

NATO: Which countries are members of NATO? NATO spending by country REVEALED

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FULL TEXT

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump is in Brussels today for the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation summit. Which countries are members of NATO? What is each country spending?

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The leaders of the 29 NATO countries have gathered in Brussels today

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization is an intergovernmental military union between 29 European and North American countries.

It was founded on April 4, 1949, when the North Atlantic Treaty was signed in Washington DC.

The founding members are the USA, France, UK, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Iceland, Luxembourg, Italy, Netherlands, Norway and Portugal.

NATO was founded in order to create a system of mutual defence from an outside attack.

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Article five of the North Atlantic Treaty requires independent member states to come to the defence of any targeted member state should an attack from an external party occur.

This was invoked for the only time following the September 11 terror attack.

Which countries are members of NATO?

The 29 members of Nato are:

Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States.

Member states are required to make payments towards the military upkeep of NATO, with the combined spending of every NATO member adding up to over 70 percent of the global military spend total.

Despite this, there are only four members which currently are meeting the suggested guideline of two percent.

These countries are the United States at 3.7 percent, Greece at 2.36 percent, the UK with 2.12 percent and Estonia with 2.08 percent.

NATO countries who fall below the target have been told they should increase their spending to the guideline of 2 percent by 2024.

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Donald Trump has already ruffled feathers with his Tweet about NATO spending

US President Donald Trump made his dissatisfaction at the countries not meeting the guideline apparent since taking office.

Yesterday, he tweeted: "Getting ready to leave for Europe. First meeting - NATO. The U.S. is spending many times more than any other country in order to protect them.

"Not fair to the US taxpayer. On top of that we lose \$151 Billion on Trade with the European Union. Charge us big Tariffs !"

Tensions will be high at this year's NATO summit, as NATO Security General Jens Stoltenberg predicts: "I expect open and frank discussions about defence spending during our summit. There are disagreements."

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Only four of the 29 NATO countries are spending above the guideline on NATO defence

After meeting with President Trump in Brussels, Mr Stoltenberg has agreed the countries not meeting the guideline would have to spend more.

"All allies agree that those who are spending less than two percent have to spend more," he said.

Here is the full list of NATO spending by country:

US - 3.7 percent

Greece - 2.36 percent

UK - 2.12 percent

Estonia 2.08 percent

Poland - 1.99 percent

Romania - 1.80 percent

France - 1.79 percent

Latvia - 1.75 percent

Lithuania - 1.73 percent

Norway - 1.62 percent

Montenegro - 1.58 percent

Bulgaria - 1.53 percent

Turkey - 1.48 percent

Portugal - 1.31 percent

Canada - 1.29 percent

Croatia - 1.26 percent

Germany - 1.24 percent

Slovakia - 1.19 percent

Denmark - 1.17 percent

Netherlands - 1.15 percent

Italy - 1.12 percent

Albania - 1.10 percent

Hungary - 1.06 percent

Czech Republic - 1.05 percent

Slovenia - 0.98 percent

Spain - 0.92 percent

Belgium - 0.90 percent

Luxembourg - 0.46 percent

Credit: By Georgina Laud

DETAILS

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