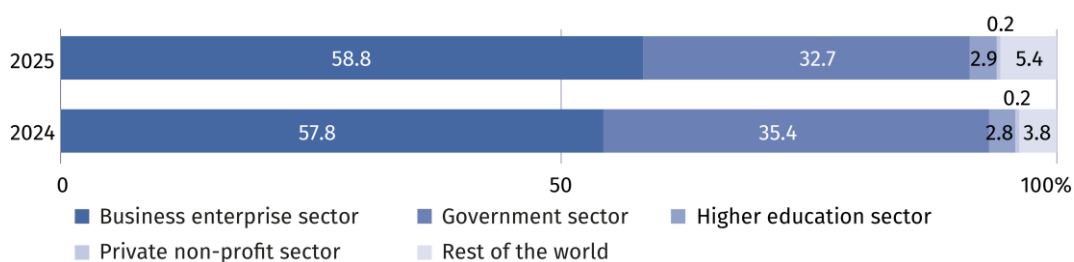
The business enterprise sector was the performing sector with the highest level of intramural R&D expenditure. In 2025, it spent PLN 38.2 billion for this purpose (17.1% more than a year earlier), which constituted 64.9% of the gross domestic expenditure on R&D activities (in 2024 – 63.3%). The higher education sector accounted for 32.8% of the total domestic expenditure on R&D (compared to 34.4% in 2024), the government sector for 2.2% (respectively 2.1%) and the private non-profit sector for 0.1% (respectively 0.2%).

The business enterprise expenditure on R&D (BERD) accounted for 64.9% of gross domestic expenditure on R&D (GERD)

Table 2. Intramural expenditure on R&D by sectors of performance

Sectors of performance	2024	2025
	in million PLN	
Total (GERD)	51 478.1	58 763.2
Business enterprise sector (BERD)	32 584.7	38 155.1
Government sector (GOVERD)	1 076.3	1 271.7
Higher education sector (HERD)	17 718.9	19 251.1
Private non-profit sector (PNPERD)	98.2	85.3

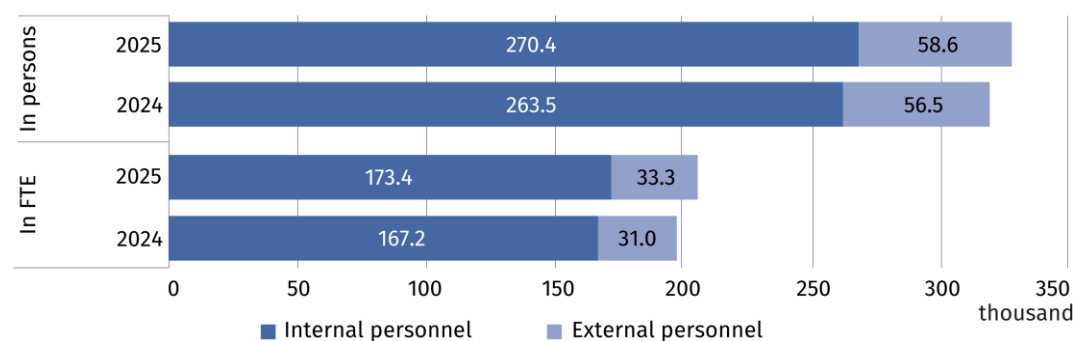
As in the previous years, research and experimental development in Poland was mainly financed by the business enterprise and government sectors. In 2025, the funds from these sectors accounted for 58.8% and 32.7% of total gross domestic expenditure on R&D (compared to 57.8% and 35.4%, respectively, in 2024).

Chart 2. Intramural expenditure on R&D by funding sectors

Personnel in research and development

The number of personnel involved in research and experimental development in 2025 amounted to 329.1 thousand persons, that is, it increased by 2.9% more than compared to 2024. Actual involvement of R&D personnel in research and experimental development in full-time equivalents amounted to 206.7 thousand FTE, i.e. 4.3% more than a year earlier. R&D was mainly performed by internal personnel which accounted for 82.2% of personnel in headcount and 83.9% – measured in FTE (in 2024 these shares amounted to 82.3% and 84.4%, respectively).

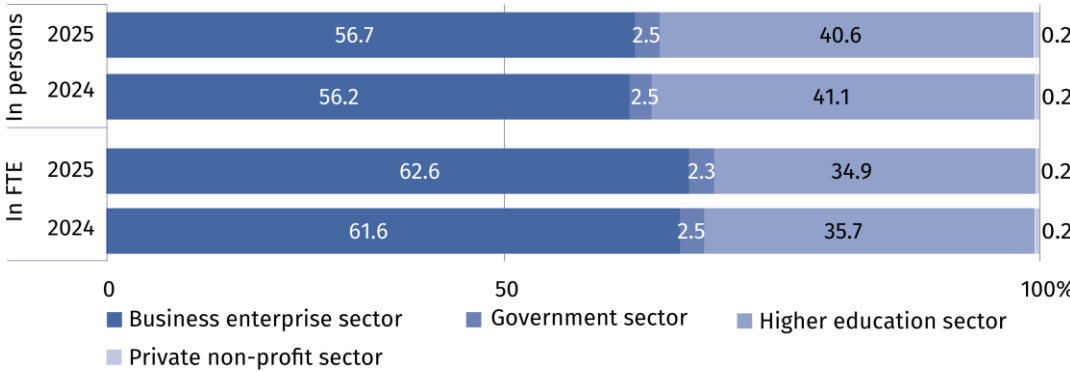
Internal personnel accounted for 83.9% of R&D personnel in FTE

Chart 3. R&D personnel by main groups

In the structure of persons engaged in research and experimental development by R&D functions, researchers consistently dominated. Accounting for 69.6% of internal personnel and 68.3% of external personnel in headcount (compared to 69.2% and 68.6% in 2024). In FTE, researchers as the share of persons employed in R&D accounted for 73.5% and as the share of external contributors 68.6% (compared to 72.9% and 69.9% in 2024).

In the structure of internal R&D personnel by sectors of performance was dominated by persons employed in the business enterprise and higher education sectors. The highest value of full-time equivalent was noted in the business enterprise sector – 108.6 thousand FTE. i.e. 5.2% more than in 2024.

Chart 4. Internal R&D personnel by sectors of performance



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Data available in databases

[Local Data Bank \(BDL\) – Science and Technology. Information society – Research and development](#)
[Macroeconomic Data Bank \(BDM\) – Research and experimental development, innovation activities of enterprises and information society](#)
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Terms used in official statistics

[Research and experimental development \(R&D\)](#)
[Gross domestic expenditures on research and development \(GERD\)](#)
[Intramural expenditures on R&D](#)
[Basic research](#)
[Applied research](#)
[Experimental development](#)
[R&D personnel](#)
[Internal R&D personnel](#)
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