

# News Release



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## Research & Development

### Expenditure on R&D in the General Government Sector

In the first quarter of 2005, the NSO carried out a study to measure Government's research and development (R&D) activity for 2003 and 2004.

This exercise dealt with questions regarding the general description of R&D activity, as well as the human and financial resources allocated to R&D performed in-house. Furthermore, issues such as R&D project details were inquired upon.

The total number of 180 units surveyed comprise all the Central Government Ministries and Departments (GDs), Extra Budgetary Units (EBUs), as well as the Local Councils (LCs). This classification is based on internationally established criteria determining the "General Government Sector".

Out of these 180 units, a total of 147 responded, out of which 8 were actively engaged in R&D projects in both 2003 and 2004. In 2003, 4 GDs out of 51 respondents and 4 out of 43 respondents for the EBUs were engaged in R&D activities. In 2004, 3 GDs out of the total of 51 respondents were engaged in R&D activities. On the other hand, there were 5 EBUs out of 43 respondents actively engaged in R&D activities. 53 LCs responded for both years, claiming a nil level of engagement in R&D.

By far, most employees working on R&D projects were part-timers in both the GDs as well as in the EBU sub-sectors. This was observed for the two years under review. Since no R&D was carried out by any Local Councils, the data below refers only to the GDs and the EBU's. Numerical data from the questionnaires indicated that in 2003, all employees involved in R&D work added up to 877, out of which 95.3 per cent were part timers. In 2004, there was a minimal increase of 2.4 per cent in the number of part-time employees. Furthermore results illustrate that out of the total employees (877), 68.1 per cent (597) were male in 2003, and out of 860 employees in 2004, 67.4 per cent (580) were male.

In 2003, when analysed by grade, the prevalence of female employment became significantly predominant (70.4 per cent) in the 'support staff' division, especially within the EBU's sub-sector, with 112 female employees out a total of 159 employees. The same applies for 2004, with 159 employees being female. In both years, most of this female participation was on a part-time basis.

In 2003 and 2004, 394 and 403 PhD researchers were respectively recorded to be employed in R&D related projects. The majority of these were employed within the EBUs sub-sector, and more specifically, 391 in 2003 and 403 in 2004 worked with the University of Malta (UOM). The PhD researchers in this case were all the scientists and engineers with a PhD qualification. The aggregate ratio of PhD researchers compared to the total number of employees was of 45 per cent (394 PhD researchers out of 877 employees) in 2003. This figure of PhD researchers further increased to 403 out of 860 employees (47 per cent) in 2004.

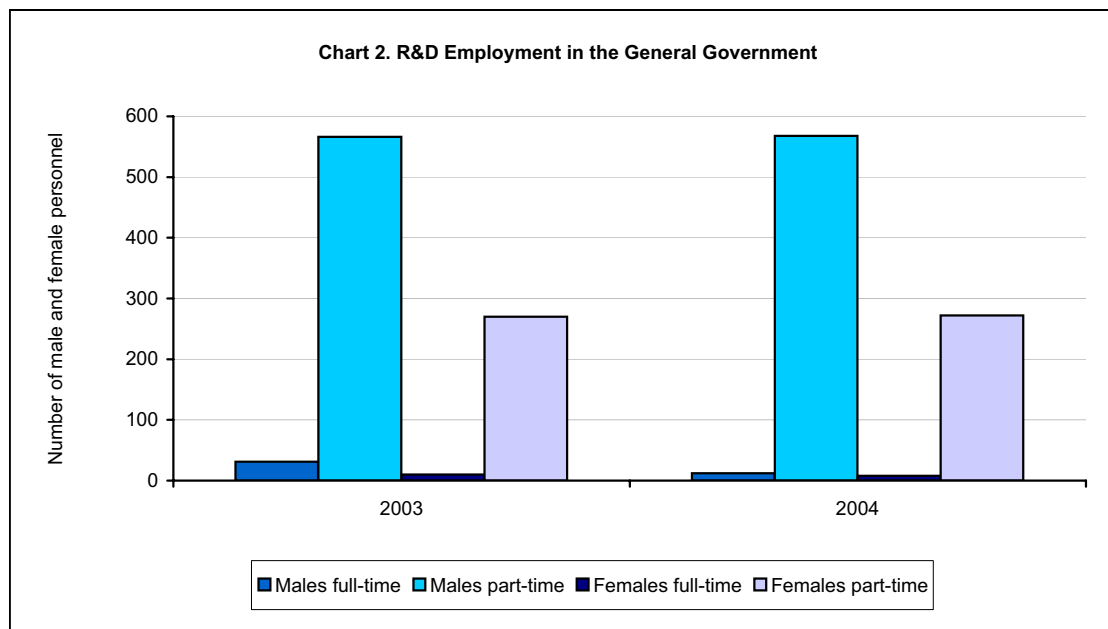
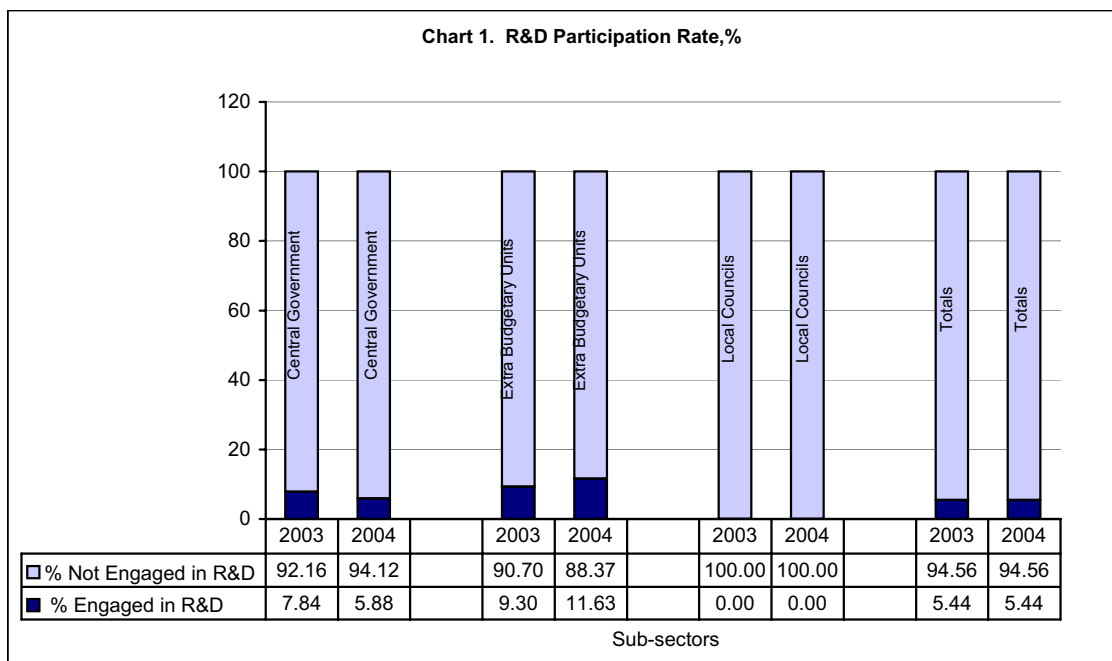
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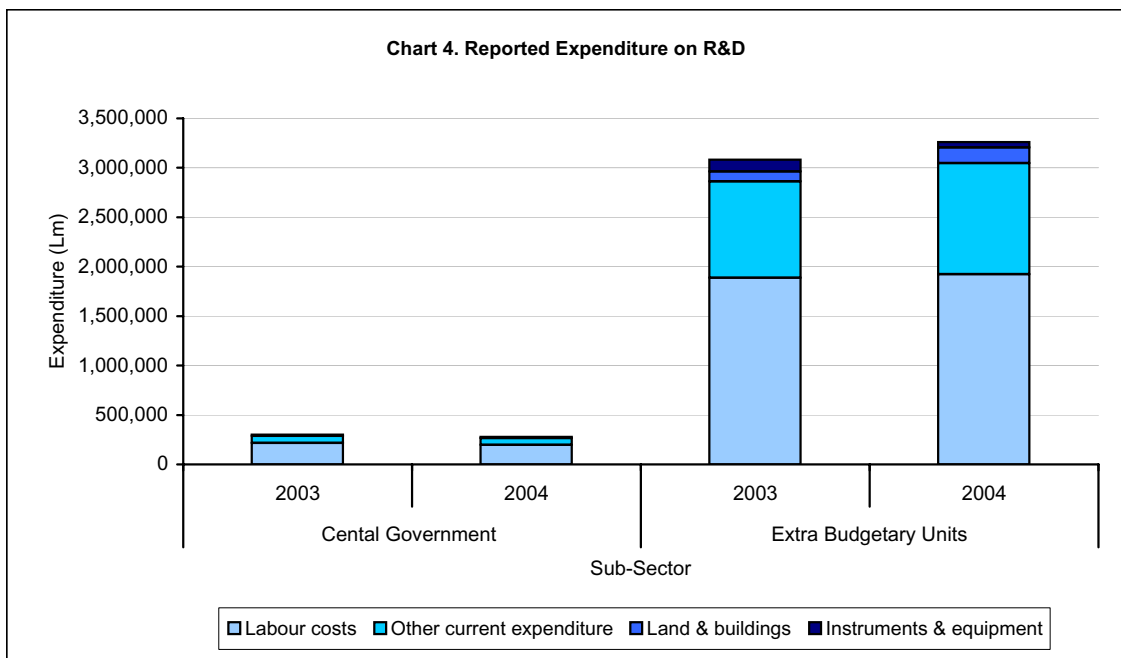
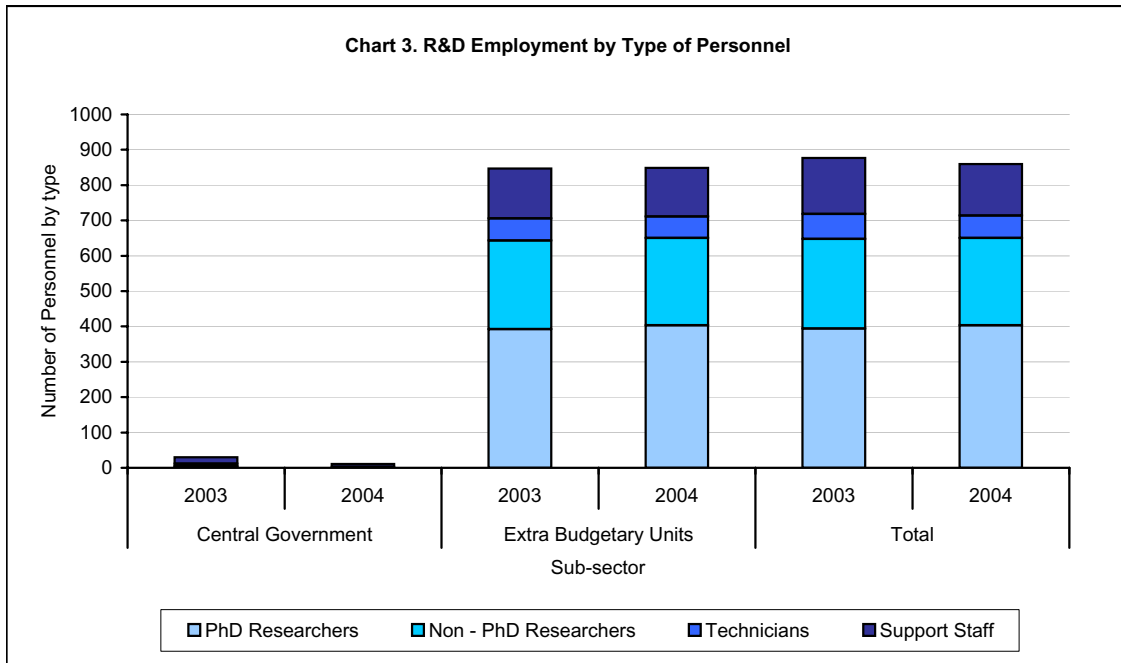
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In 2003 and 2004 total expenditure of Lm3,380,733 and Lm3,538,574 was recorded on R&D respectively. Most of these expenses were incurred on labor costs, accounting for 62 per cent (Lm2,102,004) and 60 per cent (Lm2,120,416) of the current expenditure for both years respectively.

At the end of 2004, the GD sub-sector had 7 projects in the pipeline, with a budgeted total outlay estimated at Lm114,000. As part of this total, the Fisheries Conservation and Control Division reported the highest allocation for R&D at the end of 2004 (Lm60,000). These funds have been mainly generated from FAO sub-regional projects and through bilateral collaboration with the Italian Research Council.

Projects under way in the EBU's sub-sector consisted of 24 projects at the end of 2004. The estimated budget outlay stood at Lm407,515 for these projects. The bulk was budgeted by the UOM working in collaboration with various international partners, with a budget of Lm325,600 at the end of 2004■





## **Methodological Notes**

A questionnaire was compiled and sent to all units making up the general government sector (180 units), out of which 147 responded.

From the population of 180 units, the overall response rate was of 82 per cent. The highest rate of response was observed from the Central Governments/Departments sub sector, with a rate of 85 per cent (or 51 units). The contribution of replies given by the Extra Budgetary Units stood at 82.7 per cent (or 43 units), while those from the Local Councils marked the lowest at 77.9 per cent (or 53 units).

The questionnaire was designed according to the guidelines outlined in the OECD "Proposed standard Practice for surveys or research and experimental development" - *Frascati Manual*, 1993

Research and Development is defined as creative work undertaken on a systematic basis to increase the stock of knowledge, including knowledge of man, culture and society, and the use of this stock of knowledge to devise new applications.

Note that where project budgets were given in Euro or US Dollar, the rate of exchange used was the average for the two years 2003 and 2004 (2003: USD2.6543; EURO2.3470 and 2004: USD2.9061; EURO2.3368).

The data in this release may be revised after the next survey.