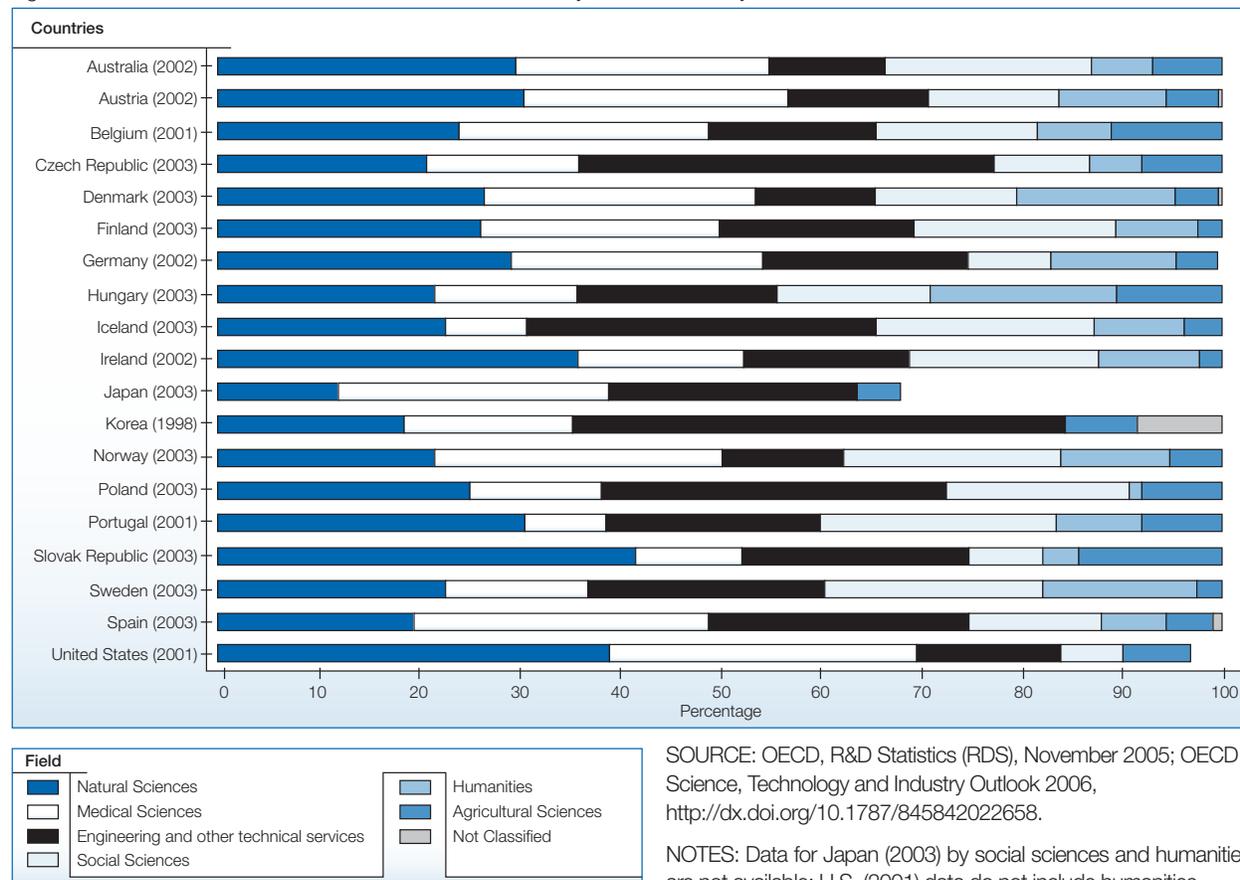


The United States allocates a larger share of its higher education R&D investment to the natural sciences than most other Office of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries.

Figure 2. S&E field shares of investment in academic R&D by selected country



Why is this indicator important?

- Academic R&D investment is a leading indicator of national capacity across the S&E fields, signifying not only the conduct of R&D across fields but also the support of graduate students who will comprise the next generation of scientists and engineers.

Key Observations

- Not all countries are equally engaged in all fields of science and engineering; nations differ in their choices for academic R&D investments.
- Compared to other major industrialized nations, the United States allocates a larger share of its higher education R&D expenditures to the natural sciences and a smaller share to engineering and to social sciences and the humanities.

Related Discussion

- Countries differ in how data for the humanities and social sciences is defined, collected and reported.
- Note that these data are sporadic and, for some countries, quite old.