



June 9, 2016

Digital Communications and Innovations at CBO

Presentation at the Fourth Annual Global Network of
Parliamentary Budget Officers Assembly
World Bank Headquarters, Washington, D.C.

Deborah Kilroe

Associate Director for Communications

CBO was created by the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974.

It provides analysis of budgetary and economic issues that is **objective** and **impartial**. The agency is strictly **nonpartisan**.

All of CBO's official cost estimates and analytic reports are posted on its website.

CBO does **not**:

- Make policy recommendations
- Write legislation
- Implement programs or regulations
- Enforce budget rules
- Evaluate historical performance of government programs

CBO's Products

- **Baseline budget projections** and **economic forecasts** covering the 10-year period used in the Congressional budget process
- **Long-term budget projections**
- **Cost estimates** for legislation, including analyses of federal mandates

- **Analysis of the President's budget** (including its likely economic effects and their budgetary feedback)
- **Scorekeeping** for enacted legislation
- **Analytic reports** examining specific federal programs, aspects of the tax code, and budgetary and economic challenges

CBO on the Web and Social Media

CBO continually strives to make its work more accessible on its website and social media platforms.

In recent years, CBO has established a presence on **social media** (SlideShare, Twitter, YouTube) and has implemented a number of significant innovations aimed at enhancing the **online presentation** and **accessibility** of the agency's work.



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CBO has developed new pages on its website to provide users a “one-stop shop” for:

- Major recurring reports
- Budget and economic data
- Baseline projections for selected programs
- Reports with policy options

The new pages are intended to make CBO's work easier to find and have been well received by users.

ABOUT CBO

- » **Products**
 - » **Major Recurring Reports**
 - » Budget and Economic Data
 - » Baseline Projections for Selected Programs
- » Processes
- » Transparency
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- » **Visit the CBO Blog**
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Major Recurring Reports

This page covers recurring reports that CBO has published since 2000. Some of the reports listed here have been published since the 1970s; those earlier reports are all available on CBO's website but are not shown here.

- » **Budget and Economic Outlook and Updates**
- » **Analysis of the President's Budget**
- » **Budget Options**
- » **Long-Term Budget Outlook**
- » **Long-Term Projections for Social Security**
- » **Long-Term Implications of the Future Years Defense Program**
- » **Analysis of the Navy's Shipbuilding Plan**
- » **Projected Costs of U.S. Nuclear Forces**
- » **Distribution of Household Income and Federal Taxes**
- » **Economic Forecasting Record**
- » **Federal Receipts and Expenditures in the National Income and Product Accounts**
- » **Review of Activities Under the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act**
- » **Monthly Budget Review**
- » **Unauthorized Appropriations and Expiring Authorizations**
- » **Troubled Asset Relief Program**
- » **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act**
- » **Sequestration**
- » **Public Spending on Transportation and Water Infrastructure**

Budget and Economic Outlook and Updates

CBO regularly publishes projections of economic and budget outcomes which incorporate the assumption that current law regarding federal spending and revenues generally remains in place. Those baseline projections cover the 10-year period used in the Congressional budget process. Most of the reports on those projections also describe the differences between the current projections and previous ones; compare the economic forecast with those of other forecasters; and show the budgetary impact of some alternative policy assumptions. The budget projections and economic forecast are generally issued each January and updated in August; the budget projections are also generally updated each March.



ABOUT CBO

» Products

- » Major Recurring Reports
- » **Budget and Economic Data**
- » Baseline Projections for Selected Programs

» Processes

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Budget and Economic Data

CBO regularly publishes data to accompany some of its key reports. These data have been published in the **Budget and Economic Outlook and Updates** and in their associated supplemental material, except for that from the **Long-Term Budget Outlook**.

BUDGET

- » 10-Year Budget Projections
- » Long-Term Budget Projections
- » Historical Budget Data
- » 10-Year Trust Fund Projections
- » Detailed Revenue Projections
- » Spending Projections, by Budget Account
- » Estimates of Automatic Stabilizers

ECONOMIC

- » 10-Year Economic Projections
- » Potential GDP and Underlying Inputs

10-Year Budget Projections

Projections of spending and revenues by category and of deficits and debt held by the public.

[Mar 2016](#) | [Jan 2016](#) | [Aug 2015](#) | [Mar 2015](#) | [Jan 2015](#) | [Aug 2014](#) | [Apr 2014](#) |
[Feb 2014](#) | [May 2013](#) | [Feb 2013](#) | [Aug 2012](#) | [Mar 2012](#) | [Jan 2012](#) | [Aug 2011](#) |
[Jan 2011](#) | [Aug 2010](#) | [Jan 2010](#) | [Aug 2009](#) | [Mar 2009](#) | [Jan 2009](#) | [Sep 2008](#) |
[Jan 2008](#) | [Aug 2007](#) | [Jan 2007](#) |



ABOUT CBO

» Products

- » Major Recurring Reports
- » Budget and Economic Data
- » **Baseline Projections for Selected Programs**

» Processes

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Baseline Projections for Selected Programs

CBO publishes detailed information underlying its 10-Year budget projections for selected programs up to three times a year.

EDUCATION

- » Pell Grant Programs
- » Student Loan Programs

HEALTH

- » Children's Health Insurance Program
- » Federal Subsidies for Health Insurance (Includes Effects of the Affordable Care Act)
- » Medicaid
- » Medicare

OTHER PROGRAMS

- » Federal Programs that Guarantee Mortgages
- » Highway Trust Fund Accounts
- » USDA Mandatory Farm Programs

SOCIAL SECURITY AND PENSIONS

- » Military Retirement
- » Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation
- » Railroad Retirement
- » Social Security Disability Insurance
- » Social Security Old-Age and Survivors Insurance
- » Social Security Trust Fund

OTHER INCOME SECURITY

- » Child Nutrition Programs
- » Child Support Collections
- » Child Support Enforcement
- » Foster Care and Adoption Assistance
- » Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- » Supplemental Security Income
- » Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- » Unemployment Compensation



Reports with Policy Options

CBO produces numerous reports with specific options or broad approaches for changing federal tax and spending policies.

CBO periodically publishes a reference volume, often referred to as “**Budget Options**,” that includes dozens of policy options to reduce federal budget deficits.

CBO also prepares analytic reports that examine specific federal programs, aspects of the tax code, and budgetary and economic challenges. A list of recent reports, organized by broad issue area, is given below.

Defense and Veterans

» Replacing Military Personnel in Support Positions With Civilian Employees

Report December 2, 2015

The Defense Department could cut federal costs by replacing some military personnel in support positions with civilian employees. If DoD replaced 80,000 military personnel, it could eventually save \$3.1 billion to \$5.7 billion annually.

» Preserving the Navy’s Forward Presence With a Smaller Fleet

Report March 13, 2015

The Navy can sustain its forward presence under smaller shipbuilding budgets by using longer deployments, more overseas basing, and more rotating crews. But those methods would offset some of the savings and have other disadvantages.

» Veterans’ Disability Compensation: Trends and Policy Options

Report August 7, 2014

From 2000 to 2013, the number of veterans receiving VA disability payments rose by nearly 55 percent, and spending for those benefits almost tripled. How might changes in VA’s disability compensation program affect the federal budget?

» Approaches to Reducing Federal Spending on Military Health Care

Report January 16, 2014

Between 2000 and 2012, the cost of providing health care to service members, retirees, and their families increased by 130 percent (after adjusting for inflation). What approaches might curtail the growth in those costs?

Budget Options

» Options for Reducing the Deficit: 2015 to 2024

(November 2014) Find Budget Options by major budget category, budget function, and topic.

» Choices for Deficit Reduction: An Update

(December 2013)

QUICK LINKS

» Latest Publications

» Major Recurring Reports

» Frequently Asked Questions

» Description of CBO’s Products

CBO has broken new ground with the introduction of a **fully digital** version of its widely used Budget Options report, which is produced periodically and examines options for reducing budget deficits.

Users are now able to search for options by their major budget and program categories via a dedicated online search.

The online search has been **expanded** to also include all options in CBO's analytic reports.



MAJOR BUDGET CATEGORY

- Mandatory Spending
- Discretionary Spending
- Revenues

Leave blank for all. Otherwise, the first selected term will be the default instead of "Any".

BUDGET FUNCTION

(Spending options only)

- 050 - National Defense
- 150 - International Affairs
- 250 - General Science, Space, and Technology
- 270 - Energy

TOPICS

- Agriculture
- Business and Finance
- Disability
- Education
- Energy and Natural Resources

REFINE BY DATE

Start date End date

2009 2016

Apply

Reset

Budget Options

>> Reports on Budget Options

To help inform lawmakers about the budgetary implications of various approaches to altering federal policies, CBO periodically issues a volume of policy options covering a broad range of issues as well as separate reports that include policy options in particular areas. Options from those publications are accessible from this page.

Mandatory Spending Options (Other than those for health-related programs)

Title	Latest Estimate
Impose a Fee on Nonproducing Parcels Leased for Oil and Gas Development on Offshore Federal Lands	Apr 2016
Impose a Fee on Nonproducing Parcels Leased for Oil and Gas Development on Onshore Federal Lands	Apr 2016
Increase the Minimum Bid on Parcels Leased for Oil and Gas Development on Onshore Federal Lands	Apr 2016
Increase the Royalty Rate for Oil and Gas Production on Onshore Federal Lands	Apr 2016
Increase the Royalty Rate for Oil or Gas Production on Offshore Federal Lands When the Price Rises Above a Threshold	Apr 2016
Require Nominations of Parcels to Be Leased for Oil and Gas Development on Offshore Federal Lands	Apr 2016
Require Sealed Bidding for Auctions of Parcels Leased for Oil and Gas Development on Onshore Federal Lands	Apr 2016
Eliminate the Reimbursement for Paid Meals in the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, and the Child and Adult Care Food Program	Sep 2015
Increase Reimbursement Rates by 10 Cents in the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, and the Child and Adult Care Food Program	Sep 2015
Increase the Income Limit for Free Meals in the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, and the Child and Adult Care Food Program	Sep 2015



Options for Reducing the Deficit: 2015 to 2024

» [Read Complete Document](#) (pdf, 2.27 MB)

November 20, 2014

In addition to the *printer-friendly version* of the complete volume, see the *Summary Table* for a complete list of options and their budgetary savings or *find budget options* according to their major budget category, budget function, and topic.

The Congress faces an array of policy choices as it confronts the prospect of large annual budget deficits and further increases in the already-large government debt that are projected to occur in coming decades under current law. To help inform lawmakers about the budgetary implications of changing federal policies, CBO periodically issues volumes of policy options and their effects on the federal budget, of which this is the most recent. The agency also issues separate reports that present policy options in particular areas.

This document provides estimates of the budgetary savings from 79 options that would decrease federal spending or increase federal revenues over the next decade. The estimates are updates of many of those presented in *Options for Reducing the Deficit: 2014 to 2023* (November 2013). The options cover a broad range of areas in the federal budget, including defense, energy, Social Security, health care programs, other benefit programs, and provisions of the tax code. The budgetary effects identified for most of the options span the 10 years from 2015 to 2024 (the period covered by CBO's baseline budget projections in 2014), although many of the options would have longer-term effects as well. This document presents options in the following categories:

- Mandatory spending other than that for health-related programs,
- Discretionary spending other than that for health-related programs,
- Revenues other than those related to health, and
- Health-related programs and revenue provisions.

[FIND BUDGET OPTIONS](#)

Full Text

» [Printer-Friendly Version](#) [PDF](#)

Supplemental Material

» [Summary Table of Options](#) [HTML](#)
» [Collected Tables Showing Projected Savings](#) [XLS](#)

Related Publications

» [Reports on Budget Options](#)
» [Choices for Deficit Reduction: An Update](#)

In another first, CBO just launched a new **online search tool** for mandates that CBO has identified in bills and public laws. CBO is required to assess the cost of mandates that would apply to state, local, and tribal governments, or to the private sector.

The online tool will replace an annual printed report that CBO had published for nearly 20 years.



Back to *CBO's Activities Under the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act*

SEARCH

Search Intergovernmental Mandates



AGGREGATE COSTS

- Exceed the Statutory Threshold (10)
- Fall Below the Statutory Threshold (132)
- Could Not Be Determined (1)

YEAR

- 2015 (57)
- 2014 (47)
- 2013 (39)

PREEMPTION

Bills Reviewed by CBO That Contained Mandates

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) requires CBO to estimate the cost of intergovernmental and private-sector mandates in bills and joint resolutions that have been reported by authorizing committees. CBO's statements about mandates must indicate whether the aggregate annual cost of mandates in the bill would exceed thresholds established in UMRA. In 2016, those thresholds are \$77 million for intergovernmental mandates and \$154 million for private-sector mandates (adjusted annually for inflation).

This page lists individual intergovernmental or private-sector mandates; filters on the left can narrow search results. Mandates whose costs would exceed the statutory threshold are in **bold** type, those with uncertain costs are in *italic* type, and those with costs below the threshold are in regular type.

Intergovernmental Mandates

Private-Sector Mandates

Bill

Description of Mandate

H.R. 1643, Digital Goods and Services Tax Fairness Act of 2015

December 16, 2015

(As ordered reported by the House Committee on Judiciary on June 17, 2015)

Prohibits state and local governments from taxing the sale of some digital goods and services



Back to *CBO's Activities Under the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act*

SEARCH

Search Intergovernmental Mandates



CONGRESS

114th Congress (2015-2016) (10)

113th Congress (2013-2014) (19)

PREEMPTION

Yes (12)

No (17)

AGGREGATE COSTS

Fall Below the Statutory Threshold (28)

Could Not Be Determined (1)

Laws That Contain Mandates

CBO periodically reviews public laws enacted throughout the year for intergovernmental and private-sector mandates. Occasionally, CBO will identify mandates that were not reviewed before enactment. In some cases, legislation is enacted without being considered by a committee (the stage at which almost all bills are reviewed for mandates); in others, mandates are included in amendments made on the House or Senate floor or in conference; in still other cases, mandates are included in appropriation bills, which UMRA does not direct CBO to review.

This page lists individual intergovernmental or private-sector mandates; filters on the left can narrow search results. Mandates whose annual costs would exceed the statutory threshold are in **bold** type, those with uncertain costs are in *italic* type, and those with costs below the threshold are in regular type. In 2016, those thresholds are \$77 million for intergovernmental mandates and \$154 million for private-sector mandates (adjusted annually for inflation).

Intergovernmental Mandates

Private-Sector Mandates

Law #	Public Law	Description of Mandate	Related Cost Estimates
114-114	Microbead-Free Waters Act of 2015	Prohibits the sale or distribution of cosmetics containing plastic microbeads Preempts state laws—that are not identical to the restrictions in the bill—that restrict the manufacture, introduction, or delivery for introduction into interstate commerce of rinse-off cosmetics containing plastic microbeads	H.R. 1321, Microbead-Free Waters Act of 2015

CBO **redesigned** the website's topics pages and **added new pages** on dynamic analysis and methods for analyzing health insurance coverage to make the agency's work in those areas easier to find and to bolster transparency.

- » Agriculture
- » Budget
 - » Budget Concepts and Process
 - » Budget Options
 - » Federal Credit Programs
 - » Long-Term Budget Analysis
 - » Outlook for the Budget and the Economy
 - » President's Budget
 - » Sequestration
 - » Status of Appropriations
- » CBO Operations
- » Climate and Environment
- » Defense and National Security
- » Disaster Preparation and Relief
- » Dynamic Analysis
- » Economy
- » Education
- » Employment and Labor Markets
- » Energy and Natural Resources
- » Finance
- » Health Care
- » Homeland Security
- » Housing
- » Immigration
- » Income Distribution
- » Infrastructure and Transportation

Budget

Featured Latest Policy Options

CBO's regular budget publications include semiannual reports on the budget and economic outlook, annual reports on the President's budget and the long-term budget picture, and a biannual set of options for reducing budget deficits. CBO also prepares **cost estimates** and mandate statements for nearly all bills that are reported by Congressional committees. Numerous analytic studies provide more in-depth analysis of specific budgetary issues.

QUICK LINKS

- 10-YEAR BUDGET PROJECTIONS
- BUDGET OPTIONS VOLUME
- 10-YEAR ECONOMIC PROJECTIONS
- HISTORICAL BUDGET DATA
- LONG-TERM BUDGET PROJECTIONS
- MONTHLY BUDGET REVIEW
- CBO'S ROLE IN THE BUDGET PROCESS
- GLOSSARY

BUDGET PROJECTIONS FOR FY 2016

(As of March 2016)

OUTLAYS	\$3.9 Trillion
REVENUES	\$3.4 Trillion
DEFICIT	\$534 Billion
DEBT HELD BY THE PUBLIC (End of Fiscal Year)	\$14.0 Trillion

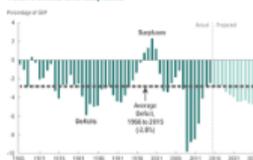


An Analysis of the President's 2017 Budget

Report March 29, 2016

CBO and the staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) project that, between 2017 and 2026, the President's budget would result in deficits averaging 3 percent of GDP and totaling \$6.9 trillion, \$2.4 trillion less than CBO's baseline.

Total Deficits and Surpluses



Updated Budget Projections: 2016 to 2026

Report March 24, 2016

CBO projects a \$534 billion deficit in fiscal year 2016, about \$100 billion more than in 2015. If current laws generally remained unchanged, the deficit would increase from 2.9 percent to 4.9 percent of GDP over the next decade.



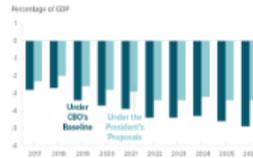
- » Agriculture
- » Budget
- » CBO Operations
- » Climate and Environment
- » Defense and National Security
- » Disaster Preparation and Relief
- » **Dynamic Analysis**
- » Economy
- » Education
- » Employment and Labor Markets
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- » Income Distribution
- » Infrastructure and Transportation
- » Mandates
- » Poverty and Income Security
- » Retirement
- » Science and Research and Development
- » Social Security
- » State and Local Governments

Dynamic Analysis

Featured Latest Policy Options

CBO has devoted significant effort to developing analytical tools that enable it to assess how changes in fiscal policies would affect the economy and how such "macroeconomic feedback" would affect the federal budget. Using those tools, the agency has provided estimates of effects on the budget in various reports. To learn more about when CBO conducts such dynamic analysis, see an [FAQ](#) on this subject. (See CBO's page [Economic Effects of Fiscal Policy](#) for additional analyses focused primarily on economic outcomes.)

Projected Deficits



A Macroeconomic Analysis of the President's 2017 Budget

Report June 6, 2016

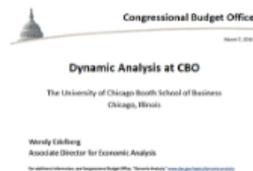
The President's budget proposals would make U.S. output larger over the next decade than it would be under current law—mostly by changing immigration laws. The economic effects would affect the budget in ways that would reduce deficits.



Budgetary and Economic Outcomes Under Paths for Federal Revenues and Noninterest Spending Specified by Chairman Price, March 2016

Report March 15, 2016

Under budgetary paths (not particular policies) specified by Chairman Price, the budget would show a surplus in 2026. In comparison with CBO's extended baseline, economic output would be lower in the next few years but higher after 2020.



Dynamic Analysis at CBO

Presentation February 29, 2016

Presentation by Wendy Edelberg, an Associate Director for Economic Analysis at CBO, at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business

- » Agriculture
- » Budget
- » CBO Operations
- » Climate and Environment
- » Defense and National Security
- » Disaster Preparation and Relief
- » Dynamic Analysis
- » Economy
- » Education
- » Employment and Labor Markets
- » Energy and Natural Resources
- » Finance
- » Health Care
 - » Affordable Care Act
 - » Medicaid and CHIP
 - » Medicare
 - » **Methods for Analyzing Health Insurance Coverage**
 - » Military and Veterans' Health Care
 - » Private Health Insurance
 - » Public Health and Prevention
- » Homeland Security
- » Housing
- » Immigration
- » Income Distribution

Methods for Analyzing Health Insurance Coverage

Featured | Latest | Policy Options

In analyzing health insurance coverage, CBO draws from the health economics literature, policy analyses, household survey data, and administrative data. In addition, CBO has developed a microsimulation model for analyzing health insurance coverage in the population under age 65. The Health Insurance Simulation model (HISIM) is used to project the changes in coverage due to the Affordable Care Act. Information about CBO's analytical methods is provided in reports listed below.

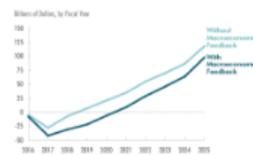


Microsimulation of Demand for Health Insurance

Presentation November 3, 2015

Presentation by Jessica S. Banthin, CBO's Deputy Assistant Director for Health, Retirement, and Long-Term Analysis, to the National Advisory Council, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Estimated Effects on Deficits of Repealing the Affordable Care Act



Budgetary and Economic Effects of Repealing the Affordable Care Act

Report June 19, 2015

CBO and the staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation estimate that, over the next decade, a repeal of the Affordable Care Act would probably increase budget deficits with or without considering the effects of macroeconomic feedback.



Presentation on Microsimulation of Demand for Health Insurance: A Method Based on Elasticities

Presentation June 9, 2014

Presentation by Jessica Banthin, CBO Analyst, to the AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting

CBO redesigned the pages where reports are found as part of a broader strategy to make the website easier to access with **mobile devices**.

This enhancement has already caused users to spend more time on CBO's website.

CBO will soon be making other parts of its website easier to access using **tablets** and **smartphones**.

Updated Budget Projections: 2016 to 2026 Total Deficits and Surpluses

March 24, 2016 | Report

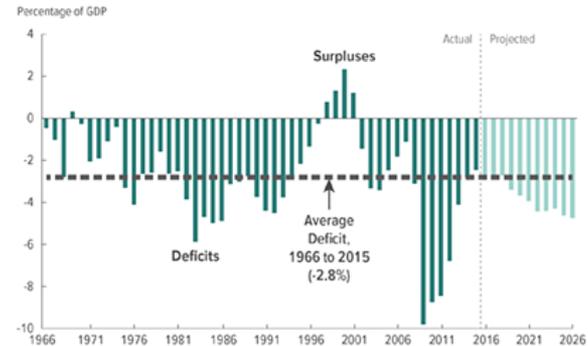
CBO projects a \$534 billion deficit in fiscal year 2016, about \$100 billion more than in 2015. If current laws generally remained unchanged, the deficit would increase from 2.9 percent to 4.9 percent of GDP over the next decade.



Screen-Friendly
467.18 KB



Print-Friendly
341.6 KB



Summary

As it typically does after the President's budget is released, CBO has updated the 10-year baseline budget projections it published early in the year. CBO now estimates that if no further legislation is enacted this year that affects the federal budget, the total federal deficit for fiscal year 2016 will be \$534 billion, about \$100 billion greater than the shortfall posted in fiscal year 2015. If current laws generally remained unchanged, the deficit would increase (in dollar terms) in nearly every year over the next decade and, CBO projects, by 2026 it would be considerably larger as a share of the nation's output (gross domestic product, or GDP) than its average over the past 50 years (see figure below). Debt held by the public also would rise significantly from its already high level, reaching 86 percent of GDP by 2026.

[...read more](#)

Budget Data

[10-Year Budget Projections](#)

[Historical Budget Data](#)

[Detailed Revenue Projections](#)

[Spending Projections, by Budget Account](#)

CBO recently launched a **feedback button** on its website to gather user input that will help shape the agency's digital strategy.



CBO Seeks Your Feedback to Help Improve Our Website

Posted by Adam Russell and Rob Dean on May 23, 2016

To better understand your experience on [cbo.gov](#), we launched a feedback button last month to collect users' thoughts regarding the site. For the next six weeks, we will continue to collect your feedback via the button on the left side of CBO's web pages. We want to know what you like about our site. What's useful? What's missing? What can we improve?

CBO will use this feedback to help shape our digital strategy and to help us improve the way we present material online. Your feedback will not be shared or distributed in any way. You can opt to include your name and email address if you'd like to be included in subsequent surveys as CBO continues to develop new layouts and page designs.

Thank you for helping to make [cbo.gov](#) better!

Adam Russell and Rob Dean work on CBO's communications team. Adam is a digital content specialist and Rob is a web developer.

Feedback



Monthly Archive

- » [June 2016 \(3\)](#)
- » [May 2016 \(7\)](#)
- » [April 2016 \(4\)](#)
- » [March 2016 \(11\)](#)
- » [February 2016 \(7\)](#)
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[browse all](#)

CBO recently revamped the **Press Center** page to make it more robust and user friendly.

CBO's Communications Office strives to **facilitate effective communication** between CBO and members of the press and the public about the agency's work.

CBO also utilizes the **CBO blog** and **FAQs (frequently asked questions)** on its website to provide additional insight into the agency's analyses and to highlight the agency's updated budget and economic projections and other analyses.

Press Center

Upcoming Events

No events are currently scheduled.

Latest News

CBO Releases "A Macroeconomic Analysis of the President's 2017 Budget"

June 6, 2016

CBO Releases "Scanning and Imaging Shipping Containers Overseas: Costs and Alternatives"

June 2, 2016

CBO Releases "Potential Increases in Hurricane Damage in the United States: Implications for the Federal Budget"

June 2, 2016

New Deputy Director Appointed at CBO

May 25, 2016

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Explaining the Basis of CBO's Findings

Posted by Keith Hall on December 7, 2015

This afternoon CBO released a **working paper** about how the agency estimates the effects of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) on the labor market. The ACA will make the labor supply, measured as the total compensation paid to workers, 0.86 percent smaller in 2025 than it would have been in the absence of that law, CBO estimates. Three-quarters of that decline will occur because of health insurance expansions, which raise effective tax rates on earnings from labor—for instance, by phasing out health insurance subsidies as people's income rises—and thus reduce the amount of labor that workers choose to supply.

Today's paper—part of a broad series of working papers providing technical information about our analyses—is just one way that CBO provides information about the methods and calculations underlying its estimates. CBO has long focused on the **transparency** of its analyses. We make a considerable effort to explain the basis of our findings so that Members of Congress, their staffs, and outside analysts can understand the results and question the methodologies used. Our cost estimates include descriptions of the basis for the estimates, and many of our reports provide substantial discussions of the relevant research literature and CBO's modeling approaches. Given the particular interest in our approaches to analyzing health care policy and to dynamic scoring, we have created two special collections of methodological materials on our website:

- We recently added a new page—**Methods for Analyzing Health Insurance Coverage**—to make it easier to find explanations of CBO's approaches to analyzing health insurance coverage and related proposals.
- Earlier this year—in light of the budget resolution's requirement for CBO to incorporate the budgetary impact of macroeconomic effects into its 10-year cost estimates for certain legislation—we created a **Dynamic Analysis** page, which includes extensive explanations of our analytical methods to assess the economic effects of fiscal policies.

Going forward, we will continue to take steps to enhance the transparency of our analysis.

Keith Hall is CBO's Director.



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What is CBO's estimate of the deficit for 2016? What was the budget deficit for 2015?

CBO's latest estimate (reported in March 2016) is that, if current laws governing taxes and spending were unchanged, the deficit would total \$534 billion in fiscal year 2016, equal to 2.9 percent of gross domestic product (GDP). The federal government ran a budget deficit of \$439 billion in fiscal year 2015, according to the Treasury Department, equal to 2.5 percent of GDP.