

Government Receipts and Expenditures

Third Quarter of 2015

NET GOVERNMENT saving, the difference between current receipts and current expenditures of the federal government and state and local governments, was $-\$753.1$ billion in the third quarter of 2015, decreasing $\$24.4$ billion from $-\$728.7$ billion in the second quarter of 2015

Net federal government saving was $-\$597.2$ billion in the third quarter, decreasing $\$23.0$ billion from $-\$574.2$ billion in the second quarter (see page 2). Both current receipts and current expenditures decelerated in the third quarter.

Net state and local government saving was $-\$155.8$ billion in the third quarter, decreasing $\$1.3$ billion from $-\$154.5$ billion in the second quarter (see page 3). Both current receipts and current expenditures accelerated in the third quarter.

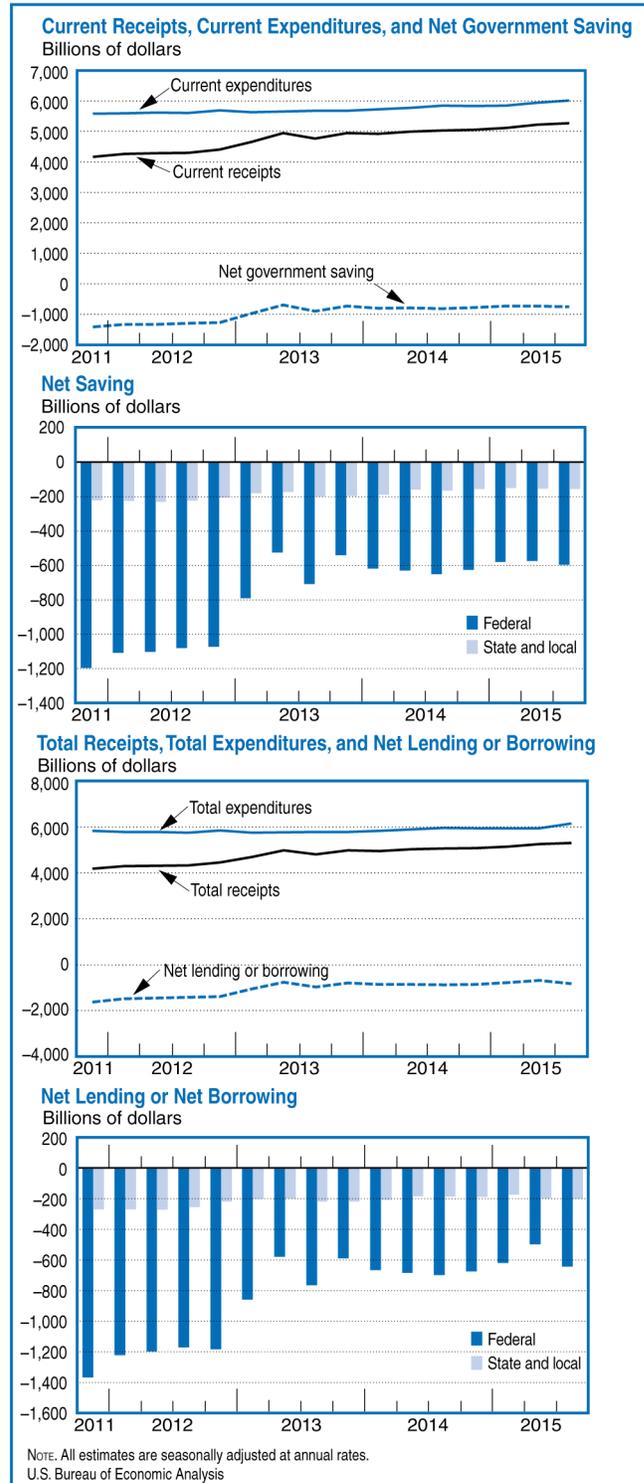
“Net lending or net borrowing (–)” is an alternative measure of the government fiscal position. Net borrowing is the financing requirement of the government sector, and it is derived as net government saving plus the consumption of fixed capital and net capital transfers received less gross investment and net purchases of nonproduced assets.

Net borrowing was $\$843.7$ billion in the third quarter, increasing $\$149.4$ billion from $\$694.3$ billion in the second quarter. Federal government net borrowing was $\$643.4$ billion in the third quarter, increasing $\$145.7$ billion from $\$497.7$ billion in the second quarter. State and local government net borrowing was $\$200.3$ billion, increasing $\$3.8$ billion from $\$196.5$ billion in the second quarter.

Table 1. Net Government Saving and Net Lending or Net Borrowing
[Billions of dollars, seasonally adjusted at annual rates]

	Level		Change from preceding quarter		
	2015	2014	2015		
	III	IV	I	II	III
Current receipts	5,263.2	16.6	64.7	103.0	47.2
Current expenditures	6,016.3	-17.5	12.4	102.0	71.6
Net government saving	-753.1	34.2	52.2	1.0	-24.4
Federal	-597.2	23.4	47.4	5.1	-23.0
State and local	-155.8	10.8	4.8	-4.1	-1.3
Net lending or net borrowing (-)	-843.7	21.8	69.4	100.6	-149.4
Federal	-643.4	22.2	55.7	122.9	-145.7
State and local	-200.3	-0.3	13.7	-22.2	-3.8

Chart 1. Government Fiscal Position



Michelle S. Grier prepared this article.

Federal Government

Table 2. Federal Government Current Receipts and Expenditures

[Billions of dollars, seasonally adjusted at annual rates]

	Level		Change from preceding quarter		
	2015	2014	2015		
	III	IV	I	II	III
Current receipts	3,482.9	2.3	60.8	83.9	42.5
Current tax receipts	2,168.7	25.9	69.5	60.9	22.7
Personal current taxes	1,550.5	35.2	59.3	26.2	23.3
Taxes on production and imports	140.2	-0.2	1.7	4.8	-5.1
Taxes on corporate income	452.7	-8.0	5.1	29.7	4.0
Taxes from the rest of the world	25.4	-1.2	3.4	0.2	0.6
Contributions for government social insurance	1,197.7	14.4	8.7	13.1	12.4
Income receipts on assets	68.6	4.8	-16.8	-1.2	24.1
Current transfer receipts	55.9	-42.7	-2.2	11.0	-16.7
Current surplus of government enterprises	-8.0	-0.2	1.7	0.1	0.0
Current expenditures	4,080.2	-21.1	13.4	78.8	65.6
Consumption expenditures	961.4	-19.1	7.6	0.5	4.2
National defense	594.9	-20.0	4.8	0.0	-0.3
Nondefense	366.5	0.8	2.9	0.5	4.5
Current transfer payments	2,582.4	12.3	55.4	2.8	40.2
Government social benefits	1,987.3	12.8	37.2	19.4	12.4
To persons	1,966.8	12.8	36.9	19.0	12.1
To the rest of the world	20.5	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4
Other current transfer payments	595.1	-0.4	18.2	-16.5	27.7
Grants-in-aid to state and local governments	539.2	-1.6	13.0	-5.3	19.0
To the rest of the world	55.9	1.1	5.2	-11.3	8.8
Interest payments	477.6	-13.6	-49.7	74.6	20.4
Subsidies	58.8	-0.7	0.1	0.9	0.8
Net federal government saving	-597.2	23.4	47.4	5.1	-23.0
Social insurance funds	-294.7	3.7	-17.0	0.4	-1.0
Other	-302.6	19.6	64.4	4.8	-22.1
Addenda:					
Total receipts	3,502.4	2.0	62.2	84.7	42.0
Current receipts	3,482.9	2.3	60.8	83.9	42.5
Capital transfer receipts	19.5	-0.3	1.4	0.8	-0.5
Total expenditures	4,145.8	-20.2	6.5	-38.2	187.7
Current expenditures	4,080.2	-21.1	13.4	78.8	65.6
Gross government investment	263.0	0.7	-4.1	2.0	-0.5
Capital transfer payments	75.5	-4.2	-3.3	1.1	2.7
Net purchases of nonproduced assets	-0.8	5.2	0.6	-120.9	120.8
Less: Consumption of fixed capital	272.0	0.7	0.1	-0.8	0.8
Net lending or net borrowing (-)	-643.4	22.2	55.7	122.9	-145.7

Taxes on production and imports turned down, reflecting a downturn in custom duties that resulted from the payment of retroactive refunds associated with the reinstatement of the U.S. Generalized System of Preferences.

Taxes on corporate income decelerated, reflecting a downturn in corporate profits.

Income receipts on assets turned up, reflecting the pattern of dividend payments from Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

Current transfer receipts turned down sharply, following the second-quarter payment of fines and penalties by foreign and domestic banks related to the manipulation of prices in the foreign currency exchange market.

Consumption expenditures accelerated, reflecting an acceleration in nondefense spending.

Government social benefits to persons decelerated. Payments of health insurance premium tax credits related to the Affordable Care Act turned down. Social security benefits decelerated.

Other current transfer payments to the rest of the world turned up. Transfers were boosted \$1.4 billion (\$5.6 billion at an annual rate) by economic support payments to Egypt.

Interest payments decelerated in the third quarter, reflecting a deceleration in inflation expense payments on Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities.

Net purchases of nonproduced assets turned up sharply, following the second-quarter increase in receipts from radio spectrum auctions.

Federal Government Estimates

Estimates of federal government current receipts, current expenditures, and net federal government saving are based on data from the federal budget, from the *Monthly Treasury Statement* and other reports from the Department of the Treasury, and from other federal government agencies. Total receipts, total expenditures, and net lending or net borrowing, which are alternative measures of the federal fiscal position, are based on these same sources.

Quarterly and annual estimates are available monthly in NIPA table 3.2. Detailed annual estimates of these transactions by component are available in NIPA tables 3.4–3.8,

3.12, and 3.13, and quarterly estimates for selected series are available in NIPA underlying detail tables.

Each year, BEA translates the information in the federal budget into a NIPA framework.¹ For a historical time series of these estimates, see NIPA table 3.18B.

All the estimates are available in interactive tables on [BEA's Web site](#).

1. See Mark S. Ludwick and Bnyam Tseyhaye, "NIPA Translation of the Fiscal Year 2016 Federal Budget," *SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS* 95 (March 2015).

State and Local Government

Table 3. State and Local Government Current Receipts and Expenditures

(Billions of dollars, seasonally adjusted at annual rates)

	Level		Change from preceding quarter		
	2015	2014	2015		
	III	IV	I	II	III
Current receipts	2,319.5	12.8	16.9	13.8	23.7
Current tax receipts.....	1,566.0	17.7	1.8	15.1	4.5
Personal current taxes.....	408.1	11.5	2.0	12.3	-3.3
Taxes on production and imports.....	1,098.6	5.4	-1.8	2.6	9.7
Taxes on corporate income.....	59.3	0.7	1.7	0.1	-1.9
Contributions for government social insurance.....	18.8	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Income receipts on assets.....	78.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.9
Current transfer receipts.....	664.1	-5.5	14.2	-2.2	18.1
Federal grants-in-aid.....	539.2	-1.6	13.0	-5.3	19.0
Other.....	124.9	-3.9	1.2	3.1	-0.9
Current surplus of government enterprises.....	-8.0	-0.1	0.4	0.4	0.1
Current expenditures	2,475.3	1.9	12.1	17.9	25.0
Consumption expenditures.....	1,619.2	-1.0	-10.0	8.9	10.8
Government social benefits.....	665.9	1.8	17.5	6.0	12.2
Interest payments.....	189.7	1.2	4.6	3.0	2.0
Subsidies.....	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net state and local government saving	-155.8	10.8	4.8	-4.1	-1.3
Social insurance funds.....	3.8	-0.2	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1
Other.....	-159.6	10.9	5.0	-3.9	-1.3
Addenda:					
Total receipts	2,391.6	5.0	18.8	13.5	27.1
Current receipts.....	2,319.5	12.8	16.9	13.8	23.7
Capital transfer receipts.....	72.1	-7.7	1.8	-0.3	3.4
Total expenditures	2,591.9	5.3	5.0	35.8	30.9
Current expenditures.....	2,475.3	1.9	12.1	17.9	25.0
Gross government investment.....	356.8	4.5	-6.5	18.2	6.8
Capital transfer payments.....
Net purchases of nonproduced assets.....	9.7	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	0.0
Less: Consumption of fixed capital.....	249.9	1.1	0.5	0.2	0.9
Net lending or net borrowing (-)	-200.3	-0.3	13.7	-22.2	-3.8

Personal current taxes turned down in the third quarter because of a downturn in personal income taxes.

Taxes on production and imports accelerated in the third quarter, reflecting an acceleration in sales taxes.

Federal grants-in-aid turned up in the third quarter; the upturn was largely driven by an upturn in Medicaid grants.

Consumption expenditures accelerated in the third quarter, reflecting an acceleration in compensation of general government employees.

Government social benefits accelerated in the third quarter as a result of an acceleration in Medicaid benefits.

Gross government investment decelerated, reflecting a deceleration in structures investment.

Estimates of State and Local Government Receipts and Expenditures

The estimates of state and local government current receipts and expenditures and total receipts and expenditures are mainly based on compilations of data for state and local government finances. The Census Bureau produces the primary source data: the census of governments that is conducted in years that end in a 2 or a 7 and the Government Finances series of surveys for the other years. In addition, other sources of Census Bureau data are from the *Quarterly Summary of State and Local Government Tax Revenue* and the monthly *Value of Construction Put in Place*. Data sources from the Bureau of Labor Statistics include the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages and the Employment Cost Index.

Quarterly and annual estimates are available monthly in NIPA table 3.3. Detailed annual estimates of state and local government transactions by component are available

in NIPA tables 3.4–3.8, 3.12, and 3.13, and quarterly estimates for selected series are available in NIPA underlying detail tables. For a historical time series of reconciliations of the NIPA estimates with the Census Bureau data from Government Finances, see NIPA table 3.19.

Annual estimates of receipts and expenditures of state governments and of local governments are available in NIPA table 3.20 (state government receipts and expenditures) and in NIPA table 3.21 (local government receipts and expenditures).¹

All the estimates are available in interactive tables on [BEA's Web site](#).

1. Bruce E. Baker, "Receipts and Expenditures of State Governments and of Local Governments," SURVEY 85 (October 2005): 5–10.