Discretionary Spending at a Glance

- **$1.2 Trillion**: Discretionary spending by the federal government in 2013
- **$626 Billion**: Spending in 2013 on national defense, the largest component of discretionary spending
- **7.2%**: Discretionary spending as a percentage of gross domestic product in 2013
- **7.3%**: Average discretionary spending as a percentage of gross domestic product between 1993 and 2012

Trends in Discretionary Spending

Percentage of gross domestic product

Discretionary Spending in 2013

- **Defense $626 Billion**
  - Operations and Maintenance
  - Military Personnel
  - Procurement
  - Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation
- **Nondefense $576 Billion**
  - Transportation, Education, Training, Employment, and Social Services
  - Income Security
  - Veterans’ Benefits and Services
  - Health Benefits and Services
  - Administration of Justice
  - International Affairs
  - Other

Includes spending on military construction, family housing, and some defense-related activities by agencies other than the Department of Defense, such as the atomic energy activities of the Department of Energy.

Includes spending for natural resources and environment; general science, space, and technology; general government; community and regional development; agriculture; administrative costs of Medicare and Social Security; energy; and commerce and housing credit programs.

Prepared by Maureen Costantino and Jonathan Schwabish
Source: Congressional Budget Office, April 2014
Contact: CBO Projections Unit, Budget Analysis Division
For more details, see CBO’s Updated Budget Projections: 2014 to 2024 (April 2014), http://go.usa.gov/k2TA.

All data are for federal fiscal years, which run from October 1 to September 30.

Numbers may not add up to totals because of rounding.