

# Spending on research and development in the higher education sector, 2012/2013

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Spending on research and development (R&D) in Canada's higher education sector increased 2.3% on a fiscal year basis between 2011/2012 and 2012/2013 to \$12.1 billion. The higher education sector is composed of universities and affiliated research hospitals, experimental stations and clinics.

When adjusted for inflation, higher education R&D spending rose 0.6% in 2012/2013, the smallest constant dollar increase in a decade.

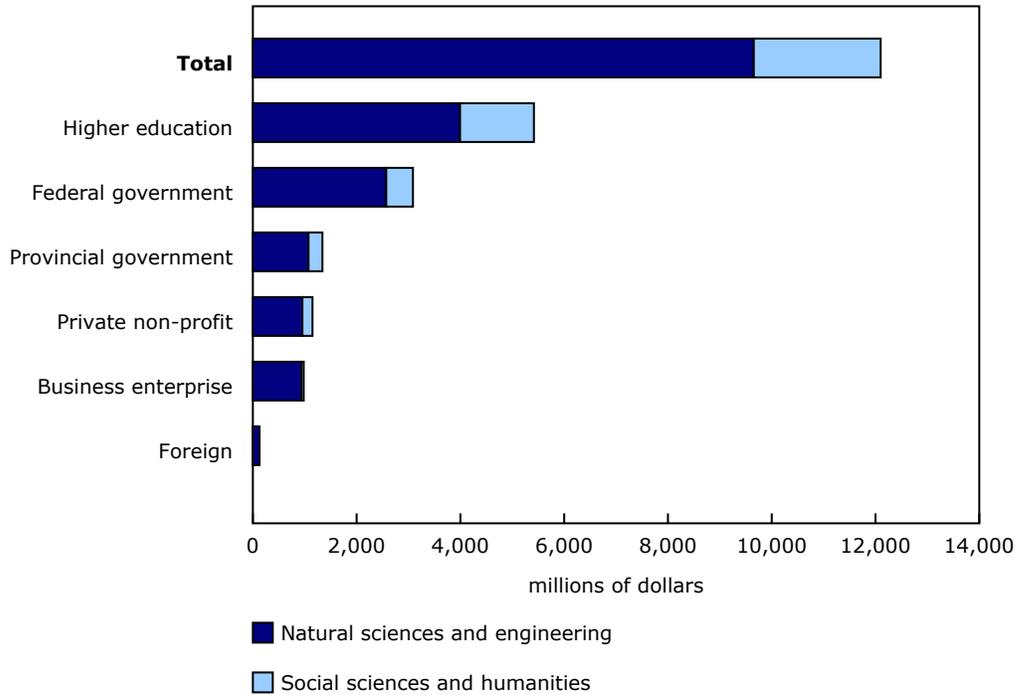
Provincially, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia increased spending on R&D in the higher education sector in 2012/2013. While Newfoundland and Labrador posted the largest year-over-year percentage increase in spending, Ontario accounted for most of the national gain in 2012/2013.

Total expenditures on R&D are classified into two fields of science: natural sciences and engineering as well as social sciences and humanities. Overall, about 80% of total R&D expenditures were concentrated on natural sciences and engineering, which rose 2.2% from 2011/2012 to \$9.7 billion. Spending on social sciences and humanities R&D increased 2.6% to \$2.4 billion.

There are six funding sources for R&D in the higher education sector: the business enterprise sector, private non-profit sector, federal government sector, provincial government sector, foreign sector and internal funding from the higher education sector itself. Every source increased their funding between 2011/2012 and 2012/2013 except the federal government. The higher education sector posted the largest increase in R&D expenditures, up more than \$223 million to \$5.4 billion in 2012/2013. This was followed by the provincial government sector, which increased expenditures by approximately \$86 million. Conversely, the federal government reduced spending from \$3.2 billion in 2011/2012 to \$3.1 billion 2012/2013.



**Chart 1**  
**Spending on research and development in the higher education sector, by source of funding and science field, 2012/2013**



The higher education sector itself is the largest contributor to R&D funding in both fields of science. In 2012/2013, the higher education sector accounted for 58.2% of total R&D spending on social sciences and humanities, while the business enterprise sector accounted for 1.8%. In natural sciences and engineering, the higher education sector accounted for 41.4% of R&D spending, while the business enterprise sector contributed 9.7%.

**Note to readers**

Total research and development spending expressed in 2007 constant prices are calculated by deflating current dollar values using the gross domestic product implicit price index at market prices.

**Table 1**  
**Spending on research and development in the higher education sector, by source of funds, in millions of dollars**

	2011/2012 <sup>r</sup>		2012/2013		2011/2012 to 2012/2013
	millions of dollars	% of total	millions of dollars	% of total	
<b>Total, spending</b>	<b>11,831.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>12,099.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2.3</b>
Higher education	5,192.7	43.9	5,416.5	44.8	4.3
Federal government	3,165.2	26.8	3,085.6	25.5	-2.5
Provincial government	1,255.0	10.6	1,340.5	11.1	6.8
Private non-profit	1,126.7	9.5	1,149.2	9.5	2.0
Business enterprise	966.2	8.2	980.1	8.1	1.4
Foreign	125.9	1.1	127.5	1.1	1.3

<sup>r</sup> revised

**Available in CANSIM: table 358-0162.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5109.**

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