

CRS Report for Congress

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FY2004 Budget Documents: Internet Access and GPO Availability

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Summary

Every year the President submits to Congress a series of budget volumes which provides the text of the President's proposed budget for the coming fiscal year. Neither 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. CRS can also provide information on how to find locations of government depository libraries, which can provide both printed copies for reference use and Internet access to the text.

Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2004

The President's budget for FY2004 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 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

Both the 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/fy2004/index.html>]

[<http://w3.access.gpo.gov/usbudget/>]

[<http://w3.access.gpo.gov/usbudget/fy2004/maindown.html>]

To perform word searches across budget documents online:

[http://w3.access.gpo.gov/usbudget/fy2004/fy2004_srch.html]

Budget of the United States Government, FY2004.

GPO stock number: 041-001-00585-4, \$65, 341 p.

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 defense, health, international assistance, etc.), discussions of governing with accountability, congressional earmarks, and budget function tables in each agency chapter. Summary tables containing projections of budget baselines, receipts, and outlays from FY2003 to FY2013 appear on pp. 311-332.

Budget of the United States Government, FY2004, Appendix.

GPO stock number: 041-001-00586-2, \$67, 1181 p.

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

- the proposed text of appropriations 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. The box below provides an example from the *FY2004 Budget Appendix* to illustrate this.

“For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Air Force Reserve as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Acts, [~~\$67,226,000~~] *\$44,312,000*, to remain available until September 30, [2007] *2008*.¹

Note that numerous programs listed in the *FY2004 Appendix* volume, except for Department of Defense and Military Construction programs, had not had regular FY2003 appropriations enacted at the time the FY2004 budget was prepared; therefore, these accounts operated under a continuing resolution (P.L. 107-229 as amended). The amounts included for 2003, in the *FY2004 Appendix* volume reflect the Administration's 2003 policy proposals.”²

¹ *Italic* type indicates proposed new language or dollar amounts. Brackets [] indicate programs or dollar amounts proposed for deletion. Standard (roman) typeface shows enacted FY2003 appropriations used as the base for the FY2004 estimates.

² The President signed P.L. 108-7 into law on Feb. 21, 2003, enacting the remaining 11 FY2003 appropriations bills as approved by Congress.

Analytical Perspectives, Budget of the United States Government, FY2004.

GPO stock number: 041-001-00587-1, \$59, 740 p.

Includes economic and accounting analyses, information on federal receipts and collections, analyses of federal spending, detailed information on federal borrowing and debt, Budget Enforcement Act preview reports, current services estimates, and other technical presentations. It also includes information on the executive and congressional budget process. Chapter 10 provides information on state-by-state obligations for 19 major federal formula grant programs to state governments appears on p. 249-286. Chapter 26 presents detailed budget authority and outlay tables by category and program from FY2001 to FY2008.

Historical Tables, Budget of the United States Government, FY2004.

GPO stock number: 041-001-00588-9, \$41, 306 p.

Provides data by agencies and programs from 1940 (or earlier) to estimates for FY2008. Data are adjusted to provide consistency with the 2004 budget and to provide comparability over time. Among the special topics included are Social Security and Medicare spending, federal payments for individuals, budget surplus or deficit, federal debt, federal employment, and grants to states and local governments.

Performance Measures and Management Assessments, FY2004.

GPO stock number: 041-001-00590-1, \$44, 298 p.

This report contains evaluations and analyses of programs and management of federal departments and agencies. The report is part of the Administration's agenda to reform the management of the government and improve the performance of federal programs.

Other supporting documents on the FY2004 budget are available from the OMB and GPO Web sites at [<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2004/index.html>] and [<http://w3.access.gpo.gov/usbudget/fy2004/maindown.html>]:

- Object Class Analysis
- Balances of Budget Authority
- Federal Credit Supplement
- Budget Amendments and Supplementals

Budget Information for the States (BIS). The OMB will not release a BIS report this year. Information on state-by-state obligations for the major federal formula grant programs to state governments appears on in Chapter 10 of the FY2004 *Analytical Perspectives* volume (pp. 249-286). The allocations for the coming fiscal year are estimates based on the proposals in the President's budget.

Budget of the United States Government CD-ROM, FY2004.

GPO stock number 041-001-00589-7, \$20

The CD-ROM contains all of the budget documents and software to support reading, printing, and searching the documents. The CD-ROM also presents many tables in spreadsheet form.

Economic Report of the President

Economic Report of the President, 2003.

GPO stock Number: 040-000-00760-1, \$32, 404 p.

The annual *Economic Report of the President*, transmitted to Congress in February 2003, 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. 270-404).

The report is available from the GPO Web site 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://w3.access.gpo.gov/usbudget/fy2004/erp.html>]. The report is also available from the White House Web site at [<http://www.whitehouse.gov/cea/pubs.html>]

Congressional Budget Office

Budget and Economic Outlook: FY2004-FY2013.

GPO stock Number: 052-070-07359-4, \$27, 182 p.

The CBO extends budget projections for 10 years in this report, and provides three baseline variations of discretionary budget authority—inflated, frozen, and capped—to show annual budget deficits or surpluses and economic projections covering FY2004-FY2013. In addition to chapters on the budget and on economic, revenue, and spending outlooks, this publication also includes a glossary, and historical budget and economic data. See [<http://www.cbo.gov/showdoc.cfm?index=4032&sequence=0>].

GPO Ordering Information

Print 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 Web site, which can be searched by state or area code. It is available at [<http://www.gpo.gov/libraries>].

Web Sites for Congressional Users

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

Appropriations Analysis and Votes. For the most current information, congressional staff can access the Appropriations and Budget Web page, with active links to CRS appropriations analysis, votes, committee reports, and related legislation for each of the 13 appropriations bills, [<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 at [<http://www.crs.gov/products/guides/guidehome.shtml>].

Web Sites for the Public

Constituents have access to THOMAS, the legislative Web site produced by the Library of Congress with data from the House and Senate, which contains links to bills, committee and conference reports, and votes for the 13 appropriations bills. [<http://thomas.loc.gov>]