



## NASA's FY2012 Budget Request and Final Action

President Obama submitted his FY2012 budget request to Congress on February 14, 2011. For NASA, he requested \$18.724 billion, the same as NASA's FY2010 level and \$240 million more than NASA ultimately received for FY2011 (\$18.485 billion). For FY2012, Congress approved \$17.800 billion, a decrease of \$924 million from the President's request and \$685 million less than FY2011.

**Table 1** below shows congressional action on NASA's FY2012 budget request and compares the FY2012 figures with NASA's FY2010 and FY2011 appropriations. NASA has submitted operating plans to Congress to show how it plans to spend the FY2011 funds in detail, but they have not been made public. The figures in Table 1 are from the appropriations bill.

The House Appropriations Committee marked up the FY2012 NASA request as part of the Commerce-Justice-Science (CJS) appropriations bill on July 13, 2011 (H.R. 2596, [H. Rept. 112-169](#)). It recommended cutting NASA to \$16.8 billion, or \$1.9 billion less than the request and \$1.6 billion less than what the agency received for FY2011. Among other cuts, the committee recommended terminating the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) program because of its cost overruns. Several amendments were offered during markup that would have affected NASA funding either by taking money from NASA to pay for non-NASA programs, or by moving money from one NASA account to another. Representative Adam Schiff (D-CA), for example, wanted to move \$200 million from Cross Agency Support to restore some funding for JWST. All of the amendments that would have changed funding allocations, including that one, were rejected. **The House never voted on this bill, however.**

The Senate Appropriations Committee marked up its version of the bill on September 15, 2011 (S. 1572, [S. Rept. 112-78](#)). The committee approved \$17.939 billion for NASA, \$775 million less than the request and \$509 million less than its FY2011 spending level, but \$1.1 billion more than the House committee-approved amount. The Senate committee did not agree with the House committee's decision to terminate JWST, and, in fact, approved more money than NASA requested in order to get the telescope launched in 2018. **The Senate did not vote on this bill specifically**, but combined it with the FY2012 Agriculture and Transportation-HUD appropriations bills into a "minibus" measure – [H.R. 2112](#) -- which passed the Senate on November 1, 2011. The House and Senate conferenced on the House committee-approved bill and the Senate-passed bill. The conference report was published in the November 14 Congressional Record ([H. Rept. 112-284](#)). The House and Senate passed the bill on November 17 and the President signed it into law on November 18, 2011 (P.L. 112-55.)

NASA changed some of its accounts and subaccounts in its FY2012 request, so they do not always match what is in the authorization act. See the notes to **Table 2** for further explanation.

**Table 1: NASA's FY2012 Budget Request**  
(in \$ millions, see notes on next page)

Account	FY2010 Enacted	FY2011 Enacted**	FY2012 Request	House Approps Cmte	Senate	FY2012 Enacted
<b>Science</b>	<b>4,497.6</b>	<b>4,945</b>	<b>5,016.8</b>	<b>4,504.0</b>	<b>5,100.0</b>	<b>5,090.0</b>
<i>Earth Science</i>	1,439.3		1,797.4	1,699.0	1,765.5	1,765.7
<i>Planetary Science</i>	1,364.4		1,540.7	1,500.0	1,500.4	1,500.4
<i>Astrophysics</i>	647.3		682.7	683.0	682.2	672.0
<i>JWST*</i>	438.7		373.7	0	529.6	529.6
<i>Heliophysics</i>	608.0		622.3	622.0	622.3	622.3
<b>Aeronautics</b>	<b>497.0</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>569.4</b>	<b>569.9</b>	<b>501.0</b>	<b>569.9</b>
<b>Space Technology</b>	<b>275.2</b>	combined with aeronautics	<b>1,024.2</b>	<b>375.0</b>	<b>637.0</b>	<b>575.0</b>
<b>Exploration</b>	<b>3,625.8</b>	<b>3,808</b>	<b>3,948.7</b>	<b>3,649.0</b>	<b>3,775.0</b>	<b>3,770.8</b>
<i>Human Exploration Capabilities***</i>	3,287.5		2,810.2	3,048.0	3,000.0	3,060.0
<i>(MPCV)***</i>			(1,010.2)	(1,063.0)	(1,200.0)	(1,200.0)
<i>(SLS)***</i>			(1,800.0)	(1,985.0)	(1,800.0)	(1,860.0)
<i>Commercial Spflrt</i>	39.1		850.0	312.0	500.0	406.0
<i>Expl R&amp;D</i>	299.2		288.5	289.0	275.0	304.8
<b>Space Operations</b>	<b>6,141.8</b>	<b>5,509</b>	<b>4,346.9</b>	<b>4,064.0</b>	<b>4,285.0</b>	<b>4,233.6</b>
<i>Shuttle</i>	3,101.4		664.9	548.0	650.9	573.3
<i>ISS</i>	2,312.7		2,841.5	2,767.0	2,803.5	2,830.0
<i>Space &amp; Flt Spprt</i>	727.7		840.6	749.0	662.6	830.6
<i>21<sup>st</sup> Cent Lnch Cmplx</i>			<i>incl in above</i>	<i>incl in above</i>	168.0	(168.0)
<b>Education</b>	<b>180.1</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>138.4</b>	<b>138.0</b>	<b>138.4</b>	<b>138.4</b>
<i>Aerosp Res/Career Dev</i>			35.7	35.9	†	58.4
<i>(NASA Space Grant)</i>			(26.6)	(26.7)	†44.2	(40.0)
<i>(EPSCoR)</i>			(9.1)	(9.2)	†24.5	(18.4)
<i>STEM Ed &amp; Accntblty</i>			94.4	102.1	†22.3	80.0
<i>(MUREP)</i>			(28.0)	(31.4)	†30.4	(30.0)
<i>(STEM Ed)</i>			(66.4)	(70.7)	†	(40.0)
<i>(Informal STEM Ed)</i>						(10.0)
<b>Cross Agency Support</b>	<b>3,017.6</b>	<b>3,111</b>	<b>3,192.0</b>	<b>3,050.0</b>	<b>3,043.1</b>	<b>2,995.0</b>
<b>Construction &amp; EC</b>	<b>452.8</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>450.4</b>	<b>424.0</b>	<b>422.0</b>	<b>390.0</b>
<b>Inspector General</b>	<b>36.4</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>37.5</b>	<b>36.3</b>	<b>37.3</b>	<b>37.3</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18,724.3</b>	<b>18,485</b>	<b>18,724.3</b>	<b>16,810.3</b>	<b>17,938.8</b>	<b>17,800.00</b>

*Notes: Numbers in italics are subsets. Numbers in italics in (parentheses) are sub-subsets. Totals may not add due to rounding.*

\*The James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) is an astrophysics program that NASA has now separated from the rest of astrophysics because of management problems. Previously it was included in the astrophysics subaccount.

\*\* NASA submitted operating plans to show specifically how it plans to spend the FY2011 funds but they have not been made public. These figures are from the appropriations bill.

\*\*\*The Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle (MPCV, or Orion) and Space Launch System (SLS) are the two components of “Human Exploration Capabilities.” Earlier versions of this fact sheet showed the amounts requested for MPCV and SLS as \$916.3 billion and \$1,698.5 billion respectively. Those figures are from [page ESMD-6 of NASA’s FY2012 budget book](#). However, NASA also published a [budget summary](#), which on page BUD-3 shows the amounts as \$1,010.2 billion and \$1,800.0 billion respectively, and those apparently are the correct figures. We have adjusted our figures accordingly.

† NASA reorganized the subaccounts within Education in its budget request. The House committee followed that reorganization, but the Senate committee did not. The Senate committee identified specific amounts for Space Grant, EPSCOR and MUREP as shown in the table. The remainder of the money is allocated to: Informal Education Grants, \$7 million; NASA Visitors Centers, \$10 million; and STEM Education and Accountability Projects, \$22.3 million. The latter has the same name as one of the NASA subaccounts, but apparently does not have the same content since, for example, in the request, MUREP is included as part of that subaccount, but it is shown separately in the Senate report. The conference agreement is a combination of these approaches.

NASA’s FY2012 budget documents list the authorized level from the 2010 NASA authorization act, but that is an authorization not an appropriation so those figures are not included here. Instead, they are in a separate table (below) that compares NASA’s FY2012 budget request with the authorized levels for FY2011 and FY2012.

**Table 2: NASA's FY2012 Budget Request Compared with  
Authorized Levels for FY2011 and FY2012  
(in \$ millions)**

<b>Account</b>	<b>FY2011 Authorized</b>	<b>FY2012 Authorized</b>	<b>FY2012 Requested</b>
<b>Science</b>	<b>5,005.6</b>	<b>5,249.0</b>	<b>5,016.8</b>
<i>Earth Science</i>	<i>1,801.8</i>	<i>1,945.0</i>	<i>1,797.4</i>
<i>Planetary Science</i>	<i>1,485.7</i>	<i>1,547.0</i>	<i>1,540.7</i>
<i>Astrophysics</i>	<i>1,076.3</i>	<i>1,109.0</i>	<i>682.7</i>
<i>JWST</i>	<i>Included in astrophysics</i>	<i>Included in astrophysics</i>	<i>373.7</i>
<i>Heliophysics</i>	<i>641.9</i>	<i>648.0</i>	<i>622.3</i>
<b>Aeronautics</b>	<b>579.6</b>	<b>585.0</b>	<b>569.4</b>
<b>Space Technology</b>	<b>350.0</b>	<b>486.0</b>	<b>1,024.2</b>
<b>Exploration</b>	<b>3,868.0</b>	<b>5,252.0</b>	<b>3,948.7</b>
<i>Human Expl Capabilities (New Crew Vehicle)</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>2,810.2</i>
<i>(Space Launch System)</i>	<i>1,120.0</i>	<i>1,400.0</i>	<i>(1,010.2)</i>
<i>Commercial Spaceflight</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>850.0</i>
<i>Commercial Crew</i>	<i>312.0</i>	<i>500.0</i>	<i>NA</i>
<i>Commercial Cargo Demo</i>	<i>300.0</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>NA</i>
<i>Human Research</i>	<i>155.0</i>	<i>165.0</i>	<i>NA</i>
<i>Robotic Precursors</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>0.0</i>
<i>Exploration R&amp;D</i>	<i>250.0</i>	<i>437.0</i>	<i>288.5</i>
<b>Space Operations</b>	<b>5,508.5</b>	<b>4,142.0</b>	<b>4,346.9</b>
<i>Shuttle</i>	<i>1,609.7</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>664.9</i>
<i>ISS</i>	<i>2,779.8</i>	<i>2,952.0</i>	<i>2,841.5</i>
<i>Space &amp; Flight Support</i>	<i>840.6</i>	<i>1,189.0</i>	<i>840.6</i>
<b>Education</b>	<b>145.8</b>	<b>146.0</b>	<b>138.4</b>
<b>Cross Agency Support</b>	<b>3,111.4</b>	<b>3,190.0</b>	<b>3,192.0</b>
<b>Construction &amp; Env Compl</b>	<b>394.3</b>	<b>364.0</b>	<b>450.4</b>
<b>Inspector General</b>	<b>37.0</b>	<b>38.0</b>	<b>37.5</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,000.2</b>	<b>19,452.0</b>	<b>18,724.3</b>

Notes: Authorized levels are from [P.L. 111-267](#), the 2010 NASA Authorization Act. The total for the agency in FY2012 was consistent with the Obama Administration's projection for what it planned to request when the FY2011 request was submitted (February 2010). That law also authorizes funding for FY2013, which is omitted here for simplicity. The requested level is from NASA's [budget documentation](#). Totals may not add due to rounding. *Numbers in italics are subsets. Numbers in parentheses in italics are sub-subsets.*

NA = not applicable. NASA changed a number of accounts or subaccounts in its FY2012 request so they do not match with the authorized accounts or subaccounts in some cases. For example, NASA eliminated the robotic precursor program; combined what the authorizers provided for a new crew vehicle and Space Launch System into "Human Exploration Capabilities," transferred some of the activities in Exploration Technology to Space Technology and then merged what remained with Human Research (essentially the research that takes place aboard the ISS); and created the "Commercial Spaceflight" subaccount for what was previously called "commercial crew." (Funding for commercial cargo demonstrations ends in FY2011; funding to purchase commercial cargo resupply services is in the Space Operations account under Space and Flight Support.)