

Table 23. Federal funding for basic research, by budget function: FYs 1978–2026

(Millions of dollars)

Fiscal year	Total for all budget functions	National defense (050)	International affairs (150)	General science and basic research (251)	Space flight, research, and supporting activities (252)	Energy (270)	Natural resources and environment (300)	Agriculture (350)	Commerce and housing credit (370)	Transportation (400)	Community and regional development (450)	Education, training, employment, and social services (500)	Health (550)	Medicare (570)	Income security (600)	Veterans benefits and services (700)	Administration of justice (750)	General government (800)	Other ^a
1978	3,665	320	*	962	412	157	207	197	9	70	8	57	1,246	0	2	9	10	0	na
1979	4,108	365	0	1,026	440	172	131	222	10	75	8	59	1,579	0	1	10	10	*	na
1980	4,716	552	0	1,152	482	200	136	246	15	79	8	61	1,761	0	1	14	9	*	na
1981	5,107	610	12	1,256	445	220	131	281	17	89	5	66	1,951	0	3	15	5	3	na
1982	5,305	696	10	1,296	434	260	139	295	17	102	7	78	1,953	0	0	13	4	2	na
1983	6,247	788	10	1,439	501	320	156	326	19	117	6	70	2,475	0	0	14	4	3	na
1984	7,072	845	3	1,606	646	365	192	353	20	125	5	77	2,813	0	0	15	5	3	na
1985	7,810	856	4	1,779	498	428	206	406	23	255	6	86	3,243	0	0	15	4	4	na
1986	8,193	960	5	1,795	737	456	204	390	26	184	6	83	3,324	0	0	15	5	5	na
1987	9,021	900	3	1,942	843	511	206	397	26	231	4	78	3,851	0	0	17	8	4	na
1988	9,553	905	3	2,061	944	571	210	428	28	197	7	83	4,087	0	0	17	8	5	na
1989	10,648	965	3	2,265	1,099	703	331	433	29	287	3	92	4,413	0	0	16	7	3	na
1990	11,288	964	4	2,306	1,389	761	336	456	31	242	3	106	4,661	0	0	16	9	3	na
1991	12,405	1,188	6	2,526	1,479	878	389	486	39	246	10	115	5,021	0	0	16	6	0	na
1992	12,973	1,147	6	2,532	1,499	921	383	528	35	266	11	118	5,506	0	0	16	5	0	na
1993	13,440	1,323	8	2,553	1,588	917	376	553	34	238	10	121	5,700	0	0	16	5	0	na
1994	13,552	1,174	6	2,542	1,796	921	224	567	38	220	9	145	5,889	0	0	16	5	0	na
1995	13,772	1,181	0	2,622	1,614	930	187	565	35	389	3	153	6,068	0	0	16	9	0	na
1996	14,442	1,165	2	2,662	1,685	1,182	147	547	37	456	0	140	6,395	0	0	13	12	0	na
1997	14,961	1,090	2	2,753	1,653	1,288	153	548	34	420	0	142	6,852	0	0	14	13	0	na
1998	15,523	1,067	1	4,121	1,610	34	145	571	35	411	0	133	7,356	0	0	23	16	0	na
1999	17,433	1,110	0	4,464	1,667	36	142	602	41	358	0	99	8,634	0	0	263	18	0	na
2000	19,470	1,184	42	4,722	1,616	36	146	651	39	542	0	107	10,099	0	0	266	20	0	na
2001	21,376	1,303	50	5,187	1,695	40	215	749	50	17	0	112	11,642	0	0	289	27	0	na
2002	23,848	1,404	53	5,561	1,912	45	471	762	56	17	0	115	12,957	0	0	465	30	0	na
2003	25,323	1,409	18	5,907	2,206	40	185	824	53	23	1	125	14,162	0	0	327	42	0	na
2004	26,529	1,380	18	6,198	2,473	32	201	780	46	20	0	125	14,850	0	0	347	58	0	na
2005	27,678	1,508	18	6,238	2,486	31	195	789	53	65	0	130	15,826	0	0	297	42	0	na
2006	27,336	1,490	18	6,406	2,299	8	195	805	66	0	0	131	15,532	0	0	318	68	0	na

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2007	28,166	1,533	18	6,887	2,318	7	260	821	92	2	0	149	15,637	0	0	335	106	0	na
2008	28,740	1,631	18	7,260	2,183	16	210	790	98	0	0	146	15,909	0	0	354	125	0	na
2009 ^b	36,400	1,772	18	10,727	932	28	219	799	152	0	0	155	21,108	0	0	375	115	0	na
Non-ARRA	28,161	1,769	18	7,913	900	28	219	799	112	0	0	145	15,767	0	0	375	115	0	na
ARRA	8,240	3	0	2,814	32	0	0	0	40	0	0	10	5,341	0	0	0	0	0	na
2010	29,614	1,849	0	8,578	1,109	57	223	881	131	0	0	174	16,125	0	0	413	74	0	na
2011	29,888	1,940	0	8,738	1,199	47	218	823	154	0	0	207	16,002	0	0	438	122	0	na
2012	31,846	2,066	0	8,491	3,181	57	135	847	163	0	0	206	16,196	0	0	470	33	0	na
2013	30,202	1,950	0	8,147	2,950	17	120	762	192	0	0	208	15,317	0	0	476	63	0	na
2014	32,086	2,167	0	8,739	3,320	16	252	790	213	0	0	227	15,853	0	0	451	58	0	na
2015	31,821	2,213	1	9,308	3,210	55	254	793	214	0	0	217	15,014	0	0	484	58	0	na
2016	32,821	2,335	1	9,282	3,578	51	257	829	235	0	0	244	15,565	0	0	386	58	0	na
2017	34,061	2,304	0	9,168	3,606	21	268	903	234	0	0	258	16,701	0	0	538	59	0	na
2018	36,208	2,381	0	9,932	3,281	50	255	909	222	0	1	335	18,255	0	0	530	57	0	na
2019	39,352	2,613	0	10,177	4,948	49	330	965	233	0	2	329	19,056	0	0	600	52	0	na
2020 ^c	44,331	2,686	0	10,782	6,655	51	117	1,028	241	16	2	348	21,826	0	0	523	57	0	na
2021 ^c	42,883	2,698	4	11,423	5,162	19	118	1,163	260	16	0	340	21,051	0	0	566	63	0	na
2022 ^c	45,222	2,653	7	11,962	5,718	170	149	1,417	270	0	0	324	21,844	0	0	619	88	0	na
2023	47,021	3,013	2	12,875	5,115	24	222	1,271	316	0	0	343	23,097	0	0	683	60	0	na
2024	44,942	2,820	2	12,140	4,344	27	40	1,388	314	0	0	351	22,734	0	0	765	17	0	na
2025 preliminary ^d	44,686	2,715	2	12,216	4,414	11	40	1,421	260	0	0	351	22,421	0	0	818	16	0	na
2026 proposed	29,533	2,263	2	8,121	2,564	12	15	1,069	210	0	0	283	14,158	0	0	823	13	0	na

* = amount less than \$500,000; na = not applicable.

ARRA = American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

^a Other includes amounts not explicitly tallied in one of the separately identified categories.

^b Total for FY 2009 is the sum of non-ARRA and ARRA funds.

^c Agencies in several functions received emergency COVID-19 pandemic-related funding for R&D or R&D plant in FYs 2020–22. This funding may be included in this table's data; agency reporting is not clear in all cases.

^d 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.

Note(s):

Not all basic research funded by the federal government falls into the General science and basic research category. Federal funding for basic research arises in other functional categories—such as National defense or Health—and is included in the category funding totals there. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. In FY 1998, many Department of Energy programs were reclassified from Energy to General science and basic research. In FY 1998, the Department of Veterans Affairs began reporting medical care support funds as a part of its total research budgetary resources; the change is reflected in the budget authority for Veterans benefits and services. In FY 2000, the National Institutes of Health in the Department of Health and Human Services classified all of its previous development activities as basic research or applied research, with a resulting increase in Health basic research. In FY 2000, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) transferred funding for the International Space Station program from R&D to R&D plant; the change is reflected in the budget authority for Space flight, research, and supporting activities. In FY 2004, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) changed its R&D portfolio to reclassify funding in General science and basic research and in Agriculture as Administration of justice. In FY 2007, DHS changed its R&D portfolio to reclassify funding in National defense and most Administration of justice as General science and basic research; in FY 2013, this was reclassified back to Administration of justice. In FYs 2009 and 2012, NASA revised the classification of its R&D and non-R&D funding.

Source(s):

Data from FYs 1978–94 are from agencies' submissions to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Circular A-11, exhibit 44A, "Research and development activities," and from supplemental data obtained from agencies' budget offices. Data from FYs 1995–2026 are from 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*.