

DATA FOR **PROGRESS**

From September 29 to October 2, 2023, Data for Progress conducted a survey of 1,216 likely voters nationally using web panel respondents. The sample was weighted to be representative of likely voters by age, gender, education, race, geography, and voting history. The survey was conducted in English. The margin of error is ± 3 percentage points.

NB: subgroups with a n-size less than 50 (<50) are not shown on these cross-tabs. We choose not to display N<50 subgroups because the sample is too small to have statistical significance. We did, however, take samples of these subgroups for representational and weighting purposes to accurately reflect the electorate makeup. Some values may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

N=1,216 unless otherwise specified.

[1] The U.S. Senate recently passed a bill that would allocate **\$ 886 billion** towards U.S. Department of Defense spending for the coming year.

In your opinion, is this too much, not enough, or the right amount for the government to be spending annually on defense?

Response	Topline	Democrat	Independent / Third party	Republican	Female	Male	Under 45	45+	No College	College	Black or African American	White	Latino
Too much	36	46	40	23	39	34	47	30	37	36	36	34	45
Right amount	33	34	30	33	29	37	31	33	31	35	35	34	32
Not enough	16	7	13	28	11	20	8	20	16	15	12	17	12
Don't know	15	13	17	17	22	8	13	17	16	14	17	15	11
Weighted N	1,216	479	314	423	651	565	443	773	779	437	133	884	167

[2] From 2017 to 2022, U.S. defense spending rose from \$715 billion to \$812 billion.

To what extent do you think each of the following have contributed to this increase in defense spending?

— Increases in the price of making military goods and services

Response	Topline	Democrat	Independent / Third party	Republican	Female	Male	Under 45	45+	No College	College	Black or African American	White	Latino
A lot	33	33	28	37	32	35	23	39	32	36	28	35	28
Some	46	46	48	44	44	48	48	44	45	47	41	46	48
Only a little	16	17	18	14	19	13	22	13	18	14	26	15	19
Not at all	5	4	6	5	5	4	7	4	6	3	4	4	6
Weighted N	1,216	479	314	423	651	565	443	773	779	437	133	884	167

[3] From 2017 to 2022, U.S. defense spending rose from \$715 billion to \$812 billion.

To what extent do you think each of the following have contributed to this increase in defense spending?

— Private defense contractors raising their prices in order to increase profits

Response	Topline	Democrat	Independent / Third party	Republican	Female	Male	Under 45	45+	No College	College	Black or African American	White	Latino
A lot	39	46	38	32	37	41	33	43	38	41	33	39	37
Some	40	38	39	42	42	37	40	39	40	39	35	41	40
Only a little	15	12	18	17	15	16	20	13	15	15	26	14	18
Not at all	6	3	6	8	6	6	7	5	6	5	6	6	5
Weighted N	1,216	479	314	423	651	565	443	773	779	437	133	884	167

[4] To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

— "Every federal agency, including the Department of Defense, should be able to show it spends taxpayers' money appropriately."

Response	Topline	Democrat	Independent / Third party	Republican	Female	Male	Under 45	45+	No College	College	Black or African American	White	Latino
Strongly agree	70	68	68	74	69	71	57	77	68	73	51	74	57
Somewhat agree	20	22	23	15	19	21	26	16	19	21	27	18	26
Somewhat disagree	4	4	3	4	5	3	7	2	4	3	11	3	4
Strongly disagree	2	2	2	3	2	3	4	2	3	2	2	2	4
Don't know	4	4	4	4	5	2	6	3	5	2	9	3	9
AGREE (TOTAL)	90	90	91	89	88	92	83	93	87	94	78	92	83
DISAGREE (TOTAL)	6	6	5	7	7	6	11	4	7	5	13	5	8
AGREE (NET)	+84	+84	+86	+82	+81	+86	+72	+89	+80	+89	+65	+87	+75
Weighted N	1,216	479	314	423	651	565	443	773	779	437	133	884	167

[5] To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

— "We should consider cutting wasteful Department of Defense spending to reduce the U.S. budget deficit."

Response	Topline	Democrat	Independent / Third party	Republican	Female	Male	Under 45	45+	No College	College	Black or African American	White	Latino
Strongly agree	43	49	43	37	38	49	46	42	42	46	41	43	44
Somewhat agree	33	32	30	35	34	31	31	34	31	36	31	34	30
Somewhat disagree	11	9	12	12	11	10	12	10	12	9	16	10	11
Strongly disagree	7	3	8	10	7	6	4	8	8	5	4	7	7
Don't know	7	6	8	7	10	4	7	7	8	5	7	6	9
AGREE (TOTAL)	76	81	73	72	72	80	77	76	73	82	72	77	74
DISAGREE (TOTAL)	18	12	20	22	18	16	16	18	20	14	20	17	18
AGREE (NET)	+58	+69	+53	+50	+54	+64	+61	+58	+53	+68	+52	+60	+56
Weighted N	1,216	479	314	423	651	565	443	773	779	437	133	884	167

[6] Each year, federal agencies create budget requests for funding, and then submit these requests to the White House.

Unlike other federal agencies, various offices in the Department of Defense can also submit requests for additional funding on top of their budget requests, which can add tens of billions of dollars to the defense budget.

When thinking about this, which of the following statements come closest to your view, even if neither is exactly right?

Response	Topline	Democrat	Independent / Third party	Republican	Female	Male	Under 45	45+	No College	College	Black or African American	White	Latino
We should end this practice of requesting additional funding for the Department of Defense outside of its annual budget. The U.S. military should prioritize what funding it needs in its annual budget without having to lobby lawmakers in Congress for additional funding.	52	57	55	45	51	53	54	51	50	57	43	52	55
We should continue this practice of requesting additional funding for the Department of Defense outside of its annual budget, even if that means lobbying lawmakers in Congress. This will continue to keep Americans safe and strengthen our national security.	36	33	30	43	34	38	32	38	36	35	42	37	33
Don't know	12	10	15	12	15	9	13	11	14	9	15	11	12
Weighted N	1,216	479	314	423	651	565	443	773	779	437	133	884	167

[7] The Department of Defense remains the only major federal agency that cannot pass a financial audit by federal auditors. Last year, the department was unable to account for over half of its assets and liabilities, which includes properties and military equipment. These assets and liabilities are valued in excess of \$3.1 trillion.

In your opinion, should the Department of Defense be required to pass a financial audit before having its annual budget increased?

Response	Topline	Democrat	Independent / Third party	Republican	Female	Male	Under 45	45+	No College	College	Black or African American	White	Latino
The Department of Defense should be required to pass an independent audit before its budget is increased.	80	80	82	79	81	79	73	84	78	83	67	83	77
The Department of Defense should not be required to pass an independent audit before its budget is increased.	12	14	10	12	10	15	18	9	13	12	24	10	17
Don't know	8	6	8	9	9	6	9	7	9	5	9	7	5
Weighted N	1,216	479	314	423	651	565	443	773	779	437	133	884	167

[8] A recent report from the Department of Defense found that since 1990, the U.S. has reduced the number of private defense contractors it works with from 51 to 5.

Which of the following statements come closest to your view, even if neither is exactly right?

Response	Topline	Democrat	Independent / Third party	Republican	Female	Male	Under 45	45+	No College	College	Black or African American	White	Latino
The Department of Defense should do more to promote competition among its private defense contractors. More contractors competing for the government's business would result in lower prices and better deals for the government.	66	63	68	69	61	73	54	74	65	70	52	72	50
The Department of Defense should not do more to promote competition among its private defense contractors. We need to maintain the security and reliability of our relationships with our current contractors.	22	25	20	19	23	20	30	16	22	20	34	17	34
Don't know	12	12	12	12	16	7	16	10	13	10	14	10	15
Weighted N	1,216	479	314	423	651	565	443	773	779	437	133	884	167

[9] Currently, the Department of Defense pays private defense contractors in advance for different goods and services before they are delivered and used by the Department of Defense.

Some Department of Defense officials have proposed adding on several requirements before a private defense contractor can receive an advance payment, including delivering goods and services on time and being able to show that they are not increasing their prices unnecessarily.

Do you support or oppose this proposal?

Response	Topline	Democrat	Independent / Third party	Republican	Female	Male	Under 45	45+	No College	College	Black or African American	White	Latino
Strongly support	48	50	50	45	45	51	37	54	47	50	37	51	42
Somewhat support	33	32	35	34	33	34	35	33	33	35	31	34	31
Somewhat oppose	8	9	6	8	8	8	13	5	9	6	17	6	12
Strongly oppose	4	3	3	5	3	4	6	3	3	5	6	3	7
Don't know	7	6	5	8	10	3	9	5	8	5	9	6	7
SUPPORT (TOTAL)	81	82	85	79	78	85	72	87	80	85	68	85	73
OPPOSE (TOTAL)	12	12	9	13	11	12	19	8	12	11	23	9	19
SUPPORT (NET)	+69	+70	+76	+66	+67	+73	+53	+79	+68	+74	+45	+76	+54
Weighted N	1,216	479	314	423	651	565	443	773	779	437	133	884	167

[10] Auditors from the Department of Defense have found that the U.S. military has regularly paid private defense contractors significantly more money than necessary for goods and services.

This includes paying \$71 for a pin that could have been purchased for \$0.04, and \$1,700 for a ramp gate roller assembly that could have been purchased for \$8.

Some lawmakers have proposed legislation to require private defense contractors to prove that their prices are aligned with what it actually costs to make an item.

Would you support or oppose this proposal?

Response	Topline	Democrat	Independent / Third party	Republican	Female	Male	Under 45	45+	No College	College	Black or African American	White	Latino
Strongly support	65	63	69	65	63	68	47	75	65	65	51	69	53
Somewhat support	18	21	15	17	18	18	27	13	17	20	19	18	22
Somewhat oppose	8	8	7	7	8	7	12	5	9	6	14	6	13
Strongly oppose	4	3	4	4	3	4	5	3	3	4	6	2	6
Don't know	6	5	5	6	8	3	9	4	6	5	11	4	6
SUPPORT (TOTAL)	83	84	84	82	81	86	74	88	82	85	70	87	75
OPPOSE (TOTAL)	12	11	11	11	11	11	17	8	12	10	20	8	19
SUPPORT (NET)	+71	+73	+73	+71	+70	+75	+57	+80	+70	+75	+50	+79	+56
Weighted N	1,216	479	314	423	651	565	443	773	779	437	133	884	167

[11] The position of Chief Management Officer for the Department of Defense was responsible for preventing wasteful government spending and fraud, while also implementing business reforms.

This position was abolished in 2021 at the request of the Department of Defense.

Some lawmakers in Congress have proposed bringing back the position of the Chief Management Officer after the Department of Defense failed its fifth audit last year.

Would you support or oppose bringing back the position of Chief Management Officer to the Department of Defense?

Response	Topline	Democrat	Independent / Third party	Republican	Female	Male	Under 45	45+	No College	College	Black or African American	White	Latino
Strongly support	51	53	51	48	49	54	39	58	51	51	36	54	48
Somewhat support	32	30	34	33	30	34	37	29	30	36	34	33	31
Somewhat oppose	6	7	6	4	7	3	9	4	6	4	13	4	8
Strongly oppose	3	3	1	5	2	4	4	2	3	3	6	2	3
Don't know	8	8	7	10	12	5	10	7	10	6	11	7	11
SUPPORT (TOTAL)	83	83	85	81	79	88	76	87	81	87	70	87	79
OPPOSE (TOTAL)	9	10	7	9	9	7	13	6	9	7	19	6	11
SUPPORT (NET)	+74	+73	+78	+72	+70	+81	+63	+81	+72	+80	+51	+81	+68
Weighted N	1,216	479	314	423	651	565	443	773	779	437	133	884	167

[12] From 2017 to 2022, U.S. defense spending rose from \$715 billion to \$812 billion.

Knowing what you know now, to what extent do you think each of the following have contributed to this increase in defense spending?

— Increases in the price of making military goods and services

Response	Topline	Democrat	Independent / Third party	Republican	Female	Male	Under 45	45+	No College	College	Black or African American	White	Latino
A lot	32	33	30	32	30	34	28	35	31	34	24	33	40
Some	41	40	38	44	41	40	36	43	40	42	37	43	27
Only a little	19	18	22	17	20	17	24	16	19	17	22	17	25
Not at all	8	9	10	6	9	8	12	7	9	7	17	7	8
Weighted N	1,216	479	314	423	651	565	443	773	779	437	133	884	167

[13] From 2017 to 2022, U.S. defense spending rose from \$715 billion to \$812 billion.

Knowing what you know now, to what extent do you think each of the following have contributed to this increase in defense spending?

— Private defense contractors raising their prices in order to increase profits

Response	Topline	Democrat	Independent / Third party	Republican	Female	Male	Under 45	45+	No College	College	Black or African American	White	Latino
A lot	52	53	56	48	52	51	43	57	53	50	40	53	48
Some	29	30	24	33	29	30	29	29	27	34	26	30	29
Only a little	12	12	12	12	12	12	18	9	12	12	24	11	14
Not at all	7	5	9	6	6	7	10	5	8	4	9	6	9
Weighted N	1,216	479	314	423	651	565	443	773	779	437	133	884	167