

Table RD-15

Federal obligations for R&D and R&D plant, by agency: FYs 2008–21

(Millions of dollars)

Agency	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016 ^a	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 ^b
All agencies	129,049.5	144,758.1	146,967.8	139,703.3	140,670.2	127,625.5	132,779.0	131,578.3	118,273.8	121,626.6	133,277.5	146,800.7	173,552.9	185,408.1
Department of Defense	71,996.6	75,973.7	73,623.9	75,328.2	73,973.6	63,654.7	65,128.6	61,683.0	44,926.7	45,163.8	53,444.0	59,389.2	67,006.8	69,456.0
Department of Health and Human Services	29,700.7	35,735.9	37,616.9	30,928.0	31,335.8	29,512.8	30,799.1	30,425.5	32,366.8	33,901.8	37,115.8	39,434.2	61,774.8	71,189.0
Department of Energy	8,990.3	11,562.2	11,644.9	10,680.4	10,635.2	10,397.1	11,296.3	12,343.0	13,343.2	13,583.9	14,894.1	16,621.9	15,778.0	17,241.2
National Aeronautics and Space Administration	5,847.1	5,957.6	8,691.3	8,429.0	10,758.3	10,494.3	10,880.6	11,413.1	12,461.7	12,638.1	10,813.9	13,616.4	10,573.6	8,833.5
National Science Foundation	4,506.4	6,924.8	6,073.4	5,536.6	5,705.4	5,328.5	5,800.2	5,989.7	6,022.3	5,945.7	6,358.0	6,648.3	6,792.5	6,938.9
Department of Agriculture	2,246.0	2,344.7	2,615.4	2,376.9	2,187.6	2,031.2	2,269.0	2,352.0	2,380.4	2,575.2	2,522.7	2,666.1	3,433.5	2,769.7
Department of Commerce	1,196.4	1,533.4	1,683.2	1,308.9	1,230.7	1,293.9	1,567.8	1,519.4	1,635.6	1,847.1	1,832.3	1,999.0	1,980.9	2,432.7
Department of Veterans Affairs	480.0	510.0	563.0	612.9	614.8	639.0	588.8	661.6	695.2	682.3	1,349.0	1,507.9	1,565.1	1,689.4
Department of Transportation	825.2	846.2	929.2	861.8	936.1	875.8	847.7	884.5	961.5	987.0	1,076.6	1,051.7	1,224.5	1,180.6
Department of the Interior	645.3	738.8	728.0	716.5	742.7	717.3	762.4	808.7	859.9	868.1	768.6	831.5	844.4	891.1
Department of Homeland Security	1,056.8	983.6	1,131.8	1,127.5	832.2	718.8	943.8	1,645.2	689.2	869.9	913.1	648.5	507.5	541.0
Environmental Protection Agency	532.0	552.8	572.3	581.7	581.1	529.7	538.0	520.7	513.3	498.4	492.1	490.0	493.0	524.1
Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Trust Fund	na	na	na	41.1	41.1	334.4	282.6	152.1	114.9	883.9	491.7	578.4	469.7	390.9
Smithsonian Institution	188.0	226.7	213.0	248.7	246.2	240.3	230.9	229.0	235.0	240.5	260.6	269.0	276.0	281.0
Department of Education	328.1	322.4	362.8	346.1	338.0	309.9	322.0	251.3	244.4	261.8	266.2	235.8	240.1	379.2
Agency for International Development	123.8	160.1	84.3	119.2	77.4	125.5	59.9	212.2	192.8	192.2	166.6	220.6	194.3	194.3
Department of Justice	114.5	103.4	125.4	102.3	85	118.7	160.5	149.7	208.0	126.9	106.6	121.2	96.4	99.5
Social Security Administration	54.1	67.9	63.0	53.0	64.9	56.7	59.6	58.9	129	109.5	71.6	146.2	69.7	129.4
All other agencies	218.2	213.9	246.0	304.5	284.1	246.9	241.2	278.7	293.9	250.5	334.0	324.8	232.1	246.6

na = not applicable.

^a Beginning in FY 2016 (and continuing in subsequent years), agency reports of obligations for R&D reflect the application of a definition for development that is narrowed to experimental development. This revision was introduced to align federal R&D budget formulation consistent with the Office of Management and Budget's Circular A-11, Section 84. This change in definition applies to all agencies, but the predominant impact is that the Department of Defense's (DOD's) Operational Systems Development (Budget Activity 7) is no longer included as development. DOD Operational Systems Development was about \$24.6 billion in FY 2016, \$26.0 billion in FY 2017, \$26.7 billion in FY 2018, \$35.2 billion in FY 2019, and \$37.3 billion in FY 2020. Accordingly, the All agencies and DOD R&D obligations totals listed above for FYs 2016–21 are not directly comparable with those for FY 2015 and earlier years.

^b The data for FY 2021 are preliminary and may later be revised. Obligations for FYs 2020 and 2021 include the additional funding provided by supplemental COVID-19 related appropriations in these years (i.e., the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act of March 2020, the American Rescue Plan Act of March 2021, and several other enacted spending authorizations in these fiscal years).

Note(s):

Table lists (in general) agencies with R&D and R&D plant obligations greater than \$100 million in FY 2020. Agency rankings are based on the FY 2020 data. All other agencies includes the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of Labor, Department of State, Department of the Treasury, Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Appalachian Regional Commission, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Federal Communications Commission, Federal Trade Commission, Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Commission, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Tennessee Valley Authority, RESTORE Act Centers, U.S. Agency for Global Media, and U.S. Postal Service.

Source(s):

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Federal Funds for Research and Development, Volume 70, FYs 2020–21.