Discretionary Spending at a Glance

- **$1.2 Trillion**: Discretionary spending by the federal government in 2015
- **$0.6 Trillion**: Spending in 2015 on national defense, which accounted for half of the discretionary total
- **6.5%**: Discretionary spending as a percentage of gross domestic product in 2015
- **7.2%**: Average discretionary spending as a percentage of gross domestic product between 1995 and 2014

Trends in Discretionary Spending

Percentage of Gross Domestic Product

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Defense</th>
<th>Nondefense</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Discretionary Spending in 2015

Billions of Dollars

- **$247 Billion**
  - Operation and Maintenance
  - Military Personnel
  - Procurement
  - Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation

- **$139 Billion**
  - Education, Training, Employment, and Social Services
  - Veterans’ Benefits and Services
  - Income Security
  - Health
  - International Affairs
  - Administration of Justice
  - Other

- **$582 Billion**
  - 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.

- **$583 Billion**
  - Includes spending for natural resources and the 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.

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.