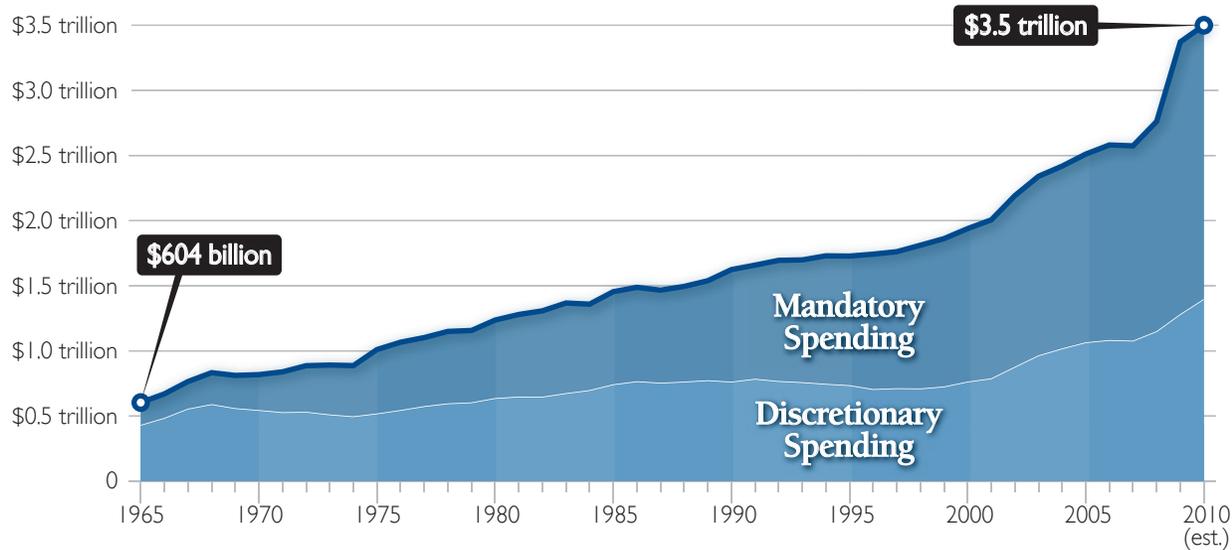


Mandatory Spending Has Increased Nearly Five Times Faster Than Discretionary Spending

Only one-third of the federal budget, discretionary spending, is subject to required annual congressional debate. The remainder, mandatory spending, grows on autopilot and has increased nearly five times faster than discretionary spending. Most of the current increase is due to stimulus and entitlement spending.

INFLATION-ADJUSTED DOLLARS (2009)



Source: White House Office of Management and Budget.