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# NIPA Translation of the Fiscal Year 2023 Federal Budget

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On March 28, 2022, President Biden submitted his proposed *Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2023* to Congress. This article presents estimates of federal government receipts and expenditures for fiscal years 2022 and 2023 that are consistent with the projected receipts and outlays defined in that budget but measured on a National Income and Product Account (NIPA) basis. These estimates are presented to assist readers in interpreting what the effects of budgeted receipts and outlays would be on aggregate economic activity. They are also used by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) to inform estimates of federal government transactions including the federal government components of gross domestic product (GDP).<sup>1</sup>

# **Comparison of Budget and NIPA Estimates**

For both fiscal years 2022 and 2023, estimates of federal government current receipts measured on a NIPA basis are greater than budget estimates of receipts, and estimates of federal government current expenditures measured on a NIPA basis are greater than budget estimates of outlays. Net federal government saving, defined as the difference between projected estimates of federal government current receipts and current expenditures measured on a NIPA basis, is -\$1,444.3 billion for 2022 and -\$993.0 billion for 2023. The budget surplus, defined as the difference between budget estimates of receipts and outlays, is -\$1,415.0 billion for 2022 and -\$1,154.0 billion for 2023 (chart 1 and table 1). The adjustments made to "translate" budget estimates into NIPA estimates are presented in tables 2 and 3. Differences between NIPA estimates and budget estimates of spending on national defense are shown in table 4. For more information about the conceptual differences between NIPA measures and budget measures of government transactions, see "NIPA Estimates of the Federal Sector and the Federal Budget Estimates."<sup>2</sup>

# Chart 1. Federal Fiscal Position Budget Surplus or Deficit (-) and NIPA Net Saving

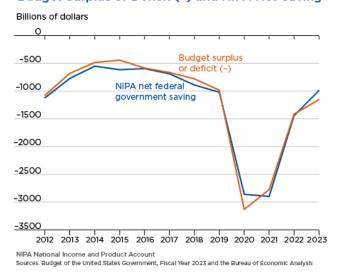


Table 1. Budget Receipts and Outlays and NIPA Federal Government Current Receipts and Expenditures

[Billions of dollars]

	Lev	el for fiscal y	/ear	Change from preceding fiscal year			
Series	Actual	Estin	nates				
	2021	2022	2023	2022	2023		
Budget:							
Receipts	4,047.1	4,436.6	4,638.2	389.5	201.6		
Outlays	6,822.4	5,851.6	5,792.1	-970.9	-59.5		
Surplus or deficit (-)	-2,775.3	-1,415.0	-1,154.0	1,360.3	261.1		
NIPAs:							
Current receipts	4,288.9	4,636.5	4,928.8	347.6	292.3		
Current expenditures	7,030.2	6,080.8	5,921.8	-949.4	-159.0		
Net federal government saving	-2,741.3	-1,444.3	-993.0	1,297.0	451.3		

NIPAs National Income and Product Accounts

Sources. Budget of the United States, Fiscal Year 2023 and the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Table 2. Relation of NIPA Federal Government Current Receipts to Budget Receipts
[Billions of dollars]

Series		Fiscal year	
Series	2021	2022	2023
Budget receipts	4,047.1	4,436.6	4,638.2
Less: Coverage differences	43.5	41.4	41.6
Contributions received by federal employee pension and insurance funds $^{\mathrm{1}}$	5.6	6.4	6.9
Capital transfers received <sup>2</sup>	27.1	25.7	25.4
Other <sup>3</sup>	10.8	9.4	9.4
Less: Netting and grossing differences	-285.6	-287.5	-328.7
Supplementary medical insurance premiums	-122.5	-141.5	-157.4
Interest receipts	-22.3	-26.0	-46.3
Current surplus of government enterprises	-4.7	2.9	0.5
Other <sup>4</sup>	-136.1	-123.0	-125.5
Plus: Timing differences	-0.4	-46.3	3.6
Taxes on corporate income	-64.9	15.1	3.0
Federal and state unemployment insurance taxes	-8.0	-5.5	0.0
Withheld personal income tax and social security contributions	74.3	-58.1	1.7
Excise taxes	4.2	2.2	1.7
Other	-5.9	0.1	-2.7
Equals: NIPA federal government current receipts	4,288.9	4,636.5	4,928.8

#### NIPAs National Income and Product Accounts

- 1. In the NIPAs, pension plans are treated as "pass-through" institutions that hold financial assets on behalf of households, which are the effective owners. Pension plans are classified as financial corporations that receive contributions and property income on behalf of plan participants but do not have saving or net worth of their own. NIPA table 7.23 shows transactions of the federal government defined-benefit pension subsectors.
- 2. Consists of estate and gift taxes.
- 3. Beginning with 1996, other consists largely of Universal Service Fund receipts. Includes certain revenues collected from and repaid to U.S. territories and the Commonwealths of Puerto Rico and Northern Mariana Islands.
- 4. Includes proprietary receipts that are netted against outlays in the budget and that are classified as receipts in the NIPAs and some transactions that are not reflected in the budget but that are added to both receipts and expenditures in the NIPAs.

Sources. Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2023 and the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Table 3. Relation of NIPA Federal Government Current Expenditures to Budget Outlays
[Billions of dollars]

Series		Fiscal year	
Series	2021	2022	2023
Budget outlays	6,822.4	5,851.6	5,792.1
Less: Coverage differences	86.8	14.0	152.7
Federal employee pension and insurance fund transactions <sup>1</sup>	-94.1	-91.5	-79.3
Financing disbursements from credit programs <sup>2</sup>	-395.3	-331.4	-38.4
Net investment <sup>3</sup>	43.5	49.8	67.2
Capital transfers paid <sup>4</sup>	143.5	150.7	135.9
Financial transactions	394.0	333.1	63.3
Loan disbursements less loan repayments and sales	421.4	342.6	56.7
Deposit insurance	-0.6	-0.2	9.0
Net purchases of foreign currency	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	-26.8	-9.3	-2.5
Net purchases of nonproduced assets	-9.0	-107.3	-0.1
Other <sup>5</sup>	4.3	10.6	4.1
Less: Netting and grossing differences	-285.6	-287.5	-328.7
Supplementary medical insurance premiums	-122.5	-141.5	-157.4
Interest receipts	-22.3	-26.0	-46.3
Current surplus of government enterprises	-4.7	2.9	0.5
Other <sup>6</sup>	-136.1	-123.0	-125.5
Plus: Timing differences	9.0	-44.3	-46.2
Purchases (increase in payables net of advances)	-0.9	0.5	15.9
Interest payments	0.2	0.2	0.2
Current transfer payments	6.2	-45.1	-63.7
Other <sup>7</sup>	3.4	0.1	1.4
Equals: NIPA federal government current expenditures	7,030.2	6,080.8	5,921.8

#### **NIPAs** National Income and Product Accounts

- 1. In the NIPAs, pension plans are treated as "pass-through" institutions that hold financial assets on behalf of households, which are the effective owners. Pension plans are classified as financial corporations that receive contributions and property income on behalf of plan participants but do not have saving or net worth of their own. NIPA table 7.23 shows transactions of the federal government defined-benefit pension subsectors. Contributions for publicly administered insurance funds are transactions with the household sector and include the Medicare-eligible Retiree Health Care Fund.
- 2. Consists of transactions (not included in the budget totals) that record all cash flows arising from post-1991 direct loan obligations and loan guarantee commitments. Many of these flows are for new loans or loan repayments; therefore, related entries are included in loan disbursements less loan repayments and sales.
- 3. Net investment is gross investment less consumption of fixed capital for government enterprises and general government.
- 4. Consists of investment grants to state and local governments and maritime construction subsidies. Excludes the forgiveness of debts owed by foreign governments to the U.S. government or payments to the Uniformed Services Retiree Health Care Fund to amortize unfunded liability; both are classified as capital transfers paid by the United States and are excluded from both budget outlays and NIPA current expenditures.
- 5. Consists largely of agencies or accounts, such as the Postal Service and the Federal Financing Bank, that were not included in the budget in some periods, and the Universal Service Fund. Also includes net expenditures of foreign currencies as well as repayments of certain collections from the U.S. territories and the Commonwealths of Puerto Rico and Northern Mariana Islands.
- 6. Includes proprietary receipts that are netted against outlays in the budget and that are classified as receipts in the NIPAs and some transactions that are not reflected in the budget data but that are added to both receipts and expenditures in the NIPAs.
- 7. Primarily includes timing on subsidies and government enterprises.

Sources. Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2023 and the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Table 4. Relation of National Defense Consumption Expenditures and Gross Investment to National Defense Outlays

[Billions of dollars]

Series		Fiscal year			
3ei ies	2021	2022	2023		
Budget outlays for national defense	753.9	779.7	808.6		
U.S. Department of Defense, military	717.6	741.0	767.6		
Military personnel	172.6	177.8	183.6		
Operation and maintenance	286.2	302.6	304.7		
Procurement <sup>1</sup>	141.4	134.4	138.0		
Research, development, test, and evaluation	105.7	111.6	126.5		
Other	11.7	14.7	14.8		
Atomic energy and other defense-related activities	36.3	38.7	41.0		
Plus: Consumption of general government fixed capital	174.0	182.5	186.2		
Additional payments to military and civilian retirement funds	113.2	129.4	135.3		
Less: Grants-in-aid to state and local governments and net interest paid	0.6	0.6	0.7		
Timing differences	1.7	5.7	-5.9		
Other differences	136.0	150.7	159.4		
Equals: NIPA national defense consumption expenditures and gross investment	902.8	934.5	975.9		
<i>Less</i> : National defense gross investment <sup>2</sup>	192.9	201.8	210.5		
Equals: NIPA national defense consumption expenditures	709.9	732.7	765.3		

#### **NIPAs** National Income and Product Accounts

- 1. Includes outlays for procurement of aircraft, ships, and weapons as well as for military construction, family housing, and anticipated funding for war operations.
- 2. Gross investment consists of general government expenditures for fixed assets; inventory investment is included in federal government consumption expenditures.

Sources. Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2023 and the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

## **Budget Estimates**

The *Budget* projects increases in federal receipts of \$389.5 billion in 2022 and \$201.6 billion in 2023 (table 5). These increases reflect underlying budget assumptions about economic activity and growth in real GDP over these years.<sup>3</sup> Projected economic growth would result in increases in both personal incomes and corporate profits that would increase individual and corporate tax revenues. Increases in individual and corporate taxes also include the effects of budget proposals to increase tax rates on corporations and wealthy individuals. The acceleration in social insurance tax receipts in 2022 includes the effects of deferment, by some businesses, of the employer's share of Social Security and self-employment taxes from 2020 and 2021 until 2022 and 2023.<sup>4</sup> The projected increase in federal receipts in 2023 is moderated by projected downturns in customs duties collections and in deposits of earnings by the Federal Reserve System.

Table 5. Budget Receipts by Source
[Billions of dollars]

Series		Level for f	fiscal year	Change from preceding year			
Series	2020	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
Budget receipts	3,421.2	4,047.1	4,436.6	4,638.2	626.0	389.5	201.6
Individual income taxes	1,608.7	2,044.4	2,263.4	2,345.2	435.7	219.0	81.8
Corporation income taxes	211.8	371.8	382.6	500.9	160.0	10.7	118.4
Social insurance taxes and contributions	1,310.0	1,314.1	1,445.6	1,509.9	4.1	131.5	64.3
Excise taxes	86.8	75.3	84.1	90.7	-11.5	8.8	6.5
Estate and gift taxes	17.6	27.1	25.7	25.4	9.5	-1.4	-0.3
Customs duties	68.6	80.0	92.6	53.9	11.4	12.7	-38.7
Miscellaneous receipts	117.7	134.4	142.6	112.1	16.7	8.2	-30.5
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Source. Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2023.

The *Budget* projects decreases in federal outlays of \$970.9 billion in 2022 and \$59.5 billion in 2023 (table 6). The decrease in 2022 reflects the pattern of spending in response to the COVID–19 pandemic, particularly in the functions for *income security, commerce,* and *general government*. The *income security* function includes outlays for unemployment benefits, housing assistance, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, and the direct economic impact payments that were distributed to people in response to the COVID–19 pandemic. The *commerce* function includes assistance provided to businesses in response to the pandemic including through forgivable Paycheck Protection Program loans. The *general government* function includes assistance provided to state and local governments through the Coronavirus Relief Fund. The smaller decrease in 2023 reflects the pattern of spending in the same three functions as well as a projected upturn in interest paid on Treasury debt securities within the *net interest* function and a downturn in auction receipts, which are recorded as negative outlays in the *undistributed offsetting receipts* function.

## **Table 6. Budget Outlays by Function**

[Billions of dollars]

Series		Level for	fiscal yea	Change from preceding year			
		2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
Budget outlays	6553.6	6822.4	5851.6	5792.0	268.8	-970.9	-59.5
National defense	724.6	753.9	779.7	808.6	29.3	25.8	28.9
International affairs	67.7	46.9	61.6	63.4	-20.7	14.6	1.9
General science, space, and technology	34.0	35.5	39.1	41.3	1.5	3.6	2.2
Energy	7.1	6.0	5.7	17.0	-1.1	-0.3	11.3
Natural resources and environment	42.5	44.2	50.5	59.6	1.7	6.3	9.1
Agriculture	47.3	47.4	35.3	35.5	0.1	-12.1	0.2
Commerce and housing credit	572.1	307.8	-2.4	8.8	-264.2	-310.2	11.2
Transportation	145.6	154.3	141.5	147.9	8.7	-12.8	6.5
Community and regional development	81.9	44.7	81.3	57.9	-37.2	36.6	-23.4
Education, training, employment, and social services	237.8	298.4	265.0	227.0	60.7	-33.4	-38.0
Health	747.6	796.5	868.4	782.4	48.9	72.0	-86.0
Medicare	776.2	696.5	760.9	854.5	-79.8	64.5	93.5
Income security	1263.6	1647.7	926.1	688.2	384.1	-721.7	-237.8
Social security	1095.8	1134.6	1219.5	1318.7	38.8	84.9	99.2
Veterans benefits and services	218.7	234.3	274.0	295.4	15.6	39.7	21.5
Administration of justice	72.0	71.4	79.5	78.5	-0.6	8.1	-1.1
General government	180.1	273.9	140.7	37.8	93.8	-133.2	-102.9
Net interest	345.5	352.3	357.1	395.5	6.9	4.8	38.4
Allowances <sup>1</sup>	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.3	-0.3
Undistributed offsetting receipts <sup>2</sup>	-106.4	-123.9	-232.1	-125.9	-17.5	-108.3	106.2

- 1. Allowances are included in budget totals to cover certain budgetary transactions that are expected to increase or decrease outlays, receipts, or budget authority but are not reflected in the program details.
- 2. Undistributed offsetting receipts are two categories of collections that are governmental in nature and that are not credited to expenditure accounts—receipts from performing business-like activities, such as proceeds from selling federal assets or leases, and shifts from one account to another, such as agency payments to retirement funds.

Source. Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2023.

# **Proposed Legislation**

The budget projections discussed above include receipts and outlays that would result from the continuation of current policies plus the effects of policies that are proposed in the *Budget* but have not yet been enacted. The *Budget* also includes projected estimates of receipts and outlays that are consistent with the expected deficit outlook in the absence of any policy changes. These current services baseline estimates serve as a benchmark against which to measure the effects of proposed policies.

Measured this way, the net effect of legislative proposals in this budget on receipts and outlays is to decrease the federal deficit by \$6 billion in 2022 and by \$22 billion in 2023.<sup>6</sup> Some of the specific proposals that would have a significant effect on the federal deficit in 2023 include the following:

- A proposal to raise the corporate income tax rate to 28 percent would reduce the deficit by \$84 billion. In NIPA estimates, receipts associated with this proposal are recorded as taxes on corporate profits (table 7, line 5).
- A proposal to increase the top marginal income tax rate for high earners and to reform the taxation of capital income would reduce the deficit by \$29 billion. In NIPA estimates, receipts associated with this proposal are primarily recorded as individual income taxes (table 7, line 3).
- A proposal to ensure future pandemic and public health preparedness would increase the
  deficit by \$18 billion. In NIPA estimates, outlays associated with this proposal are recorded
  as a combination of spending in the production of government services, investment, grants
  to state governments, or subsidies to support business operations (table 7, lines 22, 27, 30,
  and 39).

Table 7. NIPA Federal Government Current Receipts and Expenditures [Billions of dollars]

		Fisca	l year estim	ates <sup>1</sup>	Fisc	al year cha	nges	Calendar year		
Line	Series							Published <sup>2</sup>	Estimated	
		2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	
1	Current receipts	4,288.9	4,636.5	4,928.8	641.2	347.6	292.3	4,232.9	4,544.6	
2	Current tax receipts	2,586.9	2,816.2	3,010.1	538.8	229.2	193.9	2,463.5	2,658.8	
3	Personal current taxes	2,084.4	2,199.3	2,316.3	416.6	114.9	117.0	1,987.4	2,146.6	
4	Taxes on production and imports	167.6	190.1	160.1	4.3	22.4	-30.0	173.8	167.0	
5	Taxes on corporate income	305.5	395.4	502.3	115.7	89.9	106.9	272.1	313.8	
6	Taxes from the rest of the world	29.3	31.4	31.4	2.2	2.0	0.0	30.1	31.4	
7	Contributions for social insurance	1,496.1	1,608.7	1,704.9	76.2	112.6	96.1	1,574.6	1,685.8	
8	Domestic	1,489.2	1,601.3	1,696.9	74.4	112.1	95.7	1,569.0	1,679.7	
9	Rest of the world	6.9	7.4	7.9	1.8	0.5	0.5	5.5	6.0	
10	Income receipts on assets	131.9	149.4	136.5	13.7	17.5	-12.9	138.0	153.9	
11	Interest receipts	23.6	28.5	48.7	-4.4	4.9	20.2	20.9	32.0	
12	Dividends	100.9	108.5	76.4	17.2	7.6	-32.1	111.5	114.9	
13	Rents and royalties	7.4	12.4	11.4	0.9	5.0	-1.0	5.5	7.0	
14	Current transfer receipts	69.2	65.1	78.0	6.9	-4.1	12.8	58.1	56.7	
15	From business	45.1	41.6	52.6	9.1	-3.5	11.0	34.0	31.7	
16	From persons From the rest of the	20.8	20.2	20.8	-1.5	-0.6	0.6	21.0	21.2	
17	world Current surplus of	3.4	3.3	4.5	-0.7	0.0	1.2	3.2	3.8	
18	government enterprises	4.7	-2.9	-0.6	5.6	-7.6	2.3	-1.2	-10.6	
19	Consumption	7,030.2	6,080.8	5,921.8	522.6	-949.4	-159.0	7,021.4	5,905.4	
20	Consumption expenditures	1,201.4	1,266.0	1,315.4	57.3	64.6	49.4	1,205.0	1,231.3	
21	National defense	709.9	732.7	765.3	14.9	22.8	32.6	708.8	727.3	
22	Nondefense	491.5	533.3	550.1	42.4	41.8	16.8	496.1	504.0	
23	Current transfer payments	4,735.0	4,075.6	3,889.6	549.1	-659.4	-185.9	4,811.7	3,871.2	
24	Government social benefits	3,603.9	2,921.3	2,900.1	321.0	-682.5	-21.2	3,659.4	2,945.4	
25	To persons	3,568.1	2,890.6	2,867.4	317.4	-677.4	-23.2	3,628.9	2,918.1	
26	To rest of the world	35.8	30.7	32.7	3.6	-5.1	2.0	30.6	27.3	
27	Grants-in-aid to state and local governments	1,071.2	1,088.6	922.3	220.0	17.4	-166.3	1,093.8	900.1	
28	Transfer payments to the rest of the world (net)	59.8	65.6	67.3	8.1	5.8	1.7	58.5	25.7	
29	Federal interest paid	577.5	580.0	608.2	26.6	2.4	28.2	514.8	553.9	
30	Subsidies	516.3	159.3	108.6	-110.4	-357.0	-50.7	490.0	249.0	
31	Net federal government saving	-2,741.3	-1,444.3	-992.9	118.7	1,297.0	451.3	-2,788.5	-1,360.8	
	Addenda:									
32	Total receipts	4,315.9	4,662.2	4,954.2	650.1	346.2	292.0	4,255.4	4,568.2	
33	Current receipts	4,288.9	4,636.5	4,928.8	641.2	347.6	292.3	4,232.9	4,544.6	
34	Capital transfer receipts	27.1	25.7	25.4	8.9	-1.4	-0.3	22.5	23.6	
35	Total expenditures	7,199.8	6,174.2	6,124.8	558.3	-1,025.6	-49.4	7,196.9	6,494.4	
36	Current expenditures	7,030.2	6,080.8	5,921.8	522.6	-949.4	-159.0	7,021.4	5,905.4	
37	Gross investment <sup>3</sup>	354.5	376.2	399.3	19.5	21.8	23.1	360.0	384.5	

		Fiscal year estimates <sup>1</sup>			Fice	al vear cha	ngoc	Calendar year		
Line	Series				FISC	ai yeai Ciia	iiges	Published <sup>2</sup>	Estimated	
		2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	
38	National defense	192.9	201.8	210.5	14.9	8.9	8.7	196.4	206.6	
39	Nondefense	161.6	174.4	188.7	4.5	12.8	14.4	163.6	177.9	
40	Capital transfer payments	139.5	150.7	135.9	37.5	11.2	-14.9	144.9	100.4	
41	Net purchases of nonproduced assets	-9.0	-107.3	-0.1	-6.0	-98.3	107.2	-9.2	436.7	
42	Less: Consumption of fixed capital	315.4	326.2	332.1	15.2	10.8	5.9	320.3	332.5	
43	Net lending or net borrowing (–)	-2,883.8	-1,512.0	-1,170.6	91.8	1,371.8	341.4	-2,941.5	-1,926.2	

#### NIPAs National Income and Product Accounts

- 1. Fiscal year estimates are the sum of quarterly estimates that are not seasonally adjusted and that are consistent with budget proposals.
- 2. These estimates are published in NIPA tables 3.2 and 3.9.5.
- 3. Gross investment consists of general government and government enterprise expenditures for fixed assets; inventory investment is included in federal government consumption expenditures.

Sources. Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2023 and the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

This year's budget also includes a reserve fund to account for future legislation that is currently being negotiated with Congress. Because these negotiations are ongoing, the *Budget* does not describe the specific tax or spending policies that would be supported by this fund. However, the president's priorities for this legislation are discussed in the *Budget of the U.S. Government*.

## **NIPA Estimates**

NIPA estimates of federal government receipts and expenditures that are consistent with the projected receipts and outlays defined in the *Budget* for 2022 and 2023 are displayed in table 7. This table also includes estimates for calendar year 2022 that are derived by extrapolating forward from the NIPA estimates that were published for the fourth quarter of 2021, as released on March 30, 2022. More accurate estimates for calendar year 2022 based on more contemporaneous data will be published each month in NIPA table 3.2 and in related underlying tables.

NIPA estimates of federal government current receipts that are derived from projections in the *Budget* increase \$347.6 billion in 2022 and \$292.3 billion in 2023 (chart 2). The increases reflect increases in personal taxes, corporate taxes, and contributions for government social insurance. Policy proposals, which include increases in the domestic corporate tax rate and taxes on high-income individual taxpayers, contribute to the increases in individual and corporate tax receipts.

NIPA estimates of federal government current expenditures that are derived from projections in the *Budget* decrease \$949.4 billion in 2022 and \$159.0 billion in 2023 (chart 3). The large decrease in 2022 includes decreases in social benefits, subsidies, and grants-in-aid to state and local governments. The decrease in social benefits reflects decreases in unemployment benefits, SNAP benefits, and refundable tax credits. The decrease in subsidies reflects a drop in COVID–19 assistance to businesses including the subsidy portion of Paycheck Protection Program loans. The downturn in grants-in-aid reflects downturns in *economic affairs* and *income security* grants programs, which include assistance provided to state and local governments through the Coronavirus Relief Fund.<sup>7</sup>

Chart 2. Federal Government Current Receipts

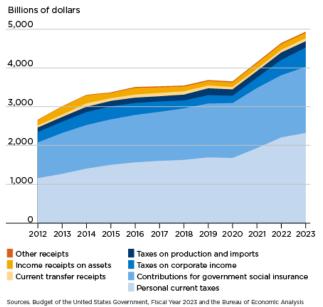
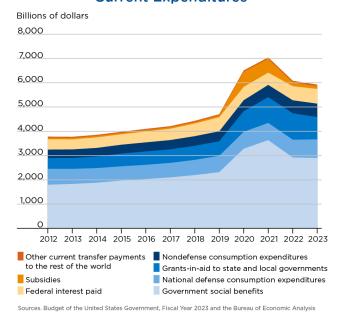


Chart 3. Federal Government Current Expenditures



# **Translating Budget Estimates into a NIPA Framework**

Budget estimates of government receipts are allocated into five major NIPA receipts categories: (1) current tax receipts, (2) contributions for government social insurance, (3) income receipts on assets, (4) current transfer receipts, and (5) current surplus of government enterprises. These allocations are consistent with national accounting standards and are based on information and assumptions from the *Budget* and on projections of the effects of specific budget proposals from the U.S. Department of the Treasury Office of Tax Analysis.

Budget estimates of government outlays are organized by appropriation in the Budget Appendix. These data and supplemental data from the U.S. Office of Management and Budget are used to allocate federal budget outlays into four major NIPA expenditures categories: (1) current transfer payments, (2) interest payments, (3) subsidies, and (4) consumption expenditures and gross investment.

The allocations of budget receipts and outlays into NIPA categories are used, along with supplemental administrative data, to inform how federal government receipts and spending reported by the U.S. Department of the Treasury each month are allocated into NIPA categories to produce monthly and quarterly NIPA estimates.

When quarterly NIPA estimates are published, estimates of defense consumption expenditures and gross investment will be reconciled with outlays reported in the *Monthly Treasury Statement* using financial, delivery, and other information from the U.S. Department of Defense. For nondefense expenditures, extrapolations of budget data will be used in the estimation of some categories of spending including expenditures for durable goods, nondurable goods, services, and equipment for which no quarterly source data are available. Other categories of spending will incorporate quarterly source data, such as data for construction from the U.S. Census Bureau and data for compensation from the U.S. Office of Personnel Management and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

### NIPA Estimates of the Federal Sector and Federal Budget Estimates

BEA prepares estimates of the federal sector in the framework of the NIPAs. Unlike the federal budget, which is a financial plan of the government, the NIPA federal sector estimates are designed to facilitate macroeconomic analyses of the effects of federal government activity on aggregate economic activity.<sup>1</sup>

In translating budget estimates into the framework of the NIPAs, three primary types of adjustments are made. The following adjustments result in NIPA estimates of current receipts and expenditures that differ from corresponding estimates of receipts and outlays in the *Budget*:

- Coverage adjustments are necessary because certain transactions that are included in the *Budget* are excluded from the NIPAs (and vice versa).
- **Netting and grossing adjustments** are necessary because certain transactions that are recorded as offsets to outlays (receipts) in the *Budget* are recorded as receipts (expenditures) in the NIPAs.
- **Timing adjustments** are necessary because certain receipts and outlays that are recorded on a cash basis in the *Budget* are recorded on an accrual basis in the NIPAs.

The arrangement of federal transactions in NIPA statistics also differs from that in budget estimates. One difference is in the treatment of capital transactions. Unlike budget estimates, the NIPAs distinguish between current transactions for production, income, and consumption and capital transactions, which include expenditures to acquire, improve, or dispose of nonfinancial assets, such as property, equipment, or certain intangible assets. The following types of transactions are not included in NIPA federal government current receipts and current expenditures but are shown in the NIPA domestic capital account:

- Government investment in fixed assets. In the NIPAs, government consumption expenditures exclude investment in fixed assets but include consumption of fixed capital, a depreciation charge on fixed assets that is used in production.
- Transfers involving the acquisition or disposal of assets. In the NIPAs, these transactions are classified
  as capital transfers and are presented in the domestic capital account.<sup>3</sup>
- Transactions involving nonproduced assets. In the NIPAs, purchases and sales of nonproduced assets, such as land and radio spectrum licenses, are included in capital account transactions (net) in the domestic capital account.

NIPA estimates also differ from budget estimates because of different definitions of the scope and coverage of the federal government sector.

- Federal employee pension and insurance funds. In NIPA estimates, pension plans are treated as "pass-through" institutions that hold financial assets on behalf of households. Contributions to government employee pension and insurance funds, which are included in budget receipts, are excluded from NIPA federal government receipts because these contributions are included in NIPA personal income as part of employee income. Similarly, federal employee retirement benefit payments, which are included in budget outlays, are excluded from NIPA current expenditures because these benefits are paid from assets that are held in the pension subsector of the corporate financial sector.
- Other differences. NIPA estimates also exclude contributions by telecommunications providers into the Federal Communications Commission Universal Service Fund and outlays from this fund. In the NIPAs, this fund is treated as a nonprofit institution serving business, and these transactions are included in the NIPA business sector.

## Receipts

For most years, the differences between NIPA current receipts and budget receipts primarily reflect capital transfers received, supplementary medical insurance premiums, and personal and business current transfer receipts that are classified as receipts in the NIPAs but are netted against outlays in the *Budget*.

### **Expenditures**

For most years, the differences between NIPA current expenditures and budget outlays primarily reflect capital transfers paid, federal employee retirement plan transactions, personal and business current transfer receipts, and net investment.

Budget outlays for national defense and nondefense are included in NIPA estimates of both consumption expenditures and gross investment. For national defense, budget outlays differ from the NIPA estimates for the following reasons:

- The NIPA measure includes general government consumption of fixed capital.
- The budget records contributions into military and civilian retirement funds and the receipts of these contributions by the retirement funds as intragovernmental transactions. The NIPAs include an accrual measure of contributions for military and civilian retirement benefits in defense consumption expenditures, but contributions into these funds are excluded from government receipts.
- Budget outlays are recorded on a cash basis, but NIPA expenditures are recorded on a delivery (accrual) basis. In the NIPAs, work in progress, except for work on ships and structures, is recorded as a change in private inventories.
- 1. For a comparison of budget estimates and NIPA estimates, see table 2 and table 3 in this article and in NIPA table 3.18B.
- 2. For details about the NIPA presentation of current and capital transactions, see "Results of the 2018 Comprehensive NIPA Update," *Survey of Current Business* 98 (September 2018).
- 3. The flow of funds accounts of the Federal Reserve Board present detailed information on the acquisition and disposal of financial assets and liabilities by U.S. economic sectors including the federal government. Capital transfers include transactions such as investment grants-in-aid to state and local governments, investment subsidies to businesses, lump-sum payments to amortize the unfunded liabilities of the U.S. Department of Defense Medicare-Eligible Retiree Health Care Fund and the U.S. Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund, payments to retroactively reimburse veterans for the costs of some past medical treatments, the implied subsidy costs of financial stabilization equity purchases, the payments of insurance benefits related to catastrophes, and estate and gift taxes.
- 4. For more information about the treatment of pension plans in the NIPAs, see "Preview of the 2013 Comprehensive Revision of the National Income and Product Accounts," *Survey* 93 (March 2013): 21–25.

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- 1. The projected receipts and outlays that are published in the *Budget* and the assumptions that underlie those projections will be updated over time, notably in the Mid-Session Review of the Budget. The estimates discussed in this article are consistent with values as they were initially published in March 2022.
- 2. For a historical perspective of the relationship between budget receipts and outlays and NIPA receipts and expenditures, see NIPA table 3.18B.
- 3. A more detailed accounting of the economic assumptions that underlie budget estimates is described in the "Economic Assumptions" chapter of the *Analytical Perspectives* volume of the *Budget*.
- 4. The option to defer the payment of these taxes was initially provided by the Coronavirus, Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act.
- 5. Items in italics correspond to budget functional classifications, as defined in the "Budget Concepts" chapter of the *Analytical Perspectives* volume of the *Budget*.
- 6. See "Table S-2. Effect of Budget Proposals on Projected Deficits" in the *Budget of the United States Government* volume of the *Budget*.
- 7. Details about federal COVID-19 assistance programs in 2020 and 2021 can be found at www.bea.gov/recovery.

