



Vatnik Soup @P_Kallioniemi

Mar 29, 2026 · 7 tweets · [P_Kallioniemi/status/2038211526536896673](#)

In this 8th Debunk of the Day, we'll discuss complaints about US financing of NATO, in particular how the US allegedly pays for European defense, leading to calls for a US withdrawal from the Alliance – which would only make it easier for Putin to invade more countries.

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NATO by itself costs peanuts. In fact, the core of NATO is a principle, an agreement, that ideally costs nothing. The main cost is defense spending, which the US is eagerly doing anyway: Trump has just announced a 50% increase in military spending for his “Department of War”.

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Trump aides struggle with how to spend \$500 billion more on military

The White House budget chief was among those who internally objected to the defense secretary's plan to increase military spending by roughly 50 percent, people familiar with the matter said.

Updated February 21, 2026



Secretary of State Marco Rubio, left, and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth face reporters on Capitol Hill last month. (Sarah L. Voisin/The Washington Post)

By [Jeff Stein](#) and [Dan Lamothe](#)

Trump administration officials have struggled to figure out how to increase U.S. military spending by a whopping \$500 billion in their forthcoming budget, slowing the overall White House spending plan, four people familiar with the matter said.

President Donald Trump last month agreed to a roughly 50 percent funding boost sought by Pete Hegseth, the defense secretary, in the White House's annual budget proposal. The idea ran into internal criticism from several other officials, including White House budget chief Russell Vought, [who warned about its potential impact on the widening federal deficit](#), said the people, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to reflect internal deliberations.

Trump calls for US military spending to rise more than 50% to \$1.5tn

8 January 2025

Osmond Chia
Business reporter

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President Donald Trump has called for US defence spending to be increased to \$1.5tn (£1.1tn) in 2027 for what he called "these very troubled and dangerous times".

That would be more than 50% higher than this year's \$901bn budget, which was approved by Congress in December.

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In separate posts, the president said he would crack down on payouts to bosses and shareholders of major US defence contractors unless the firms speed up deliveries of armaments and build new manufacturing plants.

Shares in major US defence equipment makers Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman and Raytheon rose by more than 5% in extended trading in New York trade after Trump made the announcements.

Economists have previously warned that the gap between US spending and its income has reached unsustainable levels.

But Trump said Washington can "easily hit" his proposed \$1.5tn defence budget thanks to money being brought in by tariffs.

To sow division and thereby weaken the Alliance, vatniks deliberately mix up different figures, such as contributions to the NATO common budget, with defense spending. And US military spending has been huge by the sheer fact that the US is the world's largest economy.

News Article ⓘ

How Much Has NATO Cost the US Over the Past 75 Years?

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By **Alexander Fabino**

Reporter, Economy & Finance

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As the North Atlantic Treaty Organization ([NATO](#)) marks its 75th anniversary, a reflective look into the contributions of its founding member, the United States, reveals its important role, with more than 68 percent of last year's total budget coming from the U.S. alone.



<https://twitter.com/ij/web/status/2038211597647171803>

Wait, why are American taxpayers covering 2/3 of the defense costs of Europe? That doesn't make sense.

Defense from who? <https://t.co/Q4wbPdf3sr>

— Elon Musk (@elonmusk) February 19, 2025

Direct funding of NATO

US share is 15%
of that: 0.8 billion

NATO has annual budgets and programmes worth around EUR 4.6 billion in 2025 (representing 0.3% of total Allied defence spending), and up to EUR 5.3 billion in 2026, which inter alia support its permanent military command structure, enable its current operations and missions, and provide essential military infrastructure (including air and naval basing facilities, satellite communications, fuel pipelines, and command and control systems). This direct funding comes principally in two forms: common funding and joint funding. It can also come in the form of trust funds, contributions in kind, ad hoc sharing arrangements and donations.

Likewise, high European spending on welfare comes from... higher taxes, not US transfers. And European defense spending is in fact rising, due to the ongoing Russian aggression, both their genocidal invasion of Ukraine and their hybrid operations against the rest of Europe.

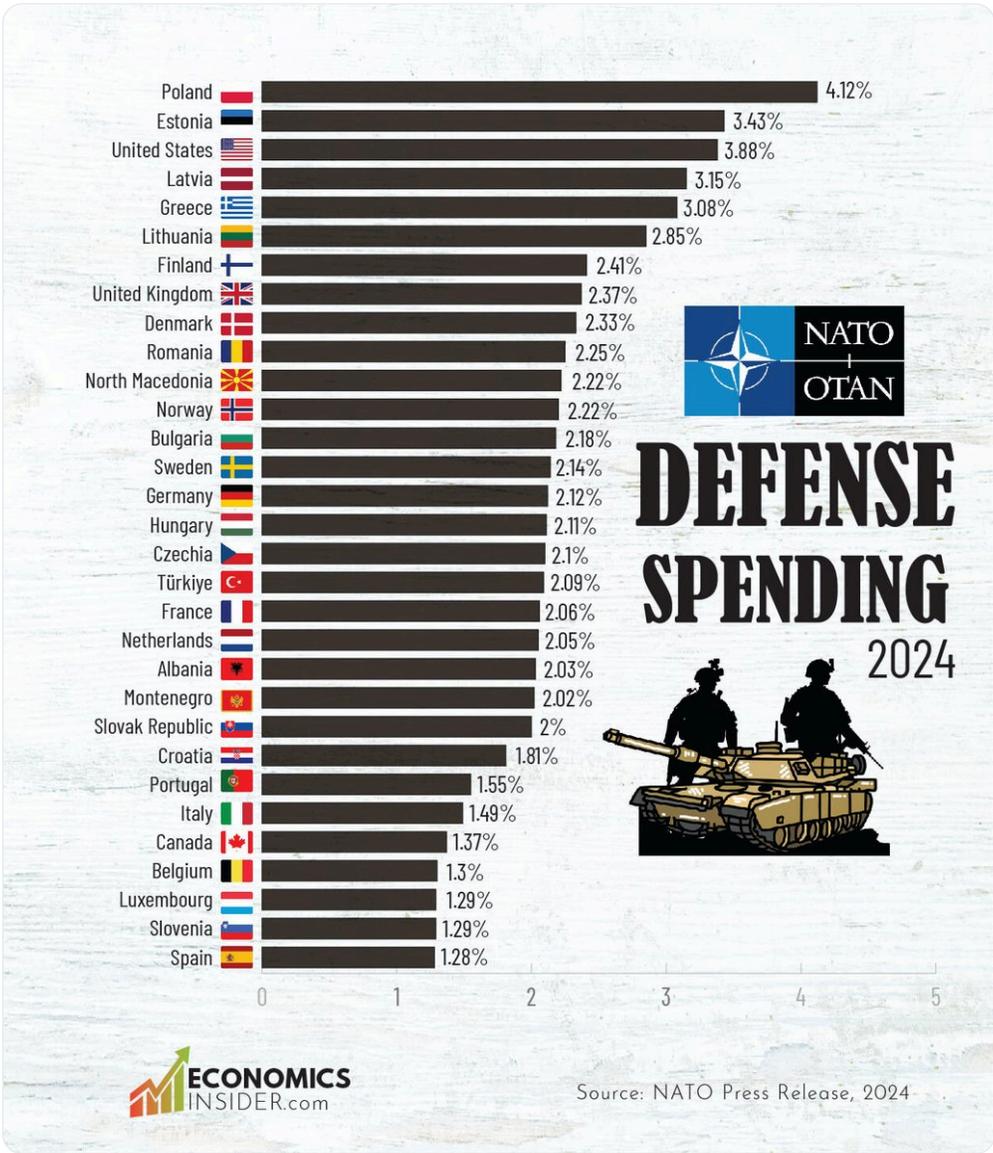
Tax-to-GDP ratios in OECD countries

Total tax revenue as % of GDP in 2023

 France	43.8%
 Denmark	43.4%
 Italy	42.8%
 Austria	42.7%
 Belgium	42.6%
 Finland	42.4%
 Norway	41.4%
 Sweden	41.4%
 Luxembourg	40.9%
 Greece	39.8%
 Netherlands	38.5%
 Germany	38.1%
 Spain	37.3%
 Slovenia	36.9%
 Iceland	35.9%
 Portugal	35.8%
 Slovakia	35.5%
 United Kingdom	35.3%
 Poland	35.1%
 Canada	34.8%
 Hungary	34.2%
 New Zealand	34.0%
 OECD average	33.9%
 Czechia	33.7%
 Estonia	33.5%
 Lithuania	32.6%
 Latvia	31.9%
 Israel	29.8%
 Korea	28.9%
 Switzerland	27.1%
 United States	25.2%
 Costa Rica	24.9%
 Türkiye	23.5%
 Colombia	22.2%
 Ireland	21.9%
 Chile	20.6%
 Mexico	17.7%

Data for Australia and Japan is not yet available for 2023.

Table: Query • Source: OECD Revenue Statistics 2024 • Created with Datawrapper



The cost of being part of NATO is nothing... unless war were declared. But the more strong members NATO has, the more unlikely it is that someone will attack us, thus preserving peace. Article 5 was invoked only once, after the 9/11 attacks – to help the US, actually.

Outrage as Trump undermines NATO role in Afghanistan war

Rana Taha with AFP, AP, Reuters
01/25/2026

President Trump suggested US allies in NATO were "off the front lines" during the war in Afghanistan. London has strongly opposed the suggestion, which comes amid tensions between the US and some NATO members.



Trump has argued NATO would not defend the US if needed — despite all of them having done so after the terror attacks of September 11, 2001

Image: Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images

US President [Donald Trump](#) has further flared the [already tense transatlantic relationship](#), suggesting in an interview on Thursday that [NATO](#) allies would not come to Washington's support if asked — despite all of them responding the only time NATO's mutual defense clause was invoked.

Speaking to Fox News from Davos, Trump said, "I'm not sure" if NATO allies would be there "if we ever needed them and that's really the ultimate test."

"We've never needed them, we have never really asked anything of them. You know, they'll say they sent some troops to [Afghanistan](#), or this or that, and they did, they stayed a little back, a little off the front lines," he added.

Article 5 of NATO's founding treaty stipulates that if one member of the alliance is attacked, all other members should come to its defense. [NATO's mission to Afghanistan](#) was the only time this Article was activated — a step that was taken by the United States.

Britain said the US president was "wrong to diminish" the role of NATO troops in Afghanistan.

The US Department of Defense says the US lost some 2,460 troops in Afghanistan. In addition, 457 British troops, over 150 Canadian troops, 90 French service personnel, 62 German soldiers and 44 Danish troops were also killed. The latter is among NATO's highest per-capita deaths.



<https://twitter.com/i/web/status/2038211620166344713>

NATO only brings extra costs if NATO countries are invaded – and then it's still less costly than the alternative. The only one to benefit from any country withdrawing from NATO is therefore... whoever is planning to invade us.

And vatniks help them by spreading such lies.

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NATO threatens Russia

like a lock threatens a thief

19 FEB 2025, 07:36

Musk wonders why American taxpayers have to cover Europe's defense costs

US President Donald Trump has repeatedly criticized NATO's activities

WASHINGTON, February 19. /TASS/. It's not clear why the American people have to pay for European security, entrepreneur Elon Musk, who heads the US Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), said.

"Wait, why are American taxpayers covering 2/3 of the defense costs of Europe? That doesn't make sense. Defense from who?" he wrote on the X social media platform.

US President Donald Trump has repeatedly criticized NATO's activities. Even before his election, Trump threatened to withdraw the United States from the North Atlantic Alliance unless European allies assumed greater financial responsibility for their own security. US Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth warned at the February 12 meeting of a Western group coordinating weapons supplies to Ukraine that Europe should ensure its security on its own.

Here's some real spending numbers: Russia spends billions every year on propaganda like this to make it cheaper and easier for them to start their wars, at a huge cost for everyone else, one way or the other. Help us fight it: please support our work.

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