

Table 6. Department of Defense, total obligational authority for research, development, test, and evaluation, by DOD budget activity: FYs 2024–26

(Millions of dollars and percent change)

Funding category and agency	Budget activity	2024 actual (\$millions)	2025 preliminary ^a (\$millions)	2026 proposed (\$millions)	2024–25 (% change)	2025–26 (% change)
RDT&E total budget authority	-	148,107	141,352	141,189	-4.6	-0.1
R&D budget authority within RDT&E accounts ^b	-	96,675	89,159	85,964	-7.8	-3.6
RDT&E total obligational authority ^c	-	148,107	141,352	141,189	-4.6	-0.1
Basic research		2,628	2,474	2,074	-5.9	-16.2
Defense agencies		802	811	575	1.2	-29.1
Department of the Air Force		567	508	397	-10.3	-21.9
Space Force		34.5	36.08	36.839	4.6	2.1
Department of the Army		561	505	487	-10.0	-3.7
Department of the Navy	1	664	613	578	-7.6	-5.7
Applied research		7,593	6,251	5,799	-17.7	-7.2
Defense agencies		2,288	2,276	2,400	-0.5	5.5
Department of the Air Force		1,843	1,400	1,306	-24.0	-6.7
Space Force		343	256	278	-25.3	8.6
Department of the Army		1,716	1,162	861	-32.3	-25.9
Department of the Navy	2	1,403	1,157	955	-17.5	-17.5
Advanced technology development		11,287	10,136	9,985	-10.2	-1.5
Defense agencies		5,726	5,773	6,220	0.8	7.8
Department of the Air Force		1,151	814	834	-29.3	2.6
Space Force		710	750	589	5.7	-21.6
Department of the Army		2,352	1,696	1,240	-27.9	-26.9
Department of the Navy	3	1,348	1,104	1,101	-18.1	-0.2
Advanced component development and prototypes		39,682	35,995	30,781	-9.3	-14.5
Defense agencies		11,708	10,667	10,390	-8.9	-2.6
Department of the Air Force		9,829	11,102	6,267	12.9	-43.5
Space Force		3,873	4,196	4,248	8.4	1.2
Department of the Army		4,336	2,170	2,421	-49.9	11.5
Department of the Navy	4	9,936	7,860	7,454	-20.9	-5.2
System development and demonstration		26,195	24,466	27,483	-6.6	12.3
Defense agencies		1,424	1,017	1,015	-28.6	-0.3
Department of the Air Force		7,250	4,791	9,765	-33.9	103.8
Space Force		5,652	5,433	3,892	-3.9	-28.4
Department of the Army		5,091	5,759	5,379	13.1	-6.6
Department of the Navy	5	6,777	7,466	7,432	10.2	-0.5
RDT&E management support		9,290	9,837	9,842	5.9	0.1
Defense agencies		2,074	2,547	2,032	22.8	-20.2
Department of the Air Force		3,536	3,460	3,804	-2.1	9.9
Space Force		492	571	633	16.0	10.8
Department of the Army		1,703	1,783	1,956	4.7	9.7
Department of the Navy		1,148	1,127	1,068	-1.8	-5.2
Operational test and evaluation	6	337	349	349	3.3	0.0
Operational System Development		50,560	51,899	54,396	2.6	4.8
Defense agencies		12,095	12,098	10,594	0.0	-12.4
Department of the Air Force		23,165	24,806	29,644	7.1	19.5
Space Force		7,443	7,165	5,638	-3.7	-21.3
Department of the Army	7	1,253	1,214	1,427	-3.1	17.5

Table 6. Department of Defense, total obligational authority for research, development, test, and evaluation, by DOD budget activity: FYs 2024–26

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Department of the Navy		6,604	6,616	7,093	0.2	7.2
Software and Digital Technology Pilot Programs		872	295	829	-66.2	181.6
Defense agencies		623	50	513	-92.1	936.3
Department of the Air Force		0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Space Force		122	146	201	19.1	38.0
Department of the Army		104	75	89	-28.4	19.7
Department of the Navy	8	22	25	26	11.2	4.2

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

^a The preliminary data available from the agencies for FY 2025 at the time of this report reflect mainly the annualized continuing resolution funding levels that existed through early March 2025, which were later extended by a continuing resolution to the end of FY 2025. It does not include any funding received through reconciliation.

^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 2026*.