
INTRODUCTION

1. INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE OF THIS VOLUME

The *Analytical Perspectives* volume presents analyses that highlight specific subject areas or provide other significant data that place the Budget in context. This volume presents crosscutting analyses of Government programs and activities from several perspectives.

Presidential budgets have included separate analytical presentations of this kind for many years. The 1947 Budget and subsequent budgets included a separate section entitled “Special Analyses and Tables” that covered four and sometimes more topics. For the 1952 Budget, the section was expanded to 10 analyses, including many subjects still covered today, such as receipts, investment, credit programs, and aid to State and local governments. With the 1967 Budget this material became a separate volume entitled “Special Analyses,” and included 13 chapters. The material has remained a separate volume since then, with the exception of the *Budgets* for 1991–1994, when all of the budget material was included in one large volume. Beginning with the 1995 Budget, the volume has been named *Analytical Perspectives*.

As in previous years, several large tables are included at www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2012/spec.html and on the *Analytical Perspectives* CD-ROM enclosed with the printed version of this volume. A list of these items is in the Table of Contents.

Overview of the Chapters

Introduction

Introduction. This chapter briefly discusses each of the subsequent chapters presented in this year’s *Analytical Perspectives* volume.

Economic and Budget Analyses

Economic Assumptions. This chapter reviews recent economic developments; presents the Administration’s assessment of the economic situation and outlook, including the effects of macroeconomic policies; and compares the economic assumptions on which the Budget is based with the assumptions for last year’s Budget and those of other forecasters.

Interactions Between the Economy and the Budget. This chapter illustrates how different economic paths would produce different budget results even if current law remained unchanged, and provides sensitivity estimates for the effects on the Budget of changes in specified economic assumptions. It also provides estimates of the

cyclical and structural components of the budget deficit. Past errors in economic projections are reviewed.

Financial Stabilization Efforts and Their Budgetary Effects. This chapter focuses on Federal efforts to stabilize the economy and promote financial recovery, including the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP), reform of financial regulation, and other measures. The chapter also includes special analyses of the TARP as described in Section 203(a) of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008.

Long-Term Budget Outlook. This chapter assesses the long-term budget outlook and the sustainability of current budget policy by focusing on 75-year projections of the Federal budget and showing how alternative long-term budget assumptions would produce different results. The chapter presents information on the size of the fiscal gap, and the budgetary effects of growing health costs. The chapter also explains why long-term primary surpluses (surpluses when interest costs are not counted) would be needed to achieve sustainability.

Federal Borrowing and Debt. This chapter analyzes Federal borrowing and debt and explains the budget estimates. It includes sections on special topics such as the trends in debt, agency debt, investment by Government accounts, and the statutory debt limit.

Performance and Management

Delivering High-Performance Government. This chapter describes this Administration’s approach to performance management, the Federal Government’s use of performance goals and measurement to drive significant performance gains. As part of the 2011 Budget process, leaders of the 16 Cabinet departments and 8 other large Federal agencies identified a small number of ambitious, outcome-focused, near-term High Priority Performance Goals (Priority Goals) that could be achieved within existing resources and legislation, and hinged on strong execution to accomplish. The Administration also identified specific government-wide management goals to cut waste and modernize the systems that power government operations – in information, finance, acquisition, and human resource management. This chapter provides an update on progress in these areas. In addition, the chapter explains how the Administration expects agencies to use outcome-focused performance information to lead and learn to improve outcomes; candidly communicate the priorities, problems, and progress implementing Government programs; and tap into problem-solving networks to improve outcomes.

Program Evaluation. The Program Evaluation chapter underscores this Administration’s commitment to measuring what works and what does not. It highlights the

Administration's efforts to fund rigorous evaluations, to improve program evaluation activities across the Federal government (including increasing their transparency), and to better integrate program evaluation into agency performance measurement and decision-making.

Benefit-Cost Analysis. This chapter discusses the use of benefit-cost analysis to design programs and policies to ensure that they achieve the maximal benefit to society and do not impose unjustified or excessive costs.

Social Indicators. This chapter presents a selection of statistics that offer a numerical picture of the United States. Included are economic statistics such as real GDP per capita, household income, and measures of income equality. There are also environmental and energy indicators. A second table shows health, education, and other social indicators. The following materials are available at the Internet address cited above for the electronic version of this volume and on the *Analytical Perspectives* CD-ROM enclosed with the printed version of this volume.

Improving the Federal Workforce. Strengthening the Federal workforce is essential to building a high-performing Government. This chapter presents summary data on Federal employment, compensation, and benefits; examines the challenges posed by aging employees and technological change; and discusses plans for improving the Federal workforce.

Budget Concepts and Budget Process

Budget Concepts. This chapter includes a basic description of the budget process, concepts, laws, and terminology, and includes a glossary of budget terms.

Coverage of the Budget. This chapter describes activities that are included in budget receipts and outlays (and are classified as "budgetary"), and those activities that are not included in the budget (and are classified as "non-budgetary"). It also defines the terms "on-budget" and "off-budget."

Budget Process. This chapter includes a description of the Administration's proposals to make the budget process more responsible and to make budgets more transparent, accurate, and comprehensive.

Federal Receipts

Governmental Receipts. This chapter presents information on receipts estimates, enacted tax legislation, and the receipts proposals in the Budget.

Offsetting Collections and Offsetting Receipts. This chapter presents information on collections that offset outlays, including collections from transactions with the public and intragovernmental transactions. In addition, this chapter presents information on "user fees," charges associated with market-oriented activities and regulatory fees. The user fee information includes a description of each of the user fee proposals in the Budget.

Tax Expenditures. This chapter describes and presents estimates of tax expenditures, which are defined as revenue losses from special exemptions, credits, or other preferences in the tax code.

Special Topics

Aid to State and Local Governments. This chapter presents crosscutting information on Federal grants to State and local governments, including current actions to provide fiscal relief, highlights of Administration proposals, and historical trends and data. An Appendix to this chapter includes State-by-State spending estimates of major grant programs.

Strengthening Federal Statistics. This chapter discusses 2012 Budget proposals for the Government's principal statistical programs.

Information Technology. This chapter gives an overview of Federal spending on information technology, and the major initiatives through which the Administration is seeking to improve Federal information technology to deliver better value to taxpayers, through improved program performance, greater efficiency and cost savings, and extending the transparency of Government and participation of citizens. The chapter also discusses the Administration's plans to extend its accomplishments in Federal information technology from its first two years while continuing to provide strong information security and protection of privacy information.

Federal Investment. This chapter discusses federally financed spending that yields long-term benefits. It presents information on annual spending on physical capital, research and development, and education and training, and on the cumulative capital stocks resulting from that spending.

Research and Development. This chapter presents a crosscutting review of research and development funding in the Budget, including discussions about priorities and coordination across agencies.

Credit and Insurance. This chapter provides crosscutting analyses of the roles, risks, and performance of Federal credit and insurance programs and Government-sponsored enterprises (GSEs). The general portion of the chapter covers the categories of Federal credit (housing, education, small business and farming, energy and infrastructure, and international) and insurance programs (deposit insurance, pension guarantees, disaster insurance, and insurance against terrorism-related risks). Additionally, two detailed tables, "Table 23-11, Direct Loan Transactions of the Federal Government" and "Table 23-12, Guaranteed Loan Transactions of the Federal Government," are available at the Internet address cited above for the electronic version of this volume and on the *Analytical Perspectives* CD-ROM enclosed with the printed version of this volume.

Homeland Security Funding Analysis. This chapter discusses homeland security funding and provides information on homeland security program requirements, performance, and priorities. Additional detailed information is available at the Internet address cited above for the electronic version of this volume and on the *Analytical Perspectives* CD-ROM enclosed with the printed version of this volume.

Federal Drug Control Funding. This chapter displays enacted and proposed drug control funding for Federal departments and agencies.

California-Federal Bay-Delta Budget Crosscut (CALFED). This chapter presents information on Federal and State funding for the CALFED program, in fulfillment of the reporting requirements for this program. Additional detailed tables on CALFED funding and project descriptions are available at the Internet address cited above for the electronic version of this volume and on the *Analytical Perspectives* CD-ROM enclosed with the printed version of this volume.

Technical Budget Analyses

Current Services Estimates. This chapter presents estimates of what receipts, outlays, and the deficit would be if current policies remained in effect, using modified versions of baseline rules in the Budget Enforcement Act (BEA). A detailed table, “Table 27–14, Current Services Budget Authority and Outlays by Function, Category, and Program” is available at the Internet address cited above for the electronic version of this volume and on the *Analytical Perspectives* CD-ROM enclosed with the printed version of this volume.

Trust Funds and Federal Funds. This chapter provides summary information on the two fund groups – Federal funds and trust funds. In addition, for the major trust funds and several Federal fund programs, the chapter provides detailed information about income, outgo, and balances.

National Income and Product Accounts. This chapter discusses how Federal receipts and outlays fit into the

framework of the National Income and Product Accounts (NIPAs) prepared by the Department of Commerce. The NIPA measures are the basis for reporting Federal transactions in the gross domestic product (GDP) and for analyzing the effect of the Budget on aggregate economic activity.

Comparison of Actual to Estimated Totals. This chapter compares the actual receipts, outlays, and deficit for 2010 with the estimates for that year published in the 2010 Budget. It also includes a historical comparison of the differences between receipts, outlays, and the deficit as originally proposed with final outcomes.

Budget and Financial Reporting. This chapter summarizes information about the Government’s financial performance that is provided by three complementary sources – the Budget, the financial statements, and the integrated macroeconomic accounts. This chapter also provides alternative measures of the Government’s assets and liabilities.

Detailed Functional Table

Detailed Functional Table. Table 32–1. “Budget Authority and Outlays by Function, Category, and Program.”

Federal Programs by Agency and Account

Federal Programs by Agency and Account. Table 33–1. “Federal Programs by Agency and Account.”

