Less than 1% of Canadian firms perform R&D, and most industrial R&D in Canada is concentrated within an even smaller number of firms. Out of the approximately 3,400 companies performing R&D, about 1% accounted for almost half the R&D performed. Because of the concentration of R&D among companies, the decisions of a few firms can significantly alter overall R&D expenditures and particularly industry sector totals. Companies' R&D decisions are affected by government policies on defence, transportation and communications, as well as by national and international economic trends and their own financial positions. Six major industries — telecommunication equipment, aircraft and parts, engineering and scientific services, business machines, computer services, and wells and petroleum products account for 50% of all intramural R&D expenditures. These industries have maintained their dominance of industrial R&D activity over the last six years.

The concentration of work done in the business enterprise sector understates industrial R&D. As discussed earlier, much of the work done in the provincial research organizations is closely related to industrial development. The federal government is also an important performer of industrial R&D. Examples of this type of R&D would include work by the Departments of Agriculture, Communications, Energy, Mines and Resources, Fisheries and Oceans, and Transport, by the National Research Council and by Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd.

Source
Science, Technology and Capital Stock Division, Statistics Canada.

FOR FURTHER READING

Selected publications from Statistics Canada

- Science and Technology Indicators, annual. 88-201
- Industrial Research and Development Statistics (with estimates), annual. 88-202
- Resources for Research and Development in Canada (with estimates), annual. 88-203. Discontinued. Last issue 1985.
- Federal Scientific Activities, annual. 88-204
- Directory of Federal Government Scientific and Technological Establishments, annual. 88-206
- An Indicator of Excellence in Canadian Science, 111 p., 1985. 88-501
- Patents as Indicators of Invention, 48 p., 1985. 88-504
- Industrial Productivity and Research and Development Indicators, 28 p., 1984. 88-505

More information about these publications is available from Statistics Canada. See Appendix F for a complete list of Statistics Canada offices.