The Institute for Research on Innovation and Science is a consortium of America’s leading research universities organized around an IRB-approved data repository. IRIS develops data for research and reporting to understand, explain and improve the public value of research and higher education.

IRIS member institutions account for nearly one-third of total federal research spending in the U.S. By linking member universities’ administrative data on research spending, human resources and procurement to complementary datasets from public and private sources, IRIS data and reports provide a rich and detailed picture of the value of public investments in research.

IRIS reports (detailed on reverse) demonstrate the many positive ripple effects of public research investments for economic development in specific industries and geographic locations and the career pathways and earnings of research-trained employees and students.

The data underlying IRIS reports are available to researchers across the country. Investigators at member institutions can access the deidentified IRIS research dataset at no charge. The dataset has proven to be a valuable resource for research in sociology, economics, industrial and systems engineering, complex systems, management and other disciplines.

IRIS is housed at the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan, and was founded with initial funding from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. IRIS’ ongoing support comes from member contributions, and federal and non-federal sponsored projects. The institute was created in 2015 as a way to sustainably expand the Universities Measuring the Effects of Research on Innovation, Competitiveness and Science (UMETRICS) initiative developed in collaboration with the Committee on Institutional Cooperation.

The 2019 IRIS data release includes transaction-level information on nearly 400,000 sponsored projects that represent more than $83 billion in direct cost expenditures and employ more than 643,000 people at 31 universities.

Learn more: iris.isr.umich.edu
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IRIS produces several reports for member institutions that illuminate the impact of their research activities on the economy and the careers of participating students and faculty. Most reports include benchmarking information on peer institutions.

**Spending Report**

The Spending Report focuses on sponsored research spending for each institution. It details the individuals paid on research funds, highlighting the funders that provided the support, and shows national and regional distributions of research expenditures to vendors and sub-awardees. An important feature of the report is the state and congressional maps of research spending.

**Vendor Profile Report**

Linking member institutions’ data to the Orbis database of businesses from Bureau Van Dijk, the Vendor Profile Report contains information on the companies providing goods and services to sponsored research projects. The report shows which geographic areas and which industries benefit the most from research-related contracts. The report also provides details about the vendors, such as number of employees and average wages.

**Employee Profile Report**

Using Census-linked data, the Employee Profile Report presents data about employment and earnings of research-trained employees, allowing institutions to track the flow of people into the economy. It provides top state destinations for research-trained employees who leave to take jobs elsewhere, as well as details about the employment sectors in which they find work and their subsequent earnings.

**Research Spending Fact Sheet**

Geared for government relations purposes, this report offers a quick overview of member institutions’ research spending, including top funding agencies, percentage of students on federal awards, portion of research-trained employees that stay in-state after leaving a university, and research vendor spending broken down by congressional district.