Cuts Watch brief
Last updated: 15 August 2011
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**Overview: military spending**

World military spending rose by 1.3% in real terms in 2010 to a total of $1.6 trillion, about 2.6% of the world economy. This is 50% higher than in 2000: military expenditure has risen in real terms in every year since then.

The USA is responsible for nearly 43% of this spending, accounting for 4.8% of its economy. Russia, India, the UK, France and China all spend over 2% of GDP on military spending, and Saudi Arabia spends over 10% of its GDP on military spending.

In the last 10 years spending by the USA has risen fastest, by 81%, over twice as fast as the rest of the world, and its share of GDP rose from 3.1% to 4.8%. Military spending by the UK rose by 22% in real terms, and France by 3%, but military spending by other European countries including Russia, Germany and Italy fell.

In 2010 spending by the USA grew by nearly 3% over the level in 2009, and China by nearly 4%: spending by India fell by nearly 3%. Nearly all countries in Europe reduced military spending, but military spending rose by 6% in Latin America and by 5% in Africa.

The IMF does not call for a general reduction in military spending.