

Bases of Tables

Statistical sources

The figures in this report are shown on the basis of: (a) The Daily Statement of the United States Treasury; (b) the Monthly Treasury Statement of Receipts and Outlays of the United States Government; (c) the Monthly Statement of the Public Debt of the United States; (d) warrants issued; (e) public debt accounts; and (f) administrative accounts and reports. Where no basis is indicated, the figures are derived from administrative reports prepared according to various specifications. Where more than one basis is used in a single table covering a period of years, the date of the change in basis is stated. The term "security," wherever used in the various tables, means any obligation issued pursuant to law for valuable consideration and includes bonds, notes, certificates of indebtedness, debentures, and other evidences of indebtedness.

Following are general explanations of the various bases. For background on the first two bases (the daily and monthly statements) see exhibits 69, 70, and 71 in the 1954 Annual Report; and for the fourth (warrants issued) see 1962 Annual Report, p. 502.

Daily Statement of the United States Treasury

The Daily Statement of the United States Treasury traditionally has been the basis for several types of financial information. From 1916 to 1974, it was the basis for much of the public debt data and all of the figures on the account of the U.S. Treasury. The fiscal years 1916-52 daily statements were the basis for receipts, expenditures, and the resulting surplus or deficit shown in this report.

The basis for the daily statement from 1916 to 1974 was bank transcripts (summarizing charges for checks paid and credits for deposits in banks) cleared and processed through the accounts of the Department of the Treasury in Washington, D.C. In later years, telegraphic reports were used to provide more timely data for certain major types of information pending receipt by the Treasury of the bank transcripts. The only change in procedure occurred in fiscal years 1946-52 when expenditures for agencies using the facilities of the Department of the Treasury's Division of Disbursement were shown on the basis of reports of checks issued. Total expenditures, however, as well as expenditures for the military departments and other agencies using their own disbursing facilities, remained on the basis of bank transcripts cleared.

During the time it served as the basis for the budget results, the daily statement covered certain transactions processed through commercial bank accounts held in the name of Government officers other than the Treasurer of the United States, and included intragovernmental and other noncash transactions. The status of the account of the U.S. Treasury and the summarization of various transactions representing deposits and withdrawals in that account, excluding noncash transactions (with minor exceptions) and transactions involving cash held outside the account of the U.S. Treasury, were shown, with only a limited number of deposit and withdrawal classifications. The data presented then did not and even today does not purport to represent budget results. Effective July 1, 1974, the Daily Statement of the United States Treasury began publication in a new format. This new format is derived from the system used internally in the Treasury for many years in following actual cash flows and estimating future cash movements and borrowing requirements. It is based on information reported daily by wire and telephone from the Federal Reserve System and internal Treasury sources. The most important advantage of this modification is the more timely and accurate reporting of data relating to Treasury cash and debt operations.

Monthly Treasury Statement of Receipts and Outlays of the United States Government

Beginning with the figures for the fiscal year 1953, this monthly statement replaced the daily statement as the primary source of budget results (surplus or deficit) and other receipt and expenditure data classified by type of account.

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This statement shows all receipts and expenditures of the Government including those made from cash accounts held outside the account of the U.S. Treasury. The information in the monthly statement is based on the central accounts relating to cash operations (see "Description of Accounts Relating to Cash Operations," below).

Monthly Statement of the Public Debt of the United States

The Monthly Statement of the Public Debt of the United States became a separate publication in fiscal 1975 beginning with the July 31, 1974, statement. This statement provides detail and summary public debt information which had been furnished in the monthend Daily Statements of the United States Treasury in previous fiscal years.

Warrants issued

Receipt and expenditure data shown for fiscal years before 1916 were taken from reports based on warrants issued.

For receipts, covering warrants were prepared from certificates of deposit mailed to the Treasury, principally by Government depositories, showing deposits received. The figures thus compiled were on a warrants-issued basis. Since these certificates did not reach the Treasury simultaneously, all receipts for a fiscal year could not be covered into the Treasury by warrant of the Secretary immediately upon the close of the fiscal year. Therefore, certain certificates of deposit representing amounts deposited during one fiscal year were reported as the next year's receipts.

Reports of expenditures were based on the amount of accountable and settlement warrants issued and charged to appropriation accounts. Since accountable warrants covered advances to disbursing officers, rather than actual payments, reported expenditures necessarily included the changes in balances of funds remaining unexpended to the credit of disbursing officers at the close of the fiscal year.

Public debt accounts

The figures reported on this basis represent transactions which have been audited by the Bureau of the Public Debt. It is sometimes several months after a financing operation before all the transactions have been reported and audited. Therefore, the public debt figures on this basis differ from those reported in the Monthly Statement of the Public Debt of the United States since the latter consist of transactions cleared through the account of the U.S. Treasury during the reporting period. A reconciliation of figures on the two bases is given in table 26.

Administrative accounts and reports

Certain tables in this report are developed from the accounts, records, and reports of the administrative agencies concerned, which may be on various bases. These tables include internal revenue and customs statistics, foreign currency transactions in the accounts of the Secretary of the Treasury; and financial statements of Government corporations and other business-type activities.

Description of Accounts Relating to Cash Operations

The classes of accounts maintained in connection with the cash operations of the Federal Government, exclusive of public debt operations, include: (1) The accounts of fiscal officers or agents, collectively, who receive money for deposit in the U.S. Treasury or for other authorized disposition or who make disbursements by drawing checks on the U.S. Treasury or by effecting payments in some other manner; (2) the accounts of administrative agencies which classify receipt and expenditure (disbursement) transactions according to the individual receipt, appropriation, or fund account; and (3) the accounts of the U.S. Treasury in the Bureau of Government Financial Operations which office is responsible for the receipt and custody of money deposited by fiscal officers or agents and for the payment of checks drawn on the U.S. Treasury. The Bureau of the Public Debt is responsible for the payment of public debt securities redeemed. A set of central accounts is maintained in the Treasury for the purpose of consolidating financial data reported periodically from the above sources in order to present the results of cash operations in central financial reports on a unified basis for the Government as a whole, and as a means of internal control.

The central accounts relating to cash operations disclose monthly and fiscal year information on: (1) The Government's receipts by principal sources, and its expenditures according to the different appropriations and other funds involved; and (2) the cash transactions, classified by types, together with certain directly related assets and liabilities which underlie such receipts and expenditures. The accounting for receipts is substantially on the basis of collections (i.e., as of the time cash receipts are placed under accounting control), and that for expenditures is substantially on the basis of checks issued (and cash payments made) except that since June 1955 interest on the public debt has been on an accrual basis. The structure of the accounts provides for a reconciliation, on a firm accounting basis, between the published reports of receipts and expenditures for the Government as a whole and changes in the U.S. Treasury's cash balance by means of such factors as checks outstanding, deposits in transit, and cash held outside the Treasury. Within the central accounts, receipt and expenditure accounts are classified as described in the following paragraphs.

Budget accounts

General fund receipt accounts.—General fund receipt accounts are credited with all receipts which are not earmarked by law for a specific purpose. General fund receipts consist principally of internal revenue collections, which include income taxes, excise taxes, estate, gift, and employment taxes. The remainder consist of customs duties and a large number of miscellaneous receipts, including fees for permits and licenses, fines, penalties, and forfeitures; interest and dividends; rentals; royalties; and sale of Government property.

Special fund receipt accounts.—Special fund receipt accounts are credited with receipts from specific sources which are earmarked by law for a specific purpose, but which are not generated from a cycle of operations. The Congress may appropriate these receipts on an annual basis or for an indefinite period of time. Examples of special fund receipts are those arising from rents and royalties under the Mineral Leasing Act, the revenue from visitors to Yellowstone National Park, the proceeds of the sale of certain timber and reserve lands, and other receipts authorized to be credited to the reclamation fund.

General fund expenditure accounts.—General fund expenditure accounts are established to record amounts appropriated by the Congress to be expended for the general support of the Government. Such accounts are classified according to the limitations that are established by the Congress with respect to the period of availability for obligation of the appropriation, as 1-year, multiple-year, or no-year (without a time limit), and with respect to the agency authorized to enter into obligations and approve expenditures.

Special fund expenditure accounts.—Special fund expenditure accounts are established to record appropriated amounts of special fund receipts to be expended for special programs in accordance with specific provisions of law. These accounts are generally available without time limit, but may also be subject to time limitations as in the case of general fund accounts.

Revolving fund accounts.—These are funds authorized by specific provisions of law to finance a continuing cycle of operations in which expenditures generate receipts, and the receipts are available for expenditure without further action by Congress. They are classified as: (a) Public enterprise funds where receipts come primarily from sources outside the Government and (b) intragovernmental funds where receipts come primarily from other appropriations or funds. Treasury reports generally show the net effect of operations (excess of disbursements or collections and reimbursements for the period) on the budget surplus or deficit. These accounts are usually designated as "no-year" accounts; i.e., they are without limitation as to period of availability for expenditures. Examples of public enterprise revolving funds are the Export-Import Bank of the United States and the Commodity Credit Corporation. Examples of intragovernmental revolving funds are the general supply fund, administered by the General Services Administration, and the Government Printing Office revolving fund.

Consolidated working fund accounts.—These are accounts established to receive (and subsequently disburse) advance payments from other agencies or bureaus pursuant to section 601 of the Economy Act (31 U.S.C. 686) or other provisions of law. Consolidated working funds may be credited with advances from more than one appropriation for the procurement of goods or services to be furnished by the performing agency with the use of its own facilities within the same fiscal year. Expenditures recorded in these accounts are stated net

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of advances credited and are classified under the agencies administering the accounts. The accounts are subject to the fiscal year limitations of the appropriations or funds from which advanced.

Management fund accounts.—These are working fund accounts authorized by law to facilitate accounting for and administration of intragovernmental activities (other than a continuing cycle of operations) which are financed by two or more appropriations. This classification is also often applied to the consolidated working funds for interagency activities described above.

Trust fund accounts.—These are accounts maintained to record the receipt and expenditure of moneys held in trust by the Government for use in carrying out specific purposes or programs in accordance with the terms of a trust agreement or statute. The receipts of many trust funds, especially the major ones, not needed for current payments are invested in public debt and Government agency securities. Generally, trust fund accounts consist of separate receipt and expenditure accounts, but when the trust corpus is established to perform a business-type operation, the fund entity is called a "trust revolving fund" and a combined receipt and expenditure account is used. Some of the major trust accounts are the Federal old-age and survivors insurance trust fund, unemployment trust fund, civil service retirement and disability fund, the national service life insurance fund, and the highway trust fund.

Transfer appropriation accounts.—These accounts are established to receive (and subsequently disburse) allocations which are treated as nonexpenditure transactions at the time the allocation is made including certain transfers under section 601 of the Economy Act (31 U.S.C. 686), and similar provisions of law.

Other accounts

Deposit fund accounts.—Deposit funds are combined receipt and expenditure accounts established to account for receipts that are either: (a) Held in suspense temporarily and later refunded or paid into some other fund of the Government upon administrative or legal determination as to the proper disposition thereof, or (b) held by the Government as banker or agent for others and paid out at the direction of the depositor. Such funds are not available for paying salaries, expenses, grants, or other expenditures of the Government.

Historical Data

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Historical Data

Historical data consistent with the unified budget have been compiled for the applicable tables back through fiscal 1954.

Pursuant to Public Law 93-344, the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, the fiscal year is changed, effective with fiscal year 1977, from July 1–June 30 to October 1–September 30. The time gap necessary to establish this new period occurred from July 1, 1976, through September 30, 1976, and is referred to as the “transition quarter.” Historical data has been appropriately modified to provide the reader with consistency and comparability of data presented.

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control), and that for outlays is substantially on the basis of checks issued (and cash payments made) with the exception of interest on the public debt. Since June 1975, interest on all issues of public debt was on an accrual basis. Effective September 1976, interest on special issues was converted to a cash basis; interest on public issues remained on an accrual basis. The structure of the accounts provides for a reconciliation, on a firm accounting basis, between the published reports of receipts and outlays for the Government as a whole and changes in the U.S. Treasury's cash balance by means of such factors as checks outstanding, deposits in transit, and cash held outside the Treasury. Within the central accounts, receipt and outlay accounts are classified as described in the following paragraphs.

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programs in accordance with the terms of a trust agreement or statute. The receipts of many trust funds, especially the major ones, not needed for current payments are invested in public debt and Government agency securities. Generally, trust fund accounts consist of separate receipt and outlay accounts, but when the trust corpus is established to perform a business-type operation, the fund entity is called a "trust revolving fund" and a combined receipt and outlay account is used. Some of the major trust accounts are the Federal old-age and survivors insurance trust fund, unemployment trust fund, civil service retirement and disability fund, the national service life insurance fund, and the highway trust fund.

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Other accounts

Deposit fund accounts.—Deposit funds are combined receipt and outlay accounts established to account for receipts that are either: (a) Held in suspense temporarily and later refunded or paid into some other fund of the Government upon administrative or legal determination as to the proper disposition thereof, or (b) held by the Government as banker or agent for others and paid out at the direction of the depositor. Such funds are not available for paying salaries, expenses, grants, or other outlays of the Government.

Historical Data

Historical data consistent with the unified budget have been compiled for the applicable tables back through fiscal 1954.

Pursuant to Public Law 93-344, the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, the fiscal year changed, effective with fiscal year 1977, from July 1-June 30 to October 1-September 30. The time gap necessary to establish this new period occurred from July 1, 1976, through September 30, 1976, and is referred to as the "transition quarter." Historical data has been appropriately modified to provide the reader with consistency and comparability of data presented.

Bases of Tables

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The figures in this report are shown on the basis of: (a) The Daily Treasury Statement; (b) the Monthly Treasury Statement of Receipts and Outlays of the United States Government; (c) the Monthly Statement of the Public Debt of the United States; (d) warrants issued; (e) public debt accounts; and (f) administrative accounts and reports. Where no basis is indicated, the figures are derived from administrative reports prepared according to various specifications. Where more than one basis is used in a single table covering a period of years, the date of the change in basis is stated. The term "security," wherever used in the various tables, means any obligation issued pursuant to law for valuable consideration and includes bonds, notes, certificates of indebtedness, debentures, and other evidences of indebtedness.

Following are general explanations of the various bases. For background on the first two bases (the daily and monthly statements) see exhibits 69, 70, and 71 in the 1954 Annual Report; and for the fourth (warrants issued) see 1962 Annual Report, p. 502.

Daily Treasury Statement

The Daily Treasury Statement traditionally has been the basis for several types of financial information. From 1916 to 1974, it was the basis for much of the public debt data and all of the figures on the account of the U.S. Treasury. The fiscal years 1916-52 daily statements were the basis for the receipts, outlays, and the resulting surplus or deficit shown in this report.

The basis for the daily statement from 1916 to 1974 was bank transcripts (summarizing charges for checks paid and credits for deposits in banks) cleared and processed through the accounts of the Department of the Treasury in Washington, D.C. In later years, telegraphic reports were used to provide more timely data for certain major types of information pending receipt by the Treasury of the bank transcripts. The only change in procedure occurred in fiscal years 1946-52 when outlays for agencies using the facilities of the Department of the Treasury's Division of Disbursement were shown on the basis of reports of checks issued. Total outlays, however, as well as outlays for the military departments and other agencies using their own disbursing facilities, remained on the basis of bank transcripts cleared.

During the time it served as the basis for the budget results, the daily statement covered certain transactions processed through commercial bank accounts held in the name of Government officers other than the Treasurer of the United States, and included intragovernmental and other noncash transactions. The status of the account of the U.S. Treasury and the summarization of various transactions representing deposits and withdrawals in that account, excluding noncash transactions (with minor exceptions) and transactions involving cash held outside the account of the U.S. Treasury, were shown, with only a limited number of deposit and withdrawal classifications. The data presented then did not and even today does not purport to represent budget results. Effective July 1, 1974, the Daily Treasury Statement began publication in a new format derived from the system used internally in the Treasury for many years in following actual cash flows and estimating future cash movements and borrowing requirements. It is based on information reported daily by wire and telephone from the Federal Reserve System and internal Treasury sources. The most important advantage of this modification is the more timely and accurate reporting of data relating to Treasury cash and debt operations.

Monthly Treasury Statement of Receipts and Outlays of the United States Government

Beginning with the figures for the fiscal year 1953, this monthly statement replaced the daily statement as the primary source of budget results (surplus or deficit) and other receipt and outlay data classified by type of account. This statement shows all receipts and outlays of the Government including those made from cash accounts held outside the account of the U.S.

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Treasury. The information in the monthly statement is based on the central accounts relating to cash operations (see "Description of Accounts Relating to Cash Operations," below).

Monthly Statement of the Public Debt of the United States

The Monthly Statement of the Public Debt of the United States became a separate publication in fiscal 1975 beginning with the July 31, 1974, statement. This statement provides detail and summary public debt information which had been furnished in the monthend Daily Treasury Statements in previous fiscal years.

Warrants issued

Receipt and outlay data shown for fiscal years before 1916 were taken from reports based on warrants issued.

For receipts, covering warrants were prepared from certificates of deposit mailed to the Treasury, principally by Government depositories, showing deposits received. The figures thus compiled were on a warrants-issued basis. Since these certificates did not reach the Treasury simultaneously, all receipts for a fiscal year could not be covered into the Treasury by warrant of the Secretary immediately upon the close of the fiscal year. Therefore, certain certificates of deposit representing amounts deposited during one fiscal year were reported as the next year's receipts.

Reports of outlays were based on the amount of accountable and settlement warrants issued and charged to appropriation accounts. Since accountable warrants covered advances to disbursing officers, rather than actual payments, reported outlays necessarily included the changes in balances of funds remaining unexpended to the credit of disbursing officers at the close of the fiscal year.

Public debt accounts

The figures reported on this basis represent transactions which have been audited by the Bureau of the Public Debt. It is sometimes several months after a financing operation before all the transactions have been reported and audited. Therefore, the public debt figures on this basis differ from those reported in the Monthly Statement of the Public Debt of the United States since the latter consist of transactions cleared through the account of the U.S. Treasury during the reporting period. A reconciliation of figures on the two bases is given in table 26.

Administrative accounts and reports

Certain tables in this report are developed from the accounts, records, and reports of the administrative agencies concerned, which may be on various bases. These tables include internal revenue and customs statistics, foreign currency transactions in the accounts of the Secretary of the Treasury, and financial statements of Government corporations and other business-type activities.

Description of Accounts Relating to Cash Operations

The classes of accounts maintained in connection with the cash operations of the Federal Government, exclusive of public debt operations, include: (1) The accounts of fiscal officers or agents, collectively, who receive money for deposit in the U.S. Treasury or for other authorized disposition or who make disbursements by drawing checks on the U.S. Treasury or by effecting payments in some other manner; (2) the accounts of administrative agencies which classify receipt and outlay (disbursement) transactions according to the individual receipt, appropriation or fund account; and (3) the accounts of the U.S. Treasury in the Bureau of Government Financial Operations (which is responsible for the receipt and custody of money deposited by fiscal officers or agents and for the payment of checks drawn on the U.S. Treasury). The Bureau of the Public Debt is responsible for the payment of public debt securities redeemed. A set of central accounts is maintained in the Treasury for the purpose of consolidating financial data reported periodically from the above sources in order to present the results of cash operations in central financial reports on a unified basis for the Government as a whole, and as a means of internal control.

The central accounts relating to cash operations disclose monthly and fiscal year information on: (1) The Government's receipts by principal sources, and its outlays according to the different appropriations and other funds involved; and (2) the cash transactions, classified by types together with certain directly related assets and liabilities which underlie such receipts and outlays. The accounting for receipts is substantially on the basis of collections (i.e., as of the time cash receipts are placed under accounting control), and that for outlays is substantially on the basis of checks issued (and cash payments made) with the exception of interest on the public debt. Since June 1975, interest on all issues of public debt was on an accrual basis. Effective September 1976, interest on special issues was converted to a cash basis; interest on public issues remained on an accrual basis. The structure of the accounts provides for a reconciliation, on a firm accounting basis, between the published reports of receipts and outlays for the Government as a whole and

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changes in the U.S. Treasury's cash balance by means of such factors as checks outstanding, deposits in transit, and cash held outside the Treasury. Within the central accounts, receipt and outlay accounts are classified as described in the following paragraphs.

Budget accounts

General fund receipt accounts.—General fund receipt accounts are credited with all receipts which are not earmarked by law for a specific purpose. General fund receipts consist principally of internal revenue collections, which include income taxes, excise taxes, estate, gift, and employment taxes. The remainder consist of customs duties and a large number of miscellaneous receipts, including fees for permits and licenses, fines, penalties, and forfeitures; interest and dividends; rentals; royalties; and sale of Government property.

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