

Glossary: Business enterprise sector - R & D

Statistics Explained

The **business enterprise sector** includes:

- all firms, organisations and institutions whose primary activity is the market production of goods or services (other than higher education) for sale to the general public at an economically significant price, and
- the private non-profit institutes mainly serving them.

The core of the sector is made up of **private enterprises** (corporations or quasi-corporations) whether or not they distribute profit. Among these enterprises may be found some firms for which R&D is the main activity (commercial R&D institutes and laboratories). Any private enterprises producing higher education services should be included in the higher education sector.

In addition, this sector includes **public enterprises** (public corporations and quasi-corporations owned by government units) mainly engaged in market production and sale of the kind of goods and services which are often produced by private enterprises, although, as a matter of policy, the price set for these may be less than the full cost of production.

This sector also includes **non-profit institutions (NPIs)** who are market producers of goods and services other than higher education.

Related concepts

- [Abroad sector](#)
- [Government sector](#)
- [Higher education sector](#)
- [Private non-profit sector](#)

Statistical data

- [R&D personnel](#)

Source

- Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) [Frascati Manual 2015: The measurement of Scientific, Technological and Innovation Activities – Guidelines for collecting and reporting data on research and experimental development](#)", OECD, Paris, 2015