The Human Cost of Nuclear Weapons Spending

- Article 26 of the United Nations Charter places an obligation on the UN Security Council to facilitate disarmament “in order to promote the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources.”
- Nuclear weapons spending drains government resources and creates a trade-off with funding human needs. (From ICAN)
  - “As hundreds of millions of people across the globe go hungry, the nuclear-armed nations spend close to $300 million a day on their nuclear forces.”
  - “The production, maintenance and modernization of nuclear forces diverts vast public resources away from health care, education, climate change mitigation, disaster relief, development assistance and other vital services. Globally, annual expenditure on nuclear weapons is estimated at US$105 billion – or $12 million an hour. The World Bank forecast in 2002 that an annual investment of just US$40–60 billion, or roughly half the amount currently spent on nuclear weapons, would be enough to meet the internationally agreed Millennium Development Goals on poverty alleviation by the target date of 2015.”
  - “Nuclear weapons spending in 2010 was more than twice the official development assistance provided to Africa and equal to the gross domestic product of Bangladesh, a nation of some 160 million people. The Office for Disarmament Affairs – the principal UN body responsible for advancing a nuclear-weapon-free world – has an annual budget of $10 million, which is less than the amount spent on nuclear weapons every hour.”
**Community Cost Calculator, from PSR-LA**

- According to PSR-LA’s community cost calculator, the total U.S. nuclear weapons programs expenditures for 2016 = $57.6 billion
- Go to the calculator to find the cost of nuclear weapons to your community.

**Cost of the Nuclear Weapons Enterprise**

- According to the [CBO](https://www.cbo.gov), the projected costs of U.S. nuclear forces for the Department of Defense and Department of Energy in 2017 is estimated to be $26.8 billion.
- The [CBO](https://www.cbo.gov) estimates that projected spending on the U.S. nuclear weapons system over the next ten years will reach $400 billion.
  - $189 billion for strategic nuclear delivery systems, including SSBNs, ICBMs, and long-range bombers.
  - $9 billion for tactical nuclear deliver systems and weapons, involving tactical aircrafts that deliver nuclear weapons over short ranges.
  - $87 billion for nuclear weapons laboratories and production facilities.
  - $58 billion for command, control, and early-warning systems.
  - The remaining $56 billion reflects estimates of additional costs that are anticipated to exceed planned amounts.
- Over the next 30 years, investments to upgrade and maintain the U.S. nuclear weapons program are estimated to cost more than $1 trillion.

**Estimated Costs for Nuclear “Modernization” Plan, from the Arms Control Association**

![Estimated Costs for Nuclear Triad Modernization](image_url)

*In FY2017 constant dollars; includes only a small portion of the cost of the B-21
Note: All figures in then-year dollars unless otherwise noted
Updated April 7, 2017.*
# Cost of Nuclear Weapons System, from the [Arms Control Association](https://www.armscontrol.org)

## US NUCLEAR MODERNIZATION PROGRAMS

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<th>System</th>
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<tr>
<td>Minuteman III ICBM</td>
<td>Modernization and Replacement Program</td>
<td>$7 billion</td>
<td>through 2030 and possibly longer</td>
<td>Modernizes the propellant, guidance systems, propulsion system, targeting system, reentry vehicles and continues work on the rocket motors</td>
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<tr>
<td>New ICBM (GBSD)</td>
<td>Replace the Minuteman III missile and associated launch control and command and control facilities</td>
<td>&gt;$85 billion (DoD estimate; FY 2015-2044)</td>
<td>2080s</td>
<td>Air Force plans to purchase 666 new ICBMs</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-2 Bomber</td>
<td>Modernization Program</td>
<td>$9.5 billion (FY 2000-2014)</td>
<td>2050s</td>
<td>Improves radar and high frequency satellite communications capabilities for nuclear command and control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-52H Bomber</td>
<td>On-going modifications</td>
<td></td>
<td>2040s</td>
<td>Incorporates global positioning systems, updates computers and modernizes heavy stores adapter beams, and a full array of advance weapons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long Range Strike Bomber (B-21)</td>
<td>Research and development phase</td>
<td>$38.5 billion (FY 2017-2026)</td>
<td>2080s</td>
<td>The exact specifications of the new bomber are classified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Range Standoff Cruise Missile (LRSO)</td>
<td>Replacement for the ALCM</td>
<td>$20 billion (estimated; includes cost of W80-4 warhead refurbishment)</td>
<td>2060s</td>
<td>Air Force plans to procure ~1,000 LRSOs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbia Class SSBN (SSBN(X))</td>
<td>New ballistic missile submarine</td>
<td>$128 billion (2016 Navy acquisition estimate)</td>
<td>2031 - 2080s</td>
<td>Navy plans to purchase 12 new submarines to replace the existing 14 Ohio-class submarines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trident II DS SLBM LEP</td>
<td>Modernization and life extension</td>
<td></td>
<td>2042</td>
<td></td>
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Trump's budget proposal significantly increases spending on nuclear weapons

“Trump budget: an extra billion dollars for nuclear weapons,” Center for Public Integrity, Patrick Malone & R. Jeffrey Smith, 3/17/17

- “The $1.4 billion budget increase for the National Nuclear Security Administration amounts to just a small fraction of the overall $54 billion boost he requested over the military’s roughly $639 billion 2017 budget, but it is a proportionally higher increase (11 percent) than the Defense Department itself would get (8 percent), signaling that he and his advisers feel the U.S. nuclear weapons program deserves special treatment.”

- “The 64-page budget document released by the White House on March 16 — and entitled “America First: A Budget Blueprint to Make America Great Again” — contained only a few sentences about the proposal, which would give the NNSA a total of $14.3 billion in fiscal year 2018. But the blueprint said the new spending would support “the goals of moving toward a responsive nuclear infrastructure and advancing the existing program of record for warhead life extension programs.”

Comprehensive overview of Trump's skinny budget – breakdown and analysis from the Washington Post

Department of Defense
- The Defense Department would get a 9 percent increase in discretionary funding — but only about 3 percent more than what it spent last year. President Trump has cast it as a historic increase in defense spending, but critics say it is actually more of an incremental boost and much smaller than what he promised on the campaign trail.
  - Increases the size of the Army and Marine Corps
    - Increases the number of ships in the Navy’s fleet
    - Buys F-35 Joint Strike Fighters more rapidly
    - Increases spending to keep Air Force combat planes ready to fly

State Department
- The 29 percent proposed cut to the State Department refocuses economic and development aid to countries of the greatest strategic importance to the U.S., and it shifts some foreign military aid from grants to loans.
  - Eliminates climate-change prevention programs, including pledged payments to U.N. climate-change programs
  - Reduces funding for U.N. peacekeeping
  - Reduces funding for development banks such as the World Bank
  - Reduces most cultural-exchange programs, but keeps the Fulbright Program
Military Budget statistics
The U.S. already spends more on defense than the next seven countries combined (SIPRI):

The United States spends more on defense than the next seven countries combined

DEFENSE SPENDING (BILLIONS OF DOLLARS)

$567 Billion

$596 Billion

China
Saudi Arabia
Russia
United Kingdom
India
France
Japan

SOURCE: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, SIPRI Military Expenditure Database, April 2016. Data are for 2015. Compiled by PGPF.
NOTE: Figures are in U.S. dollars, converted from local currencies using market exchange rates.