

The National Agricultural Law Center

We are the nation's leading source of agricultural and food law research and information



Update from The Potomac: Farm Bill, Public Lands, and Related Issues

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UofA

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

RESEARCH & EXTENSION

University of Arkansas System

About the NALC

- Since 1987, the National Agricultural Law Center is the nation's leading source for agricultural and food law research and information.
 - The NALC is a unit of the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture
 - In close partnership with the USDA Agricultural Research Service, National Agricultural Library
- Objective, non-partisan research and information regarding laws and regulations affecting agriculture

nationalaglawcenter.org



NALC Newsletter: The Feed



- Issues every 2 weeks (once only in December)
- Concise ag law & policy updates w/ links to NALC resources



FY23 Federal Budget/Deficit Overview

- Federal deficit in 2023 was \$1.7 trillion (equal to 6.3% of GDP)
 - \$4.4 trillion in revenues, \$6.1 trillion in budget outlays
- About 66% of federal spending is considered “mandatory spending” – primarily Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid
- About 10% is in interest payments on national debt
- Discretionary spending is \$1.7 trillion (\$917 billion in non-defense and \$805 in defense)



Congressional Research Service Video Series



Debt

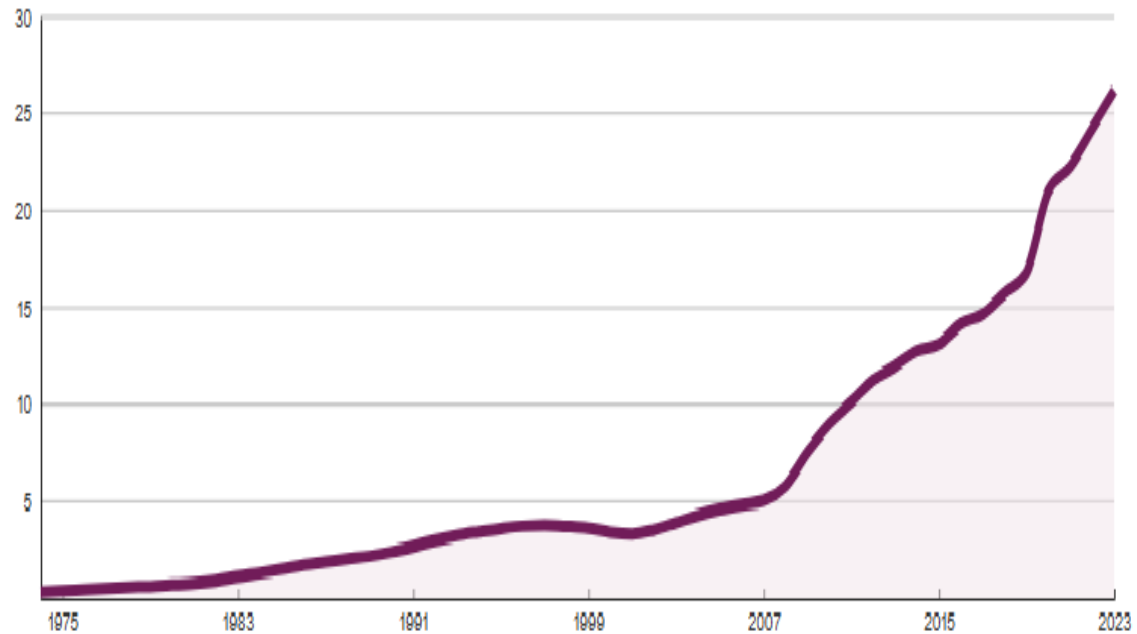
Debt held by the public is issued to finance annual deficits, the Treasury's cash balances, and federal loans. Surpluses can be used to pay down debt.

Percentage of GDP

Dollars

Federal Debt Held by the Public, 1974 to 2023

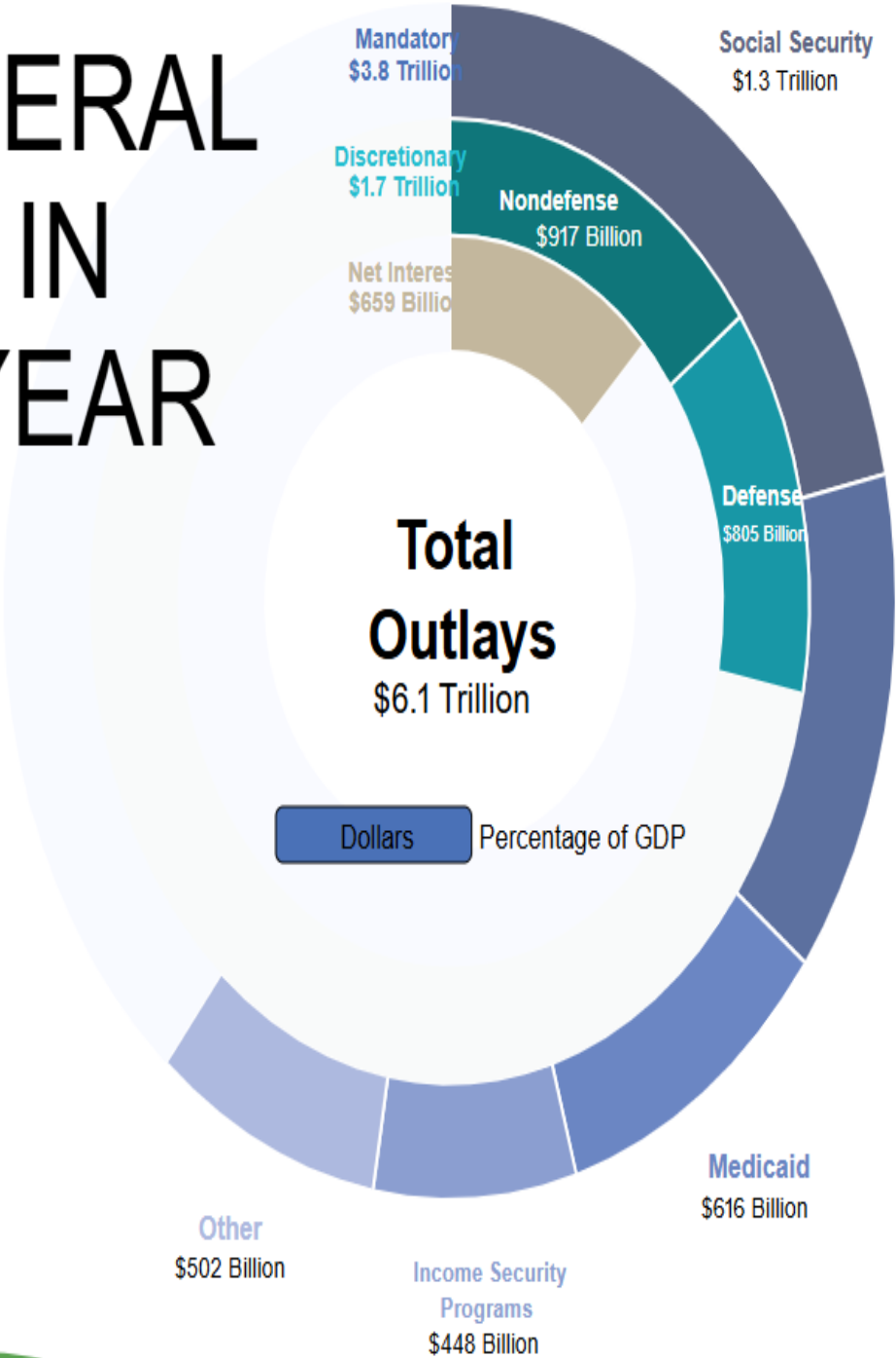
Trillions of Dollars



Source: Congressional Budget Office



THE FEDERAL BUDGET IN FISCAL YEAR 2023



Individuals \$2.2

Department of Government Efficiency (“DOGE”)

- What is “DOGE”? -- more than just a basic question
- Focused on three major areas of reform: regulatory rescissions, administrative reductions, and cost savings



USDA: Recent & Upcoming Developments

- Approximately 15% of overall USDA workforce has taken the offered DOGE buyouts
 - Farm Service Agency– 36% (1,123 out of 3,117)
 - Rural Development – 33%
 - Natural Resources Conservation Service – 17% (2,400 out of 14,417)
 - Agricultural Research Service – 20%
 - Forest Service – 11.9%
 - Risk Management Agency – 15%
- USDA Reorganization announced but
- 18% cut proposed to USDA programs in President's Budget



Tariffs: Big Picture

- International Emergency Economic Powers Act
- “Liberation Day” – April 2
 - 10% baseline tariff and numerous other country-specific tariffs of varying amounts
 - Later paused the country-specific for 90 days, except for China
 - Left 10% baseline in effect
 - China tariffs at 145%
- Number of inbound ships saw a decrease, more pronounced in western ports
 - Week of April 27 saw 13% decrease versus same week a year ago, and about one-third less than the prior week
 - Week of May 5 has 15 vessels scheduled, about one-third less than same week a year ago
- Timing could help mitigate overall risk to ag sector
- Congressional reaction: House vs. Senate



Farm Bill & Reconciliation



“There’s just a whole lot going on in this picture”

Farm Bill & Reconciliation

- Budget/Budget Resolution process
- House Ag Committee instructed to cut \$230 billion
 - SNAP dilemma – cuts vs. require states to cover some costs
 - Cuts made in House version, Senate working out different approach
- Effort underway to include farm programs and crop insurance in reconciliation
- May 7 – about three dozen House members demand that reconciliation must not add to the deficit, plus other “lines in the sand”



MAHA & Other Issues

- MAHA Commission Report initial assessment due May 24
- State activity
- Pesticide issues
- Immigration/ICE
- FIFRA Preemption
- State activity



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