

# EU and US government defence spending in 2011

## Key Findings

In 2011, the governments of the 26 EDA pMS spent a total of €193 billion on defence. The US spent the equivalent of €503 billion (or \$699 billion). Between 2006 and 2008 the aggregated defence expenditure of the 26 EDA pMS has been about half that of the US. During the years 2009-2011 this difference increased. While the EU aggregated defence expenditure decreased from €201 billion in 2008 to €193 billion in 2011, US expenditure increased from €416 billion (\$612 billion) to €503 billion in the same period.

Comparing defence spending with other macroeconomic data, in 2011 US defence expenditure represented 4.7% of GDP and 11.2% of overall government expenditure. In the EU these ratios were, respectively, 1.6% and 3.2%. As for defence expenditure in relation to the total population, the US spent €1 610 (\$2 242) per capita in 2011, while the EU spent on average €387.

In terms of allocation of the defence budget, there remained significant differences between the EU and the US. Between 2006 and 2011, EU pMS spent more than half of their aggregated defence budget on personnel (civilian and military staff). In the US, personnel costs represented approximately one third of total defence spending during the same period. Operation and Maintenance costs of EDA pMS were between 22% and 23% of total defence expenditure for the period 2006 to 2011, while in the US this percentage remained close to 30%.

## Investment

In the EU, the proportion of the budget dedicated to investment (Equipment procurement and R&D/R&T) has always been lower than in the US (respectively 20% and 30%). Although it has been slowly increasing from 2006 to 2010, in 2011 it dropped below the 2006 level and amounted to €39 billion or 19% of total EDA pMS defence expenditure. In the US, investment decreased slightly both in absolute and proportional terms from €159 billion (31%) in 2010 to €146 billion (29%) in 2011, in contrast with an upward trend observed since 2007.

As for R&D expenditure, the US spent more than the EU both in absolute terms and as a share of defence expenditure. In 2011, EU governments spent in total €7.8 billion on defence R&D (4.0% of defence expenditure).

For the US these values were, respectively, €53.8 billion (\$74.9 billion) and 10.7% (this percentage has, however, decreased from the 13.2% spent in 2006).

## Defence Personnel

Turning to defence personnel, in 2006 the total number of defence staff was higher in the EU than in the US (2.4 million against 2.1 million). Between 2006 and 2011, this number decreased by 21% in the EU and increased by 7% in the US. As a result, in the past three years (2009 - 2011) the relative position changed and the total number of defence personnel in the US exceeded that in the EU (2.2 million and 1.9 million respectively in 2011).

In 2011, military personnel represented 81% of the total personnel in the EU, while in the US the proportion was 64% (these proportions have barely changed since 2006). In absolute terms, the US had twice as many civilian defence staff as the EU (807 000 and 374 000), whereas the EU had more military staff than the US (1.6 million in the EU against 1.4 million in the US).

Defence expenditure per soldier in 2011 in the US was nearly three times higher than in the EU – over €353 000 (around \$491 000) versus €124 000. The difference between the levels of defence investment (Equipment procurement and R&D/R&T) per military was higher still. US investment per military amounted to over €102 000 (around \$142 000), while in the EU it was more than four times lower, around €24 000.

There was a decrease in deployed personnel both in the EU and the US. In 2011, the EU deployed around 54 000 troops (19% less compared to 2010) representing 3.5% of the total military personnel, while the US deployed on average 178 000 troops (11% decrease since 2010) or 12.5% of its military personnel.

Note: The EU figures refer to the total for all 26 EDA pMS (all EU Member States except Denmark and Croatia) and the data is provided directly by the pMS. Information for the US comes from official US Government publications. All figures refer to government spending and government personnel.

EDA's Defence Data portal is available at [www.eda.europa.eu/DefenceData](http://www.eda.europa.eu/DefenceData)

The EU-US Defence Data figures (2006-2011) are available at [www.eda.europa.eu/docs/default-source/news/eu-us-defence-data-2011.pdf](http://www.eda.europa.eu/docs/default-source/news/eu-us-defence-data-2011.pdf)

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