

NASA Appropriations and Authorizations: 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 FY2025 budget request and congressional action on FY2025 appropriations and authorization of appropriations.

Table 1 shows budget authority for NASA for FY2019-FY2024. 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 FY2021-FY2025;¹ the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (P.L. 118-42); and the explanatory statement for that act, *Congressional Record*, March 5, 2024, pp. S1141-S1142. Congressional budget justifications are available on the NASA budget website, <https://www.nasa.gov/budgets-plans-and-reports/>, for the current year and for past years back to FY2010.

Table 2 shows FY2024 appropriations provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (P.L. 118-42), compared with FY2023 regular appropriations as enacted; the Administration's request for FY2024; FY2024 appropriations as recommended in the bill introduced by the chair of the House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (H.R. 5893 as introduced and explanatory material on the committee website at <https://appropriations.house.gov/sites/republicans.appropriations.house.gov/files/FY24-CJS-Explanatory-Materials.pdf>); and FY2024 appropriations recommended by the Senate Committee on Appropriations (S. 2321 as reported and S.Rept. 118-62). Note that the NASA Authorization Act of 2022 (P.L. 117-167, Title VII), which is the most recently enacted authorization, did not include authorizations of appropriations for NASA for FY2024 and beyond.

Table 3 compares FY2024 regular appropriations, as enacted, with the Administration's request for FY2025; FY2025 appropriations as recommended by the House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (H.R. 9026 as reported and H.Rept. 118-582); FY2025 appropriations as recommended by the Senate Committee on Appropriations (S. 2321 as reported and S.Rept. 118-62); and the FY2025 amounts that would be authorized by H.R. 8958, referred to herein as the NASA Reauthorization Act of 2024, as engrossed in the House on September 23, 2024. Additional columns will be added to this table as Congress acts to complete FY2025 authorization and appropriations legislation for NASA.

A note on name changes: 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. Starting with the FY2023 budget, NASA renamed Exploration Systems Development as "Common Exploration Systems Development," and Exploration Research and Development (R&D) as "Artemis Campaign Development." In the FY2025 budget request, NASA renamed Common Exploration Systems Development as "Moon to Mars Transportation System," and Artemis Campaign Development as "Moon to Mars Lunar Systems Development."

Figure 1 shows NASA's total annual budget authority from the agency's establishment in FY1958 to FY2024, in both current dollars and inflation-adjusted FY2024 dollars.

¹ FY2019 STEM Engagement amounts are not shown in the FY2021 congressional budget justification and are instead taken from 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, FY2019-FY2024

(in \$ millions)

	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024
Science	\$6,887	\$7,143^a	\$7,291	\$7,611	\$7,792	\$7,334
Earth Science	1,931	1,972	1,997	2,061	2,175	2,195
Planetary Science	2,747	2,713	2,693	3,120	3,217	2,717
Astrophysics	1,191	1,306	1,356	1,394	1,510	1,530
James Webb Space Telescope	305	423	415	175	— ^b	— ^b
Heliophysics	713	725	751	778	805	805
Biological and Physical Sciences ^c	—	5	79	83	85	88
Aeronautics	725	784	829	881	935	935
Space Technology	927	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,193	1,100
Exploration	5,045	5,960	6,397	6,855	7,448	7,666^d
Exploration Systems Development	4,087	4,513	4,539	4,591	4,717	4,533
<i>Orion</i>	1,350	1,407	1,404	1,402	1,315	1,139
<i>Space Launch System</i>	2,144	2,528	2,555	2,600	2,567	2,600
<i>Exploration Ground Systems</i>	593	578	580	589	835	794
Exploration R&D/Artemis Campaign Development	958	1,447	1,858	2,077	2,631	n/s
Other	—	—	—	187	101	n/s
Space Operations	4,640	4,135	4,102	3,975	4,267	4,220^e
International Space Station	1,490	1,516	1,322	1,262	1,286	n/s
Space Transportation	2,110	1,746	1,872	1,717	1,760	n/s
<i>Crew and Cargo Program</i>	1,896	1,511	1,573	1,570	1,642	1,856
Space and Flight Support	1,000	857	890	889	983	n/s
Commercial Low Earth Orbit Development	40	15	18	102	224	228
Exploration Operations	—	—	—	5	13	n/s
STEM Engagement	110	120	127	137	144	143
Space Grant	44	48	51	55	58	58
EPSCoR	21	24	26	26	26	26
MUREP	33	36	38	43	46	46
Other	12	12	12	14	14	14
Safety, Security, & Mission Services	2,755	2,913^f	2,937	3,021	3,137	3,129
Construction and EC&R	372	433	446	417	612^g	300
Inspector General	39	42	44	45	48	48
Total	21,500	22,629^{a,f}	23,271	24,041	25,573^g	24,875

Sources: FY2019-FY2023 from NASA FY2021-FY2025 congressional budget justifications. FY2024 from P.L. 118-42 and explanatory statement, *Congressional Record*, March 5, 2024, pp. S1141-S1142.

Notes: Except where noted, amounts include regular appropriations, supplemental appropriations, rescissions, transfers, and reprogramming. Figures may not sum to totals because of rounding. R&D = Research and Development; 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 Astrophysics.
- Included in International Space Station before FY2020.
- Includes \$3.133 billion appropriated to the Exploration account by P.L. 118-42 without specified purpose.

- e. Includes \$2.136 billion appropriated to the Space Operations account by P.L. 118-42 without specified purpose.
- f. Does not include additional \$60 million appropriated by the CARES Act (P.L. 116-136).
- g. Includes \$556.4 million in emergency supplemental funding provided in Division N of P.L. 117-328.

Table 2. NASA Appropriations, FY2024

(budget authority in \$ millions)

	FY2024 Appropriations				
	FY2023 Enacted	Request	House Intro.	Senate Cmte.	Enacted
Science	\$7,795	\$8,261	\$7,380	\$7,341	\$7,334
Earth Science	2,195	2,473	2,000	2,219	2,195
Planetary Science	3,200	3,383	3,100	2,683	2,717
Astrophysics	1,510	1,557	1,485	1,544	1,530
Heliophysics	805	751	710	805	805
Biological and Physical Sciences	85	97	85	90	88
Aeronautics	935	996	946	935	935
Space Technology	1,200	1,392	1,205	1,118	1,100
Exploration/Deep Space Exploration Systems	7,469	7,971	7,971	7,736	7,666
Common Exploration Systems Development	4,738	4,525	4,525	4,525	4,533
<i>Orion</i>	1,339	1,225	1,225	1,225	1,139
<i>Space Launch System</i>	2,600	2,506	2,506	2,506	2,600
<i>Exploration Ground Systems</i>	799	794	794	794	794
Artemis Campaign Development	2,600	3,235	3,235	n/s	n/s
Human Exploration Requirements and Architecture	n/s	49	n/s	n/s	n/s
Mars Campaign Development	n/s	162	n/s	n/s	n/s
Space Operations	4,250	4,535	4,345	4,200	4,220
International Space Station	n/s	1,303	n/s	n/s	n/s
Space Transportation	n/s	1,957	n/s	n/s	n/s
<i>Crew and Cargo Program</i>	n/s	1,856	n/s	1,856	1,856
Space and Flight Support	n/s	1,047	n/s	n/s	n/s
Commercial Low Earth Orbit Development	224	228	n/s	228	228
STEM Engagement	144	158	89	144	143
Space Grant	58	58	60	58	58
EPSCoR	26	26	29	26	26
MUREP	46	48	0	46	46
Other	14	26	0	14	14
Safety, Security, and Mission Services	3,129	3,369	3,136	3,100	3,129
Construction and EC&R	604^a	454	248	379	300
Inspector General	48	50	48	48	48
Total	25,573^a	27,185	25,367	25,000	24,875

Sources: FY2023 Enacted: P.L. 117-328 and explanatory statement, *Congressional Record*, December 20, 2022, pp. S7945-S7950. FY2024 Request: FY2024 NASA congressional budget justification. FY2024 House Introduced: H.R. 5893 as introduced and explanatory material on the House Appropriations Committee website at <https://appropriations.house.gov/sites/republicans.appropriations.house.gov/files/FY24-CJS-Explanatory-Materials.pdf>. FY2024 Senate Committee: S. 2321 as reported and S.Rept. 118-62. FY2024 Enacted: P.L. 118-42 and explanatory statement, *Congressional Record*, March 5, 2024, pp. S1141-S1142.

Notes: Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding. 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.

a. Includes \$556.4 million in emergency supplemental funding provided in Division N of P.L. 117-328.

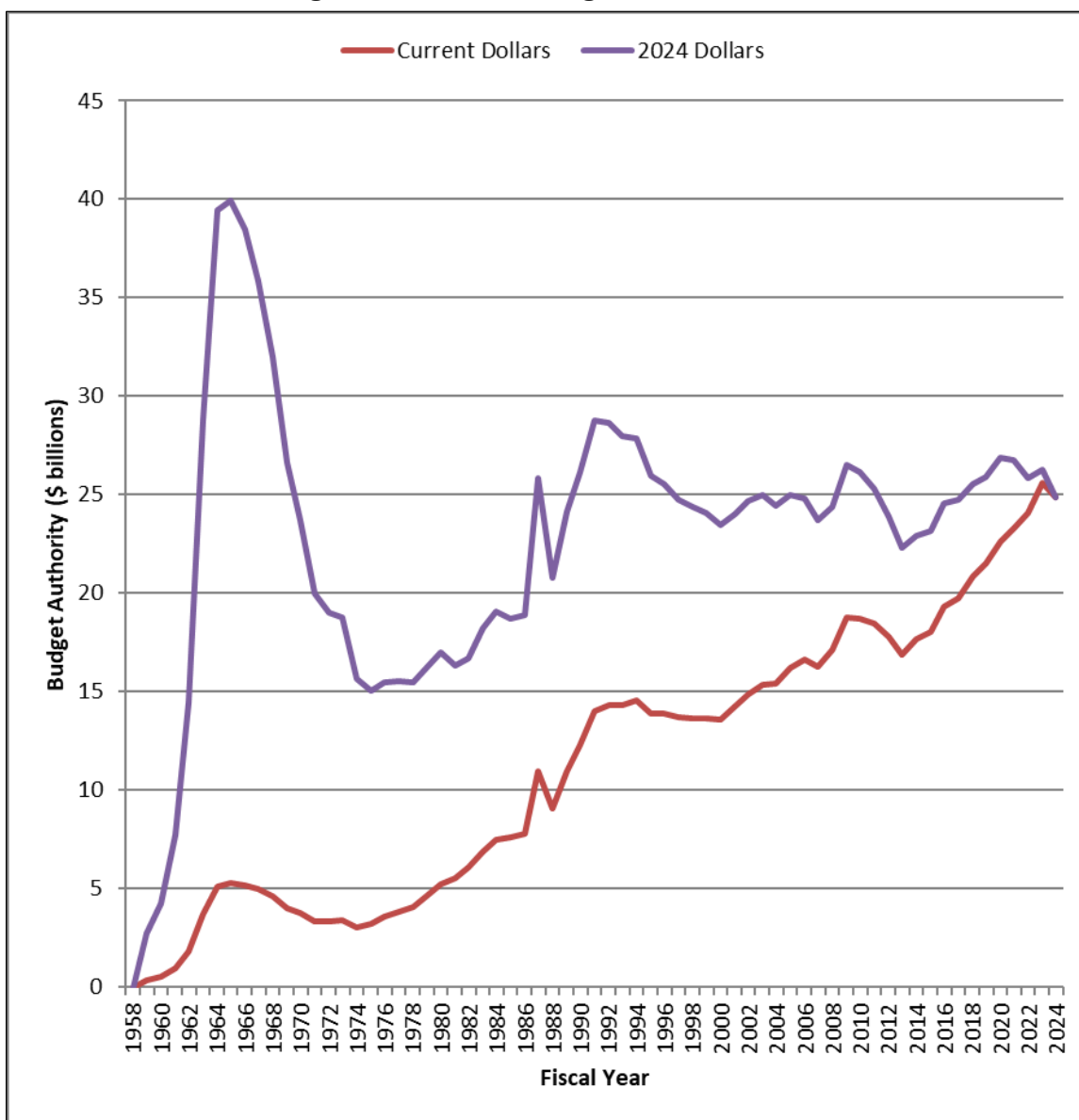
Table 3. NASA Appropriations, FY2025, and Proposed FY2025 Authorization
(budget authority in \$ millions)

	FY2024 Enacted	Request	FY2025 Appropriations		FY2025 Auth. House
			House Cmte.	Senate Cmte.	
Science	\$7,334	\$7,566	\$7,334	\$7,576	\$7,334
Earth Science	2,195	2,379	2,000	2,369	n/s
Planetary Science	2,717	2,732	2,930	2,722	n/s
Astrophysics	1,530	1,578	1,532	1,583	n/s
Heliophysics	805	787	787	812	n/s
Biological and Physical Sciences	88	91	85	91	n/s
Aeronautics	935	966	966	966	966
Space Technology	1,100	1,182	1,182	1,182	1,182
Exploration/Deep Space Exploration Systems	7,666	7,618	7,618	7,648	7,618
Common Exploration Systems Development ^a	4,533	4,213	4,738	4,213	n/s
Orion	1,139	1,031	1,339	1,031	n/s
Space Launch System	2,600	2,423	2,600	2,423	n/s
Exploration Ground Systems	794	759	799	759	n/s
Artemis Campaign Development ^b	n/s	3,288	n/s	n/s	n/s
Human Exploration Requirements and Architecture	n/s	117	n/s	n/s	n/s
Mars Campaign Development ^c	n/s	—	n/s	n/s	n/s
Space Operations	4,220	4,390	4,474	4,400	4,474
International Space Station	n/s	1,270	n/s	n/s	n/s
Space Transportation	n/s	1,862	n/s	n/s	n/s
Crew and Cargo Program	1,856	1,762	1,890	n/s	n/s
Space and Flight Support	n/s	1,088	n/s	n/s	n/s
Commercial Low Earth Orbit Development	228	170	n/s	170	n/s
STEM Engagement	143	144	89	144	135
Space Grant	58	57	60	59	n/s
EPSCoR	26	25	29	26	n/s
MUREP	46	46	0	46	n/s
Other	14	15	0	14	n/s
Safety, Security, and Mission Services	3,129	3,044	3,044	3,044	3,044
Construction and EC&R	300	424	424	424	424
Inspector General	48	51	48	51	48
Total	24,875	25,384	25,179	25,245	25,225

Sources: FY2024 Enacted: P.L. 118-42 and explanatory statement, *Congressional Record*, March 5, 2024, pp. S1141-S1142. FY2025 Request: FY2025 NASA congressional budget justification. FY2025 House: appropriations recommended by the House Appropriations Committee (H.R. 9026 as reported and H.Rept. 118-582). FY2025 Senate: appropriations recommended by the Senate Appropriations Committee (S. 4795 as reported and S.Rept. 118-198). FY2025 House Authorization: NASA Reauthorization Act of 2024 (H.R. 8958), as engrossed in the House.

Notes: Figures may not sum to totals because of rounding. 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.

- a. Referred to in the FY2025 request as “Moon to Mars Transportation System.”
- b. Referred to in the FY2025 request as “Moon to Mars Lunar Systems Development.”
- c. As noted in the FY2025 request, NASA intends to retire its Mars Campaign Development theme and will reallocate its content elsewhere in the Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate (p. DEXP-69).

Figure I. NASA Funding, FY1958-FY2024

Sources: Compiled by CRS. FY1958-FY2008 from NASA, *Aeronautics and Space Report of the President: Fiscal Year 2008 Activities*, Table D-1A, <https://ntrs.nasa.gov/citations/20110012306>. FY2009-FY2023 from NASA congressional budget justifications. FY2011-FY2025, adjusted for supplemental appropriations, rescissions, and sequestration not shown in the justifications. FY2024 from P.L. 118-42. Current dollars deflated to FY2024 dollars using gross domestic product (GDP) (chained) price index from President's budget for FY2025, Historical Table 10.1, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/historical-tables/>.

Note: Transition quarter between FY1976 and FY1977 not shown.

Author Information

Rachel Lindbergh
Analyst in Science and Technology Policy

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