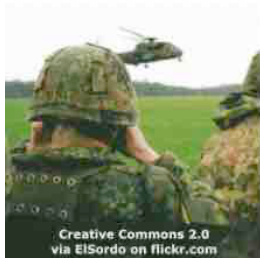


Global military spending hits record \$2.9 trillion

30th April 2026



Spending on weapons reached a record high in 2025. New data on military spending has been published by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). It writes a report every year called "Trends in World Military

Expenditure". SIPRI stated that global defence spending was nearly \$2.9 trillion last year. This was a three per cent rise compared to 2024. Spending on armed forces has now risen for eleven years in a row. Europe's defence spending shot up by 14 per cent, to \$864 billion. The Asia-Oceania region increased its spending by 8.1 per cent, to \$681 billion. The USA remained the biggest spender on defence. It spent \$954 billion on its military last year.

There are several reasons for the record levels of spending in Europe. One reason is that all NATO members met their target to spend two per cent of their GDP on defence. Last year, NATO members agreed to a new target of five per cent by 2035. Another reason is the war between Russia and Ukraine. This conflict is now in its fifth year. Russia spent around \$190 billion on defence. This was 7.5 per cent of its GDP. Ukraine spent an unbelievable 40 per cent of its GDP on the war. SIPRI said that the increased spending "really speaks to countries' reactions to ongoing wars, tensions and geopolitical uncertainty". It added: "This trend will probably continue through 2026 and beyond."

Sources: [defensenews.com](https://www.defensenews.com) / [cnn.com](https://www.cnn.com) / [dw.com](https://www.dw.com)

Writing

Countries spend too much on weapons. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

weapons / record / data / peace / trends / armed forces / world / defence / last year / Europe / NATO / target / war / conflict / Russia / Ukraine / GDP / tensions / 2026

True / False

- 1) Countries spent record amounts of money on tanks in 2025. T / F
- 2) The research is from an international conflict research institute. T / F
- 3) In 2025, spending on the military increased by 3% from the year before. T / F
- 4) Europe's defence spending went up by 14 per cent. T / F
- 5) All but two NATO members met their spending targets in 2025. T / F
- 6) NATO countries will spend 5% of the GDP on defence by 2035. T / F
- 7) In 2025, Ukraine spent 40% of its GDP on defence. T / F
- 8) A peace institute said 2026 would be a more peaceful year. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| 1. high | a. consecutively |
| 2. global | b. incredible |
| 3. risen | c. stayed |
| 4. in a row | d. a number of |
| 5. remained | e. goal |
| 6. several | f. worldwide |
| 7. target | g. further |
| 8. conflict | h. record level |
| 9. unbelievable | i. war |
| 10. beyond | j. increased |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of your country's military?
- b) What do you think of nearly \$2.9 trillion being spent on defence?
- c) What do you know about your country's military history?
- d) Should we spend money on education instead of weapons?
- e) How worried are you about future wars?
- f) Would you fight for your country?
- g) How worried are you about cyber-wars?
- h) Who do you think is the most dangerous country?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. Spending on weapons reached | a. to 2024 |
| 2. This was a three per cent rise compared | b. spender on defence |
| 3. risen for eleven years | c. uncertainty |
| 4. Europe's defence spending shot | d. in a row |
| 5. The USA remained the biggest | e. target |
| 6. There are several reasons | f. a record high |
| 7. all NATO members met their | g. its fifth year |
| 8. This conflict is now in | h. 40 per cent of its GDP |
| 9. Ukraine spent an unbelievable | i. up by 14 per cent |
| 10. tensions and geopolitical | j. for the record levels |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- How important is it for a country to have a strong military?
- How can we end today's wars?
- What will wars be like in the future?
- What do you know about NATO?
- When and how will the Ukraine War end?
- What 'geopolitical uncertainty' is in the world?
- What questions would you like to ask a general?

Spelling

- data on military spending has been bpudelsih
- trends in world military pueneexitrd
- global fnedece spending
- a three per cent rise mpdceoar to 2024
- armed fcsore
- the Asia-Oceania nrioge
- there are sraevle reasons
- members met their ttegra
- this tlnocfic is now in its fifth year
- rocaiesnt to ongoing wars
- otsinsen and geopolitical uncertainty
- continue through 2026 and bdeony

Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. f	3. j	4. a	5. c
6. d	7. e	8. i	9. b	10. g

Comprehension Questions

Listen to / read the news article. Answer these questions. (Answers are on p. 27 of the 27-page PDF.)

1.	In which city is the International Peace Research Institute?
2.	What is the International Peace Research Institute's report called?
3.	For how many years in a row has defence spending risen?
4.	By how much did the Asia-Oceania region increase its spending in 2025?
5.	Which country spent the most on defence in 2025?
6.	How many reasons are for the record spending levels?
7.	Who met their defence spending targets in 2025?
8.	How much of their GDP will NATO countries spend on defence by 2035?
9.	How much of its GDP did Ukraine spend on defence in 2025?
10.	What did SIPRI say would continue through 2026 and beyond?

Speaking – Spending

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important things to spend money on at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| • The military | • Technology |
| • Health | • Business |
| • Police | • Sport |
| • Education | • The aged |

Answers – True False

1	F	2	F	3	T	4	T	5	F	6	T	7	T	8	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.