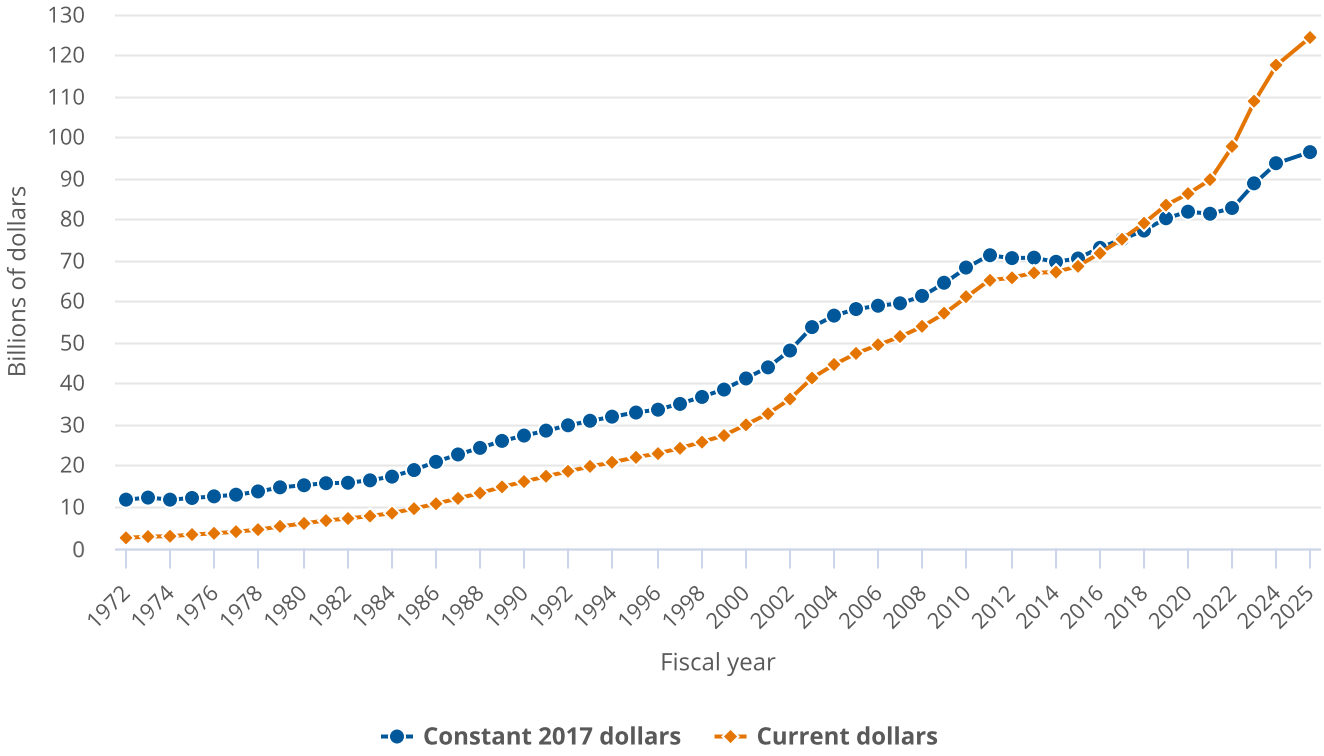
Figure 1. Higher education R&D expenditures: FYs 1972–2025



Note(s):
Dollars adjusted for inflation (i.e., constant dollars) are based on the gross domestic product (GDP) implicit price deflator, currently in 2017 dollars, as published by the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) under Section 1 Domestic Product and Income at https://apps.bea.gov/iTable/?isuri=1&reqid=19&step=4&categories=flatfiles&nipa_table_list=1, accessed on 4 May 2026. Note that GDP deflators are calculated on an economy-wide scale and do not explicitly focus on R&D.

Source(s):
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Higher Education Research and Development Survey.