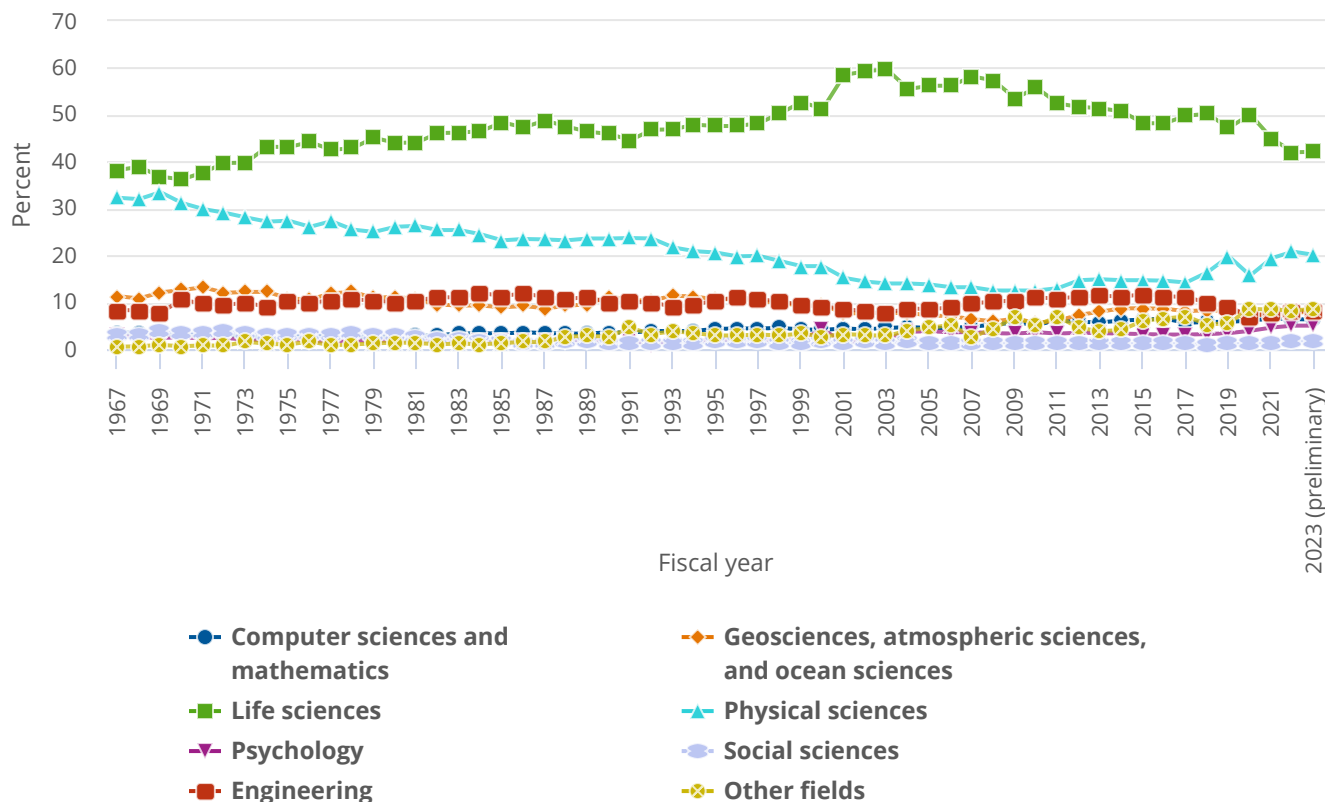


Figure 8
Federal obligations for basic research, by field of R&D: FYs 1967–2023



Note(s):
 Because of rounding, detail may not add to total. As of volume 71 (FYs 2021–22) computer science and mathematics are collected as two separate categories: computer and information science, and mathematics and statistics. For ease of reference, they have been combined for presentation based on previous classification. Prior to volume 71, geosciences, atmospheric sciences, and ocean sciences were titled environmental sciences. As of volume 71, social sciences no longer includes education research or law; those categories were modified to other fields. FYs 2020–22 obligations include additional funding provided by supplemental COVID-19 pandemic-related appropriations (e.g., Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security [CARES] Act). Beginning with FY 2016, the totals reported for development obligations represent a refinement to this category by more narrowly defining it to be "experimental development." Most notably, totals for development do not include the Department of Defense (DOD) Budget Activity 7 (Operational System Development) obligations. Those funds, previously included in DOD's development obligation totals, support the development efforts to upgrade systems that have been fielded or have received approval for full-rate production and anticipate production funding in the current or subsequent fiscal year. Therefore, the data are not directly comparable with totals reported in previous years. FYs 2009 and 2010 obligations include additional funding provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Prior to FY 1979, the Department of Health and Human Services was the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare; these data include the predecessor organization. The federal fiscal year cycle changed in FY 1977, from 1 July–30 June to the current 1 October–30 September cycle; no data were collected for the 3-month transition period of July–September 1976. Prior to FY 1977, the Department of Energy R&D programs were under the Energy Research and Development Administration from FYs 1974–76, and prior to FY 1974, R&D was under the Atomic Energy Commission; these data include the predecessor organizations.

Source(s):
 National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Federal Funds for Research and Development.