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NASA Appropriations and Authorizations: A Fact Sheet

Updated March 12, 2024

Congressional Research Service
https://crsreports.congress.gov
R43419

CRS REPORT
Prepared for Members and
Committees of Congress

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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 FY2025 and congressional action on FY2025 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 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); FY2024 appropriations recommended by the Senate Committee on Appropriations (S. 2321 as reported and S.Rept. 118-62); and FY2024 appropriations provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (P.L. 118-42). Note that the NASA Authorization Act of 2022 did not include authorizations of appropriations for NASA for FY2024.

Table 3 shows FY2024 regular appropriations as enacted and the Administration's request for FY2025.

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 R&D as Artemis Campaign Development. In the FY2025 budget, NASA renamed the latter two items as Moon to Mars Transportation System and 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 1. 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**
Exploration Systems Development	4,087	4,513	4,539	4,591	4,717	4,533
Orion	*1,350*	*1,407*	*1,404*	*1,402*	*1,315*	*1,139*
Space Launch System	*2,144*	*2,528*	*2,555*	*2,600*	*2,567*	*2,600*
Exploration Ground Systems	*593*	*578*	*580*	*589*	*835*	*794*
Expl. R&D / Artemis Campaign Dev.	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**
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
Space and Flight Support	1,000	857	890	889	983	n/s
Commercial LEO 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 Svcs.	**2,755**	**2,913**[d]	**2,937**	**3,021**	**3,137**	**3,129**
Construction and EC&R	**372**	**433**	**446**	**417**	**612**[e]	**300**
Inspector General	**39**	**42**	**44**	**45**	**48**	**48**
Total	**21,500**	**22,629**[ad]	**23,271**	**24,041**	**25,573**[e]	**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. 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 $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	4,733
Orion	*1,339*	*1,225*	*1,225*	*1,225*	*1,339*
Space Launch System	*2,600*	*2,506*	*2,506*	*2,506*	*2,600*
Exploration Ground Systems	*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
Space and Flight Support	n/s	1,047	n/s	n/s	n/s
Commercial LEO 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: 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.

Table 3. NASA Appropriations, FY2025

(budget authority in $ millions)

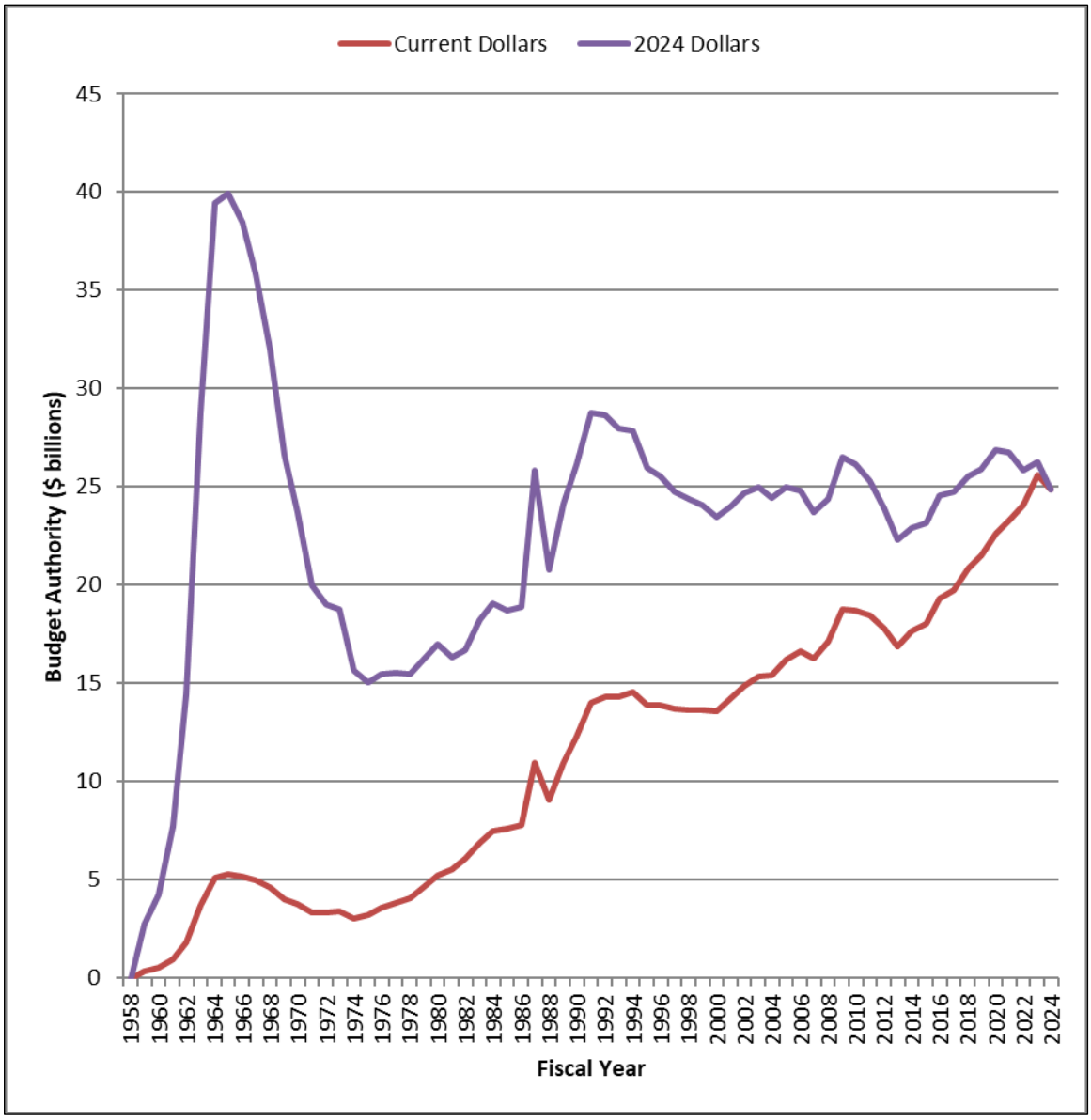
		FY2025 Appropriations			
	FY2024 Enacted	Request	House	Senate	Enacted
Science	**$7,334**	**$7,566**			
Earth Science	2,195	2,379			
Planetary Science	2,717	2,732			
Astrophysics	1,530	1,578			
Heliophysics	805	787			
Biological and Physical Sciences	88	91			
Aeronautics	**935**	**966**			
Space Technology	**1,100**	**1,182**			
Exploration / Deep Space Exploration Systems	**7,666**	**7,618**			
Common Exploration Systems Development[a]	4,733	4,213			
Orion	*1,339*	*1,031*			
Space Launch System	*2,600*	*2,423*			
Exploration Ground Systems	*794*	*759*			
Artemis Campaign Development[b]	n/s	3,288			
Human Exploration Requirements and Architecture	n/s	117			
Mars Campaign Development	n/s	—			
Space Operations	**4,220**	**4,390**			
International Space Station	n/s	1,270			
Space Transportation	n/s	1,862			
Space and Flight Support	n/s	1,088			
Commercial LEO Development	228	170			
STEM Engagement	**143**	**144**			
Space Grant	58	57			
EPSCoR	26	25			
MUREP	46	46			
Other	14	15			
Safety, Security, and Mission Services	**3,129**	**3,044**			
Construction and EC&R	**300**	**424**			
Inspector General	**48**	**51**			
Total	**24,875**	**25,384**			

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.

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. 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.

Figure 1. NASA Funding, FY1958-FY2024



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-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 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.

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