



R&D Expenditures in Universities and Colleges Increase 12 Percent in FY 1975

- Separately budgeted R&D expenditures in universities and colleges totaled \$3.4 billion in 1975, or 12 percent above 1974 levels. When converted to constant dollars,¹ academic R&D spending increased 2 percent in 1975. This increase contrasts sharply with the 1973-74 period, when academic R&D expenditures rose only 3 percent in current dollars and declined 5 percent in constant dollars. The increase was due primarily to the release of some previously impounded Federal R&D funds.
- Federally financed R&D spending totaled \$2.3 billion, up 13 percent from 1974. The 1974-75 increase in federally sponsored funds was three times the average annual growth rate experienced during the previous six years and can be traced to the impoundment in 1973—and subsequent release in 1974—of Federal funds to the National Institutes of Health. The release of these funds was reflected in a 17-percent increase in the federally sponsored life sciences R&D expenditures.
- R&D expenditures for basic research totaled \$2.4 billion in 1975, up 11 percent from 1974. The Federal Government sponsored 71 percent of basic research in the academic sector, where more than one-half of all the basic research in the United States is performed.
- Academic spending for applied research increased 17 percent in 1975 to \$864 million, while development expenditures, \$134 million in 1975, experienced a more moderate growth rate of 6 percent.

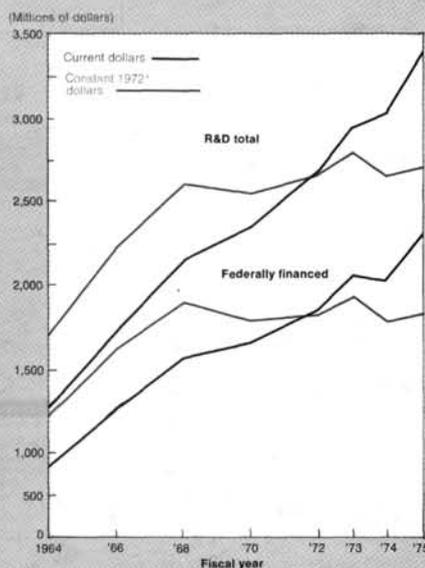
- In 1975 growth in R&D spending occurred in every field of science and engineering. The largest gains were reported in the life and mathematical sciences, up 16 percent each. The expansion of Federal support to the life sciences most dramatically affected R&D spending in the medical and biological sciences, up 18 percent and 15 percent, respectively. The two fields of science accounted for nearly one-half of the overall increase in academic R&D funding.
- Public institutions, which employ nearly two-thirds of full-time scientists and engineers and enroll about three-quarters of full-time graduate students, received two-thirds of the federally financed R&D spending increase. While R&D expenditures in every field of science and engineering in public universities increased, three of

the seven major fields of science showed declines in the private academic sector.

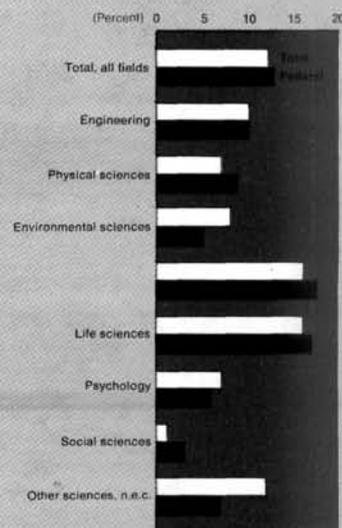
- Capital expenditures for science and engineering facilities and equipment for research and development and instruction increased 18 percent in 1975, following a decline of less than 1 percent during the 1973-74 period. Public institutions reported a 20-percent increase in capital expenditures, compared to an 11-percent growth in private universities.

The data presented here are derived from the preliminary results of the Survey of Scientific and Engineering Expenditures at Universities and Colleges. Final data will be available in an analytical report and in detailed statistical tables to be published by NSF later in the year.

Current R&D expenditures at universities and colleges: FY 1964-75



Change in current R&D expenditures at universities and colleges, by field of science: FY 1974-75



¹ Based on 1972 GNP implicit price deflator.