
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 (2007), vfa (2009)

The research and development of new drugs is highly cost and labor intensive.

The research intensity of vfa member companies continued to grow in 2009. A higher share of sales, 13.7 percent, was invested in R&D activities than in the previous year (13.6 percent). The proportion of R&D employees of all vfa company employees increased to 20 percent (from 19.7 percent in the previous year), which means one in five employees now works in this area.

The R&D intensity of vfa companies thus remains much higher than that of other companies conducting R&D in Germany overall, which achieve a sales rate of 3.9 percent and an employee rate of 7.9 percent (2007, most recent available data).