
Research Intensity: A Comparison

Share of R&D expenditures in sales in percent



Share of R&D employees in overall employees in percent



Source: Stifterverband für die deutsche Wissenschaft (2005), vfa (2008)

The research and development of new pharmaceutical substances is highly cost and labor intensive. In 2008, the research intensity of the vfa member companies continued to increase. At 13.2 percent, a higher share of sales was invested in R&D activities than during the previous year (12.8 percent). The share of R&D employees in total employees at the vfa member companies also increased to 19.4 percent (previous year: 18.6 percent). This means that one out of five employees works in this area today.

As a result, the R&D intensity of the vfa member companies remains at a much higher level than in companies conducting R&D in Germany overall, which achieve a sales rate of four percent and an employee rate of eight percent (2005, last available data).