

Table 7.1—FEDERAL DEBT AT THE END OF YEAR: 1940–2009

End of Fiscal Year	In Millions of Dollars					As Percentages of GDP				
	Gross Federal Debt	Less: Held by Federal Government Accounts	Equals: Held by the Public			Gross Federal Debt	Less: Held by Federal Government Accounts	Equals: Held by the Public		
			Total	Federal Reserve System	Other			Total	Federal Reserve System	Other
1940	50,696	7,924	42,772	2,458	40,314	52.4	8.2	44.2	2.5	41.6
1941	57,531	9,308	48,223	2,180	46,043	50.4	8.2	42.3	1.9	40.4
1942	79,200	11,447	67,753	2,640	65,113	54.9	7.9	47.0	1.8	45.1
1943	142,648	14,882	127,766	7,149	120,617	79.1	8.3	70.9	4.0	66.9
1944	204,079	19,283	184,796	14,899	169,897	97.6	9.2	88.3	7.1	81.2
1945	260,123	24,941	235,182	21,792	213,390	117.5	11.3	106.2	9.8	96.4
1946	270,991	29,130	241,861	23,783	218,078	121.7	13.1	108.6	10.7	97.9
1947	257,149	32,810	224,339	21,872	202,467	110.3	14.1	96.2	9.4	86.8
1948	252,031	35,761	216,270	21,366	194,904	98.2	13.9	84.3	8.3	75.9
1949	252,610	38,288	214,322	19,343	194,979	93.1	14.1	79.0	7.1	71.9
1950	256,853	37,830	219,023	18,331	200,692	94.0	13.8	80.2	6.7	73.5
1951	255,288	40,962	214,326	22,982	191,344	79.7	12.8	66.9	7.2	59.7
1952	259,097	44,339	214,758	22,906	191,852	74.3	12.7	61.6	6.6	55.0
1953	265,963	47,580	218,383	24,746	193,637	71.4	12.8	58.6	6.6	52.0
1954	270,812	46,313	224,499	25,037	199,462	71.8	12.3	59.5	6.6	52.9
1955	274,366	47,751	226,616	23,607	203,009	69.3	12.1	57.2	6.0	51.3
1956	272,693	50,537	222,156	23,758	198,398	63.9	11.8	52.0	5.6	46.5
1957	272,252	52,931	219,320	23,035	196,285	60.4	11.7	48.6	5.1	43.5
1958	279,666	53,329	226,336	25,438	200,898	60.8	11.6	49.2	5.5	43.7
1959	287,465	52,764	234,701	26,044	208,657	58.6	10.8	47.9	5.3	42.6
1960	290,525	53,686	236,840	26,523	210,317	56.0	10.3	45.6	5.1	40.5
1961	292,648	54,291	238,357	27,253	211,104	55.2	10.2	45.0	5.1	39.8
1962	302,928	54,918	248,010	29,663	218,347	53.4	9.7	43.7	5.2	38.5
1963	310,324	56,345	253,978	32,027	221,951	51.8	9.4	42.4	5.3	37.0
1964	316,059	59,210	256,849	34,794	222,055	49.3	9.2	40.0	5.4	34.6
1965	322,318	61,540	260,778	39,100	221,678	46.9	9.0	37.9	5.7	32.2
1966	328,498	64,784	263,714	42,169	221,545	43.5	8.6	34.9	5.6	29.3
1967	340,445	73,819	266,626	46,719	219,907	42.0	9.1	32.9	5.8	27.1
1968	368,685	79,140	289,545	52,230	237,315	42.5	9.1	33.3	6.0	27.3
1969	365,769	87,661	278,108	54,095	224,013	38.6	9.2	29.3	5.7	23.6
1970	380,921	97,723	283,198	57,714	225,484	37.6	9.6	28.0	5.7	22.3
1971	408,176	105,140	303,037	65,518	237,519	37.8	9.7	28.1	6.1	22.0
1972	435,936	113,559	322,377	71,426	250,951	37.0	9.6	27.4	6.1	21.3
1973	466,291	125,381	340,910	75,181	265,729	35.6	9.6	26.0	5.7	20.3
1974	483,893	140,194	343,699	80,648	263,051	33.6	9.7	23.9	5.6	18.3
1975	541,925	147,225	394,700	84,993	309,707	34.7	9.4	25.3	5.4	19.8
1976	628,970	151,566	477,404	94,714	382,690	36.2	8.7	27.5	5.4	22.0
TQ	643,561	148,052	495,509	96,702	398,807	35.0	8.1	27.0	5.3	21.7
1977	706,398	157,294	549,104	105,004	444,100	35.8	8.0	27.8	5.3	22.5
1978	776,602	169,476	607,126	115,480	491,646	35.0	7.6	27.4	5.2	22.2
1979	829,467	189,161	640,306	115,594	524,712	33.1	7.6	25.6	4.6	21.0
1980	909,041	197,118	711,923	120,846	591,077	33.4	7.2	26.1	4.4	21.7
1981	994,828	205,418	789,410	124,466	664,944	32.5	6.7	25.8	4.1	21.7
1982	1,137,315	212,740	924,575	134,497	790,078	35.3	6.6	28.7	4.2	24.5
1983	1,371,660	234,392	1,137,268	155,527	981,741	39.8	6.8	33.0	4.5	28.5
1984	1,564,586	257,611	1,306,975	155,122	1,151,853	40.7	6.7	34.0	4.0	29.9
1985	1,817,423	310,163	1,507,260	169,806	1,337,454	43.8	7.5	36.3	4.1	32.2
1986	2,120,501	379,878	1,740,623	190,855	1,549,767	48.1	8.6	39.5	4.3	35.2
1987	2,345,956	456,203	1,889,753	212,040	1,677,713	50.4	9.8	40.6	4.6	36.0
1988	2,601,104	549,487	2,051,616	229,218	1,822,398	51.9	11.0	40.9	4.6	36.4
1989	2,867,800	677,084	2,190,716	220,088	1,970,628	53.1	12.5	40.6	4.1	36.5
1990	3,206,290	794,733	2,411,558	234,410	2,177,147	55.9	13.9	42.0	4.1	37.9
1991	3,598,178	909,179	2,688,999	258,591	2,430,408	60.6	15.3	45.3	4.4	41.0
1992	4,001,787	1,002,050	2,999,737	296,397	2,703,341	64.1	16.1	48.1	4.7	43.3
1993	4,351,044	1,102,647	3,248,396	325,653	2,922,744	66.1	16.8	49.4	5.0	44.4
1994	4,643,307	1,210,242	3,433,065	355,150	3,077,915	66.7	17.4	49.3	5.1	44.2

Table 7.1—FEDERAL DEBT AT THE END OF YEAR: 1940–2009—Continued

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			Total	Federal Reserve System	Other			Total	Federal Reserve System	Other
1995	4,920,586	1,316,208	3,604,378	374,114	3,230,264	67.2	18.0	49.2	5.1	44.1
1996	5,181,465	1,447,392	3,734,073	390,924	3,343,149	67.3	18.8	48.5	5.1	43.4
1997	5,369,206	1,596,862	3,772,344	424,518	3,347,826	65.6	19.5	46.1	5.2	40.9
1998	5,478,189	1,757,090	3,721,099	458,182	3,262,917	63.5	20.4	43.1	5.3	37.8
1999	5,605,523	1,973,160	3,632,363	496,644	3,135,719	61.4	21.6	39.8	5.4	34.4
2000	5,628,700	2,218,896	3,409,804	511,413	2,898,391	58.0	22.9	35.1	5.3	29.9
2001	5,769,881	2,450,266	3,319,615	534,135	2,785,480	57.5	24.4	33.1	5.3	27.7
2002	6,198,401	2,658,006	3,540,395	604,191	2,936,203	59.8	25.6	34.1	5.8	28.3
2003	6,760,014	2,846,407	3,913,607	656,116	3,257,491	62.4	26.3	36.1	6.1	30.1
2004 estimate	7,486,447	3,065,659	4,420,788	N/A	N/A	65.3	26.7	38.6	N/A	N/A
2005 estimate	8,132,945	3,341,083	4,791,862	N/A	N/A	67.5	27.7	39.8	N/A	N/A
2006 estimate	8,726,359	3,652,245	5,074,114	N/A	N/A	69.0	28.9	40.1	N/A	N/A
2007 estimate	9,317,866	3,984,837	5,333,029	N/A	N/A	70.2	30.0	40.2	N/A	N/A
2008 estimate	9,931,061	4,341,622	5,589,439	N/A	N/A	71.1	31.1	40.0	N/A	N/A
2009 estimate	10,564,099	4,719,666	5,844,433	N/A	N/A	71.9	32.1	39.8	N/A	N/A

N/A: Not available.

Table 7.3—STATUTORY LIMITS ON FEDERAL DEBT: 1940–CURRENT

Date and Act	History of Legislation	Dollar Amount of Limit
June 25, 1940		
54 Stat. 526	Amended sec. 21, adding new authority for issuance of \$4 billion National Defense Series obligations outstanding	49,000,000,000
February 19, 1941		
55 Stat. 7	Amended sec. 21, eliminating authority for \$4 billion of National Defense Series obligations and increasing limitation to	65,000,000,000
March 28, 1942		
56 Stat. 189	Amended sec. 21, increasing limitation to	125,000,000,000
April 11, 1943		
57 Stat. 63	Amended sec. 21, increasing limitation to	210,000,000,000
June 9, 1944		
58 Stat. 272	Amended sec. 21, increasing limitation to	260,000,000,000
April 3, 1945		
59 Stat. 47	Amended sec. 21, including obligations guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States and increasing limitation to	300,000,000,000
June 26, 1946		
60 Stat. 316	Amended sec. 21, defining face amount of savings bonds to be current redemption value and decreasing limitation to	275,000,000,000
August 28, 1954		
68 Stat. 895	Increasing sec. 21 limitation by \$6 billion during period beginning August 28, 1954, and ending June 30, 1955	281,000,000,000
June 30, 1955		
69 Stat. 241	Amended act of August 28, 1954, extending increase in limitation until June 30, 1956	281,000,000,000
July 9, 1956		
70 Stat. 519	Increased sec. 21 limitation by \$3 billion during period beginning July 1, 1956, and ending June 30, 1957	278,000,000,000
February 26, 1958		
72 Stat. 27	Increased sec. 21 limitation by \$5 billion during period beginning February 26, 1958, and ending June 30, 1959	280,000,000,000
September 2, 1958		
72 Stat. 1758	Amended sec. 21, increasing limitation to \$283 billion, which with temporary increase of February 26, 1958 made limitation	288,000,000,000
June 30, 1959		
73 Stat. 156	Amended sec. 21, increasing limitation to \$285 billion and increased sec. 21 limitation by \$10 billion during period beginning July 1, 1959, and ending June 30, 1960	295,000,000,000
June 30, 1960		
74 Stat. 290	Increased sec. 21 limitation by \$8 billion during period beginning July 1, 1960, and ending June 30, 1961	293,000,000,000
June 30, 1961		
75 Stat. 148	Increased sec. 21 limitation by \$13 billion during period beginning July 1, 1961, and ending June 30, 1962	298,000,000,000
March 13, 1962		
76 Stat. 23	Increased sec. 21 limitation by \$2 billion (in addition to temporary increase of \$13 billion in act of June 30, 1961) during period beginning March 13, 1962, and ending June 30, 1962	300,000,000,000
July 1, 1962		
76 Stat. 124	Increased sec. 21 limitation during the periods: (1) beginning July 1, 1962, and ending March 31, 1963, to	308,000,000,000
May 29, 1963		
77 Stat. 90	Increased sec. 21 limitation during the periods: (1) beginning May 29, 1963, and ending June 30, 1963, to	307,000,000,000
August 27, 1963		
77 Stat. 131	Increased sec. 21 limitation during the period beginning September 1, 1963, and ending November 30, 1963, to	309,000,000,000
November 26, 1963		
77 Stat. 342	Increased sec. 21 limitation during the periods: (1) beginning December 1, 1963, and ending June 29, 1964, to	315,000,000,000
June 29, 1964		
78 Stat. 225	Increased sec. 21 limitation during the period beginning June 29, 1964, and ending June 30, 1965, to	324,000,000,000
June 24, 1965		
79 Stat. 172	Increased sec. 21 limitation during the period beginning July 1, 1965, and ending June 30, 1966, to	328,000,000,000
June 24, 1966		
80 Stat. 221	Increased sec. 21 limitation during the period beginning July 1, 1966, and ending June 30, 1967, to	330,000,000,000
March 2, 1967		
81 Stat. 4	Increased sec. 21 limitation during the period beginning March 2, 1967, and ending June 30, 1967, to	336,000,000,000

Table 7.3—STATUTORY LIMITS ON FEDERAL DEBT: 1940—CURRENT—Continued

Date and Act	History of Legislation	Dollar Amount of Limit
June 30, 1967 81 Stat. 99	Sec. 21 amended to increase limitation on aggregate outstanding at any time to Sec. 21 amended also to increase the limitation temporarily, beginning July 1, 1968, and each July 1 thereafter for the period beginning July 1 and ending June 29 of each succeeding calendar year by \$7 billion, providing an operating limitation of	358,000,000,000 365,000,000,000
April 7, 1969 83 Stat. 7	Amended sec. 21, increasing limitation to \$365 billion, and increased sec. 21 limitation by \$12 billion during period beginning April 7, 1969, and ending June 30, 1970	377,000,000,000
June 30, 1970 84 Stat. 368	Amended sec. 21, increasing limitation to \$380 billion, and increased sec. 21 limitation by \$15 billion during period beginning July 1, 1970, and ending June 30, 1971	395,000,000,000
March 17, 1971 85 Stat. 5	Amended sec. 21, increasing limitation to \$400 billion, and increased sec. 21 limitation by \$30 billion during period beginning March 17, 1971, and ending June 30, 1972	430,000,000,000
March 15, 1972 86 Stat. 63	Amended sec. 21, to further increase the limitation temporarily by \$20 billion during period beginning March 15, 1972, and ending June 30, 1972	450,000,000,000
July 1, 1972 86 Stat. 406	Amended act of March 15, 1972, striking out June 30, 1972, and inserting in lieu thereof October 31, 1972	450,000,000,000
October 27, 1972 86 Stat. 1324	Increased sec. 21 limitation during the period beginning November 1, 1972, and ending June 30, 1973	465,000,000,000
July 1, 1973 86 Stat. 1324	Amended act of October 27, 1972, striking out June 30, 1973, and inserting in lieu thereof November 30, 1973	465,000,000,000
December 3, 1973 87 Stat. 691	Increased sec. 21 limitation during the period beginning December 3, 1973, and ending June 30, 1974	475,700,000,000
June 30, 1974 88 Stat. 285	Increased sec. 21 limitation during the period beginning June 30, 1974, and ending March 31, 1975	495,000,000,000
February 19, 1975 89 Stat. 5	Increased sec. 21 limitation during the period beginning February 19, 1975, and ending June 30, 1975	577,000,000,000
June 30, 1975 89 Stat. 246	Increased sec. 21 limitation during the period beginning June 30, 1975, and ending November 15, 1975	577,000,000,000
November 14, 1975 89 Stat. 693	Increased sec. 21 limitation during the period beginning November 14, 1975, and ending March 15, 1976	595,000,000,000
March 15, 1976 90 Stat. 217	Increased sec. 21 limitation during the period beginning March 15, 1976, and ending June 30, 1976	627,000,000,000
June 30, 1976 90 Stat. 793	Increased sec. 21 limitation during the periods: (1) beginning July 1, 1976, and ending September 30, 1976, to (2) beginning October 1, 1976, and ending March 31, 1977, to (3) beginning April 1, 1977, and ending September 30, 1977, to Temporary increase terminated October 1, 1977, and limitation reverted to	636,000,000,000 682,000,000,000 700,000,000,000 400,000,000,000
October 4, 1977 91 Stat. 1090	Increased sec. 21 limitation by \$352 billion during the period beginning October 4, 1977, and ending March 31, 1978	752,000,000,000
March 27, 1978 92 Stat. 185	Amended act of October 4, 1977, striking out March 31, 1978, and inserting in lieu thereof July 31, 1978 Temporary increase terminated August 1, 1978, and limitation reverted to	752,000,000,000 400,000,000,000
August 3, 1978 92 Stat. 419	Increased sec. 21 limitation by \$398 billion during the period beginning August 3, 1978, and ending March 31, 1979 Temporary increase terminated April 1, 1979, and limitation reverted to	798,000,000,000 400,000,000,000
April 2, 1979 93 Stat. 8	Increased sec. 21 limitation by \$430 billion during the period beginning April 2, 1979, and ending September 30, 1979	830,000,000,000
September 29, 1979 93 Stat. 589	Increased sec. 21 limitation by \$479 billion during the period beginning September 29, 1979, and ending May 31, 1980	879,000,000,000
May 30, 1980 94 Stat. 421	Amended act of September 29, 1979, striking out May 31, 1980, and inserting in lieu thereof June 5, 1980	879,000,000,000
June 6, 1980 94 Stat. 439	Amended act of September 29, 1979, striking out June 5, 1980, and inserting in lieu thereof June 30, 1980	879,000,000,000
June 28, 1980 94 Stat. 598	Increased sec. 21 limitation by \$525 billion during the period beginning June 28, 1980, and ending February 28, 1981	925,000,000,000
December 19, 1980 94 Stat. 3261	Increased the total debt limit (composed of \$400.0 billion of permanent ceiling, \$535.1 billion of temporary ceiling) to	935,100,000,000

Table 7.3—STATUTORY LIMITS ON FEDERAL DEBT: 1940—CURRENT—Continued

Date and Act	History of Legislation	Dollar Amount of Limit
February 7, 1981 95 Stat. 4	Increased the temporary portion of the debt limit to \$585.0 billion through September 30, 1980, raising the total debt ceiling to	985,000,000,000
September 30, 1981 95 Stat. 955	Increased the temporary portion of the debt limit to \$599.8 billion for one day—September 30, 1981	999,800,000,000
September 30, 1981 95 Stat. 956	Increased the temporary portion of the debt limit to \$679.8 billion through September 30, 1982	1,079,800,000,000
June 28, 1982 96 Stat. 130	Increased the temporary portion of the debt limit to \$743.1 billion through September 30, 1982	1,143,100,000,000
September 30, 1982 96 Stat. 1156	Increased the temporary portion of the debt limit to \$890.2 billion through September 30, 1983	1,290,200,000,000
May 26, 1983 97 Stat. 196	Eliminated the distinction between permanent and temporary limit with the enactment of a single permanent limit. Raised the debt limit to	1,389,000,000,000
November 21, 1983 97 Stat. 1012	Increased the debt limit to	1,490,000,000,000
May 25, 1984 98 Stat. 217	Increased the debt limit to	1,520,000,000,000
July 6, 1984 98 Stat. 313	Increased the debt limit to	1,573,000,000,000
October 13, 1984 98 Stat. 2206	Increased the debt limit to	1,823,800,000,000
November 14, 1985 99 Stat. 814	Increased the debt limit temporarily through December 6, 1985 to	1,903,800,000,000
December 12, 1985 99 Stat. 1037	Increased the debt limit to	2,078,700,000,000
August 21, 1986 100 Stat. 818	Increased the debt limit to	2,111,000,000,000
October 21, 1986 100 Stat. 1874	Increased the debt limit temporarily through May 15, 1987 to	2,300,000,000,000
May 15, 1987 101 Stat. 308	Increased the debt limit temporarily through July 17, 1987 to	2,320,000,000,000
July 30, 1987 101 Stat. 542	Increased the debt limit temporarily through August 6, 1987 to	2,320,000,000,000
August 10, 1987 101 Stat. 550	Increased the debt limit temporarily through September 23, 1987 to	2,352,000,000,000
September 29, 1987 101 Stat. 754	Increased the debt limit to	2,800,000,000,000
August 7, 1989 103 Stat. 182	Increased the debt limit temporarily through October 31, 1989 to	2,870,000,000,000
November 8, 1989 103 Stat. 830	Increased the debt limit to	3,122,700,000,000
August 9, 1990 104 Stat. 403	Increased the debt limit temporarily through October 2, 1990 to	3,195,000,000,000
October 2, 1990 104 Stat. 878	Increased the debt limit temporarily through October 6, 1990 to	3,195,000,000,000
October 9, 1990 104 Stat. 894	Increased the debt limit temporarily through October 19, 1990 to	3,195,000,000,000
October 19, 1990 104 Stat. 1030	Increased the debt limit temporarily through October 24, 1990 to	3,195,000,000,000
October 25, 1990 104 Stat. 1075	Increased the debt limit temporarily through October 27, 1990 to	3,195,000,000,000
October 28, 1990 104 Stat. 1086	Increased the debt limit temporarily through November 5, 1990 to	3,230,000,000,000
November 5, 1990 104 Stat. 1388–560	Increased the debt limit to	4,145,000,000,000
April 6, 1993 107 Stat. 42	Increased the debt limit temporarily through September 30, 1993 to	4,370,000,000,000
August 10, 1993 107 Stat. 312	Increased the debt limit to	4,900,000,000,000

Table 7.3—STATUTORY LIMITS ON FEDERAL DEBT: 1940—CURRENT—Continued

Date and Act	History of Legislation	Dollar Amount of Limit
February 8, 1996 110 Stat. 55	Temporarily exempted from limit obligations in an amount equal to the monthly insurance benefits payable under Title II of the Social Security Act in March 1996, the exemption to expire on the earlier of an increase in the limit or March 15, 1996.	
March 12, 1996 110 Stat. 825	Temporarily exempted from limit (a) obligations in an amount equal to the monthly insurance benefits payable under Title II of the Social Security Act in March 1996 and (b) certain obligations issued to trust funds and other Federal Government accounts, both exemptions to expire on the earlier of an increase in the limit or March 30, 1996.	
March 29, 1996 110 Stat. 875	Increased the debt limit to	5,500,000,000,000
August 5, 1997 111 Stat. 648	Increased the debt limit to	5,950,000,000,000
June 28, 2002 116 Stat. 734	Increased the debt limit to	6,400,000,000,000
May 27, 2003 117 Stat. 710	Increased the debt limit to	7,384,000,000,000