Discretionary Spending at a Glance

- **$1.2 Trillion**
  - Discretionary spending by the federal government in 2016

- **$0.6 Trillion**
  - Spending on national defense, which accounted for nearly half of the discretionary total, in 2016

- **6.4%**
  - Discretionary spending as a percentage of gross domestic product in 2016

- **7.2%**
  - Average discretionary spending as a percentage of gross domestic product between 1996 and 2015

Trends in Discretionary Spending

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Defense</th>
<th>Nondefense</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Discretionary Spending in 2016

**Defense**

- $242 Billion
- **$584 Billion**

**Nondefense**

- $92 Billion
- **$600 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.

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.