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Fact Sheet
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NASA's FY2012 Budget Request

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. He had requested \$19.000 billion for NASA in FY2011, but in April 2011 Congress finally finished action on FY2011 government funding and appropriated \$18.485 billion for NASA instead.

Table 1 below tracks congressional action on NASA's FY2012 budget request and compares the FY2012 figures with NASA's FY2011 appropriations. NASA submitted an operating plan to Congress in June 2011 to show how it plans to spend the FY2011 funds in detail, but it has not been made public yet. Detailed figures will be added to the Table if it is released.

The House Appropriations Committee marked up the FY2012 NASA request as part of the Commerce-Justice-Science (CJS) appropriations bill on July 13, 2011. Several amendments were offered 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 fund the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), which the CJS subcommittee had recommended terminating. All of the amendments, including that one, which would have changed funding allocations were rejected. As shown in Table 1, the committee approved \$16.8 billion for NASA. That is \$1.9 billion less than the request and \$1.6 billion less than what NASA received for the current fiscal year (FY2011). Links to the bill and report (H.R. 2596, H. Rept. 112-169) are available in our [Legislative Checklist](#).

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.

Table 2 compares NASA's FY2012 request with what Congress authorized for FY2011 and FY2012 in the 2010 NASA Authorization Act (P.L. 111-267). An authorization act sets policy and recommends funding levels, but does not actually provide any money. Only appropriations bills provide money and congressional action is pending on appropriations. For more on the difference between an authorization and an appropriation, see our [What's a Markup?](#) Fact Sheet.

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)

Account	FY2010 Enacted	FY2011**	FY2012 Request	House Approps Cmte	Senate Approps Cmte
Science	4,497.6	4,945	5,016.8	4,504.0	5,100.0
<i>Earth Science</i>	1,439.3		1,797.4	1,699.0	1,765.5
<i>Planetary Science</i>	1,364.4		1,540.7	1,500.0	1,500.4
<i>Astrophysics</i>	647.3		682.7	683.0	682.2
<i>JWST*</i>	438.7		373.7	0	529.6
<i>Heliophysics</i>	608.0		622.3	622.0	622.3
Aeronautics	497.0	535	569.4	569.9	501.0
Space Technology	275.2	combined with aeronautics	1,024.2	375.0	637.0
Exploration	3,625.8	3,808	3,948.7	3,649.0	3,775.0
<i>Human Exploration Capabilities***</i>	3,287.5		2,810.2	3,048.0	3,000.0
<i>(MPCV)</i>			(916.3)	(1,063.0)	(1,200.0)
<i>(Space Launch System)</i>			(1,698.5)	(1,985.0)	(1,800.0)
<i>Commercial Spflt</i>	39.1		850.0	312.0	500.0
<i>Expl R&D</i>	299.2		288.5	289.0	275.0
Space Operations	6,141.8	5,509	4,346.9	4,064.0	4,285.0
<i>Shuttle</i>	3,101.4		664.9	548.0	650.9
<i>ISS</i>	2,312.7		2,841.5	2,767.0	2,803.5
<i>Space & Flight Support</i>	727.7		840.6	749.0	662.6
<i>21st Cent Lnch Cmplx</i>			<i>incl in above</i>	<i>incl in above</i>	168.0
Education	180.1	146	138.4	138.0	138.4
<i>Aerosp Res/Career Dev</i>			35.7	35.9	†
<i>(NASA Space Grant)</i>			(26.6)	(26.7)	†44.2
<i>(EPSCoR)</i>			(9.1)	(9.2)	†24.5
<i>STEM Ed & Accntblity</i>			94.4	102.1	†22.3
<i>(MUREP)</i>			(28.0)	(31.4)	†30.4
<i>(STEM Ed)</i>			(66.4)	(70.7)	†
Cross Agency Support	3,017.6	3,111	3,192.0	3,050.0	3,043.1
Construction & Environ Compliance	452.8	394	450.4	424.0	422.0
Inspector General	36.4	36	37.5	36.3	37.3
TOTAL	18,724.3	18,485	18,724.3	16,810.3	17,938.8

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.

(Notes continue on next page)

Table 1 (continued)

** NASA submitted an operating plan to show specifically how it plans to spend the FY2011 funds. Those details will be added if and when the operating plan is made public.

***MPCV and Space Launch System are the two components of “Human Exploration Capabilities.”

† 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.

NASA’s FY2012 budget documents list the authorized level from the 2010 NASA authorization act, but that is an authorization not an appropriation so are not included here, but 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)**

Account	FY2011 Authorized	FY2012 Authorized	FY2012 Requested
Science	5,005.6	5,249.0	5,016.8
<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>
Aeronautics	579.6	585.0	569.4
Space Technology	350.0	486.0	1,024.2
Exploration	3,868.0	5,252.0	3,948.7
<i>Human Expl Capabilities</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>2,810.2</i>
<i>New Crew Vehicle</i>	<i>1,120.0</i>	<i>1,400.0</i>	<i>NA</i>
<i>Space Launch System</i>	<i>1,631.0</i>	<i>2,650.0</i>	<i>NA</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&D</i>	<i>250.0</i>	<i>437.0</i>	<i>288.5</i>
Space Operations	5,508.5	4,142.0	4,346.9
<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 & Flight Support</i>	<i>840.6</i>	<i>1,189.0</i>	<i>840.6</i>
Education	145.8	146.0	138.4
Cross Agency Support	3,111.4	3,190.0	3,192.0
Construction & Env Compl	394.3	364.0	450.4
Inspector General	37.0	38.0	37.5
Total	19,000.2	19,452.0	18,724.3

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.*

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.)