



USA FACTS

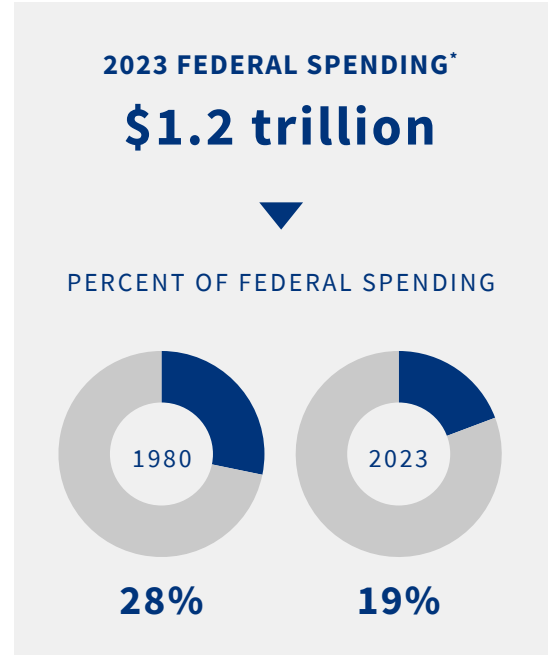
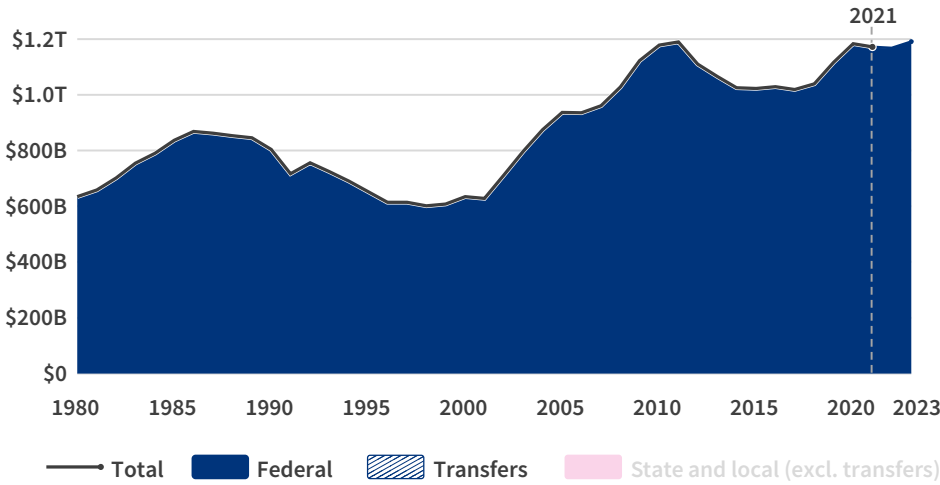
AMERICA IN FACTS 2024



Other key topics

Defense, veterans, & foreign aid

GOVERNMENT SPENDING 1980–2023 DEFENSE, VETERANS SUPPORT, & FOREIGN AID



Source: USAFacts aggregation of data from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the Census Bureau, and the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)
Adjusted for inflation (FY 2023 dollars)
Note: *Includes direct spending and transfers.

Federal agencies spending: Defense, veterans, & foreign aid

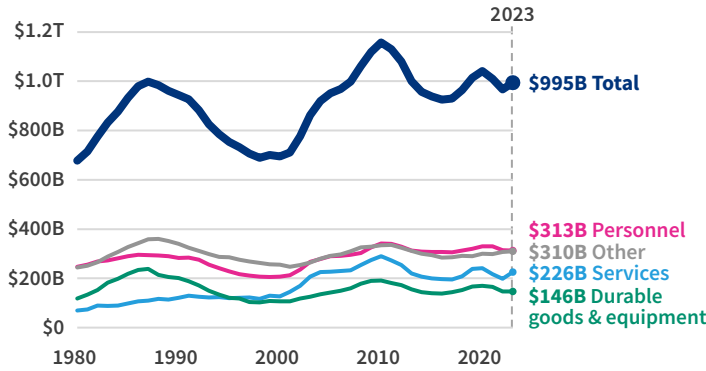
Federal agency	Net spending in FY 2023	Share of spending transferred to state and local governments	Share of spending that was mandatory
Department of Defense–Military Programs	\$775.9 billion	0%	1%
Department of Veterans Affairs	\$301.1 billion	1%	57%
International Assistance Programs	\$36.1 billion	0%	*
Department of State	\$32.0 billion	0%	0%
Other agencies	\$46.5 billion	0%	4%

Source: USAFacts calculations based on the Public Budget Database from the Office of Management and Budget
*International Assistance Programs received \$12.6 billion more than spent on mandatory defense and foreign aid programs. Because of budgetary rules pertaining to offsetting receipts and offsetting collections, agencies can have negative net outlays, negative net transfers, or negative net mandatory spending. This happens when money agencies receive from certain sources exceeds the amount they spend, resulting in a surplus. For more information on this issue, see here: https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/ap_18_offsetting_fy2024.pdf.

What are the main parts of the US defense budget?

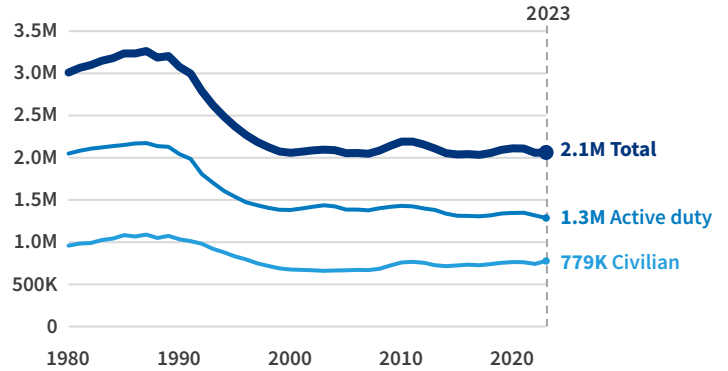
Defense spending (excluding spending on veterans) increased 3% to \$994.6 billion in 2023, but was 14% lower than its 2010 peak. The largest portion (32%) compensated military and civilian personnel. There were about 1.3 million active-duty military in 2023, 41% fewer than in 1987 — the recent peak. The military also employed nearly 779,000 civilians. The military’s size has been consistent since 1998, growing or shrinking by 3% or less in any year.

DEFENSE EXPENDITURES



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis
Adjusted for inflation (2023 dollars)

MILITARY PERSONNEL

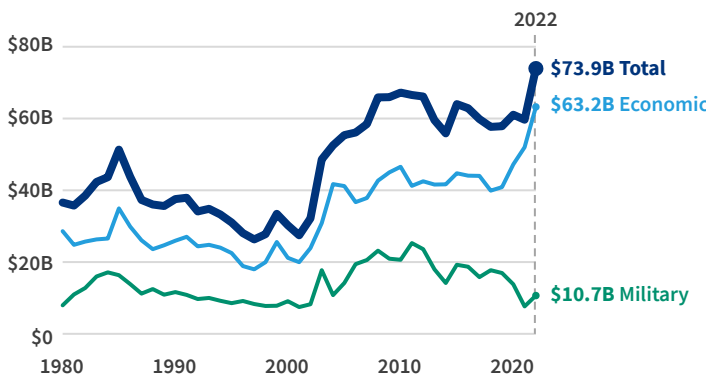


Source: Defense Manpower Data Center
Note: Data does not include reserve members, Coast Guard, or National Guard. All annual data points shown here are reflective of the source values as of Sept. 30 of the stated year.

How much does the US spend on foreign aid?

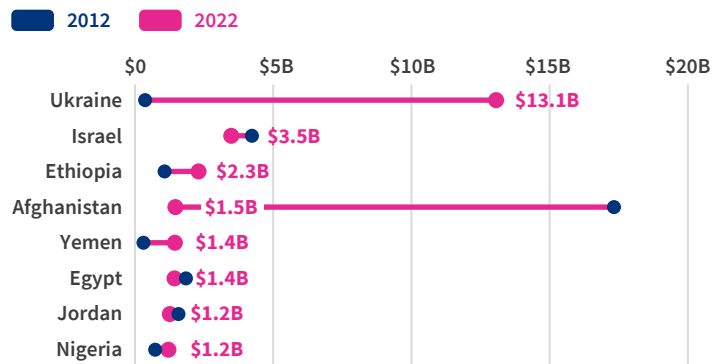
According to preliminary data, the US committed \$73.9 billion to foreign aid in FY 2022; 86% of that was economic assistance. Ukraine was the largest aid recipient, with the US promising more than \$13 billion. After adjusting for inflation, this was \$1.1 billion more than the total aid the US had ever provided Ukraine. Partial FY 2023 data shows the US promised at least another \$16.7 billion to Ukraine.

FOREIGN AID OBLIGATIONS



Source: US Agency for International Development and the US Department of State
Adjusted for inflation (FY 2023 dollars)
Note: Data is updated frequently and is correct as of April 3, 2024.
Data for 2022 is partially reported.

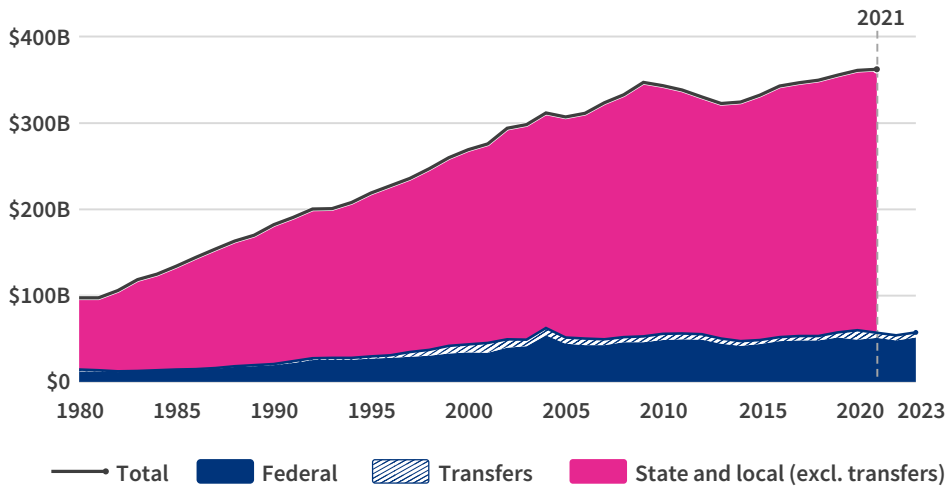
FOREIGN AID OBLIGATIONS (2012 VS. 2022) BY TOP 8 RECEIVING COUNTRIES IN 2022



Source: US Agency for International Development and the US Department of State
Adjusted for inflation (FY 2023 dollars)
Note: Data is updated frequently and is correct as of April 3, 2024.
Data for 2022 is partially reported.

Crime

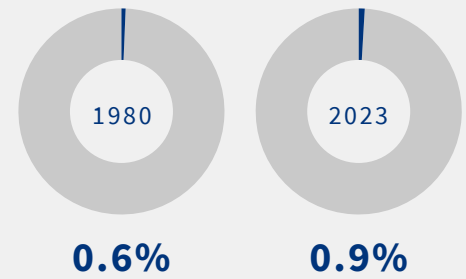
GOVERNMENT SPENDING 1980–2023 CRIME



2023 FEDERAL SPENDING*

\$58 billion

PERCENT OF FEDERAL SPENDING



Source: USAFacts aggregation of data from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the Census Bureau, and the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)
Adjusted for inflation (FY 2023 dollars)
Note: *Includes direct spending and transfers.

Federal agencies spending: Crime

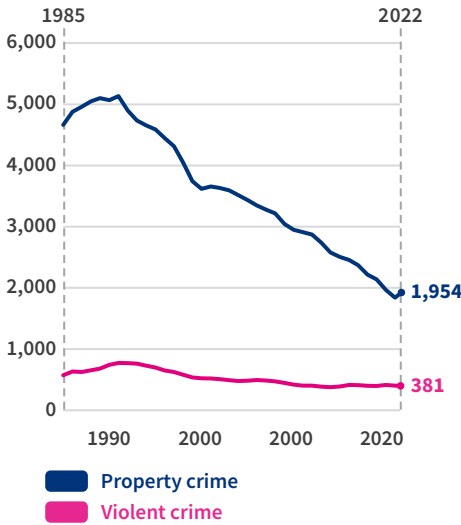
Federal agency	Net spending in FY 2023	Share of spending transferred to state and local governments	Share of spending that was mandatory
Department of Justice	\$37.8 billion	14%	23%
Judicial Branch	\$8.8 billion	0%	6%
Department of Homeland Security	\$7.0 billion	0%	4%
Department of the Treasury	\$2.0 billion	23%	54%
Other agencies	\$2.0 billion	20%	*

Source: USAFacts calculations based on the Public Budget Database from the Office of Management and Budget
*Combined, other agencies received \$40 million more than they spent on mandatory crime programs. Because of budgetary rules pertaining to offsetting receipts and offsetting collections, agencies can have negative net outlays, negative net transfers, or negative net mandatory spending. This happens when money agencies receive from certain sources exceeds the amount they spend, resulting in a surplus. For more information on this issue, see here: https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/ap_18_offsetting_fy2024.pdf.

Is crime in the US rising?

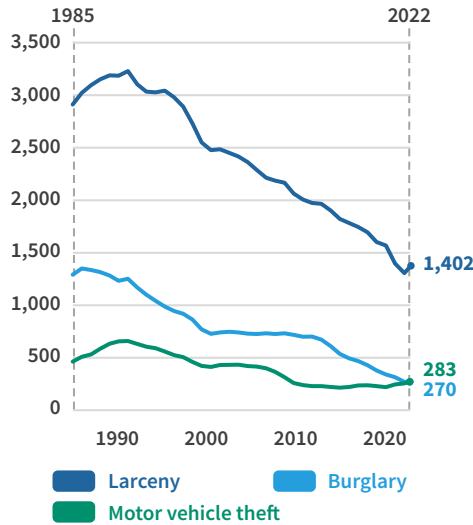
Crime rates have been going down since the early 1990s. Violent crime rates dropped by 50% from 1991 to 2022, and property crime rates fell 62%. In 2022, there were 381 violent crimes per 100,000 people, the second year of decline after an increase in 2020. Meanwhile, property crime rates increased for the first time since 2001, with 1,954 property crimes per 100,000 people. This was due to a rise in larceny-theft and motor vehicle theft rates.

CRIME RATES PER 100,000 PEOPLE

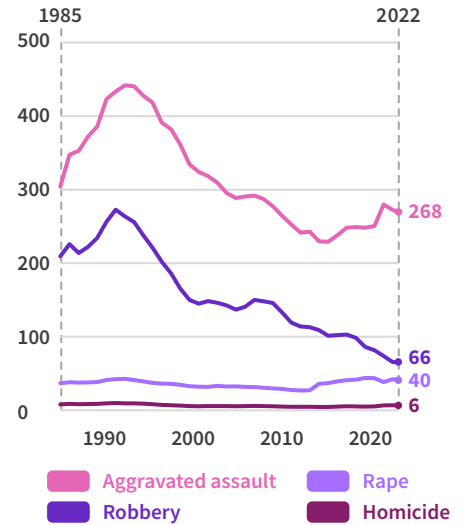


Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation

PROPERTY CRIME RATES PER 100,000 PEOPLE



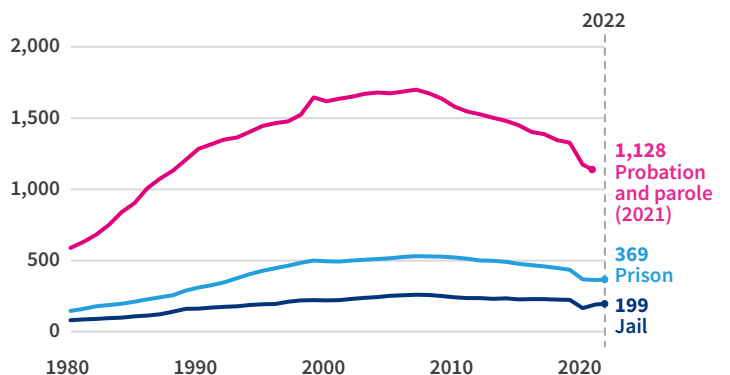
VIOLENT CRIME RATES PER 100,000 PEOPLE



How many people are in the correctional system?

Nearly 5.7 million people were in prison, jail, or on probation when last counted in 2021. An estimated 6.9 million were admitted to jails throughout the year.¹ The prison population was 369 per 100,000 people in 2022 compared to a year prior, up 2%. The jailed population reached 199 per 100,000, up 4%. Both populations remain smaller than 2019 levels. Probation and parole data was not yet available for 2022 at the time of publishing.

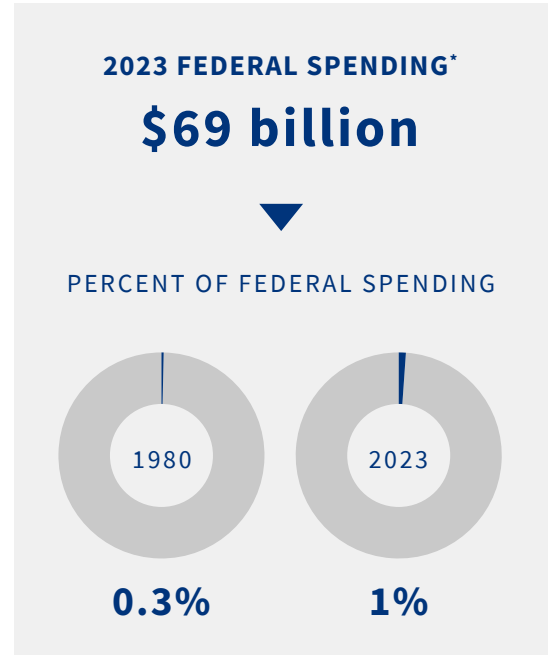
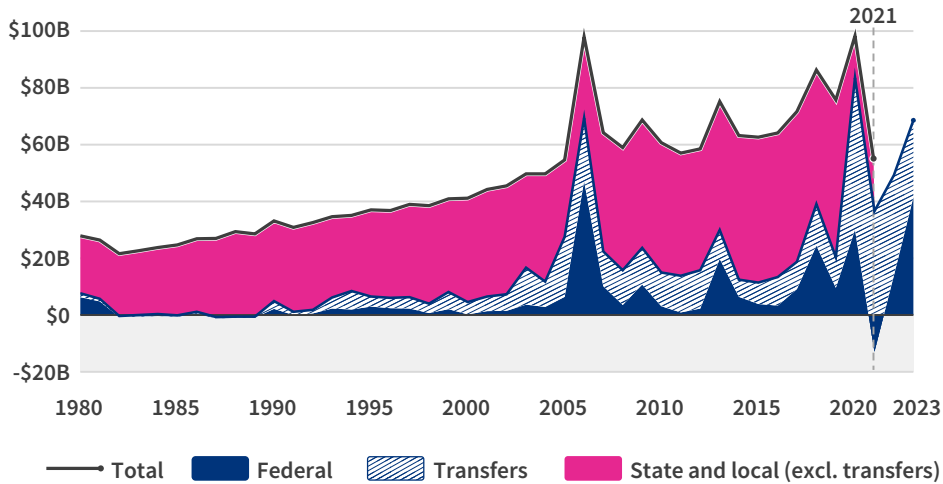
CORRECTIONAL POPULATION PER 100,000 PEOPLE



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics

Disasters

GOVERNMENT SPENDING 1980–2023 DISASTERS



Source: USAFacts aggregation of data from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the Census Bureau, and the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)
Adjusted for inflation (FY 2023 dollars)
Note: *Includes direct spending and transfers. Federal spending, transfers, and state and local spending data capture net expenditures. In some cases, this results in negative net spending.

Federal agencies spending: Disasters

Federal agency	Net spending in FY 2023	Share of spending transferred to state and local governments	Share of spending that was mandatory
Department of Homeland Security	\$39.0 billion	70%	36%
Small Business Administration	\$29.4 billion	0%	95%
Department of Agriculture	\$123 million	0%	0%

Source: USAFacts calculations based on the Public Budget Database from the Office of Management and Budget

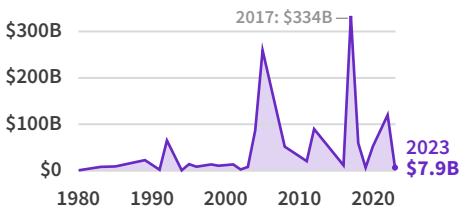
How many natural disasters occur in the United States and how much do they cost?

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) tracks the lives lost due to, and the financial costs of, billion-dollar disasters. More than 80% of the financial toll of declared natural disasters is due to disasters that cost at least \$1 billion.ⁱⁱ Since 1980, these disasters have resulted in the deaths of more than 16,000 people, with 470 dying in 2023, and, after adjusting for inflation, have cost a combined total of \$2.7 trillion. There were 27 of these billion-dollar disasters in 2023 for a total cost of more than \$89 billion. While 2023 had more billion-dollar disasters than any other year since NOAA began capturing this data, it ranked 11th in terms of cost.

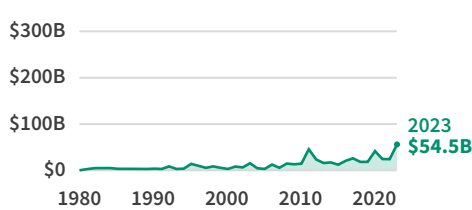
COST OF BILLION-DOLLAR DISASTERS (1980–2023)

BY CATEGORY

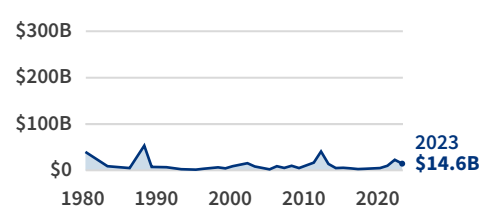
Hurricane: \$1.4T total



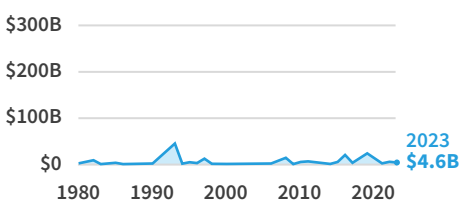
Severe storm: \$459B total



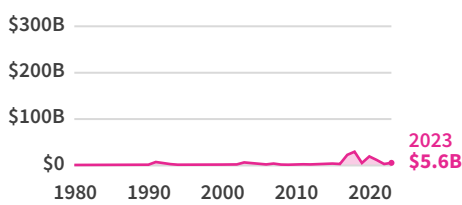
Drought: \$356B total



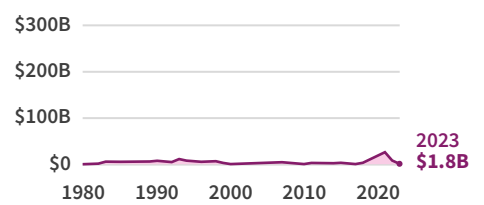
Flooding: \$199B total



Wildfire: \$144B total



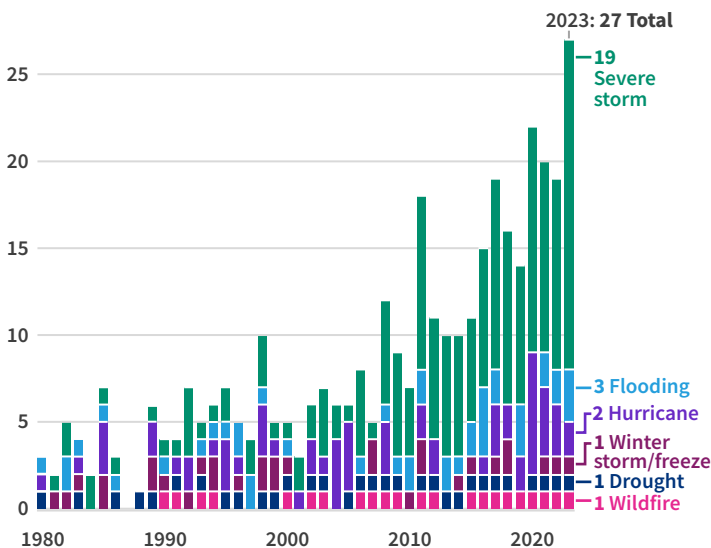
Winter storm or freeze: \$136B total



Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 Note: Inflation adjusted by source. Source data updates monthly.

FREQUENCY OF BILLION-DOLLAR DISASTERS

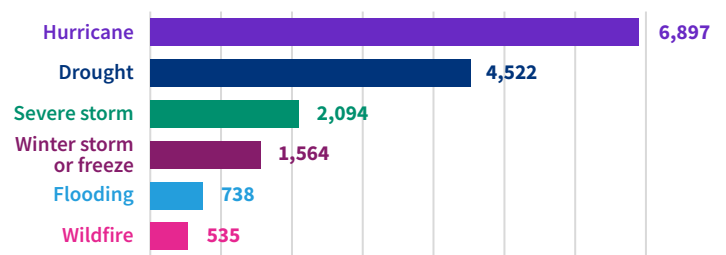
BY CATEGORY



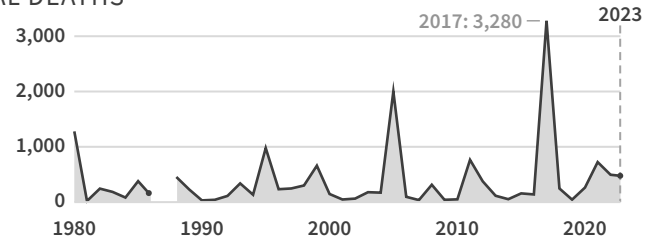
Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 Note: Source data updates monthly.

BILLION-DOLLAR DISASTER DEATHS (1980–2023)

CUMULATIVE TOTAL, BY CATEGORY



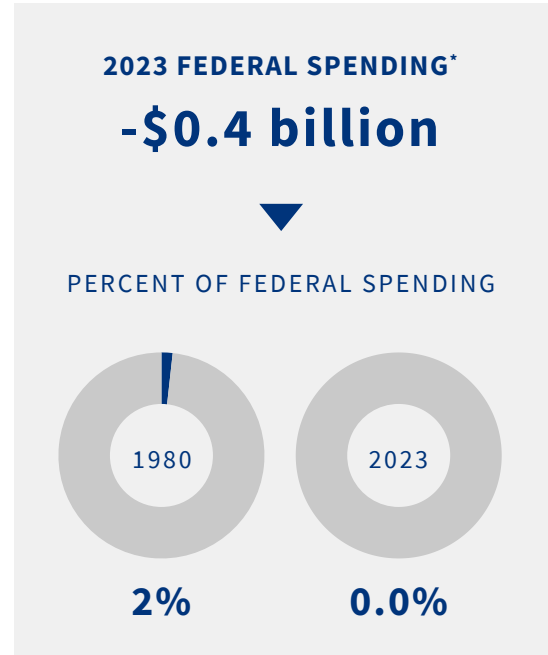
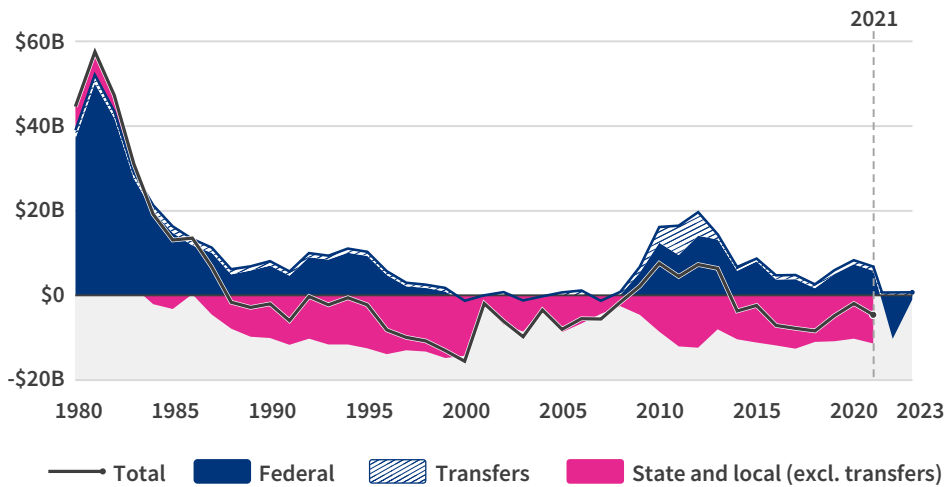
TOTAL DEATHS



Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 Note: Deaths from billion-dollar droughts were due to heat waves.
 Source data updates monthly.

Energy

GOVERNMENT SPENDING 1980–2023 ENERGY



Source: USAFacts aggregation of data from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the Census Bureau, and the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)
Adjusted for inflation (FY 2023 dollars)

Note: *Includes direct spending and transfers. Federal spending, transfers, and state and local spending data capture net expenditures. In some cases, this results in negative net spending.

Federal agencies spending: Energy

Federal agency	Net spending in FY 2023*	Share of spending transferred to state and local governments	Share of spending that was mandatory
Department of Agriculture	\$866 million	0%	**
Tennessee Valley Authority	\$184 million	***	100%
Nuclear Regulatory Commission	\$125 million	0%	0%
Department of Energy	-\$1.8 billion	0%	****
Other agencies	\$169 million	0%	98%

Source: USAFacts calculations based on the Public Budget Database from the Office of Management and Budget

*Because of budgetary rules pertaining to offsetting receipts and offsetting collections, agencies can have negative net outlays, negative net transfers, or negative net mandatory spending. This happens when money agencies receive from certain sources exceeds the amount they spend, resulting in a surplus. For more information on this issue, see here: https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/ap_18_offsetting_fy2024.pdf.

**The Department of Agriculture spent \$1.1 billion on mandatory energy programs, but this was more than offset by receipts from discretionary programs.

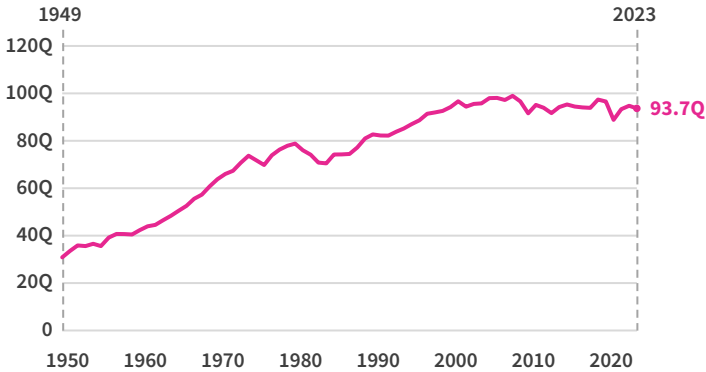
***The Tennessee Valley Authority distributed \$593 million in energy-related grants to state and local governments, but this was more than offset by receipts from other programs.

****The Department of Energy received \$7.9 billion more than it spent on mandatory energy programs.

How much energy does the US use?

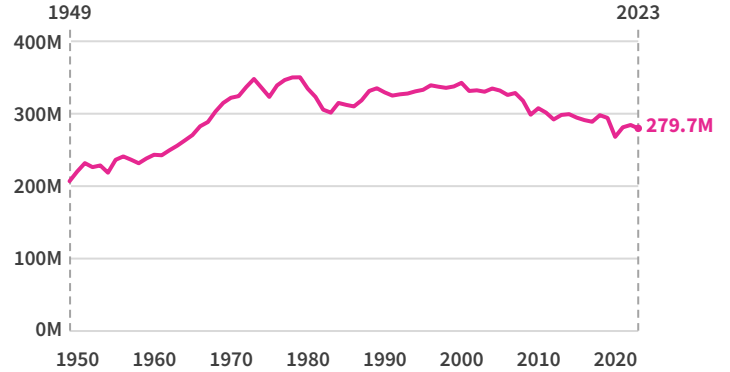
US energy consumption generally increased from 1949, when data collection began, through the 1990s. Total energy consumption has since trended downward. It was lower in 2023 than 2000, but more than three times higher than in 1949. After adjusting for population growth, consumption peaked in 1979 and has since dropped by 20%.

ENERGY CONSUMPTION
QUADRILLION BTUs



Source: Energy Information Administration
Note: Data updates frequently.

ENERGY CONSUMPTION PER CAPITA
MILLION BTUs

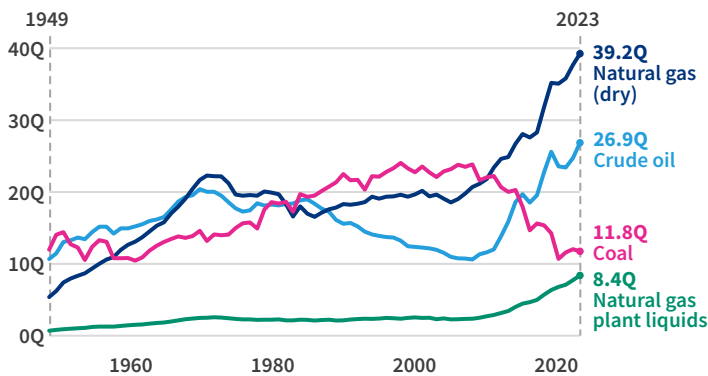


Source: Energy Information Administration
Note: Data updates frequently.

How has US energy production changed over time?

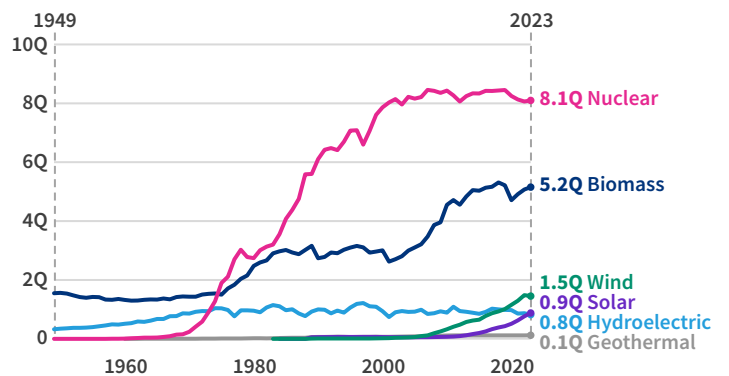
Energy production in the US rose between 2013 and 2023, mostly due to growing natural gas and crude oil production. Biomass, wind, and solar energy production also grew, but these sources were about 7% of total production in 2023. Coal production declined 41% over this period.

FOSSIL FUEL ENERGY PRODUCTION
QUADRILLION BTUs



Source: Energy Information Administration
Note: Data updates frequently.

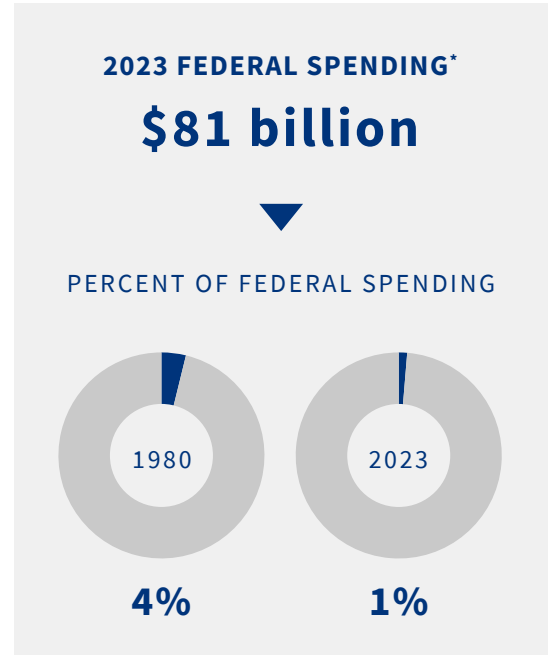
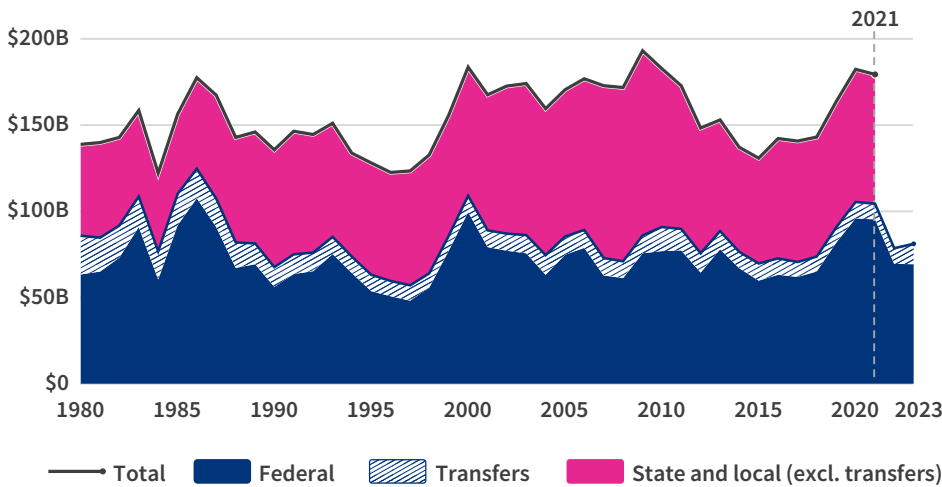
RENEWABLE AND NUCLEAR ENERGY PRODUCTION
QUADRILLION BTUs



Source: Energy Information Administration
Note: Data updates frequently.

Environment & natural resources

GOVERNMENT SPENDING 1980–2023 ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES



Source: USAFacts aggregation of data from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the Census Bureau, and the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)
Adjusted for inflation (FY 2023 dollars)
Note: *Includes direct spending and transfers.

Federal agencies spending: Environment & natural resources

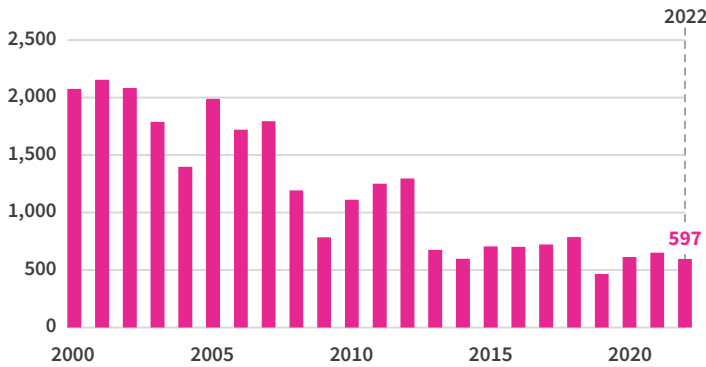
Federal agency	Net spending in FY 2023*	Share of spending transferred to state and local governments	Share of spending that was mandatory
Department of Agriculture	\$48.7 billion	3%	65%
Environmental Protection Agency	\$12.6 billion	59%	12%
Corps of Engineers–Civil Works	\$7.8 billion	0%	**
Department of Commerce	\$6.7 billion	7%	3%
Other agencies	\$5.3 billion	50%	***

Source: USAFacts calculations based on the Public Budget Database from the Office of Management and Budget
*Because of budgetary rules pertaining to offsetting receipts and offsetting collections, agencies can have negative net outlays, negative net transfers, or negative net mandatory spending. This happens when money agencies receive from certain sources exceeds the amount they spend, resulting in a surplus. For more information on this issue, see here: https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/ap_18_offsetting_fy2024.pdf.
**The Corps of Engineers–Civil Works received \$567 million more than it spent on mandatory environment programs.
***Combined, other agencies received \$6.9 billion more than they spent on mandatory environment programs.

Are US air pollution levels improving?

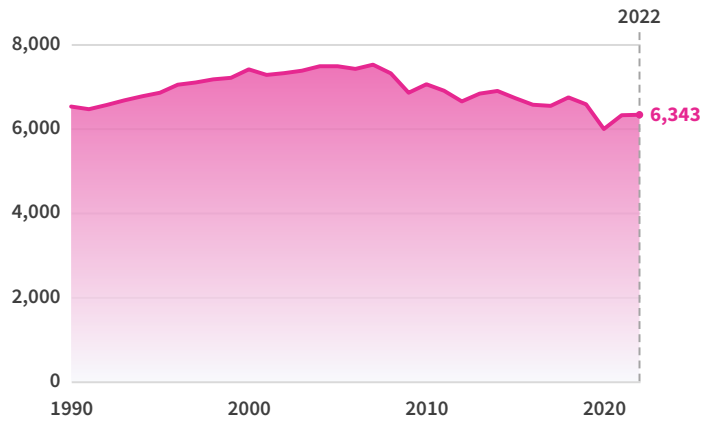
There were fewer unhealthy air quality days in 2022 than in 2000. Thirty-five major US cities had a combined total of 597 unhealthy air quality days in 2022. The average over the last five years of data (2018–2022) was 67% lower than the average for first five years (2000–2004). Annual greenhouse gas emissions increased throughout the 1990s. They peaked in 2007 but decreased 16% by 2022.

TOTAL NUMBER OF DAYS REACHING UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS OR ABOVE ON THE AIR QUALITY INDEX AMONG 35 MAJOR US CITIES (FOR OZONE AND PM2.5 COMBINED)



Source: Environmental Protection Agency
 Note: Sensitive groups for ozone and PM2.5 include people with heart or lung disease, older adults, children and teenagers, and people who are active outdoors.

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS MILLIONS OF METRIC TONS, CARBON DIOXIDE EQUIVALENT



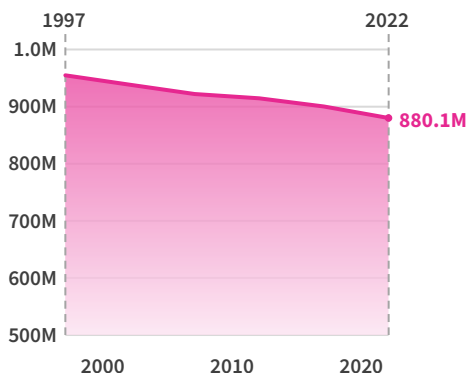
Source: Environmental Protection Agency

How has the total area of farmland in the US changed?

The US had 880.1 million acres of farmland in 2022. This was 2% less than in 2017, and nearly 8% less than in 1997. 2022's crop cash receipts totaled \$278.2 billion. More than half (53%) of this came from corn and soybeans for a combined \$148.5 billion. Cash receipts for animals and animal products reached \$258.5 billion with cattle and calf receipts making up the largest portion of this total — \$86.1 billion, or 33%.

How much revenue did crops and animal products generate?

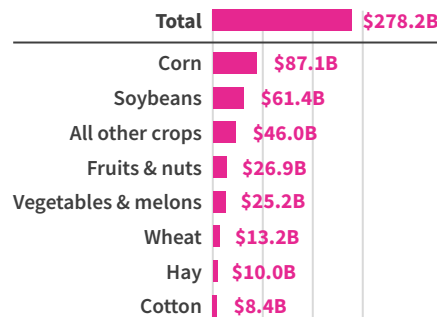
FARMLAND IN ACRES



Source: Department of Agriculture

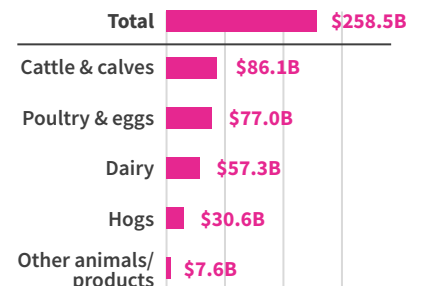
AGRICULTURE CASH RECEIPTS (2022)

BY TYPE OF CROP



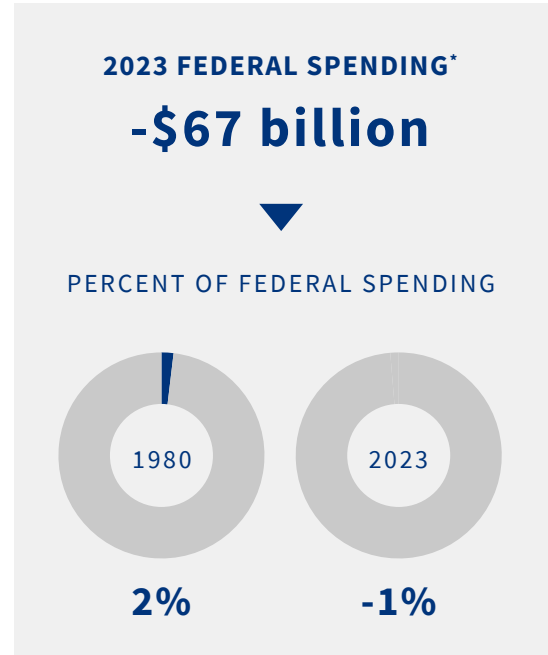
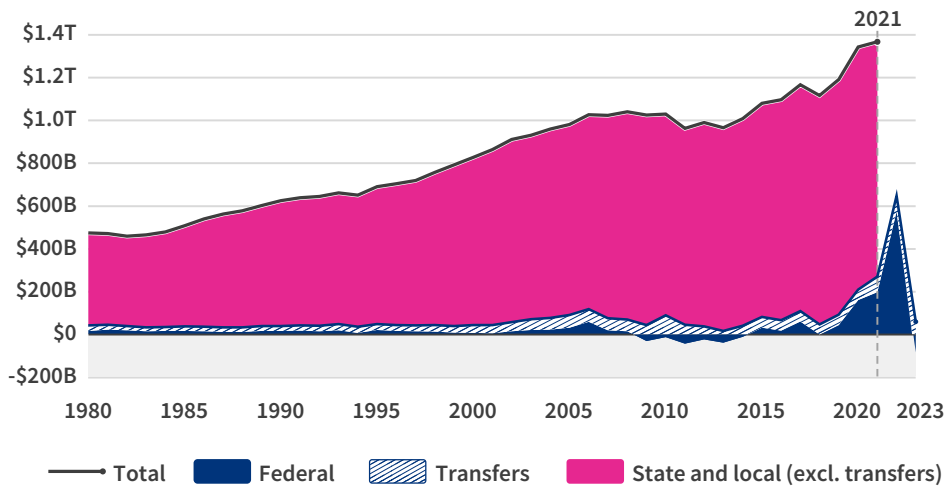
Source: Department of Agriculture
 Note: Categories may not sum to total due to rounding.

BY TYPE OF ANIMAL OR ANIMAL PRODUCT



Education

GOVERNMENT SPENDING 1980–2023 EDUCATION



Source: USAFacts aggregation of data from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the Census Bureau, and the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)
Adjusted for inflation (FY 2023 dollars)
Note: *Includes direct spending and transfers. Federal spending, transfers, and state and local spending data capture net expenditures. In some cases, this results in negative net spending.

Federal agencies spending: Education

Federal agency	Net spending in FY 2023*	Share of spending transferred to state and local governments	Share of spending that was mandatory
Department of the Treasury	\$3.3 billion	0%	100%
Smithsonian Institution	\$1.4 billion	0%	0%
Department of the Interior	\$1.4 billion	9%	8%
Department of Education	-\$75.2 billion**	**	***
Other agencies	\$2.2 billion	51%	7%

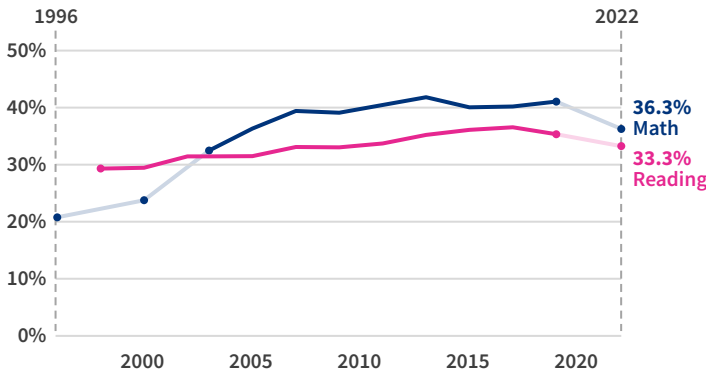
Source: USAFacts calculations based on the Public Budget Database from the Office of Management and Budget
*Because of budgetary rules pertaining to offsetting receipts and offsetting collections, agencies can have negative net outlays, negative net transfers, or negative net mandatory spending. This happens when money agencies receive from certain sources exceeds the amount they spend, resulting in a surplus. For more information on this issue, see here: https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/ap_18_offsetting_fy2024.pdf
**The Department of Education budget was impacted in FY 2022 and FY 2023 by President Biden's original student loan forgiveness executive order. The cost of forgiveness appeared as spending in the FY 2022 budget, but that anticipated spending was reversed in the FY 2023 budget after the Supreme Court's ruling that it was unconstitutional in Biden vs. Nebraska. As a result, total federal education spending, and Department of Education mandatory spending in particular, in the FY 2023 budget was negative.
***The Department of Education granted \$64.0 billion to state and local governments for educational purposes.

How well are elementary schoolers doing in math and reading?

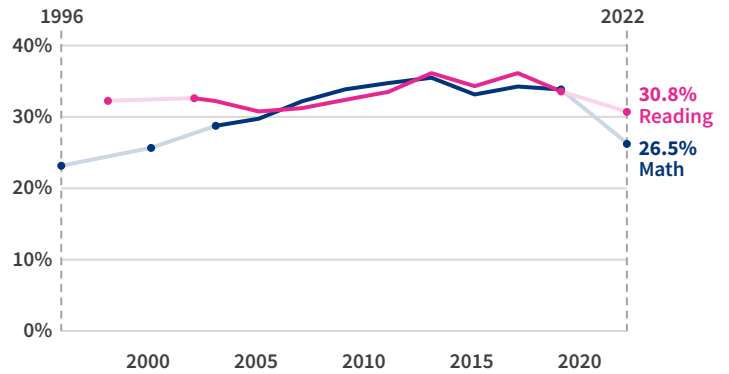
Between 2019 and 2022, reading and math proficiency fell among fourth and eighth graders. In 2022, 36% percent of fourth graders scored at or above proficient in math and 33% were at or above proficient in reading, compared to 41% and 35% in 2019. Among eighth graders, math proficiency fell 7 percentage points to 26% and reading proficiency fell 3 percentage points to 31%.

SHARE OF STUDENTS SCORING AT OR ABOVE PROFICIENT IN READING AND MATH

GRADE 4



GRADE 8



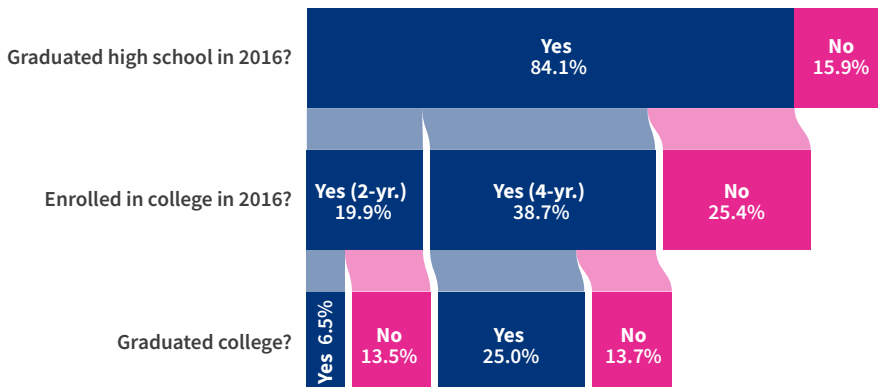
Source: National Center for Education Statistics
Note: Survey not conducted in each year.

How many people attend and graduate college and how much do they borrow in loans?

Of the students who started high school in 2012, 25% completed a four-year college degree by 2022 and 6% had completed a two-year degree by 2020. Another 14% had enrolled in a four-year college the year they graduated high school but had not completed their degree and 13% had enrolled in two-year college without graduating. The mean cumulative amount of student debt borrowed for undergraduate education was almost \$30,000 among students who completed their undergraduate program in 2020 and took out student loans (about 55% of the 2020 graduating class).

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

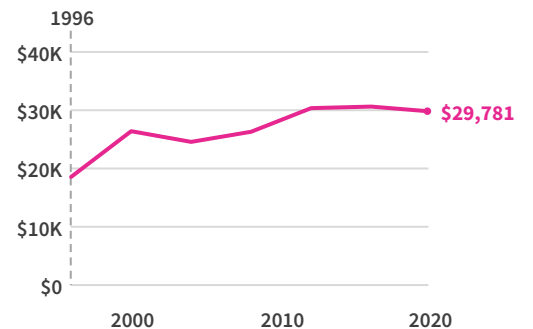
PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2016



Source: National Center for Education Statistics and Census Bureau
Note: 4-year college graduation rates measure whether someone graduated within six years of enrollment. 2-year college graduation rates measure whether someone graduated within three years of enrollment.

AVERAGE CUMULATIVE UNDERGRAD STUDENT LOANS BORROWED

AMONG BORROWERS GRADUATING THAT YEAR



Source: National Center for Education Statistics
Note: Adjusted for inflation (2022-23 school year dollars). Study conducted once every four years.

Endnotes

- i. Zeng, Zhen (2022). *Jail Inmates in 2021 – Statistical Tables*. US Department of Justice. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh236/files/media/document/ji21st.pdf>.
- ii. Smith, AB (2023). *2022 US Billion-dollar Weather and Climate disasters in Historical Context*. NOAA. <http://www.climate.gov/news-features/blogs/2022-us-billion-dollar-weather-and-climate-disasters-historical-context>.

Chart sources and notes

For each **chapter**, all chart names are listed and additional information is provided for each.

1. Chart sources and notes are structured as follows:
 - Chart title:** Source(s)
 - Note(s):
2. For all population-adjusted data where adjustments are not provided by the source data, we use intercensal/postcensal estimates from the US Census Bureau, unless otherwise noted.
3. USAFacts compiles data for government revenue, spending, and debt, as well as on family and individual income and taxes from various government sources, which primarily include the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the Census Bureau, the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), and the Federal Reserve. The full citations for this data are not included below; to see detailed descriptions and notes about our methodology for compiling this data, please visit: <https://usafacts.org/methodology/>.

Other key topics

DEFENSE, VETERANS, AND FOREIGN AID

Government spending 1980–2023, defense, veterans support, and foreign aid: USAFacts aggregation of data from OMB, Census Bureau, and BEA.

Defense expenditures: BEA (2024, January 25). *National Income and Product Accounts* (Table 3.11.5. National Defense Consumption Expenditures and Gross Investment by Type, Series: “Annual”). <https://apps.bea.gov/iTable/?reqid=19&step=2&isuri=1&categories=survey#eyJhcHBpZCI6MTk-slnN0ZXBzljpbMSwylDNdLCJkYXRhbjpbWyJjYXRlZ29yaWVzliwiU3VydmlV5lloWyJOSVBBX1RhYmxlX0xpc3QiLCIxMDgiXV19>.

Military personnel: (1) Active duty 1980–1993: DMDC (2023). *Historical Reports - FY 1954 - 1993 (Not DMDC Data)*. Washington Headquarters Services (WHS), Statistical Information Analysis Division (SIAD). <https://dwp.dmdc.osd.mil/dwp/app/dod-data-reports/workforce-reports>; (2) Active duty 1994–2012: DMDC (2023). *Historical Reports - FY 1994 - 2012*. <https://dwp.dmdc.osd.mil/dwp/app/dod-data-reports/workforce-reports>; (3) Active duty 2013–2023: DMDC (2023). *Active Duty Military Personnel by Service by Rank/Grade (Updated Monthly)* (For each year, either “FY [year]” Excel file or “September [year]” PDF file). <https://dwp.dmdc.osd.mil/dwp/app/dod-data-reports/workforce-reports>; (4) Civilian 1980–2001: DMDC (2023). *Civilian Personnel* (DoD Civilian Strength (FY 1950 - FY 2001)). <https://dwp.dmdc.osd.mil/dwp/app/dod-data-reports/workforce-reports>; (5) Civilian 2002–2007: DMDC (2023). *Civilian Personnel* (DoD Employment by Organization and Function, Historical Reports - FY 1996–2011). <https://dwp.dmdc.osd.mil/dwp/app/dod-data-reports/workforce-reports>; (6) Civilian 2008–2023: DMDC (2023). *Military Personnel, Military and Civilian Personnel by Service/Agency by State/Country (Updated Quarterly)* (For each year, either “FY [year]” or “September [year]” file). <https://dwp.dmdc.osd.mil/dwp/app/dod-data-reports/workforce-reports>.

Foreign aid obligations: United States Agency for International Development (2024). *Complete dataset*. <https://www.foreignassistance.gov/data>. Note(s): Obligations are binding agreements that will result in payment either in the same year or in the future. Negative values reflect revisions of previous agreements.

Foreign aid obligations (2012 vs. 2022), by top 8 receiving countries in 2022: Ibid.

Note(s): Obligations are binding agreements that will result in payment either in the same year or in the future. Negative values reflect revisions of previous agreements.

CRIME

Government spending 1980–2023, crime: USAFacts aggregation of data from OMB, Census Bureau, and BEA.

Crime rates: FBI (2023, May 1). *Crime Data Explorer, Crime* (Trend of Property/Violent Crime from 1985 to 2022). <https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/explorer/crime/crime-trend>.

Note(s): The FBI switched its crime data collection from the SRS system to the NIBRS system in 2021. As a result of differences in data collection, data is not completely comparable between the two. Trends over time should only be calculated using data from one data collection system. The FBI has indicated that it will continue updating the historical crime rate time series that was previously estimated using SRS data once the NIBRS system reaches higher participation rates from law enforcement agencies.

Correctional population: (1) Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) (2021, May 11). *Key Statistics* (Total Correctional Population). US Department of Justice (DOJ). <https://bjs.ojp.gov/data/key-statistics>; (2) For 2021–2022 prison population: Carson Ph.D., E. A. (2022, December). *Prisoners in 2021 - Statistical Tables* (NCJ 305125). DOJ, BJS. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/library/publications/prisoners-2021-statistical-tables>; (3) For 2021–2022 jail population: Zeng Ph.D., Z. (2022, December). *Jail Inmates in 2021 - Statistical Tables* (NCJ 304888). DOJ, BJS. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/library/publications/jail-inmates-2021-statistical-tables>; (4) For 2021 community supervision population: Kaebler, D. (2023, February). *Probation and Parole in the United States, 2021* (NCJ 305589). DOJ, BJS. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/library/publications/probation-and-parole-united-states-2021>.
Note(s): All probation, parole, and prison counts are for December 31, while jail counts are for the last weekday in June.

DISASTERS

Government spending 1980–2023, disasters: USAFacts aggregation of data from OMB, Census Bureau, and BEA.

Cost of, frequency of, and deaths from billion dollar disasters: National Centers for Environmental Information (2024). *U.S. Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters*. NOAA. <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/time-series>.

Note(s): (1) Billion-dollar disasters were determined by inflation-adjusting the cost of the disaster at the time to present dollars. Costs include physical damage, business interruption, public infrastructure, and more, but do not capture health care related losses or losses associated with loss of life. (2) “Other” includes costs related to flooding, freezes, and winter storms.

ENERGY

Government spending 1980–2023, energy: USAFacts aggregation of data from OMB, Census Bureau, and BEA.

Energy consumption: Energy Information Administration (EIA) (2024, March 26). *Monthly Energy Review* (Table 1.3 Primary Energy Consumption by Source). <https://www.eia.gov/totalenergy/data/browser/?tbl=T01.03#/?f=A>.

Energy consumption per capita: Ibid.

Fossil fuel energy production: EIA (2024, March 26). *Monthly Energy Review* (Table 1.2 Primary Energy Production by Source). <https://www.eia.gov/totalenergy/data/browser/?tbl=T01.02#/?f=A>.

Renewable and nuclear energy production: Ibid.

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Government spending 1980–2023, environment and natural resources: USAFacts aggregation of data from OMB, Census Bureau, and BEA.

Total number of days reaching unhealthy for sensitive groups or above on the air quality index: EPA (2023). *Our Nation's Air: Trends Through 2022*. <https://gispub.epa.gov/air/trendsreport/2023/#home>.

Greenhouse gas emissions: US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (2023, May 16). *Greenhouse Gas Inventory Data Explorer* (Sector: “Economic sectors”, “All sectors”; Break out by: “Economic sector”). <https://cfpub.epa.gov/ghgdata/inventoryexplorer/#allsectors/allsectors/allgas/econsect/all>.
Note(s): Carbon dioxide equivalent is used to standardize emissions from different greenhouse gases, based on their ability to trap heat in the atmosphere over time.

Farmland in acres: Department of Agriculture (February 2024). *Census of Agriculture* (Table 1. Historical Highlights: 2022 and Earlier Census Years). https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2022/Full_Report/Volume_1,_Chapter_1_US/.

US agriculture cash receipts (2022): Department of Agriculture (February 2024). Farming and Farm Income. <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/ag-and-food-statistics-charting-the-essentials/farming-and-farm-income/>.

EDUCATION

Government spending 1980–2023, education: USAFacts aggregation of data from OMB, Census Bureau, and BEA.

Share of students scoring at or above proficient in reading and math: NCES (2023). NAEP Data Explorer (Subject: “Mathematics” and “Reading”; Grade: “Grade 4” and “Grade 8”; Year: “All Years”; Scale: “Composite Scale”; Statistic: “at or above Proficient”). <https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/ndecore/xplore/NDE>.

Note(s): (1) Represents students scoring at proficient or above. Proficiency represents solid academic performance on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) exam. (2) Excludes test years for which accommodations were not permitted. (3) Data included from public and private schools.

Educational attainment: (1) High school graduation: NCES (2022, December). Digest of Education Statistics (Chapter 2. Elementary and Secondary Education, 219. High School Completers and Dropouts, Table 219.46. Public High School 4-year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate (ACGR), by Selected Student Characteristics and State). https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d22/tables/dt22_219.46.asp; (2) College enrollment: CPS School Enrollment Supplement (“PESTYPE”, “PEHSPNON”, “PEYRDIP”, “PTDTRACE”). Retrieved from US Census Bureau. <https://data.census.gov/mdat/#/>; (3) College graduation: NCES (2024/2023, January). Digest of Education Statistics (Chapter 3. Postsecondary Education; 326. Completion and Retention Rates; Table 326.10. Graduation rate from First Institution Attended for First-time, Full-time Bachelor’s Degree-Seeking Students at 4-year Postsecondary Institutions, by Race/Ethnicity, Time to Completion, Sex, Control of Institution, and Percentage of Applications Accepted: Selected Cohort Entry Years, 1996 through 2016; Table 326.20. Graduation Rate from First Institution Attended within 150 Percent of Normal Time for First-time, Full-time Degree/Certificate-seeking Students at 2-year Postsecondary Institutions, by Race/Ethnicity, Sex, and Control of Institution: Selected Cohort Entry Years, 2000 through 2018). https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/current_tables.asp.

Note(s): (1) High school graduation rates are for public high school students only and measure whether someone graduated within 4 years of beginning 9th grade, after adjusting for transfers into/out of a school and deaths of students. This is known as the adjusted cohort graduation rate (ACGR). (2) College enrollment rates measure the proportion of people who graduated high school in 2019 who were enrolled in college in October of 2019.

Average cumulative undergrad student loans borrowed: NCES (Multiple years). *DATALAB* (National Postsecondary Student Aid Study; Analysis Type: Averages, Medians, & Percents; Columns: BORAMT1 [“Average” De-select “Include zeroes”]; Filters: UGDEG [“Certificate”, “Associate’s degree”, “Bachelor’s degree”], PROGSTAT [“Yes”]). <https://nces.ed.gov/datalab>.

Note(s): Excludes Parent PLUS loans given to parents of dependent students.

Photo credits

Page 76: Photo by [Patrick Tomasso](#) on Unsplash