

# A Closer Look at Discretionary Spending

Spending that lawmakers control through annual appropriation acts

# Discretionary Spending at a Glance

#### \$1.2 Trillion

Discretionary spending by the federal government in 2015

### \$0.6 Trillion

Spending in 2015 on national defense, which accounted for half of the discretionary total

#### 6.5%

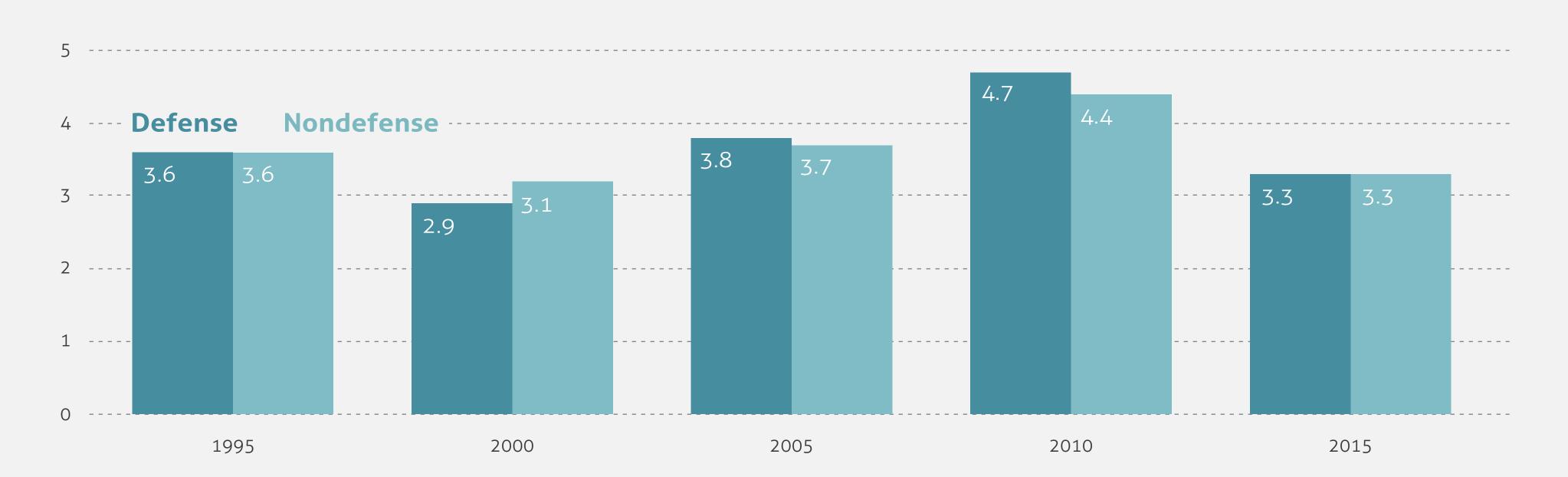
Discretionary spending as a percentage of gross domestic product in 2015

#### 7.2%

Average discretionary spending as a percentage of gross domestic product between 1995 and 2014

# Trends in Discretionary Spending

Percentage of Gross Domestic Product



### Discretionary Spending in 2015

Billions of Dollars

