



**Congressional
Research Service**

Informing the legislative debate since 1914

NASA Appropriations and Authorizations: A Fact Sheet

name redacted

Specialist in Science and Technology Policy

April 16, 2018

Congressional Research Service

7-....

www.crs.gov

R43419

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 FY2013 through FY2018. The data for FY2013 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 pages H3374-H3375 of the explanatory statement, published in the *Congressional Record* on May 3, 2017. The table data for FY2018 are as enacted by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (P.L. 115-141). For amounts not specified in that act, see pages H2094-H2096 of the explanatory statement, published in the *Congressional Record* on March 22, 2018.

The Trump Administration's budget request for FY2019 adopted a new account structure for NASA. It presented FY2017 amounts adjusted for comparability with the new structure, but not FY2018 amounts, because final FY2018 appropriations had not yet been enacted at the time the FY2019 budget was released. **Table 2** shows FY2017 appropriations, adjusted for comparability, and the Administration's request for FY2019. Additional columns will be added to this table as Congress acts on FY2019 authorization and appropriations legislation for NASA.

Figure 1 shows NASA's total annual budget authority from the agency's establishment in FY1958 to FY2018, in both current dollars and inflation-adjusted FY2018 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*.

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, FY2013-FY2018
(budget authority in \$ millions)

	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018
Science	\$4,782	\$5,148	\$5,243	\$5,584	\$5,765	\$6,222
Earth Science	1,659	1,825	1,784	1,927	1,921	1,921
Planetary Science	1,275	1,346	1,447	1,628	1,846	2,228
Astrophysics	617	678	731	762	750	850
James Webb Space Telescope	628	658	645	620	569	534
Heliophysics	603	641	636	647	679	689
Aeronautics	530	566	642	634	660	685
Space Technology	615	576	600	686	687	760
Exploration	3,706	4,113	3,543	3,996	4,324	4,790
Exploration Systems Development	2,884	3,115	3,212	3,641	3,929	4,395
<i>Orion</i>	<i>1,114</i>	<i>1,197</i>	<i>1,190</i>	<i>1,270</i>	<i>1,350</i>	<i>1,350</i>
<i>Space Launch System</i>	<i>1,415</i>	<i>1,600</i>	<i>1,679</i>	<i>1,972</i>	<i>2,150</i>	<i>2,150</i>
<i>Exploration Ground Systems</i>	<i>355</i>	<i>318</i>	<i>343</i>	<i>399</i>	<i>429</i>	<i>895</i>
Commercial Spaceflight	525	696	— ^a	— ^a	— ^a	— ^a
Exploration R&D	297	302	331	355	395	395
Space Operations	3,725	3,774	4,626	5,032	4,951	4,752
Space Shuttle	39	0	8	5	0	0
International Space Station	2,776	2,964	1,525	1,436	n/s	n/s
Space Transportation	— ^b	— ^b	2,254	2,668	n/s ^c	n/s
Space and Flight Support	910	810	839	923	n/s	n/s
Education	116	117	119	115	100	100
Space Grant	37	40	40	40	40	40
EPSCoR	17	18	18	18	18	18
MUREP	28	30	32	32	32	32
Other	34	29	29	25	10	10
Safety, Security, and Mission Services	2,711	2,793	2,755	2,772	2,769	2,827
Construction and EC&R	661^d	522	446	427	470^e	562
Inspector General	35	38	37	37	38	39
Total	16,879^d	17,647	18,010	19,285	19,762^e	20,736

Sources: FY2013-FY2016 from NASA FY2015-FY2018 congressional budget justifications. FY2017 from P.L. 115-31 and explanatory statement, *Congressional Record*, May 3, 2017, pp. H3374-H3375. FY2018 from P.L. 115-141 and explanatory statement, *Congressional Record*, March 22, 2018, pp. H2094-H2096. See text for details.

Notes: Some totals may not add because of rounding. 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.

Table 2. NASA Appropriations, FY2019
(budget authority in \$ millions)

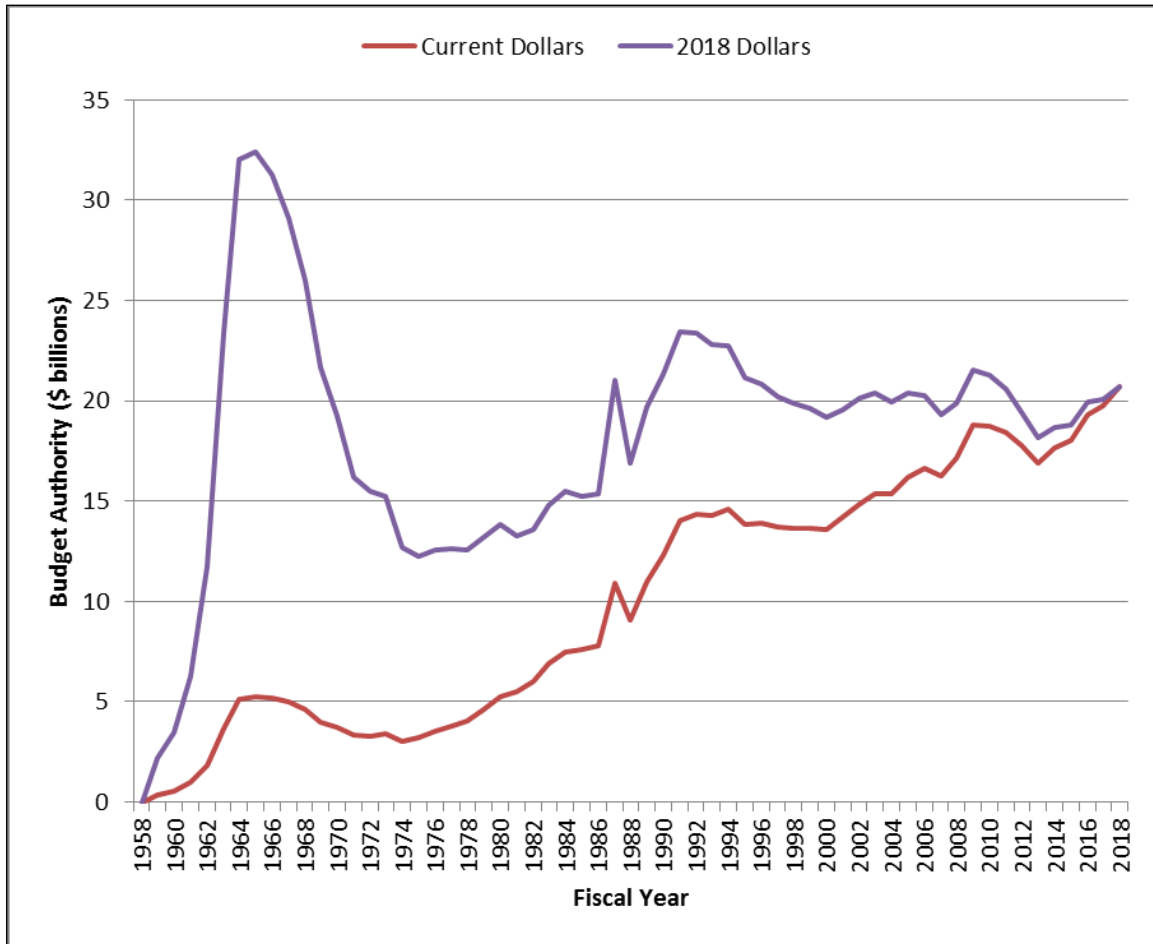
	FY2017 Comparable	FY2019			
		Request	House	Senate	Enacted
Science	\$5,762	\$5,895			
Earth Science	1,908	1,784			
Planetary Science	1,828	2,235			
Astrophysics ^a	1,352	1,185			
Heliophysics	675	691			
Aeronautics	656	634			
Exploration Research and Technology^b	827	1,003			
Deep Space Exploration Systems^c	4,184	4,559			
Exploration Systems Development	3,929	3,670			
<i>Orion</i>	1,330	1,164			
<i>Space Launch System</i>	2,127	2,078			
<i>Exploration Ground Systems</i>	472	428			
Advanced Exploration Systems	98	889			
Exploration R&D	157	—			
LEO and Spaceflight Operations	4,943	4,625			
International Space Station	1,451	1,462			
Space Transportation	2,589	2,109			
Space and Flight Support	903	904			
Commercial LEO Development	—	150			
Education	100	0			
Space Grant	40	0			
EPSCoR	18	0			
MUREP	32	0			
Other	10	0			
Safety, Security, and Mission Services	2,769	2,750			
Construction and EC&R	485^d	388			
Inspector General	38	39			
Total	19,762^d	19,892			

Sources: FY2019 NASA congressional budget justification and P.L. 115-31. See text for details.

Notes: Some totals may not add because of rounding. For account structure changes, see table notes and discussion in text. R&D = Research and Development. LEO = Low Earth Orbit. 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 the James Webb Space Telescope, formerly a separate item.
- b. Formerly Space Technology, plus elements formerly in Exploration.
- c. Formerly Exploration, minus elements now in Exploration Research and Technology.
- d. Includes \$109 million in emergency funding (from Sec. 540 of P.L. 115-31, not shown in the FY2019 NASA congressional budget justification) for repairs at NASA facilities damaged by natural disasters.

Figure I. NASA Funding, FY1958-FY2018



Source: Compiled by CRS. 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-FY2012 from NASA congressional budget justifications, FY2011-FY2014. FY2013-FY2018 as in **Table I**. Current dollars deflated to FY2018 dollars using GDP (chained) price index from President’s budget for FY2019, Historical Table 10.1, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/hist10z1-fy2019.xlsx>.

Note: Transition quarter between FY1976 and FY1977 not shown.

Author Contact Information

(name redacted)
 Specialist in Science and Technology Policy
 redacted@crs.loc.gov, 7-....

EveryCRSReport.com

The Congressional Research Service (CRS) is a federal legislative branch agency, housed inside the Library of Congress, charged with providing the United States Congress non-partisan advice on issues that may come before Congress.

EveryCRSReport.com republishes CRS reports that are available to all Congressional staff. The reports are not classified, and Members of Congress routinely make individual reports available to the public.

Prior to our republication, we redacted names, phone numbers and email addresses of analysts who produced the reports. We also added this page to the report. We have not intentionally made any other changes to any report published on EveryCRSReport.com.

CRS reports, as a work of the United States government, are not subject to copyright protection in the United States. Any CRS report may be reproduced and distributed in its entirety without permission from CRS. However, as a CRS report may include copyrighted images or material from a third party, you may need to obtain permission of the copyright holder if you wish to copy or otherwise use copyrighted material.

Information in a CRS report should not be relied upon for purposes other than public understanding of information that has been provided by CRS to members of Congress in connection with CRS' institutional role.

EveryCRSReport.com is not a government website and is not affiliated with CRS. We do not claim copyright on any CRS report we have republished.