



## R&D Growth in the Food Industry, 1963-73

Over the period 1963-73 (the last 10-year period for which data are complete), the food industry continued to place increased emphasis on research and development. According to *Research and Development in Industry, 1973*, R&D activities—almost all of which are company-financed—reached \$270 million in 1973. Just over one-half of the R&D total was for development efforts, compared to 40 percent for applied research, and 8 percent for basic research. The all-industry average for 1973 was 3 percent for basic research and 18 percent for applied research. Sales of R&D-performing

food companies topped \$68 billion in 1973, and employment in the industry reached a total of 1 million persons.

Within the industry there continued to be technological advancements which resulted in a continuing flow of new and improved products as well as more efficient plant production. For example, there was an expanded research effort directed toward the creation of new forms of food from present crops. Other major efforts under way within the industry included increasing the nutritional value of foods, lengthening shelf life,

studying the composition of food products, and extracting protein from soybeans. Also, because of the shrinking agricultural labor force as well as rising labor costs, mechanized harvesting systems and efforts to increase crop yield were being stressed.

As an industry heavily dependent upon an adequate supply of fuel for food processing and distribution, and on the availability of petroleum-based fertilizer, the food industry has received priority status under the present Federal petroleum allocation regulations.

**Food and Kindred Products**

	Total R&D (millions \$)	Sales (millions \$)	Total Employment (thousands)	R&D scientists and engineers
1963	\$130	\$34,733	775	5,400
1964	144	35,954	837	5,950
1965	157	39,529	818	6,200
1966	164	38,622	774	6,150
1967	183	38,713	754	6,200
1968	187	39,628	779	6,300
1969	205	44,676	905	6,300
1970	235	47,202	920	6,500
1971	245	52,988	961	6,650
1972	260	58,789	987	6,650
1973	270	68,482	1,000	6,750

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