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NASA Appropriations and Authorizations: A Fact Sheet

Updated March 16, 2023

Congressional Research Service

<https://crsreports.congress.gov>

R43419

Contents

Overview 1

Figures

Figure 1. NASA Funding, FY1958-FY2023 5

Tables

Table 1. NASA Budget Authority, FY2018-FY2023..... 2
Table 2. NASA Appropriations, FY2023..... 3
Table 3. NASA Appropriations, FY2024..... 4

Contacts

Author Information..... 6

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 FY2024 and congressional action on FY2024 appropriations and authorizations of appropriations.

Table 1 shows budget authority for NASA for FY2018-FY2023. 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 FY2020-FY2024;¹ the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (P.L. 117-328); and the explanatory statement for that act, *Congressional Record*, December 20, 2022, pp. S7945-S7950. 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 FY2022 regular appropriations as enacted (before the transfers and reprogramming reflected in **Table 1**); 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); FY2023 appropriations recommended in S. 4664 as introduced and the majority draft report released by the Senate Committee on Appropriations on July 28, 2022; and enacted FY2023 appropriations provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023. Note that the NASA Authorization Act of 2022 (P.L. 117-167, Division B, Title VII) did not include authorizations of appropriations for NASA for FY2023.

Table 3 shows FY2023 regular appropriations as enacted and the Administration's request for FY2024. Note that the NASA Authorization Act of 2022 did not include authorizations of appropriations for NASA for FY2024.

A note on name changes: Before FY2019, the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Engagement account was known as the Education account. 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 R&D as Artemis Campaign Development.

Figure 1 shows NASA's total annual budget authority from the agency's establishment in FY1958 to FY2023, in both current dollars and inflation-adjusted FY2023 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, FY2018-FY2023
(in \$ millions)

	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023
Science	\$6,212	\$6,887	\$7,143^a	\$7,291	\$7,611	\$7,795
Earth Science	1,921	1,931	1,972	1,997	2,061	2,195
Planetary Science	2,218	2,747	2,713	2,693	3,120	3,200
Astrophysics	850	1,191	1,306	1,356	1,394	1,510
James Webb Space Telescope	534	305	423	415	175	— ^b
Heliophysics	689	713	725	751	778	805
Biological and Physical Sciences ^c	—	—	5	79	83	85
Aeronautics	685	725	784	829	881	935
Space Technology	760	927	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,200
Exploration	4,790	5,045	5,960	6,397	6,855	7,469
Exploration Systems Development	4,395	4,087	4,513	4,539	4,591	4,738
<i>Orion</i>	1,350	1,350	1,407	1,404	1,402	1,339
<i>Space Launch System</i>	2,150	2,144	2,528	2,555	2,600	2,600
<i>Exploration Ground Systems</i>	895	593	578	580	589	799
Expl. R&D / Artemis Campaign Dev.	395	958	1,447	1,858	2,077	2,600
Other	—	—	—	—	187	131
Space Operations	4,749	4,640	4,135	4,102	3,975	4,250
International Space Station	1,493	1,490	1,516	1,322	1,262	n/s
Space Transportation	2,346	2,110	1,746	1,872	1,717	n/s
Space and Flight Support	910	1,000	857	890	889	n/s
Commercial LEO Development	—	40	15	18	102	224
Exploration Operations	—	—	—	—	5	—
STEM Engagement	100	110	120	127	137	144
Space Grant	40	44	48	51	55	58
EPSCoR	18	21	24	26	26	26
MUREP	32	33	36	38	43	46
Other	10	12	12	12	14	14
Safety, Security, & Mission Svcs.	2,827	2,755	2,913^d	2,937	3,021	3,129
Construction and EC&R	657^e	372	433	446	417	604^f
Inspector General	39	39	42	44	45	48
Total	20,817^e	21,500	22,629^{ad}	23,271	24,041	25,573^f

Sources: FY2018-FY2022 from NASA FY2020-FY2024 congressional budget justifications. FY2023 from P.L. 117-328 and explanatory statement, *Congressional Record*, December 20, 2022, pp. S7945-S7950.

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.

- a. Not adjusted to reflect rescission of \$70 million from prior year unobligated balances (Section 521(c)).
- b. Included in Astrophysics.
- c. Included in International Space Station before FY2021.
- d. Does not include additional \$60 million appropriated by the CARES Act (P.L. 116-136).
- e. 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.
- f. Includes \$556.4 million in emergency supplemental funding provided in Division N of P.L. 117-328.

Table 2. 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	\$7,795
Earth Science	2,065	2,412	2,335	2,346	2,195
Planetary Science	3,120	3,160	3,200	3,210	3,200
Astrophysics	1,394	1,556	1,525	1,561	1,510
James Webb Space Telescope	175	— ^a	— ^a	— ^a	— ^a
Heliophysics	778	760	760	828	805
Biological and Physical Sciences	83	100	85	100	85
Aeronautics	881	972	950	972	935
Space Technology	1,100	1,438	1,250	1,264	1,200
Exploration / Deep Space Exploration Sys.	6,792	7,478	7,324	7,548	7,469
Exploration Systems Development / Common E.S.D.	4,597	4,668	4,689	4,738	4,738
<i>Orion</i>	1,407	1,339	1,339	1,339	1,339
<i>Space Launch System</i>	2,600	2,580	2,600	2,600	2,600
<i>Exploration Ground Systems</i>	590	750	750	799	799
Exploration R&D / Artemis Campaign Development	2,195	2,600	n/s	2,600	2,600
Human Exploration Requirements & Architecture	— ^b	48	n/s	48	n/s
Mars Campaign Development	— ^b	161	n/s	161	n/s
Space Operations	4,041	4,266	4,256	4,294	4,250
International Space Station	n/s	1,308	n/s	n/s	n/s
Space Transportation	n/s	1,760	n/s	n/s	n/s
Space and Flight Support	n/s	975	n/s	n/s	n/s
Commercial LEO Development	101	224	224	224	224
STEM Engagement	137	150	150	150	144
Space Grant	55	57	62	57	58
EPSCoR	26	26	26	26	26
MUREP	43	48	48	48	46
Other	14	19	14	19	14
Safety, Security, & Mission Services	3,020	3,209	3,139	3,229	3,129
Construction and EC&R	410	424	424	424	604^c
Inspector General	45	48	48	48	48
Total	24,041	25,974	25,446	25,974	25,573^c

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. FY2023 enacted: P.L. 117-328 and explanatory statement, *Congressional Record*, December 20, 2022, pp. S7945-S7950.

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

Table 3. NASA Appropriations, FY2024

(budget authority in \$ millions)

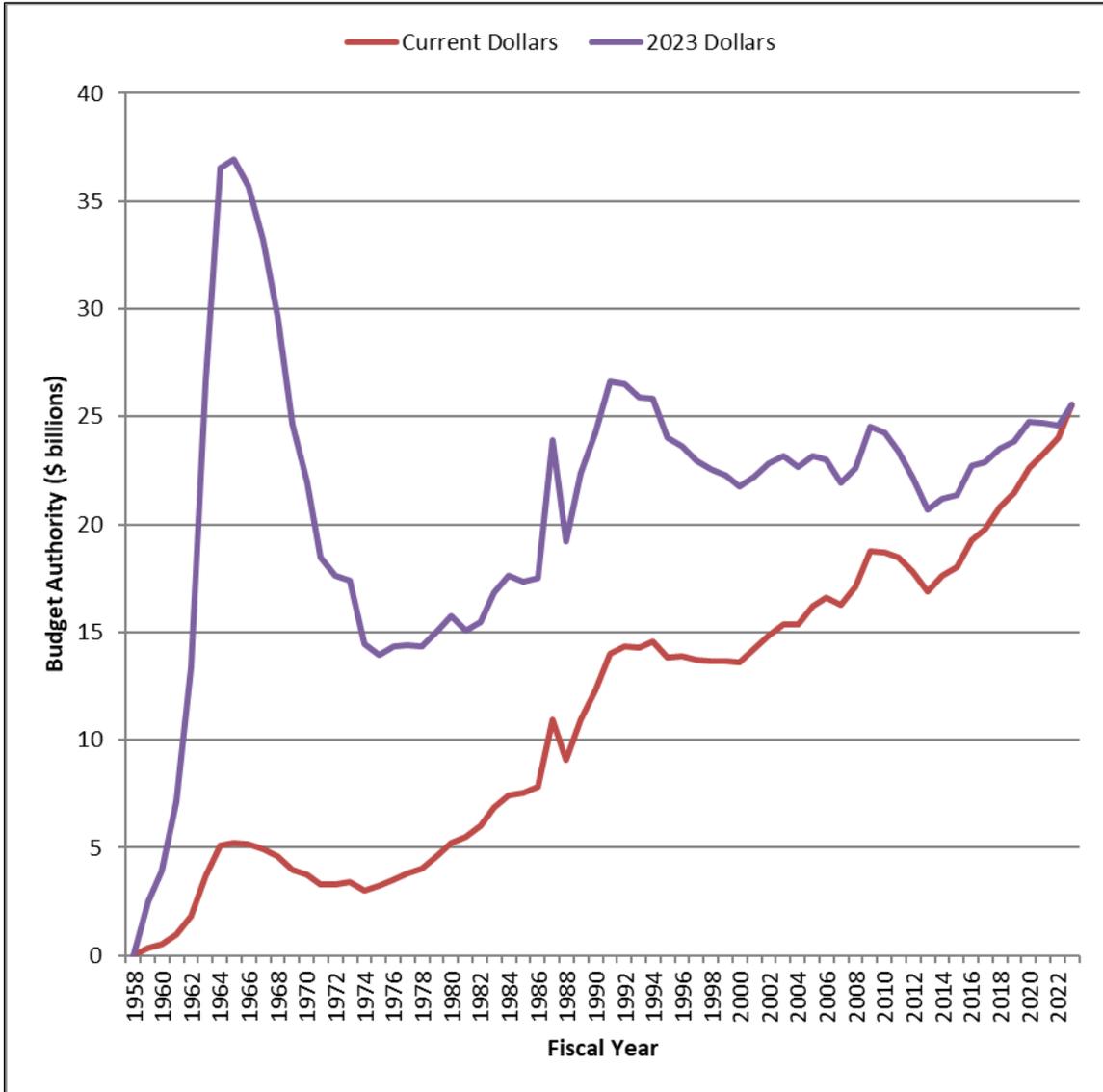
	FY2023 Enacted	FY2024 Appropriations			
		Request	House	Senate	Enacted
Science	\$7,795	\$8,261			
Earth Science	2,195	2,473			
Planetary Science	3,200	3,383			
Astrophysics	1,510	1,557			
Heliophysics	805	751			
Biological and Physical Sciences	85	97			
Aeronautics	935	996			
Space Technology	1,200	1,392			
Exploration / Deep Space Exploration Systems	7,469	7,971			
Common Exploration Systems Development	4,738	4,525			
<i>Orion</i>	1,339	1,225			
<i>Space Launch System</i>	2,600	2,506			
<i>Exploration Ground Systems</i>	799	794			
Artemis Campaign Development	2,600	3,235			
Human Exploration Requirements & Architecture	n/s	49			
Mars Campaign Development	n/s	162			
Space Operations	4,250	4,535			
International Space Station	n/s	1,303			
Space Transportation	n/s	1,957			
Space and Flight Support	n/s	1,047			
Commercial LEO Development	224	228			
STEM Engagement	144	158			
Space Grant	58	58			
EPSCoR	26	26			
MUREP	46	48			
Other	14	26			
Safety, Security, & Mission Services	3,129	3,369			
Construction and EC&R	604^a	454			
Inspector General	48	50			
Total	25,573^a	27,185			

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.

Notes: Some totals may not add because of rounding. 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 \$556.4 million in emergency supplemental funding provided in Division N of P.L. 117-328.

Figure I. NASA Funding, FY1958-FY2023



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 and FY2023 as in **Table I**. Current dollars deflated to FY2023 dollars using GDP (chained) price index from President’s budget for FY2023, Historical Table 10.1, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/historical-tables/>.

Note: Transition quarter between FY1976 and FY1977 not shown.

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