

History of the Research and Development in Canadian Industry survey

Data on R&D in the business enterprise sector, covering commercially oriented enterprises (privately or publicly owned), industrial non-profit organizations and trade associations, have been collected since 1955. Until 1969, the survey was biennial. From 1970 to 1981, all known performers or funders of industrial R&D were surveyed for odd-numbered years. From 1982 to 1991, a full survey was conducted annually.

Because of reductions in the science and technology program, for the 1982 and 1994 reference years, only the top 100 R&D performers (accounting for 64% of all industrial R&D), were surveyed. However, as a result of a cost-sharing agreement with the province of Quebec, the 1992 and 1994 industrial R&D survey results also included small firms having R&D activities in the province of Quebec.

Prior to 1997, Statistics Canada surveyed all companies that performed or funded R&D in Canada. Those spending a million dollars or more received a detailed questionnaire (the long form) and those spending less received a simpler questionnaire (the short form). Virtually all of these companies also provided information to Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) in order to claim tax benefits under the Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR&ED) program. For the survey year 1996 Statistics Canada stopped surveying the small performers and funders of R&D in Canada, with the exception of Quebec, to reduce the reporting burden on companies and it replaced the data previously gathered by the survey by administrative data from CRA. The change was made for Quebec in 1997.