

TABLE 6

Department of Defense, total obligational authority for research, development, test, and evaluation, by DOD budget activity: FYs 2023–25

(Millions of dollars and percent change)

Funding category and agency	Budget Activity	2023 actual	2024 preliminary ^a	2025 proposed	2023–24 (% change)	2024–25 (% change)
RDT&E total budget authority	--	141,379	115,427	143,548	-18.4	24.4
R&D budget authority within RDT&E accounts ^b	--	92,389	96,800	90,807	4.8	-6.2
RDT&E total obligational authority ^c	--	140,893	114,516	143,157	-18.7	25.0
Basic research		2,794	2,628	2,453	-5.9	-6.7
Defense agencies		882	802	819	-9.1	2.2
Department of the Air Force		569	567	505	-0.4	-10.9
Space Force		53	35	36	-35.2	4.6
Department of the Army		617	561	514	-9.0	-8.5
Department of the Navy	1	672	664	578	-1.3	-12.9
Applied research		7,716	7,593	5,796	-1.6	-23.7
Defense agencies		2,342	2,288	2,290	-2.3	0.1
Department of the Air Force		1,748	1,843	1,351	5.4	-26.7
Space Force		370	343	245	-7.3	-28.5
Department of the Army		1,801	1,716	934	-4.7	-45.6
Department of the Navy	2	1,455	1,403	975	-3.6	-30.5
Advanced technology development		11,754	11,287	8,959	-4.0	-20.6
Defense agencies		6,305	5,726	5,209	-9.2	-9.0
Department of the Air Force		1,059	1,151	820	8.6	-28.7
Space Force		589	710	563	20.5	-20.7
Department of the Army		2,526	2,352	1,386	-6.9	-41.1
Department of the Navy	3	1,275	1,348	980	5.7	-27.3
Advanced component development and prototypes		34,894	39,682	37,131	13.7	-6.4
Defense agencies		10,996	11,708	11,285	6.5	-3.6
Department of the Air Force		8,087	9,829	11,486	21.5	16.9
Space Force		2,904	3,873	4,551	33.3	17.5
Department of the Army		4,577	4,336	2,344	-5.3	-45.9
Department of the Navy	4	8,330	9,936	7,465	19.3	-24.9
System development and demonstration		22,610	26,211	26,933	15.9	2.8
Defense agencies		961	1,441	1,016	49.9	-29.5
Department of the Air Force		5,747	7,250	6,172	26.1	-14.9
Space Force		5,447	5,652	5,651	3.8	0.0
Department of the Army		4,078	5,091	6,151	24.9	20.8
Department of the Navy	5	6,378	6,777	7,943	6.3	17.2
RDT&E management support		12,622	9,399	9,534	-25.5	1.4
Defense agencies		3,040	2,074	2,319	-31.8	11.8
Department of the Air Force		4,142	3,536	3,465	-14.6	-2.0
Space Force		959	492	567	-48.7	15.2
Department of the Army		2,169	1,703	1,707	-21.5	0.3
Department of the Navy		1,865	1,148	1,127	-38.5	-1.8
Operational test and evaluation	6	446	446	349	0.0	-21.8
Operational System Development		48,017	16,805	51,959	-65.0	209.2
Defense agencies		10,478	3,249	12,154	-69.0	274.1
Department of the Air Force		23,662	6,543	25,309	-72.3	286.8
Space Force		6,482	1,592	6,929	-75.4	335.2
Department of the Army		1,239	1,225	962	-1.2	-21.4
Department of the Navy	7	6,156	4,197	6,605	-31.8	57.4

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Software and Digital Technology Pilot Programs		487	911	391	87.2	-57.0
Defense agencies		176	662	135	275.8	-79.7
Department of the Air Force		0	0	0	-	-
Space Force		192	122	157	-36.3	28.6
Department of the Army		92	104	75	12.5	-28.4
Department of the Navy	8	26	22	25	-13.8	11.2

DOD = Department of Defense; RDT&E = research, development, test, and evaluation.

^a The preliminary data available from the agencies for FY 2024 at the time of this report reflect the annualized continuing resolution funding levels that existed through early-March 2024 and not those of the finalized appropriations enacted shortly thereafter.

^b Totals for development spending across all years do not include DOD Budget Activity 7 (BA 7) (Operational System Development) and Budget Activity 8 (BA 8) (Software and Digital Technology Pilot Programs), due to implementation of the narrowed definition of development described by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in its Circular A-11 of July 2016. BA 7 funds support development efforts to upgrade systems that have been fielded or have received approval for full-rate production and anticipate production funding in the current or subsequent fiscal year. BA 8 funds the acquisition of services, business process re-engineering activities, functional requirements development, technical evaluations, and other activities in direct support of acquiring, developing, deploying, sustaining, enhancing, and modernizing Software and Digital Technology Pilot Programs, and BA 8 funds the purchase of commercial off the shelf software, tools, and services.

^c RDT&E budget activity codes are broad categories reflecting different types of RDT&E efforts, as specified in the DOD Financial Management Regulation.

Note(s):

Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Percent change is calculated on unrounded data.

Source(s):Agencies' submissions to OMB per MAX Schedule C, agencies' budget justification documents, supplemental data obtained from agencies' budget offices, and Executive Office of the President, OMB, *Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2025*.