



## 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

	Actual, 2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033
<b>BUDGET INFORMATION</b>												
Millions of dollars, by fiscal year												
<b>Highway Account</b>												
Start-of-Year Balance	14,264	98,913	90,906	77,042	58,274	35,613	9,987	a	a	a	a	a
Flexed Balances <sup>b</sup>	-885	-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 <sup>c</sup>	41,884	41,476	40,373	39,434	38,935	38,496	38,202	38,215	38,252	38,294	38,309	38,333
Intragovernmental Transfers <sup>d</sup>	90,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Outlays	46,350	48,283	53,037	57,003	60,396	62,922	65,248	66,853	68,184	69,539	70,904	72,296
End-of-Year Balance	98,913	90,906	77,042	58,274	35,613	9,987	a	a	a	a	a	a
<b>Transit Account</b>												
Start-of-Year Balance	6,878	34,555	32,381	27,975	21,521	13,658	4,541	a	a	a	a	a
Flexed Balances <sup>b</sup>	885	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 <sup>c</sup>	5,998	6,561	6,182	5,747	5,477	5,243	5,043	4,984	4,937	4,894	4,847	4,799
Intragovernmental Transfers <sup>d</sup>	28,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Outlays	7,206	9,935	11,787	13,401	14,541	15,561	16,360	16,783	17,073	17,017	17,163	17,112
End-of-Year Balance	34,555	32,381	27,975	21,521	13,658	4,541	a	a	a	a	a	a
<b>Memorandum:</b>												
Cumulative Shortfall <sup>a</sup>												
Highway Account	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	-18,259	-48,097	-79,228	-111,673	-145,468	-180,631
Transit Account	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	-5,577	-16,176	-27,112	-38,035	-49,150	-60,263

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

- a. 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, assuming spending amounts consistent with CBO's May 2023 baseline. Following the rules for baseline construction, those amounts are estimated by adjusting the obligation limitations enacted under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, by projected inflation.
- b. Flexed balances are amounts transferred from the highway account to the transit account.
- c. 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, these estimates reflect the assumption that all of the expiring taxes credited to the fund will continue to be collected after fiscal year 2028.
- d. In 2022, section 80103 of the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act required intragovernmental transfers of a combined \$118 billion from the general fund of the Treasury to the Highway Trust Fund.