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**Level 1 – 30th April 2026**

## **Global military spending hits record \$2.9 trillion**

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260430-global-military-spending-1.html>

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**Please try Levels 0, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260430-global-military-spending-1.html>

Military spending hit a record in 2025. New data published by a peace research institute said global defence spending was nearly \$2.9 trillion last year. This was a three per cent rise from 2024. Spending has gone up for eleven years in a row. Europe's defence spending increased by 14 per cent, to \$864 billion. The Asia-Oceania region increased its spending by 8.1 per cent. The USA is the biggest spender. It spent \$954 billion on its military last year.

There are several reasons for the record levels of spending. One reason is that NATO members met their spending targets. Another reason is the Russia-Ukraine war. This is now five years old. Russia spent around 7.5 per cent of its GDP. Ukraine spent 40 per cent. The peace institute said countries are spending more because of today's wars. It added: "This trend will probably continue through 2026 and beyond."

Sources: <https://www.defensenews.com/global/europe/2026/04/27/global-military-spending-surges-and-reaches-record-high/>  
<https://edition.cnn.com/2026/04/27/world/world-military-spending-report-sipri-intl-hnk-ml>  
<https://www.dw.com/en/sipri-record-arms-spending-again/a-76901397>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260430-global-military-spending-1.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. Military spending hit a               | a. increased       |
| 2. a peace research                      | b. on its military |
| 3. This was a three per cent             | c. in a row        |
| 4. Spending has gone up for eleven years | d. institute       |
| 5. Europe's defence spending             | e. record in 2025  |
| 6. The Asia-Oceania region increased     | f. spender         |
| 7. the USA is the biggest                | g. rise from 2024  |
| 8. It spent \$954 billion                | h. its spending    |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                      |                       |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. there are several                 | a. members            |
| 2. the record levels                 | b. through 2026       |
| 3. NATO                              | c. Russia-Ukraine war |
| 4. met their spending                | d. reasons            |
| 5. Another reason is the             | e. institute          |
| 6. This is now five years            | f. targets            |
| 7. peace                             | g. of spending        |
| 8. This trend will probably continue | h. old                |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260430-global-military-spending-1.html>

Military spending (1) \_\_\_\_\_ in 2025. New data (2) \_\_\_\_\_ peace research institute said global defence spending was nearly \$2.9 (3) \_\_\_\_\_. This was a three per cent rise from 2024. Spending has gone up for eleven years (4) \_\_\_\_\_. Europe's defence spending increased by 14 per cent, to \$864 billion. The Asia-Oceania region (5) \_\_\_\_\_ by 8.1 per cent. The USA is the biggest spender. It spent \$954 billion (6) \_\_\_\_\_ last year.

There are (7) \_\_\_\_\_ the record levels of spending. One reason is that NATO members met (8) \_\_\_\_\_. Another reason is the Russia-Ukraine war. This (9) \_\_\_\_\_ years old. Russia spent around 7.5 per cent of its GDP. Ukraine spent 40 per cent. The (10) \_\_\_\_\_ countries are spending more because (11) \_\_\_\_\_. It added: "This (12) \_\_\_\_\_ continue through 2026 and beyond."

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260430-global-military-spending-1.html>

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# MILITARY SPENDING SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260430-global-military-spending-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about military spending in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

