



Highway Trust Fund Accounts

The federal government's surface transportation programs are financed mostly through the Highway Trust Fund, which has two accounts, one for highways and one for mass transit. Section 9503 of title 26 of the U.S. Code specifies how trust fund receipts are allocated to the two accounts. The fund records inflows from revenues collected through excise taxes on the sale of motor fuels, trucks and trailers, and truck tires; taxes on the use of certain kinds of vehicles; and it also is credited with interest on fund balances. The fund records cash outflows for spending on designated highway and mass transit projects, mostly in the form of grants to state and local governments. Most of the spending authority is controlled by limitations on obligations contained in appropriation acts.

Highway Trust Fund Accounts

	Actual, 2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036
BUDGET INFORMATION												
Millions of dollars, by fiscal year												
Highway Account												
Start-of-Year Balance	74,632	56,418	36,386	14,537	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a
Flexed Balances ^b	-1,452	-1,200	-1,200	-1,200	-1,200	-1,200	-1,200	-1,200	-1,200	-1,200	-1,200	-1,200
Receipts ^c	38,889	41,560	42,269	42,826	43,297	43,738	44,174	44,623	45,091	45,576	46,083	46,607
Interest	2,931	1,422	644	62	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a
Outlays	58,582	61,814	63,563	65,009	65,175	65,305	65,572	66,491	67,936	69,308	70,716	72,149
End-of-Year Balance	56,418	36,386	14,537	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a
Transit Account												
Start-of-Year Balance	26,328	17,861	8,210	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a
Flexed Balances ^b	1,452	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
Receipts ^c	5,314	5,662	5,731	5,770	5,795	5,814	5,831	5,847	5,864	5,881	5,901	5,921
Interest	1,001	400	69	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a
Outlays	16,234	16,913	17,946	17,737	17,171	17,059	17,130	16,919	16,870	16,672	16,978	17,290
End-of-Year Balance	17,861	8,210	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a
Memorandum:												
Cumulative Shortfall ^a												
Highway Account	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	-8,785	-31,864	-54,630	-77,228	-100,296	-124,341	-149,273	-175,106	-201,848
Transit Account	n.a.	n.a.	-2,736	-13,503	-23,680	-33,725	-43,824	-53,696	-63,503	-73,093	-82,971	-93,140

Components may not sum to totals because of rounding; n.a. = not applicable.

- Under current law, the Highway Trust Fund cannot incur negative balances. However, following the rules governing baseline projections in the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, CBO's baseline for surface transportation spending reflects the assumption that obligations presented to the Highway Trust Fund will be paid in full. The memorandum to this table shows the cumulative shortfall of fund balances, under the assumption that spending is consistent with CBO's February 2026 baseline. Following the rules for baseline construction, those amounts are estimated by adjusting the obligation limitations enacted under the Continuing Appropriations, Agriculture, Legislative Branch, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Extensions Act, 2026, by projected inflation.
- Flexed balances are amounts transferred from the highway account to the transit account.
- Some of the taxes that are credited to the Highway Trust Fund are scheduled to expire on September 30, 2028, including the taxes on tires and all but 4.3 cents of the federal tax on motor fuels. However, under the rules governing baseline projections in the Deficit Control Act, these estimates reflect the assumption that all of the expiring taxes credited to the fund will continue to be collected after fiscal year 2028.