

Table A-1. Target population counts, by frame partition: 2008–24

(Number of companies)

Year	Total ^a	Known positive R&D	Known zero R&D	Unknown R&D
2008	1,926,012	16,059	75,923	1,834,030
2009	2,090,181	22,181	79,031	1,988,969
2010	2,013,399	24,723	67,281	1,921,395
2011	1,964,757	27,049	73,930	1,863,778
2012	1,971,731	29,512	73,004	1,869,215
2013	1,971,959	34,482	70,032	1,867,445
2014	1,998,858	35,532	79,343	1,883,983
2015	2,029,436	35,839	71,386	1,922,211
2016	1,485,151	34,958	11,355	1,438,838
2017	1,097,510	32,206	27,679	1,037,625
2018	1,115,834	33,215	34,158	1,048,461
2019	1,124,000	32,000	37,500	1,055,000
2020	1,139,000	31,500	36,500	1,071,000
2021	1,137,000	31,500	na	1,106,000
2022	1,104,000	32,500	na	1,072,000
2023	1,157,000	32,000	na	1,125,000
2024	1,171,000	33,500	na	1,137,000

na = not applicable.

^a For each year, the estimate of the number of companies in the total target population is based on the original sampling frame that was created to select the sample. The target population estimates in this table do not include R&D performers from the previous year's sample, which were not on the original sampling frame but were found during the survey's annual contact update procedures. See table A-5 for the counts of companies that were added to each year's sample.

Note(s):

Beginning in survey year 2021, companies in the known zero R&D group were combined with the unknown R&D group. See the Technical Notes section at <https://nces.nsf.gov/surveys/business-enterprise-research-development/2024#methodology>. Beginning in survey year 2019, counts reflect a change in rounding methodology. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Companies were said to be known to conduct R&D (*known positive R&D*) if they reported positive R&D in any of the previous 5 survey years. For survey years 2008–15, companies were said to have *known zero R&D* if they reported zero R&D in at least 1 of the previous 5 survey years and no positive R&D in any of the 5 years. Beginning in survey year 2016, companies were said to have *known zero R&D* if they reported zero R&D in at least 1 of the previous 3 survey years and no positive R&D in any of the previous 5 survey years. Companies were said to have *unknown R&D* if no R&D information was available. For survey year 2016, the target population did not include companies in the other nonmanufacturing industry with fewer than 10 domestic employees. Starting in survey year 2017, the target population no longer includes companies with fewer than 10 domestic employees.

Source(s):

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics and Census Bureau, Business Enterprise Research and Development Survey.