

High military spending: making a case for the alternatives (update)

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Update to a presentation given at St John's Church, Hereford, 17 April 2012. An event to mark the Global Day of Action on Military Spending

Global military spending

- 2011 total: **\$1,740,000,000,000**
- 42% increase since 2002

Country	Military spending in 2011 (billion US\$)	% of global total	Increase since 2002
1. USA	711	41.0%	59%
2. China	143	8.2%	170%
3. Russia	72	4.1%	79%
4. UK	63	3.6%	18%
5. France	63	3.6%	-1%

Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (2012)

Key points

- Global military spending only rose with inflation from 2010, i.e. in real terms, it levelled off – the first time since before 9/11 attacks.
- US remains dominant with massive spending increases since 9/11 attacks.
- China and Russia have used their growing economies to try to close the gap, especially including modernising aging equipment. In 2011, Russian spending overtook UK and France.
- UK has had more modest increase but is now falling back.
- Regional arms races are developing – especially in Asia – as effects of US spending increase ripples out.

Reference:

SIPRI (2012). New SIPRI military expenditure data, 2011. Press release, 17 April.
<http://www.sipri.org/>