

CRS Report for Congress

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FY2005 Budget Documents: Internet Access and GPO Availability

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Summary

Every year the President submits to Congress a series of volumes that provide the text of the President's proposed budget for the coming fiscal year. Neither the Congressional Research Service (CRS) nor the Library of Congress can provide giveaway copies of these documents. This report provides brief descriptions of these budget volumes and related documents, together with Internet addresses, Government Printing Office (GPO) stock numbers, and prices to obtain these publications. It also tells how to find locations of government depository libraries, which can provide both printed copies for reference use and Internet access to the text. This report will be updated as events warrant.

Introduction

The President's budget for FY2005 consists of a multivolume set of materials, issued by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). It contains 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.

Related documents include the annual *Economic Report of the President* issued in February by the Council of Economic Advisors, and the *Budget and Economic Outlook*, an annual publication issued by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), which includes 10 years of baseline projections on government finances and economic activity. See below for details about these publications.

The President's Budget Documents, Fiscal Year 2005

Both OMB and 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.

[<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2005/index.html>]

To perform word searches across budget documents online:
 [<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/usbudget/fy05/index.html>]

Budget of the United States Government, FY2005

GPO stock number: 041-001-00602-8, \$69, 402 pp.

Contains information and color photos, charts, and graphs on the President's new budget proposals, overviews of government activities by agency and topic (the war on terrorism, homeland security, defense, health, etc.), discussions on managing for results, ensuring fiscal responsibility, and budget function tables in each agency chapter. Summary tables containing projections of budget baselines, receipts, and outlays, deficits, debt, discretionary spending, economic assumptions from FY2004 to FY2009 or in some cases to FY2014 appear on pages 365-392.

Budget of the United States Government, FY2005 Appendix

GPO stock number: 041-001-00597-8, \$80, 1268 pp.

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

- the 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.

These elements are presented by varying the font and typeface, so that proposed appropriations and prior year funding can be compared at a glance. An example from the *FY2005 Budget Appendix* illustrates this:

“For expenses necessary for administration of laws pertaining to regulation of navigable waters and wetlands, [\$140,000,000] *\$150,000,000*, to remain available until expended. (*Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2004.*)”¹

Language printed in roman type is used as a base, brackets enclose material proposed for deletion, and italic type indicates proposed new language.

¹ Excerpt from p. 914, FY2005 *Budget Appendix* volume, Corps Engineers-Civil Works, Regulatory Program.

Analytical Perspectives, Budget of the United States Government, FY2005

GPO stock number: 041-001-00599-4, \$68, 394 pp. (includes three chapters (chapters 26-28) on a CD-ROM)

Includes economic and accounting and “crosscutting” analyses of government programs and activities that are designed to highlight specific subject areas or provide other significant presentations of budget data that place the budget in perspective. This volume includes information on federal receipts and collections, detailed information on borrowing and debt, homeland security funding, baseline or current service estimates, economic assumptions, budget reform proposals, tax expenditures, trust funds, budget systems and concepts and other technical presentations. Chapter 8, Aid to State and Local Governments, contains an appendix (pp.131-158) that provides information on state-by state obligations for major federal formula grant programs.

The FY2005 *Analytical Perspectives* volume includes a CD-ROM with certain information that in previous years was published in other parts of the budget. The material contained on the disc are Chapters 26-28 of the volume which includes detailed function tables, federal programs by agency and account tables, and individual pages of program summaries of federal agencies utilizing the Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART). Note: PART summaries were included in a separate volume in the FY2004 Budget. Chapters 26-28 contained in the CD-ROM can be obtained on the Internet at [<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/usbudget/fy05/spec.html>].

Historical Tables, Budget of the United States Government, FY2005

GPO stock number: 041-001-00600-1, \$43, 301 pp.

Detailed tables cover budget deficit/surplus, outlays, receipts, discretionary and mandatory spending, federal debt, federal employment, payments for individuals, and grants to states and local governments. Provides data by agencies and programs from 1940 (or earlier) to estimates for FY2009. Data are adjusted to provide consistency with the 2005 budget and to provide comparability over time. Among the special topics included are Social Security and Medicare spending.

Budget of the United States Government CD-ROM, FY2005

GPO stock number: 041-001-00598-6, \$20

The FY2005 Budget CD-ROM contains all the budget documents and software to support reading, printing, and searching all documents. The CD-ROM also presents many of the tables in spreadsheet form. The FY2005 Budget CD-ROM also contains the material included on the *Analytical Perspectives* CD-ROM.

Fiscal Year 2005 Mid-Session Review

The OMB released this update of the President’s FY2005 budget projections on July 30, 2004. It contains OMB revised estimates of the budget deficit, receipts, outlays, and budget authority for FY2005 through FY2009, and other summary information as required by statute. GPO currently does not offer this 52-page publication in its catalog; it is only available online at [<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2005/05msr.pdf>].

Economic Report of the President

Economic Report of the President, 2004

GPO stock number:040-000-00765-2, \$33, 412 p.

This year's annual *Economic Report of the President*, transmitted to Congress in February 2004, presents the Administration's report on its economic policies and contains the annual report of the Council of Economic Advisors. Appendix B of the economic report includes current and historical statistics on major aspects of U.S. economic activity (pp. 279-412). Statistics include national income and expenditures from 1959 to 2003, government finance, population, employment, wages, productivity, prices, debt measures, corporate finance, and international statistics in some cases back to 1929 or more recent decades.

The report is available from the GPO website at [<http://www.access.gpo.gov/eop>]. Spreadsheet files from the appendix of the report can be searched and retrieved from the site at [<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/eop/tables04.html>]. The report is available from the White House website at [<http://www.whitehouse.gov/cea/pubs.html>].

Congressional Budget Office

Budget and Economic Outlook: FY2005-FY2014

GPO stock number:052-070-07417-5, \$25, 178 pp.

CBO extends budget projections for 10 years in this report. There are separate chapters on the economic outlook, outlays, and receipts. The *Outlook* provides alternative baseline paths for changes in discretionary budget authority and for possible tax law changes. The data cover the years FY2004 through FY2014. In addition to chapters on the budget and on economic, revenue, and spending outlooks, this publication also includes a glossary as well as historical budget and economic data. The report is available on the CBO website at [<http://www.cbo.gov/showdoc.cfm?index=4493&sequence=0>].

Budget and Economic Outlook: An Update

GPO stock number:052-070-07431-1, \$11, 77 pp.

CBO issues an update to its *Budget and Economic Outlook* providing updated baseline projections, including deficit and surplus projections. CBO released the 2004 update on September 7, 2004. The report is available on the CBO website CBO website at [<http://www.cbo.gov/showdoc.cfm?index=5773&sequence=0>].

GPO Ordering Information

Printed copies of these government publications are available from the Government Printing Office, and may be purchased using Discover, MasterCard, or Visa credit cards:

- by telephone, (202) 512-1800,
- by fax, (202) 512-2250,
- online at the GPO [<http://bookstore.gpo.gov/index.html>], or
- by mail (check or money order), addressed to Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954.

Depository Libraries

These documents are often available for reference use at large public or university libraries, or at a federal government depository library. Addresses of the closest depository libraries can often be obtained through a local library or from the office of Depository Services of the U.S. Government Printing Office, (202) 512-1119. Internet users may prefer to obtain this information from the GPO Access website, at [<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/libraries.html>], which can be searched by state or area code.

Websites on Budget Legislation

Congressional Staff. The Congressional Research Service (CRS) developed two websites (for Members of Congress and their staffs) covering the budget and appropriations process for congressional offices:

- *Appropriations Analysis and Status Table.* For the most current information, congressional staff can access the Appropriations and Budget Web page, with active links to CRS appropriations analysis, Status Table of Appropriations with links to votes, committee and conference reports, and public laws. Available from the CRS website at [<http://www.crs.gov/products/appropriations>].
- *CRS Budget Fact Sheets.* Short explanations of budget concepts, terminology, the 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/products/guides/guidehome.shtml>].

Public Use. Constituents have access to THOMAS, the legislative website produced by the Library of Congress with data from the House and Senate, which provides a Status Table of Appropriations with links to bills, committee and conference reports, and votes for the 13 appropriations bills at [<http://thomas.loc.gov>].