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First Year of Ukraine War Boosts Global Military Spending



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In the first year of war in Ukraine since the Russian invasion. Europe recorded the largest increase since the Cold War (+13%).

Ukraine enters for the first time in the TOP15 of the countries with the largest military budgets in the world, with an increase of 640% compared to 2021.

The [Stockholm International Peace Research Institute](#) (SIPRI) today published [new data on global military spending for 2022](#), a figure that grows for the eighth consecutive year to reach 2.24 trillion dollars, 3.7% more than in the previous year (above inflation). **This increase of 3.7% in real terms (0.7% the previous year) reflects the increases in military budgets approved by many governments of rich countries, a trend that**

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began in the last decade and was reinforced last year after the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

"These new figures do not surprise us because we already expected them, but they do worry us. This increase in spending The global military shows that the war in Ukraine is largely driving and legitimizing these increases around the world. In In this sense, Ukraine has increased its military budget by 640%", warns Jordi Calvo Rufanges, coordinator of the [GCOMS International Peace Bureau](#) campaign and the [Centre Delàs d'Estudis per the Pau](#).

By region, Europe has recorded the largest increase, with a 13% increase in 2022, the largest increase in the last 30 years. *"The trend of growth in European military spending comes from before the war in Ukraine, although it has been Reinforced. We also see it in the budgets of the European Union that have experienced an increase of 23% in the latter 5 years, which represents an extra 50,000 million dollars until 2021"*, said Laëtitia Sédou, Head of European Advocacy at ENAAT.

The United States remains by far the largest spender on defense. U.S. military spending reached \$877 billion by 000, accounting for 2022% of spending total world military and three times more than the amount spent by China, the second largest spender in the world. In terms of countries of NATO, together they account for 39% of total spending between the 30 global military, \$55.1 trillion in 23. If we add the expense military of EU members and that of the United Kingdom, would occupy the second position in the world ranking, ahead of China and only behind the US.

Within the framework of the [Days Global Action on Military Spending](#) (GDAMS), the renowned international peace organization International Peace Bureau (IPB), with the collaboration of the [Institut Català Internacional per la Pau \(ICIP\)](#) and together with the Centre Delàs d'Estudis per la Pau, the European Campaign Against the Arms Trade (ENAAT) and the Transnational Institute (TNI), have organized a press conference for assess the new data on military spending and call for a reduction in global military expenditures and the Spanish State, and that instead of dedicating Budgets to prepare for war, are redirected to the Protection of life and the planet, through human security and Common security.

Nick Buxton, researcher at the [Transnational Institute](#), has warned on the relationship between military spending and the climate crisis: *"Climate change has become the Last collateral damage of the war. There are only a few years left to act to address the climate crisis, but the Armies around the world are putting more fuel on the fire. The \$2.24*

trillion in spending The global military is diverting money from climate action, increasing emissions and fueling conflicts in the United States. nations most vulnerable to the consequences of the climate crisis. We urgently need to reduce tensions and find Peaceful solutions to conflicts if we want to defend our planet. There can be no secure nation on a planet unsafe."

The real military expenditure of the Spanish State

With regard to the Spanish area, the new data published by SIPRI show that **the Spanish State It dedicated 20,306 million euros to military spending in 2022, and is ranked 16th in the world (15th in 2021)**. According to the calculations of the Centre Delàs d'Estudis per la Pau The figure is even higher and reaches 23,470 million, data that take into account apart from the budget consolidated of the Ministry of Defense, of 11,709 million, the rest of expense military personnel distributed in other ministries that are not included in the Defence credits (as advised by NATO in the countries members), and the budget finally implemented, usually higher to the beginning.

Regarding Spanish military spending this year, the PGE of 2023 allocates a budget for the Ministry of Defense of 12,827 million euros (23.4% more than in 2022) but, according to the calculation of the Centre Delàs, it has been reached a real military expenditure that is more than double this item, with a value of 27,617 million euros, which means that **Spain would already exceed this year the military spending target of 2% of its GDP required by NATO**. To that figure We must add the EUR 581 million for external missions that are approved by the Council of Ministers on April 11, reaching 28,198 Million. And most likely we will also have to add part later of arms purchases approved on 18 April in Council of Ministers. These new investments and arms purchases They total €4.760 billion and include the acquisition of new armaments for 835 million euros and another 3,925 million in Special Armament Programs (PEAs) for the coming years. A portion of these investments will go to programs that are already in place. march (Pizarro tanks, NH90 helicopters and Dragon armored) and the other, to the development of new programs (820 million for 8 NH90 helicopters, 1.970 billion for vehicles VAC, 62.7 million for two hydrographic vessels, and 500 million for 9 RPAS drones). In addition, Minister Robles has proposed, although It is not yet approved, the investment of another 4,000 million euros for the purchase of 25 Eurofighter aircraft they would replace the old F18s. We will therefore have to add the difference between the initial budget and the one finally settled, figure which in 2022 exceeded 2,800 million.

Pere Ortega, researcher at the Centre Delàs expert in military spending, in an analysis of the budgets approved for this year 2023 and the announcements made by the Spanish Government, added that *"the increase of 23.4% of spending military, which represents 2,500 million euros in the budgets for this 2023 in relation to the previous year, is the most colossal of all the modern history of Spain, which calls into question that these are the most social budgets ever approved."*

This demand is part of a joint action between more than sixty from civil society organizations around the world that have made public **a Urgent call to governments around the world to cut military spending** and instead devote efforts to mitigate and reverse climate degradation, and promote the peaceful transformation of conflicts, disarmament and Global Justice Initiatives.

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