



The Secretary General's

Annual Report

2024

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FOREWORD



Thirty-two national flags fly at NATO Headquarters. Brussels, Belgium, May 2024

When I became Secretary General of NATO in October 2024, after a decade of leadership by Jens Stoltenberg, I found a strong Alliance of 32 nations with a common goal: preserving peace and security for their one billion citizens. This goal is more critical than ever. We are confronted with the most dangerous security environment in generations: a brutal war in Europe, the enduring threat of terrorism, growing strategic competition, and deepening cooperation between the Alliance's adversaries and competitors.

In recent years, NATO has sharply refocused on reinforcing its ability to ensure the collective defence of Allies in a more complex world. My priority as Secretary General is to turbocharge this adaptation so that NATO can become even stronger, more agile and ready to credibly deter and defend against all threats to our security.

This year's Annual Report reflects NATO's laser focus on delivering on its core mission: ensuring the collective defence of Allies. Rather than accounting for all activities and initiatives undertaken in 2024, it offers a concise overview of the Alliance's main achievements, flagships and milestones. In so doing, it highlights the substantial progress made to deliver on Allied top political priorities, from strengthening deterrence and defence to ensuring support to Ukraine.

In 2024, NATO continued to strengthen its collective deterrence and defence posture, building on our robust new defence plans – the most comprehensive and ambitious ones adopted since the end of the Cold War. The Alliance

increased its high-readiness forces to 500,000 combat-capable troops operating across all domains—air, land, sea, cyberspace and space—and equipped to respond to any threat, including at short or no notice. Allies continued to field robust, in-place and combat-capable forces along NATO's eastern flank, with eight multinational Forward Land Forces. Steadfast Defender 2024, the Alliance's largest exercise in decades, tested our defence plans, with over 90,000 troops deployed in the High North and Central and Eastern Europe.

Increased defence spending is essential to ensure we have the forces and capabilities we need for our strengthened deterrence and defence posture. In 2024, investments in defence grew significantly across the Alliance. NATO Allies in Europe and Canada invested a total of USD 486 billion in defence, a 19.4% increase in real terms from 2023. In recent years, NATO European Allies and Canada have added more than USD 700 billion extra for defence. In doing so, these Allies are taking on greater responsibility for the defence and security of the Euro-Atlantic area. We need to dramatically accelerate these efforts in 2025. European Allies and Canada must make a quantum leap when it comes to the contributions and capabilities they bring to bear. To do so, it will be essential to invest substantially more.

Just as importantly, we need to reenergise the defence industrial base across the Alliance and massively invest in our ability to innovate and produce, at scale and speed. As defence budgets continue to grow, our transatlantic industry must keep pace. Our adversaries and competitors have been gearing up their militaries for competition, coercion and,

potentially, conflict. We must bolster our defence industrial capacity to meet this challenge and preserve peace.

NATO has played an active role by working with industry, promoting cooperation between Allies, supporting defence-critical supply chain security, and facilitating more collective procurement of critical capabilities needed for NATO defence plans, including in areas such as land battle-decisive munitions and air and missile defence. We must exponentially accelerate our work to support a stronger, more resilient and innovative transatlantic defence industrial base.

NATO support for Ukraine remained strong in 2024, as Russia's war continued for a third year. Allies committed over USD 55 billion in military assistance to help Ukraine build a force capable of defending against aggression today and deterring it in the future, with 60% of aid coming from European Allies and Canada. NATO delivered on its broad cooperation agenda with Ukraine, ranging from defence innovation to demining. It established the NATO Security Assistance and Training for Ukraine (NSATU), based in Germany, to coordinate Allied contributions in security assistance and provision of military support. NATO and Ukraine also set up the NATO-Ukraine Joint Analysis, Training and Education Centre (JATEC) in Poland so that we can continue learning from each other and increasing our military effectiveness. Looking to the future, NATO Allies are united in their desire for a just and lasting peace in Ukraine.

2024 saw growing strategic alignment and practical cooperation between Russia, the People's Republic of

China (PRC), Iran and Democratic People's Republic of Korea, including through deployment of thousands of North Korean troops to Europe. This reckless escalation illustrates the linkages between security challenges across the Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific areas and stresses the importance of working with partners, including in the Indo-Pacific. In addition, Beijing's ambitions and coercive policies continue to challenge Allied interests, security and values, and pose a systemic challenge to the security of the Euro-Atlantic area.

In this context of interconnected threats and rising strategic competition, NATO continued to invest in boosting Allied and collective resilience of critical infrastructure and defence-critical supply chains. This work is important to make sure we can better prevent, counter and respond to sabotage, malicious cyber operations, economic coercion and other destabilisation campaigns waged against us. This is why we launched "Baltic Sentry" in January 2025 – a new military activity to enhance NATO's presence in the Baltic Sea and improve Allies' ability to respond to destabilising acts.

2024 marked the 75th anniversary of the NATO alliance and the unwavering commitment of all Allies to the transatlantic bond. It showcased real progress in strengthening our forces, capabilities and defence industry to meet the challenges of a more dangerous security environment. In 2025, we need to significantly increase our efforts to ensure NATO remains a key source of military advantage for all our nations. Our continued freedom and prosperity depend on it.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mark Rutte", with a horizontal line underneath.

FOR THOSE WHO SERVE

The freedom and security of NATO's one billion citizens relies, above all, on the men and women of our armed forces.

In 2024, they continued to demonstrate extraordinary levels of skill and commitment – in the air, on land and at sea.

In an uncertain world, their willingness to put themselves in harm's way each and every day keeps our nations safe, and allows us all to look ahead with confidence. They are truly the embodiment of the North Atlantic Treaty and of the transatlantic bond.

We honour and thank them for everything they do.

NATO IN 2024: AN AGILE AND INNOVATIVE ALLIANCE

EXERCISE STEADFAST DEFENDER



January

NATO begins exercise Steadfast Defender 24, its largest exercise in decades and the first to test the Alliance's new defence plans – involving 90,000 troops that demonstrated transatlantic reinforcement and deployment to the High North and to Central and Eastern Europe

NATO supports Allies in buying 1,000 Patriot missiles – worth USD 5.5 billion – and signing contracts for USD 1.2 billion in artillery ammunition

NATO releases its first-ever quantum strategy to foster and guide cooperation with industry

February



Italian marines with the Italian Navy's San Marco Brigade trudge through the snow during a live-fire training near Harstad, Norway, as part of exercise Nordic Response 24. Norway, February 2024.

NATO Defence Ministers discuss the rise of 11% in defence spending by European Allies and Canada and mark progress made in ramping up ammunition production

Allies test cutting-edge anti-submarine warfare techniques as part of exercise Dynamic Manta 24 in the Mediterranean Sea

March

Sweden becomes the 32nd member of NATO

NATO's Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic announces a major expansion of its transatlantic network, doubling the number of test centres and accelerator sites from around 90 to 200



Ceremony to mark the accession of Sweden to NATO. Brussels, Belgium, March 2024.

April



US Army paratroopers land in Sweden for exercise Swift Response 24 during Steadfast Defender 2024. Jönköping, Sweden, May 2024.

Marking NATO's 75th anniversary, Allied Foreign Ministers meet with leaders from the European Union, the Indo-Pacific and Ukraine

NATO releases its first international strategy on biotechnology and human enhancement technologies

NATO kicks off exercise Neptune Strike to secure maritime 'chokepoints' and boost deterrence and vigilance

May

NATO holds its first meeting of the new Critical Undersea Infrastructure Network

NATO's exercise Steadfast Defender 24 – involving around 50 ships, 80 aircraft and 1,100 combat vehicles – concludes

June The NATO Innovation Fund makes its first investments in deep tech companies

July

At NATO's 75th Anniversary Summit in Washington D.C., Allies meet with leaders from the European Union, the Indo-Pacific and Ukraine. Together, Allies agreed on different initiatives:

- A new **pledge** to bolster defence industrial capacity and production
- **NATO Security Assistance and Training for Ukraine**
- NATO releases the **NATO-Ukraine Innovation Cooperation Roadmap**
- **Long-term military support to Ukraine**
- New **Policy Guidelines on Counter-Terrorism**
- **NATO Liaison Office** in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- **Multinational initiatives** to improve integration across the air, space and cyber domains

NATO holds the first-ever **NATO Summit Defence Industry Forum**



Opening ceremony at the Washington Summit. Washington D.C., United States, July 2024.

August

NATO naval forces exercise with Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force

September

NATO Allies and Indo-Pacific partners discuss cooperation on cyber security

Ukraine joins the NATO Counter-Unmanned Aircraft System Technical Interoperability Exercise for the first time, alongside members of the private sector and research community

October

Mark Rutte takes office as NATO Secretary General

NATO holds its annual nuclear exercise Steadfast Noon, involving more than 2,000 military personnel and 60 aircraft

NATO launches five new multinational High Visibility Projects to address critical areas for Allied deterrence and defence



Ceremony to mark the transition to the new NATO Secretary General. Brussels, Belgium, October 2024.

November

NATO Allies, with leaders from Indo-Pacific partners and Ukraine, condemn the decision of Russia and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to expand the war against Ukraine

NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte appoints Radmila Shekerinska of North Macedonia as the next Deputy Secretary General

NATO formally takes control of the Aegis Ashore Missile Defence System in Poland



NATO Deputy Secretary General Radmila Shekerinska takes office. Brussels, Belgium, December 2024.

December

NATO Foreign Ministers agree concrete steps to address Russia's escalating destabilisation campaigns in NATO countries

DETERRENCE AND DEFENCE ACROSS ALL DOMAINS

In 2024, NATO focused on significantly strengthening its deterrence and defence posture across the land, air, maritime, cyberspace and space domains, and against any potential adversary, including at short or no notice.

At the 2024 Washington Summit, NATO Leaders took steps to ensure Allies provide the forces, capabilities, resources and infrastructure necessary for NATO's collective defence plans. These regional plans, endorsed in 2023, outline NATO's strategies for safeguarding different areas of the Alliance – and are the most comprehensive and ambitious plans adopted since the end of the Cold War. In particular, Allies continued to fill the NATO Force Model, linking their forces and capabilities directly to the new regional plans. As a result, NATO has increased its high-readiness forces to 500,000 combat-capable troops across all domains.

NATO also strengthened its Command Structure, the backbone of NATO's command and control. This is composed of a series of permanent multinational headquarters, distributed across the Alliance and funded collectively. In January 2024, a new Joint Force Command in Norfolk, Virginia, the United States, joined existing commands in Naples, Italy and Brunssum, the Netherlands. Allies also expanded the NATO Command Structure and assigned key roles to a range of national and multinational headquarters. These changes improve NATO's ability to conduct the full spectrum of missions, including large-scale multi-domain operations for collective defence, to manage its posture in peacetime, and to ensure a smooth and well-rehearsed transition from peacetime to crisis and conflict.

Boosting Forward Defences

In 2024, Allies continued to field robust, in-place and combat-ready forces to NATO's eastern flank. NATO's forward presence comprises eight Forward Land Forces multinational battlegroups, provided by framework nations and other contributing Allies on a rotational basis. An ambitious programme of exercises has demonstrated the ability of the Forward Land Forces battlegroups to rapidly reinforce up to brigade level. Allies also agreed to establish a ninth Forward Land Forces element in Finland.

NATO's new multinational, multi-domain and high-readiness Allied Reaction Force became operational in July 2024. The Force is built around a light infantry brigade and maritime, air, Special Operations Forces, cyber, space, logistics and strategic communications elements, and can act within 10 days, including in response to crises or other emerging situations.

A credible deterrence and defence posture also relies on adequate logistics. At the Washington Summit, Allies agreed to strengthen NATO's ability to move, reinforce, supply and sustain forces, including through effective and resilient logistics and the development of 'mobility corridors'. Efforts have also continued to ensure that Allied forces have the necessary logistics support across SACEUR's Area of Responsibility.

NATO Military Presence in the East of the Alliance

Symbols depicted on the map do not necessarily indicate geographical location. Sweden became a NATO Ally in March 2024.

Forward Land Forces

Mission: Strengthening NATO deterrence and defence
Location: Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia
Contributors: See on the map

NATO Enhanced Vigilance

Mission: Strengthening NATO deterrence and defence
Location: Bulgaria, Poland, Romania
Contributors: Bulgaria, Canada, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Türkiye

Air Defence

Mission: Strengthening NATO air defences
Location: Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia
Contributors: France, Italy, Spain

Carrier Strike Groups

Mission: Strengthening NATO deterrence and defence at sea and in the air
Location: Baltic Sea
Contributors: France, Italy, Spain, United Kingdom, United States

Amphibious Task Force

Mission: Strengthening NATO deterrence and defence at sea and on land
Location: Baltic Sea
Contributors: France, Italy, Spain, United Kingdom, United States

Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) Patrols

Mission: Patrolling the skies over eastern Europe for early detection of air threats
Contributors: France, Greece, Italy, Türkiye, United Kingdom, NATO AWACS aircraft

Maritime Patrol Aircraft

Mission: Supporting NATO's deterrence and defence posture through Vigilance Activities, including contributions to enhance the security of critical undersea infrastructure; supporting maritime situational awareness; and contributing to JISR in SACEUR's Area of Responsibility
Location: Baltic Sea and Black Sea
Contributors: Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Türkiye, United Kingdom, United States

Air Policing

Mission: Protecting the airspace of the eastern flank of the Alliance
Location: Bulgaria, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania
Contributors: Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Türkiye, United Kingdom, United States

Joint Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (JISR)

Mission: Supporting decision-makers with timely information and intelligence
Contributors: Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Norway, Poland, Spain, Türkiye, United Kingdom, United States, NATO (NATO Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Force, NATO AWACS aircraft)

Standing Naval Forces

Mission: Providing the Alliance with a continuous naval presence
Location: Baltic Sea
Contributors: Standing NATO Maritime Groups (SNMG1 & 2), Standing NATO Mine Countermeasures Groups (SNMCMG1 & 2), Albania, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Türkiye, United Kingdom, United States

Combined Force Space Component Command

Mission: Helping coordinate Allied space activities and support NATO activities and operations, and helping protect Allied space systems by sharing information about potential threats
Location: Germany
Contributors: Belgium, Canada, Czechia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Türkiye, United Kingdom, United States

NATO Vigilance Activities

NATO's Vigilance Activities help the Alliance protect its one billion citizens. Taking place across SACEUR's Area of Responsibility in the land, air, maritime, cyberspace and space domains, they contribute to the Alliance's strategic awareness and force readiness.

2024's Eastern Shield, for instance, involved a range of activities and exercises along NATO's eastern flank, with the participation of the Forward Land Forces stationed in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland, among others. Neptune Strike, conducted by Naval Striking and Support Forces NATO, demonstrated the ability to project air and amphibious power from carrier strike groups and other maritime forces; units participated from the Baltic, Mediterranean and North Seas. The NATO Airborne Early Warning and Control Force has flown regular enhanced Vigilance Activities missions along the borders of Allied territory to secure NATO's eastern flank.

All NATO activities on its eastern flank are defensive, proportionate and fully transparent. They aim to build trust, prevent misperception and accurately convey the Alliance's defensive intent.

Enabling Deterrence and Defence

In 2024, Allies continued to test and verify NATO's ability to move troops from, into and across Europe. Steadfast Defender was NATO's largest exercise in decades, with over 90,000 participating troops from all 32 Allies. The exercise tested NATO's logistics network from the Arctic to the Alliance's southern flank, including for the deployment of large-scale reinforcements from North America to Europe. Allies identified opportunities and challenges associated with large-scale deployments. The exercise stressed the importance of working with civil agencies and industry to support military forces at scale and speed.

Logistics is not just the preserve of the military. It relies on NATO's armed forces working closely with civilian suppliers and transport companies, among many others, to move equipment when and where it is needed. This means that civilian governmental agencies have a crucial enabling role. NATO seeks a whole-of-government approach to logistics through an 'enablement ecosystem' – one which integrates civilian and military functions and which takes into account both physical elements such as airports and roads, and functional elements such as legal and customs requirements.

Taking Flight: Deterrence and Defence in the Air

NATO must be ready to deter and defend its citizens, territory and armed forces against air and missile attacks. NATO's Integrated Air and Missile Defence takes place across peacetime, crisis and conflict, and contributes to the Alliance's indivisible security and freedom of action, including its ability to reinforce and respond to any threat.

In 2024, Allies continued to increase the readiness, integration and responsiveness of their forces. Aircraft and surface-based air and missile defence units along the eastern flank conducted enhanced Air Policing and enhanced Vigilance Activities, including air patrol missions. NATO also strengthened its situational awareness through airborne alert and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance. Through its Integrated Air and Missile Defence Rotational Model, established in 2023, NATO ensures regular training and rotational presence of modern air defence systems and capabilities across the Euro-Atlantic area, with an initial focus on the eastern flank.

NATO is also taking urgent action to increase related capabilities through its Defence Planning Process with progress being made at all levels: national, multinational and NATO-wide.

Air and Missile Threat Environment

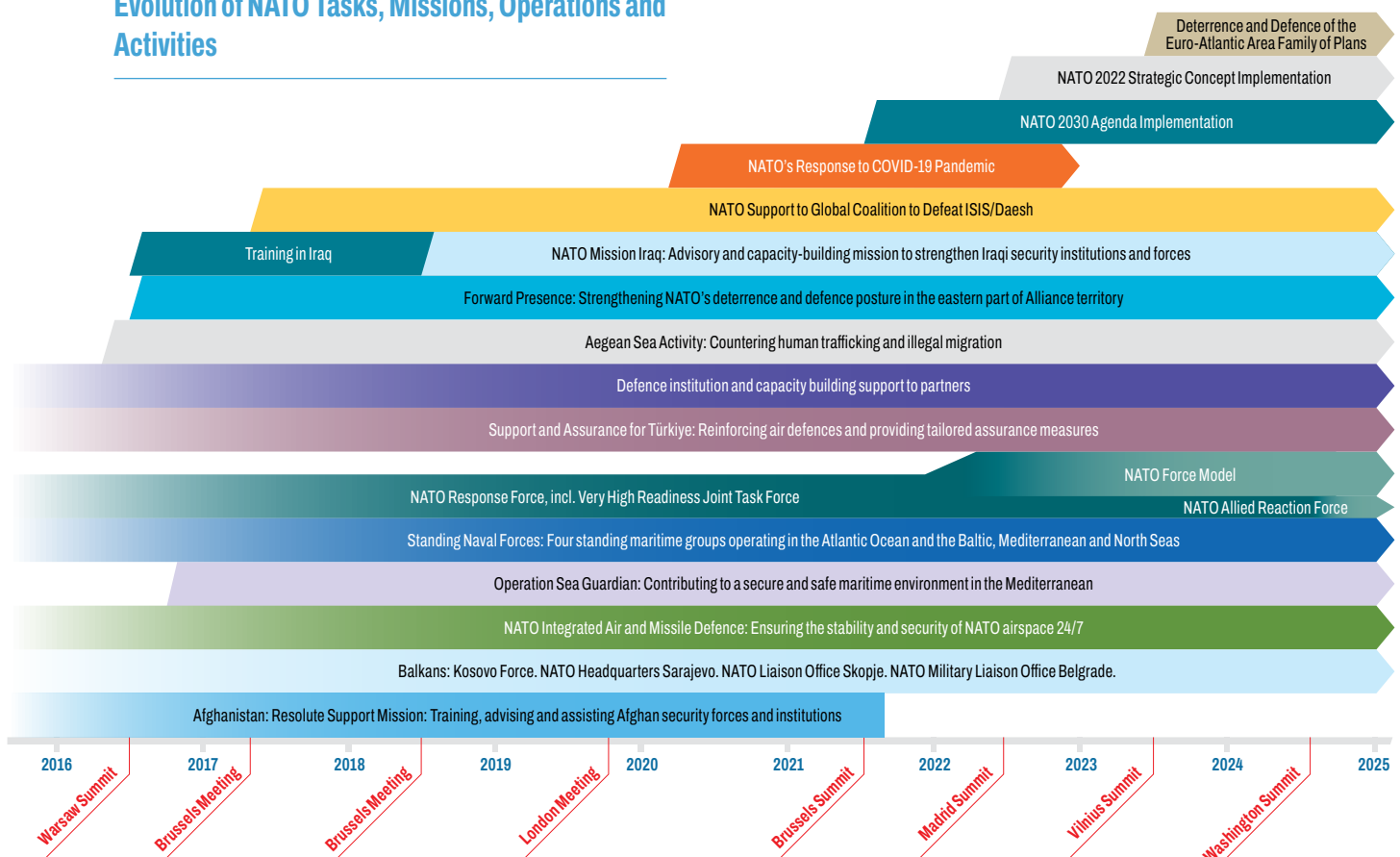
The proliferation of air and missile capabilities – from drones to hypersonic missiles – translates into a more complex threat environment, one that NATO continues to monitor closely. Hypersonic weapons remain of particular concern. NATO is keeping a close eye on all aspects of their deployment and evolution, and continues to explore how best to mitigate associated risks.

The threat from ballistic missiles is also growing. To defend Allies from this threat, NATO's Ballistic Missile Defence relies on voluntary national contributions, including nationally funded interceptors, sensors and hosting arrangements. It is also based on the command

and control backbone, delivered through the NATO Ballistic Missile Defence Programme, which is commonly funded by all Allies.

The United States remains a key contributor to NATO Ballistic Missile Defence through its European Phased Adaptive Approach. In July 2024, a new US Ballistic Missile Defence site became operational in Redzikowo, Poland. To mark this milestone, Allied Heads of State and Government declared NATO Ballistic Missile Defence Enhanced Operational Capability at the Washington Summit. The site became part of the larger NATO Ballistic Missile Defence mission to detect, track and intercept ballistic missiles in flight. The aim of NATO Ballistic Missile Defence is purely defensive and oriented to counter ballistic missiles emanating from outside the Euro-Atlantic area, especially from Iran. Other elements of this mission include another US Aegis Ashore site in Romania, US Navy destroyers operating out of Rota, Spain, and an early-warning radar system in Kürecik, Türkiye.

Evolution of NATO Tasks, Missions, Operations and Activities



Elements of NATO Deterrence and Defence



- NATO member
- NATO partner
- Cooperation suspended
- Key NATO and Allied exercises

Symbols depicted on the map do not necessarily indicate geographical location. Sweden became a NATO Ally in March 2024.

For more on NATO and Allied exercises please refer to pages 43-48

NATO Allied Reaction Force



Mission: Delivering forces, fires and effects, at short notice, in support of NATO's three core tasks, contributing to peacetime vigilance, deterrence and defence

Location: France, Italy, Spain, United Kingdom

Contributors: NATO Rapid Deployable Corps, Bulgaria, Canada, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, North Macedonia, Slovenia, Spain, Türkiye, United Kingdom

Standing Naval Forces



Mission: Providing the Alliance with a continuous naval presence

Location: Atlantic Ocean, Baltic Sea, Mediterranean Sea, North Sea

Contributors: Standing NATO Maritime Groups (SNMG1 & 2), Standing NATO Mine Countermeasures Groups (SNMCMG1 & 2), Albania, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Türkiye, United Kingdom, United States

Ballistic Missile Defence



Mission: Protecting Allies' populations, territory and forces

Location: Germany, Poland, Romania, Spain, Türkiye

Contributors: Spain, United States, NATO (Allied Air Command)

Regional Hub for the South



Mission: Enhancing understanding of the regional dynamics in Africa and the Middle East; assisting NATO in harmonising activities in the South

Location: Allied Joint Force Command Naples

Contributors: 19 Allies contribute with Voluntary National Contributions and reassigned Joint Force Command Naples staff

Support and Assurance for Türkiye



Mission: Reinforcing air defences and providing tailored assurance measures for Türkiye

Location: Türkiye

Contributors: Spain (Patriot Ballistic Missile Defence system), Poland (maritime patrol reconnaissance aircraft), NATO AWACS aircraft

AWACS Patrols



Mission: Patrolling the skies over eastern Europe for early detection of air threats

Contributors: France, Greece, Italy, Türkiye, United Kingdom, NATO AWACS aircraft

Maritime Patrol Aircraft



Mission: Supporting NATO's deterrence and defence posture through Vigilance Activities, including contributions to enhance the security of critical undersea infrastructure; supporting maritime situational awareness; and contributing to JISR in SACEUR's Area of Responsibility

Location: Along eastern borders in the North Cape, Baltic Sea, Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea, and in the North Sea, Norwegian Sea and Atlantic Ocean

Contributors: Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Türkiye, United Kingdom, United States

Forward Land Forces



Mission: Strengthening NATO deterrence and defence

Location: Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia

Contributors: See detailed map on page 7

NATO Enhanced Vigilance



Mission: Strengthening NATO deterrence and defence

Location: Bulgaria, Poland, Romania

Contributors: Bulgaria, Canada, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Türkiye

Air Defence



Mission: Strengthening NATO air defences

Location: Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia

Contributors: France, Italy, Spain

Carrier Strike Groups



Mission: Strengthening NATO deterrence and defence at sea and in the air

Location: Atlantic Ocean, Baltic Sea, Mediterranean Sea, North Sea

Contributors: France, Italy, Spain, United Kingdom, United States

Amphibious Task Force



Mission: Strengthening NATO deterrence and defence at sea and on land

Location: Atlantic Ocean, Baltic Sea, Mediterranean Sea, North Sea

Contributors: France, Italy, Spain, United Kingdom, United States

Air Policing



Mission: Protecting the airspace of the eastern flank of the Alliance

Location: Bulgaria, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania

Contributors: Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Türkiye, United Kingdom, United States

Iceland Peacetime Preparedness



Mission: Protecting Iceland's airspace

Location: Iceland

Contributors: Norway, United Kingdom, United States

Joint Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (JISR)



Mission: Supporting decision-makers with timely information and intelligence

Contributors: Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Norway, Poland, Spain, Türkiye, United Kingdom, United States, NATO (NATO Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Force, NATO AWACS aircraft)

Operation Sea Guardian



Mission: Providing maritime security across the Mediterranean Sea

Location: Mediterranean Sea

Contributors: Albania, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Türkiye

All maps are based on commercial data. The boundaries shown and the designations used do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by NATO. Due to size limitations, some inserts may have been added to the maps to include other geographical areas. Note: Map data display contributions by Allies in 2024.

Above It All: Deterrence and Defence in Space

Space is essential to the security and prosperity of NATO and Allies. It is a rapidly evolving environment: more and more important to commerce and security, but also increasingly congested and contested.

Attacks to, from or within space present a clear challenge and could lead to the invocation of Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty. NATO is adapting accordingly, with steps taken to reinforce deterrence and defence in and through space.

In 2024, NATO made strides to enhance awareness and understanding of the space domain, improve information-sharing in the Alliance, and strengthen NATO's Space Operations Centre at Allied Air Command in Ramstein, Germany. NATO also expanded space-related partnerships around the globe and accelerated the integration of space into planning, exercises and operations. The NATO Science & Technology Organization advanced research in three key scientific areas of development for space technology: space accessibility, space situational awareness, and emerging uses of space for terrestrial technology development.

NATO is boosting the development of cutting-edge technologies and, in 2024, launched two promising multinational initiatives. Through the first, STARLIFT, 14 Allies¹ are investigating novel ways to react quicker and better to threats from space. STARLIFT aims to develop a network of launch capabilities and help Allies launch assets at short notice from space ports across the Alliance.

Through the NORTHLINK programme, 13 Allies² are exploring the development of a multinational Arctic satellite communications capability. The increased militarisation of the Arctic region by adversaries and strategic competitors is concerning for the Alliance. NORTHLINK is intended to leverage commercial and government-owned capabilities, providing more resilient communications.

Understanding the Space Domain

The development of the Strategic Space Situational Awareness System programme continued in 2024. Funded by Luxembourg, this initiative aims to enhance the Alliance's ability to anticipate space-related threats, analyse related data and thereby improve decision-making.

Responsible and Collaborative Approach to Space

NATO countries are home to the most innovative space industrial ecosystem in the world. The commercial space sector has grown substantially over the past decade, driven by rapid advances in technology and higher demand from both civilian and military users. In 2024, NATO launched a strategic dialogue with the commercial space sector to explore new ways of working together. NATO also leverages SPACENET, a new commercial platform involving more than 300 companies, to seek industry's help in solving some of the most pressing issues.

The Alliance is committed to promoting responsible behaviour in space, acting as a unique forum for Allies to support work on the development of norms for the military uses of space. Allies are opposed to the placement of any nuclear weapons in orbit around Earth, which would violate Article IV of the Outer Space Treaty and gravely threaten global security.

1 Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Türkiye, the United Kingdom and the United States

2 Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the United States

Vigilance at Sea: Securing the Maritime Domain

NATO has a responsibility to deter and defend against all threats in the maritime domain. This includes upholding freedom of navigation, securing maritime trade routes and protecting the Alliance's main lines of communications and choke points. It also means being able to secure supplies and reinforcements along transatlantic routes during crisis and conflict.

In 2024, NATO continued to step up its Vigilance Activities at sea. Multi-carrier deployments demonstrated Allied resolve to protect NATO populations and defend every inch of Allied territory – including Allied territorial waters – at all times. Maritime exercises allowed NATO Allies and partners to maintain and develop warfighting competencies, build interoperability between their forces and maintain readiness.

Contested at All Times: Securing the Cyber Domain

Cyberspace is the only domain where NATO and Allies come into direct contact with adversaries and competitors every single day. Cyber attacks have become a constant feature of life for Allies, often targeting critical infrastructure such as energy and healthcare.

Maintaining security in the cyber domain requires civilian and military cyber defenders to act together 24/7. At the Washington Summit, Allies decided to establish a new NATO Integrated Cyber Defence Centre to ensure teams of specialists from NATO, Allies and industry work alongside each other and build a single Alliance-wide picture of cyberspace. This will boost NATO's ability to protect its networks and contribute to Allies' own national cyber resilience.

Allies have also adopted a new guide outlining political responses to malicious cyber activity, helping to speed up decision-making for coordinated or collective action. These measures aim to significantly expand NATO's toolkit for tackling threats from state and state-sponsored actors.

STRIKFORNATO – Naval Striking and Support Forces NATO – is SACEUR's premier maritime power projection headquarters. It can deliver a rapidly deployable and scalable headquarters to plan and execute the full spectrum of joint maritime operations, including maritime Ballistic Missile Defence. STRIKFORNATO also participates in exercises where the assigned forces deploy, integrate and train together.



The French carrier strike group under the command of STRIKFORNATO showing Alliance strength and unity during Neptune Strike. Mediterranean Sea, April 2024.

Exercise Locked Shields

Locked Shields, organised annually by the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence, is the most complex live-fire cyber resilience exercise in the world, already challenging its participants for 15 years. The 2024 exercise brought together 4,000 cyber experts from more than 40 countries. During the two-day exercise in April, the 18 multinational teams of cyber defenders, including both technical and non-technical personnel, practised protecting a unique mix of civilian and military information and communications technology systems, critical infrastructure and crisis handling processes.

Ensuring Credible, Safe, Secure and Effective Nuclear Deterrence

At the Washington Summit, NATO Leaders reiterated that nuclear deterrence is the cornerstone of Alliance security, and that as long as nuclear weapons exist, NATO will remain a nuclear alliance. NATO stays committed to taking all necessary steps to ensure the credibility, effectiveness, safety and security of the Alliance's nuclear deterrence mission, including by modernising its nuclear capabilities and strengthening its nuclear planning capability.

The Nuclear Planning Group remains the sole forum for nuclear decision-making within NATO. It is responsible for any and all decisions concerning NATO's nuclear deterrence policies, plans and posture.

At a meeting of the Nuclear Planning Group in June, Defence Ministers discussed the nuclear aspects of the current security environment, including Russia's continued reckless nuclear rhetoric. Ministers also discussed the People's Republic of China's (PRC's) continuing rapid and opaque expansion of its nuclear arsenal. Ministers approved an update to NATO's core nuclear policy, the first significant revision in years, which reaffirmed political control over all aspects of NATO nuclear deterrence, and provided political guidance for planning, exercises, consultations and decision-making.

NATO's nuclear deterrence relies on Allied strategic nuclear forces, as well as US nuclear weapons forward-deployed in Europe and national contributions of dual-capable aircraft. The United States has upgraded its B61 nuclear gravity bombs in Europe. The Netherlands completed transition to the F-35A as a dual-capable aircraft, and will be followed by other Allies in the near future. All three Allied nuclear powers – France, the United Kingdom and the United States – are modernising their strategic nuclear forces. NATO is modernising its nuclear Consultation, Command and Control capabilities. Allied investments in conventional capabilities provide vital support for nuclear deterrence.



A Dutch F-35 aircraft participating in exercise Steadfast Noon. The Netherlands, October 2024.

Exercise Steadfast Noon

NATO held its annual nuclear exercise Steadfast Noon in October. More than 60 aircraft and over 2,000 personnel took part, including as part of flights over host countries Belgium and the Netherlands and in airspace over Denmark, the United Kingdom and the North Sea. A variety of aircraft types participated, including bombers, fighter escorts, refuelling aircraft and planes capable of reconnaissance and electronic warfare. In 2024, the first Allied F-35A dual-capable aircraft, namely from the Netherlands, were involved.

Steadfast Noon is an important test of the Alliance's nuclear deterrent and sends a clear message to any potential adversary that NATO will protect and defend all Allies.

Terrorism: Remaining Vigilant

Terrorism remains the most significant asymmetric threat to the security of the citizens of NATO and to international peace and stability. Terrorists and terrorist groups have continued to demonstrate their ability to cross international borders, expand their networks, enhance their capabilities and invest in new technologies to increase their reach and lethality against both NATO Allies and partners.

In 2024, NATO updated its core counter-terrorism policy. The 2024 updated Policy Guidelines and Action Plan provide strategic direction across the Alliance, refine the key areas for NATO's work on counter-terrorism, and affirm the principles to which the Alliance adheres in the global fight against terrorism, including compliance with international law, support to Allies, and non-duplication and complementarity.

Delivering innovative capabilities to defeat the terrorist threat is a core pillar of NATO's efforts. Spanning technical exploitation, countering unmanned aircraft systems, biometrics, battlefield evidence and countering improvised explosive devices, NATO's work continues to address capability gaps and strengthen Allies' interoperability. It is also focused on incorporating new technologies into counter-terrorism capabilities, and ensuring through exercises that existing capabilities are fit for purpose.

NATO's engagement with partner countries through capacity-building remains crucial. Areas of cooperation include tailored training and education initiatives, the protection of critical infrastructure, border security, countering drones and terrorists' misuse of the Internet. NATO also engages on counter-terrorism activities with the European Union, the United Nations and the African Union.

NATO's Counter Unmanned Aircraft System Technical Interoperability Exercise

In September, the NATO Defence Against Terrorism Programme of Work sponsored the fourth edition of NATO's Counter Unmanned Aircraft System Technical Interoperability Exercise. This event brought together over 400 participants from more than 20 Allied and partner countries, including Ukraine, which joined for the first time. Hosted by the Netherlands, the exercise aimed to enhance collective capabilities to counter malicious unmanned aircraft system activities. It featured military, scientific and industry experts collaborating to test advanced commercial solutions for detecting, identifying and neutralising drones. Over 60 technologies, including sensors, effectors, jammers and threat drones were live-tested to ensure seamless integration and instant operability.

A central focus was ensuring interoperability and standardisation in data exchange across the Alliance. This aligns with NATO's broader effort to develop its first counter-unmanned aircraft system doctrine, providing a structured framework to efficiently detect, track and neutralise drone threats. Building on insights from earlier exercises, which identified optimal architectures and standards, the 2024 Counter Unmanned Aircraft System Technical Interoperability Exercise further evaluated the technical compatibility of counter-drone systems with existing Air and Missile Defence capabilities.

INVESTING IN DEFENCE: RESOURCED FOR THE FUTURE

At the Washington Summit, NATO Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to fully implementing the Defence Investment Pledge. They also acknowledged that, in many cases, expenditure beyond 2% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is needed to remedy existing shortfalls and meet requirements across all domains.

In 2024, European Allies and Canada increased defence spending for the 10th consecutive year. Defence spending increased by 19.4% in real terms compared to 2023. In total, over the last 10 years, this increase added a cumulative total of over USD 700 billion³ extra for defence. In 2024, European Allies and Canada invested a combined total of USD 486 billion in defence. This amounted to 2% of their combined GDP.

In 2024, 22 Allies met the guideline of spending 2% of their GDP on defence – in contrast, only three met the guideline in 2014.⁴ The United States accounted for 53% of the Allies' combined GDP and 64% of combined defence expenditure (as measured in current USD). Total NATO military spending in 2024 is estimated to have been around USD 1.3 trillion.

Allies also made progress on their commitment to allocating 20% or more of their defence expenditure to major capabilities. Twenty-eight Allies met the NATO-agreed 20% guideline compared to seven in 2014.



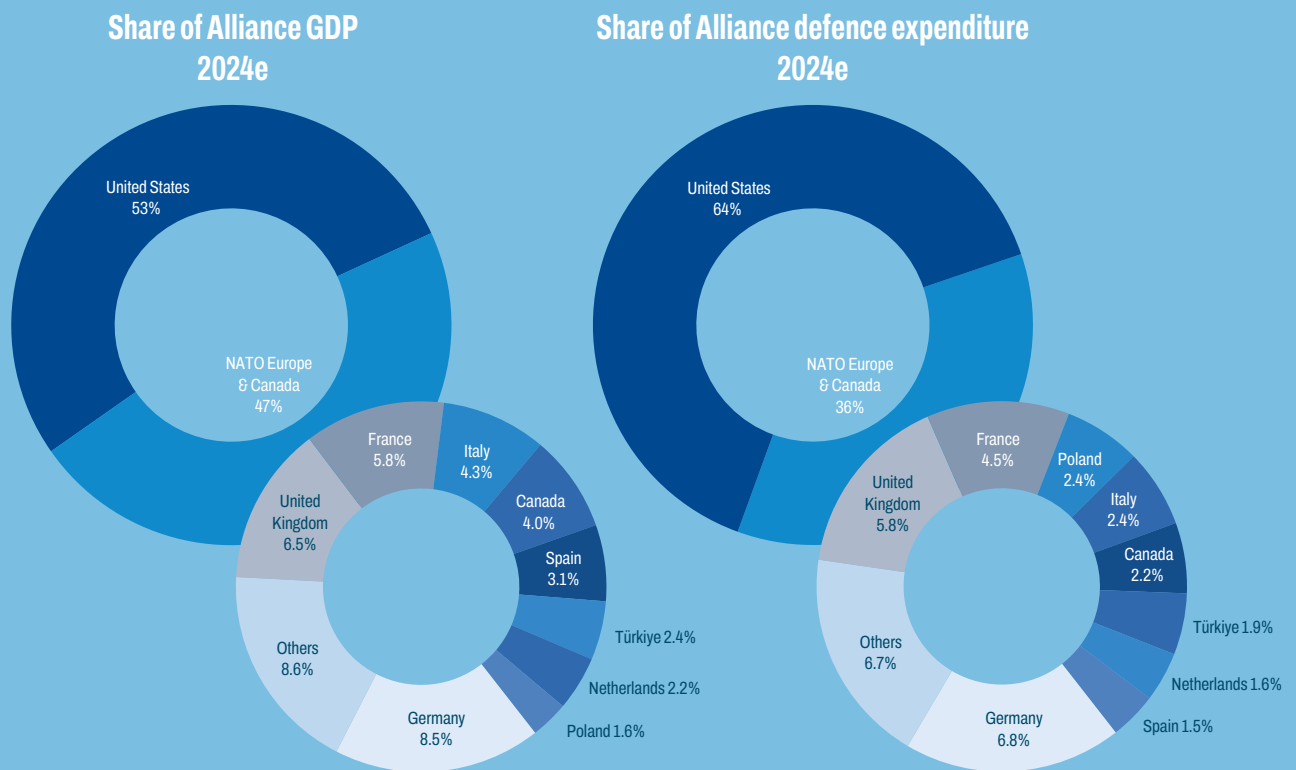
Finnish Marines with the Nylands Brigade prepare to move out on skis after landing during exercise Nordic Response 24. Alta, Norway, March 2024.

2014 Defence Investment Pledge and 2023 Vilnius Defence Investment Pledge

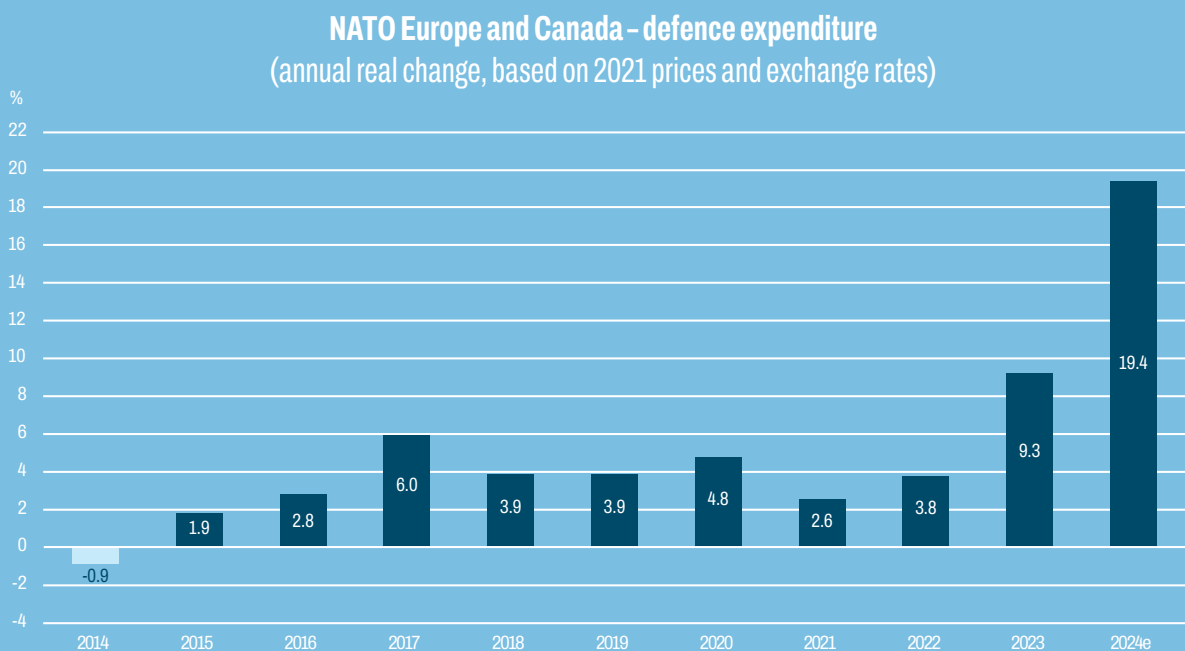
At the 2014 Wales Summit, NATO Leaders signed up to the Defence Investment Pledge. The pledge recognised that fair burden-sharing is the foundation of the Alliance. It called for all Allies to meet the NATO-agreed guideline of spending 2% of GDP on defence by 2024. It also called for Allies to spend at least 20% of annual defence expenditure on major new equipment, including related research and development, within the same time frame. In 2023, NATO Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the Defence Investment Pledge and to spending *at least* 2% of their GDP on defence.

³ All figures on this page are given in constant 2021 USD, unless stated otherwise.

⁴ For all the graphs in this chapter of the report, it should be noted that Iceland has no armed forces. The figures presented at aggregate level may differ from the sum of their components due to rounding. All figures for 2024 are estimates.

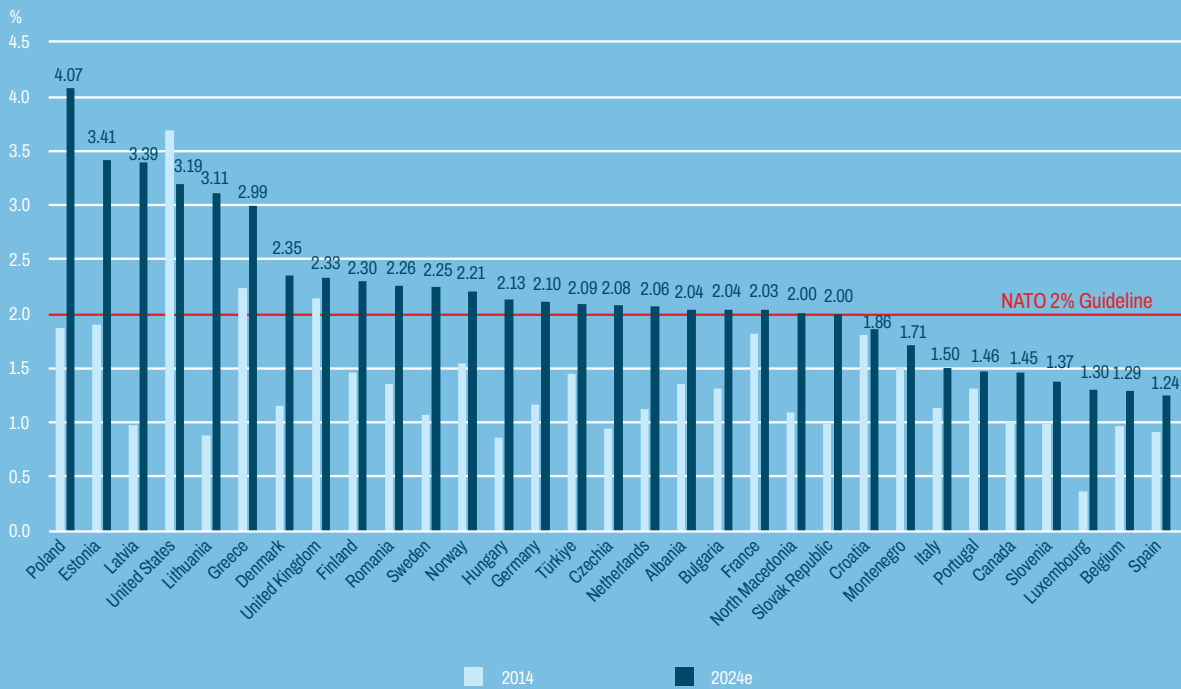


Based on current prices and exchange rates. Figures for 2024 are estimates.

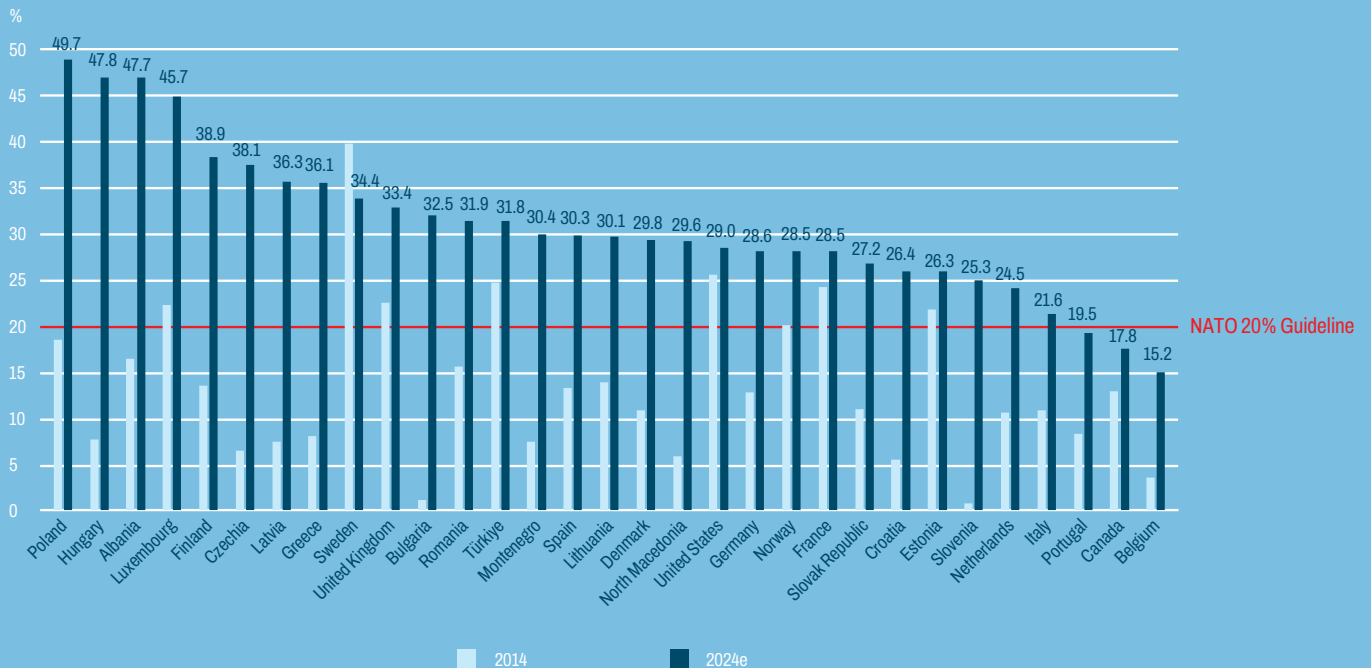


Note: Figures for 2024 are estimates. The NATO Europe and Canada aggregate from 2017 onwards includes Montenegro, which became an Ally on 5 June 2017, from 2020 onwards includes North Macedonia, which became an Ally on 27 March 2020, from 2023 onwards includes Finland, which became an Ally on 4 April 2023, and from 2024 onwards includes Sweden, which became an Ally on 7 March 2024.

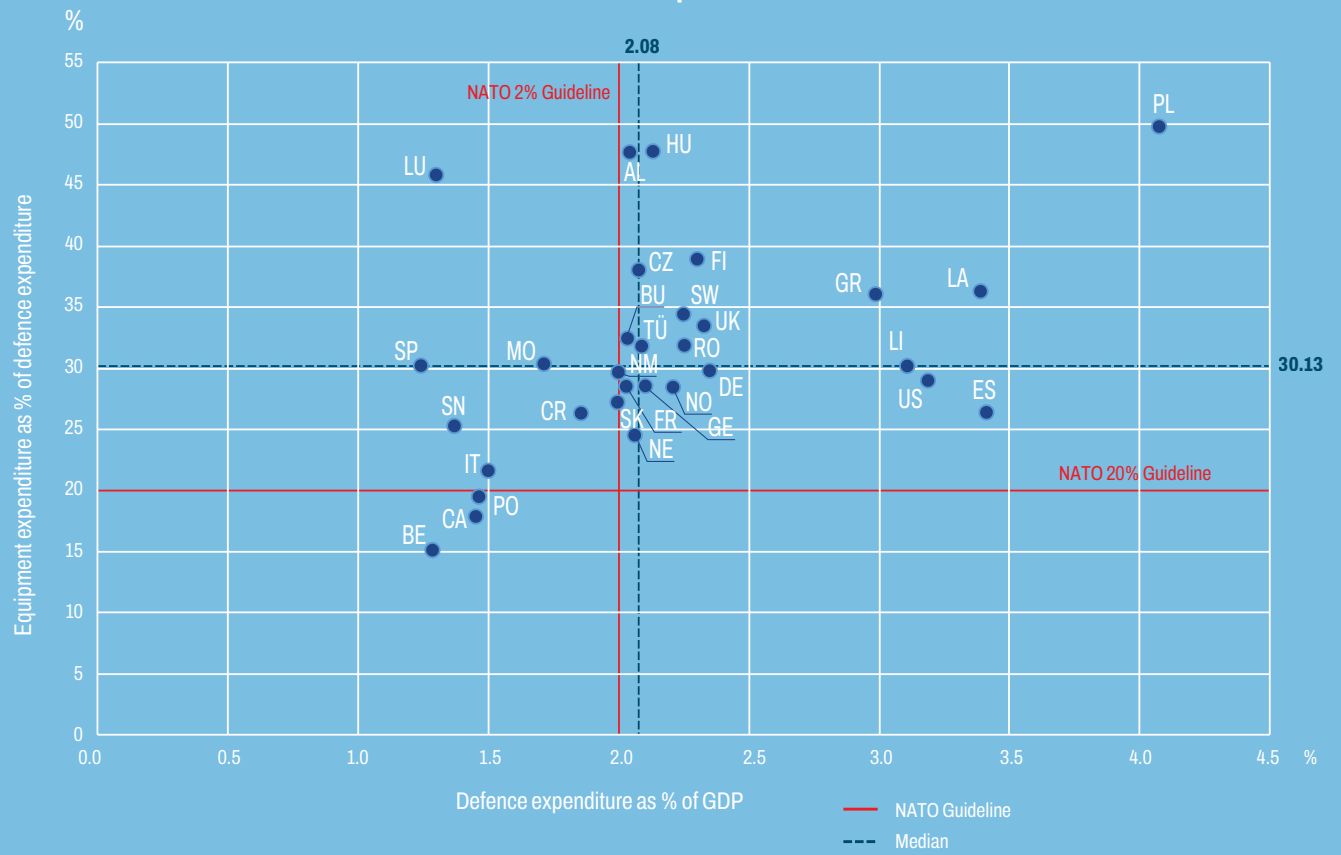
Defence expenditure as a share of GDP (%) (based on 2021 prices and exchange rates)



Equipment expenditure as a share of defence expenditure (%) (based on 2021 prices and exchange rates)



Defence expenditure as a share of GDP and equipment expenditure as a share of defence expenditure - 2024e



CUTTING-EDGE: GIVING ALLIED FORCES THE CAPABILITIES THEY NEED

NATO's ability to deter and defend against potential adversaries relies on Allies having the tools and capabilities they need. The Alliance continues to enhance those capabilities across all domains.

Strengthening the Transatlantic Defence Industry

NATO's ability to deter and defend against potential adversaries relies on Allies having the tools and capabilities they need. That, in turn, requires the Alliance to nurture – and work closely with – the defence industry. Industry is also an integral part of NATO efforts to rapidly adopt novel and emerging technologies.

NATO Allies are committed to investing further in transatlantic defence industrial capacity and production. Allies have reiterated the importance of ramping up production, not only to help Allies restock their own arsenals but also to be able to send appropriate military aid to Ukraine.

To that end, in 2023, NATO Leaders endorsed the Defence Production Action Plan. The plan generated new opportunities for Allies to procure capabilities together – including munitions – and to boost production capacity. For instance, following NATO's identification of a need for EUR 34 billion worth of land and air defence munitions, Allies decided to buy almost half of this as a consortium rather than as individual nations. This helps send a powerful signal to industry of sustainable demand – in turn, giving industry the confidence to plan over the long term. An updated Plan is in development, with a focus on what more NATO and Allies can do to facilitate more collective procurement, communicate clear requirements to industry, and improve the standardisation and interoperability of equipment.

NATO Industrial Capacity Expansion Pledge

At the Washington Summit, NATO Heads of State and Government committed to enhancing industrial capacity and production through the NATO Industrial Capacity Expansion Pledge. Leaders agreed to develop and share national plans to improve industrial capability and capacity in the long run, and strengthen the Alliance's response in times of crisis or conflict. They also agreed to:

- Improve cooperation, openness, demand signals and contracting, in line with NATO strategic military requirements;
- Urgently deliver critical capabilities required for NATO defence plans, with an initial focus on land battle-decisive munitions and air and missile defence;
- Increase large-scale, multinational procurement;
- Accelerate adoption of new technologies and reinforce commitment to standards to improve interoperability and interchangeability;
- Foster and expand defence cooperation between Allies and the Ukrainian defence industrial base;
- Enhance defence industrial cooperation with engaged partners;
- Protect defence-critical supply chains.

Securing Critical Supply Chains

The responsiveness, resilience and security of supply chains are essential to protecting Allied industries and ensuring the Alliance can develop military capabilities free from hostile influence by potential adversaries and strategic competitors.

In June 2024, NATO's Defence Ministers endorsed a defence-critical supply chain security roadmap. The roadmap outlines specific opportunities for collective and/or multinational cooperation to protect Allies' supply chains from disruption. At the Washington Summit, Heads of State and Government reiterated their commitment to identifying and mitigating relevant vulnerabilities and dependencies. Allies on the Defence Industrial Production Board, working with colleagues from the NATO Industrial Advisory Group, are leading the implementation of the roadmap.

NATO has taken important steps towards building a community of interest on defence-critical supply chains. In December 2024, it published a list of 12 critical raw materials essential for Allied capability development and delivery. It has also taken steps to establish a methodology to share assessments of supply chains. On strategic stockpiling, NATO seeks to improve exchanges

of national perspectives and lessons learned, and to facilitate more multinational initiatives in support of Allies. The important issue of recycling and alternatives provides the opportunity to join up the efforts of the armaments and science and technology communities in a mutually beneficial way.

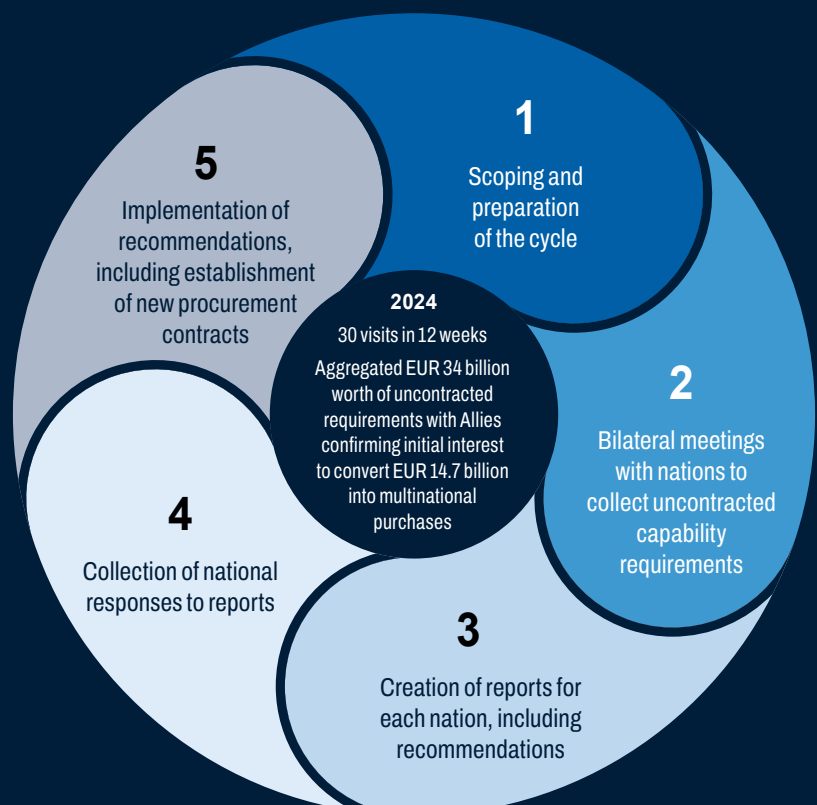
Investing in Cutting-Edge and Interoperable Capabilities

NATO carries out a vast range of multinational missions and tasks, for which it requires cutting-edge and interoperable capabilities. In 2024, Allies renewed their commitment to improving the interoperability of their forces, including by boosting investment in the right capabilities.

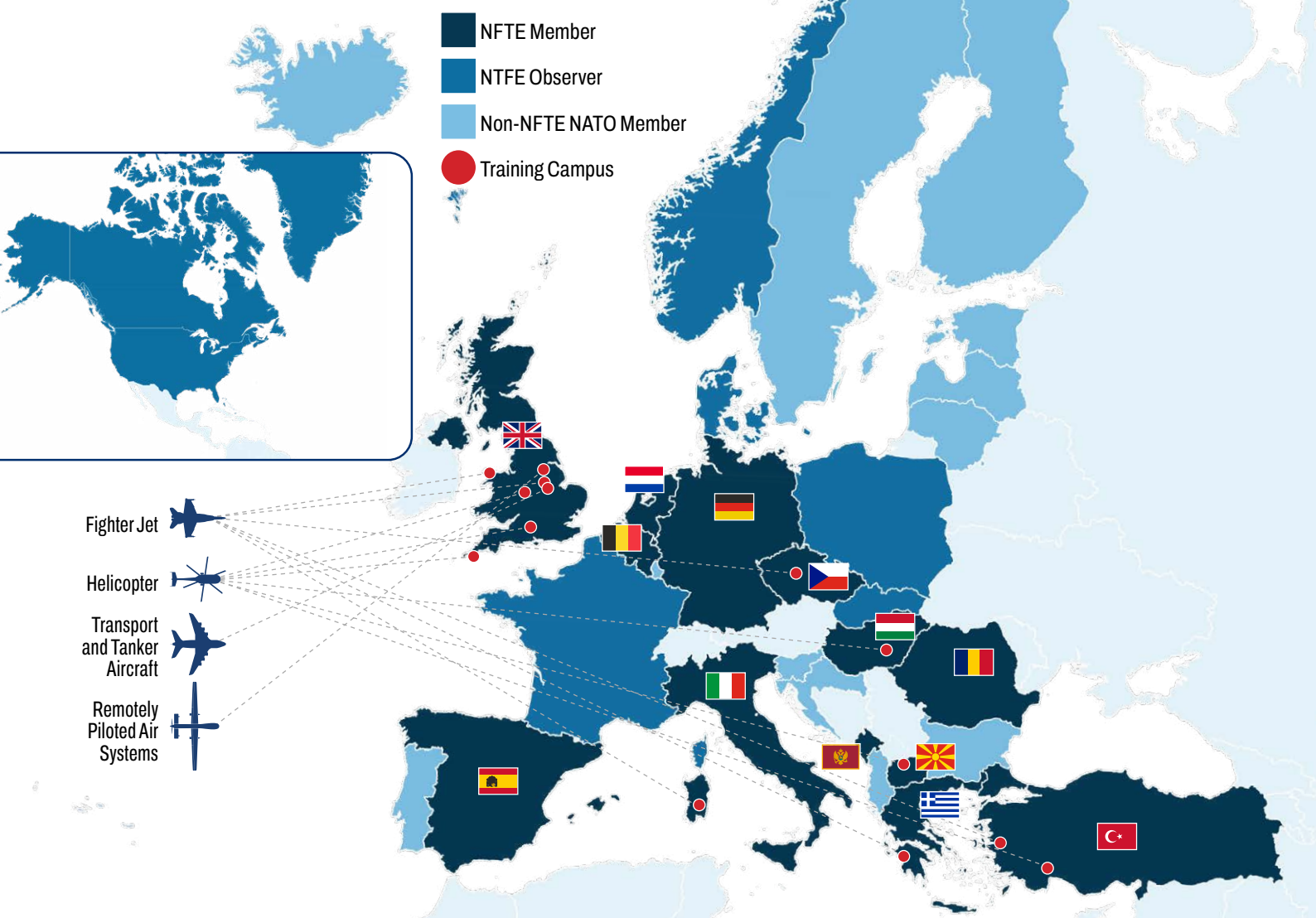
NATO has developed a flexible, scalable and adaptable multinational instrument called High Visibility Projects to address one or more key NATO defence planning priorities and provide Allies with dedicated staff support across the full project lifecycle. This multinational approach has enabled Allies — and some partners — to close key capability gaps, save money and ensure interoperability by design.

Reoccurring Process for Aggregating Demand

NATO serves as an important platform for Allies to cooperate in developing or acquiring new capabilities. When they work as one, Allies have more purchasing power, are able to send powerful demand signals to industry and therefore become greater than the sum of their parts. The Alliance has established a cyclical, repeatable and voluntary approach to delivering capabilities multinationally. This helps Allies, among other things, to meet their own national capability targets and needs.



NATO Flight Training Europe (NFTE)



NATO Flight Training Europe

The High Visibility Project for NATO Flight Training Europe began in 2021. The intent was to meet the growing demand for greater military flight training capacity by creating a network of training campuses across Europe. The initial group of 10 member countries has since increased to 13⁵, with more expected to join in 2025. There are now 14 declared training campuses in seven Allied countries around Europe. Each campus focuses on providing training for different types of future pilots, including for fighter jets, helicopters, transport and tanker aircraft, as well as operators for remotely piloted air systems. In November 2024, NATO Flight Training Europe was declared to be at Full Operational Capability. This milestone represents the ability of participants to share flight training capacity more efficiently by sending pilot students to other Allies' facilities.

5 Belgium, Czechia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Romania, Spain, Türkiye and the United Kingdom.

Six New High Visibility Projects

In 2024, the Alliance launched six new High Visibility Projects:

- Multinational Fleets of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems – which will support a wide range of missions, including in the areas of joint intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance and electromagnetic warfare.
- Test, Evaluation and Certification of the Interchangeability of Indirect Fire Munitions – which will consolidate NATO's test and certification procedures for indirect fire munitions.
- Distributed Synthetic Training – which will deliver more regular multinational, cutting-edge, cross-domain distributed training.
- STARLIFT – which will help participating nations develop a scalable network of government-owned and commercially responsive space capabilities.
- NORTHLINK – which will establish a multinational framework for satellite communications in the Arctic.
- Allied Cloud and Edge Services – which will improve operational efficiency by ensuring unified communications and the seamless sharing of data across all domains.

Aviation and Air Capabilities

Aeronautical capabilities are essential to the Alliance's three core tasks. Throughout 2024, NATO continued to support the development of capabilities in the air domain, airspace safety and airspace defence.

The NATO cross-border airspace initiative, for instance, enhances cooperation between Allied civil and military authorities on the use of airspace for training, exercises and other air activities in several regions of Europe. Six Allies joined the initiative in 2024, making a total of 20.⁶

NATO's Aeronautical Communications, Navigation and Surveillance Strategy, agreed in 2023, focuses on the establishment and evolution of a resilient communications, navigation and surveillance system of systems, based on national communications, navigation and surveillance capabilities. NATO also addresses unmanned aircraft systems via the Joint Capability Group Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Group. In 2024, this group agreed NATO's UAS Sense and Avoid Standard – focused on detecting obstacles and avoiding collision for remotely piloted air vehicles.

Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Capabilities

NATO continues to invest in its ability to conduct intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions and operations. Key to this is the Alliance Future Surveillance and Control initiative, which is designed to satisfy the needs of the future multi-domain operational environment, including the development of a seamlessly integrated, network-centric system of systems.

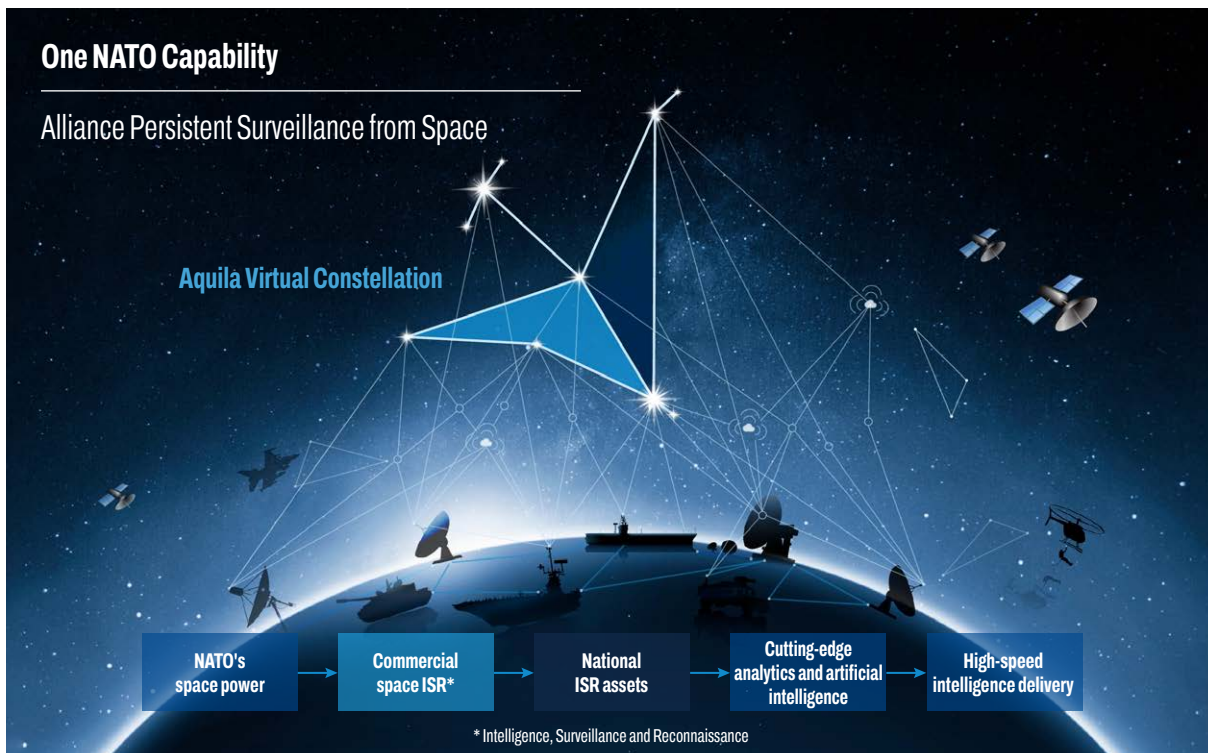
A second initiative – Alliance Persistent Surveillance from Space – is NATO's most significant multinational investment to date in space-based intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities. The initiative has entered its implementation phase, supported by substantial contributions from 17 Allies.⁷ A virtual constellation of national and commercial space assets known as Aquila will deliver greater precision and speed in ground and maritime monitoring. Alliance Persistent Surveillance from Space also aims to boost NATO's ability to analyse and exploit data and quickly provide intelligence to decision-makers.

⁶ Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden and Türkiye.

⁷ Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Türkiye and the United States.

One NATO Capability

Alliance Persistent Surveillance from Space



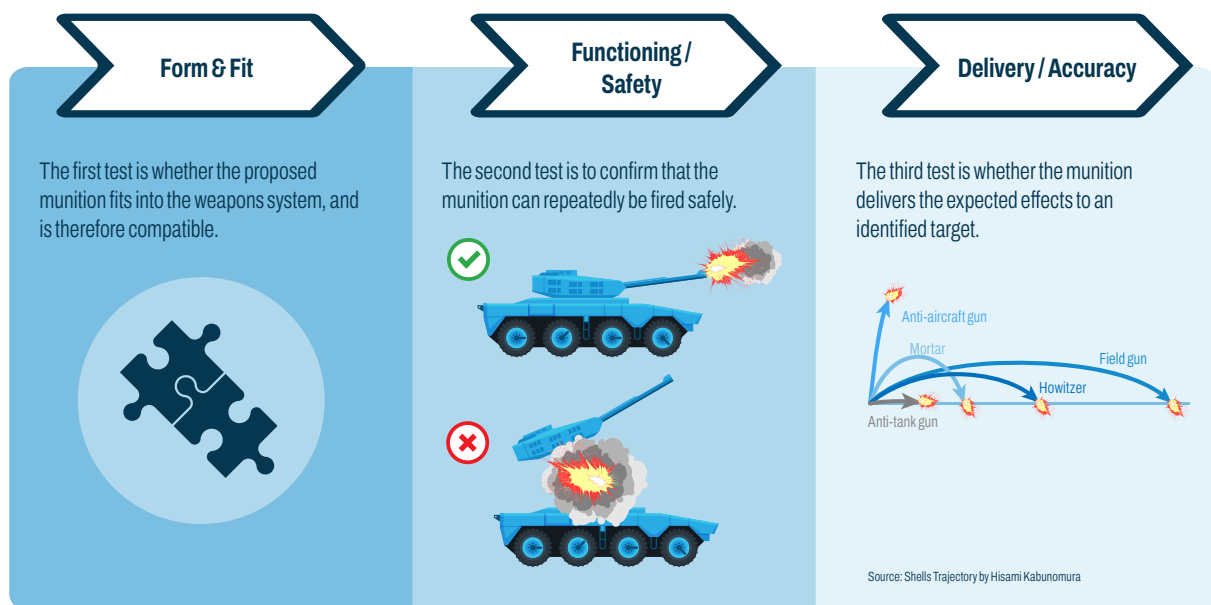
Land Capabilities

NATO continues to support the development and delivery of the capabilities identified by its military leadership. This includes efforts to align the development of new capabilities with advanced technologies through closer collaboration between nations, industry and academia.

Greater engagement with industry has allowed the Alliance to strengthen the interoperability of land-combat systems – from the individual soldier to vehicle platforms and advanced communications.

An integrated political, military and industrial approach means Allies can close critical capability gaps and ensure the Alliance has sufficient, interoperable forces at readiness to win on the modern battlefield.

Ammunition Interchangeability⁸



⁸ Interchangeability is the ability of one product, process or service to be used in place of another to fulfill the same requirements.



French aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle in the Mediterranean Sea. Toulon, France, April 2024.

Maritime Capabilities

NATO is committed to innovation and collaboration in the development of maritime capabilities – in turn, making sure its forces are ready and equipped for future challenges.

In 2024, NATO achieved significant progress in the pursuit of its Digital Ocean Vision, which aims to enhance maritime situational awareness from seabed to space. A Digital Ocean Roadmap outlines Allies' intent to exploit emerging and disruptive technologies in the maritime domain, including the exploitation of artificial intelligence, autonomous systems, quantum technologies, space and next-generation communications networks.

Through the Robotic Experimentation and Prototyping with Maritime Unmanned Systems (REPMUS), hosted by

Portugal, NATO has focused on developing technological solutions for pressing operational challenges, including the protection of critical undersea infrastructure and naval mine warfare. In 2024, Ukraine took part in this exercise through a number of unmanned surface vessels.

Following a demand from Allies, NATO is also exploring greater innovation in ship design and lifecycle management. The aim is to reduce overall programme costs, increase warship resilience and availability, and use new technologies to improve sustainability and predictive maintenance. NATO is also working to increase interoperability between manned and unmanned underwater vehicles as a step towards boosting deterrence and defence, and the protection of critical undersea infrastructure.

Boosting Underwater Situational Awareness

The Allied Underwater Battlespace Mission Network is designed to enhance underwater situational awareness, communication and warfare capabilities among NATO naval forces. It also aims to increase interoperability between manned and unmanned underwater vehicles through the use of a common architecture and agreed standardisation. Exercises such as REPMUS, held each year in Portugal, help verify technologies and standards.



SeaExplorer gliders – unmanned underwater vehicles – aboard FS Acheron during REPMUS 24. Troia, Portugal, September 2024.

Maintaining NATO Technological Edge

Maintaining and sharpening NATO's technological edge is essential to the Alliance's success. NATO relies on a robust, multinational innovation ecosystem consisting, for instance, of technology companies and innovation hubs, many of which make a contribution – direct or indirect – to maintaining NATO's technological edge. The Alliance is committed to promoting and nurturing that ecosystem. That is the thinking behind initiatives such as the Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic (DIANA) and the NATO Innovation Fund, which are working to support innovators and encourage investment.

To preserve its technological edge and bolster its deterrence and defence, NATO also accelerated work on emerging and disruptive technologies and digital transformation.

In 2024, the Alliance released its revised artificial intelligence (AI) strategy, which aims to accelerate the use of AI technologies within the Alliance in a safe and responsible way. The strategy identifies several priorities including advancing the implementation of NATO's Principles of Responsible Use; the importance of testing AI systems as a way to build trust in their use; increasing interoperability between AI systems; the combination of AI with other emerging and disruptive technologies; and expanding NATO's AI ecosystem through closer cooperation, for instance, with Allied industry and academia. For the first time, the strategy also identified AI-enabled information operations as issues of concern. The Alliance continued to rely on its Data and AI Review Board as the focal point for NATO's efforts to govern the responsible development and use of AI. In 2024, the Board began to pilot a NATO Responsible AI Assessment and Toolkit, and developed guidance on the opportunities and benefits of generative AI.

In 2024, NATO launched the Alliance Data Sharing Ecosystem for defence and security to foster secure data sharing at speed and scale to further enhance situational awareness and data-driven decision-making. The initiative aims to support the implementation of NATO's digital transformation and its efforts to rapidly adopt dual-use technologies. Connecting the Ecosystem with other data-sharing initiatives, such as Alliance Persistent Surveillance from Space, will have a multiplier effect on NATO's data exploitation capability and multi-domain operations.

NATO also released its first-ever quantum strategy, outlining how quantum can be applied to defence and

security in areas such as sensing, imaging, navigation, submarine detection and secure communications. To become a quantum-ready Alliance, NATO and Allies will foster the development of a secure, resilient and competitive quantum ecosystem.

NATO Transatlantic Quantum Community

In April, NATO established the Transatlantic Quantum Community as a voluntary and informal NATO group. This initiative gathers quantum decision-makers and leaders from industry, academia, governments of Allied nations, and the European Union. For its first year, the Community was chaired by Denmark with the United Kingdom as vice-chair.

In November, the first plenary meeting was held in Copenhagen, Denmark. Key outcomes included significant progress in advancing commercial, security and defence use cases for quantum technologies, discussions on investments and cooperation among Allies and partners.

In 2024, Allies adopted the first international strategy to govern the responsible development and use of biotechnology and human enhancement. This helps the Alliance to set out a responsible approach to the development and use of biotechnology and human enhancement technologies within security and defence, including their timely and safe integration into Allied forces.

Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic

DIANA supports the Alliance by nurturing some of its most exciting dual-use innovators, and then exploring ways to harness their technologies for defence and security. It does this by issuing 'challenges' in specific problem areas identified by Allies, and asking innovators to propose solutions. It then works directly with those selected – from early-stage start-ups to more mature companies – giving them access to testing environments, connecting them to defence experts and providing funding to develop and validate their technologies. DIANA also collaborates with a network of accelerator sites and test centres in innovation clusters across the Alliance.

In 2024, 74 companies were selected to join the 2025 cohort – DIANA's second cohort. These companies, headquartered in 20 different Allied countries, are trailblazers in fields as diverse as quantum sensing, propulsion technology, harsh-environment operations, biomedical developments and biohacking, and AI-driven communications.

NATO Innovation Fund

The NATO Innovation Fund, the world's first multi-sovereign venture capital fund, became fully operational in 2024, investing in seven companies developing innovative, dual-use solutions in novel materials and manufacturing, artificial intelligence, space, quantum and robotics. The Fund also announced five indirect investments into mission-aligned investment funds. The NATO Innovation Fund is unique in combining the timelines to invest at an early stage with the ability to boost innovative capacity and facilitate the adoption of technological solutions across the Alliance. To date, 24 Allies⁹ have invested over EUR 1 billion in the Fund.

2024 saw the establishment of the NATO Innovation Fund's headquarters in Amsterdam and offices in London and Warsaw. In June 2024, the Fund signed a memorandum of understanding with the European Investment Fund to encourage more private-capital funds to become active investors in technology sectors associated with defence and security.

⁹ Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Türkiye and the United Kingdom.

BOOSTING RESILIENCE

In a volatile and contested security environment, resilience is the Alliance's first line of defence. In recent years, NATO and Allies have implemented a series of initiatives to strengthen their resilience against all threats and challenges.

Allies recognise that their militaries are dependent upon civil and commercial services, which in turn requires planning, preparation and cooperation.

At the Washington Summit, Allies pledged to integrate civilian planning into their national and collective defence planning efforts. This work will help Allies ensure their civilian sectors are ready to support the execution of NATO's military plans while limiting the impact on populations.

NATO also works with a wide range of partners to boost collective resilience. In 2024, Allies continued to engage with partners to share information, best practices and lessons learned. For example, the 2024 NATO Resilience Symposium brought together Allies and partners from the Indo-Pacific, NATO's southern neighbourhood, as well as staffs from the European Union, the United Nations and eight NATO Centres of Excellence. At the Washington Summit, Allies agreed to take further steps to deepen NATO's cooperation with partners on resilience, in particular the European Union.

Blurring the Lines: Addressing Destabilisation Campaigns

In 2024, Allies experienced a continuing escalation in Russia's destabilising and malign actions against Allies – including through proxies – in a campaign conducted across the Euro-Atlantic area. Deliberate hostile acts included sabotage, assassination attempts, provocations at Allied borders, the instrumentalisation of migration, cyber attacks, electronic jamming, and economic coercion, among others.

The PRC also continued to engage in hybrid actions against the Alliance and Allies, such as malicious cyber activities, economic coercion, and the leveraging of strategic dependencies and political influence.

NATO is determined to continue building resilience and deterrence against these actions – through monitoring and

mapping of potential threats, the sharing of intelligence, as well as by building capacity, including through exercises. In 2024, NATO Leaders decided on further tailored measures to counter hybrid threats, both individually and collectively. These measures included actions to reduce the activities of Russia's intelligence services, increase cyber defences and tackle Russia's efforts to circumvent Western sanctions.

NATO also engages with partner countries to strengthen resilience and cooperates closely with the European Union.

New technologies are increasing the potency of hybrid attacks. Artificial intelligence, for instance, is revolutionising the speed and ease of acts of disinformation. In 2024, NATO established a Task Force on AI-enabled Information Operations and Deep Fakes, to help Allies better prepare and respond.

Under the Sea: Enhancing the Security of Critical Infrastructure

Enhancing the security of critical undersea infrastructure is essential to NATO's collective defence and resilience. These vital systems underpin global communication, commerce and the supply of energy, meaning their defence is a strategic priority.

Damage to several undersea telecommunication and electricity cables in the Baltic Sea in November and December 2024 underscored the need to secure critical undersea infrastructure across the Alliance. In response to those incidents, Allies enhanced their military presence in the region, strengthened information-sharing among Allies and improved civil-military coordination in support of national investigations.

NATO is developing and deploying new tools to enhance the security of undersea cables and pipelines. A dedicated Critical Undersea Infrastructure Coordination Cell has been established at NATO Headquarters, alongside the NATO Maritime Centre for the Security of Critical

Undersea Infrastructure at Allied Maritime Command in Northwood, United Kingdom. These initiatives form the cornerstone of NATO's approach to safeguarding critical undersea infrastructure. The Maritime Centre, launched in May 2024, aims to boost situational awareness and deterrence and defence in the maritime domain. To support the Centre, NATO has also established a Critical Undersea Infrastructure Network comprising Allies, the private sector and other relevant actors to facilitate information-sharing and the exchange of best practice.

Technology plays a key role in protecting undersea infrastructure and NATO is continuing to promote innovation – such as sea drones, sensors and the use of artificial intelligence – to detect suspicious activity at sea. For instance, the NATO Centre for Maritime Research and Experimentation in La Spezia, Italy is at the forefront of technological innovation in this field. Leveraging advanced machine learning and unmanned maritime systems, the Centre has developed cutting-edge tools to bolster protection of undersea infrastructure.

NATO also continues to engage with relevant partners including the European Union, Ireland and the energy and telecommunications sectors.

Powering the Alliance

NATO and Allies need stable and reliable energy supplies, on which Allied militaries also depend. In 2024, NATO stepped up related support to Ukraine, identified energy lessons for Allies and conducted training on energy security and critical energy infrastructure protection. It also tested preparedness to respond to threats against critical energy infrastructure.

The Alliance's military and technological edge relies on the ability to adopt innovative energy solutions and adapt to industrial trends driven by the private sector. To this end, NATO adopted measures to enhance coordination among Allies, including on their energy interoperability, and exchanges with energy companies on opportunities and vulnerabilities relating to energy innovation. Allies recognise the heightened threat to their critical infrastructure and risks associated with strategic dependences on critical materials that are key to both defence industries and energy technologies.

NATO continued to adapt its operations and capabilities to better withstand the effects of extreme weather and changing climate conditions. The chief goal is to maintain operational capability and interoperability.

Exercise Nordic Pine 2024

Nordic Pine 2024, held in Finland and Sweden, marked a major step forward in the safeguarding of critical energy infrastructure.

For the first time, NATO deployed the Global Education Community Collaboration Online simulation system in a civilian energy context. This advanced tool allowed participants to simulate real-world hybrid attack scenarios, fostering collaboration between the military, academia and experts from the private sector.

By testing this cutting-edge technology beyond traditional military frameworks, NATO showcased how advanced simulations can enhance preparedness, inform policy and help develop practical solutions to emerging vulnerabilities.

CRISIS PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT

Crisis prevention and management is one of NATO's three core tasks. The Alliance is committed to preventing and responding to crises when they have the potential to affect Allied security.

NATO Operations, Missions and Activities

NATO Operation in Kosovo

NATO's presence in Kosovo remains crucial to the stability of the Western Balkans region. The mandate for NATO's role in Kosovo stems from United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244, adopted in 1999. Since then, the NATO-led Kosovo Force (KFOR) has worked to help maintain a safe and secure environment for all communities in Kosovo and freedom of movement, in close cooperation with the European Union, the United Nations and other international actors.

In 2024, the Kosovo Force played a critical role in ensuring stability amid heightened tensions in northern Kosovo. As of October 2024, 29 Allies and partners provided approximately 4,300 troops to KFOR, including deployed reserve forces. In October, Major General Enrico Barduani of Italy took over the command of KFOR from Türkiye's Major General Özkan Ulutaş.

NATO also continues to provide capacity-building support to security organisations in Kosovo through the NATO Advisory and Liaison Team. In 2024, the team continued to offer advice and assistance in areas such as medical support, logistics, procurement, budget execution and human resources management.

NATO supports the European Union-facilitated dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina, the main platform for finding a solution that respects the rights of all communities and building a lasting peace.

NATO Mission Iraq

NATO Mission Iraq is the cornerstone of NATO's engagement in the Middle East. It is a non-combat advisory and capacity-building mission that supports Iraq in strengthening its security forces and institutions, so that Iraqis themselves can stabilise their country, fight terrorism and prevent the return of ISIS/Daesh. NATO Mission Iraq coordinates closely with Operation Inherent Resolve of the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS, the United Nations and the European Union. The mission is composed of Allies and Operational Partners Australia and, since the spring of 2024, Austria.

The Mission provides advice on a range of issues, from policy and strategy to force generation and resource management. All activities of NATO Mission Iraq are agreed upon by the Iraqi government and conducted in full respect of Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Mission also implements the Defence Capacity Building package for Iraq. It comprises seven key areas – including defence reform, procurement, as well as medical and legal advisor training. Cooperation significantly expanded in 2024, growing from four projects in July 2023 to more than 30 a year later.

In 2024, the mission deepened its cooperation with the Iraqi Ministry of Defence, including its education institutions, and with the Federal Police Command in the Iraqi Ministry of Interior. In May 2024, Lieutenant General Lucas Schreurs of the Netherlands took over mission command from Lieutenant General José Antonio Agüero of Spain.



UK carrier strike group units assemble for exercise Joint Warrior. North Sea, February 2024.

NATO Operations and Activities at Sea

Maritime security is key to Allies' peace and prosperity. NATO operations and activities at sea help to maintain security and contribute to all three of NATO's core tasks. The Alliance works with partners and other international organisations to enhance maritime situational awareness, build maritime capacity and provide a safe and secure maritime environment.

In 2024, NATO's Standing Naval Forces continued to play an important part in enhancing the Alliance's forward presence and maintaining a credible deterrent and effective defensive capability. NATO's Standing

Naval Forces also helped to provide maritime situational awareness in the eastern Mediterranean.

Operation Sea Guardian in the Mediterranean supports maritime situational awareness and efforts to counter the threat of terrorism. It also contributes to capacity-building through training, exercises and port visits. Throughout 2024, Operation Sea Guardian undertook six focused operations involving both surface and subsurface vessels and maritime patrol aircraft.

In the Aegean Sea, Allied ships regularly provided information, surveillance and reconnaissance to help Greece, Türkiye and FRONTEX (the European Union's Border and Coast Guard Agency) prevent human trafficking.

NATO Standing Maritime Presence 2024

4 NATO Standing Maritime Groups:

96 different ships

21 exercises

170 port visits in

21 NATO countries

- ⚓ Visited Countries
- Major Exercise / Operation
- ⚓ Standing Naval Forces (Areas of Deployment)

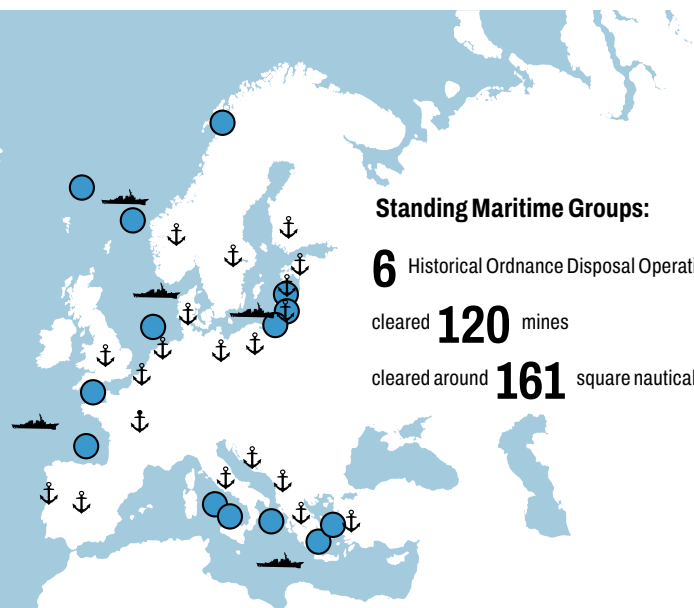
Symbols depicted on the map indicate areas of deployment during the reporting period.

Standing Maritime Groups:

6 Historical Ordnance Disposal Operations

cleared **120** mines

cleared around **161** square nautical miles



Contributing to Crisis Prevention: Investing in Education, Capacity- Building and Good Governance

NATO trains and assists partners in building their capacity in areas like counter-terrorism, stabilisation, countering hybrid attacks, crisis management, peacekeeping and defence reform.

The Alliance runs several programmes focused on strengthening interoperability, enhancing partners' ability to participate in NATO-led operations, as well as supporting defence reform, good governance, and professional military education through advising, assisting, training and mentoring.

Boosting Training and Capacity-Building

The Defence and Related Security Capacity Building Initiative provides tailored advice and practical assistance to partners to help improve their defence and security capacities. This Initiative focuses, for instance, on strategic-level advice on security sector reform and institution-building.

Originally launched at the 2014 Wales Summit, the Initiative celebrated its 10-year anniversary in 2024. Over the past decade, eight partners¹⁰ have benefitted from the Initiative with NATO Allies and partners donating almost EUR 88 million, as of the end of 2024. Importantly, efforts abide by several key principles: tailoring assistance to partners' individual needs and circumstances; focusing on sustainability and long-term effects; deploying NATO's unique subject-matter expertise; and giving partners ownership.

Investing in Education

The Defence Education Enhancement Programme helps partners to develop and reform their professional military education institutions by establishing validated common references for military education. In 2024, the Programme executed more than 500 events – both online and in person – involving around 1,500 subject-matter experts reaching out to over 3,100 partner faculty members and instructors.

Defence Education Enhancement Programme: 2024 Highlights

- **Armenia:** reform the country's professional military education system;
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina:** develop new counter-terrorism courses;
- **Iraq:** build the capacity of the military education institutions;
- **Mauritania:** improve curricula and professional development in defence institutions;
- **Republic of Moldova:** reform the non-commissioned officers corps;
- **Morocco:** improve the education of non-commissioned officers;
- **Tunisia:** implement a tailored learning management system for the armed forces;
- **Ukraine:** transform the Ukrainian military education system to align with NATO models.

Building Integrity

Since 2007, the NATO Building Integrity Programme has provided Allies and partner countries with practical tools and methodologies to help uphold good governance and strengthen institutional resilience against the risk of corruption.

Effective and efficient defence institutions are a pillar of security and stability, while corruption and weak governance undermine public trust, waste resources and decrease operational effectiveness. In 2024, the Programme continued to provide strategic advice on governance reforms at an institutional level and to deliver tailored capacity-building and training – including to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

¹⁰ Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iraq, Jordan, Mauritania, Republic of Moldova, Tunisia and the United Nations.

PARTNERSHIPS: SHARED SECURITY THROUGH COOPERATION AND DIALOGUE

NATO maintains active partnerships with 35 countries and several international organisations around the world, comprising a range of activities from sharing expertise to capacity-building and crisis prevention.

In 2024, 17 partner nations participated in seven NATO-led exercises. Partners contributed to NATO missions in Iraq and Kosovo, supported NATO-led Trust Funds with financial assistance, and offered in-kind contributions through NATO's Partnership Training and Education Centres.

NATO Open Door Policy

Article 10 of the North Atlantic Treaty states that NATO membership is open to any European democracy able to further the principles of the North Atlantic Treaty – individual liberty, democracy and the rule of law – and to contribute to the security of the North Atlantic area. The Allies, by unanimous agreement, may invite any such European state to accede.

Bilateral and Regional Partnerships

NATO's global network of partnerships has been developing for over 30 years. The Alliance cooperates with partners on a bilateral basis, as well as through regional partnership frameworks.

In the Euro-Atlantic area, Allies are actively engaged with 16 partner countries, bilaterally and through the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council and the Partnership for Peace programme.¹¹ Among these partners, NATO has developed specific structures for its relationships with Ukraine and Georgia.

NATO's partnership network also extends to 11 partners in the Middle East and North Africa through the Mediterranean Dialogue and the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative.¹² Furthermore, the Alliance cooperates with

Welcoming Sweden to NATO

In early 2024, Allies completed ratification of the Accession Protocol for Sweden, and on 7 March 2024 Sweden became a NATO member by depositing its Instrument of Accession with the United States government, the depository of the North Atlantic Treaty. This was followed by a flag-raising ceremony at NATO Headquarters on 11 March. In July, Allies welcomed Sweden to a NATO summit for the first time as a full member.

The summit declaration noted that the accession of Finland – in 2023 – and that of Sweden made them safer and the Alliance stronger, including in the High North and the Baltic Sea. Sweden brings an unquestionable commitment to the Alliance's values and principles, a resilient society, highly capable armed forces and an advanced defence industrial sector to the Alliance. NATO membership provides Sweden with collective defence, capabilities and a level of deterrence far beyond what one nation could deliver on its own.

a range of countries that are not part of these regional partnership frameworks. Such countries are known as 'partners across the globe' and include Australia, Colombia, Iraq, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mongolia, New Zealand and Pakistan.

11 Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Malta, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

12 The Mediterranean Dialogue includes Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia. The Istanbul Cooperation Initiative includes Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

Enduring Support to Ukraine

At the Washington Summit, Allied Leaders took a number of decisions to ensure long-term support for Ukraine:

- The establishment of NATO Security Assistance and Training for Ukraine (NSATU) to coordinate the provision of military equipment, training and logistical support to Ukraine. NSATU also aims to support the transformation of Ukraine's defence and security forces.
- A financial pledge by Allies to provide long-term security assistance, with a minimum baseline funding of EUR 40 billion for the whole year of 2024. As a result, approximately EUR 50 billion was committed, with more than half coming from European Allies and Canada. It is designed to help Ukraine build a force capable of defending against Russian aggression today and deterring it in the future.
- The launch of the NATO-Ukraine Joint Analysis, Training and Education Centre in Bydgoszcz, Poland. This joint NATO-Ukraine organisation aims to identify and apply lessons learned from the war, contributing to NATO's deterrence and defence and further boosting interoperability between Allied and Ukrainian forces.
- The strengthening of the NATO Representation to Ukraine to deepen political engagement, support reform and deliver practical assistance.

In 2024, NATO continued to provide assistance to Ukraine through the Comprehensive Assistance Package. The Alliance delivers non-lethal assistance, based on Ukraine's immediate battlefield requirements. Examples include power generators, fuel supplies and equipment to repair energy facilities. NATO also focused on mid- to long-term capacity-building projects to help Ukraine transform its defence and security sector, increase interoperability, contribute to demining, reform defence procurement, reinforce its military healthcare, and explore ways to support the reconstruction of damaged military infrastructure. As of the end of 2024, Allies and partners had contributed more than EUR 950 million (approximately USD 1 billion) to the Comprehensive Assistance Package Trust Fund.

In addition, throughout 2024, the NATO-Ukraine Council served as a forum for consultation and cooperation, including to advance cooperation on innovation and cyber defence. The NATO-Ukraine Council met during every gathering of Foreign and Defence Ministers in 2024, as well as at the Washington Summit.



Lithuanian Army soldiers training members of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. Lithuania, November 2024.

NATO Security Assistance and Training for Ukraine (NSATU)

NSATU is comprised of approximately 700 personnel from Allied nations and partner countries. The effort is led by a three-star general reporting to NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) and headquartered in Wiesbaden, Germany, with key logistical hubs on the Alliance's eastern flank.

NATO Engagement and Cooperation in the Western Balkans

NATO's engagement in the Western Balkans remains robust, with an increased operational presence, more political dialogue and enhanced practical support. The 2024 North Atlantic Council visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina sent a strong signal of NATO's enduring commitment to the stability of Bosnia and Herzegovina itself as well as the entire region. NATO's presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina has been reinforced by the establishment of a Political Engagement Support Cell, which, alongside NATO Headquarters Sarajevo, aims to boost the NATO-Bosnia and Herzegovina partnership. Practical cooperation through the Defence and Related Security Capacity Building Package for Bosnia and Herzegovina, endorsed in 2023, focuses on 12 areas designed to strengthen the country's resilience and ability to counter malign influence. The Alliance continued to support the European Union-led operation EUFOR Althea, under the "Berlin Plus" arrangements, to maintain a safe and secure environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

With Serbia, NATO maintained high-level political dialogue to address issues relevant for regional security. Partnership cooperation continued, with the NATO Military Liaison Office in Belgrade providing support to Serbia's activities within the Partnership for Peace framework.

Cooperation with the Republic of Moldova

NATO and the Republic of Moldova have a long-standing relationship based on political dialogue and practical cooperation, in full respect of Moldova's constitutional neutrality. 2024 marked 30 years of NATO-Moldova partnership. NATO continued to deliver advice, education, training, and material assistance to a wide range of Moldovan institutions, including the Ministry of Defence, the National Army, the Ministry of Energy and the State Chancellery. Other activities included organising the first NATO-Moldova joint exercise on energy and cyber security, and delivering EUR 700,000 of medical equipment donated by Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Türkiye and the United Kingdom.

The NATO Liaison Office in Chisinau played a key role in facilitating dialogue, cooperation and increasing public awareness about NATO. The office opened in 2017 at the request of the authorities of the Republic of Moldova and has served as the official diplomatic mission and representation of NATO in Moldova.

NATO Engagement in the South Caucasus

NATO reaffirmed its support for the territorial integrity, political independence and sovereignty of all three partner nations impacted by the evolving security environment in the South Caucasus. Armenia and Azerbaijan were encouraged to engage constructively and reach a mutually acceptable and sustainable settlement.

NATO and Georgia also continued their practical cooperation to strengthen Georgia's security and defence capabilities and enhance interoperability with the Alliance. The Georgian Defence Forces participated in the NATO Coalition Warrior Interoperability eXercise 2024 (CWIX24) in Poland in June and members of the Georgian Border Police deployed to Operation Sea Guardian in September 2024, marking the second rotation for Georgia as an operational partner.

NATO's engagement in the South Caucasus continues to be supported by the NATO Liaison Office in Tbilisi, Georgia.

NATO Engagement in the Southern Neighbourhood

In 2024, NATO strengthened its political dialogue with partners in the Middle East and North Africa. Its new approach to the region is enshrined in a new action plan adopted at the Washington Summit. Allied Leaders also adopted the Southern Neighbourhood Action Plan to enable a stronger, more strategic and result-oriented approach towards the region. To support its implementation, the Secretary General appointed a Special Representative for the Southern Neighbourhood, Javier Colomina.

2024 also marked the 20th anniversary of the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative, a partnership forum for practical cooperation and political dialogue between NATO and partner countries in the Gulf region. NATO and its Middle Eastern and North African partners continued to cooperate on a wide array of issues, ranging from counter-terrorism, small arms and light weapons, civil preparedness and resilience. NATO and Kuwait continued to leverage the opportunities provided by the NATO-Istanbul Cooperation Initiative Regional Centre based in Kuwait City. NATO and Jordan announced the establishment of the first-ever NATO liaison office in the region, in Amman, Jordan.

Partners in the Indo-Pacific

Cooperation with NATO's partners in the Indo-Pacific region – Australia, Japan, the Republic of Korea and New Zealand – is important in light of the strong security interlinkages between the Euro-Atlantic and the Indo-Pacific regions. In Washington, Allies welcomed the Heads of State and Government of the four Indo-Pacific partners to the 2024 Summit. Together, they took decisions to enhance cooperation in areas such as cyber defence, leveraging technology such as artificial intelligence, as well as supporting Ukraine on military healthcare.

NATO Allies and the four partners have also continued their practical cooperation across a range of additional cross-cutting areas, including resilience and maritime security. In parallel, NATO continues to cooperate bilaterally with its partners in the Indo-Pacific through Individually Tailored Partnership Programmes.

NATO and the People's Republic of China

NATO's Strategic Concept recognises the PRC's ambitions and coercive policies as a challenge to Allied interests, security and values. At the Washington Summit, NATO Leaders addressed the systemic challenges posed by the PRC to Euro-Atlantic security. They recognised as a key concern the PRC's so-called 'no-limit' partnership with Russia, and its role as a decisive enabler of Russia's illegal war of aggression against Ukraine. In 2024, NATO continued to engage with the PRC in an effort to build reciprocal transparency and safeguard the Alliance's security interests.

Cooperation with Other International Organisations at a Glance

NATO engages and cooperates with other international organisations such as the European Union, the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and the African Union. The Alliance also maintains regular dialogue with other international organisations, including the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, and the World Bank.

NATO-EU Cooperation in 2024

Cooperation between NATO and the European Union remained robust throughout 2024. Political dialogue between the two organisations has continued to deepen in multiple areas, particularly regarding their shared support for Ukraine. In July, the leadership of the European Union participated in the NATO Summit in Washington.

NATO and the European Union continued to strengthen their practical cooperation through the implementation of the 74 proposals for common action as well as in new areas, with special emphasis given to the current security environment.

In 2024, NATO and the European Union continued their 'parallel and coordinated exercises', with respective staffs engaging in the preparation and implementation of the EU's Integrated Resolve 2024 and NATO's Crisis Management Exercise 2025. The military staffs of both organisations have also continued their close dialogue and cooperation.

ANNEXES



The NATO flag and 32 national flags aloft. Brussels, Belgium, May 2024.

ANNEX I: NATO AT A GLANCE

Why NATO Was Founded

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization was founded in 1949 in the aftermath of the Second World War. Its purpose is to safeguard the freedom and security of all its members by military and non-military means. The principle of collective defence is central to NATO's founding document – the North Atlantic Treaty. This principle, enshrined in Article 5 of the Treaty, binds NATO Allies together, declaring an armed attack against any one of them 'an attack against them all'. NATO strives to secure a lasting peace in Europe, based on common values of democracy, individual liberty, human rights and the rule of law.

NATO Member States

NATO Allies represent one billion people and roughly half the world's economic and military might. Together, NATO Allies are stronger and safer than they would be alone. Twelve founding members signed the North Atlantic Treaty in 1949: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Treaty also allows for other European countries to join the Alliance, if all existing Allies agree. Any prospective member is required to share NATO's core values and have the capacity and willingness to contribute to security in the Euro-Atlantic area.

Since 1949, a further 20 countries have joined NATO: Greece and Türkiye (1952), Germany (1955), Spain (1982), Czechia, Hungary and Poland (1999), Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia (2004), Albania and Croatia (2009), Montenegro (2017), North Macedonia (2020), Finland (2023) and Sweden (2024).

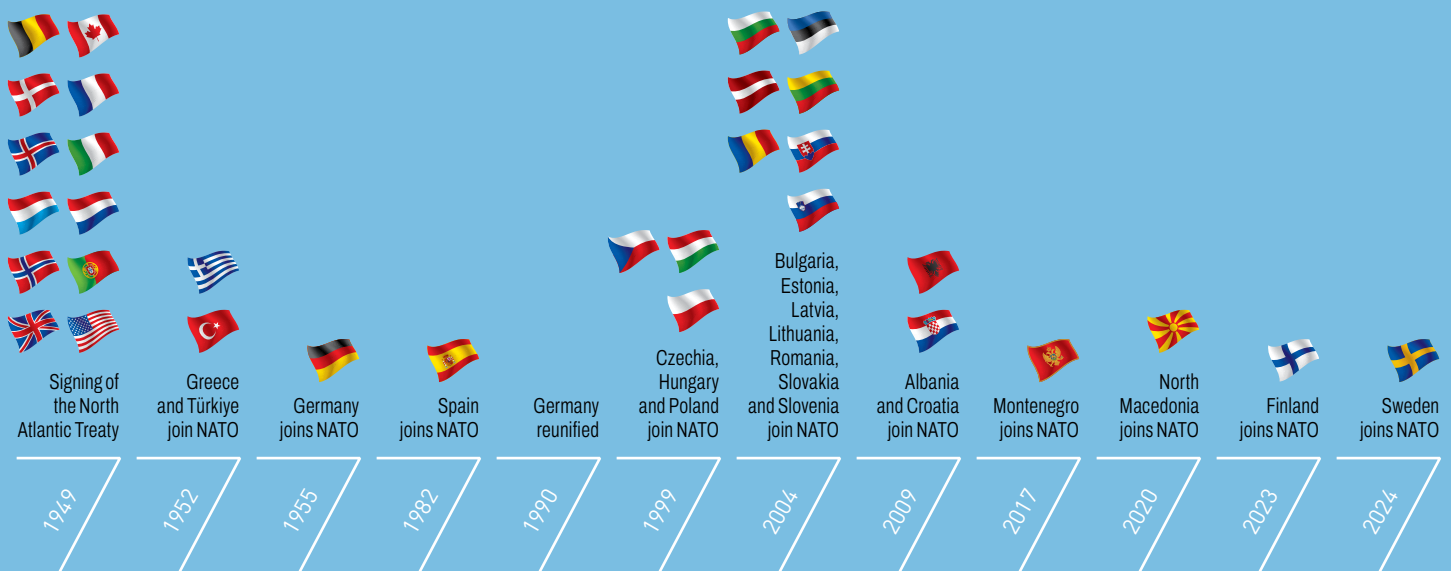
NATO 2022 Strategic Concept

Alongside the North Atlantic Treaty, the Strategic Concept is NATO's second most important guiding document. It reaffirms NATO's values and purpose, and provides an overall assessment of the security environment. It also shapes and drives NATO's political and military development. NATO Leaders endorsed the current Strategic Concept at the 2022 Madrid Summit.

The 2022 Strategic Concept recognises that the Euro-Atlantic area is not at peace, stating that the Alliance's security environment is characterised by strategic competition, pervasive instability and recurrent shocks. The Russian Federation and terrorism represent the two main threats to Allied security. The Strategic Concept also recognises that the People's Republic of China's stated ambitions and coercive policies challenge Allied interests, security and values.

The Strategic Concept establishes three core tasks for NATO: deterrence and defence; crisis prevention and management; and cooperative security. These tasks are essential and complementary – and allow NATO to fulfil its main purpose: the collective defence and security of all Allies.

The Concept states that the transatlantic bond between Allied countries from Europe and North America is key to Allied security. NATO is the unique, essential and indispensable transatlantic forum for consulting, coordinating and acting on all matters related to Allied individual and collective security.



NATO Headquarters

NATO Headquarters in Brussels houses the Alliance's International Staff and International Military Staff, along with 32 Allied delegations and military representations, 17 partner missions and staff from several NATO agencies. It is the central forum for the discussions and consultations that shape NATO policy and decision-making.

North Atlantic Council

The North Atlantic Council is the highest political authority of the Alliance. It brings together high-level representatives from 32 Allied countries across Europe and North America to consult and coordinate on issues of common interest and concern. Because decisions are made on the basis of consensus, the policies approved by the Council are considered the expression of the collective will of all NATO Allies. Consensus has been the sole basis for decision-making in NATO since the creation of the Alliance in 1949. This means that there is no voting at NATO. Consultations take place until a decision is reached that is acceptable to all. The Council is chaired by the Secretary General and its decisions have the same status and validity whether the meeting takes place during a Summit of NATO Heads of State and Government or in permanent session at the level of Ambassadors.

International Staff

NATO's International Staff supports the Alliance's decision-making process by facilitating dialogue, policy development, and policy and programme implementation.

NATO Military Authorities

The Military Committee is the senior military authority within NATO. It comprises the Chiefs of Defence of NATO Allies. In 2024, the Chair of the Military Committee was Admiral Rob Bauer of the Royal Netherlands Navy.¹³ The Chair is NATO's most senior military officer and is the principal military adviser to the Secretary General and the conduit through which consensus-based advice from NATO's 32 Chiefs of Defence is brought forward to the political decision-making bodies of NATO. The NATO

Chiefs of Defence meet at least three times a year. The Military Committee also meets in permanent session on a day-to-day basis at the level of military representatives, who act on behalf of their Chiefs of Defence.

The International Military Staff is the executive body of the Military Committee. The Director General is elected by the NATO Chiefs of Defence to head the Alliance's International Military Staff for a term of three years. Since July 2022, the Director General of the International Military Staff has been Lieutenant General Janusz Adamczak, Polish Armed Forces. The International Military Staff is responsible for preparing assessments and analysis on NATO military issues, identifying areas of strategic and operational interest and proposing courses of action.

NATO Command Structure

The NATO Command Structure enables the Alliance to carry out its core functions. The strategic role of the NATO Command Structure is to command and control the Alliance's joint operations. It primarily consists of Allied Command Operations and Allied Command Transformation, as well as their subordinate commands and headquarters.

Allied Command Operations has its main headquarters in Mons, Belgium and other subordinate command headquarters across several NATO nations. Under the command of the Supreme Allied Commander Europe, it is responsible for the planning and execution of all Alliance operations and missions. The Supreme Allied Commander Europe also assumes the overall command of operations at the strategic level and issues strategic military direction to the subordinate commanders. Since July 2022, the Supreme Allied Commander Europe has been General Christopher G. Cavoli, United States Army.

Allied Command Transformation has its main headquarters in Norfolk, Virginia, in the United States, with subordinate commands in other NATO nations. Since September 2024, the Supreme Allied Commander Transformation has been Admiral Pierre Vandier, French Navy.¹⁴ Allied Command Transformation leads the transformation of NATO's military structure, forces, capabilities and doctrine. This command also develops innovative concepts, undertakes experimentation and promotes interoperability throughout the Alliance to improve military effectiveness.

13 On 17 January 2025, Admiral Rob Bauer, Royal Netherlands Navy, completed his tenure and Admiral Giuseppe Cavo Dragone, Italian Navy, took over the position of Chair of the Military Committee.

14 On 23 September 2024, Admiral Pierre Vandier succeeded General Philippe Lavigne as Supreme Allied Commander Transformation.

NATO Force Structure

The NATO Force Structure encompasses national and multinational forces as well as their associated operational headquarters, placed at the Alliance's disposal on a permanent or temporary basis according to specified readiness criteria. These provide a pool of forces to meet the Alliance's requirements for conducting and sustaining operations.

NATO Funding

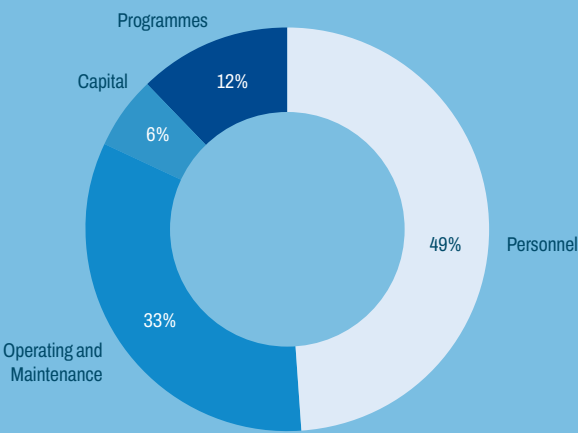
In 2024, Allies continued to resource NATO through both direct ('common-funded') and indirect contributions. National – or indirect contributions – borne by individual Allies were the largest, typically comprising the forces and capabilities available to NATO for deterrence and defence, and military operations and missions.

NATO has three principal common-funded elements: the Civil Budget, the Military Budget and the NATO Security Investment Programme. In 2024, Allies committed approximately EUR 3.8 billion in common funding.

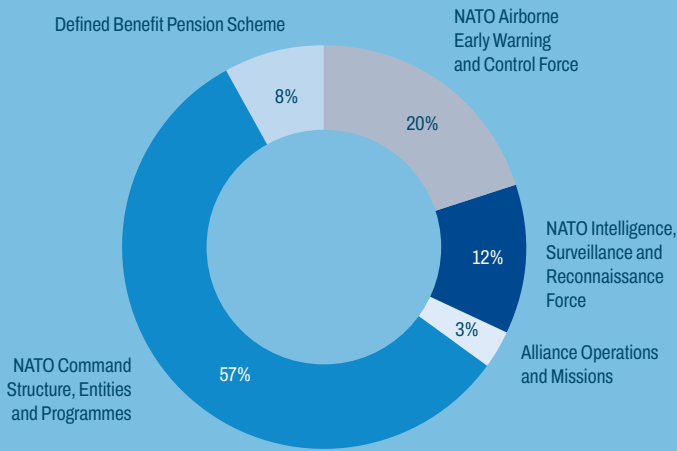
The Civil Budget provides funds for civilian personnel, operating and maintenance, capital, and programme expenditures. In 2024, the North Atlantic Council approved the 2024 Civil Budget comprising a core budget of EUR 368 million and the civilian portion of the NATO Pension Schemes of EUR 70 million. In March 2024, Allies agreed to add EUR 17.9 million to the 2024 budget to reinforce and expand NATO's Representation in Ukraine.

In 2024, the Military Budget continued to enable NATO's new baseline for deterrence and defence, Allied interoperability, crisis prevention and management, and cooperative security. More specifically, it supported the integrated NATO Command Structure, collective training and exercises, Alliance operations and missions, and capacity-building support to partners. It also covered the operations and maintenance of collective NATO capabilities. The Military Budget ceiling for 2024 was EUR 2.1 billion.

2024 Core Civil Budget



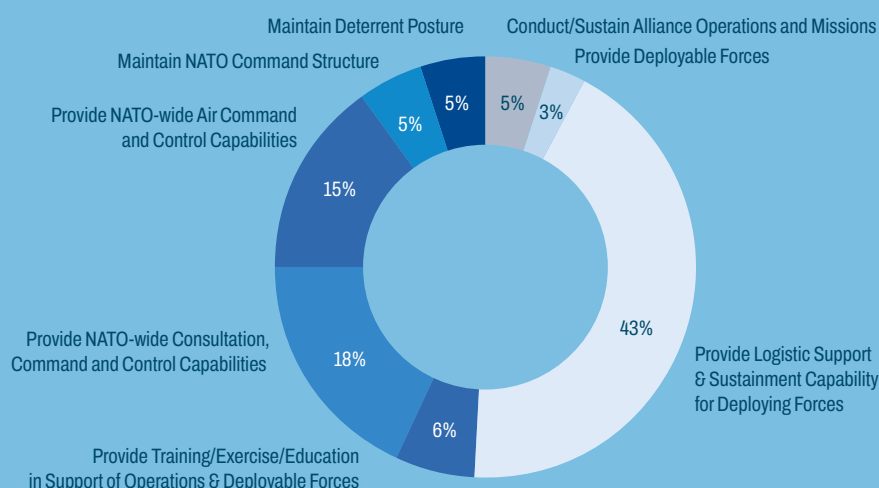
2024 Military Budget Ceilings



In 2024, the NATO Security Investment Programme funded major construction and command and control systems. This included air defence communication and information systems, military headquarters for the integrated command structure and for deployed

operations, as well as facilities to support the training, reception and onward movement of NATO forces. The Programme ceiling for 2024 was EUR 1.3 billion. Over 3,200 common-funded projects worth almost EUR 23 billion are currently under implementation.

NATO Security Investment Programme, 2024 Expenditure



Agencies and Organisations

NATO Communications and Information Agency

The NATO Communications and Information Agency delivers the capabilities, services and expertise that ensure the Alliance is technologically ready for the challenges of the future, enabling NATO's digital transformation. The Agency makes sure NATO has the networks, communications and software it needs for all operations, missions and exercises and to complete its three core tasks.

In 2024, the Agency provided connectivity for over 100 NATO and national exercises and organised the fourth edition of NATO's Counter Unmanned Aircraft System Technical Interoperability Exercise. It also spearheaded successful testing of commercial Low Earth Orbit satellite constellations in the High North region.

The Agency has continued to help Ukraine to enhance its defence capabilities and interoperability with NATO, while also helping to reduce cyber risks and improve cyber information-sharing.

NATO Support and Procurement Agency

The NATO Support and Procurement Agency's goal is to be in the front line for multinational acquisition, support and sustainment to NATO nations. The Agency's role as a common, centralised NATO entity allows it to achieve greater economies of scale, reduce costs, minimise the Alliance's military logistical footprint and secure better support from the commercial sector. The NATO Support and Procurement Agency is based in Luxembourg, with operational centres in France, Hungary and Italy. The Agency is customer-funded, functioning on a 'no-profit, no-loss' basis.

In 2024, the Agency signed major new multinational framework contracts for missile systems – notably Patriot and Stinger – on behalf of user nations, and entered the space domain with contracts for commercially available satellite communications.

In 2024, the Agency continued its support to Ukraine, playing a major role in the Comprehensive Assistance Package for Ukraine, the Ukraine Defense Contact Group IT Coalition and the feasibility study on the reconstruction of Ukrainian infrastructure.

NATO Science & Technology Organization

The NATO Science & Technology Organization delivers innovation, advice and scientific solutions to meet the Alliance's evolving needs. In 2024, the Organization included a network of over 5,000 national researchers, scientists and engineers with a research portfolio of more than 400 activities. Key areas of work in 2024 included multi-domain operations and resilience.

The Science & Technology Organization's programmes of work cover the full spectrum of the physical, information and human sciences, and their application over all five of NATO's operational domains: land, air, sea, cyberspace and space.

In 2024, the Science & Technology Organization launched the first iteration of the NATO Chief Scientist Grants Programme, a new initiative to empower talent to shape the future of global security. The programme funds science and technology studies on emerging topics, such as deterrence and defence, resilience and foresight.

Archives and Information Management

NATO is committed to timely and accurate declassification and public disclosure of NATO documents. By preserving and publishing authentic, reliable records of the Organization, citizens around the world can access factual information.

In 2024, the Archives Committee declassified and publicly disclosed more than 13,000 historical NATO documents. In addition to the historical material, the number of current administrative and policy documents made available to the public continued to increase.

ANNEX II:

KEY NATO AND ALLIED MULTINATIONAL EXERCISES IN 2024

Since Russia's illegal and illegitimate annexation of Crimea in 2014, NATO has increased the number of exercises focusing on collective defence. Following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Allies have been conducting more frequent and large-scale training and exercises to demonstrate NATO's ability to defend and rapidly reinforce any Ally.

In 2024, NATO conducted a total of 119 exercises. Exercising side by side, NATO multinational forces tested their ability to operate together and respond to any threat from any direction. In 2024, Allies conducted 752 national exercises. Of the NATO exercises conducted in 2024, 23 were open to observation and participation by partners and international organisations. In many cases individual Allies invited troops from other Allies to participate in national exercises.

Exercises allow the Alliance to test and validate its concepts, procedures, systems and tactics. They are also integral to deterrence and defence messaging – a concrete demonstration of NATO's ability to project power across the Alliance. Exercises are planned in advance and vary from large-scale live exercises to computer-assisted, classroom-based exercises. NATO also organises high-level political training, education and exercise events.

Allies are fully committed to, and abide by, international obligations regarding transparency, predictability, arms control and confidence-building measures. Exercises are publicly announced on NATO's website months in advance. Allies also regularly go further than their obligations, for example, by offering observation opportunities to international organisations or non-NATO countries, even when exercises do not reach the threshold that requires observers to be invited.



Swedish marines secure an island during an amphibious exercise near Gothenburg, Sweden, October 2024.



NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte visits NATO Multinational Brigade Latvia. Ādaži, Latvia, November 2024.



A British Army Challenger 2 tank fires a round during the Canadian Army Trophy tank competition. Ādaži, Latvia, May 2024.

Exercise Steadfast Defender 2024


Steadfast Defender 24 – the largest NATO military exercise in a generation – sought, among other things, to test the Alliance's new defence plans. Approximately 90,000 troops, 80 aircraft, 50 ships and 1,100 combat vehicles participated over a four-month period (from January to May). Designed to both test and demonstrate the Alliance's ability to reinforce continental Europe via transatlantic movement of forces from North America and the United Kingdom, Steadfast Defender was composed of several NATO and nationally-led exercises.

Part one of Steadfast Defender was a maritime-focused live exercise involving various headquarters rehearsing the strategic deployment of forces from North America to continental Europe. Part two was a multi-domain demonstration of NATO, national and multinational military capabilities across continental Europe. Steadfast Defender 24 served as a rigorous validation of NATO's concepts, procedures and readiness plans, and demonstrated NATO's readiness to conduct and sustain complex operations across thousands of kilometres.



A French soldier from the 5th Dragoon Regiment during NATO's exercise Steadfast Defender 24. Poland, March 2024.

Steadfast Defender

 Subsequent exercises related to Steadfast Defender 2024

**Over 90,000 troops
from all 32 NATO Allies**

50+ Naval Assets

Aircraft Carriers
Destroyers
Frigates
Corvettes

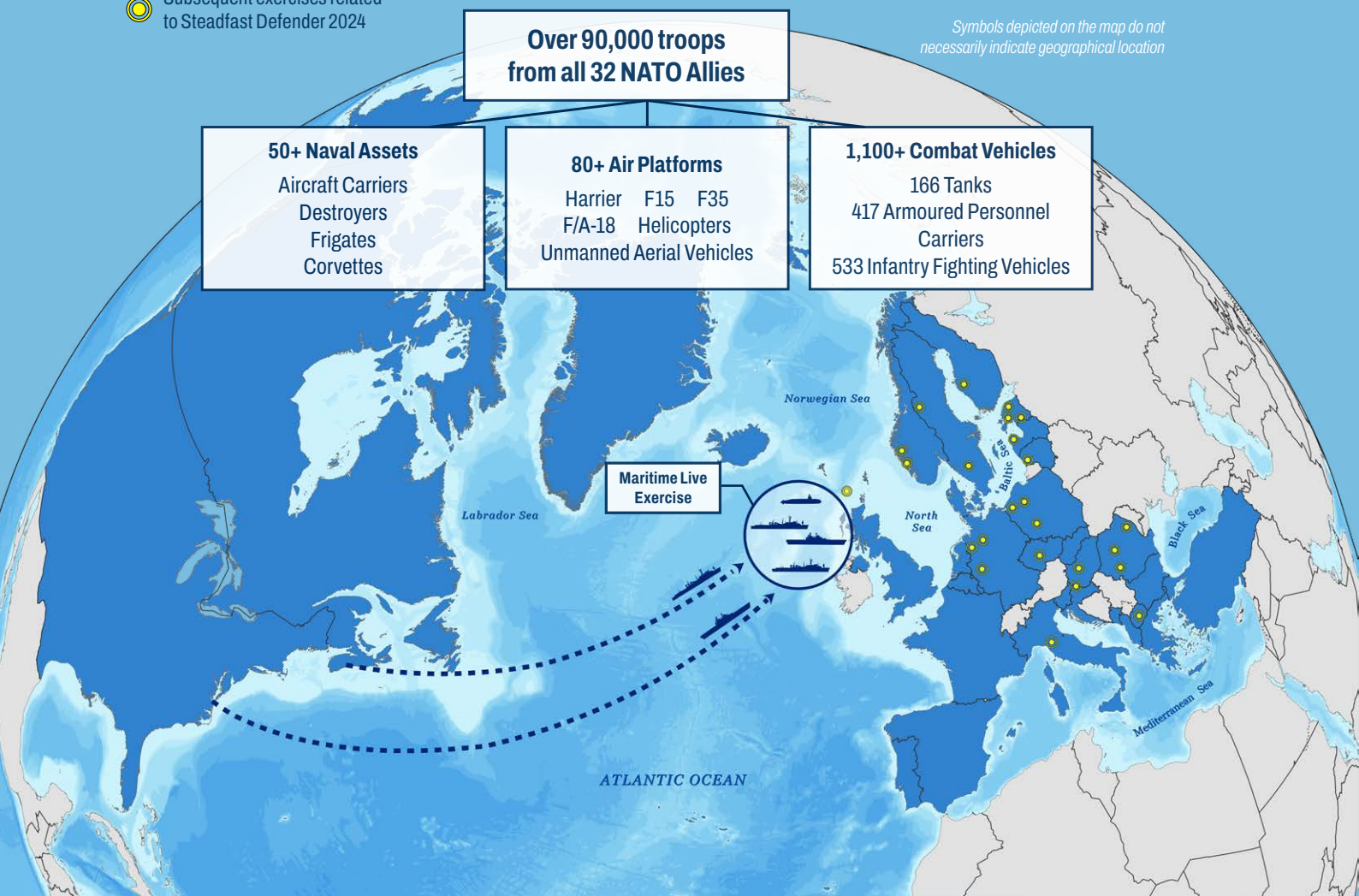
80+ Air Platforms

Harrier F15 F35
F/A-18 Helicopters
Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

1,100+ Combat Vehicles

166 Tanks
417 Armoured Personnel
Carriers
533 Infantry Fighting Vehicles

Symbols depicted on the map do not necessarily indicate geographical location



NATO Exercises (Selected)

DESCRIPTION	DATE IN 2024	LOCATION
<p>STEADFAST DEFENDER 24</p> <p>Steadfast Defender 24 marked NATO's first large-scale exercise series using the new regional defence plans adopted at the 2023 Vilnius Summit. This underscored the Alliance's focus on readiness and transatlantic reinforcement. The exercise trained and tested NATO forces across all domains, focusing on high-level integration from strategic to tactical operations.</p>	January - May	The Atlantic Ocean up to the Arctic Ocean; Europe, from the High North to Central and Eastern Europe
<p>BRILLIANT JUMP 24</p> <p>Brilliant Jump 24, part of the Steadfast Defender series, showcased NATO's capability to rapidly mobilise and integrate forces. The exercise brought together over 3,000 troops and 700 vehicles from Albania, Poland, Spain, Türkiye and the United Kingdom, all components of NATO's Very High Readiness Joint Task Force.</p>	13 - 28 February	Poland
<p>DYNAMIC MANTA 24</p> <p>Bringing together ships, submarines, aircraft and thousands of personnel in the Mediterranean, this exercise refined Allied capabilities in submarine warfare. Conducted off the coast of Sicily, it involved submarines from France, Greece, Italy, Spain and Türkiye, supported by maritime patrol aircraft from Canada, Germany, Greece, Türkiye, the United Kingdom and the United States, as well as surface units from Standing NATO Maritime Group Two, under NATO's Allied Maritime Command.</p>	26 February - 8 March	Italy
<p>LOYAL LEDA 24</p> <p>Designed, among other things, to evaluate the combat readiness of NATO's Rapid Reaction Corps – France, this exercise brought together thousands of soldiers and civilian experts from across Europe. The event was set in a multi-domain, rapidly evolving scenario, reflecting the complexity of modern conflict.</p>	5 - 14 March	Europe
<p>STEADFAST COBALT 24</p> <p>The Alliance's largest communications and information exercise, Steadfast Cobalt 2024 focused on testing and enhancing interoperability across NATO systems. The exercise spanned eight NATO countries, with the primary deployment at the NATO Rapid Deployable Corps – Italy. More than 1,000 military and civilian personnel from Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States participated.</p>	2 - 26 April	Italy
<p>DYNAMIC MONGOOSE 24</p> <p>Dynamic Mongoose 24 gathered ships, submarines, aircraft and personnel from 9 Allied nations in the seas between Iceland and Norway, to test Allied forces in complex underwater scenarios. Standing NATO Maritime Group One coordinated surface operations, bolstered by ships from participating nations. Sweden's Gotland-class submarine participated in its first NATO exercise since the country's accession to the Alliance.</p>	29 April - 29 May	North Atlantic Ocean
<p>STEADFAST DETERRENCE 24</p> <p>Steadfast Deterrence 24 trained and certified the NATO Rapid Deployable Corps – Italy as the first Allied Reaction Force Headquarters. Conducted as a command-post/ computer-assisted exercise, it prepared NATO's command structures to implement SACEUR's strategic direction in peacetime and test plans during crisis.</p>	21 - 31 May	Europe
<p>RAMSTEIN LEGACY 24</p> <p>Ramstein Legacy 24, NATO's principal integrated air and missile defence exercise, brought together 3,200 participants from 20 NATO Allies. The exercise's main objective was to strengthen cooperation, interoperability and integration of NATO air defence forces.</p>	3 – 14 June	Bulgaria, Romania

NATO Coalition Warrior Interoperability eExercise (CWIX) 24

CWIX 2024 marked the Alliance's largest-ever digital interoperability exercise, bringing together more than 2,500 participants. The 25th iteration of this exercise tested and validated NATO's command and control capabilities, with a focus on communication and information systems. During the exercise, engineers and operators from 27 Allies and 2 partner countries conducted over 26,000 test cases across 480 capabilities.

3 - 20 June

Poland

DYNAMIC GUARD 24

Conducted in the Mediterranean Sea, Dynamic Guard 24 focused on advancing NATO's electronic warfare and anti-ship missile defence capabilities. Nearly 1,000 personnel participated, including ships and aircraft from Canada, Germany, Greece, Spain and Türkiye.

2 - 6 September

Mediterranean Sea

STEADFAST FOXTROT 24

Steadfast Foxtrot 24 simulated collective defence scenarios to test logistical and operational readiness. Conducted at the Joint Support and Enabling Command in Ulm, Germany, the exercise involved more than 250 participants from 24 Allies.

11 - 14 September

Germany

RAMSTEIN FLAG 24

This inaugural event in NATO Allied Air Command's Flag Series focused on multi-domain, tactical-level training with an emphasis on counter anti-access/ area denial and integrated air and missile defence. Air, land, sea and cyber assets from Canada, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States participated.

30 September -
11 October

Greece

STEADFAST DUEL 24

NATO's largest computer-assisted command-post exercise of 2024 – Steadfast Duel – tested the Alliance's readiness for multi-domain operations in defence of NATO territory under Article 5. Involving around 5,000 military and civilian personnel across 11 locations in Europe, the exercise required coordination across all domains.

22 - 31 October

Belgium, Italy,
Norway

CYBER COALITION 24

Cyber Coalition 24, NATO's flagship cyber defence exercise, aimed to strengthen the Alliance's cyber resilience by enhancing collaboration and interoperability among NATO, Allies and partners in cyberspace. The exercise involved around 1,000 participants from all 32 NATO Allies, along with several partners and the European Union.

30 November -
6 December

Estonia



Swedish Navy CB-90 fast assault boats preparing for exercise Nordic Response 24. Tovik, Norway, February 2024.

Allied National Exercises (Selected)

DESCRIPTION	DATE IN 2024	LOCATION
<p>AGILE DEFENDER 24</p> <p>Agile Defender 24 assessed the United Kingdom's ability to fulfil NATO commitments in the context of Steadfast Defender 24. Emphasising planning, deployment, sustainment and recovery processes, the exercise reinforced the United Kingdom's capacity to mobilise forces efficiently in support of NATO's collective defence.</p>	11 February – 30 May	Europe
<p>JOINT WARRIOR 24-1</p> <p>Part of the Steadfast Defender 24 series, Joint Warrior 24-1 provided a complex, multi-threat training environment – contributing, in turn, to the readiness and interoperability of forces preparing to support NATO's Allied Reaction Force.</p>	24 February - 3 March	United Kingdom
<p>DRAGON 24</p> <p>Dragon 24 brought together over 20,000 troops from nine NATO Allies to test responses to potential threats against Polish territory. Key components included a complex river crossing, extended road movements and high-intensity live-fire exercises.</p>	25 February - 14 March	Poland
<p>AUSTERE CHALLENGE 24</p> <p>Austere Challenge 24 tested US and other Allied forces' coordination, command and control capabilities, progressing from competition to crisis and culminating in large-scale combat operations.</p>	26 February - 15 March	Germany
<p>NORDIC RESPONSE 24 (COLD RESPONSE)</p> <p>Bringing together more than 20,000 soldiers from 13 Allies, Nordic Response 24 focused on high-intensity, multi-domain operations in the Arctic conditions of northern Norway, Finland and Sweden. It featured over 50 naval assets, including submarines, frigates and aircraft carriers, and more than 100 fighter jets, transport aircraft and helicopters.</p>	4 - 14 March	Norway
<p>CRYSTAL ARROW 24</p> <p>Designed to validate the combat readiness of NATO's multinational battlegroup in Latvia, Crystal Arrow 24 engaged over 2,000 troops from 13 Allies.</p>	4 - 15 March	Latvia
<p>TROJAN FOOTPRINT 24</p> <p>Trojan Footprint 24 sought to enhance interoperability between Special Operations Forces and conventional forces. Operating under the umbrella of Steadfast Defender 2024, the exercise involved forces from Albania, Bulgaria, France, Greece, Italy, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Portugal, Romania, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States and partner country Georgia.</p>	4 - 15 March	Bulgaria, Georgia, Germany, Greece, North Macedonia, Romania



An Italian Army paratrooper moves out after landing near Jönköping, Sweden during exercise Swift Response 24. Jönköping, Sweden, May 2024.

GRAND QUADRIGA 2024

Grand Quadriga 24 demonstrated the German Bundeswehr’s ability to rapidly deploy and sustain forces on NATO’s eastern flank. Conducted primarily in Lithuania, the exercise involved over 12,000 German troops and integrated units from the Lithuanian Iron Wolf Infantry Brigade, the Netherlands’ 13th Light Brigade and the Franco-German Brigade.

25 March - 25 June

Germany, Lithuania

DEFENDER 24: Including SABER STRIKE 24, SWIFT RESPONSE 24 and IMMEDIATE RESPONSE 24

Defender 24 was a large-scale exercise conducted across Europe, involving over 40,000 troops from 20 Allied and partner countries. It focused on the rapid deployment of US and multinational forces to the European theatre, strategic command coordination, and high-intensity multinational operations. Defender 24 was closely linked to NATO’s Steadfast Defender 24 exercise and consisted of three key sub-exercises: Saber Strike, Swift Response and Immediate Response.

28 March - 31 May

Northern Europe

- Saber Strike 24 highlighted NATO’s rapid deployment and cold-weather readiness in the Baltic region. Approximately 5,000 troops from 10 Allies participated.
- Swift Response 24 featured NATO’s largest air assault operation since the Second World War, with joint airborne operations involving 3,650 US and 9,500 multinational troops.
- Immediate Response 24 underscored NATO’s logistical capabilities, beginning with US force deployments to ports in Denmark and Norway and the mobilisation of army prepositioned stock. Around 23,000 participants from Allied and partner nations took part.

SPRING STORM 24 (KEVADTORM)

Bringing together nearly 14,000 Estonian and other Allied troops, Spring Storm 24 focused on defensive joint operations in an Article 5 scenario. Conducted across central and western Estonia, the exercise involved Allied units, who practised rapid reinforcement and interoperability with Estonian forces.

6 - 17 May

Estonia

SLOVAK SHIELD 24

This brigade-level command-post exercise combined with a battalion-level field training exercise was designed to train Visegrád Group nations in planning and executing tactical land operations in high-intensity conflict scenarios.

13 - 31 May

Slovakia

BALTOPS 24

This large-scale, multinational maritime exercise enhanced operational readiness and interoperability among US and other Allied forces in the Baltic Sea region. Over 50 ships, 85 aircraft and approximately 9,000 personnel from 20 Allies participated. While Sweden has participated in previous iterations of the exercise, 2024 marked the first time the country participated as a NATO Ally.

7 - 20 June

Baltic Sea coastal waters and ports of Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden



NATO Allies conduct drills in exercise Dragon 2024, Poland, March 2024.

ANNEX III:

KOSOVO FORCE

The NATO-led KFOR mission is to contribute to maintaining a safe and secure environment for all communities in Kosovo and freedom of movement, as mandated by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 of 1999. In carrying out its activities, NATO cooperates and assists the United Nations, the European Union and other international actors, as appropriate, to support the development of a stable and peaceful Kosovo. KFOR also supports the development of professional, democratic and multi-ethnic security organisations in Kosovo.

Commander: Major General Enrico Barduani

29 Troop-contributing Nations (as of October 2024)

Albania	90	Lithuania	1
Armenia	57	Republic of Moldova	44
Austria	107	Montenegro	2
Bulgaria	126	North Macedonia	68
Canada	5	Poland	247
Croatia	150	Portugal	1
Czechia	35	Romania	184
Denmark	35	Slovenia	105
Finland	70	Sweden	3
France	3	Switzerland	211
Germany	300	Türkiye	325
Greece	121	United Kingdom	41
Hungary	365	United States	598
Ireland	13		
Italy	855	Total Strength:	4,302
Latvia	140		

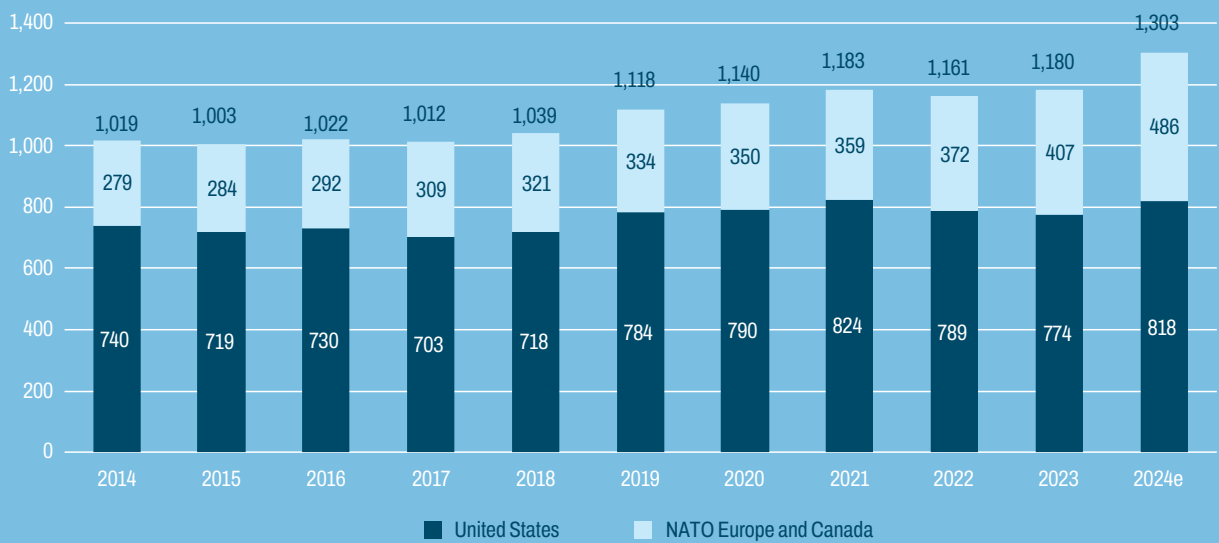
ANNEX IV: DEFENCE EXPENDITURE OF NATO COUNTRIES (2014-2024)

NATO collects defence expenditure data from Allies and publishes it on a regular basis. Each Ally's Ministry of Defence reports current and estimated future defence expenditure according to an agreed definition. The amounts represent payments by a national government that have been or will be made during the course of the fiscal year to meet the needs of its armed forces, those of Allies or of the Alliance. In the figures and tables that follow, NATO also uses economic and demographic information available from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the European Commission Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs (DG ECFIN) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

In view of differences between these sources and national GDP forecasts, and also the definition of NATO defence expenditure and national definitions, the figures shown in this report may considerably diverge from those which are referenced by media, published by national authorities or given in national budgets. Equipment expenditure includes expenditure on major equipment as well as on research and development devoted to major equipment. Personnel expenditure includes pensions paid to retirees.

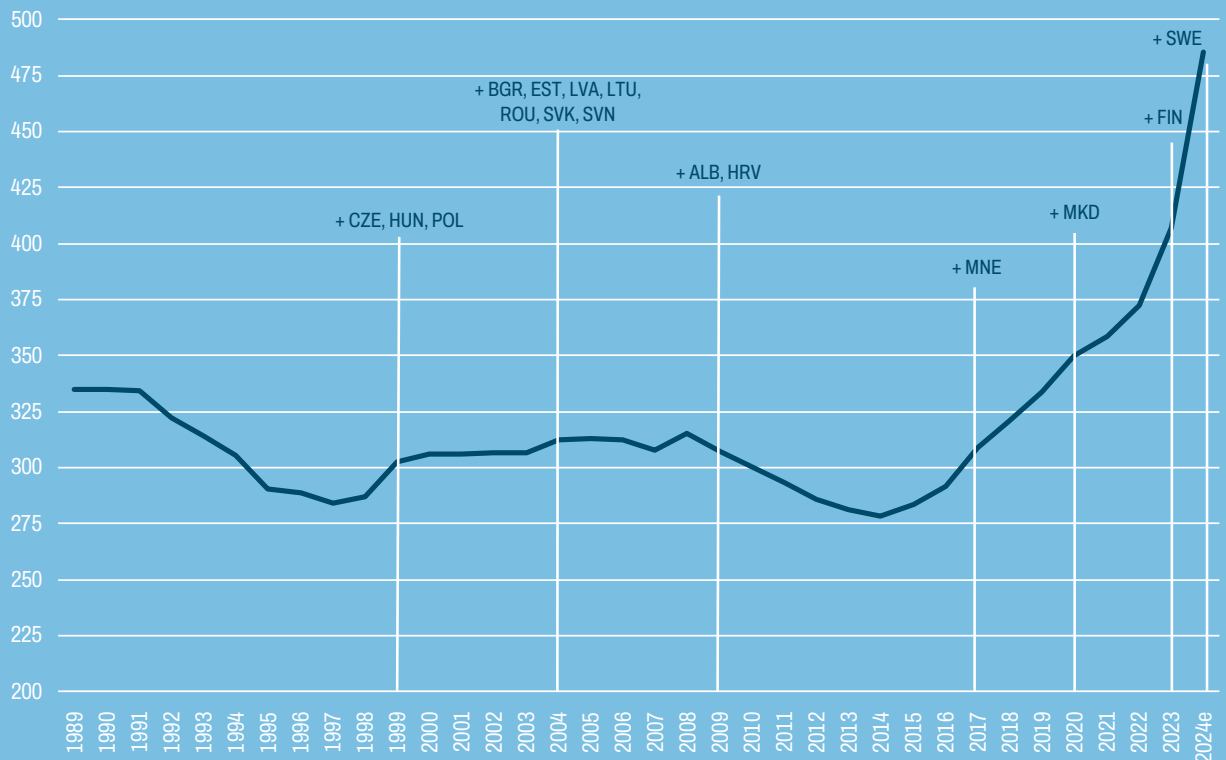
The cut-off date for information used in this report was 4 February 2025. Figures for 2024 are estimates.

Graph 1: Defence expenditure
(billion US dollars, based on 2021 prices and exchange rates)



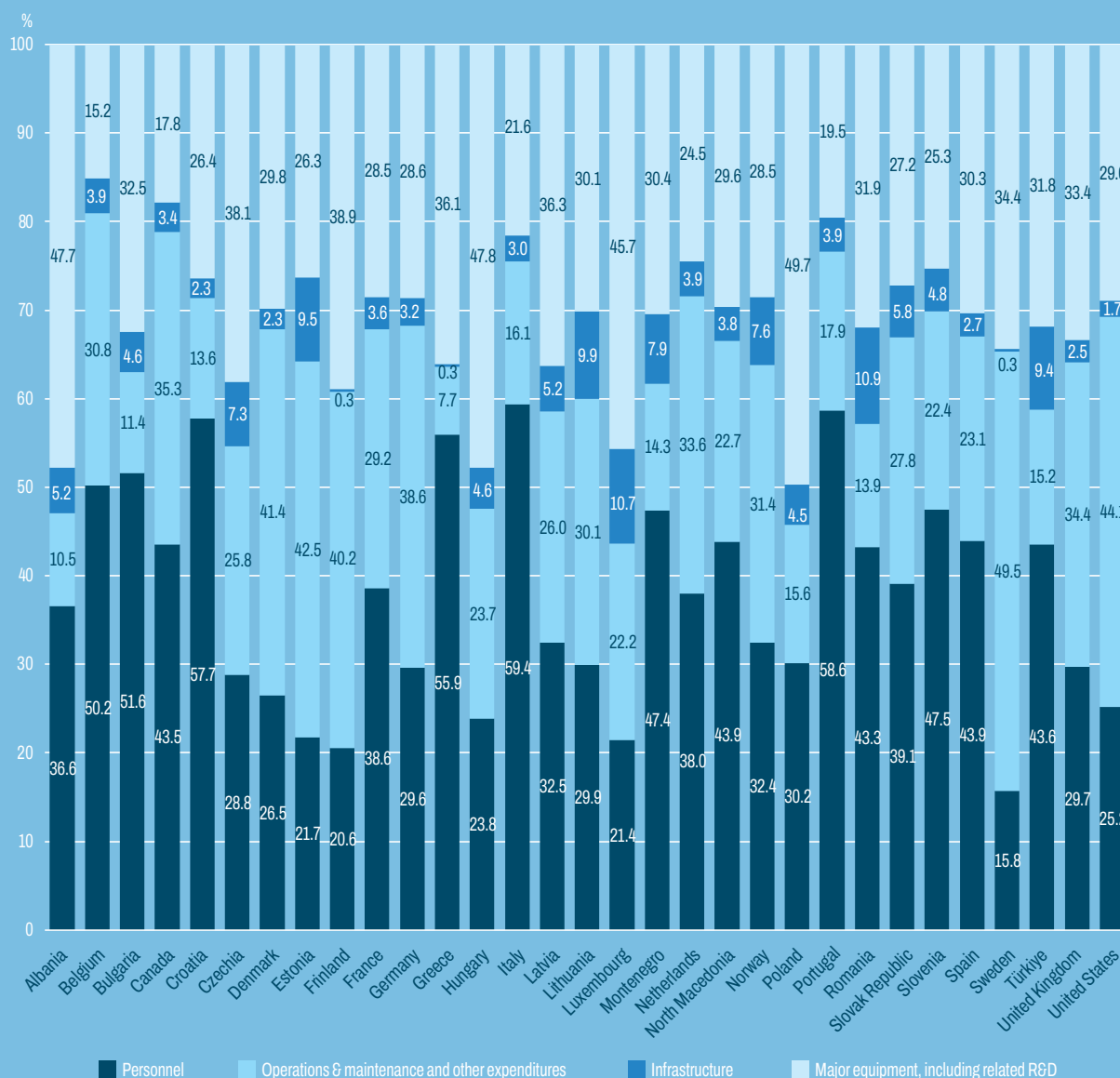
Notes: Figures for 2024 are estimates. The NATO Europe and Canada aggregate from 2017 onwards includes Montenegro, which became an Ally on 5 June 2017, from 2020 onwards includes North Macedonia, which became an Ally on 27 March 2020, from 2023 onwards includes Finland, which became an Ally on 4 April 2023 and from 2024 onwards includes Sweden, which became an Ally on 7 March 2024.

Graph 2: NATO Europe and Canada - defence expenditure
(billion US dollars, based on 2021 prices and exchange rates)

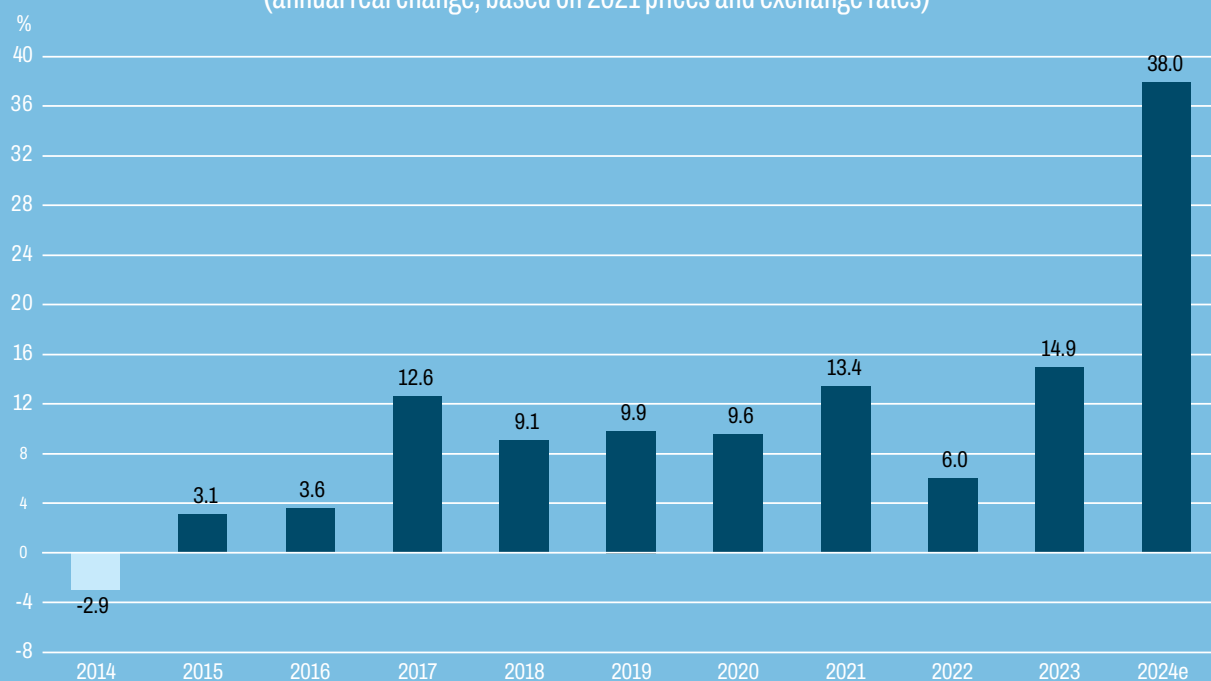


Notes: Figures for 2024 are estimates. Includes enlargements which took place in: 1999 (3 Allies), 2004 (7 Allies), 2009 (2 Allies), 2017 (1 Ally), 2020 (1 Ally), 2023 (1 Ally) and 2024 (1 Ally).

Graph 3: Main categories of defence expenditure (%)
(percentage of total defence expenditure)
2024e



Graph 4: NATO Europe and Canada - major equipment expenditure
(annual real change, based on 2021 prices and exchange rates)



Notes: Figures for 2024 are estimates. The NATO Europe and Canada aggregate from 2017 onwards includes Montenegro, which became an Ally on 5 June 2017, from 2020 onwards includes North Macedonia, which became an Ally on 27 March 2020, from 2023 onwards includes Finland, which became an Ally on 4 April 2023 and from 2024 onwards includes Sweden, which became an Ally on 7 March 2024.

Table 1: Defence expenditure (million national currency units)

Country	Currency unit (million)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024e
Current prices												
Albania	Leks	18,788	16,671	16,250	17,199	18,995	21,670	21,348	23,072	25,848	40,256	49,842
Belgium	Euros	3,913	3,789	3,848	3,932	4,101	4,253	4,665	5,276	6,551	7,047	7,900
Bulgaria	Leva	1,102	1,116	1,186	1,255	1,593	3,771	1,920	2,109	2,672	3,602	3,964
Canada	Canadian dollars	20,076	23,900	23,474	30,761	29,025	29,949	31,289	31,976	33,707	38,400	43,700
Croatia	Euros	811	804	756	812	805	881	861	1,150	1,219	1,304	1,600
Czechia*	Koruny	41,003	47,264	45,598	52,805	59,752	68,373	74,257	84,864	90,969	100,735	166,600
Denmark*	Kroner	22,769	22,633	24,190	24,961	28,787	29,929	31,962	33,161	38,726	56,100	68,700
Estonia*	Euros	386	418	450	479	521	569	630	633	778	1,144	1,334
Finland	Euros	3,004	3,065	3,089	3,131	3,238	3,483	3,642	3,503	4,485	5,794	6,392
France	Euros	39,149	39,199	39,950	40,852	42,748	44,206	46,018	47,702	49,567	54,950	59,580
Germany	Euros	34,749	35,898	37,598	40,265	42,127	46,936	51,392	52,431	58,266	67,621	91,000
Greece	Euros	3,939	4,073	4,190	4,208	4,560	4,483	4,812	6,764	8,054	6,224	7,126
Hungary	Forint	281,402	316,338	362,798	468,765	436,500	636,566	852,321	730,691	1,212,914	1,538,908	1,730,698
Italy	Euros	18,427	17,642	20,226	21,166	21,702	21,042	26,360	28,001	29,901	31,302	32,701
Latvia*	Euros	221	254	364	430	601	618	651	696	813	1,160	1,343
Lithuania*	Euros	322	425	575	724	895	977	1,030	1,105	1,649	2,002	2,443
Luxembourg	Euros	190	225	213	288	301	341	373	341	438	594	696
Montenegro	Euros	52	51	56	58	64	66	72	77	82	106	127
Netherlands	Euros	7,788	7,816	8,234	8,539	9,456	10,778	11,249	11,758	13,189	15,500	20,800
North Macedonia	Denars	5,743	5,853	5,770	5,532	6,232	8,029	8,303	10,604	12,899	15,081	17,915
Norway*	Kroner	48,660	49,529	54,022	56,664	61,349	66,318	68,054	72,483	83,589	92,951	112,500
Poland*	Zlotys	31,874	39,940	37,082	37,558	42,824	45,404	52,110	58,304	68,361	111,239	147,264
Portugal	Euros	2,263	2,384	2,364	2,424	2,750	2,947	2,867	3,295	3,395	3,563	4,147
Romania*	New Lei	9,014	10,337	10,738	14,765	17,183	19,527	21,431	22,029	24,317	25,644	40,040
Slovak Republic	Euros	752	889	907	935	1,098	1,610	1,796	1,746	1,983	2,260	2,634
Slovenia	Euros	366	361	406	422	463	511	498	645	737	842	905
Spain	Euros	9,508	10,000	9,014	10,528	11,172	11,281	11,240	12,546	15,610	17,451	19,723
Sweden*	Kronor	42,574	43,045	42,955	44,700	46,905	52,586	55,118	77,794	86,596	104,500	143,800
Türkiye	Liras	29,727	32,522	38,203	47,323	68,300	79,987	93,910	116,482	203,704	393,841	909,881
United Kingdom	Pounds	39,902	38,940	41,590	43,257	45,202	46,509	49,495	52,283	57,269	61,164	65,787
United States	US dollars	653,942	641,253	656,059	642,933	672,255	750,886	770,650	824,094	834,977	858,000	935,000

Constant 2021 prices												
Albania	Leks	19,545	17,245	16,917	17,648	19,208	22,426	22,083	23,072	23,528	35,049	42,366
Belgium	Euros	4,447	4,258	4,244	4,253	4,360	4,439	4,792	5,276	6,131	6,311	6,935
Bulgaria	Leva	1,505	1,481	1,523	1,537	1,872	4,212	2,057	2,109	2,300	2,883	3,066
Canada	Canadian dollars	23,094	27,733	27,045	34,552	32,073	32,589	33,687	31,976	31,311	35,131	38,860
Croatia	Euros	881	872	819	870	845	906	879	1,150	1,128	1,080	1,243
Czechia*	Koruny	49,725	56,618	53,821	61,299	67,467	74,346	77,254	84,864	83,707	85,697	136,013
Denmark*	Kroner	24,910	24,659	26,244	26,786	30,710	31,627	32,847	33,161	35,497	53,447	64,495
Estonia*	Euros	478	513	538	552	572	602	663	633	671	912	1,028
Finland	Euros	3,319	3,332	3,356	3,374	3,421	3,626	3,730	3,503	4,253	5,287	5,721
France	Euros	42,703	42,278	42,863	43,579	45,099	46,079	46,581	47,702	48,021	50,550	53,449
Germany	Euros	39,465	40,096	41,472	43,768	44,954	49,099	52,830	52,431	54,916	60,045	78,231
Greece	Euros	3,961	4,103	4,242	4,252	4,618	4,529	4,879	6,764	7,563	5,520	6,104
Hungary	Forint	378,794	414,177	468,808	582,231	517,101	719,893	905,686	730,691	1,061,837	1,175,930	1,228,375
Italy	Euros	20,025	18,857	21,130	21,924	22,561	21,648	26,699	28,001	28,874	28,565	29,232
Latvia*	Euros	262	300	428	492	663	654	672	696	740	992	1,130
Lithuania*	Euros	388	512	686	830	991	1,056	1,092	1,105	1,421	1,582	1,857
Luxembourg	Euros	221	254	245	323	331	372	390	341	413	478	540
Montenegro	Euros	64	62	64	63	68	69	76	77	73	86	99
Netherlands	Euros	8,721	8,744	9,131	9,330	10,114	11,217	11,461	11,758	12,972	15,014	19,498
North Macedonia	Denars	6,905	6,899	6,574	6,131	6,646	8,488	8,659	10,604	11,848	13,515	15,393
Norway*	Kroner	60,259	63,105	69,948	70,492	71,499	77,716	81,811	72,483	65,092	81,422	99,743
Poland*	Zlotys	37,704	46,653	43,254	43,099	48,535	49,931	54,964	58,304	61,990	91,868	117,483
Portugal	Euros	2,578	2,663	2,593	2,619	2,917	3,069	2,925	3,295	3,224	3,164	3,533
Romania*	New Lei	12,482	13,861	14,032	18,436	20,205	21,470	22,633	22,029	21,694	20,287	29,053
Slovak Republic	Euros	828	981	1,005	1,023	1,178	1,685	1,836	1,746	1,845	1,909	2,120
Slovenia	Euros	410	401	447	459	492	531	511	645	692	718	755
Spain	Euros	10,343	10,819	9,716	11,207	11,753	11,701	11,527	12,546	14,908	15,688	17,243
Sweden*	Kronor	49,785	49,190	48,262	49,142	50,269	55,025	56,619	77,794	81,923	93,153	125,025
Türkiye	Liras	75,566	76,657	83,277	92,949	115,138	118,419	121,118	116,482	103,911	119,418	174,182
United Kingdom	Pounds	45,610	44,219	46,318	47,298	48,493	48,853	49,528	52,283	54,312	54,060	56,554
United States	US dollars	740,279	719,229	730,437	702,580	717,921	784,068	790,070	824,094	788,890	773,624	817,845

Notes: Figures for 2024 are estimates.

* These Allies have national laws or political agreements which call for 2% of GDP to be spent on defence annually, consequently future estimates are expected to change accordingly. For past years Allies defence spending was based on the then available GDP data and Allies may, therefore, have met the 2% guideline when using those figures. (In 2018 and 2021, Lithuania met 2% using November 2018 and June 2021 OECD figures respectively).

Table 2: Defence expenditure (million US dollars)

Country	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024e
Current prices and exchange rates											
Albania	178	132	131	145	176	197	197	224	231	397	532
Belgium	5,200	4,204	4,258	4,441	4,845	4,761	5,324	6,245	6,904	7,622	8,608
Bulgaria	747	633	671	724	962	2,159	1,121	1,276	1,440	1,992	2,208
Canada	18,172	18,689	17,708	23,700	22,399	22,572	23,330	25,502	25,898	28,446	32,064
Croatia	1,064	883	837	926	966	1,001	983	1,361	1,285	1,410	1,743
Czechia*	1,975	1,921	1,866	2,259	2,750	2,982	3,199	3,915	3,895	4,538	7,229
Denmark*	4,057	3,364	3,593	3,780	4,559	4,487	4,886	5,274	5,473	8,143	9,966
Estonia*	514	463	497	541	615	637	719	749	820	1,238	1,453
Finland	3,991	3,401	3,418	3,536	3,825	3,900	4,156	4,145	4,726	6,266	6,965
France	52,022	43,496	44,209	46,133	50,507	49,493	52,520	56,457	52,238	59,433	64,922
Germany	46,176	39,833	41,606	45,470	49,772	52,549	58,652	62,054	61,405	73,138	99,160
Greece	5,234	4,520	4,637	4,752	5,388	5,019	5,492	8,006	8,488	6,731	7,765
Hungary	1,210	1,132	1,289	1,708	1,615	2,190	2,767	2,410	3,270	4,360	4,940
Italy	24,487	19,576	22,382	23,902	25,641	23,559	30,084	33,140	31,512	33,856	35,633
Latvia*	294	282	403	485	710	692	743	824	857	1,254	1,463
Lithuania*	428	471	636	817	1,057	1,094	1,176	1,308	1,738	2,165	2,662
Luxembourg	253	250	236	326	356	381	426	403	461	642	758
Montenegro	69	57	62	65	75	74	83	91	86	114	139
Netherlands	10,349	8,673	9,112	9,643	11,172	12,067	12,838	13,916	13,899	16,765	22,665
North Macedonia	124	105	104	101	120	146	154	204	221	265	317
Norway*	7,722	6,142	6,431	6,850	7,544	7,536	7,228	8,438	8,694	8,799	10,562
Poland*	10,107	10,588	9,397	9,940	11,857	11,824	13,363	15,099	15,338	26,479	34,906
Portugal	3,007	2,645	2,616	2,738	3,249	3,299	3,273	3,899	3,578	3,854	4,519
Romania*	2,691	2,581	2,645	3,643	4,359	4,608	5,056	5,299	5,197	5,607	8,731
Slovak Republic	999	987	1,004	1,056	1,298	1,802	2,049	2,066	2,090	2,445	2,870
Slovenia	487	401	449	477	547	572	568	763	777	911	986
Spain	12,634	11,096	9,975	11,889	13,200	12,630	12,828	14,849	16,451	18,875	21,492
Sweden*	6,205	5,103	5,017	5,229	5,396	5,560	5,984	9,071	8,562	9,849	13,647
Türkiye	13,577	11,953	12,644	12,971	14,168	14,089	13,339	12,969	12,291	16,765	27,953
United Kingdom	65,692	59,505	56,362	55,719	60,380	59,399	63,500	71,927	70,846	76,052	84,041
United States	653,942	641,253	656,059	642,933	672,255	750,886	770,650	824,094	834,977	858,000	935,000
NATO Europe and Canada	289,276	254,422	255,595	275,102	300,167	301,674	325,896	358,668	355,381	418,561	520,902
NATO Total	943,218	895,675	911,654	918,035	972,422	1,052,560	1,096,546	1,182,762	1,190,358	1,276,561	1,455,902
Constant 2021 prices and exchange rates											
Albania	189	167	164	171	186	217	214	224	228	340	410
Belgium	5,263	5,040	5,023	5,033	5,160	5,254	5,672	6,245	7,256	7,470	8,207
Bulgaria	911	896	921	930	1,133	2,549	1,245	1,276	1,392	1,745	1,855
Canada	18,418	22,118	21,569	27,556	25,579	25,991	26,866	25,502	24,971	28,018	30,992
Croatia	1,042	1,032	970	1,029	1,000	1,072	1,040	1,361	1,336	1,278	1,471
Czechia*	2,294	2,612	2,483	2,828	3,112	3,430	3,564	3,915	3,861	3,953	6,274
Denmark*	3,962	3,922	4,174	4,260	4,885	5,030	5,225	5,274	5,646	8,501	10,258
Estonia*	566	607	637	653	677	712	785	749	794	1,079	1,217
Finland	3,928	3,943	3,972	3,993	4,049	4,292	4,415	4,145	5,033	6,258	6,771
France	50,540	50,037	50,729	51,577	53,376	54,536	55,129	56,457	56,835	59,827	63,258
Germany	46,708	47,455	49,083	51,801	53,204	58,110	62,526	62,054	64,995	71,065	92,589
Greece	4,688	4,856	5,020	5,032	5,466	5,360	5,775	8,006	8,951	6,533	7,224
Hungary	1,250	1,366	1,547	1,921	1,706	2,375	2,988	2,410	3,503	3,879	4,052
Italy	23,700	22,318	25,008	25,947	26,702	25,621	31,599	33,140	34,173	33,808	34,596
Latvia*	311	355	507	582	784	774	795	824	876	1,174	1,337
Lithuania*	459	606	812	983	1,172	1,250	1,292	1,308	1,681	1,872	2,197
Luxembourg	261	301	290	382	392	441	461	403	488	566	639
Montenegro	76	73	76	75	81	82	90	91	86	102	117
Netherlands	10,322	10,348	10,807	11,042	11,971	13,276	13,564	13,916	15,353	17,770	23,077
North Macedonia	133	132	126	118	128	163	166	204	228	260	296
Norway*	7,015	7,346	8,143	8,206	8,323	9,047	9,524	8,438	7,578	9,479	11,612
Poland*	9,764	12,082	11,201	11,161	12,569	12,931	14,234	15,099	16,054	23,791	30,425
Portugal	3,051	3,152	3,069	3,100	3,452	3,633	3,462	3,899	3,815	3,745	4,182
Romania*	3,002	3,334	3,375	4,434	4,860	5,164	5,444	5,299	5,218	4,880	6,988
Slovak Republic	980	1,162	1,189	1,211	1,394	1,995	2,173	2,066	2,184	2,260	2,509
Slovenia	486	475	529	543	582	629	605	763	819	850	894
Spain	12,242	12,804	11,499	13,264	13,910	13,848	13,643	14,849	17,643	18,567	20,407
Sweden*	5,805	5,735	5,627	5,730	5,861	6,416	6,602	9,071	9,552	10,861	14,578
Türkiye	8,413	8,535	9,272	10,349	12,819	13,185	13,485	12,969	11,569	13,296	19,393
United Kingdom	62,746	60,834	63,721	65,069	66,713	67,208	68,136	71,927	74,719	74,372	77,802
United States	740,279	719,229	730,437	702,580	717,921	784,068	790,070	824,094	788,890	773,624	817,845
NATO Europe and Canada	278,583	283,761	291,743	309,140	321,209	333,718	349,704	358,668	372,251	406,736	485,628
NATO Total	1,018,861	1,002,990	1,022,180	1,011,721	1,039,131	1,117,786	1,139,773	1,182,762	1,161,141	1,180,360	1,303,472

Notes: Figures for 2024 are estimates. The NATO Europe and Canada and NATO Total aggregates from 2017 onwards include Montenegro, which became an Ally on 5 June 2017, from 2020 onwards include North Macedonia, which became an Ally on 27 March 2020, from 2023 onwards include Finland, which became an Ally on 4 April 2023 and from 2024 onwards include Sweden, which became an Ally on 7 March 2024.

** Please refer to note on page 54.*

Table 3: Defence expenditure as a share of GDP and annual real change (based on 2021 prices)

Country	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024e
Share of real GDP (%)											
Albania	1.35	1.16	1.10	1.11	1.16	1.27	1.29	1.24	1.20	1.74	2.04
Belgium	0.97	0.91	0.90	0.89	0.89	0.89	1.01	1.04	1.16	1.18	1.29
Bulgaria	1.31	1.25	1.24	1.22	1.45	3.13	1.59	1.52	1.59	1.96	2.04
Canada	1.01	1.20	1.16	1.44	1.30	1.29	1.41	1.27	1.20	1.33	1.45
Croatia	1.81	1.75	1.59	1.63	1.54	1.60	1.70	1.97	1.80	1.67	1.86
Czechia*	0.94	1.02	0.94	1.02	1.09	1.16	1.27	1.35	1.29	1.32	2.08
Denmark*	1.15	1.11	1.15	1.14	1.28	1.30	1.37	1.29	1.36	2.00	2.35
Estonia*	1.90	1.99	2.03	1.97	1.97	2.00	2.26	2.02	2.14	3.00	3.41
Finland	1.46	1.46	1.43	1.39	1.40	1.46	1.54	1.41	1.69	2.12	2.30
France	1.82	1.78	1.79	1.78	1.81	1.82	1.99	1.90	1.87	1.94	2.03
Germany	1.16	1.16	1.18	1.21	1.23	1.33	1.49	1.43	1.48	1.61	2.10
Greece	2.24	2.32	2.40	2.37	2.52	2.42	2.87	3.66	3.87	2.76	2.99
Hungary	0.86	0.90	1.00	1.19	1.00	1.33	1.75	1.32	1.83	2.05	2.13
Italy	1.13	1.06	1.17	1.19	1.22	1.17	1.58	1.52	1.50	1.47	1.50
Latvia*	0.97	1.07	1.49	1.65	2.13	2.09	2.23	2.16	2.25	2.97	3.39
Lithuania*	0.88	1.13	1.48	1.71	1.95	1.98	2.05	1.95	2.44	2.71	3.11
Luxembourg	0.37	0.41	0.38	0.49	0.50	0.55	0.58	0.47	0.56	1.15	1.30
Montenegro	1.50	1.40	1.42	1.34	1.37	1.33	1.73	1.55	1.38	1.54	1.71
Netherlands	1.12	1.10	1.13	1.12	1.19	1.29	1.37	1.32	1.39	1.60	2.06
North Macedonia	1.09	1.05	0.97	0.89	0.94	1.16	1.24	1.45	1.58	1.79	2.00
Norway*	1.54	1.58	1.73	1.71	1.72	1.84	1.97	1.68	1.46	1.82	2.21
Poland*	1.86	2.21	1.99	1.88	2.00	1.96	2.21	2.19	2.21	3.27	4.07
Portugal	1.31	1.33	1.27	1.24	1.34	1.37	1.43	1.52	1.39	1.33	1.46
Romania*	1.35	1.45	1.43	1.73	1.79	1.83	2.00	1.85	1.75	1.60	2.26
Slovak Republic	0.98	1.11	1.11	1.10	1.22	1.70	1.90	1.71	1.80	1.84	2.00
Slovenia	0.98	0.94	1.02	0.99	1.02	1.06	1.07	1.24	1.30	1.32	1.37
Spain	0.92	0.92	0.80	0.90	0.92	0.90	1.00	1.02	1.14	1.16	1.24
Sweden*	1.07	1.02	0.98	0.98	0.98	1.04	1.10	1.43	1.48	1.68	2.25
Türkiye	1.45	1.38	1.45	1.51	1.82	1.85	1.86	1.61	1.36	1.48	2.09
United Kingdom	2.14	2.03	2.09	2.08	2.10	2.08	2.35	2.29	2.27	2.25	2.33
United States	3.68	3.47	3.46	3.25	3.23	3.44	3.54	3.48	3.25	3.10	3.19
NATO Europe and Canada	1.40	1.40	1.41	1.45	1.48	1.51	1.69	1.63	1.63	1.74	2.00
NATO Total	2.54	2.45	2.45	2.36	2.37	2.49	2.65	2.59	2.46	2.44	2.61
Annual real change (%)											
Albania	-2.74	-11.76	-1.90	4.32	8.84	16.75	-1.53	4.48	1.98	48.97	20.88
Belgium	-2.11	-4.25	-0.34	0.21	2.52	1.82	7.96	10.10	16.20	2.94	9.88
Bulgaria	-9.08	-1.56	2.80	0.96	21.79	124.94	-51.16	2.49	9.07	25.38	6.31
Canada	4.95	20.09	-2.48	27.76	-7.18	1.61	3.37	-5.08	-2.08	12.20	10.62
Croatia	25.94	-1.04	-5.99	6.15	-2.82	7.20	-3.00	30.88	-1.91	-4.28	15.09
Czechia*	-5.03	13.86	-4.94	13.90	10.06	10.20	3.91	9.85	-1.36	2.38	58.71
Denmark*	-4.82	-1.00	6.43	2.07	14.65	2.99	3.86	0.95	7.05	50.57	20.67
Estonia*	3.78	7.13	5.00	2.55	3.71	5.12	10.26	-4.57	5.96	35.91	12.75
Finland	-6.05	0.40	0.72	0.53	1.40	6.00	2.87	-6.11	21.42	24.33	8.21
France	-1.20	-0.99	1.38	1.67	3.49	2.17	1.09	2.41	0.67	5.26	5.73
Germany	-1.42	1.60	3.43	5.54	2.71	9.22	7.60	-0.75	4.74	9.34	30.29
Greece	0.42	3.60	3.38	0.23	8.62	-1.94	7.73	38.64	11.80	-27.01	10.58
Hungary	-5.22	9.34	13.19	24.19	-11.19	39.22	25.81	-19.32	45.32	10.74	4.46
Italy	-9.81	-5.83	12.05	3.75	2.91	-4.05	23.33	4.88	3.12	-1.07	2.33
Latvia*	2.64	14.35	42.65	14.88	34.73	-1.31	2.77	3.57	6.35	34.02	13.90
Lithuania*	19.65	32.05	33.91	21.01	19.30	6.65	3.37	1.19	28.57	11.35	17.37
Luxembourg	4.90	15.30	-3.78	31.98	2.57	12.40	4.72	-12.59	21.07	15.94	12.78
Montenegro	4.49	-3.52	4.33	-1.33	7.29	1.35	10.03	1.48	-5.71	18.82	14.84
Netherlands	0.19	0.26	4.43	2.17	8.41	10.90	2.18	2.59	10.33	15.74	29.86
North Macedonia	-3.58	-0.09	-4.71	-6.75	8.40	27.73	2.01	22.46	11.73	14.07	13.90
Norway*	5.38	4.72	10.84	0.78	1.43	8.70	5.27	-11.40	-10.20	25.09	22.50
Poland*	11.35	23.74	-7.29	-0.36	12.61	2.87	10.08	6.08	6.32	48.20	27.88
Portugal	-8.54	3.31	-2.65	1.01	11.36	5.23	-4.69	12.63	-2.16	-1.84	11.67
Romania*	8.60	11.05	1.23	31.38	9.60	6.26	5.42	-2.67	-1.52	-6.49	43.21
Slovak Republic	3.19	18.57	2.38	1.83	15.09	43.10	8.93	-4.89	5.69	3.47	11.02
Slovenia	-4.58	-2.24	11.41	2.63	7.24	7.98	-3.74	26.08	7.35	3.77	5.14
Spain	0.36	4.60	-10.19	15.35	4.87	-0.45	-1.48	8.84	18.82	5.24	9.91
Sweden*	4.19	-1.19	-1.89	1.82	2.29	9.46	2.90	37.40	5.31	13.71	34.22
Türkiye	0.78	1.44	8.64	11.61	23.87	2.85	2.28	-3.83	-10.79	14.92	45.86
United Kingdom	-1.11	-3.05	4.75	2.12	2.53	0.74	1.38	5.56	3.88	-0.46	4.61
United States	-5.19	-2.84	1.56	-3.81	2.18	9.21	0.77	4.31	-4.27	-1.94	5.72
NATO Europe and Canada	-0.89	1.86	2.81	5.96	3.90	3.89	4.79	2.56	3.79	9.26	19.40
NATO Total	-4.05	-1.56	1.91	-1.02	2.71	7.57	1.97	3.77	-1.83	1.66	10.43

Notes: Figures for 2024 are estimates. The NATO Europe and Canada and NATO Total aggregates from 2017 onwards include Montenegro, which became an Ally on 5 June 2017, from 2020 onwards include North Macedonia, which became an Ally on 27 March 2020, from 2023 onwards include Finland, which became an Ally on 4 April 2023 and from 2024 onwards include Sweden, which became an Ally on 7 March 2024.

* Please refer to note on page 54.

Table 4: Defence expenditure real change 2014-2024e

Country	2014	2024e	Real change 2014-2024e (%)	Share of real GDP 2014 (%)	Share of real GDP 2024e (%)
Million US dollars (2021 prices and exchange rates)					
Albania	189	410	116.76	1.35	2.04
Belgium	5,263	8,207	55.94	0.97	1.29
Bulgaria	911	1,855	103.72	1.31	2.04
Canada	18,418	30,992	68.27	1.01	1.45
Croatia	1,042	1,471	41.15	1.81	1.86
Czechia	2,294	6,274	173.53	0.94	2.08
Denmark	3,962	10,258	158.92	1.15	2.35
Estonia	566	1,217	114.84	1.90	3.41
Finland	3,928	6,771	72.40	1.46	2.30
France	50,540	63,258	25.17	1.82	2.03
Germany	46,708	92,589	98.23	1.16	2.10
Greece	4,688	7,224	54.10	2.24	2.99
Hungary	1,250	4,052	224.29	0.86	2.13
Italy	23,700	34,596	45.98	1.13	1.50
Latvia	311	1,337	330.56	0.97	3.39
Lithuania	459	2,197	378.47	0.88	3.11
Luxembourg	261	639	144.61	0.37	1.30
Montenegro	76	117	55.15	1.50	1.71
Netherlands	10,322	23,077	123.58	1.12	2.06
North Macedonia	133	296	122.91	1.09	2.00
Norway	7,015	11,612	65.52	1.54	2.21
Poland	9,764	30,425	211.59	1.86	4.07
Portugal	3,051	4,182	37.05	1.31	1.46
Romania	3,002	6,988	132.76	1.35	2.26
Slovak Republic	980	2,509	156.08	0.98	2.00
Slovenia	486	894	84.00	0.98	1.37
Spain	12,242	20,407	66.70	0.92	1.24
Sweden	5,805	14,578	151.13	1.07	2.25
Türkiye	8,413	19,393	130.50	1.45	2.09
United Kingdom	62,746	77,802	24.00	2.14	2.33
United States	740,279	817,845	10.48	3.68	3.19

Note: Figures for 2024 are estimates.

Table 5: GDP (million US dollars)

Country	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024e
Current prices and exchange rates											
Albania	13,246	11,389	11,862	13,053	15,156	15,582	15,271	18,086	19,185	22,822	26,130
Belgium	538,127	461,092	474,141	500,731	542,886	536,786	529,271	598,892	593,905	644,969	668,972
Bulgaria	57,080	50,765	53,925	59,288	66,399	68,889	70,311	84,100	90,422	101,611	108,425
Canada	1,805,748	1,556,511	1,527,996	1,649,271	1,725,297	1,743,730	1,655,688	2,007,472	2,161,479	2,142,470	2,207,829
Croatia	58,832	50,475	52,663	56,718	62,633	62,432	57,917	69,055	71,258	84,416	93,970
Czechia	210,864	189,189	198,083	221,820	252,246	256,905	251,181	290,895	301,771	343,569	348,295
Denmark	352,832	301,758	312,182	331,610	355,294	345,401	355,631	408,378	401,946	407,092	424,659
Estonia	27,049	23,306	24,547	27,426	31,189	31,837	31,777	37,161	38,346	41,277	42,621
Finland	273,549	233,235	238,712	253,756	273,994	267,044	269,784	294,419	280,462	295,618	302,830
France	2,865,970	2,444,160	2,468,047	2,591,240	2,784,728	2,726,218	2,644,482	2,965,441	2,796,997	3,056,954	3,194,326
Germany	3,973,028	3,420,865	3,531,031	3,766,461	4,059,491	3,964,493	3,929,028	4,340,356	4,159,926	4,528,712	4,711,554
Greece	233,972	194,587	193,044	200,310	213,396	207,329	191,210	218,449	219,053	243,569	260,026
Hungary	141,129	125,244	128,984	143,335	161,185	164,927	158,469	183,271	178,365	212,732	232,018
Iceland	17,868	17,517	20,793	24,728	26,261	24,682	21,630	25,825	28,770	31,325	33,034
Italy	2,176,464	1,845,297	1,888,485	1,973,613	2,101,159	2,020,320	1,904,634	2,176,435	2,103,471	2,302,485	2,379,497
Latvia	30,285	26,347	27,110	29,381	33,263	33,103	33,353	38,211	38,049	42,260	43,165
Lithuania	48,383	41,545	42,959	47,740	54,286	55,128	57,366	67,082	71,090	79,813	85,639
Luxembourg	68,798	60,203	62,139	65,824	70,984	69,654	73,631	85,516	81,945	55,829	58,350
Montenegro	4,595	4,056	4,375	4,855	5,509	5,543	4,777	5,864	6,243	7,406	8,109
Netherlands	901,882	775,865	797,115	848,219	930,377	929,019	932,084	1,054,899	1,047,223	1,154,716	1,233,317
North Macedonia	11,378	10,067	10,686	11,336	12,694	12,609	12,385	14,008	13,956	14,769	15,861
Norway	501,737	388,160	370,956	401,746	439,789	408,743	367,632	503,368	596,298	482,505	478,626
Poland	542,065	478,881	473,013	528,353	594,079	601,875	605,413	689,014	694,669	809,549	858,146
Portugal	230,138	199,059	206,249	220,785	242,203	240,142	229,435	256,226	257,101	289,198	308,792
Romania	199,722	177,886	185,291	210,148	243,468	251,677	252,371	286,784	296,927	350,847	386,899
Slovak Republic	101,739	89,188	90,322	95,944	106,660	105,855	107,646	120,672	116,020	132,947	143,864
Slovenia	49,527	42,714	44,279	48,136	53,713	53,916	53,342	61,570	59,975	69,168	72,006
Spain	1,380,602	1,206,288	1,242,674	1,321,287	1,432,294	1,403,651	1,288,752	1,462,217	1,447,635	1,620,558	1,729,964
Sweden	578,777	501,488	513,142	536,128	551,740	532,654	544,980	635,697	578,777	585,202	607,542
Türkiye	938,511	864,071	869,280	858,933	780,189	760,521	717,114	807,893	905,800	1,129,970	1,337,474
United Kingdom	3,066,303	2,928,557	2,699,086	2,682,385	2,875,024	2,853,072	2,698,705	3,144,080	3,125,398	3,382,119	3,605,215
United States	17,608,138	18,295,019	18,804,913	19,612,103	20,656,516	21,539,982	21,354,105	23,681,171	26,006,893	27,720,710	29,169,676
NATO Europe and Canada	20,531,903	17,970,920	17,996,256	18,923,342	20,259,158	19,941,430	19,250,507	22,021,220	21,923,221	24,081,275	26,007,154
NATO Total	38,140,041	36,265,939	36,801,170	38,535,445	40,915,674	41,481,412	40,604,611	45,702,391	47,930,114	51,801,985	55,176,830

Constant 2021 prices and exchange rates											
Albania	14,063	14,375	14,852	15,417	16,036	17,166	16,597	18,086	18,959	19,508	20,142
Belgium	544,650	552,679	559,275	567,522	578,180	592,304	563,915	598,892	624,246	632,059	637,800
Bulgaria	69,559	71,922	74,099	76,134	78,186	81,341	78,115	84,100	87,402	89,016	91,080
Canada	1,830,136	1,842,031	1,861,162	1,917,626	1,970,226	2,007,827	1,906,668	2,007,472	2,084,155	2,110,185	2,133,999
Croatia	57,644	58,983	61,025	63,027	64,857	66,868	61,311	69,055	74,088	76,535	79,309
Czechia	244,862	257,166	263,587	277,672	285,492	295,508	279,784	290,895	299,187	299,290	302,272
Denmark	344,582	351,833	362,645	373,730	380,681	387,196	380,303	408,378	414,668	425,014	437,112
Estonia	29,828	30,510	31,434	33,104	34,344	35,588	34,679	37,161	37,144	35,984	35,677
Finland	269,191	270,447	277,403	286,569	289,988	293,902	286,583	294,419	298,688	295,213	294,400
France	2,784,280	2,811,728	2,832,041	2,896,982	2,942,917	3,003,992	2,775,892	2,965,441	3,043,141	3,077,225	3,112,437
Germany	4,018,856	4,075,412	4,165,546	4,290,830	4,339,412	4,384,006	4,188,525	4,340,356	4,403,103	4,400,375	4,399,333
Greece	209,568	209,089	209,023	212,102	216,481	221,411	201,049	218,449	230,996	236,383	241,922
Hungary	145,767	151,102	154,787	161,170	170,206	178,847	171,088	183,271	191,080	189,272	190,319
Iceland	21,333	22,280	23,684	24,677	25,884	26,366	24,536	25,825	28,147	29,565	29,759
Italy	2,093,028	2,108,630	2,137,186	2,173,301	2,188,078	2,197,204	2,000,511	2,176,435	2,281,094	2,299,214	2,310,258
Latvia	32,027	33,238	34,087	35,245	36,764	37,012	35,728	38,211	38,903	39,567	39,450
Lithuania	51,962	53,434	54,862	57,393	60,215	63,032	63,059	67,082	68,784	69,020	70,701
Luxembourg	71,004	72,622	76,246	77,258	78,224	80,511	79,805	85,516	86,716	49,202	49,129
Montenegro	5,026	5,196	5,349	5,601	5,886	6,125	5,188	5,864	6,240	6,613	6,863
Netherlands	918,609	937,880	960,576	987,300	1,009,556	1,032,746	993,249	1,054,899	1,107,722	1,108,671	1,118,670
North Macedonia	12,184	12,653	13,014	13,155	13,534	14,063	13,403	14,008	14,394	14,466	14,785
Norway	455,817	464,283	469,691	481,263	485,252	490,705	484,433	503,368	519,709	519,753	526,198
Poland	523,698	546,421	563,815	593,256	629,743	658,194	644,884	689,014	727,076	727,374	747,975
Portugal	233,509	237,222	241,976	249,997	257,362	264,429	242,733	256,226	274,126	281,051	285,779
Romania	222,794	229,828	236,401	255,775	271,431	282,080	271,715	286,784	298,155	305,324	309,669
Slovak Republic	99,799	104,965	107,010	110,086	114,558	117,165	114,136	120,672	121,215	122,886	125,736
Slovenia	49,403	50,586	52,121	54,818	57,218	59,224	56,805	61,570	63,232	64,568	65,262
Spain	1,337,682	1,392,003	1,432,581	1,474,071	1,509,381	1,538,984	1,370,617	1,462,217	1,552,571	1,594,112	1,642,642
Sweden	541,405	563,612	575,553	587,504	599,308	614,667	601,179	635,697	645,710	645,348	648,950
Türkiye	581,585	616,972	637,474	685,297	705,947	711,725	724,962	807,893	852,598	896,175	927,908
United Kingdom	2,928,821	2,993,925	3,051,460	3,132,522	3,176,540	3,228,142	2,895,743	3,144,080	3,296,225	3,307,431	3,337,597
United States	20,119,229	20,711,851	21,088,693	21,606,974	22,247,945	22,822,794	22,329,130	23,681,171	24,276,131	24,977,118	25,669,010
NATO Europe and Canada	19,914,867	20,291,121	20,668,644	21,283,176	21,689,056	22,065,698	20,679,431	22,021,220	22,845,075	23,321,052	24,233,130
NATO Total	40,034,096	41,002,972	41,757,337	42,890,150	43,937,001	44,888,492	43,008,561	45,702,391	47,121,206	48,298,169	49,902,139

Notes: Figures for 2024 are estimates. The NATO Europe and Canada and NATO Total aggregates from 2017 onwards include Montenegro, which became an Ally on 5 June 2017, from 2020 onwards include North Macedonia, which became an Ally on 27 March 2020, from 2023 onwards include Finland, which became an Ally on 4 April 2023 and from 2024 onwards include Sweden, which became an Ally on 7 March 2024.

Table 6: GDP per capita and defence expenditure per capita
(2021 prices and exchange rates)

Country	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024e
GDP per capita (thousand US dollars)											
Albania	4.9	5.0	5.2	5.4	5.6	6.0	5.8	6.4	6.8	7.1	7.4
Belgium	48.8	49.3	49.6	50.1	50.8	51.8	49.1	51.9	53.9	54.1	54.2
Bulgaria	9.8	10.3	10.7	11.2	11.7	12.3	11.9	12.9	13.5	13.8	14.2
Canada	52.2	52.0	52.1	53.1	53.9	54.2	50.7	52.8	54.5	54.2	53.2
Croatia	13.6	14.0	14.6	15.3	15.9	16.8	15.5	17.6	18.9	19.4	20.1
Czechia	23.3	24.5	25.1	26.4	27.1	28.1	26.5	27.7	28.5	27.8	27.8
Denmark	61.4	62.3	63.8	65.2	66.0	66.8	65.4	70.1	70.8	72.0	73.5
Estonia	22.6	23.2	23.9	25.2	26.1	27.0	26.2	28.0	27.9	27.0	26.1
Finland	49.5	49.5	50.6	52.1	52.6	53.3	51.9	53.2	53.9	53.1	52.8
France	42.4	42.6	42.7	43.5	44.0	44.7	41.2	43.8	44.8	45.2	45.6
Germany	49.8	50.3	51.0	52.1	52.5	52.9	50.4	52.2	52.9	52.5	52.1
Greece	19.1	19.2	19.3	19.7	20.1	20.6	18.8	20.4	21.7	22.3	23.0
Hungary	14.7	15.3	15.7	16.4	17.4	18.3	17.5	18.8	19.7	19.5	19.8
Iceland	67.1	69.3	73.0	74.9	76.7	76.2	69.7	72.5	77.8	79.9	78.4
Italy	34.7	35.0	35.5	36.2	36.5	36.7	33.5	36.6	38.6	39.0	39.2
Latvia	15.9	16.7	17.2	18.0	18.9	19.2	18.7	20.1	20.7	21.0	21.0
Lithuania	17.6	18.2	18.9	20.0	21.3	22.5	22.6	24.0	24.5	24.4	24.6
Luxembourg	130.2	130.1	133.9	132.3	131.0	132.2	128.4	135.5	135.3	75.1	73.6
Montenegro	8.1	8.4	8.6	9.0	9.5	9.8	8.4	9.5	10.1	10.7	11.2
Netherlands	54.7	55.6	56.7	58.0	58.9	59.9	57.3	60.5	63.2	62.6	62.6
North Macedonia	6.3	6.5	6.7	6.7	6.9	7.2	6.9	7.6	7.9	7.9	8.2
Norway	89.7	90.4	90.5	91.9	92.0	92.4	90.6	93.6	96.1	95.2	94.9
Poland	13.6	14.2	14.7	15.4	16.4	17.1	16.8	18.0	19.1	19.2	19.8
Portugal	22.3	22.8	23.3	24.1	24.9	25.6	23.4	24.7	26.3	26.8	27.0
Romania	11.2	11.6	12.0	13.1	13.9	14.5	14.1	15.0	15.6	16.0	16.2
Slovak Republic	18.4	19.4	19.7	20.3	21.1	21.5	20.9	22.1	22.3	22.4	22.7
Slovenia	24.0	24.5	25.3	26.6	27.7	28.6	27.2	29.3	30.0	30.6	30.8
Spain	28.7	30.0	30.9	31.7	32.4	32.9	29.1	30.9	32.8	33.3	34.1
Sweden	56.4	58.1	58.7	59.2	59.6	60.4	58.5	61.4	62.0	61.4	61.3
Türkiye	7.6	8.0	8.1	8.6	8.8	8.7	8.8	9.7	10.1	10.5	10.9
United Kingdom	45.7	46.3	46.9	47.7	48.1	48.6	43.4	46.9	49.2	48.8	48.8
United States	63.4	64.8	65.5	66.6	68.1	69.4	67.6	71.4	73.0	74.9	76.6
NATO Europe and Canada	33.4	33.9	34.4	35.2	35.8	36.2	33.7	35.8	37.1	37.3	37.9
NATO Total	43.8	44.7	45.2	46.2	47.1	47.9	45.5	48.3	49.7	50.4	51.2

Defence expenditure per capita (US dollars)											
Albania	66	58	57	60	65	76	75	80	82	124	151
Belgium	472	450	446	444	454	460	494	541	626	640	698
Bulgaria	129	128	134	137	169	385	190	196	215	271	289
Canada	525	624	604	763	700	701	714	671	653	720	773
Croatia	246	245	232	249	245	269	263	347	341	324	373
Czechia	218	249	236	269	296	326	338	373	368	367	577
Denmark	706	695	735	744	847	868	898	905	964	1,439	1,725
Estonia	429	461	485	496	515	540	593	564	597	810	891
Finland	722	722	725	727	735	778	800	750	908	1,126	1,214
France	769	758	765	775	799	812	818	835	837	879	926
Germany	579	586	601	629	644	701	752	746	781	848	1,096
Greece	428	446	464	467	508	499	539	748	841	618	686
Hungary	126	138	157	196	174	243	306	247	361	401	423
Italy	393	370	415	432	445	428	529	558	578	573	586
Latvia	154	178	256	297	404	402	416	433	465	623	711
Lithuania	155	207	280	343	414	446	463	468	599	661	765
Luxembourg	479	539	509	654	657	724	742	639	762	864	956
Montenegro	122	117	122	121	129	131	145	147	139	166	191
Netherlands	614	614	638	648	699	770	782	798	876	1,004	1,291
North Macedonia	68	68	65	60	65	83	85	111	124	142	164
Norway	1,381	1,430	1,569	1,567	1,577	1,703	1,781	1,569	1,401	1,737	2,095
Poland	254	314	291	290	327	337	371	394	421	629	807
Portugal	291	303	296	299	334	352	334	375	367	358	395
Romania	151	168	171	226	249	266	282	277	274	256	366
Slovak Republic	181	214	219	223	256	366	398	378	401	412	454
Slovenia	236	230	256	263	282	303	290	363	389	403	422
Spain	263	276	248	286	299	296	290	314	372	388	423
Sweden	605	591	574	577	583	631	642	876	917	1,033	1,376
Türkiye	110	111	119	131	160	162	163	156	137	156	227
United Kingdom	979	942	979	991	1,010	1,012	1,020	1,072	1,115	1,097	1,138
United States	2,335	2,250	2,268	2,164	2,196	2,385	2,390	2,484	2,374	2,319	2,440
NATO Europe and Canada	467	474	485	512	530	548	570	583	604	650	759
NATO Total	1,115	1,092	1,107	1,089	1,113	1,192	1,207	1,249	1,224	1,231	1,337

Notes: Figures for 2024 are estimates. The NATO Europe and Canada and NATO Total aggregates from 2017 onwards include Montenegro, which became an Ally on 5 June 2017, from 2020 onwards include North Macedonia, which became an Ally on 27 March 2020, from 2023 onwards include Finland, which became an Ally on 4 April 2023 and from 2024 onwards include Sweden, which became an Ally on 7 March 2024.

Table 7: Military personnel (Thousands)

Country	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024e
Albania	6.7	6.2	5.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.6	7.0
Belgium	30.5	29.7	28.8	27.8	26.5	23.3	22.8	22.1	21.4	21.4	21.3
Bulgaria	27.5	24.9	24.7	24.3	24.4	24.6	25.0	25.7	25.6	25.6	26.9
Canada	65.9	70.3	70.5	68.2	70.3	71.8	70.3	68.2	67.4	66.8	77.1
Croatia	15.4	15.1	14.8	14.8	15.0	14.8	14.7	14.9	14.4	14.0	13.7
Czechia	20.2	21.5	22.7	23.8	24.7	25.3	26.1	26.4	26.6	27.3	29.5
Denmark	16.9	17.2	17.3	16.7	17.2	16.3	16.9	16.9	16.7	17.3	17.3
Estonia	6.3	6.0	6.1	6.0	6.2	6.3	6.7	6.6	6.3	7.3	7.5
Finland	32.5	31.0	31.3	31.0	31.8	31.1	31.3	31.1	30.5	31.0	30.8
France	207.0	204.8	208.1	208.2	208.2	207.8	207.6	207.6	207.1	205.3	204.7
Germany	178.8	177.2	177.9	179.8	181.5	183.8	183.9	183.9	183.2	181.7	185.6
Greece	107.3	104.4	106.0	106.9	109.2	102.5	106.6	108.1	107.3	111.0	110.8
Hungary	17.5	17.4	17.9	18.7	19.9	18.9	19.8	20.0	19.7	20.1	20.9
Italy	183.5	178.4	176.3	174.6	174.1	176.4	173.4	170.3	170.0	170.7	171.4
Latvia	4.6	4.8	5.2	5.5	5.9	6.0	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.7	8.4
Lithuania	8.6	11.8	11.8	13.5	14.3	14.9	15.1	15.2	15.7	17.9	18.5
Luxembourg	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Montenegro	1.9	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.9	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.6
Netherlands	41.2	40.6	40.0	39.5	39.3	39.7	40.4	40.9	40.6	41.1	41.9
North Macedonia	6.5	6.8	6.6	6.3	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.1	5.9	5.7	6.1
Norway	21.0	20.9	20.5	20.2	20.2	19.2	20.6	23.1	23.5	24.0	24.3
Poland	99.0	98.9	101.6	105.3	109.5	113.1	116.2	166.8	176.0	206.5	216.1
Portugal	30.7	28.3	29.8	27.8	26.9	23.8	23.7	25.3	22.5	21.4	24.0
Romania	65.1	64.5	63.4	64.0	64.0	64.5	66.4	68.6	66.7	64.0	66.6
Slovak Republic	12.4	12.4	12.2	12.2	12.2	12.7	13.1	13.1	13.2	13.0	15.6
Slovenia	6.8	6.6	6.5	6.3	6.2	6.0	6.0	6.0	5.8	5.8	5.9
Spain	121.8	121.6	121.0	117.7	117.4	117.0	118.7	118.7	117.3	116.3	117.4
Sweden	14.7	15.0	15.0	15.9	17.8	19.1	20.1	21.1	20.9	21.5	23.1
Türkiye	426.6	384.8	359.3	416.7	444.3	441.8	433.0	450.0	455.9	463.7	481.0
United Kingdom	168.7	141.4	139.5	149.4	146.6	144.0	147.3	148.2	143.6	138.1	138.1
United States	1,338.2	1,314.1	1,301.4	1,305.9	1,317.4	1,329.2	1,346.7	1,349.0	1,317.0	1,286.0	1,300.2
NATO Europe and Canada	1,891	1,811	1,788	1,857	1,893	1,884	1,897	1,968	1,968	2,033	2,114
NATO Total	3,229	3,125	3,090	3,163	3,210	3,213	3,243	3,317	3,285	3,319	3,414

Notes: Figures for 2024 are estimates. The NATO Europe and Canada and NATO Total aggregates from 2017 onwards include Montenegro, which became an Ally on 5 June 2017, from 2020 onwards include North Macedonia, which became an Ally on 27 March 2020, from 2023 onwards include Finland, which became an Ally on 4 April 2023 and from 2024 onwards include Sweden, which became an Ally on 7 March 2024.

Table 8a: Distribution of defence expenditure by main category
(percentage of total defence expenditure)

Country	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024e
Equipment (a)											
Albania	16.65	8.92	8.01	6.96	9.42	14.61	15.00	15.12	17.05	25.19	47.74
Belgium	3.52	3.44	4.72	6.52	10.15	11.06	13.88	19.47	20.36	20.22	15.16
Bulgaria	1.03	3.47	9.15	8.10	9.65	59.74	8.44	11.05	15.70	28.27	32.47
Canada	13.03	10.47	10.61	10.70	11.94	13.84	14.67	12.07	11.33	15.10	17.85
Croatia	5.56	8.01	7.51	5.69	3.37	6.55	9.06	30.01	31.19	24.20	26.38
Czechia	6.53	11.75	6.70	11.55	11.16	16.44	17.31	20.47	24.66	23.04	38.12
Denmark	10.99	11.50	13.68	10.39	11.66	16.21	17.65	17.19	18.72	12.66	29.84
Estonia	22.15	12.82	17.86	19.22	16.51	15.50	23.00	23.18	21.86	16.72	26.32
Finland	13.68	14.15	14.04	13.35	13.56	21.14	21.63	19.88	33.54	42.54	38.91
France	24.64	25.04	24.44	24.17	23.66	24.53	26.62	27.85	28.64	28.50	28.50
Germany	12.94	11.93	12.21	11.77	12.36	14.69	17.45	16.69	17.23	18.04	28.62
Greece	8.17	10.40	13.45	11.28	11.03	11.55	10.70	37.24	42.29	25.15	36.07
Hungary	7.76	9.75	13.37	18.54	12.63	36.46	45.57	36.40	47.58	39.22	47.81
Italy	10.92	9.72	19.09	20.68	19.13	17.00	18.56	23.23	22.77	21.98	21.58
Latvia	7.55	13.60	19.05	15.01	31.85	21.65	20.53	22.07	24.65	31.57	36.26
Lithuania	14.06	21.55	30.06	31.61	36.98	37.57	33.71	22.32	36.62	28.66	30.13
Luxembourg	22.61	33.33	30.07	42.06	45.18	49.71	50.15	39.58	45.10	56.40	45.69
Montenegro	7.46	5.43	4.46	4.97	11.14	14.96	20.96	20.54	22.85	24.00	30.41
Netherlands	10.68	11.16	14.14	14.75	16.39	20.34	22.13	23.85	14.78	23.87	24.52
North Macedonia	5.92	11.13	8.37	6.47	11.09	13.82	11.53	21.77	24.13	25.17	29.62
Norway	20.42	21.83	23.37	24.63	25.60	28.76	28.41	29.19	28.39	29.29	28.53
Poland	18.84	33.20	21.62	22.04	27.51	23.36	29.31	33.89	32.42	44.73	49.73
Portugal	8.43	8.70	9.95	11.42	15.48	16.61	17.36	12.46	16.09	18.82	19.54
Romania	15.77	19.65	20.43	33.34	33.47	25.59	23.12	21.57	25.51	21.94	31.93
Slovak Republic	11.12	18.28	15.32	17.74	22.27	40.07	31.84	32.34	36.54	26.08	27.24
Slovenia	0.66	1.85	1.02	4.04	5.98	7.11	5.69	14.56	22.38	23.87	25.30
Spain	13.49	14.82	6.65	20.39	21.83	21.02	19.43	22.47	20.89	27.39	30.30
Sweden	40.47	38.08	34.62	21.65	22.40	22.95	23.79	20.22	21.13	30.24	34.42
Türkiye	25.08	25.13	25.55	30.30	37.64	34.32	30.73	29.31	28.43	29.79	31.85
United Kingdom	22.82	21.75	21.24	22.29	22.25	22.85	23.83	29.50	31.42	31.26	33.39
United States	25.97	25.41	25.05	25.73	27.06	29.06	29.69	28.70	27.85	29.37	28.98
Personnel (b)											
Albania	68.05	78.15	68.05	68.20	70.70	62.89	64.41	63.57	60.05	39.53	36.58
Belgium	77.84	78.23	76.80	75.20	70.69	68.38	63.58	56.79	49.89	49.92	50.17
Bulgaria	72.84	73.66	65.64	68.33	62.99	29.42	63.79	65.59	57.80	53.38	51.59
Canada	50.90	53.76	53.11	57.37	51.02	49.54	49.23	49.92	48.44	47.36	43.50
Croatia	76.55	72.28	75.40	71.72	76.96	73.71	76.15	56.71	55.38	58.30	57.70
Czechia	61.40	55.25	61.95	56.11	54.57	51.82	49.72	44.70	42.85	42.86	28.78
Denmark	51.27	52.01	49.51	47.01	49.88	48.25	46.07	48.31	40.88	29.58	26.47
Estonia	38.62	39.56	38.70	34.89	33.83	34.18	32.67	33.61	29.41	24.31	21.71
Finland	40.24	37.88	38.86	40.52	38.95	34.47	33.84	35.09	28.64	23.76	20.56
France	48.59	47.79	47.94	47.98	46.90	45.59	44.01	42.99	42.33	41.74	38.63
Germany	50.67	49.86	48.35	48.96	47.99	45.26	42.22	42.28	39.26	35.77	29.58
Greece	77.18	72.05	73.13	76.56	78.76	77.08	74.58	53.78	45.92	61.23	55.92
Hungary	49.77	48.21	49.66	37.13	42.33	35.37	27.18	38.74	31.42	25.00	23.83
Italy	76.41	77.55	70.79	67.58	68.16	70.21	67.52	63.73	63.67	62.35	59.36
Latvia	52.97	50.06	43.87	38.59	34.32	33.53	37.15	37.24	36.53	32.31	32.49
Lithuania	57.53	48.49	45.50	40.79	37.47	40.02	41.33	42.58	33.21	32.05	29.95
Luxembourg	49.31	42.77	45.56	34.40	33.42	30.76	30.13	34.58	28.78	21.89	21.45
Montenegro	78.53	78.03	75.32	80.87	73.50	71.39	64.66	59.90	61.12	58.40	47.41
Netherlands	56.50	55.51	51.77	52.19	51.16	49.27	48.49	47.86	47.04	38.39	38.04
North Macedonia	72.49	70.95	71.26	75.25	71.53	61.93	63.33	51.03	42.80	47.72	43.88
Norway	40.64	39.96	38.60	37.08	36.43	34.78	34.51	34.15	34.22	33.97	32.45
Poland	51.45	41.96	47.15	50.04	46.14	46.91	44.71	43.55	42.72	31.92	30.15
Portugal	81.27	81.90	81.38	80.19	74.75	70.51	71.15	63.09	61.81	63.61	58.63
Romania	71.15	63.30	65.01	54.67	54.48	57.90	59.20	57.79	55.03	59.68	43.25
Slovak Republic	69.14	56.24	58.72	58.21	54.74	40.81	42.34	46.61	42.77	41.81	39.14
Slovenia	82.31	82.23	76.03	75.04	72.38	69.07	72.75	61.99	53.77	49.98	47.48
Spain	67.34	65.18	72.61	61.64	59.64	61.86	62.54	58.70	52.70	49.30	43.90
Sweden	34.10	29.92	32.12	29.51	28.17	29.99	30.75	22.66	21.48	19.34	15.76
Türkiye	56.88	56.82	57.60	51.02	45.18	48.38	50.64	47.88	45.27	44.20	43.56
United Kingdom	36.59	36.80	35.27	34.54	33.75	34.07	33.80	31.49	29.74	30.69	29.69
United States	35.45	36.64	45.01	41.53	39.74	38.72	38.47	28.34	29.25	26.96	25.22

Notes: Figures for 2024 are estimates.

(a) Equipment expenditure includes major equipment expenditure and R&D devoted to major equipment.

(b) Personnel expenditure includes military and civilian expenditure and pensions.

Table 8b: Distribution of defence expenditure by main category
(percentage of total defence expenditure)

Country	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024e
Infrastructure (c)											
Albania	0.86	1.40	1.37	0.92	1.09	1.64	1.39	3.61	5.12	19.24	5.23
Belgium	1.81	0.93	0.96	1.05	1.43	1.19	1.00	0.82	2.67	3.58	3.89
Bulgaria	0.63	1.27	0.63	0.83	2.62	1.09	7.71	4.93	6.96	2.02	4.58
Canada	3.81	3.63	3.03	2.98	3.58	2.72	3.07	3.22	2.64	2.71	3.37
Croatia	1.24	1.98	1.26	3.59	1.00	1.41	1.53	0.55	0.71	3.01	2.28
Czechia	2.34	3.32	3.91	3.99	5.31	5.27	7.41	6.24	4.32	6.37	7.27
Denmark	0.97	1.09	2.16	1.95	1.49	1.85	1.84	4.08	3.07	2.64	2.29
Estonia	8.20	8.45	12.15	11.27	8.52	6.13	6.65	5.55	8.02	10.65	9.49
Finland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.29	0.37	0.63	0.52	0.33	0.35
France	2.33	2.80	2.70	2.88	3.51	3.13	2.88	3.04	3.01	3.60	3.64
Germany	3.75	3.60	3.39	4.06	4.15	3.99	3.78	3.74	3.54	3.35	3.18
Greece	1.10	0.65	0.58	0.79	0.62	0.20	0.18	0.26	0.26	0.59	0.33
Hungary	1.07	1.21	1.13	1.31	1.68	2.64	1.41	9.16	2.23	4.19	4.63
Italy	1.40	1.30	0.70	0.94	1.29	0.67	0.97	1.48	1.95	2.13	2.97
Latvia	8.89	6.64	12.83	15.02	6.45	10.30	11.85	5.28	4.31	6.85	5.21
Lithuania	2.17	2.16	3.59	3.92	2.24	2.40	1.25	2.47	4.54	9.77	9.86
Luxembourg	10.26	7.79	6.64	4.64	5.05	3.16	3.42	7.28	4.96	13.88	10.70
Montenegro	0.96	2.47	2.41	0.88	1.86	1.48	1.33	5.26	0.49	5.16	7.88
Netherlands	4.77	3.19	3.90	3.02	3.46	3.26	3.14	2.99	3.32	2.84	3.89
North Macedonia	1.24	1.67	1.28	1.01	0.95	3.89	2.78	3.09	3.09	1.64	3.81
Norway	5.71	5.30	6.56	6.93	6.67	5.87	6.55	6.45	5.64	5.17	7.64
Poland	5.47	4.74	4.62	4.21	3.45	4.78	4.31	3.71	4.12	4.41	4.51
Portugal	0.11	0.25	0.06	0.03	0.05	0.11	0.08	4.48	2.11	2.48	3.89
Romania	1.09	1.27	2.77	2.09	1.54	3.53	4.29	7.06	4.19	4.49	10.95
Slovak Republic	0.57	1.99	3.75	2.97	2.00	1.17	5.21	1.46	2.60	3.48	5.85
Slovenia	0.65	0.61	1.14	0.45	1.40	0.57	1.10	1.31	1.92	6.70	4.84
Spain	0.66	0.97	0.97	0.68	0.64	0.98	1.07	1.08	0.76	1.46	2.65
Sweden	0.47	0.46	0.47	0.45	0.43	0.38	0.36	0.29	0.23	0.35	0.31
Türkiye	2.77	2.56	2.42	2.95	2.53	2.26	2.22	7.49	7.63	9.48	9.35
United Kingdom	1.95	1.63	1.87	2.25	2.99	2.11	1.72	1.72	2.88	2.21	2.50
United States	1.71	1.45	1.22	1.23	1.17	1.38	1.33	1.27	1.32	1.49	1.74
Other (d)											
Albania	14.44	11.53	22.57	23.92	18.79	20.86	19.20	17.70	17.78	16.03	10.45
Belgium	16.83	17.40	17.52	17.23	17.72	19.36	21.54	22.92	27.08	26.27	30.78
Bulgaria	25.51	21.60	24.57	22.74	24.74	9.74	20.05	18.43	19.54	16.33	11.37
Canada	32.26	32.14	33.25	28.95	33.46	33.90	33.04	34.79	37.60	34.83	35.28
Croatia	16.65	17.73	15.83	18.99	18.67	18.33	13.27	12.73	12.72	14.49	13.63
Czechia	29.73	29.67	27.45	28.35	28.95	26.47	25.56	28.58	28.17	27.73	25.84
Denmark	36.78	35.40	34.65	40.66	36.97	33.69	34.44	30.42	37.33	55.13	41.41
Estonia	31.03	39.18	31.30	34.62	41.14	44.20	37.68	37.65	40.71	48.32	42.48
Finland	46.08	47.96	47.10	46.13	47.49	44.10	44.16	44.40	37.30	33.37	40.19
France	24.43	24.37	24.92	24.97	25.92	26.74	26.49	26.12	26.02	26.16	29.23
Germany	32.63	34.61	36.05	35.20	35.49	36.06	36.55	37.29	39.96	42.84	38.62
Greece	13.55	16.90	12.84	11.37	9.60	11.17	14.55	8.72	11.53	13.03	7.68
Hungary	41.40	40.83	35.84	43.01	43.36	25.53	25.84	15.70	18.76	31.59	23.74
Italy	11.27	11.42	9.42	10.80	11.43	12.11	12.95	11.56	11.61	13.55	16.09
Latvia	30.59	29.69	24.25	31.38	27.38	34.51	30.46	35.42	34.51	29.27	26.03
Lithuania	26.24	27.79	20.85	23.67	23.30	20.01	23.71	32.63	25.63	29.51	30.06
Luxembourg	17.82	16.11	17.73	18.90	16.35	16.37	16.30	18.57	21.15	7.84	22.16
Montenegro	13.06	14.07	17.80	13.27	13.50	12.16	13.06	14.30	15.53	12.44	14.30
Netherlands	28.05	30.14	30.20	30.04	28.99	27.13	26.24	25.29	34.85	34.90	33.55
North Macedonia	20.34	16.25	19.09	17.26	16.43	20.36	22.37	24.10	29.98	25.47	22.69
Norway	33.24	32.90	31.46	31.36	31.30	30.59	30.53	30.21	31.75	31.57	31.38
Poland	24.24	20.11	26.61	23.71	22.89	24.95	21.67	18.85	20.74	18.94	15.61
Portugal	10.19	9.15	8.61	8.35	9.72	12.77	11.41	19.97	19.99	15.09	17.94
Romania	11.98	15.78	11.79	9.90	10.51	12.99	13.38	13.58	15.26	13.89	13.87
Slovak Republic	19.16	23.49	22.22	21.08	20.99	17.95	20.60	19.59	18.09	28.63	27.77
Slovenia	16.38	15.31	21.80	20.47	20.24	23.25	20.46	22.14	21.94	19.46	22.38
Spain	18.50	19.03	19.78	17.28	17.89	16.14	16.96	17.76	25.65	21.85	23.14
Sweden	24.97	31.53	32.79	48.40	49.00	46.67	45.09	56.83	57.15	50.07	49.52
Türkiye	15.27	15.49	14.43	15.73	14.65	15.04	16.41	15.32	18.67	16.53	15.24
United Kingdom	38.63	39.82	41.62	40.92	41.01	40.97	40.65	37.29	35.96	35.84	34.42
United States	36.87	36.51	28.73	31.52	32.03	30.84	30.51	41.69	41.58	42.18	44.06

Notes: Figures for 2024 are estimates.

(c) Infrastructure expenditure includes NATO common infrastructure and national military construction.

(d) Other expenditure includes operations and maintenance expenditure, other R&D expenditure and expenditure not allocated among above-mentioned categories.

NATO defence expenditure

NATO defines defence expenditure as payments made by a national government specifically to meet the needs of its armed forces, those of Allies or of the Alliance. A major component of defence expenditure is payments for Armed Forces financed from within the Ministry of Defence (MoD) budget. Armed Forces include Land, Maritime and Air forces as well as Joint formations such as Administration and Command, Special Operations Forces, Medical Service, Logistic Command, Space Command, Cyber Command, etc. They might also include "Other Forces" like Ministry of Interior troops, national police forces, gendarmerie, carabinieri, coast guards etc. In such cases, expenditure is included only in proportion to the forces that are trained in military tactics, are equipped as a military force, can operate under direct military authority in deployed operations, and can, realistically, be deployed outside national territory in support of a military force. Also, expenditure on Other Forces financed through the budgets of ministries other than MoD is included in defence expenditure.

Pension payments made directly by the government to retired military and civilian employees of military departments are included regardless of whether these payments are made from the budget of the MoD or other ministries.

Expenditure for peacekeeping and humanitarian operations (paid by MoD or other ministries), the destruction of weapons, equipment and ammunition, contributions to eligible NATO-managed trust funds, and the costs associated with inspection and control of equipment destruction are included in defence expenditure.

Research and development (R&D) costs are included in defence expenditure. R&D costs also include expenditure for those projects that do not successfully lead to production of equipment.

Expenditure for the military component of mixed civilian-military activities is included, but only when the military component can be specifically accounted for or estimated.

Expenditure on NATO common infrastructure is included in the total defence expenditure of each Ally only to the extent of that nation's net contribution.

War damage payments and spending on civil defence are both excluded from the NATO definition of defence expenditure.

NATO uses United States dollars (USD) as the common currency denominator. The exchange rate applied to each Ally is the average annual rate published by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Iceland has no armed forces. For nations of the Euro zone and Montenegro, monetary values in national currency are expressed in Euros for all years. Latvia adopted the Euro from 2014, Lithuania from 2015, and Croatia from 2023. Montenegro joined the Alliance in 2017, North Macedonia in 2020, Finland in 2023 and Sweden in 2024.

To avoid any ambiguity, the fiscal year has been designated by the year which includes the highest number of months: e.g. 2024 represents the fiscal year 2024/2025 for Canada and the United Kingdom, and the fiscal year 2023/2024 for the United States. Because of rounding, the total figures may differ from the sum of their components.

Conventional signs:

e	estimated
-	nil
..	not available
	break in continuity of series
.	decimal point

Nomenclature of NATO defence expenditure:

1	Operating costs
1.1	Military personnel
1.1.1	Pay and allowances
1.1.2	Employer's contributions to retirement funds
1.1.3	Other
1.2	Civilian personnel
1.2.1	Pay and allowances
1.2.2	Employer's contributions to retirement funds
1.3	Pensions
1.3.1	Paid to military retirees
1.3.2	Paid to civilian retirees
1.4	Operations and maintenance
1.4.1	Ammunition and explosives (excluding nuclear)
1.4.2	Petroleum products
1.4.3	Spare parts
1.4.4	Other equipment and supplies
1.4.5	Rents
1.4.6	Other operations and maintenance
2	Procurement and construction
2.1	Major equipment
2.1.1	Missile systems
2.1.2	Missiles (conventional weapons)
2.1.3	Nuclear weapons
2.1.4	Aircraft
2.1.5	Artillery
2.1.6	Combat vehicles
2.1.7	Engineering equipment

2.1.8	Weapons and small arms
2.1.9	Transport vehicles
2.1.10	Ships and harbour craft
2.1.11	Electronic and communications equipment
2.2	National military construction
2.3	NATO common infrastructure
2.3.1	Expenditure as host country
2.3.2	Payments to other countries
2.3.3	Receipts from other countries
2.3.4	Land and utilities
3	Research and development
3.1	Devoted to major equipment
3.2	Other
4	Other expenditure
5	Total
6	Statistical discrepancy
7	Adjusted total

Main categories of defence expenditure:

- Equipment (Table 8a) — lines 2.1 + 3.1
- Personnel (Table 8a) — lines 1.1 + 1.2 + 1.3
- Infrastructure (Table 8b) — lines 2.2 + 2.3
- Other (Table 8b) — lines 1.4 + 3.2 + 4



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