

Voter Guide 2014: Military Spending

National Priorities Project examines issues related to the federal budget in time for the 2014 election.

Military Spending

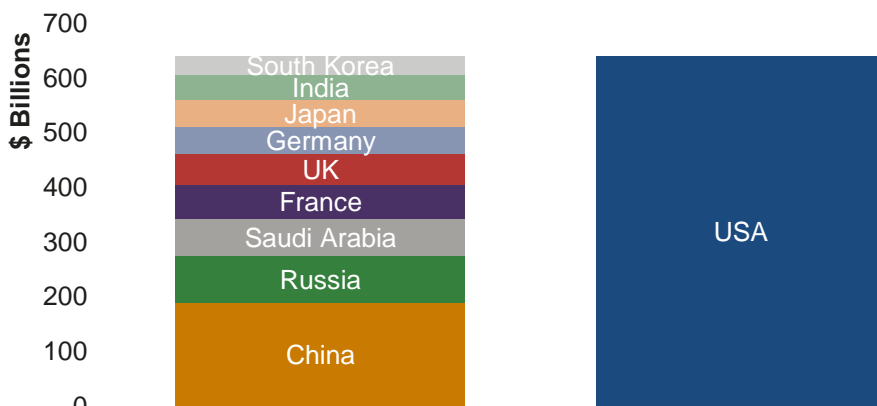
In fiscal year 2015, military spending is projected to account for 16 percent of *all* federal spending and 55 percent of *all federal discretionary* spending (the portion of the federal budget that lawmakers determine each year through the appropriations process). Military discretionary spending for fiscal year 2015 is expected to total \$555 billion, including \$60 billion for war funding. Military spending includes all regular activities of the Department of Defense; war spending; nuclear weapons spending; international military assistance; and other defense related spending.

Military spending projected for 2015 is consistent with previous years, accounting for at least 50 percent, and sometimes close to 60 percent, of all federal discretionary spending.¹

U.S. Military Spending v. the World

- The U.S. outpaces all other nations in military expenditures. World military spending totaled more than \$1.7 trillion in 2013. The U.S. accounted for 37 percent of the total.
- U.S. military expenditures are roughly the size of the next nine largest military budgets around the world, combined.
- U.S. military spending dwarfs the budget of the #2 country – China. For every dollar China spends on its military, the U.S. spends \$3.60.²

U.S. and World Military Spending



Source: SIPRI

Military v. Non-Military Spending

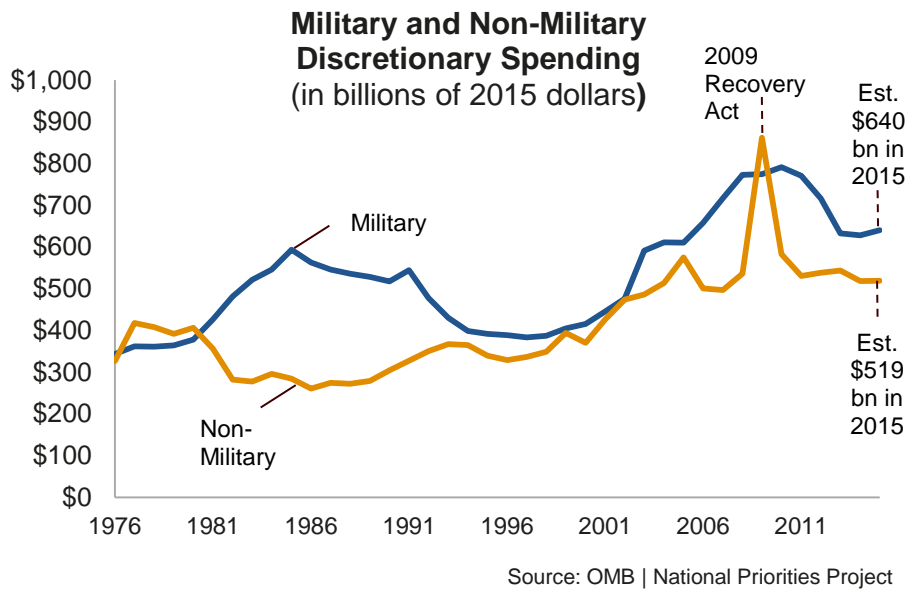
In the decade following Sept. 11, 2001, military spending increased 50 percent, adjusted for inflation. In comparison, spending on domestic discretionary programs – things like the education

of our children, preservation of and care for our environment, and investments in public transit – grew by 13.5 percent over the same time period.

Homeland Security Spending

Total military spending of \$555 billion includes about \$16 billion for military expenses for the Department of Homeland Security. The U.S. also spends money on homeland security that is not designated as military spending, but includes funding for law enforcement, border control and other pseudo-military expenses.

Non-military Department of Homeland Security discretionary funding is expected to be an additional \$43 billion in fiscal year 2015.³



War Costs

By the end of fiscal year 2014, the U.S. government will have spent \$1.57 trillion in direct costs on the wars in Afghanistan (\$751.5 billion) and Iraq (\$817.8 billion).⁴

Public Opinion

When given information about the national defense budget, 58 percent of Americans say they would support substantial reductions in military spending.⁵

What to Ask Your Congressional Candidates

- Does the U.S. spend too much, not enough, or the right amount on the military?
- What is your position on cuts to military spending through sequestration and other measures?

More on Military Spending: bit.ly/NPPmilitary

¹ Office of Management and Budget, 2015 President’s Budget.

² Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, [Military Expenditure Database](#).

³ Office of Management and Budget, 2015 President’s Budget.

⁴ National Priorities Project [Cost of National Security](#).

⁵ Program for Public Consultation [poll](#), conducted Apr. 12-18, 2012.