

Education, health, security lead T&T's Budget priorities



The newly completed Port-of-Spain General Hospital Central Block.

PHOTO BY ABRAHAM DIAZ

TOP 3 MINISTRIES WITH THE HIGHEST ALLOCATION OF FUNDS IN THE BUDGET OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS

	EDUCATION	NATIONAL SECURITY	HEALTH
2015	\$10.126B	\$6.994B	\$5.545B
2016	\$9.763B	\$10.81B	\$6.088B
2017	\$7.222B	\$7.625B	\$6.250B
2018	\$7.2905B	\$6.2371B	\$6.0278B
2019	\$7.392B	\$6.12B	\$5.695B
2020	\$7.548B	\$6.44B	\$6.084B
2021	\$7.973B	\$5.227B	\$6.05B
2022	\$6.886B	\$5.664B	\$6.395B
2023	\$7.453B	\$5.798B	\$6.892B
2024	\$8.022B	\$6.912B	\$7.409B
2025	\$7.512B	\$6.113B	\$7.571B

Budget allocations for the ministries of education, national security and health in the last ten years.



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For the past decade, T&T has consistently prioritised education, health, and national security in its national budgets, dedicating the largest shares of expenditure to these three pillars regardless of fluctuating revenues and fiscal deficits.

In 2015, with a national budget of \$64.6 billion, education received the top allocation at \$10.126 billion (16 per cent). National Security and Health followed with \$6.994 billion (11 per cent) and \$5.545 billion (nine per cent), respectively.

While National Security briefly overtook Education in 2016 with a \$10.81 billion allocation, the trend quickly reverted.

From 2018 through the early 2020s, education consistently kept its leading position, receiving between \$7.2 billion and \$8 billion annually. This steadfast funding occurred even as the nation navigated significant revenue volatility from oil and gas prices, resulting in fiscal deficits that ranged from \$4 billion to over \$9 billion.

The Government's commitment was further tested during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Amid the economic strain of 2021, which saw an \$8.209 billion deficit, these key sectors remained a priority.

Education was allocated \$7.973 billion, Health received \$6.05 billion, and National Security was funded with \$5.227 billion.

Last year, a notable shift emerged, however. While the pattern of prioritising the three sectors continued, the 2025 budget saw Health (\$7.571 billion) narrowly surpass Education (\$7.512 billion) for the top spot for the first time in years, with National Security allocated \$6.113 billion.

Overall, the budgetary history from 2015 to 2025 illustrates an unwavering government focus. Despite economic headwinds, the sustained, significant investment in education, health, and national security underscores a focus on developing human capital, ensuring public safety, and strengthening the nation's healthcare infrastructure.