DFG Key Figures Portal
General methodological notes

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1. Basic information on data source and reference date

Unless otherwise stated, the statistics presented in the Key Figures Portal are based on data as of January 2026.

The figures are primarily based on data generated in the course of proposal processing by the DFG. This data is subject to updates. The dynamic nature of changes to proposals or ongoing projects may result in minor fluctuations in the reported values, which may therefore not correspond to previous information or representations in all cases.

As a general principle, DFG statistics relate to approved funding amounts, not actual expenditure. Consequently, the reported funding volumes can only serve as an approximation of the actual funds disbursed in a given year under DFG funding programmes.

2. Funding volume

The statistics only show funding awarded by the DFG. They do not include projects or project components financed by other funding bodies. The approved funding amounts are reported in two variants in the award overviews: The year-based funding amount under the perspective of “ongoing funding” indicates the amount that, assuming equal distribution over the approval period (number of days), is arithmetically attributable to the respective reporting year.
By contrast, the funding amount for new projects under the perspective of “new approvals” corresponds to the total funding amount approved for all new proposals for which decisions were made in the respective reporting year (excluding other types of proposals such as renewal proposals).
The programme allowance introduced in stages since 2007 to cover indirect project costs at universities is included in the reported funding amounts; it currently stands at 22 per cent of the requested or approved funding amount.

3. Funding programmes

The DFG's various funding programmes are clustered into so-called "programme groups" for statistical and other informational purposes. This programme classification system is shown in Table 1 (the programmes and programme groups displayed individually in the Key Figures Portal appear in black).

Table 1: DFG programme classification (as of January 2026)

Individual grants	**Excellence Initiative**
Research Grants	Graduate Schools
Research Fellowships	Cluster of Excellence
Walter Benjamin Programme	Institutional Strategies
Emmy Noether Programme	**Excellence Strategy**
Heisenberg Programme	Cluster of Excellence
Reinhart Koselleck Projects	University allowance
Clinical Trials	**Infrastructure funding**
Further individual grants	Major Research Instrumentation
Coordinated programmes	Instrumentation-related Funding
Research Units	Central Research Facilities
Priority Programmes	Scientific Library Services and Information Systems
Collaborative Research Centres	National Research Data Infrastructure
Research Training Groups	**Scientific prizes, other funding**
Research Centres	Scientific Prizes
Research Impulses	International Scientific Contacts
	Committees and Commissions

4. Subject classification

The DFG's subject classification system is continually adapted on a four-yearly basis in correlation with the elections of DFG review boards. It comprises four levels and currently distinguishes a total of 214 subjects, 49 review boards, 14 research areas and, at the top level, four scientific disciplines (cf. Table 2).

The DFG subject classification system is used to classify proposals and the associated funding amounts by subject. Proposals may be assigned to multiple subject areas. The statistics presented on the Key Figures Portal refer only to a proposal's primary subject assignment. There are also some programmes and projects that are not assigned to a specific subject area, for example due to their interdisciplinary nature. These include the Institutional Strategies under the Excellence Initiative, the university allowance under the Excellence Strategy, major instrumentation, central research facilities and central projects within Collaborative Research Centres.

Table 2: DFG subject classification for the term 2020-2024 – scientific disciplines, research areas and review boards

Review board	Research area	Scienctific discipline
1.11 Ancient Cultures 1.12 History 1.13 Art History, Music, Theatre and Media Studies 1.14 Linguistics 1.15 Literary Studies 1.16 Social and Cultural Anthropology, Non-European Cultures, Jewish Studies and Religious Studies 1.17 Theology 1.18 Philosophy	11 Humanities	1 Humanities and Social Sciences
1.21 Educational Research 1.22 Psychology 1.23 Social Sciences 1.24 Economics 1.25 Jurisprudence	12 Social and Behavioural Sciences	
2.11 Basic Research in Biology and Medicine 2.12 Plant Sciences 2.13 Zoology	21 Biology	2 Life Sciences
2.21 Microbiology, Virology and Immunology 2.22 Medicine 2.23 Neurosciences	22 Medicine	
2.31 Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine	23 Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine	
3.11 Molecular Chemistry 3.12 Chemical Solid State and Surface Research 3.13 Physical Chemistry 3.14 Analytical Chemistry 3.15 Biological Chemistry and Food Chemistry 3.16 Polymer Research 3.17 Theoretical Chemistry	31 Chemistry	3 Natural Sciences
3.21 Condensed Matter Physics 3.22 Statistical Physics, Nonlinear Dynamics, Complex Systems, Soft and Fluid Matter, Biological Physics 3.23 Optics, Quantum Optics and Physics of Atoms, Molecules and Plasmas 3.24 Particles, Nuclei and Fields 3.25 Astrophysics and Astronomy	32 Physics	
3.31 Mathematics	33 Mathematics	
3.41 Atmospheric Science, Oceanography and Climate Research 3.42 Geology and Palaeontology 3.43 Geophysics and Geodesy 3.44 Mineralogy, Petrology and Geochemistry 3.45 Geography 3.46 Water Research	34 Geosciences	
4.11 Production Technology 4.12 Mechanics and Constructive Mechanical Engineering	41 Mechanical and Industrial Engineering	4 Engineering Sciences
4.21 Process Engineering, Technical Chemistry 4.22 Fluid Mechanics, Technical Thermodynamics and Thermal Energy Engineering	42 Thermal Engineering/Process Engineering	
4.31 Materials Engineering 4.32 Materials Science	43 Materials Science and Engineering	
4.41 Systems Engineering 4.42 Electrical Engineering and Information Technology 4.43 Computer Science	44 Computer Science, Systems and Electrical Engineering	
4.51 Construction Engineering and Architecture	45 Construction Engineering and Architecture	

5. Contact

Questions and comments concerning the Key Figures Portal should be addressed to the DFG Head Office at statistik@dfg.de.