

NASA Appropriations and Authorizations: A Fact Sheet

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Overview

Congressional deliberations about the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) often focus on the availability of funding. This fact sheet provides data on past and current NASA appropriations, as well as the President's budget request for FY2023 and congressional action on FY2023 appropriations and authorizations of appropriations.

Table 1 shows budget authority for NASA for FY2017-FY2022. Except where noted, the amounts shown include regular appropriations, supplemental appropriations, rescissions, transfers, and reprogramming. They are taken from NASA's congressional budget justifications for FY2019-FY2023,¹ the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (P.L. 117-103), and the explanatory statement for that act, *Congressional Record*, March 9, 2022, pp. H1796-H1799. 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.

Table 2 shows FY2021 appropriations as enacted (before the transfers and reprogramming reflected in **Table 1**); the Administration's request for FY2022; FY2022 appropriations recommended by the House Committee on Appropriations (H.R. 4505 as reported and H.Rept. 117-97); FY2022 appropriations recommended in the majority draft bill and report released by the Senate Committee on Appropriations on October 18, 2021; regular FY2022 appropriations provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022; and supplemental FY2022 funding for hurricane damage repair provided in the Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act (P.L. 117-143). Note that the NASA Authorization Act of 2021 (S. 1260, Division B, Title VI, Subtitle B) does not include authorizations of appropriations for NASA for FY2022.

Table 3 shows FY2022 regular appropriations as enacted; the Administration's request for FY2023; FY2023 appropriations recommended by the House Committee on Appropriations (H.R. 8256 as reported and H.Rept. 117-395); and FY2023 appropriations recommended in S. 4664 as introduced and the majority draft report released by the Senate Committee on Appropriations on July 28, 2022. Note that neither the NASA Authorization Act of 2021 nor the NASA Authorization Act of 2022 (H.R. 4346, Division B, Title VII) includes authorizations of appropriations for NASA for FY2023.

A note on name changes: In FY2019, the Education account was renamed as Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Engagement. Since the FY2019 budget request, the Trump and Biden Administrations have proposed renaming the Exploration account as Deep Space Exploration Systems. Enacted appropriations have so far retained the name Exploration. The FY2023 request proposes renaming Exploration Systems Development as Common Exploration Systems Development and Exploration R&D as Artemis Campaign Development.

Figure 1 shows NASA's total annual budget authority from the agency's establishment in FY1958 to FY2022, in both current dollars and inflation-adjusted FY2022 dollars.

¹ FY2017 and FY2019 Education and STEM Engagement amounts are not shown in the FY2019 and FY2021 congressional budget justifications and are instead taken from the explanatory statement for the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (P.L. 115-31), *Congressional Record*, May 3, 2017, pp. H3374-H3375; and the explanatory statement for the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (P.L. 116-93), *Congressional Record*, December 17, 2019, pp. H10969-H10971.

Table I. NASA Budget Authority, FY2017-FY2022

(in \$ millions)

	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022
Science	\$5,762	\$6,212	\$6,887	\$7,143^a	\$7,291	\$7,614
Earth Science	1,908	1,921	1,931	1,972	1,997	2,065
Planetary Science	1,828	2,218	2,747	2,713	2,693	3,120
Astrophysics	783	850	1,191	1,306	1,356	1,394
James Webb Space Telescope	569	534	305	423	415	175
Heliophysics	675	689	713	725	751	778
Biological and Physical Sciences ^b	—	—	—	5	79	83
Aeronautics	656	685	725	784	829	881
Space Technology	687	760	927	1,100	1,100	1,100
Exploration	4,324	4,790	5,045	5,960	6,397	6,792
Exploration Systems Development	3,929	4,395	4,087	4,513	4,539	4,597
Orion	1,330	1,350	1,350	1,407	1,404	1,407
Space Launch System	2,127	2,150	2,144	2,528	2,555	2,600
Exploration Ground Systems	472	895	593	578	580	590
Exploration R&D	395	395	958	1,447	1,858	2,195
Space Operations	4,943	4,749	4,640	4,135	4,102	4,041
International Space Station	1,451	1,493	1,490	1,516	1,322	n/s
Space Transportation	2,589	2,346	2,110	1,746	1,872	n/s
Space and Flight Support	903	910	1,000	857	890	n/s
Commercial LEO Development	—	—	40	15	18	101
Education / STEM Engagement	100	100	110	120	127	137
Space Grant	40	40	44	48	51	55
EPSCoR	18	18	21	24	26	26
MUREP	32	32	33	36	38	43
Other	10	10	12	12	12	14
Safety, Security, & Mission Svcs.	2,769	2,827	2,755	2,913^c	2,937	3,020
Construction and EC&R	485^d	657^e	372	433	446	410
Inspector General	38	39	39	42	44	45
Total	19,762^d	20,817^e	21,500	22,629^{ac}	23,271	24,041

Sources: FY2017-FY2021 from NASA FY2019-FY2023 congressional budget justifications. FY2022 from P.L. 117-103 and explanatory statement, *Congressional Record*, March 9, 2022, pp. H1796-H1799.

Notes: Except where noted, amounts include regular appropriations, supplemental appropriations, rescissions, transfers, and reprogramming. Some totals may not add because of rounding. R&D = Research and Development. LEO = Low Earth Orbit. STEM = Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. EPSCoR = Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research. MUREP = Minority University Research and Education Program. EC&R = Environmental Compliance and Remediation. n/s = not specified.

- Not adjusted to reflect rescission of \$70 million from prior year unobligated balances (Section 521(c)).
- Included in International Space Station before FY2021.
- Does not include additional \$60 million appropriated by the CARES Act (P.L. 116-136).
- Includes \$109 million in additional emergency funding from Section 540 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (P.L. 115-31) that is not shown in the NASA FY2019 congressional budget justification.
- Includes \$81 million in supplemental emergency funding from the Further Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Requirements Act, 2018 (Division B of P.L. 115-123) that is not shown in the NASA FY2020 congressional budget justification.

Table 2. NASA Appropriations, FY2022
(budget authority in \$ millions)

	FY2021 Enacted	FY2022 Appropriations				
		Request	House Cmte.	Senate Draft	Enacted Regular	Enacted Supp.
Science	\$7,301	\$7,931	\$7,970	\$7,901	\$7,614	—
Earth Science	2,000	2,250	2,250	2,230	2,065	—
Planetary Science	2,700	3,200	3,235	3,161	3,120	—
Astrophysics	1,356	1,400	1,446	1,400	1,394	—
James Webb Space Telescope	415	175	175	175	175	—
Heliophysics	751	797	773	826	778	—
Biological and Physical Sciences	79	109	90	109	83	—
Aeronautics	829	915	935	940	881	—
Space Technology	1,100	1,425	1,280	1,250	1,100	—
Exploration / Deep Space Expl. Sys.	6,555	6,880	7,279	6,960	6,792	—
Exploration Systems Development	4,583	4,484	4,733	4,604	4,597	—
Orion	1,407	1,407	1,407	1,427	1,407	—
Space Launch System	2,586	2,487	2,636	2,487	2,600	—
Exploration Ground Systems	590	590	690	690	590	—
Exploration R&D	1,973	2,397	2,547	2,357	2,195	—
Space Operations	3,988	4,017	3,961	4,128	4,041	—
International Space Station	n/s	1,328	n/s	n/s	n/s	—
Space Transportation	n/s	1,772	n/s	n/s	n/s	—
Space and Flight Support	n/s	817	n/s	n/s	n/s	—
Commercial LEO Development	17	101	45	101	101	—
STEM Engagement	127	147	147	147	137	—
Space Grant	51	57	60	57	55	—
EPSCoR	26	26	26	26	26	—
MUREP	38	48	48	48	43	—
Other	12	16	13	16	14	—
Safety, Security, & Mission Services	2,937	3,049	3,030	3,064	3,020	—
Construction and EC&R	390	390	390	390	410	321
Inspector General	44	46	46	46	45	—
Total	23,271	24,802	25,038	24,827	24,041	321

Sources: FY2021 enacted: P.L. 116-260 and explanatory statement, *Congressional Record*, December 21, 2020, pp. H7944-H7947. FY2022 request: FY2022 NASA congressional budget justification. FY2022 House committee: H.R. 4505 as reported and H.Rept. 117-97. FY2022 Senate draft: as released on the Appropriations Committee website, October 18, 2021. FY2022 regular: P.L. 117-103 and explanatory statement, *Congressional Record*, March 9, 2022, pp. H1796-H1799. FY2022 supplemental: P.L. 117-43.

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

Table 3. NASA Appropriations, FY2023
(budget authority in \$ millions)

	FY2022 Enacted	FY2023 Appropriations		
		Request	House Cmte.	Senate Draft Enacted
Science	\$7,614	\$7,988	\$7,905	\$8,046
Earth Science	2,065	2,412	2,335	2,346
Planetary Science	3,120	3,160	3,200	3,210
Astrophysics	1,394	1,556	1,525	1,561
James Webb Space Telescope	175	— ^a	— ^a	— ^a
Heliophysics	778	760	760	828
Biological and Physical Sciences	83	100	85	100
Aeronautics	881	972	950	972
Space Technology	1,100	1,438	1,250	1,264
Exploration / Deep Space Exploration Sys.	6,792	7,478	7,324	7,548
Exploration Systems Development / Common E.S.D.	4,597	4,668	4,689	4,738
Orion	1,407	1,339	1,339	1,339
Space Launch System	2,600	2,580	2,600	2,600
Exploration Ground Systems	590	750	750	799
Exploration R&D / Artemis Campaign Development	2,195	2,600	n/s	2,600
Human Exploration Requirements & Architecture	— ^b	48	n/s	48
Mars Campaign Development	— ^b	161	n/s	161
Space Operations	4,041	4,266	4,256	4,294
International Space Station	n/s	1,308	n/s	n/s
Space Transportation	n/s	1,760	n/s	n/s
Space and Flight Support	n/s	975	n/s	n/s
Commercial LEO Development	101	224	224	224
STEM Engagement	137	150	150	150
Space Grant	55	57	62	57
EPSCoR	26	26	26	26
MUREP	43	48	48	48
Other	14	19	14	19
Safety, Security, & Mission Services	3,020	3,209	3,139	3,229
Construction and EC&R	410	424	424	424
Inspector General	45	48	48	48
Total	24,041	25,974	25,446	25,974

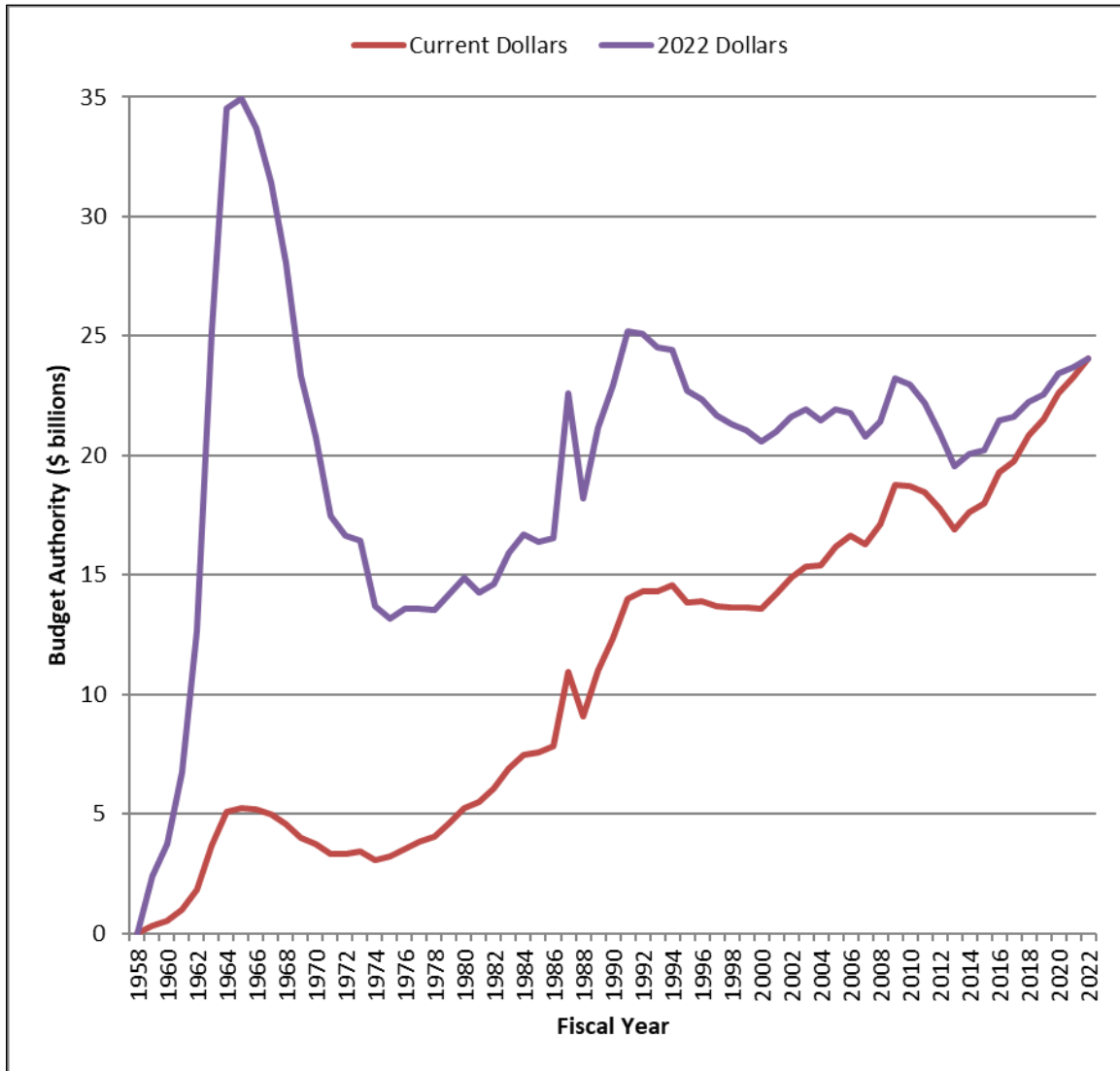
Sources: FY2022 enacted: P.L. 117-103 and explanatory statement, *Congressional Record*, March 9, 2022, pp. H1796-H1799. FY2023 request: FY2023 NASA congressional budget justification. FY2023 House committee: H.R. 8256 as reported and H.Rept. 117-395. FY2023 Senate draft: S. 4664 as introduced and draft report released on the Appropriations Committee website, July 28, 2022.

Notes: Some totals may not add because of rounding. 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. Included in Astrophysics.

b. Included in Exploration R&D.

Figure I. NASA Funding, FY1958-FY2022



Sources: 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-FY2021 from NASA congressional budget justifications, FY2011-FY2023, adjusted for supplemental appropriations, rescissions, and sequestration not shown in the justifications. FY2022 as in **Table I**. Current dollars deflated to FY2022 dollars using GDP (chained) price index from President's budget for FY2022, Historical Table I0.1, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/historical-tables/>.

Note: Transition quarter between FY1976 and FY1977 not shown.

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