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PREMEDITATED: NUCLEAR WEAPONS SPENDING IN 2025

International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons | REPORT

ICAN

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REPORT

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) has published an annual assessment of nuclear weapons spending by the nine-nuclear armed nations since 2020.

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Certain figures in this report may not tally exactly due to rounding. All figures are presented in United States Dollars (USD, $) (unless otherwise indicated). Commas (,) are used as thousands separators.

Comments, clarifications, and corrections are welcome.
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Cover design: Tectonica

International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons

www.icanw.org

Executive Summary

In 2025, the nine nuclear-armed states spent $16.8 billion (19%) more on their nuclear arsenals than the year before, a total of $119 billion, or $3,768 per second on nuclear weapons. In the past five years, from 2021- 2025, these countries spent $471 billion on their nuclear arsenals.

The United States had the biggest increase from 2024-2025, at $12.4 billion, and spent more than all of the other nuclear-armed states combined, at $69.2 billion. China remained second, at $13.5 billion, and the United Kingdom came in third, spending $12.6 billion.

Across the board, nuclear-armed states are making plans to retain their arsenals for decades to come. Several nuclear-armed states have published nuclear weapons spending projections of tens of billions or even past $1 trillion for the next decade or several decades. And all nuclear-armed states have weapons systems that will remain operational at least until 2050, if not until the next century. Since ICAN began publishing this report, the nuclear-armed states have collectively increased spending on their arsenals by more than 10% each year.

In 2025, at least 25 companies working on nuclear weapons development and maintenance held significant contracts for their work. These companies earned at least $38 billion in the year for nuclear weapons related activities and hold at least $401 billion in outstanding contracts. In 2025, new contracts worth around $2.5 billion were awarded to these companies. The companies identified in this report paid lobbyists in France and the United States more than $138 million to represent their interests last year. They also had 226 meetings with high-level UK officials including 4 with the Prime Ministers' office in 2025.

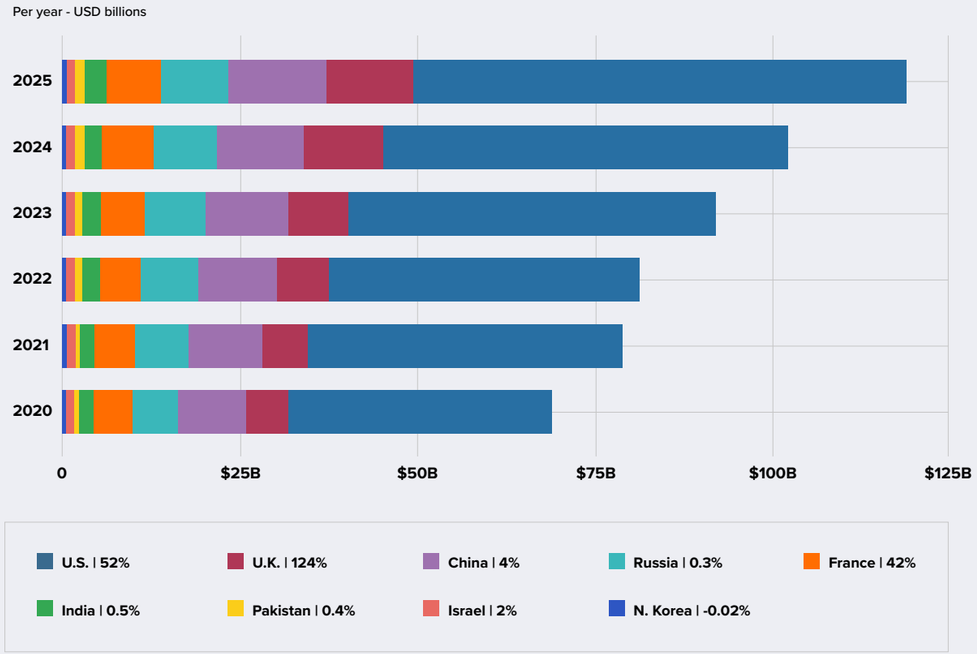
This exorbitant spending comes at a time in which countries are significantly scaling back their investments in the global commons. Whether reneging from climate change adaptation agreements or failing to pay their fair share to prevent the scourge of war through multilateral diplomacy, this overwhelming spending on nuclear weapons shows a willingness to research, develop, finance and build tools to exterminate humanity instead of save it. World hunger could have been ended with what was spent on nuclear weapons in the last three years alone, and the spending in 2025 could have paid for 32 years of the UN regular budget. That is security, not the premeditated mass murder this spending represents.

While nine nuclear-armed countries spent $119 billion in 2025 on weapons of mass destruction, 99 countries have now signed, ratified or acceded to the Treaty of the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), banning all nuclear weapons activities and committing to work towards their destruction. It is up to each government and the citizens of that country to decide which path they will choose.

5 YEARS OF NUCLEAR SPENDING

COUNTRIES	TOTAL SPENT OVER 5 YEARS
China	$59 billion
France	$33 billion
India	$12 billion
Israel	$6 billion
North Korea	$4 billion
Pakistan	$6 billion
Russia	$43 billion
United Kingdom	$46 billion
United States	$265 billion
Total	**$471 billion**

5 YEAR CHART OF GLOBAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS SPENDING 2021 - 2025



HOW MUCH DID EACH COMPANY EARN FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS WORK IN 2025

COMPANY	2025 NUCLEAR WEAPONS RELATED INCOME (MILLIONS USD)	% OF TOTAL REVENUE
Airbus	$783	0.9%
Amentum	$1,339	9.3%
Babcock	$1,313	20.6%
BAE Systems	$1,502	3.7%
Boeing	$635	0.7%
BWXT	$1,775	5.6%
Fluor	$3,842	24.8%
General Dynamics	$2,996	5.7%
HII	$1,956	15.7%
Honeywell	$5,270	14.1%
L3 Harris	$73	0.3%
Leidos	$920	5.4%
Leonardo	$203	0.8%
Lockheed Martin	$4,509	6.0%
Naval Group	$657	12.4%
Northrop Grumman	$3,166	7.6%
RollsRoyce	$1,557	5.6%
RTX	$675	0.8%
Safran	$545	1.5%
Thales	$534	2.1%

Introduction

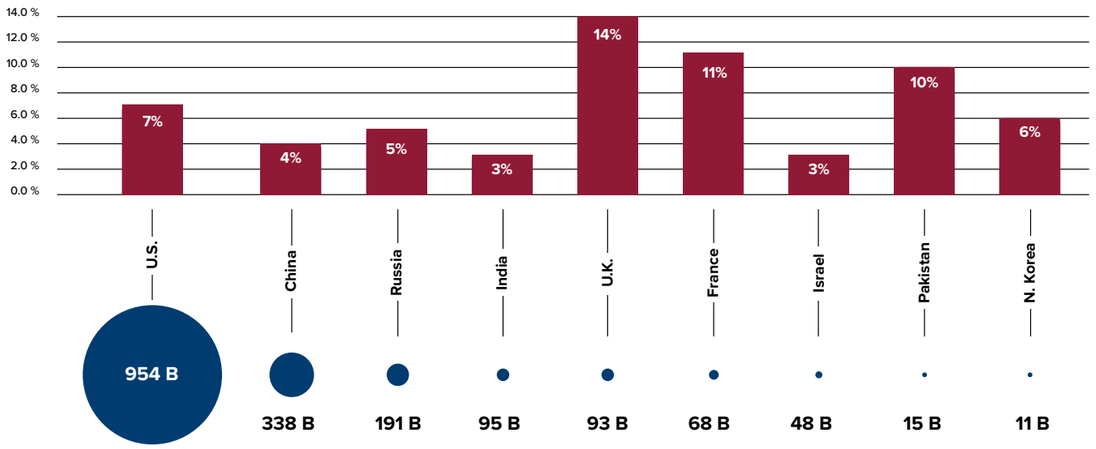
On 6 August 2025, 80 years had passed since the United States dropped a nuclear weapon on the city of Hiroshima, and on 9 August 2025, on Nagasaki, killing over 210,000 people by the end of 1945 and leading to catastrophic long-lasting humanitarian consequences for the survivors. The following decades were scarred by nuclear-armed countries detonating over 2,000 nuclear weapons in so-called nuclear test explosions. Throughout the entire nuclear age, as witnessed increasingly in 2025, nuclear-armed states have made threats to use their weapons of mass destruction and prepared constantly for their use through practice exercises and enormous expenditures to maintain readiness to launch nuclear weapons in as little as a minute's notice.

This report illustrates what those expenditures were in 2025 and over the past five years. It shows which countries were contracted to build nuclear weapons and how much they earned and spent lobbying governments for new contracts. For the first time, it also compiles what nuclear-armed states are planning to spend on their nuclear weapons over the next decade or more. Building and deploying nuclear weapons is never just a one-year cost. Nuclear weapons systems can be operational for the better part of a century, and nuclear-armed states are currently planning to build new nuclear weapons systems that will be in operation through 2100.

In many countries, resources for health care and education are scarce, while defence budgets grow unchecked. Research from Brown University's Costs of War project demonstrates that U.S. military spending creates far fewer jobs than spending on healthcare or education.[1] World hunger could have been ended with what was spent on nuclear weapons in the last three years alone. The spending on nuclear weapons in 2025 is equal to 32 times the regular UN annual budget for the year. One second of British nuclear spending could have bought 242 litres of petrol, even with fuel prices skyrocketing. Investments in energy transition and decentralisation efforts would also have contributed to addressing fuel insecurity; one day of nuclear weapons spending could have instead helped 17,000 individuals transition to solar-powered homes or paid to plant 2 billion trees. That is a way to spend for security, not the premeditated mass murder this spending represents. A recent UN Secretary General's report on military spending states "global security has continued to deteriorate, calling into question the effectiveness of more military spending to enhance security".[2]

MILITARY SPENDING

Percent of military spending dedicated to nuclear weapons

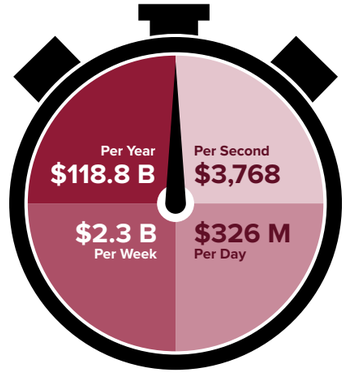


Total military spending per country (in USD billions)

Investments in nuclear arms have increased steadily over the years, regardless of emerging national or international security threats, against which nuclear weapons provide no protection. But that does not mean that nuclear weapons spending is guaranteed into eternity. On the contrary, the countries building and maintaining nuclear weapons represent only 5% of all countries in the world, and even their expenditures on nuclear weapons are a mere fraction of their total military spending. The global majority of countries, which have joined the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, will meet for their first Review Conference in November 2026 to take forward their work towards a world free of nuclear weapons.

MONEY OVER TIME

The amount spent by nuclear-armed countries every moment of 2025.



COUNTRY SPENDING ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN 2025

COUNTRIES	ANNUAL TOTAL	CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR
The United States	$69.2 billion $131,659 / minute	22%
China	$13.5 billion $25,744 / minute	7%
The United Kingdom	$12.6 billion $23,978 / minute	17%
Russia	$9.5 billion $18,166 / minute	6%
France	$7.7 billion $14,727 / minute	8%
India	$2.8 billion $5,387 / minute	12%
Pakistan	$1.5 billion $2,838 / minute	18%
Israel	$1.2 billion $2,323 / minute	2%
North Korea	$656 million $1,248 /minute	4%
2025 Total	$118.8 billion $226,069 per minute	19%

According to the Nuclear Ban Monitor, nearly half of the world's nuclear warheads are deployed on submarines, constantly circling the earth, ready to be launched in moments if not seconds.[3]

The Long-Term Costs of Nuclear Weapons

The annual costs of nuclear weapons are staggering, but they don't tell the whole story. Expenditure projections to build and maintain nuclear-weapons systems are never limited to one year. Nuclear-weapons systems take years to build, from when they are first approved to their research and design, construction and deployment. Contracts of ten years or more are offered to nuclear weapons manufacturers, such as the contract to BAE Systems to build UK nuclear submarines that lasts until 2033 or the contract to run the U.S. Pantex nuclear facility that runs until 2044.[4] Then once deployed, nuclear weapons systems are in operation for decades.

Some nuclear-armed submarines have been in service for more than 40 years. For example, the U.S. Ohio-class submarines were initially deployed in 1981, while the UK Vanguard-class entered into service in 1994.[5] China's nuclear-capable submarines are estimated by the U.S. Department of War to last for 30 to 40 years.[6] One type of Russia's active nuclear-armed submarines has been in operation since the 1980s.[7] India's submarines have been deployed more recently, and the most recent French nuclear-armed submarines entered into service in 2010.[8] Nuclear-armed missiles are also in operation for decades, albeit with regular replacement of some key components. The U.S. Minuteman III is a bit of an outlier, as contracts are now in place to keep it in service for about 75 years overall,[9] while Russia's Topol ICBM was in service for 30 years.[10]

Despite having committed to a world free of nuclear weapons, the reality is that nuclear-armed states are currently developing new systems with the intention to deploy them for at least another fifty years, well past the middle of this century.

The nuclear-armed governments cite geostrategic realities as a justification for keeping their arsenals but do not take responsibility for creating those realities themselves. A new nuclear arms race is upon us, one which the perpetrators themselves are preparing to last for decades. Meaning, several generations to come will be saddled with the threat these weapons pose unless these governments change course.

Country-by-country long-term deployment estimates

China recently deployed a new submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM), the JL-3 in 2022.[11] Most countries maintain about a 30-year deployment for these missiles, so China would be paying for and deploying its new SLBM system up to 2052.

France has indicated that its next generation of submarines to launch nuclear missiles will be in deployment through the 2090s.[12] The French nuclear cruise missile, the ASMPA-R was deployed in 2025 and is expected to remain in service for several decades, while the new ASN4G is only meant to go into service after 2035.[13]

In 2022, India deployed a new nuclear bomber, the Rafale. Its previous nuclear aircraft, the Jaguar, was deployed in 1981, with an expected full retirement in 2035, marking more than 50 years of deployment.[14] Assuming a similar duration for the Rafale aircraft means that India could be paying for and deploying its nuclear-capable aircraft through 2072.

While there is not much information about Israel's nuclear weapons systems, it is believed that the Jericho III missile could have become operational in 2011.[15] Assuming a 30-year operational period for that missile, it could continue to be operational through 2041.

North Korea is developing the Hwasong-18 ICBM, with a first test launch in 2023, and experts believe it is now in the process of becoming operational.[16] Assuming a 30-year duration for this missile means that North Korea would plan to pay for operating this system through around 2055.

While there is not much information about Pakistan's nuclear weapons systems, it is believed that its Shaheen-I missile was deployed around 2022.[17] With a deployment period of 30 years, Pakistan could be paying for and deploying this missile through 2052.

Russia is building a new ICBM, the Kedr system, to start replacing its current Yars ICBM in the 2030s.[18] Previous Russian nuclear missiles, such as the Topol missile, were deployed for 30 years[19]. Assuming a similar duration for the Kedr system, Russia would be paying for and deploying its new ICBM system up to the 2060s.

The United Kingdom's Dreadnought submarine to launch nuclear missiles is to be deployed until the 2060s.[20]

The United States has multiple nuclear-weapons systems that can be expected to be deployed through the 2080s. Given the 75-year planned deployment of the current U.S. ICBM, assuming these ICBMs would be operational through 2050, the new U.S. Sentinel ICBM, if operational in 2032, could be expected to be in-service past 2100.[21] Likewise, given the 45-year planned deployment of the current Ohio-class U.S. nuclear-capable submarines, the Columbia-class submarines, if deployed by 2040 as planned, could be in operation through 2085.[22] The new U.S. plutonium pit production, meant for multiple warheads, are predicted to last through 2120.[23]

Long-term cost projections

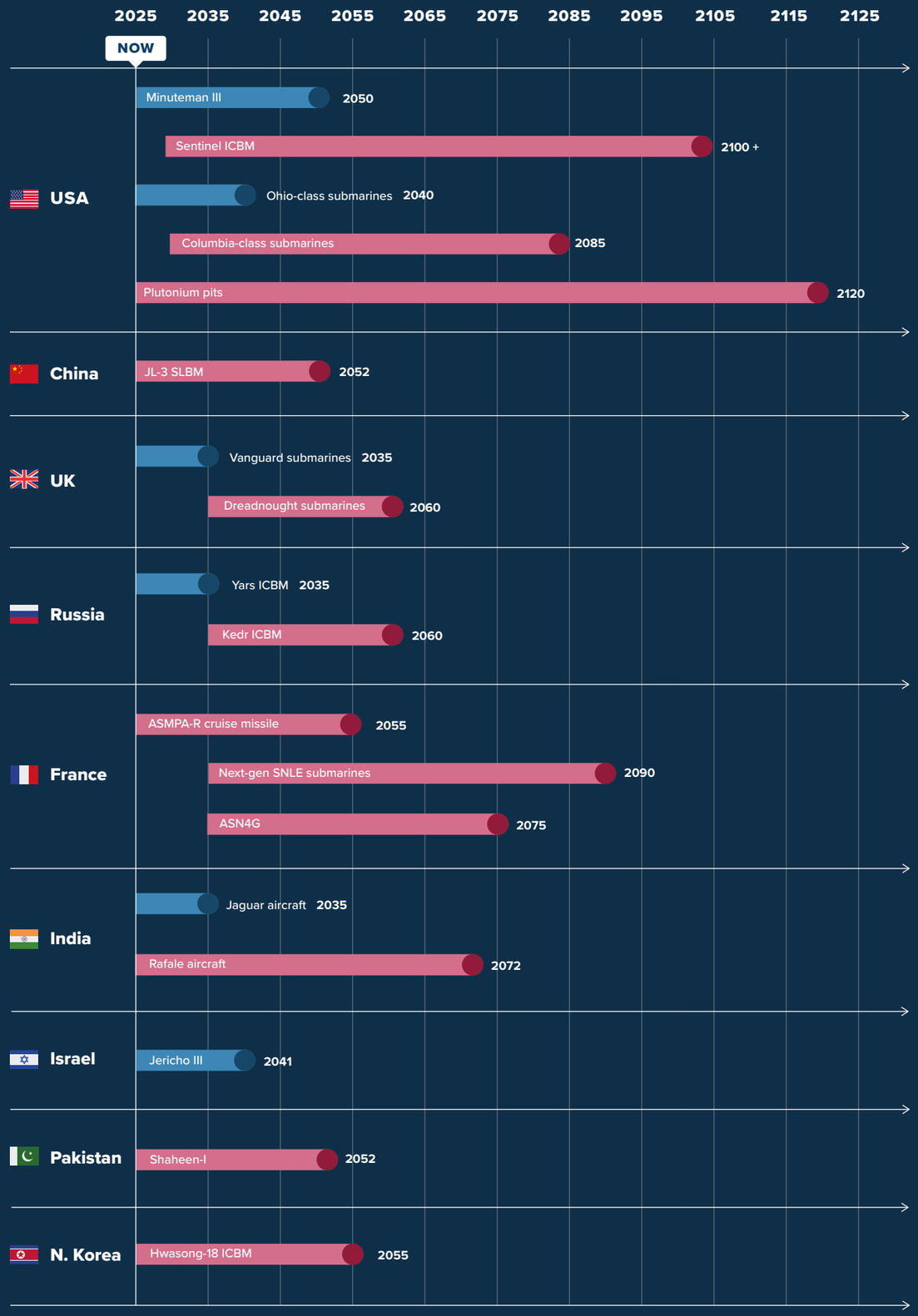
It is difficult to make accurate cost projections of nuclear weapons spending through this century and into the next one, but some countries, including France, the United Kingdom and the United States have published multi-year cost estimates. In France, the government has budgeted €449 billion for military expenditure from 2024-2030, including an additional €36 billion following President Macron's announcement that France would increase the number of its nuclear weapons.[24] If French nuclear weapons spending remains at 13% of budgeted military spending, that would amount to €58.4 billion from 2024-2030. In the United Kingdom, from 2023-2033, according to a parliamentary research report, the cost just to build new nuclear-weapons systems would be £128 billion, with an additional 6% of the annual defense budget allocated to operational costs.[25] In the United States, the Congressional Budget Office's 10 year projection of nuclear weapons spending from 2025-2034 amounts to $946 billion while earlier projections for the coming 30 years surpassed the $1.2 trillion mark.[26]

These estimates are likely grossly underestimated due to the documented history of cost overruns in nuclear weapons programmes. The Congressional Budget Office documented an increase of $24 billion from previous estimates due to cost overruns on the Sentinel ICBM programme alone, and the full extent of the additional costs of this weapon are still unknown.[27] These estimates also fail to take into account how nuclear-weapons systems may themselves be vulnerable to other existential threats facing humanity, such as that posed by climate change.[28]

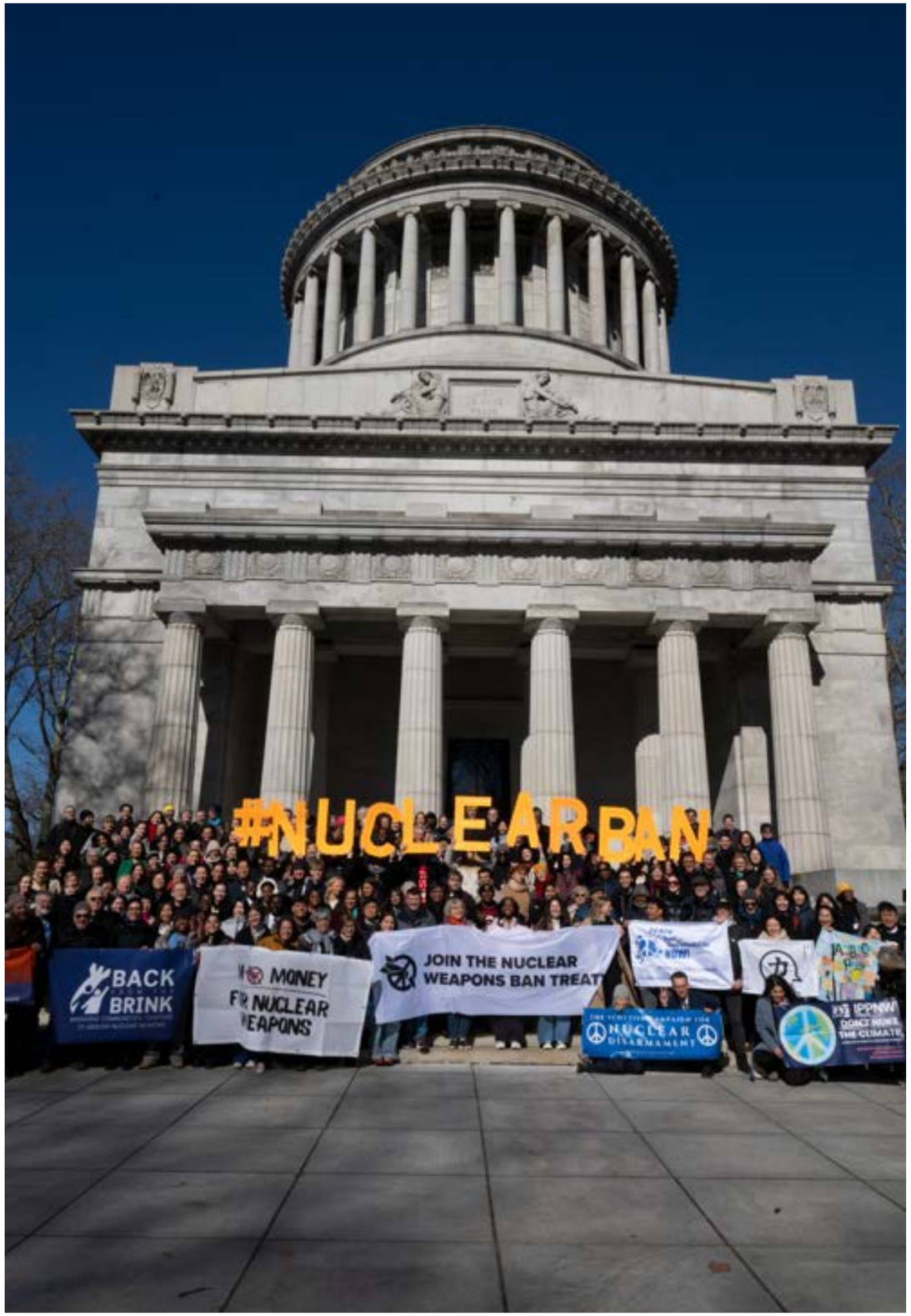
Despite rhetorical support for a world without nuclear weapons sometime in the future, should favorable security conditions prevail, the reality is that all nuclear-armed states are planning to continue to deploy their nuclear arsenals well into this century, and even into the next one. It is this behaviour from nuclear-armed states which itself prevents the favourable security scenarios upon which they condition disarmament. These plans will have astronomical costs over the next decades, stealing much needed resources to address new and urgent security challenges.

Demonstration at Faslane, Scotland | ICAN, Erlend Haugen.

LONG-TERM PROJECTIONS



This chart does not represent the full arsenal projections of all nuclear-armed states, rather it provides some examples based on publicly available information to illustrate the anticipated deployment times of some major systems.



ICAN Campaigner Forum at Riverside Church | Photo credit: ICAN | Darren Ornitz.

China

$13.5 billion (¥96.5 billion)	
$879,776,061 (7%)	

Nuclear arsenal overview

China has 620 nuclear weapons and can launch them from land-based missiles, aircraft, and submarines.[29] The Nuclear Ban Monitor estimates the Chinese nuclear arsenal explosive power to be 20,383 Hiroshima-bomb equivalents.[30]

Nuclear weapons spending

There is no reliable public information about Chinese nuclear weapons spending. Therefore, ICAN used a percentage of total military spending to calculate China's nuclear weapons expenditure. ICAN estimated China spends 4% of its total military spending on nuclear weapons based on similar estimates in a 2020 Reaching Critical Will report and in a 2011 Global Zero estimate.[31] The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) estimated that in 2025, China spent $338.28 billion on military expenditures, 4% of which is about $13.5 billion, or ¥96.5 billion, our estimate for Chinese nuclear spending in 2025.[32]

China increased its nuclear weapons spending by $880 million (¥6.3 billion) from 2024 to 2025.

The companies

The Chinese nuclear arsenal is produced by state-owned companies, primarily the China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC) and China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC), while China Shipbuilding Industry Corporation (CSIC) is the sole Chinese builder of nuclear submarines.[33] The CNNC "combines military production with civilian production" and is involved in most nuclear sector business in China.[34] It has been described as "the core of State nuclear deterrence".[35] CNNC is also known to be involved in the extraction of plutonium for nuclear weapons.[36] CASC's website claims that it is "the only manufacturer of the intercontinental strategic nuclear missiles in China".[37]

Information on lobbying activities of the companies involved in the Chinese nuclear arsenal has not been found as of the time of this report, however, allegations of corruption are rife across the industry, with numerous reported investigations and removal from office of key individuals. For example, Yu Jianfeng, the head of CNNS has not been attending public functions in his role since at least January 2025, indicating that he might be under investigation by the Central Commission for Discipline Investigation.[38] Other reports indicate that these types of corruption charges are also impacting the profitability of the companies involved in China's nuclear arsenal.[39]

Nuclear weapon spending in context

For every minute of 2025, China spent ¥183,531 ($25,744) on nuclear weapons. For every person living in China last year, the country spent ¥68 ($10) on its nuclear arsenal.[40] China spent 20 times its assessed contribution to the United Nations on its nuclear arsenal in 2025. In fact, China could have paid the entire budget of the UN 3.6 times with its nuclear weapon spending. Chinese nuclear weapon spending could have saved the lives of 87 million people who were acutely food insecure, including those on the brink of famine, in 2025. The median per capita income in China was ¥24,555 ($3,444).[41] One hour of Chinese nuclear weapons spending in 2025 would have paid the median annual salary for 448 people.

HOW MUCH IS SPENT PER PERSON ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS?

2025 Population	1,416,096,094
Amount spent on nuclear weapons	$13,531,210,548
Amount per person (USD)	$10
Amount per person (own currency)	¥68

HOW MUCH IS SPENT ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS COMPARED TO WHAT PEOPLE EARN EACH YEAR? (THE ANNUAL MEDIAN INCOME)

Median income (own currency)	¥24,555
One minute of nuclear weapons spending	¥183,531
How many people's annual income could be paid instead of one hour of nuclear weapons spending?	448

HOW MUCH IS SPENT ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS COMPARED TO HOW MUCH IS SPENT ON THE UN?

Annual Assessed Contribution to the UN	$685,733,248
Amount spent on nuclear weapons	$13,531,210,548
How many times could they pay their UN contribution?	20

China could have paid the entire budget of the UN 3.6 times with its nuclear weapon spending. Chinese nuclear weapon spending could have saved the lives of 87 million people who were acutely food insecure, including those on the brink of famine.

France

$7.7 billion (€6.9 billion)	
$573,363,431 (8%)	

Nuclear arsenal overview

France has fewer than 300 nuclear weapons, according to French President Macron, although Macron announced in March 2026 that France would increase its nuclear arsenal.[42] The Federation of American Scientists estimates that France has 290 nuclear weapons which can be launched from aircraft and submarines, and an additional 80 retired warheads.[43] French nuclear-armed submarines carry M51 nuclear missiles, and French planes can launch ASMPA missiles. The Nuclear Ban Monitor estimates the French nuclear arsenal explosive power to be 2,733 Hiroshima-bomb equivalents.[44]

Nuclear weapons spending

The 2024 French defence bill increased the budget for nuclear weapons ("dissuasion") by €508 million, to a total of €6.9 billion ($7.7 billion) in 2025.[45] This includes annual costs for nuclear warheads and renewal of nuclear-capable air-launched cruise missiles, submarine-launched missiles, and submarines.

In April 2023, the Military Programming Law for the period of 2024-2030 was introduced, including 13%, or €53.7 billion for the modernisation and renewal of all nuclear forces, demonstrating a plan to increase French spending on nuclear weapons by nearly 50% in the coming years, compared to the previous five years.[46] In April 2026, following its announcement to increase its nuclear arsenal and expand nuclear cooperation with other European governments, France revised this law to add an additional €36 billion to defense spending from 2024-2030, for a new total of €58.4 billion for nuclear weapons during this period.[47]

Notably not included in the deterrence budget are costs associated with the Rafale aircraft, which can be used to launch nuclear weapons. Given that the Rafale aircraft is dual-capable and nuclear-specific costs of the Rafale are not publicly available, our estimate assumes that the nuclear weapons budget covers the bulk of French nuclear weapons spending and we do not include these aeroplanes.

France spent roughly 11% of its total military budget on nuclear weapons in 2025.[48] France increased its nuclear weapons spending by $573 million (€508 million) from 2024 to 2025.

Youth in Paris discuss the involvement of BNP Paribas in financing nuclear weapons. Photo: ICAN France.

The companies

This report identifies eight companies that are most heavily involved in the French nuclear arsenal, earning an estimated €3.2 million ($3.6 million) for their nuclear weapons related work in 2025. The French government does not report on full contract amounts, but detailed budget reports provide a list of major contractors working on the arsenal, namely Ariane Group (comprised of Airbus and Safran), MBDA (Comprised of Airbus, BAE Systems and Leonardo), Groupe Reel (formerly CNIM), Naval Group (majority owned by Thales), TechnicAtome (a wholly owned subsidiary of Naval Group) and Thales. Dassault Aviation, Roxel, ASB, MEL and Daher are also listed- as subcontracting contributors. Estimates on company earnings are based on a 60-40 private-public split in spending per major budget lines.

Most spending was allocated towards nuclear-armed submarines and submarine-launched nuclear missiles (M51 series). In 2025, we estimate that Airbus earned €548 million ($619 million); BAE Systems earned €24 million ($27m); Groupe Reel earned an estimated €6,000 ($6,660); Leonardo earned €16 million ($18 million); Naval Group earned €582 million ($657 million); Safran earned €608 million ($686 million); TechnicAtome earned €582 million ($657 million) and Thales earned €86 million ($97 million).

Far fewer companies were involved in the air-leg of the French nuclear arsenal, with Airbus earning an estimated €147 million ($166 million); BAE Systems earning €123 million ($139 million) and Leonardo earning €82 million ($93 million) as part of the MBDA contract for the ASMPA missiles.

Thales SIX was also cited for earning €394 million ($445 million) for work on command, control and communications across the French nuclear arsenal.[49]

WEAPONS & FACILITIES AND THE COMPANIES THAT BUILD THEM

BOMBS AND MISSILES

ASMPA & ASN4G
MBDA (Airbus, BAE Systems, Leonardo)
$491,091,205

M51
ArianeGroup (Airbus, Safran), Thales
$1,155,169,412

SUBMARINES

SNLE 3G-class
Airbus (ArianeGroup), Naval Group, Safran (ArianeGroup), TechnicAtome, Thales
$1,596,071,717

* Estimated 2025 earnings.

Corporate influence

The French defence sector is openly advocating for more nuclear weapon capabilities spread throughout Europe. Airbus board chair René Obermann at the 2025 Berlin Security Conference said the UK, France, Germany and others should agree on a "common and staged nuclear deterrence programme," including non-strategic nuclear weapons, like the ones Airbus produces for the French nuclear arsenal.[50]

Safran and Naval Group spent the most lobbying in France in 2025, with Airbus (including ArianeGroup and MBDA) a close third. At least €3,440,064 was spent by the following nine members of the nuclear weapons industry in France in 2025: Airbus, BAE Systems, Fluor, Honeywell International, Naval Group, Safran, TechnicAtome and Thales.

TOTAL SPENT LOBBYING BY THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS INDUSTRY IN FRANCE IN 2025

COMPANY	SPENT IN EUR	SPENT IN USD
Airbus	€897,889	$1,013,419
BAE Systems	€97,960	$110,564
Fluor	€825	$931
Honeywell	€888	$1,002
Naval Group	€271,126	$306,011
Leonardo	€65,307	$73,710
Safran	€1,531,647	$1,728,721
TechnicAtome	€2,483	$2,802
Thales	€821,941	$927,699

Nuclear weapon spending in context

For every minute of 2025, France spent €13,048 ($14,727) on nuclear weapons. For every person living in France last year, the country spent €103 ($116) on its nuclear arsenal. France spent 59 times its assessed contribution to the United Nations on its nuclear arsenal in 2025. In fact, France could have paid the entire budget of the UN 2.1 times with its nuclear weapon spending. French nuclear weapon spending could have saved the lives of nearly 50 million people who were acutely food insecure, including those on the brink of famine, in 2025. The median per capita income in France was €23,244 ($24,442).[51] One hour of French nuclear weapons spending in 2025 would have paid the median annual salary for 34 people.

France could have paid the entire UN budget twice with its nuclear spending. French nuclear weapon spending could have saved the lives of nearly 50 million people who were acutely food insecure, including those on the brink of famine.

HOW MUCH IS SPENT PER PERSON ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS?

2025 Population	66,650,805
Amount spent on nuclear weapons	$7,740,406,321
Amount per person (USD)	$116
Amount per person (own currency)	€103

HOW MUCH IS SPENT ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS COMPARED TO WHAT PEOPLE EARN EACH YEAR? (THE ANNUAL MEDIAN INCOME)

Median income (own currency)	€23,244
One minute of nuclear weapons spending	€13,048
How many people's annual income could be paid instead of one hour of nuclear weapons spending?	34

HOW MUCH IS SPENT ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS COMPARED TO HOW MUCH IS SPENT ON THE UN?

Annual Assessed Contribution to the UN	$132,251,493
Amount spent on nuclear weapons	$7,740,406,321
How many times could they pay their UN contribution?	59

India

$2.8 billion (₹ 246.7 billion)	
$312,725,879 (12%)	

Nuclear arsenal overview

India is estimated to have 190 nuclear weapons and can launch nuclear weapons from land-based missiles, aircraft, and submarines.[52] The Nuclear Ban Monitor estimates the Indian nuclear arsenal explosive power to be 351 Hiroshima-bomb equivalents.[53]

Nuclear weapons spending

While little is officially published about Indian nuclear weapon spending, an October 2016 Stimson Center report looked at parliamentary oversight documents and created a methodology to calculate annual nuclear weapons spending.[54] The 2016 Indian parliamentary report stated that India spent 46% of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)'s budget on its nuclear-capable delivery systems. Given that about half of the U.S. nuclear budget goes to nuclear delivery systems, the Stimson Center report assumed that India's total nuclear spending would follow the same pattern. ICAN's research thus follows the Stimson Center's methodology by taking 46% of the 2025-2026 DRDO budget (₹26,817 crore) to get ₹12,336 crore for delivery systems and then doubling it to reach ₹24,671 crore for the entire nuclear arsenal.[55] A crore is 10 million, so ₹24,671 crore is ₹246.7 billion. Converted into USD, this total is $2.9 billion, our estimate for Indian nuclear spending in 2025. This is roughly 3% of total Indian military spending in 2025.[56]

India increased its nuclear weapons spending by $313 million (₹27 billion) from 2024 to 2025.

The companies

India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is the primary producer of the Indian nuclear arsenal.[57] However, there are a number of companies also involved in key component production for India's nuclear weaponry, but contract amounts are not published. Larsen & Toubro runs the Strategic Systems Complex at Talegaon, and the Strategic Electronics Centre at Bengaluru, both of which contribute to India's nuclear arsenal.[58] MTAR Technologies Ltd provides liquid propulsion engines for Prithvi missiles and the base shroud assembly for the Agni missile series.[59] In 2025, India advanced its nuclear-armed submarine capabilities, and inducted its third nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine, INS Aridhaman in April 2026.[60] Bharat Dynamics Limited has been involved in the Prithvi and Agni nuclear-capable missile programmes.[61] Walchandnagar Industries Limited is involved in the Agni missile programme as well.[62]

Nuclear weapon spending in context

For every minute of 2025, India spent ₹469,396 ($5,387) on nuclear weapons. For every person living in India last year, the country spent ₹16 ($2) on its nuclear arsenal. India spent 75 times its assessed contribution to the United Nations on its nuclear arsenal in 2025. In fact, India could have paid 75% of the entire budget of the UN with its nuclear weapon spending. India nuclear weapon spending could have saved the lives of 18 million people who were acutely food insecure, including those on the brink of famine, in 2025. The median per capita income in India was ₹180,000 ($2,066).[63] One hour of Indian nuclear weapons spending in 2025 would have paid the median annual salary for 156 people.

HOW MUCH IS SPENT PER PERSON ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS?

2025 Population	1,463,865,525
Amount spent on nuclear weapons	$2,831,473,081
Amount per person (USD)	$2
Amount per person (own currency)	₹169

HOW MUCH IS SPENT ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS COMPARED TO WHAT PEOPLE EARN EACH YEAR? (THE ANNUAL MEDIAN INCOME)

Median income (own currency)	₹180,000
One minute of nuclear weapons spending	₹469,396
How many people's annual income could be paid instead of one hour of nuclear weapons spending?	156

HOW MUCH IS SPENT ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS COMPARED TO HOW MUCH IS SPENT ON THE UN?

Annual Assessed Contribution to the UN	$37,640,003
Amount spent on nuclear weapons	$2,831,473,081
How many times could they pay their UN contribution?	75

India could have paid 75% of the entire budget of the UN with its nuclear weapon spending. Indian nuclear weapon spending could have saved the lives of 18 million people who were acutely food insecure, including those on the brink of famine.

Israel

$1.2 billion (ILS 4.2 billion)	
$28,006,669 (2%)	

Nuclear arsenal overview

Israel is estimated to have 90 nuclear weapons and is believed to be able to launch them from land-based missiles, submarines, and aircraft.[64] The Nuclear Ban Monitor estimates Israel's nuclear arsenal explosive power to be 165 Hiroshima-bomb equivalents.[65]

Nuclear weapons spending

There is no reliable public information about Israeli nuclear spending, given that it publicly does not confirm that it possesses nuclear weapons. Therefore, ICAN uses an average percentage of what nuclear-armed countries spend on nuclear weapons out of total military spending (5%) to assess Israel's nuclear spending. In 2014, Israel's Director General of the Defense told journalists that ILS 4.5 billion of that year's defense budget was allocated for "special means."[66] Israeli nuclear expert Avner Cohen explained in an editorial that "special means" is a veiled euphemism to refer to large unnamed defense projects, such as nuclear weapons. In 2014, ILS 4.5 billion was about 7% of total Israeli military expenditure, indicating that 5% is a reasonable estimate.[67]

However, since 2023, Israeli military spending has increased enormously, by 24% in 2023, and 65% in 2024, according to the Stockholm Peace Research Institute, who attributed the increase to "(t)he escalation of conflict with Hezbollah in October 2024, on top of the ongoing war in Gaza."[68] From 2017-2022, on average, Israel's military spending increased about 2.35% annually.[69] Although there is no information available about how Israel's current wars have impacted Israeli spending on nuclear weapons, we can assume that most increased military expenditures in 2025 were not related to the nuclear arsenal, as was the case with Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Therefore, to calculate 2025 Israeli nuclear weapons spending, we adjusted for increased military spending due to conventional wars by calculating a 7% increase from 2022 military spending (3 years of 2.35% increase) and then finding 5% of that adjusted military spending total.

5% of ILS 84.3 billion ($24.4 billion) (our adjusted military expenditure for 2025) is ILS 4.2 ($1.2 billion), our estimate for Israeli nuclear spending in 2025.

Israel increased its nuclear weapons spending by $28 million (ILS 97 million) from 2024 to 2025.

The companies

Israel's nuclear weapons programme is exceptionally opaque, though media reports have indicated Thyssenkrupp's subsidiary, Howaldtswerke-Deutsche Werft, built nuclear-capable submarines for Israel in the last decade.[70]

Nuclear weapon spending in context

For every minute of 2025, Israel spent ₪8,015 ($2,323) on nuclear weapons. For every person living in Israel last year, the country spent ₪443 ($128) on its nuclear arsenal. Israel spent 59 times its assessed contribution to the United Nations on its nuclear arsenal in 2025. In fact, Israel could have paid one third of the entire budget of the UN with its nuclear weapon spending. Israeli nuclear weapon spending could have saved the lives of 8 million people who were acutely food insecure, including those on the brink of famine, in 2025. The median per capita income in Israel was ₪127,032 ($36,810).[71] One hour of Israeli nuclear weapons spending in 2025 would have paid the median annual salary for 4 people.

HOW MUCH IS SPENT PER PERSON ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS?

2025 Population	9,517,181
Amount spent on nuclear weapons	$1,220,771,335
Amount per person (USD)	$128
Amount per person (own currency)	₪443

HOW MUCH IS SPENT ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS COMPARED TO WHAT PEOPLE EARN EACH YEAR? (THE ANNUAL MEDIAN INCOME)

Median income (own currency)	₪127,032
One minute of nuclear weapons spending	₪8,015
How many people's annual income could be paid instead of one hour of nuclear weapons spending?	4

HOW MUCH IS SPENT ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS COMPARED TO HOW MUCH IS SPENT ON THE UN?

Annual Assessed Contribution to the UN	$20,847,625
Amount spent on nuclear weapons	$1,220,771,335
How many times could they pay their UN contribution?	59

Israel could have paid one third of the entire budget of the UN with its nuclear weapon spending. Israeli nuclear weapon spending could have saved the lives of 8 million people who were acutely food insecure, including those on the brink of famine.

North Korea

$656 million (KPW 590 billion)	
$26,177,365 (4%)	

Nuclear arsenal overview

North Korea is estimated to have 60 nuclear weapons.[72] It is developing nuclear-capable missiles which can be launched from land and from submarines. The Nuclear Ban Monitor estimates the North Korean nuclear arsenal explosive power to be 200 Hiroshima-bomb equivalents.[73]

Nuclear weapons spending

There is very little public information about North Korean nuclear spending or its military spending overall. A military intelligence source told The Chosun Daily in April 2024 that North Korea spent up to KPW 6.8 billion (North Korean won) ($5 million) on a short-range ballistic missile launch and up to KPW 41 billion ($45 million) for an intercontinental ballistic missile launch.[74]

South Korea estimates North Korea's gross national income annually, placing the 2024 GNI at KRW 44.4 trillion (South Korean won).[75] In 2009 a South Korean think tank estimated North Korea spent $8.7 billion on its military, which represented about one-third (35%) of GNI at that time.[76]

Assuming that North Korea continues to spend 35% of its GNI on its military, North Korea would have spent about KRW 1.55 trillion on its military in 2024. Global Zero estimated that in 2011 North Korea spent about 6% of its military budget on its nuclear programme.[77] Assuming that North Korea still spends 6% of its annual military spending on nuclear weapons, North Korea would have spent about KRW 932.4 billion on its nuclear programme in 2024. When converted to North Korean won (KPW), that is KPW 590 billion or $656 million, our estimate for 2025 North Korean nuclear spending.

North Korea increased its nuclear weapons spending by $26 million (KPW 24 billion) from 2024 to 2025.

The companies

As of the time of this publication, we were unable to find any information in the public domain about companies involved in the production of nuclear weapons for North Korea.

Nuclear weapon spending in context

For every minute of 2025, North Korea spent KPW1,122,94 ($1,248) on nuclear weapons. For every person living in North Korea last year, the country spent KPW22,213 ($25) on its nuclear arsenal. North Korea spent 3,854 times its assessed contribution to the United Nations on its nuclear arsenal in 2025. In fact, North Korea could have paid 20% of the entire budget of the UN with its nuclear weapon spending. North Korea nuclear weapon spending could have saved the lives of 4 million people who were acutely food insecure, including those on the brink of famine, in 2025. Information on individual incomes in North Korea is difficult to access, however the average annual salary of a state worker is estimated to be KPW1,080,000 ($1,393).[78] One hour of North Korean nuclear weapons spending in 2025 would have paid 62 annual salaries.

HOW MUCH IS SPENT PER PERSON ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS?

2025 Population	26,571,037
Amount spent on nuclear weapons	$655,798,123
Amount per person (USD)	$25
Amount per person (own currency)	KPW22,213

HOW MUCH IS SPENT ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS COMPARED TO WHAT PEOPLE EARN EACH YEAR? (THE ANNUAL MEDIAN INCOME)

Median income (own currency)	KPW1,080,000
One minute of nuclear weapons spending	KPW1,122,942
How many people's annual income could be paid instead of one hour of nuclear weapons spending?	62

HOW MUCH IS SPENT ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS COMPARED TO HOW MUCH IS SPENT ON THE UN?

Annual Assessed Contribution to the UN	$170,162
Amount spent on nuclear weapons	$655,798,123
How many times could they pay their UN contribution?	3,854

North Korea could have paid 20% of the entire budget of the UN with its nuclear weapon spending. North Korean nuclear weapon spending could have saved the lives of 4 million people who were acutely food insecure, including those on the brink of famine.

Pakistan

$1.5 billion (Rs 358 billion)	
$230,745,74 (18%)	

Nuclear arsenal overview

Pakistan is estimated to have 170 nuclear weapons that it can launch from land-based missiles and aircraft, and it is developing the ability to launch them from submarines.[79] The Nuclear Ban Monitor estimates the Pakistani nuclear arsenal explosive power to be 226 Hiroshima-bomb equivalents.[80]

Nuclear weapons spending

Analysts in the past decade have estimated that Pakistan spends about 10% of its total military spending on its nuclear arsenal, confirmed in a 2016 parliamentary report revealing that Pakistan spent 9.8% of its official military budget on nuclear weapons that year.[81] 10% of Pakistan's 2025 military spending (Rs 3.6 trillion) is Rs 358 billion which converted into USD is $1.5 billion, our estimate for Pakistani nuclear spending in 2025.[82]

Pakistan increased its nuclear weapons spending by $231 million (Rs 55.4 billion) from 2024 to 2025.

The companies

As of the time of this publication, we were unable to find any information in the public domain about companies involved in the production of nuclear weapons for Pakistan. Khan Research Laboratories (KRL), owned by the Pakistani government, remains under heavy U.S. sanctions for nuclear weapons work.[83]

Nuclear weapon spending in context

For every minute of 2025, Pakistan spent Rs681,041 ($2,838) on nuclear weapons. For every person living in Pakistan last year, the country spent Rs1,403 ($6) on its nuclear arsenal. Pakistan spent 356 times its assessed contribution to the United Nations on its nuclear arsenal in 2025. In fact, Pakistan could have paid 40% of the entire budget of the UN with its nuclear weapon spending. Pakistani nuclear weapon spending could have saved the lives of 10 million people who were acutely food insecure, including those on the brink of famine, in 2025. The median per capita income in Pakistan was Rs311,760 ($1,299). One hour of Pakistani nuclear weapons spending in 2025 would have paid the median annual salary for 131 people.

Pakistan could have paid 40% of the entire budget of the UN with its nuclear weapon spending. Pakistani nuclear weapon spending could have saved the lives of 10 million people who were acutely food insecure, including those on the brink of famine.

HOW MUCH IS SPENT PER PERSON ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS?

2025 Population	255,219,555
Amount spent on nuclear weapons	$1,491,586,306
Amount per person (USD)	$6
Amount per person (own currency)	Rs1,403

HOW MUCH IS SPENT ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS COMPARED TO WHAT PEOPLE EARN EACH YEAR? (THE ANNUAL MEDIAN INCOME)

Median income (own currency)	Rs311,760
One minute of nuclear weapons spending	Rs681,041
How many people's annual income could be paid instead of one hour of nuclear weapons spending?	131

HOW MUCH IS SPENT ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS COMPARED TO HOW MUCH IS SPENT ON THE UN?

Annual Assessed Contribution to the UN	$4,186,003
Amount spent on nuclear weapons	$1,491,586,306
How many times could they pay their UN contribution?	356

Russian Federation

$9.5 billion (₽ 799.7 billion)	
$548,526,504 (6%)	

Nuclear arsenal overview

Russia has 5,420 nuclear weapons which it can launch from land-based missiles, submarines, and aeroplanes.[84] The Nuclear Ban Monitor estimates the Russian nuclear arsenal explosive power to be 64,719 Hiroshima-bomb equivalents.[85]

Nuclear weapons spending

A 2018 SIPRI report found that Russian nuclear weapons system spending cost about 13% of total defence expenditures in recent years (2010 and 2016). Therefore, in previous years, this report calculated 13% of total Russian defence spending to provide an estimate of nuclear-weapons spending.[86] However, from 2022-2025, Russian military spending increased significantly beyond what was projected due to its invasion of Ukraine. These costs can be assumed to be largely, if not completely, associated with conventional weapons; in 2022, the first year of the invasion, the line item in the Russian budget dedicated to the "nuclear weapons complex" (which is just one component of our calculation of Russian nuclear weapons spending) remained unchanged from what was budgeted in 2022 to what was reported as enacted. Other allocations for conventional forces, for example for the Russian national guard, or for "mobilization and extra forces training" increased significantly.[87]

Nuclear weapons spending therefore would have likely been a smaller percentage of total military spending than before the invasion of Ukraine. Therefore we calculated the increase in the "nuclear weapons complex" line item from 2021 to 2022 (6%) and applied this annual increase to our nuclear weapons spending calculation from 2021. Our estimate of Russian nuclear weapons in 2025 is therefore ₽799.7 billion or $9.5 billion, which is about 5% of Russian military spending in 2025.

Russia increased its nuclear weapons spending by $549 million (₽45.9 billion) from 2024 to 2025.

The companies

The Russian nuclear arsenal is primarily built by state-owned companies and there is little information in the public domain identifying contract relationships related to nuclear weapons. Rostec State Corporation comprises 800 companies and is the most heavily involved, and produces the Iskander-M nuclear capable missile systems.[88] United Aircraft Corporation produces the heavy bombers which can also carry nuclear-armed missiles.[89] Belarus owns Volat (also known as the Minsk Wheel Tractor Plant Open Joint Stock Company), which produces the mobile launchers designed for Russian Topol missiles.[90]

Russia is also looking to replace the ICBM part of its arsenal with Makeyev Rocket Design Bureau, a subsidiary of ROSCOSMOS, the prime contractor.[91]

Nuclear weapon spending in context

For every minute of 2025, Russia spent ₽1,521,499 ($18,166) on nuclear weapons. For every person living in Russia last year, the country spent ₽5,554 ($66) on its nuclear arsenal. Russia spent 133 times its assessed contribution to the United Nations on its nuclear arsenal in 2025. In fact, Russia could have paid the entire budget of the UN almost 3 times with its nuclear weapon spending. Russia's nuclear weapon spending could have saved the lives of 61 million people who were acutely food insecure, including those on the brink of famine, in 2025. The median per capita income in Russia was ₽2,196,000 ($26,219).[92] One hour of Russian nuclear weapons spending in 2025 would have paid the median annual salary for 42 people.

HOW MUCH IS SPENT PER PERSON ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS?

2025 Population	143,997,393
Amount spent on nuclear weapons	$9,548,083,241
Amount per person (USD)	$66
Amount per person (own currency)	₽5,554

HOW MUCH IS SPENT ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS COMPARED TO WHAT PEOPLE EARN EACH YEAR? (THE ANNUAL MEDIAN INCOME)

Median income (own currency)	₽2,196,000
One minute of nuclear weapons spending	₽1,521,499
How many people's annual income could be paid instead of one hour of nuclear weapons spending?	42

HOW MUCH IS SPENT ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS COMPARED TO HOW MUCH IS SPENT ON THE UN?

Annual Assessed Contribution to the UN	$71,781,915
Amount spent on nuclear weapons	$9,548,083,241
How many times could they pay their UN contribution?	133

Russia could have paid the entire budget of the UN almost 3 times with its nuclear weapon spending. Russia's nuclear weapon spending could have saved the lives of 61 million people who were acutely food insecure, including those on the brink of famine.

The United Kingdom

$12.6 billion (£9.6 billion)

$1,837,279,315 (17%)

Nuclear arsenal overview

The United Kingdom has 225 nuclear warheads, which can be used from submarine-launched ballistic missiles (the Trident II D-5).[93] These Trident missiles are also used by the US and are primarily produced by U.S. companies. They are currently deployed on the Vanguard-class submarines, but a new set of four submarines are being built in a £41 billion project coordinated by the Dreadnought Alliance.[94] The UK is also developing a new nuclear warhead.[95] The Nuclear Ban Monitor estimates UK nuclear arsenal explosive power to be 1,500 Hiroshima-bomb equivalents.[96]

Nuclear weapons spending

Our estimate for UK nuclear weapon spending is derived from total UK Defence Nuclear Enterprise (DNE) spending, with the costs for conventionally-armed nuclear-powered submarines subtracted.[97]

The UK defines the Defense Nuclear Enterprise as the governmental agencies that "operate, maintain, renew, and sustain" UK nuclear weapons, including investments in the Dreadnought class nuclear-powered ballistics submarines; Astute class conventionally-armed submarines, a replacement warhead programme and existing warhead stockpile maintenance costs.[98] Adding together capital, resource and administration costs for the Defence Nuclear Enterprise, as reported in the UK Ministry of Defence (MOD) Annual Report and Accounts for 2024- 25 results in a total of £10.9 billion ($14.3 billion).[99]

In response to a parliamentary question in 2022/23, the MOD said that the total cost of support and maintenance programmes for in-service submarines was £594 million ($759 million).[100] During that time, six of the UK's ten in-service submarines were conventional nuclear-powered submarines and the remaining four were nuclear-armed. Using those proportions to assign 60% of support and maintenance costs to the conventional nuclear-powered submarines gives a figure of £356 million ($470 million) for conventional nuclear-powered submarine support and maintenance costs. In addition, the UK is building two types of conventional nuclear-powered submarines: the Astute, and the SSN-AUKUS. The MOD's 2024/25 Major Projects Data states that £353 million ($465 million) was spent on the Astute programme that year, and £615 million ($810 million) was spent on the SSN-AUKUS programme.[101] Bringing the costs together, we estimate that the UK spending on conventionally-armed nuclear-powered submarines in 2024/25 to have been £1.3 billion ($1.7 billion).

Subtracting our estimate for this submarine spending from Defence Nuclear Enterprise spending gives a final estimate for UK spending on nuclear weapons in 2024/25 of £9.6 billion, which converted into USD is $12.6 billion. This amounts to about 14% of the UK's total military spending.

The United Kingdom increased its nuclear weapons spending by $1.8 billion (£1.4 billion) from 2024 to 2025.

The companies

The UK contracts mostly U.S. companies for its nuclear arsenal. Many of the companies involved in the UK Trident (nuclear missile), Vanguard and Dreadnought (nuclear-armed submarine) programmes are from the US. The companies with contracts that could support the UK nuclear arsenal in 2025 included: Amentum, Babcock International, BAE Systems, Draper, General Dynamics, L3 Harris, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, Rolls Royce, RTX (formerly known as Raytheon), SPA Inc and Thales.

In 2025, BAE Systems, Draper, General Dynamics, L3 Harris, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman and, SPAInc earned at least $35 billion for Trident related work, but not all of that money came from the UK taxpayer, as contract announcements do not always detail the division between U.S. and UK funding. The UK continues to rely on the US for nuclear weapons maintenance and production, as part of the U.S.-UK mutual defence agreement, which was extended indefinitely in 2024.[102]

Amentum, Babcock International, BAE Systems, Northrop Grumman, Rolls Royce, RTX, and Thales together earned nearly $13 billion for nuclear weapons work related to the UK Dreadnought nuclear-armed submarines. And Amentum and Babcock International earned around $738 million for continued efforts to support the Vanguard submarines. These figures are estimates, as the UK does not consistently publish contracting amounts related to its nuclear weapons programme.

WEAPONS & FACILITIES AND THE COMPANIES THAT BUILD THEM

BOMBS AND MISSILES

Trident II D5

BAE Systems, Draper, General Dynamics, L3Harris, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, SPAInc

$35,469,387,741 *

SUBMARINES

Dreadnought-class

Amentum, Babcock International, BAE Systems, Northrop Grumman, RollsRoyce, RTX, Thales

$12,420,149,505

Vanguard-class

Amentum, Babcock International

$737,812,912

*Not all UK contract data is published with full costs, including for submarines. These may be much lower than listed. For the Trident system, not all of these costs are borne by the UK taxpayer as contracting is done through the US and details are not always available.

Demonstration at Faslane, Scotland | ICAN, Erlend Haugen.

Influencing decision-makers

The companies involved in the UK nuclear arsenal also seek to influence governmental policy. The UK does not require lobbyists to register or make data known about what they spend, but Open Access publishes information on the number of meetings held by corporate representatives and key figures within the UK government. In 2025, Airbus, Amentum (which took over nuclear weapons related work from both AECOM and Jacobs in recent years), Babcock International, BAE Systems, Bechtel, Boeing, General Dynamics, Honeywell International, Leidos, Leonardo, Lockheed Martin, Peraton, Rolls Royce, RTX (Raytheon), Safran and Thales were all involved in these meetings. Airbus and BAE Systems also held meetings with the Prime Minister's office.[103]

UK LOBBYING

COMPANY NAME	TOTAL NUMBER OF MEETINGS
Airbus	44*
Amentum	6
Babcock International	28
BAE Systems	35*
Bechtel	2
Boeing	16
General Dynamics	2
Honeywell International	7
Leidos	5
Leonardo	7
Lockheed Martin	9
Peraton	1
Rolls Royce	43
RTX (Raytheon)	3
Safran	4
Thales	14

*Indicates meetings with the Prime Minister's office.

Demonstration at Faslane, Scotland | ICAN, Erlend Haugen.

Nuclear weapon spending in context

For every minute of 2025, the UK spent £18,199 ($23,978) on nuclear weapons. For every person living in the UK last year, the country spent £138 ($181) on its nuclear arsenal. The UK spent 92 times its assessed contribution to the United Nations on its nuclear arsenal in 2025. In fact, the UK could have covered the entire budget of the UN more than 3 times with its nuclear weapon spending. Britain's nuclear weapon spending could have saved the lives of 81 million people who were acutely food insecure, including those on the brink of famine, in 2025. The median per capita income in the UK was £32,500 ($42,819).[104] One hour of British nuclear weapons spending in 2025 would have paid the median annual salary for 34 people.

HOW MUCH IS SPENT PER PERSON ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS?

2025 Population	69,551,332
Amount spent on nuclear weapons	$12,602,645,586
Amount per person (USD)	$181
Amount per person (own currency)	£138

HOW MUCH IS SPENT ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS COMPARED TO WHAT PEOPLE EARN EACH YEAR? (THE ANNUAL MEDIAN INCOME)

Median income (own currency)	£32,500
One minute of nuclear weapons spending	£18,199
How many people's annual income could be paid instead of one hour of nuclear weapons spending?	34

HOW MUCH IS SPENT ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS COMPARED TO HOW MUCH IS SPENT ON THE UN?

Annual Assessed Contribution to the UN	$136,810,709
Amount spent on nuclear weapons	$12,602,645,586
How many times could they pay their UN contribution?	92

The United Kingdom could have paid the entire budget of the UN more than 3 times with its nuclear weapon spending. Britain's nuclear weapon spending could have saved the lives of 81 million people who were acutely food insecure, including those on the brink of famine.

United States

$69.2 billion

$12,400,000,000 (22%)

Nuclear arsenal overview

The United States has 5,042 nuclear weapons, which it can launch from land-based missiles, submarines, and aeroplanes.[105] The Nuclear Ban Monitor estimates the U.S. nuclear arsenal explosive power to be 45,244 Hiroshima-bomb equivalents.[106]

Nuclear weapons spending

The Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and the Department of War divide responsibilities for the nation's nuclear weapons. The NNSA is responsible for the research, development, production, testing and dismantlement of the nuclear warheads, while the Department of War manages the development of warhead delivery systems, such as missiles, aircraft, and submarines. The Department of War also manages the deployment of nuclear weapons once they are produced and any foreign storage facilities for deployed weapons.

The ICAN spending estimate combines U.S. Department of War and NNSA funding.[107] The U.S. Congress allocated $20 billion for the NNSA in 2025 to spend on weapons activities.[108] In 2025, the Department of War requested $49.2 billion for "Nuclear Enterprise Modernization," including the Sentinel missile, Long Range Standoff Weapon, B-21 bomber and Columbia-class ballistic missile submarine.[109] Adding $20 billion to $49.2 billion results in a total of $69.2 billion spent on nuclear weapons in the United States in 2025. This is roughly 7% of total U.S. military spending in 2025.[110]

The United States increased its nuclear weapons spending by $12.4 billion from 2024 to 2025.

The companies

The US has the most companies involved in its nuclear arsenal. The following 19 companies have outstanding contracts worth at least $375 billion for work related to nuclear weapons: Amentum, BAE Systems, Bechtel, Boeing, BWX Technologies, Fluor, General Dynamics, Huntington Ingalls Industries, Honeywell International, L3 Harris, Leidos, Leonardo, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, Peraton, Rolls Royce, RTX (Raytheon), SPAInc, and Textron.

U.S. nuclear-armed missiles, including the submarine-launched Trident, the Minuteman III and Sentinel ICBMs, and the air-launched Long Range Standoff missile, are produced by BAE Systems, Bechtel, Boeing, Draper, General Dynamics, Honeywell, L3Harris, Leidos, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, Peraton, RTX, SPAInc and Textron, which collectively have outstanding contracts for this work valued at over $66 billion.

U.S. nuclear facilities, including the laboratories at Los Alamos and Livermore, and the production sites at Kansas City, Savannah River, Y-12 and Pantex, have the highest outstanding contracts, valued over $250 billion and lasting for decades. The companies involved include: Amentum, Bechtel, BWXT, Fluor, Huntington Ingalls Industries, Honeywell, Leidos and Northrop Grumman.

Boeing, Peraton and Rolls-Royce produce U.S. heavy bombers for more than $4 billion, and Boeing builds the B-61 gravity bombs for $190 million.

WEAPONS & FACILITIES AND THE COMPANIES THAT BUILD THEM

BOMBS AND MISSILES

Sentinel
Bechtel, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, Peraton
$15,414,863,105

Minuteman III
BAE Systems, Boeing, General Dynamics, Honeywell, L3, Leidos, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, Peraton, RTX, Textron
$13,065,311,661

LRSO
RTX (Raytheon)
$2,000,000,000

Air-Launched Cruise Missile
Boeing
$23,153,002

B61-12 gravity bomb
Boeing
$189,661,173

Trident II D5
BAE Systems, Draper, General Dynamics, L3Harris, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, SPAInc
$35,469,387,741

Submarine Launched Cruise Missile
BAE Systems, SPAInc
$158,710,999

FACILITIES

Kansas City National Security Campus
Honeywell International
$21,387,784,464

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
Amentum, Bechtel, BWX Technologies
$69,988,418,558

Los Alamos National Laboratory
Fluor, Huntington Ingalls Industries
$17,058,149,760

Nevada National Security Site
Amentum, Honeywell, Huntington Ingalls Industries
$11,293,084,443

Y-12 National Security Complex
Bechtel, Honeywell, Leidos, Northrop Grumman
$41,755,865,832

Sandia National Laboratory
Honeywell International
$26,989,661,931

Pantex Plant
BWX Technologies, Fluor
$26,748,156,542

Savannah River Site and Savannah River National Laboratory
Fluor, Honeywell, Huntington Ingalls Industries
$34,813,824,659

SUBMARINES

Columbia-class
BAE Systems, Bechtel, BWXT, Fluor, Leonardo, General Dynamics
$54,859,601,515

* Estimated value of outstanding contracts
Parent companies of those comprising joint ventures and other consortia are listed. Consortium and joint venture names can be found in the Don't Bank on the Bomb report.

Artists Against the Bomb collection in a walking exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Central Park during Nuclear Ban Week 2025 | Photo: ICAN | Darren Ornitz.

Lobbying

Lobbying in the US is done both by the companies themselves as well as by lobby firms they hire. We have identified that the U.S. companies which are significantly involved in nuclear weapons production reported $134 million spent on lobbying activities in 2025. This does not include financing for political action campaigns or contributions to election campaigns.

Nuclear weapon spending in context

For every minute of 2025, the US spent $131,659 on nuclear weapons. For every person living in the US last year, the country spent $199 on its nuclear arsenal. The US spent 84 times its assessed contribution to the United Nations on its nuclear arsenal in 2025. In fact, the US could have paid the entire budget of the UN 19 times with its nuclear weapon spending. US nuclear weapon spending could have saved the lives of 445 million people who were acutely food insecure, including those on the brink of famine, in 2025. The median per capita income in the US was $53,768. One minute of US nuclear weapons spending in 2025 would have paid the median annual salary for 147 people.

The nose assembly of a mock B61-12, mounted on an aluminum tube to replicate the body of the bomb, sits in a stand awaiting movement to Sandia National Laboratories' Davis gun, which fired the test assembly into a pool in one of a series of impact tests. Photo: US Department of Energy.

COMPANY INFLUENCE EXPENDITURES TOTALS

COMPANIES IN THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS INDUSTRY	TOTAL SPENT LOBBYING IN THE US IN 2025
Airbus	$4,658,125
Amentum	$540,000
Babcock	$320,000
BAE	$5,338,125
Bechtel	$1,490,000
Boeing	$13,230,000
BWXT	$850,000
Fluor	$4,577,929
General Dynamics	$17,349,357
Honeywell	$13,320,000
HII	$5,984,000
L3	$2,919,750
Leidos	$7,070,000
Leonardo	$1,993,125
Lockheed	$17,660,909
Northrop	$9,120,000
Peraton	$1,120,000
RollsRoyce	$1,730,000
RTX	$15,895,000
Safran	$565,000
Textron	$6,736,350
Thales	$820,000

HOW MUCH IS SPENT PER PERSON ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS?

2025 Population	347,275,808
Amount spent on nuclear weapons	$69,200,000,000
Amount per person (USD)	$199

HOW MUCH IS SPENT ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS COMPARED TO WHAT PEOPLE EARN EACH YEAR? (THE ANNUAL MEDIAN INCOME)

Median income (own currency)	$53,768
One minute of nuclear weapons spending	$131,659
How many people's annual income could be paid instead of one hour of nuclear weapons spending?	147

HOW MUCH IS SPENT ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS COMPARED TO HOW MUCH IS SPENT ON THE UN?

Annual Assessed Contribution to the UN	$826,925,582
Amount spent on nuclear weapons	$69,200,000,000
How many times could they pay their UN contribution?	84

United States could have paid for the entire budget of the UN nearly 19 times with its nuclear weapon spending. U.S. nuclear weapon spending could have saved the lives of 445 million people who were acutely food insecure, including those on the brink of famine.

2025 Nuclear Weapons Spending Compared

SPENDING PER SECOND (USD)

$3,768

How many trees could you plant?

US	China	UK	Russia	France
14,629 trees	2,860 trees	2,664 trees	2,018 trees	1,636 trees

India	Pakistan	Israel	N. Korea	All countries
599 trees	315 trees	258 trees	139 trees	25,120 trees / sec

SPENDING PER MINUTE (USD)

$226,069

How many people could this provide a year of clean water and sanitation for?

US	China	UK	Russia	France
2,026 people	396 people	369 people	279 people	227 people

India	Pakistan	Israel	N. Korea	All countries
83 people	44 people	36 people	19 people	3,478 people / min

SPENDING PER HOUR (USD)

$13.6M

How many annual median salaries, in each of these individual countries, could this cover?

US	China	UK	Russia	France
147 salaries	448 salaries	34 salaries	42 salaries	34 salaries

India	Pakistan	Israel	N. Korea
156 salaries	131 salaries	4 salaries	62 salaries

In order to best illustrate the opportunity costs through spending on nuclear arsenals, ICAN has developed this cost comparison information. All figures are in US dollars, based on a constant currency calculation.

SPENDING PER DAY (USD)

$326M

How many people could be saved from being acutely food insecure for a year?

US	China	UK	Russia	France
1,218,786 people	238,318 people	221,964 people	168,165 people	136,328 people

India	Pakistan	Israel	N. Korea	All countries
49,869 people	26,270 people	21,500 people	11,550 people	2,092,754 people / day

SPENDING PER WEEK (USD)

$2B

How many measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccines could this buy? (cost per vaccine in 10 dose vial)

US	China	UK	Russia	France
7.10B vaccines	1.39B vaccines	1.30B vaccines	979.2M vaccines	793.8M vaccines

India	Pakistan	Israel	N. Korea	All countries
290.4M vaccines	153M vaccines	125.2M vaccines	67.3M vaccines	12.19B vaccines / week

SPENDING PER YEAR (USD)

$119B

How many homes can you power with solar power?

US	China	UK	Russia	France
3,548,718 homes	693,908 homes	646,290 homes	489,645 homes	396,944 homes

India	Pakistan	Israel	N. Korea	All countries
145,204 homes	76,492 homes	62,604 homes	33,631 homes	6,093,435 homes / year

Key changes since last report

ICAN has produced annual nuclear weapon spending assessments since 2020. This report continues to provide these numbers and now includes more country-specific comparison information. In the report on 2024 nuclear weapons spending, ICAN included a section to examine what might be spent by nuclear weapon hosting countries. This report does not include that information. What it does include is a new section looking at the long-term plans for nuclear arsenals.

There are also some changes regarding the companies working on nuclear arsenals. Jacobs has concluded its contracts and sold the division which had previously been part of consortiums working on critical U.S. infrastructure to Amentum. Amentum is included in this report, but Jacobs is not. TechnicAtome, which previously had not been explicitly included as it is a wholly owned subsidiary of Naval Group, itself majority owned by the French government, is now included in order to demonstrate the various named key contractors working on the French arsenal. In order to enhance readability, the endnotes for each individual contract number are no longer listed while the underlying database remains cited. The individual contract link sources remain available upon request.

UN Secretary General opens 2026 NPT Review Conference | Seth Shelden, ICAN.

Methodology

Nuclear weapons spending

The estimates for country nuclear weapon spending include nuclear warhead and nuclear-capable delivery systems' operating costs and development where these expenditures are publicly available and are based on a reasonable percentage of total military spending when more detailed budget data is not available. When SIPRI Military Expenditure data is used for these calculations, we use the military expenditure calculation in local currency for the 2025 financial year.

Due to lack of reliable and consistent global information, these estimates do not include the costs to remediate the environment contaminated by nuclear weapons or to compensate victims of nuclear weapon use and testing, although these are also important markers of the added financial and human cost of nuclear weapons. A 2011 Global Zero cost estimate which added "unpaid/deferred environmental and health costs, missile defences assigned to defend against nuclear weapons, nuclear threat reduction and incident management" found that this "full" cost of global nuclear arsenal was over 50% higher than just the cost of nuclear weapons system maintenance and development.

Comparisons

The sources used for the comparisons are as follows:

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United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division. "World Population Prospects 2024." n.d. Accessed May 27, 2026. https://population.un.org/wpp/.

2025 assessed UN contribution:

United Nations Secretariat. "Assessment of Member States' Advances to the Working Capital Fund for 2025 and Contributions to the United Nations Regular Budget for 2025." January 2, 2025. https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n25/000/84/pdf/n2500084.pdf.

2025 UN budget:

"General Assembly Approves $3.72 Billion UN Budget for 2025 | UN News." December 25, 2024. https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/12/1158531.

Feeding the food insecure:

"How Much Would It Cost to End World Hunger?" World Food Program USA, December 10, 2023. https://wfpusa.org/news/how-much-would-it-cost-to-end-world-hunger/. Based on calculation of $156/ year (one meal at $0.43 x 365) per person.

Median income:

China: 'Households' Income and Consumption Expenditure in 2025'. Accessed 13 May 2026. https://www.stats.gov.cn/english/PressRelease/202601/t20260120_1962356.html.

France: European Union. '[Ilc_di04] Mean and Median Income by Household Type'. Eurostat, 5 June 2026. https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/ilc_di04/default/table?lang=en

India: ILO. 'Regional Trends at a Glance: Europe and Central Asia'. Accessed 13 May 2026. https://datawrapper.dwcdn.net/8WmqT/4/.

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"The global goal of eliminating nuclear weapons stretches back to the UN General Assembly's very first resolution in 1946. But sadly, people's memories are short. It was not so long ago that children learned to huddle under their desks in case of a missile launch. That the nuclear arms race forced us to build fallout shelters. That nuclear testing destroyed pristine environments and vulnerable communities. That humanity lived under the shadow of potential nuclear Armageddon.

Today, a state of collective amnesia has taken hold. Nuclear sabers rattle once more. Mistrust rules the day. Hard-won norms are eroding. Arms control is dying. Global military spending soared to $2.7 trillion last year — thirteen times more than all development aid globally, and equivalent to the entire Gross Domestic Product of Africa."

United Kingdom: European Union. '[Ilc_di04] Mean and Median Income by Household Type'. Eurostat, 5 June 2026. https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/ilc_di04/default/table?lang=en.

United States: ILO. 'Regional Trends at a Glance: Europe and Central Asia'. Accessed 13 May 2026. https://datawrapper.dwcdn.net/8WmqT/4/.

Planting one tree:
Oakes, Lauren E. "The Real Cost of Planting Trees." Scientific American, January 29, 2021. https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/the-real-cost-of-planting-trees/.

Clean water sanitation:
"Trillion Dollar Nukes." Future of Life Institute, n.d. Accessed May 27, 2026. https://futureoflife.org/resource/trillion-dollar-nukes/.

Measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccines (cost per vaccine in 10 dose vial): UNICEF. "Measles, Mumps and Rubella Vaccine (MMR) Price Data | UNICEF Supply Division." December 5, 2025. https://www.unicef.org/supply/documents/measles-mumps-and-rubella-vaccine-mmr-price-data. (Price for 10 dose vial divided by 10 to get price per vaccine)

Generate electricity for 50,000 homes using solar power:"Trillion Dollar Nukes." Future of Life Institute, n.d. Accessed May 27, 2026. https://futureoflife.org/resource/trillion-dollar-nukes/.

Artists Against The Bomb Exhibition in Geneva, Switzerland | ICAN, Aude Catimel.

Currency calculations

Currency exchange calculations are based on annual averages, and yearly differences are calculated on a constant currency basis - meaning that the same exchange rate was used for all calculations into USD. For the five-year comparison, the original currency spending figures for each year were converted to USD at the last stage of the calculation. Exchange rates used in this report are based on an average currency conversion rate for 2025, as provided by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service,[111] except for North Korea and Pakistan which are an average of 2025 rates as listed on moneyratestoday.com.

The exchange rates listed in this report are:

1 USD = 0.886	Euro
1 USD = 87.133	Indian Rupee (INR)
1 USD = 900	North Korean Won (KPW)
1 USD = 239.98	Pakistani Rupee (PKR)
1 USD = 7.129	Chinese Yuan
1 USD = 83.755	Russian Ruble (RUB)
1 USD = 3.451	Israel New Shekel (ILS)
1 USD = 0.759	GBP

Companies

In places where multiple companies were included, the total contract value was divided equally across the number of companies, unless there is a clear ownership division published. This is an estimate to prevent double reporting. Information about contracts was sourced from media reports, company websites, government databases, and industry analysis. Sourced materials are clearly noted, and a full bibliography of sources used is available on request.

US contracts

Department of War (DoW) contracts pulled from contract websites may not include all contracts, as only those over $7 million are reported. Additional contract information was researched using USASpending.gov, wherein searches by contractor name were performed. Media reports were also used to provide additional verification of contract awards (or changes). Subcontract listings were not included unless specifically noted. Potential award amounts were listed, as opposed to obligated amounts, to illustrate the agreed scope of the contract costs.

U.S. Department of Energy contracts with consortiums (Consolidated Nuclear Security, MSTS, etc.) do not have details about the percentage of work done or fees accrued by each of the companies comprising the joint venture, so figures were equally divided among the relevant entities.

French contracts

The annual report on the results of the French Budget (Rapport annuel de performances) provides information on major contractors but not details about the specific contract awards. To get an estimate of annual earnings and recognising that some of the work on the different French nuclear weapons are done by government agencies, the amount spent per weapon was divided equally with an estimate of 40% of costs allocated to the government. As many prime contractors are joint ventures, the details included in this report are broken down into their parent companies.

Lobby Data

All US lobbying reports were taken either from the US Senate Lobbying Disclosures site (https://lda.senate.gov/system/public/), or the US House site (https://disclosurespreview.house.gov), where each lobbyist or defence contractor files quarterly reports, and the full list of referenced reports is available upon request. Each company was examined, as well as each individual lobbying firm listing that company as a client. The combined total of these expenses was included in the report. Some companies did not report any of their own lobbying activities and only hired external lobbying firms.

UK lobbying information was obtained through the Transparency International UK data dashboard on lobbying activities: https://openaccess.transparency.org.uk/.

The French Transparency Register was the source of information on French lobby expenditures: https://www.hatvp.fr/. Estimates were required, as French lobbyists are not required to disclose per-client figures, so these figures are estimated based on the number of clients, and total reported amounts. The figures for the defence companies themselves are the median of the reported range.

Conclusion

While the government officials and companies building nuclear weapons may be planning to keep those weapons for decades to come, it is not their choice to make alone. Nuclear-armed governments are accountable to their populations - many of whom oppose nuclear weapons. Every person on this planet could be affected by nuclear weapons and has the right to demand their immediate dismantlement - and many are already doing so.

This project has documented exorbitant spending on nuclear weapons for years, outside of democratic oversight or public scrutiny. The funds that go to nuclear arms could instead have strengthened global diplomatic capacities, including through the United Nations, to generate sustained security through multilateral agreement. Instead, a new nuclear arms race is underway, demonstrating a long-term plan that if not stopped, has the potential to end life as we know it.

The 99 countries that have joined the TPNW are working to stop this madness. They are demanding progress on nuclear disarmament, articulating the ongoing and urgent threat that nuclear weapons pose to their security. Thousands of elected representatives in nuclear-armed and allied states have already signed ICAN's parliamentary pledge to call on their government to join the TPNW. Cities around the world, including capitals like Paris, France, Washington, D.C. or Berlin, Germany, have all called on their governments to join the TPNW. Citizens can encourage their representatives to demand more information from their governments about what nuclear weapons cost, and why resources have been allocated towards weapons of mass destruction instead of more pressing security needs.

As an investor, member of a financial institution or an activist, people can work to cut the nuclear weapons industry's financial ties. A group of 131 institutional investors, representing over four trillion US dollars in assets under management, have expressed support for the TPNW, including through the ICAN- Etica SGR Nuclear Weapons Free Finance Initiative. Every citizen, politician and banker can choose to further the development and maintenance of nuclear weapons or demand their dismantlement.

This project has documented exorbitant spending on nuclear weapons for years, outside of democratic oversight or public scrutiny. The funds that go to nuclear arms could instead have strengthened global diplomatic capacities, including through the United Nations, to generate sustained security through multilateral agreement.

ICAN European campaigners gather in Lyon, France | ICAN, Erlend Hauge.

About ICAN and the Authors

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) is a global campaign working to mobilise people in all countries to inspire, persuade and pressure their governments to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. ICAN comprises more than 700 partner organisations in over 110 countries. More information about ICAN can be found at www.icanw.org. Alicia Sanders-Zakre and Susi Snyder co-authored this report.

Alicia is the Head of Policy of ICAN where she directs and coordinates research on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons and general nuclear weapons policy. Previously, she was a research assistant at the Arms Control Association and at the Brookings Institution and she has published over 100 news articles, editorials and reports on nuclear weapons, including previous ICAN reports on nuclear weapons spending. She can be reached with any comments or questions at alicia@icanw.org.

Susi is the Director of Programmes of ICAN; her responsibilities include facilitating the development and execution of ICAN's key programmes, including the management of ICAN's divestment work and engagement with the financial sector. She coordinated the Don't Bank on the Bomb research and campaign while working for the Dutch organisation PAX since 2013. Susi was a Foreign Policy Interrupted/ Bard College fellow in 2020 and one of the 2016 Nuclear Free Future Award Laureates. Previously, Susi worked with PAX and before that served as the Secretary General of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom at their Geneva secretariat. She was named Hero of Las Vegas in 2001 for her work with Indigenous populations against US nuclear weapons development and nuclear waste dumping. She can be reached with any comments or questions at susi@icanw.org

About the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

On 7 July 2017 – following a decade of advocacy by ICAN and its partners – an overwhelming majority of the world's nations adopted a landmark global agreement to ban nuclear weapons, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). The TPNW prohibits nations from developing, testing, producing, manufacturing, transferring, possessing, stockpiling, using or threatening to use nuclear weapons, or allowing nuclear weapons to be stationed on their territory. It also prohibits them from assisting, encouraging or inducing anyone to engage in any of these activities. A nation that possesses nuclear weapons may join the treaty, so long as it agrees to destroy them in accordance with a legally binding, verifiable, time-bound plan. Similarly, a nation that hosts another nation's nuclear weapons on its territory may join, so long as it agrees to remove them by a specified deadline. Nations are obliged to provide assistance to victims of the use and testing of nuclear weapons and to take measures for the remediation of contaminated environments. The preamble acknowledges the harm suffered as a result of nuclear weapons, including the disproportionate impact on women and girls and on Indigenous peoples around the world. The TPNW entered into force on 22 January 2021.

Photo: ICAN | Aude Catimel.

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