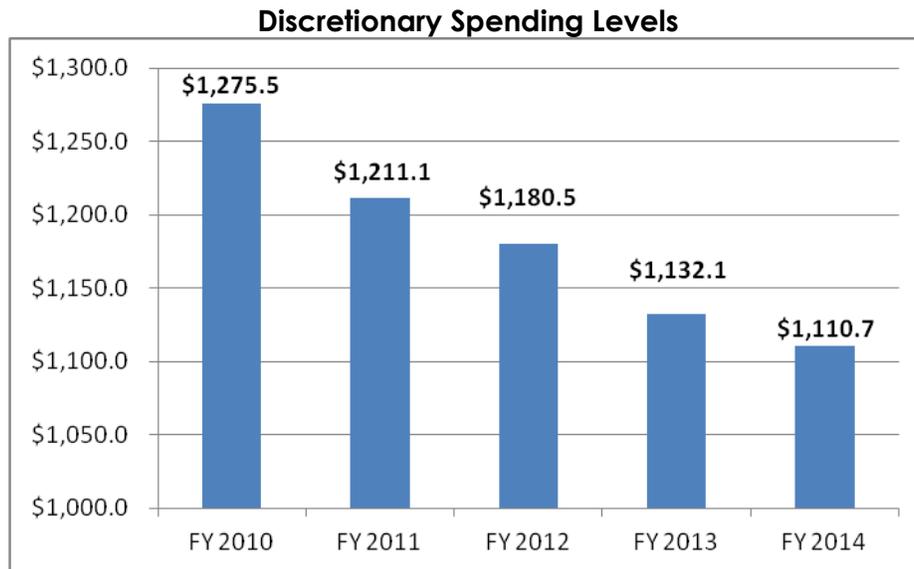


# A Strong Start

Since regaining the Majority in January 2011, House Republicans have reduced federal discretionary spending four years in a row. The rate of decline has even exceeded conservatives' original goals: the discretionary spending level in Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 was \$27 billion lower than the amount set for that year in the first Republican budget passed in 2011. Additional changes have also decreased mandatory spending, and for the first time since the Korean War, total federal spending has dropped for two consecutive years.



(Data Source: House Appropriations Committee)

## Independent coverage of Republicans' four years of discretionary spending cuts

### National Review Online:

[Yuval Levin](#): That the Democrats would accept a deal like this is a pretty striking indication of how the Republican House has changed the conversation on the spending front since 2010. Think of it this way: In their first budget after re-taking the majority—the FY 2012 Ryan budget, passed in 2011—the House Republicans wanted discretionary spending to be \$1.039 trillion in 2014 and \$1.047 trillion in 2015. These budgets were of course described by the Democrats and the political press (but I repeat myself) as some reversion to humanity's barbaric past. Yet this proposed deal with the Democrats would put discretionary spending at \$1.012 trillion in 2014 and \$1.014 trillion in 2015—in both cases below that first House Republican budget.

### Real Clear Markets:

[Jeffrey Dorfman](#): Once the Republicans gained control of the House in 2010, the rapid spending increases stopped. In fact, spending has increased by less than inflation since the Republicans became the House majority. After adjusting for inflation, spending under the Republican House actually has dropped by about 4 percent.

### Forbes:

[Ryan Ellis](#): That's not all. This discretionary spending glide path is much improved from when Republicans took the House in 2010. In the August 2010 CBO report, scorekeepers projected discretionary spending to be 7.0 percent of GDP in 2020, the last year of the report's budget window. The latest CBO report projects that actual 2020 discretionary spending will be 5.6 percent of GDP. The difference between those two numbers is huge. In today's dollars, that's a spending cut of \$242 billion in 2020 alone.