

Defense by the numbers

Defense economy



19th

The US Department of Defense (DOD) would be the world's 19th largest economy, with defense spending of \$711 billion in 2011

19%

Decline of Western and Central European defense spending since its peak (2011 vs. 1988)

45%

Share of defense spending that emerging economies, including China and Russia, may account for by 2020 (vs. 23% in 2011)

1/5

Russia's defense spending, in comparison to Western and Central Europe's—down from about 1/2 near the end of the Cold War (1988)

People



77%

Size of armed forces of NATO¹ members compared with BRIC² countries

3 million

Number of DOD employees—about 1/3 more than the United States's largest private-sector employer, Wal-Mart

5.3 million

Number of employees of the world's two largest employers—the US DOD and China's People's Liberation Army

¹North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

²Brazil, Russia, India, and China.

Readiness



\$77 billion

DOD's annual RDT&E³ spending equals the R&D spending of the United State's 12 largest corporations

28%

Amount of European forces that are deployable, compared with a NATO goal of 50% (and 70% in the United States)

43%

Share of US Air Force active-fleet aircraft that is over 24 years old

Future of defense



600x

Flight hours of US-operated UAVs⁴ in peak year (2009, 600,000 hours) vs. 1987 (1,000 hours)

6x

The factor of growth in the number of lines of code (now 9.5 million) in the onboard software of the Joint Strike Fighter vs. the F/A-18 E/F

\$15 billion

Annual spending of US DOD on fuel—roughly equal to France's annual defense-procurement spending

³Research, development, test, and evaluation.

⁴Unmanned aerial vehicles.