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FY2015 Budget Documents: Internet and GPO Availability

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Summary

Every year the President submits a series of volumes to Congress containing the President's proposed budget for the coming fiscal year. The President's submission is required on or after the first Monday in January but not later than the first Monday in February.

This report provides brief descriptions of the budget volumes and related documents, together with Internet addresses, Government Printing Office (GPO) stock numbers, and prices for obtaining print copies of these publications. It also explains how to find the locations of government depository libraries, which can provide both printed copies for reference use and Internet access to the online versions. This report will be updated as events warrant.

Please note that neither the Congressional Research Service (CRS) nor the Library of Congress (LOC) distributes print copies of the budget documents.

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Introduction

The President's budget for FY2015 consists of a multivolume set of materials issued by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The materials contain information on new budget proposals, summary tables, detailed financial information on individual programs and accounts, economic analysis, historical data, explanations of the budget processes, and supporting documents. Every year the President submits these materials to Congress at the start of the budget cycle for the next fiscal year. The President's submission is required on or after the first Monday in January but no later than the first Monday in February (31 U.S.C. §1105a). The FY2015 Budget materials were submitted in two releases on March 4, 2014, and March 10, 2014.[1]

Other budget-related documents include the annual *Economic Report of the President*, issued in March by the Council of Economic Advisors, and the *Budget and Economic Outlook*, an annual publication issued by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO). Details on these publications are included in this report.

The President's Budget Documents, Fiscal Year 2015

Both OMB and the Government Printing Office (GPO) provide Internet access to the main and supporting budget documents, spreadsheet files, the public budget database, and budget amendments and supplementals proposed by the President: see http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget and http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collectionGPO.action?collectionCode=BUDGET, respectively.

Information on purchasing print copies of these documents appears below, along with a brief description of the contents of each document. OMB provides additional summary table information on agency budgets and key issues in the form of fact sheets, found at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget_factsheets_key.

The Budget of the U.S. Government, Fiscal Year 2015

The annual Budget submission contains information, charts, and graphs pertaining to the President's new budget proposals and overviews of government activities by agency and topic (e.g., "National Intelligence Program" and "Creating a 21st Century Government"). Summary tables (pp. 161-208) contain projections of budget baselines, receipts, and outlays; deficits; debt; discretionary spending; and economic projections from FY2013 to FY2024. Federal programs that have been recommended by the Administration for termination or reduction are detailed in the document entitled *Cuts, Consolidations, and Savings*, available at http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/budget/fy2015/assets/ccs.pdf.

(GPO stock number 041-001-00705-9, 218 pages)

[1] For additional information on the timing of the Presidential Budget submission see CRS Report R43163, *The President's Budget: Overview of Structure and Timing of Submission to Congress*, by Michelle D. Christensen. Transcripts of a White House press conference noting a delay in the FY2015 Budget release are available at http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/02/04/press-briefing-press-secretary-jay-carney-242014.

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The Budget of the U.S. Government, Fiscal Year 2015 (CD-ROM)

The *FY2015 Budget* CD-ROM contains the full content of the budget documents and most supporting documents for the budget in PDF files. Some data files are also included in spreadsheet format. The CD-ROM provides software to search, display, and print.

(GPO stock number 041-001-00703-2, $28)

Analytical Perspectives, Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2015

This volume includes economic, accounting, and crosscutting analyses of government programs and activities designed to highlight specific subject areas and places the budget in perspective. It also includes information on federal receipts and collections, analysis of federal spending, detailed information on federal borrowing and debt, baseline or current service estimates, and other technical presentations. Chapter 15, "Aid to State and Local Governments," contains a series of tables (pp. 243-290) that provide selected grant and other federal assistance data by state.

The *FY2015 Analytical Perspectives* volume contains supplemental materials including tables showing the budget by agency and account and by function, sub-function, and program.[2] The supplemental materials also include data on direct and guaranteed loan transactions of the federal government. The supplemental material is available on a CD-ROM, in the printed document, or on the GPO website at http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collectionGPO.action?collectionCode=BUDGET.

(GPO stock number 041-001-00706-7, $55, 430 pages)

Appendix, Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2015

Designed primarily for the use of the House and Senate appropriations committees, the *FY2015 Appendix* contains more detailed financial information on individual programs and appropriations accounts than any of the other budget documents submitted by the President. For each agency it provides the following:

- Proposed text of the appropriation language;
- Budget schedules for each account;
- New legislative proposals;
- Explanations of the work to be performed and the funds needed; and
- Proposed general provisions applicable to the appropriations of entire agencies or groups of agencies.

[2] The President's FY2015 budget includes a "Glossary of Budget Terms" within *Analytical Perspectives*. See pp. 107-110.

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Typically, these elements are distinguished by varying font, so that proposed appropriations (italics) and prior year funding (brackets) can be compared at a glance:

> For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), [$115,437,000] *$121,457,000*; of which not to exceed $300,000 may be used for certain confidential operational expenses, including the payment of informants, to be expended at the direction of the Inspector General. (*Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2014*.)[3]

(GPO stock number 041-001-00707-5, $78, 1,438 pages)

Historical Tables, Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2015

These detailed tables cover budget deficit/surplus, outlays, receipts, discretionary and mandatory spending, federal debt, federal employment, payments for individuals, spending by function and agency, and grants to states and local governments. This volume provides some data from 1940 (or earlier) and estimates through FY2019. Historical data are adjusted by OMB to be consistent with data in the FY2015 Budget and to provide comparability over time.

(GPO stock number 041-001-00704-1, $50, 372 pages)

Mid-Session Review

OMB issues revised estimates of budget receipts, outlays and budget authority in the *Mid-Session Review*. This annual document is typically released in the summer following the President's Budget submission. The FY2015 document is not currently available, but should be available in the summer on the OMB website.

(GPO stock number and ordering information not yet available)

Economic Report of the President, 2014

This year's annual *Economic Report of the President*, transmitted to Congress in March 2014, presents the Administration's report on its economic policies and contains the annual report of the Council of Economic Advisors. The report is available from the Council of Economic Advisors website at http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/full_2014_economic_report_of_the_president.pdf. It presents an overview of the nation's economic progress using text and extensive data appendices. Appendix B of the *Economic Report* includes current and historical statistics on major aspects of economic activity (pp. 359-396). Statistics include national income and expenditures from 1965 to 2013, government finance, population, employment, wages, productivity, prices, debt measures, corporate finance, and international statistics.

[3] Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General, from p. 509 of the *FY2015 Budget Appendix*.

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The report is also available from the GPO website at http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=ERP. A searchable database of the *Economic Report of the President* for each year from 1995 to the present is also available at this site. Spreadsheet files from Appendix B of the report can be accessed at http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=ERP&browsePath=2014&isCollapsed=false&leafLevelBrowse=false&isDocumentResults=true&ycord=0.

(GPO stock number 040-000-00791-1, $47, 396 pages)

Agency Budget Justifications

After the President's budget documents are released in February, Congress begins to hold hearings on agency budget requests. Agencies must submit their budget justifications to the appropriations subcommittees holding the hearings. Budget justifications generally contain more detailed descriptions of an agency's proposals and programs than are provided in the President's budget documents. As mandated by OMB in Section 22.6 of the 2006 edition of *Circular A-11* and subsequent editions, beginning with the FY2008 budget cycle, executive agencies are required to post their congressional budget justification materials on the Internet within two weeks of transmittal to Congress.[4]

Typically, administration budget requests appear along with actual numbers for the immediate previous fiscal year. The content and structure of these submissions may vary and some materials may not correspond exactly with the data and information provided to Congress in other fiscal years.[5] A short overview on the agency budget justification request can be found within CRS Report RS20268, *Agency Justification of the President's Budget*, by Michelle D. Christensen.

FY2015 Budget justification documents for each executive agency may be accessed through CRS Report R43470, *Selected Agency Budget Justifications for FY2015*, by Justin Murray.

Additional Comparative Budget Data by Agency and Account

Public Budget Database, Fiscal Year 2015

OMB maintains a publicly accessible database in Excel and comma delimited format called the *Public Budget Database*. This resource provides account level detail data on budget authority for

[4] Each summer, OMB issues instructions to all federal executive departments and agencies on submitting budget data and materials for inclusion in the President's budget documents. These instructions are in a document entitled *Circular No. A-11: Preparation, Submission, and Execution of the Budget*. Circular A-11 is available on the White House website at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars_a11_current_year_a11_toc. See Section 22.6.

[5] Additional data may also be available directly from the agencies themselves via listed congressional liaison or governmental affairs contacts in CRS Report 98-446, *Congressional Liaison Offices of Selected Federal Agencies*, by Audrey Celeste Crane-Hirsch. A listing of agencies included within each of the 12 regular appropriations bills is available in CRS Report R40858, *Locate an Agency or Program Within Appropriations Bills*, by Justin Murray.

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the years FY1976 to FY2019,[6] and budget outlays and budget receipts for FY1962 to FY2019. This resource is available on the GPO FY2015 Budget website at http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collectionGPO.action?collectionCode=BUDGET. A user's guide in PDF format is also available on this site by clicking on the expandable tab for the document.

Congressional Budget Office

Budget and Economic Outlook: FY2014-FY2024

CBO's baseline budget projections span 11 fiscal years in its reports. The *Budget and Economic Outlook* includes separate chapters on the economic outlook, outlays, and receipts. The data and projections cover FY2014 through FY2024. This document, released in February 2014, also includes discussions on current economic conditions. The report is available on the CBO website at http://www.cbo.gov/publication/45010. The website also includes underlying data, supplemental material, and baseline projections. CBO issues an annual summer update of the Budget and Economic Outlook with adjusted projections. This document and other budget and economic information, including CBO's monthly budget review are available at http://www.cbo.gov/topics/budget.

(GPO stock number 052-070-07671-2, $32, 175 pages)

Analysis of the President's FY2015 Budget

This report provides an analysis of the President's budgetary proposals and CBO's updated baseline budget projections. The FY2015 report is available at http://www.cbo.gov/publication/45230.

(GPO ordering information is currently not available.)

GPO Ordering Information

Printed copies of budget documents are available for purchase from GPO by the following methods.

- Online at the GPO website, at http://bookstore.gpo.gov/catalog/budget-economy/federal-budgets-year
- By telephone, (866) 512-1800 or (202) 512-0132
- By fax, (202) 512-2104
- By mail (check or money order), addressed to U.S. Government Printing Office, P.O. Box 979050, St. Louis, MO 63197-9000

[6] Budget authority data includes actual budget authority through FY2013 and estimates for FY2014 through FY2019.

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Depository Libraries

Budget documents are often available for reference use at large public or university libraries, or any library participating in the Federal Library Depository Program. Addresses of the depository libraries can be obtained through a local library; from GPO's Customer Services department, (866) 512-1800 or (202) 512-1800; or online from the GPO website at http://catalog.gpo.gov/fdlpdir/FDLPdir.jsp.

Websites on Budget Legislation

Congressional Staff

The Congressional Research Service (CRS) has developed (for Members of Congress and their staffs) two web pages covering the budget and appropriations process.

- **Appropriations and Budget Analysis.** For CRS products on appropriations status, jurisdictions, processes, current appropriations bills, and other budget-related resources, Members and congressional staff can access the CRS website at http://www.crs.gov/Pages/clis.aspx?cliid=73. The CRS Appropriations Status Table, a table which tracks the progress of major actions related to appropriations bills, is available at http://www.crs.gov/Pages/AppropriationsStatusTable.aspx.
- **CRS Products on the Federal Budget Process.** Explanations of budget concepts, terminology, congressional and executive budget process, congressional budget timetable, budget resolutions and reconciliation, the authorization and appropriations process, entitlements and discretionary spending, the Budget Enforcement Act, sequestration, and surpluses/deficits are available from the CRS website at http://www.crs.gov/Analysis/CongOps.aspx.

Public Use

The public may access THOMAS, the legislative website produced by the Library of Congress at http://thomas.loc.gov/home/thomas.php. The site includes a Status of Appropriations Legislation for FY2014 with links to bills, committee and conference reports, and votes for the 12 regular, and any supplemental, appropriations bills. The THOMAS Status Table of Appropriations is available at http://thomas.loc.gov/home/approp/app14.html.

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