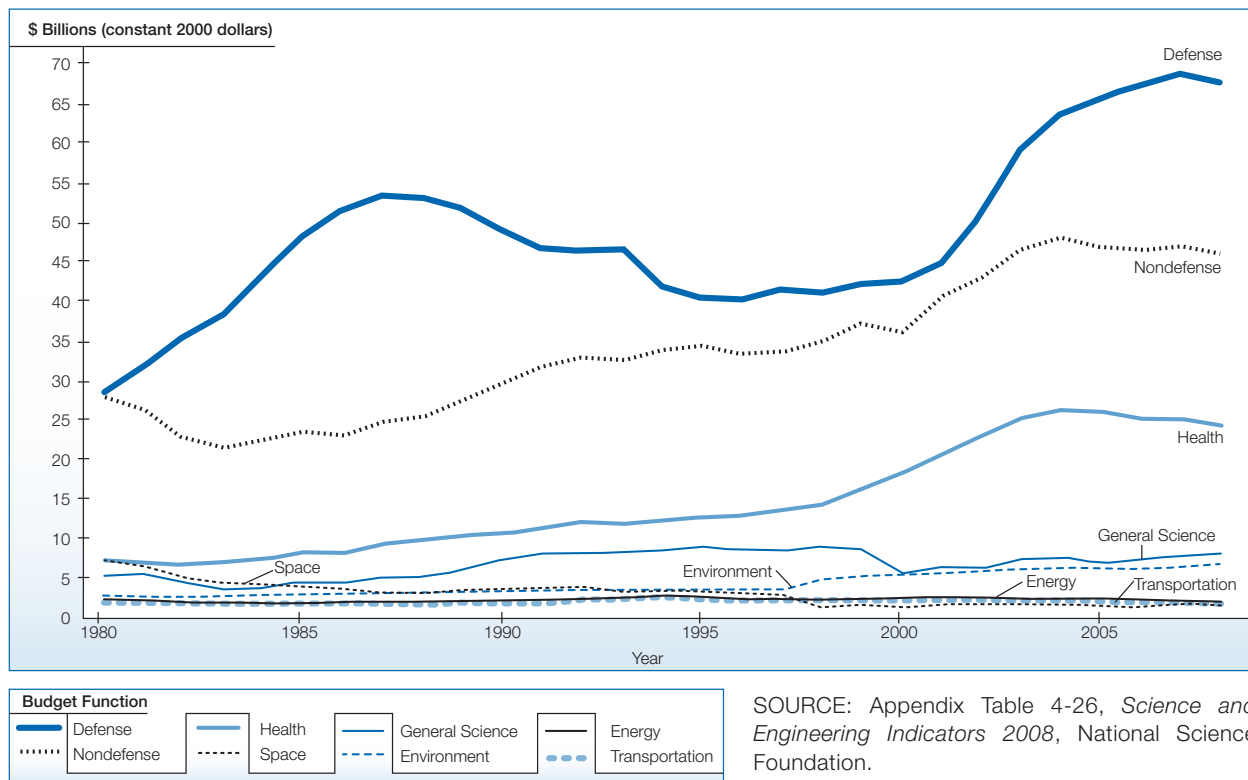


## More than half of all U.S. federal R&D investment is spent in support of defense, although investment in space research and in general science has grown more recently.

Figure 5. Federal R&D budget authority by budget function: FY 1980-2008



### Why is this indicator important?

- Budget authority is the initial budget parameter for congressional action on the President's proposed budget, and imposes a ceiling on obligations and outlays.

### Key Observations

- The large majority of Federal R&D investment is mission oriented, that is, spending to achieve government goals. Increases in Federal R&D funding in recent years reflect, initially, increased spending on health related research and, since 9/11, on development in national security areas.
- Largely as a result of increased defense spending following 9/11, expenditures for R&D conducted by federal agencies and FFRDCs grew at the rapid rate of almost 6.6% per year in real terms between 2000 and 2003.
- Space R&D includes increased investments in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Vision for Space Exploration to return humans to the Moon and Mars.
- Note that in FY 1998 many Department of Energy (DOE) programs were reclassified from energy to general science.

### Related Discussion

- FY 2008 Federal R&D budget highlights are available online at <http://ostp.gov/html/budget08.html>.