

Research and Development in Scotland

In 2017, Scotland's Gross Expenditure on Research and Development (GERD) reached the highest level in the series

In 2017, GERD in Scotland was £2.529 billion - the highest level in the series.

Scotland's GERD increased by £193 million (8.3%) in real terms between 2016 and 2017.

Expenditure in all the components of Scottish GERD increased between 2016 and 2017.

Scotland's GERD as a percentage of GDP was lower than that for the UK, EU and OECD in 2017.

Scotland's GERD as a percentage of GDP increased from 1.53% in 2016 to 1.63% in 2017.

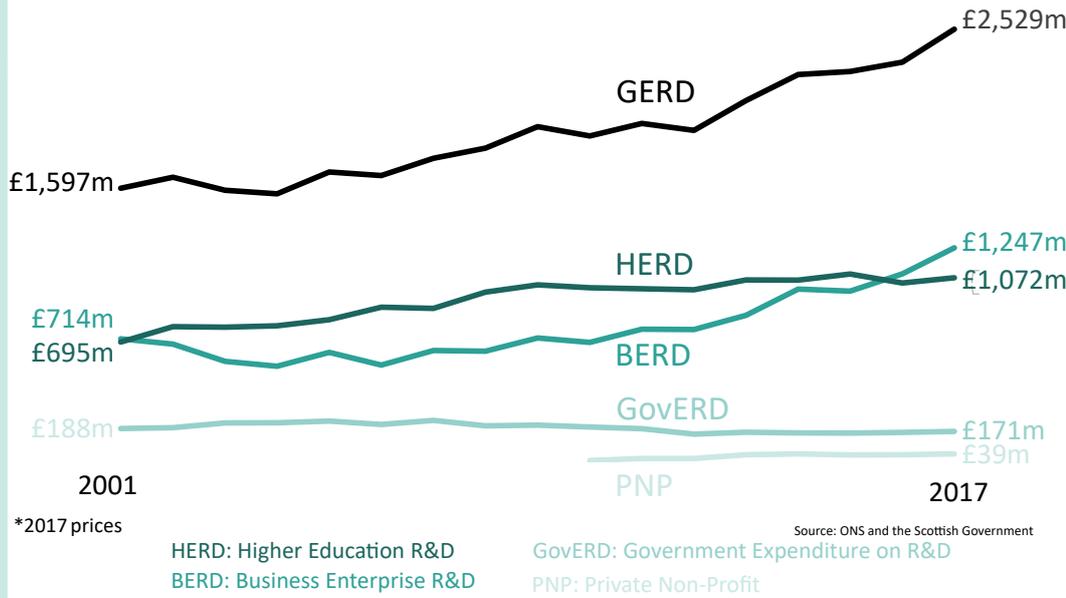
The gaps in total R&D spending as a percentage of GDP, between Scotland and each of the UK, EU and OECD decreased between 2016 and 2017.

In 2017, Scotland's GERD per head of population was lower than for the UK

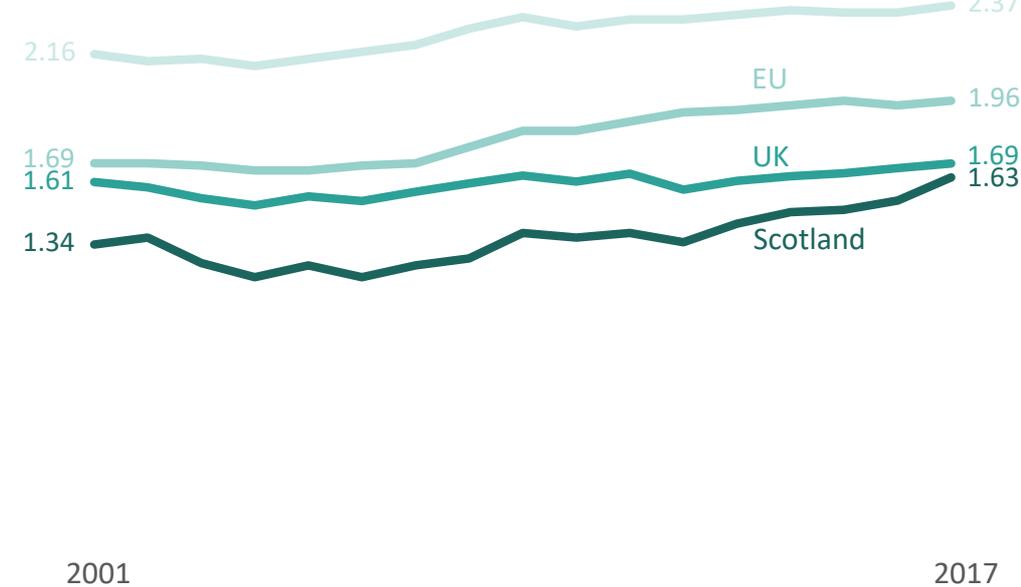
GERD spend per head was £466 in Scotland in 2017, whereas it was £527 in the UK.

In terms of spend per head, Scotland climbed from seventh place among the UK regions in 2016 to fifth place in 2017.

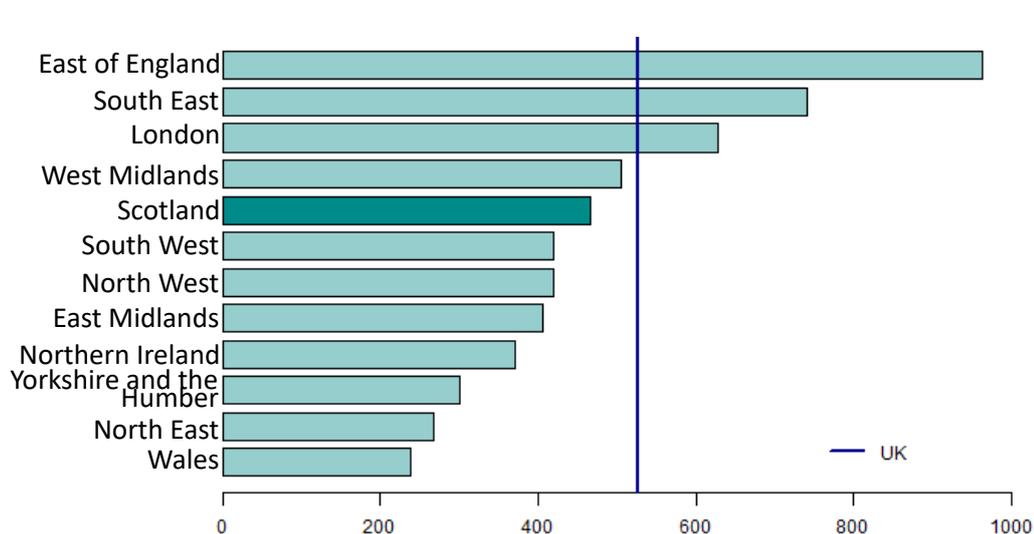
R&D expenditure over time



GERD as a percentage of GDP



GERD per head (£)



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Scotland's GERD as a percentage of GDP ranked in the third quartile of OECD countries

In 2017, as in 2016, Scotland ranked in the third quartile of OECD countries, just behind the UK.

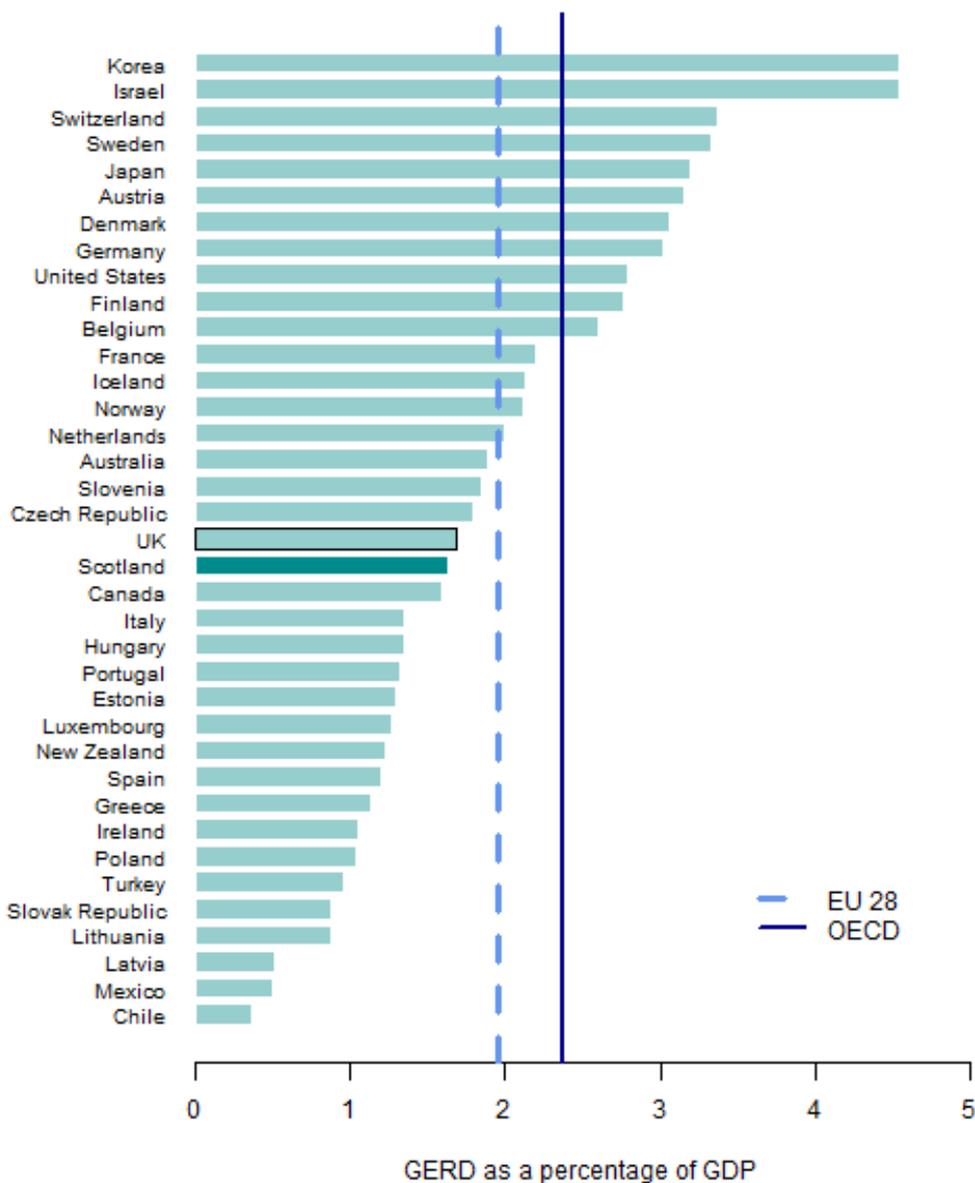
At 0.8%, Scotland's BERD spend as a percentage of GDP also ranked in the third quartile of OECD countries, below the EU (1.29%) and the OECD (1.67%) averages; the UK ranked in the second quartile.

In 2017, Scotland ranked seventh among the OECD countries for HERD spend as a share of GDP (0.69%) - in the first quartile - and above the UK (0.40%), EU (0.44%) and OECD (0.41%) averages

Scotland's HERD spend comprised a relatively large proportion of total GERD (42.3%), compared to the UK (23.5%), EU (22.4%) and OECD (17.3%)

In 2017, Scotland's BERD spend made up a smaller proportion of total GERD (49.1%) than in the UK (68.0%), EU (65.8%) and OECD (70.5%).

GERD as a percentage of GDP among OECD countries



Percentage composition of GERD

