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# Learning R Survey

QUESTIONS

RESPONSES

3

Section 1 of 7



## Learning R Survey

RStudio is fielding this survey to better understand how and why people learn the R language. We encourage anyone who is interested in or has learned R over any period of years to respond. The survey should only require 5 to 10 minutes of your time, depending on how little or how much information you choose to share with us. We value your time and appreciate your input.

Disclosure of how this data will be used:

We have designed this survey to minimize personally identifiable data and to protect respondent privacy. We do not collect names, addresses, emails, or phone numbers. We can not and will not contact you as the result of completing this survey.

RStudio plans to use the aggregated data in public presentations and planning. We may quote individual open-ended responses in presentations to illustrate attitudes. We plan to publish the data set of responses on Github for open analysis by others in the R community after the survey has closed and the initial results presented.

You need not respond to the demographic questions which collect including age, gender identification, ethnicity, and formal education. We include these questions only to understand how these factors affect attitudes toward R. Survey responses without answers to demographic question may exclude your response from being included in some cross-tabulations of that data. Data without demographics may still be presented in some aggregated totals.

# Your Type of Work Or Study

The data from this section helps us understand what type of work you do.

What industry do you work or participate in? \*

- ☐ Accommodation and Food Services
- ☐ Arts and Entertainment

- ☐ Construction
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Financial Services and Activities
- ☐ Government Services (Federal, State, or Local)
- ☐ Health Care and Medicine
- ☐ Information Technologies
- ☐ Natural Resources and Mining
- ☐ Manufacturing
- ☐ Military
- ☐ Professional and Business Services
- ☐ Trade (Retail or Wholesale)
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Research
- ☐ Utilities
- ☐ Not Employed
- ☐ Other...

What is your job title, if any?

Short answer text

Which category best describes the work you do? \*

- ☐ Administration
- ☐ Consultant or Advisor
- ☐ Data scientist or analyst
- ☐ Educator
- ☐ Financial professional
- ☐ Legal
- ☐ Management
- ☐ Medical professional
- ☐ Sales
- ☐ Software developer
- ☐ Student
- ☐ Researcher
- ☐ Retired
- ☐ None
- ☐ Other...

What computer tools and/or languages have you used besides R? \*

☐ C/C++

☐ Excel

☐ Go

☐ Java

☐ Javascript

☐ Matlab

☐ PHP

☐ Python

☐ Ruby

☐ Rust

☐ SAS

☐ SPSS

☐ Swift

☐ Tableau

☐ Visual Basic

☐ None

☐ Other...

What was the FIRST computer language or tool that you learned? \*

- ☐ C/C++
- ☐ Excel
- ☐ Go
- ☐ Java
- ☐ Javascript
- ☐ Matlab
- ☐ PHP
- ☐ Python
- ☐ R
- ☐ Ruby
- ☐ Rust
- ☐ SAS
- ☐ SPSS
- ☐ Swift
- ☐ Tableau
- ☐ Visual Basic

☐ I am just getting started learning programming

☐ Other...

After section 2 Continue to next section ▼

Section 3 of 7



## R Experience

Data from this section helps us understand how much experience you have with R.

How would you rate your level of experience using R? \*

☐ None

☐ Beginner

☐ Advanced

☐ Expert



What year did you first start learning R? \*

Please enter a 4-digit year. If don't know R or are just beginning, please enter 2018. If you prefer not to answer, please enter a year prior to 1800.

Short answer text

Roughly how long did it take you to achieve proficiency in R? \*

We define proficiency as the ability to express what you are trying to achieve in the R language most of the time.

- ☐ Days
- ☐ Weeks
- ☐ Months
- ☐ Years
- ☐ I don't feel proficient in R yet.

## How did you learn R? \*

- ☐ I haven't learned R yet
- ☐ By myself using a book or online documentation that was not part of a formal course
- ☐ Online course (e.g., Coursera, edX, Datacamp)
- ☐ In-person course (including bootcamps and workshops as well as more formal courses)
- ☐ On the job
- ☐ Other...

After section 3 **Continue to next section** ▼

Section 4 of 7



## Your Interest In R

Here we would like to understand why you are interested in learning R but haven't yet.

Which statement most closely reflects the primary reason why you are interested in learning R?



- ☐ I am intellectually curious about R
- ☐ It was part of a course I took
- ☐ It is required for my work
- ☐ I would like to use a specific R package (e.g., ggplot2, caret, rmarkdown)
- ☐ I would like to build interactive applications (e.g., Shiny, flexdashboard)
- ☐ I want to do statistical analyses
- ☐ I think it would open new career opportunities
- ☐ Someone in the R community encouraged me to learn it
- ☐ Other...

If you were to learn R, what would you use it for? (check all that apply) \*

☐ Statistical analysis

☐ Data transformation

☐ Modeling

☐ Visualization

☐ Machine learning

☐ Text processing

☐ Genomics

☐ Medicine

☐ Survey analysis

☐ Clinical trials

☐ Financial analysis

☐ Other...

From what you know about R, how long do you expect that it will take for you to use it for your stated purpose? \*

- ☐ Days
- ☐ Weeks
- ☐ Months
- ☐ Years

Compared with other technical topics you've learned in school and on the job, on a scale of 1 to 5, how difficult do you expect learning R to be? \*

	1	2	3	4	5	
One of the easiest topics	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	One of the most difficult topics

# How You Use R

This section helps us understand your feelings about R, what tools you use, and what you use it for.

Which statement most closely reflects the primary reason why you learned R?

\*

- ☐ I was personally interested
- ☐ It was part of a course I took
- ☐ It was required for my work
- ☐ I wanted to use a specific R package (e.g., ggplot2, caret, rmarkdown)
- ☐ I wanted to build interactive applications (e.g., Shiny)
- ☐ I wanted to do statistical analyses
- ☐ I thought it would open new career opportunities
- ☐ One or more members of the R community encouraged me to learn it

★

- ☐ I don't use R any more

\*

1 2 3 4 5

I don't enjoy it at all I love it

Compared with other technical topics you've learned in school and on the job, on a scale of 1 to 5, how difficult has it been for you to learn R? \*

	1	2	3	4	5	
One of the easiest	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	One of the most difficult

Did you use tidy data and the Tidyverse package to learn R? \*

☐ Yes

☐ No

Do you use tidy data and the Tidyverse package when you use R today? \*

☐ Yes

☐ No



How often do you use some type of version control on your R code?  
Choose the statement that most closely matches your use.

\*

- ☐ I don't know what version control is.
- ☐ Never -- I don't use version control for my R code
- ☐ Rarely -- I know how to use version control on projects that require it, but it's not part of my normal workflow
- ☐ Sometimes -- I use version control on critical parts of my work
- ☐ Frequently -- I use version control on most of the code that I write

How often do you write unit tests for your R code? These tests can be standalone tests or can be part of a testing framework such as those in R packages "testthat" and "RUnit"?

- ☐ Never -- I don't write unit tests
- ☐ Rarely -- I only write unit tests in situations that require it
- ☐ Sometimes -- I write unit tests when I have code that is critical to my project or work
- ☐ Frequently -- I write unit tests for most of the code that I write
- ☐ I don't know what unit tests are

What do you like best about using R?

Long answer text

What do you like least about using R?

Long answer text

How likely are you to recommend R to a colleague, friend, or family member?

\*

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Would definitely  
not recommend

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

Would definitely  
recommend

What do you use R for most? (check all that apply) \*

☐ Statistical analysis

☐ Data transformation

☐ Modeling

☐ Visualization

☐ Machine learning

☐ Text processing

☐ Genomics

☐ Medicine

☐ Survey analysis

☐ Clinical trials

☐ Financial analysis

☐ Other...

What was most difficult for you in learning R? \*

- ☐ Data types
- ☐ Documentation
- ☐ Downloading and installing the software
- ☐ Error messages
- ☐ Finding proper packages to use
- ☐ Getting started
- ☐ Language syntax
- ☐ Language irregularities
- ☐ Learning RStudio
- ☐ Managing packages
- ☐ R Materials aren't in my native language
- ☐ Other...

Question

- ☐ Option 1

What R capability or package could you not live without?

Long answer text

What capability or package do you feel is most missing from R?

Long answer text

Which tools do you use with your R applications? (please check all that apply)

- ☐ Databricks
- ☐ EMACS ESS mode
- ☐ Jupyter Notebooks
- ☐ Matlab
- ☐ Microsoft Excel
- ☐ Python
- ☐ R Command Line (i.e., the native R terminal interface)
- ☐ RStudio.cloud

- ☐ RStudio Connect
- ☐ RStudio Desktop (IDE)
- ☐ RStudio Desktop Pro (IDE)
- ☐ RStudio Server
- ☐ RStudio Server Pro
- ☐ SAS
- ☐ Shinyapps.io
- ☐ Shiny Server
- ☐ Shiny Server Pro
- ☐ SPSS
- ☐ Other...

If you could change one thing about R and its tool chain that would have made it easier for you to learn and use, what would it be?

Long answer text



# Demographics

We collect the following information strictly for the purposes of performing demographic cross-tabulations of the data.

What year were you born? \*

Please enter a 4 digit year. If you are not comfortable providing this information, please enter a year prior to 1800.

Short answer text

What gender do you identify with?

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☐ Other...

In what country do you currently reside?

1. Afghanistan



2. Akrotiri
3. Albania
4. Algeria
5. American Samoa
6. Andorra
7. Angola
8. Anguilla
9. Antarctica
10. Antigua and Barbuda
11. Argentina
12. Armenia
13. Aruba
14. Ashmore and Cartier Islands
15. Australia
16. Austria
17. Azerbaijan
18. Bahamas, The
19. Bahrain
20. Bangladesh

21. Barbados
22. Bassas da India
23. Belarus
24. Belgium
25. Belize
26. Benin
27. Bermuda
28. Bhutan
29. Bolivia
30. Bosnia and Herzegovina
31. Botswana
32. Bouvet Island
33. Brazil
34. British Indian Ocean Territory
35. British Virgin Islands
36. Brunei
37. Bulgaria
38. Burkina Faso
39. Burma

40. Burundi
41. Cambodia
42. Cameroon
43. Canada
44. Cape Verde
45. Cayman Islands
46. Central African Republic
47. Chad
48. Chile
49. China
50. Christmas Island
51. Clipperton Island
52. Cocos (Keeling) Islands
53. Colombia
54. Comoros
55. Congo, Democratic Republic of the
56. Congo, Republic of the
57. Cook Islands
58. Coral Sea Islands

59. Costa Rica
60. Cote d'Ivoire
61. Croatia
62. Cuba
63. Cyprus
64. Czech Republic
65. Denmark
66. Dhekelia
67. Djibouti
68. Dominica
69. Dominican Republic
70. Ecuador
71. Egypt
72. El Salvador
73. Equatorial Guinea
74. Eritrea
75. Estonia
76. Ethiopia
77. Europa Island

78. Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)

79. Faroe Islands

80. Fiji

81. Finland

82. France

83. French Guiana

84. French Polynesia

85. French Southern and Antarctic Lands

86. Gabon

87. Gambia, The

88. Gaza Strip

89. Georgia

90. Germany

91. Ghana

92. Gibraltar

93. Glorioso Islands

94. Greece

95. Greenland

96. Grenada

97. Guadeloupe

98. Guam

99. Guatemala

100. Guernsey

101. Guinea

102. Guinea-Bissau

103. Guyana

104. Haiti

105. Heard Island and McDonald Islands

106. Holy See (Vatican City)

107. Honduras

108. Hong Kong

109. Hungary

110. Iceland

111. India

112. Indonesia

113. Iran

114. Iraq

115. Ireland

116. Isle of Man

117. Israel

118. Italy

119. Jamaica

120. Jan Mayen

121. Japan

122. Jersey

123. Jordan

124. Juan de Nova Island

125. Kazakhstan

126. Kenya

127. Kiribati

128. Korea, North

129. Korea, South

130. Kuwait

131. Kyrgyzstan

132. Laos

133. Latvia

134. Lebanon

135. Lesotho

136. Liberia

137. Libya

138. Liechtenstein

139. Lithuania

140. Luxembourg

141. Macau

142. Macedonia

143. Madagascar

144. Malawi

145. Malaysia

146. Maldives

147. Mali

148. Malta

149. Marshall Islands

150. Martinique

151. Mauritania

152. Mauritius

153. Mayotte



- 154. Mexico
- 155. Micronesia, Federated States of
- 156. Moldova
- 157. Monaco
- 158. Mongolia
- 159. Montserrat
- 160. Morocco
- 161. Mozambique
- 162. Namibia
- 163. Nauru
- 164. Navassa Island
- 165. Nepal
- 166. Netherlands
- 167. Netherlands Antilles
- 168. New Caledonia
- 169. New Zealand
- 170. Nicaragua
- 171. Niger
- 172. Nigeria

173. Niue

174. Norfolk Island

175. Northern Mariana Islands

176. Norway

177. Oman

178. Pakistan

179. Palau

180. Panama

181. Papua New Guinea

182. Paracel Islands

183. Paraguay

184. Peru

185. Philippines

186. Pitcairn Islands

187. Poland

188. Portugal

189. Puerto Rico

190. Qatar

191. Reunion

192. Romania

193. Russia

194. Rwanda

195. Saint Helena

196. Saint Kitts and Nevis

197. Saint Lucia

198. Saint Pierre and Miquelon

199. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

200. Samoa

201. San Marino

202. Sao Tome and Principe

203. Saudi Arabia

204. Senegal

205. Serbia and Montenegro

206. Seychelles

207. Sierra Leone

208. Singapore

209. Slovakia

210. Slovenia

211. Solomon Islands

212. Somalia

213. South Africa

214. South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands

215. Spain

216. Spratly Islands

217. Sri Lanka

218. Sudan

219. Suriname

220. Svalbard

221. Swaziland

222. Sweden

223. Switzerland

224. Syria

225. Taiwan

226. Tajikistan

227. Tanzania

228. Thailand

229. Timor-Leste

230. Togo

231. Tokelau

232. Tonga

233. Trinidad and Tobago

234. Tromelin Island

235. Tunisia

236. Turkey

237. Turkmenistan

238. Turks and Caicos Islands

239. Tuvalu

240. Uganda

241. Ukraine

242. United Arab Emirates

243. United Kingdom

244. United States

245. Uruguay

246. Uzbekistan

247. Vanuatu

248. Venezuela

249. Vietnam

250. Virgin Islands

251. Wake Island

252. Wallis and Futuna

253. West Bank

254. Western Sahara

255. Yemen

256. Zambia

257. Zimbabwe

I identify my ethnicity as (select all that apply):

☐ Asian

☐ Black/African

☐ White

☐ Hispanic/Latinx

☐ Native American

☐ Pacific Islander

☐ Prefer not to answer

☐ Other...

What is the highest degree or level of school you have completed? If currently enrolled, please use the highest degree received.

- ☐ Less than a high school diploma
- ☐ High school degree or equivalent (e.g. GED)
- ☐ Some college or university, no college degree
- ☐ Trade/technical/vocational training, no degree awarded
- ☐ Associate degree (e.g. AA, AS)
- ☐ Bachelor's degree (e.g. BA, BS)
- ☐ One or more graduate courses, no graduate degree
- ☐ Master's degree (e.g. MA, MS, MEd)
- ☐ Professional degree (e.g. MD, DDS, DVM)
- ☐ Doctorate (e.g. PhD, EdD)
- ☐ Not part of an institutional education program
- ☐ Other...



# Thank you!

We appreciate you taking the time to complete our survey. The data you have provided will help R engineers and educators better understand how people learn R and what we can do to make that path easier.

We expect to release the results of this survey at RStudio::conf 2019. Should you be interested in using this data yourself, we will make announce how you can use it at that time.

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