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NASA Appropriations and Authorizations: A Fact Sheet

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Congressional deliberations about the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) often focus on the availability of funding. This fact sheet provides data on past, current, and proposed NASA appropriations. No bills have yet been introduced in the 115th Congress proposing future-year authorizations of NASA appropriations.

Additional information on appropriations legislation affecting NASA is provided in CRS Report R44877, *Overview of FY2018 Appropriations for Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS)* and similar reports for prior years.¹ NASA issues of congressional interest are discussed further in CRS Report R43144, *NASA: Issues for Authorization, Appropriations, and Oversight in the 114th Congress*.

Table 1 shows appropriations for NASA from FY2012 through FY2017. The data for FY2012 through FY2016 include supplemental appropriations, rescissions, transfers, reprogramming, and, in the case of FY2013, sequestration. They are taken from NASA's congressional budget justifications for FY2014 through FY2018.² Congressional budget justifications are available on the NASA budget website (<http://www.nasa.gov/news/budget/>) for the current year and for past years back to FY2002. The table data for FY2017 are as enacted by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (P.L. 115-31). For amounts not specified in that act, see pp. H3374-H3375 of the explanatory statement, published in the *Congressional Record* on May 3, 2017.

Table 2 shows enacted appropriations for FY2017 (as above); the Administration's request for FY2018; the House Committee on Appropriations recommendations for FY2018, as contained in H.R. 3267 as reported and H.Rept. 115-231 as well as H.R. 3354 as passed by the House; and the Senate Committee on Appropriations recommendations for FY2018, as contained in S. 1662 as reported and S.Rept. 115-139.

The Continuing Appropriations Act, 2018 (Division D of P.L. 115-56), as amended, provides FY2018 continuing appropriations for NASA until January 19, 2018. The rate is based on the level of FY2017 appropriations—not including \$109 million in FY2017 emergency appropriations (see note to **Table 2**)—reduced by 0.6791%.

Figure 1 shows NASA's total annual budget authority from the agency's establishment in FY1958 to FY2017, in both current dollars and inflation-adjusted FY2017 dollars.

¹ See, for example, CRS Report R44409, *Overview of FY2017 Appropriations for Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS)*; CRS Report R43918, *Overview of FY2016 Appropriations for Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS)*; CRS Report R43509, *Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies: FY2015 Appropriations*; CRS Report R43080, *Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies: FY2014 Appropriations*; CRS Report R42440, *Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies: FY2013 Appropriations*; and CRS Report R41721, *Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies: FY2012 Appropriations*.

² FY2016 Education amounts are not shown in the FY2018 congressional budget justification and are instead taken from the explanatory statement for the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (P.L. 114-113), *Congressional Record*, December 17, 2015, pp. H9741-H9743.

Table I. NASA Appropriations, FY2012-FY2017
(budget authority in \$ millions)

	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017
Science	\$5,074	\$4,782	\$5,148	\$5,243	\$5,584	\$5,765
Earth Science	1,761	1,659	1,825	1,784	1,927	1,921
Planetary Science	1,501	1,275	1,346	1,447	1,628	1,846
Astrophysics	648	617	678	731	762	750
James Webb Space Telescope	519	628	658	645	620	569
Heliophysics	645	603	641	636	647	679
Aeronautics	569	530	566	642	634	660
Space Technology	574	615	576	600	686	687
Exploration	3,707	3,706	4,113	3,543	3,996	4,324
Exploration Systems Development	3,002	2,884	3,115	3,212	3,641	3,929
<i>Orion MPCV</i>	<i>1,200</i>	<i>1,114</i>	<i>1,197</i>	<i>1,190</i>	<i>1,270</i>	<i>1,350</i>
<i>Space Launch System</i>	<i>1,497</i>	<i>1,415</i>	<i>1,600</i>	<i>1,679</i>	<i>1,972</i>	<i>2,150</i>
<i>Exploration Ground Systems</i>	<i>305</i>	<i>355</i>	<i>318</i>	<i>343</i>	<i>399</i>	<i>429</i>
Commercial Spaceflight	406	525	696	— ^a	— ^a	— ^a
Exploration R&D	300	297	302	331	355	395
Space Operations	4,184	3,725	3,774	4,626	5,032	4,951
Space Shuttle	596	39	0	8	5	0
International Space Station	2,790	2,776	2,964	1,525	1,436	n/s
Space Transportation	— ^b	— ^b	— ^b	2,254	2,668	n/s ^c
Space and Flight Support	798	910	810	839	923	n/s
Education	136	116	117	119	115	100
Space Grant	39	37	40	40	40	40
EPSCoR	17	17	18	18	18	18
MUREP	30	28	30	32	32	32
Other	50	34	29	29	25	10
Safety, Security, and Mission Services	2,994	2,711	2,793	2,755	2,772	2,769
Construction and EC&R	495	661^d	522	446	427	470^e
Inspector General	38	35	38	37	37	38
Total	17,770^f	16,879^d	17,647	18,010	19,285	19,762^e

Sources: FY2012-FY2016 from NASA FY2014-FY2018 congressional budget justifications. FY2017 from P.L. 115-31 and explanatory statement, *Congressional Record*, May 3, 2017, pp. H3374-H3375. See text for details.

Notes: Some totals may not add because of rounding. MPCV = Multipurpose Crew Vehicle. R&D = Research and Development. EPSCoR = Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research. MUREP = Minority University Research and Education Program. EC&R = Environmental Compliance and Remediation. n/s = not specified.

- a. Included in Space Transportation under Space Operations.
- b. Commercial Crew funded under Exploration. Remainder of Space Transportation included in International Space Station.
- c. Includes up to \$1,185 million for Commercial Crew.
- d. Includes \$14 million (after sequestration) of supplemental funding from the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013 (P.L. 113-2) that is not shown in the NASA FY2015 congressional budget justification.
- e. Includes \$109 million in emergency funding (from Sec. 540 of P.L. 115-31) for repairs at NASA facilities damaged by natural disasters.
- f. Includes rescission of \$1 million from prior-year accounts not shown in the table.

Table 2. NASA Appropriations, FY2017-FY2018
(budget authority in \$ millions)

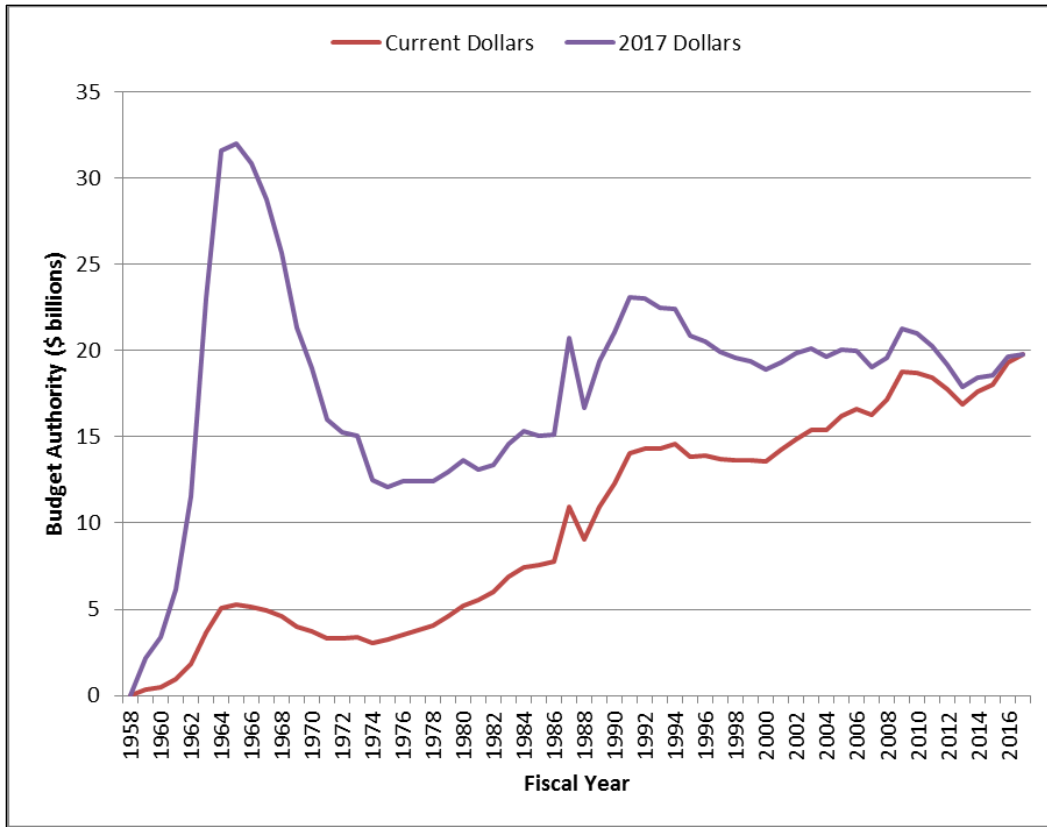
	FY2017	FY2018		
		Request	H. Cte.	S. Cte. Enacted
Science	\$5,765	\$5,712	\$5,859	\$5,572
Earth Science	1,921	1,754	1,704	1,921
Planetary Science	1,846	1,930	2,121	1,612
Astrophysics	750	817	822	817
James Webb Space Telescope	569	534	534	534
Heliophysics	679	678	678	689
Aeronautics	660	624	660	650
Space Technology	687	679	687	700
Exploration	4,324	3,934	4,550	4,395
Exploration Systems Development	3,929	3,584	4,100	4,045
- Orion MPCV	1,350	1,186	1,350	1,350
- Space Launch System	2,150	1,938	2,150	2,150
- Exploration Ground Systems	429	460	600	545
Exploration R&D	395	350	450	350
Space Operations	4,951	4,741	4,677	4,752
International Space Station	n/s	1,491	n/s	n/s
Space Transportation	n/s ^a	2,415	n/s	2,415
Space and Flight Support	n/s	835	n/s	n/s
Education	100	37	90	100
Space Grant	40	n/s	40	40
EPSCoR	18	n/s	18	18
MUREP	32	n/s	32	32
Other	10	n/s	0	10
Safety, Security, and Mission Services	2,769	2,830	2,826	2,827
Construction and EC&R	470^b	496	486	496
Inspector General	38	39	38	38
Total	19,762^b	19,092	19,872	19,529

Sources: FY2017 from P.L. 115-31 and explanatory statement, *Congressional Record*, May 3, 2017, pp. H3374-H3375. FY2018 request from FY2018 NASA congressional budget justification. FY2018 House committee from H.R. 3267 as reported and H.Rept. 115-231 as well as H.R. 3354 as passed by the House. FY2018 Senate committee from S. 1662 as reported and S.Rept. 115-139. See text for details.

Notes: Some totals may not add because of rounding. MPCV = Multipurpose Crew Vehicle. R&D = Research and Development. EPSCoR = Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research. MUREP = Minority University Research and Education Program. EC&R = Environmental Compliance and Remediation. n/s = not specified.

- a. Includes up to \$1,185 million for Commercial Crew.
- b. Includes \$109 million in emergency funding (from Sec. 540 of P.L. 115-31) for repairs at NASA facilities damaged by natural disasters.

Figure I. NASA Funding, FY1958-FY2017



Source: FY1958-FY2008 from National Aeronautics and Space Administration, *Aeronautics and Space Report of the President: Fiscal Year 2008 Activities*, <http://history.nasa.gov/presrep2008.pdf>, Table D-1A. FY2009-FY2011 from NASA congressional budget justifications, FY2011-FY2013. FY2012-FY2017 as in **Table I**. Current dollars deflated to FY2017 dollars using GDP (chained) price index from President’s budget for FY2018, Historical Table 10.1, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/whitehouse.gov/files/omb/budget/fy2018/hist10z1.xls>.

Note: Transition quarter between FY1976 and FY1977 not shown.

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