



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. 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 interest credited to the fund. It 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 authority to spend is controlled by limitations on obligations contained in appropriation acts.

Highway Trust Fund Accounts

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars											
	Actual, 2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
BUDGET INFORMATION												
Highway Account												
Start-of-Year Balance	12,621	14,264	95,343	82,405	65,459	45,225	21,645	a	a	a	a	a
Flexed Balances ^b	-1,085	-1,200	-1,200	-1,200	-1,200	-1,200	-1,200	-1,200	-1,200	-1,200	-1,200	-1,200
Revenues and Interest ^c	38,045	38,650	40,282	40,604	40,203	39,442	38,703	38,487	38,487	38,498	38,506	38,514
Intragovernmental Transfers ^d	10,400	90,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Outlays	45,717	46,371	52,020	56,351	59,237	61,822	63,838	65,444	67,109	68,493	69,901	71,342
End-of-Year Balance	14,264	95,343	82,405	65,459	45,225	21,645	a	a	a	a	a	a
Transit Account												
Start-of-Year Balance	5,126	6,878	34,243	30,549	24,588	17,106	8,210	a	a	a	a	a
Flexed Balances ^b	1,085	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
Revenues and Interest ^c	5,428	5,396	5,854	5,925	5,773	5,498	5,211	5,098	5,044	4,992	4,944	4,894
Intragovernmental Transfers ^d	3,200	28,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Outlays	7,961	7,231	10,748	13,085	14,455	15,594	16,618	16,921	17,097	17,147	17,102	17,264
End-of-Year Balance	6,878	34,243	30,549	24,588	17,106	8,210	a	a	a	a	a	a
Memorandum:												
Cumulative Shortfall ^a												
Highway Account	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	-4,690	-32,847	-62,668	-93,863	-126,457	-160,485
Transit Account	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	-1,997	-12,621	-23,474	-34,430	-45,388	-56,558

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, under the rules in the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 that govern baseline construction, CBO's projections of spending for surface transportation reflect the assumption that obligations presented to the trust fund will be paid in full. The memorandum to this table shows the cumulative shortfall of fund balances, assuming spending amounts that are consistent with CBO's May 2022 baseline. In keeping with those rules, the obligation limitations enacted under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022, have been adjusted to account for 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 that govern baseline construction, these estimates reflect the assumption that all expiring taxes credited to the fund will continue to be collected after fiscal year 2028.
- Provisions in two recent laws require certain intragovernmental transfers from the general fund of the Treasury to the Highway Trust Fund: Section 204 of the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 and Other Extensions Act authorized transfers in 2021 totaling \$13.6 billion; section 80103 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act authorized transfers in 2022 totaling \$118 billion.