

NASA Appropriations and Authorizations: At a Glance

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Overview

Congressional deliberations about the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) often focus on the availability of funding. This product provides data on past and current NASA appropriations, as well as the President's FY2026 budget request and congressional action on FY2026 appropriations and authorizations of appropriations.

Table 1 shows budget authority for NASA for FY2020-FY2025. Except where noted, the amounts shown include regular, supplemental, and additional appropriations; rescissions; transfers; and reprogramming. Amounts for FY2020-FY2024 are taken from NASA's congressional budget justifications for FY2022-FY2026. Amounts for FY2025 are derived from the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 (P.L. 119-4) and "An Act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of H. Con. Res. 14" (P.L. 119-21). 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 compares FY2025 appropriations, as enacted, with the Administration's request for FY2026. Additional columns will be added to this table as Congress acts on FY2026 appropriations for NASA. Proposed and enacted authorizations also will be added, if applicable.

Table 3 shows FY2024 appropriations provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (P.L. 118-42), compared with FY2025 appropriations as enacted (P.L. 119-4, P.L. 119-21). It also shows the Administration's request for appropriations for FY2025; FY2025 appropriations as reported by the House Committee on Appropriations (H.R. 9026, H.Rept. 118-582); and FY2025 appropriations as reported by the Senate Committee on Appropriations (S. 4795, S.Rept. 118-198). Further, Table 3 contains information on authorizations of appropriations. In particular, it provides FY2025 authorizations of appropriations as passed by the House (H.R. 8958) in the 118th Congress and FY2025 authorizations of appropriations as introduced in the Senate (S. 933) in the 119th Congress. Note that the NASA Authorization Act of 2022 (P.L. 117-167, Title VII), which is the most recently enacted authorization, did not provide authorizations of appropriations beyond FY2023.

Figure 1 shows NASA's total annual budget authority from the agency's establishment in FY1958 to FY2025, in both current dollars and inflation-adjusted FY2025 dollars.

Table I. NASA Budget Authority, FY2020-FY2025

(in \$ millions)

	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025
Science	\$7,143^a	\$7,291	\$7,611	\$7,792	\$7,334	\$7,334
Earth Science	1,972	1,997	2,061	2,175	2,195	n/s
Planetary Science	2,713	2,693	3,120	3,217	2,717	n/s
Astrophysics	1,306	1,356	1,394	1,510	1,530	n/s
James Webb Space Telescope	423	415	175	— ^b	— ^b	n/s
Heliophysics	725	751	778	805	805	n/s
Biological and Physical Sciences	5	79	83	85	88	n/s
Aeronautics	784	829	881	935	935	935
Space Technology	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,193	1,100	1,100
Exploration	5,960	6,397	6,855	7,448	7,666^c	7,666
Exploration Systems Development ^d	4,513	4,539	4,591	4,717	4,533	n/s
<i>Orion</i>	1,407	1,404	1,402	1,315	1,139	n/s
<i>Space Launch System</i>	2,528	2,555	2,600	2,567	2,600	n/s
<i>Exploration Ground Systems</i>	578	580	589	835	794	n/s
Exploration R&D/Artemis Campaign Development ^e	1,447	1,858	2,077	2,631	n/s	n/s
Other	—	—	187	101	n/s	n/s
Space Operations	4,135	4,102	3,975	4,267	4,220^f	4,220
International Space Station	1,516	1,322	1,262	1,286	n/s	n/s
Space Transportation	1,746	1,872	1,717	1,760	n/s	n/s
<i>Crew and Cargo Program</i>	1,511	1,573	1,570	1,642	1,856	n/s
Space and Flight Support	857	890	889	983	n/s	n/s
Commercial Low Earth Orbit Development	15	18	102	224	228	n/s
Exploration Operations	—	—	5	13	n/s	n/s
STEM Engagement	120	127	137	144	143	143
Space Grant	48	51	55	58	58	58
EPSCoR	24	26	26	26	26	26
MUREP	36	38	43	46	46	n/s
Other	12	12	14	14	14	n/s
Safety, Security, & Mission Services	2,913^g	2,937	3,021	3,137	3,129	3,092
Construction and EC&R	433	446	417	612^h	300	300
Inspector General	42	44	45	48	48	48
Other	-	-	-	-	-	9,995ⁱ
Total	22,629^{ag}	23,271	24,041	25,573^h	24,875	34,833ⁱ

Sources: FY2020-FY2024 amounts are from NASA FY2022-FY2026 congressional budget justifications, available at <https://www.nasa.gov/budgets-plans-and-reports/>. FY2025 amounts are from P.L. 119-4 and P.L. 119-21.

Notes: Except where noted, amounts include regular, supplemental, and additional 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.

a. These values are not adjusted to reflect rescission of \$70 million from prior-year unobligated balances (P.L. 116-93, §521(c)).

b. This amount is included in the Astrophysics account.

- c. This amount includes \$3.133 billion appropriated to the Exploration account by P.L. 118-42 without a specified purpose.
- d. Starting with the FY2023 request, NASA renamed Exploration Systems Development as “Common Exploration Systems Development.”
- e. Starting with the FY2023 request, NASA renamed Exploration R&D as “Artemis Campaign Development.”
- f. This amount includes \$2.136 billion appropriated to the Space Operations account by P.L. 118-42 without a specified purpose.
- g. This amount does not include an additional \$60 million appropriated by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (P.L. 116-136).
- h. This amount includes \$556.4 million in emergency supplemental funding provided in P.L. 117-328, Division N.
- i. P.L. 119-21 includes FY2025 appropriations for several NASA programs and activities. The law does not identify the corresponding account for all of the specified programs, and in some instances, the law includes specific direction that the appropriations may only be applied to a subset of activities in a program. For instance, the law provides \$700 million for a “high-performance Mars telecommunications orbiter,” and \$4.1 billion for the Space Launch System for Artemis Missions IV and V. As such, this amount (\$9.995 billion) is listed as “Other” in this table.
- j. P.L. 119-4, Section 1101, provided FY2025 appropriations at FY2024 regular enacted levels unless otherwise specified. Accordingly, this table shows the enacted amounts for FY2025 as being the same as for FY2024 in P.L. 118-42, Division C, except for the Safety, Security, and Mission Services account, for which P.L. 119-4 specified \$3,092 million. P.L. 119-21 provided additional FY2025 appropriations for select NASA programs and activities, for a total of \$9.995 billion.

Table 2. NASA Appropriations, FY2025 and FY2026
(budget authority in \$ millions)

	FY2025 Enacted	FY2025 Enacted Additional	FY2026 Request
Science	\$7,334	n/a	\$3,908
Earth Science	n/s	n/a	1,036
Planetary Science	n/s	n/a	1,891
Astrophysics	n/s	n/a	523
Heliophysics	n/s	n/a	433
Biological and Physical Sciences	n/s	n/a	25
Aeronautics	935	n/a	589
Space Technology	1,100	n/a	569
Exploration/Deep Space Exploration Systems	7,666	n/a	8,313
Common Exploration Systems Development ^a	n/s	n/a	4,895
<i>Orion</i>	n/s	n/a	1,371
<i>Space Launch System</i>	n/s	n/a	2,001
<i>Exploration Ground Systems</i>	n/s	n/a	658
<i>Commercial Moon and Mars Infrastructure Development^b</i>	n/a	n/a	864
Artemis Campaign Development ^c	n/s	n/a	2,815
Human Exploration Requirements and Architecture	n/s	n/a	603
Space Operations	4,220	n/a	3,132
International Space Station	n/s	n/a	920
Space Transportation	n/s	n/a	1,294
<i>Crew and Cargo Program</i>	n/s	n/a	1,213
Space and Flight Support	n/s	n/a	646
Commercial Low Earth Orbit Development	n/s	n/a	272
STEM Engagement	143	n/a	0
Space Grant	n/s	n/a	0
EPSCoR	n/s	n/a	0
MUREP	n/s	n/a	0
Other	n/s	n/a	0
Safety, Security, and Mission Services	3,092	n/a	2,118
Construction and EC&R	300	n/a	140
Inspector General	48	n/a	41
Other	-	9,995^d	-
Total	24,838	9,995^d	18,809

Sources: FY2025 enacted amounts are from P.L. 119-4. FY2025 enacted additional amounts are from P.L. 119-21. FY2026 requested amounts are from the FY2026 NASA congressional budget justification, <https://www.nasa.gov/budgets-plans-and-reports/>.

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; n/a

= not applicable, as the program had not yet been proposed. Additional columns will be added for FY2026 as Congress acts on FY2026 appropriations legislation.

- a. This is referred to in the FY2026 request as “Moon to Mars Transportation System.”
- b. The FY2026 request proposes creating a Commercial Moon and Mars Infrastructure Development program, which would, if enacted, include both a new program (the Commercial Mars Payload Services program) and some activities currently within the Science Mission Directorate (such as the Commercial Lunar Payload Services program). In addressing the new activities, the FY2026 request states that NASA “will continue to define the content of this new program and will brief Congress as soon as appropriate.”
- c. This is referred to in the FY2026 request as “Moon to Mars Lunar Systems Development.”
- d. P.L. 119-21 includes FY2025 appropriations for several NASA programs and activities. The law does not identify the corresponding account for all of the specified programs, and in some instances, the law includes specific direction that the appropriations may only be applied to a subset of activities in a program. For instance, the law provides \$700 million for a “high-performance Mars telecommunications orbiter,” and \$4.1 billion for the Space Launch System for Artemis Missions IV and V. As such, this amount (\$9.995 billion) is listed as “Other” in this table.

Table 3. FY2024 and FY2025 Enacted NASA Appropriations and Action on FY2025 NASA Authorizations of Appropriations
(budget authority in \$ millions)

	FY2025 Appropriations						FY2025 Auth.	
	FY2024 Enacted	Request	House Cmte.	Senate Cmte.	Enacted	Enacted Additional	House Passed	Senate Intro.
Science	\$7,334	\$7,566	\$7,334	\$7,576	\$7,334	n/a	\$7,334	\$7,576
Earth Science	2,195	2,379	2,000	2,369	n/s	n/a	n/s	n/s
Planetary Science	2,717	2,732	2,930	2,722	n/s	n/a	n/s	n/s
Astrophysics	1,530	1,578	1,532	1,583	n/s	n/a	n/s	n/s
Heliophysics	805	787	787	812	n/s	n/a	n/s	n/s
Biological and Physical Sciences	88	91	85	91	n/s	n/a	n/s	n/s
Aeronautics	935	966	966	966	935	n/a	966	966
Space Technology	1,100	1,182	1,182	1,182	1,100	n/a	1,182	1,182
Exploration/Deep Space Exploration Systems	7,666	7,618	7,618	7,648	7,666	n/a	7,618	7,648
Common Exploration Systems Development ^a	4,533	4,213	4,738	4,213	n/s	n/a	n/s	n/s
<i>Orion</i>	1,139	1,031	1,339	1,031	n/s	n/a	n/s	n/s
<i>Space Launch System</i>	2,600	2,423	2,600	2,423	n/s	n/a	n/s	n/s
<i>Exploration Ground Systems</i>	794	759	799	759	n/s	n/a	n/s	n/s
Artemis Campaign Development ^b	n/s	3,288	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/a	n/s	n/s
Human Exploration Requirements and Architecture	n/s	117	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/a	n/s	n/s
Space Operations	4,220	4,390	4,474	4,400	4,220	n/a	4,474	4,474
International Space Station	n/s	1,270	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/a	n/s	n/s
Space Transportation	n/s	1,862	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/a	n/s	n/s
<i>Crew and Cargo Program</i>	1,856	1,762	1,890	n/s	n/s	n/a	n/s	n/s
Space and Flight Support	n/s	1,088	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/a	n/s	n/s
Commercial Low Earth Orbit Development	228	170	n/s	170	n/s	n/a	n/s	n/s
STEM Engagement	143	144	89	144	143	n/a	135	144
Space Grant	58	57	60	59	58	n/a	n/s	n/s
EPSCoR	26	25	29	26	26	n/a	n/s	n/s
MUREP	46	46	0	46	n/s	n/a	n/s	n/s
Other	14	15	0	14	n/s	n/a	n/s	n/s
Safety, Security, and Mission Services	3,129	3,044	3,044	3,044	3,092	n/a	3,044	3,044
Construction and EC&R	300	424	424	424	300	n/a	424	424
Inspector General	48	51	48	51	48	n/a	48	51
Other	-	-	-	-	-	9,995^c	-	-
Total	24,875	25,384	25,179	25,434	24,838	9,995^c	25,225	25,508

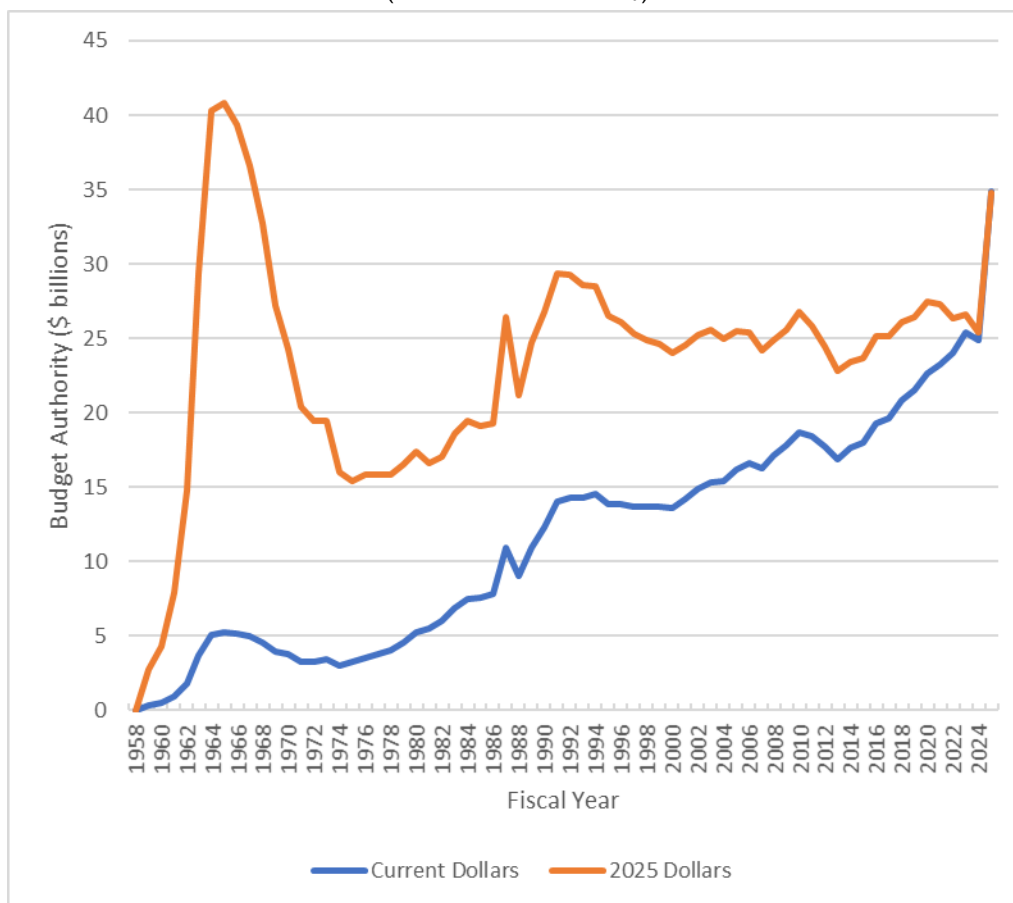
Sources: FY2024 enacted amounts are from P.L. 118-42 and explanatory statement, *Congressional Record*, March 5, 2024, pp. S1141-S1142. FY2025 requested amounts are from the FY2025 NASA congressional budget justification, available at <https://www.nasa.gov/budgets-plans-and-reports/>. FY2025 House appropriations, as reported by the House Committee on Appropriations, are from H.R. 9026 and H.Rept. 118-582. FY2025 Senate appropriations, as reported by the Senate Committee on Appropriations, are from S. 4795 and S.Rept. 118-198. FY2025 enacted amounts are from P.L. 119-4. Enacted additional amounts are from P.L. 119-21. FY2025 House-passed amounts are from the NASA Reauthorization Act of 2024 (H.R. 8958), 118th Congress. FY2025 Senate-introduced amounts are from the NASA Transition Authorization Act of 2024 (S. 933), 119th Congress, as introduced.

Notes: Figures may not sum to totals because of rounding. Intro. = Introduced; 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; n/a = not applicable

- a. This is referred to in the FY2025 request as “Moon to Mars Transportation System.”
- b. This is referred to in the FY2025 request as “Moon to Mars Lunar Systems Development.”
- c. P.L. 119-21 includes FY2025 appropriations for several NASA programs and activities. The law does not identify the corresponding account for all of the specified programs, and in some instances, the law includes specific direction that the appropriations may only be applied to a subset of activities in a program. For instance, the law provides \$700 million for a “high-performance Mars telecommunications orbiter,” and \$4.1 billion for the Space Launch System for Artemis Missions IV and V. As such, this amount (\$9.995 billion) is listed as “Other” in this table.

Figure I. NASA Funding, FY1958-FY2025

(current and constant \$)



Sources: Compiled by CRS. FY1958-FY2008 amounts are from NASA, *Aeronautics and Space Report of the President: Fiscal Year 2008 Activities*, Table D-1A, <https://ntrs.nasa.gov/citations/20110012306>. FY2009-FY2024 amounts are from NASA congressional budget justifications, available at <https://www.nasa.gov/budgets-plans-and-reports/>. FY2025 amounts are from P.L. 119-4 and P.L. 119-21. Current dollars were deflated to FY2025 dollars using the gross domestic product (GDP) (chained) price index from the President's budget for FY2025, Historical Table 10.1, <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/details/BUDGET-2025-TAB/context>.

Note: The transition quarter between FY1976 and FY1977 is not shown.

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