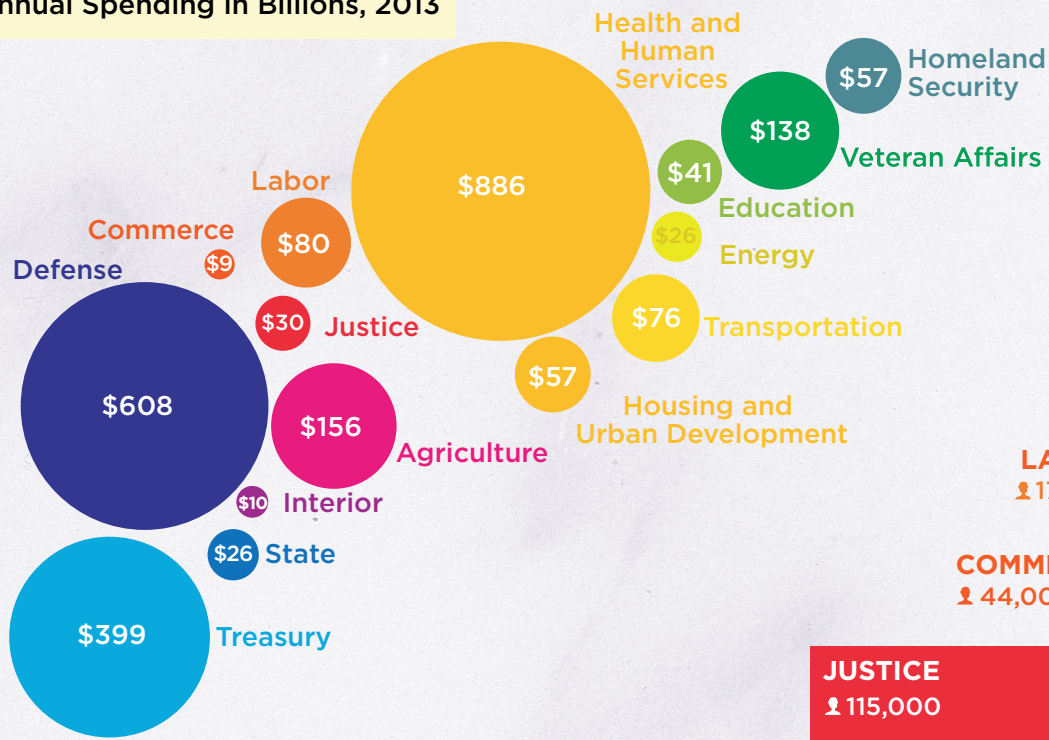


# THE BIG PICTURE: HOW THE FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY GOT SO BIG

The country started out with a minimum of agencies needed to support a nation: the departments of State (diplomacy with other nations), War (now defense, for when diplomacy fails), and Treasury (to collect taxes). As the nation grew, greater industrialization and urbanization inevitably produced new problems, which have resulted in a greater role for government—and new agencies—to regulate and maintain an increasing complex society.

Annual Spending in Billions, 2013




**LABOR**  
⤴ 17,000

**COMMERCE**  
⤴ 44,000

**JUSTICE**  
⤴ 115,000

**AGRICULTURE**  
⤴ 88,000

 **Current employees**

**INTERIOR**  
⤴ 67,000

Manages the nation's natural resources through its eight bureaus, including the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service.

**DEFENSE**  
⤴ 738,000

Manages U.S. Army, Air Force, and Navy.

**STATE**  
⤴ 24,000

Responsible for foreign policy and diplomatic relations.

**TREASURY**  
⤴ 102,000

Government's financial agent, responsible for money coming in and going out (including tax collection); advises president on fiscal policy.