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Level 2 – 30th April 2026

Global military spending hits record $2.9 trillion

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https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260430-global-military-spending-2.html

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260430-global-military-spending-2.html

Military spending reached a record in 2025. New data published by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) stated that global defence spending was nearly $2.9 trillion last year. This was a three per cent rise compared to 2024. Spending has now 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, to $681 billion. 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 target to spend two per cent of their GDP on defence. Another reason is the war between Russia and Ukraine. This is now in its fifth year. Russia spent around $190 billion on defence. This was 7.5 per cent of its GDP. Ukraine spent 40 per cent of its GDP on the war. SIPRI said that the increased spending shows how countries are reacting to 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-2.html

PARAGRAPH ONE:

1. Military spending reached	a. to 2024
2. global defence	b. a record in 2025
3. a three per cent rise compared	c. spender
4. gone up for eleven years	d. spending
5. increased by	e. on its military
6. The Asia-Oceania	f. in a row
7. The USA is the biggest	g. region
8. It spent $954 billion	h. 14 per cent

PARAGRAPH TWO:

1. There are several	a. GDP
2. record levels	b. their target
3. NATO members met	c. fifth year
4. the war between	d. reasons
5. This is now in its	e. to today's wars
6. This was 7.5 per cent of its	f. continue
7. countries are reacting	g. of spending
8. This trend will probably	h. Russia and Ukraine

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260430-global-military-spending-2.html

Military spending (1) _____ in 2025. New data published by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) (2) _____ defence spending was nearly $2.9 trillion last year. This was a three per cent (3) _____ 2024. Spending has now gone up for eleven years (4) _____. Europe's defence spending increased by 14 per cent, to $864 billion. The Asia-Oceania (5) _____ spending by 8.1 per cent, to $681 billion. 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 (8) _____ to spend two per cent of their GDP on defence. Another reason (9) _____ between Russia and Ukraine. This is now in (10) _____. Russia spent around $190 billion on defence. This was 7.5 per cent of its GDP. Ukraine spent 40 per cent of its GDP (11) _____. SIPRI said that the increased spending shows how countries are reacting to today's wars. It added: "This trend will (12) _____ 2026 and beyond."

PUT A SLASH (/)WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260430-global-military-spending-2.html

MilitaryspendingreachedarecordIn2025.NewdatapublishedbytheStockholmInternationalPeaceResearchInstitute(SIPRI)statedthatglobaldefencespendingwasnearly$2.9trillionlastyear.Thiswasathree percentrisecomparedto2024.Spendinghasnowgoneupforeleven yearsinarow.Europe'sdefencespendingincreasedby14percent,to$864billion.TheAsia-Oceaniaregionincreaseditsspendingby8.1percent,to$681billion.TheUSAisthebiggestspender.Itspent$954billiononitsmilitarylastyear.Therearesevеralreasonsfortherecordlevelsofspending.OnereasonisthatNATOmembersmettheirtargettospendtwopercentoftheirGDPondefence.Anotherreasonisthewarbetween Russiaa ndUkraine.Thisisnowinitsfifthyear.Russiaspentaround$190billionon defence.Thiswas7.5percentofitsGDP.Ukrainespent40percentofitsGDPonthewar.SIPRIsaidthattheincreasedspendingshowshowcountri esarereactingtotoday'swars.Itadded:"Thistrendwillprobablycontinu ethrough2026andbeyond."

MILITARY SPENDING SURVEY

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260430-global-military-spending-2.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) _____

WRITING

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2604/260430-global-military-spending-2.html

Write about **military spending** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.