

Four million, million

Do you know how much the United States Federal Government takes in in taxes each year? In fiscal year 2023, according to the United States Monthly Treasury Statement (MTS), the federal government collected \$4.4 trillion in revenue.

Now since one trillion represents one million, million, that means that \$4.4 trillion represents \$4.4 million, million. A number that, for the most part, is incomprehensible.

It is especially incomprehensible when certain departments of the government, like the United States Defense Department, can't successfully perform an audit of its own expenditures.

"The Department has turned a corner in its understanding of the depth and breadth of its challenges," said Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) and Chief Financial Officer, Michael McCord.

In other words, they haven't found a solution. They've simply arrived at the opinion that they now have a better understanding of the depth of their challenge.

Meanwhile, we do know where the money is coming from: Individual income taxes are 50 percent, plus payroll taxes, corporate income taxes, which are nine percent, customs duties on imported



Kevin Holten

goods, and excise taxes on things like fuel, cigarettes and gasoline.

In addition, the federal government earns money from the sale of government resources, and royalties from leasing federal land, fines and penalties.

Thus, American citizens are paying \$2.2 million, million out of their own pockets, not including taxes on fuel, cigarettes and other things. And most are happy to do so if the money is being spent wisely rather than overspent unwisely or illegally.

So where do we currently stand? First, a deficit occurs when the federal government's spending exceeds its revenues. And the federal government has spent \$624 billion more than it has collected thus far in fiscal year 2025.

The fiscal year-to-date (since October 2024) total is updated monthly using the Monthly Treasury Statement (MTS) dataset. Compared to the national deficit of \$381 billion for the same pe-

riod last year (Oct 2023 - Nov 2023), our national deficit has increased by \$244 billion to \$624 billion in just that same short period in 2024.

If that happens every month for 12 months that's an increase of \$7.7 trillion new deficit dollars added to the already existing deficit. In other words, federal government spending is more than out of control, it's in crisis mode. And why is that?

Look at it this way: We think that Congress enacts new legislation to better our lives. However, we must also remember that enacting legislation gives them access to our money. And that access to those federal tax revenues also allows them to divvy up dollars, reward special interest groups, penalize opposition, further their agendas, and maintain or secure political power.

Fact is, putting a group of people together who are working in one direction to solve a national problem is very doable, until you add in the "who gets the money" factor.

Cowboy humorist and columnist Will Rogers once wondered who started the idea that a president must be a politician instead of a businessman.

"A politician can't run any other kind of business," he said, "so, there is no reason why he can run the United States. That's the biggest single business in the world."

Rogers also added this: "A politician is just like a pickpocket, and it's almost impossible to get one to reform."

Sitter named to UJ's fall Dean's List

Kaitlyn Sitter, of Medora, North Dakota, was named to the Fall 2024 Dean's List at the University of Jamestown in Jamestown, North Dakota.

Students are named to the Dean's List when they earn a 3.5 GPA while taking at least 12 credit hours for the semester.

About University of Jamestown

University of Jamestown is consistently ranked as a top regional university in the Midwest by U.S. News & World Report. Founded in 1883 as Jamestown College, UJ is a private, Christian liberal arts



Kaitlyn Sitter

institution that offers a wide range of undergraduate and graduate programs. At the bachelor's level, students can pursue degrees in the arts, sciences, and nursing. The university also grants master's

degrees in business, education, leadership, technology and clinical counseling. Additionally, UJ provides doctoral programs in clinical research, character in leadership, and physical therapy. To expand access to its high-quality education, University of Jamestown launched UJ Accelerated, its online division, which delivers intensive upskilling opportunities to learners across diverse settings.

For more information about academic offerings, campus life, and online programs, please visit UJ.edu.

A Step Back in Time

By Troy Tescher



100 Years Ago

Sentinel Butte Review, Jan. 2, 1925: I am in the market for hides and furs of all kinds. Highest cash prices paid. Highest market price paid for eggs and cream. John Graden, Sentinel Butte. North Dakota land will produce a greater percentage of profit on the capital investment than any other agricultural state in the union shown by figures in the recent report from the USDA. North Dakotans earned \$4,110 per farm in 1924, with average land for agriculture at \$41.10 an acre. At the regular monthly December meeting of the school board of the Sentinel Butte District No. 2, the following resolution was passed, that beginning with January 2, 1925, all families are entitled to transportation, resulting in the district paying a flat rate of 50¢ per day per family. County Treasurer-elect Mrs. Grace Houck, who is teaching the school term at Golva, is spending her holiday vacation at her home near Westerheim.

75 Years Ago

Golden Valley News, Jan. 5, 1950: Mr. and Mrs. Ed Lievens, long-time residents of the Sentinel Butte ranching community, have donated their 940 acre ranch to a planned corporation to be known as Boys Ranch. The ranch will be headed by a 41-year-old Bismarck priest, Father Elwood Cassidy, who has dreamed of such a project to help boys of any race or creed. A large dormitory will be built to accommodate 40 boys, according to present plans. The Lievens, Belgium born, homesteaded on their ranch in 1910 and have made it their home since, along with their 4 daughters. Mrs. Mary Oleson, one of the pioneer homesteaders of the Yates, MT community, was taken by death at her home in Wisconsin. She and her husband W.G. Oleson homesteaded in Yates in 1906, living there until his health failed, forcing him to give up farming, after which they made their home in both Wibaux and Beach and going later to Wisconsin where he died in 1947. Do you need your garbage hauled away? We can also haul your coal; prompt service guaranteed. Beach Garbage Disposal. Phone 181-LW. We are buying whole rabbits at 25¢ per rabbit. Beach Hide & Fur.

50 Years Ago

Golden Valley News, Jan. 9, 1975: The Beach School District received a check in the sum of \$5,000 from Michael McCarthy, a 1919 graduate of Beach High School. The money will be used to establish a grove of trees to the west of the new school, for a flag pole and to complete landscaping. The gift follows an earlier donation of \$10,000. The Beach Jaycees are sponsoring an ice skating party for elementary school age children Sunday, January 12 at the local skating rink. Funeral services were held for Cyril Odenaugh, 67, on January 8, he died from an apparent heart attack at his home on Jan. 3. He was a custodian at the GVC courthouse at the time and prior to that had operated in Beach a barber shop. He came to the community of Squaw Gap as a child. Miss Deborah Marie Bummer and Donald Lloyd Olstad were wed on December 14 at Laurel, MT. The bride is a graduate of Laurel High School and the groom graduated from Sentinel Butte High School. He is employed as a heavy equipment operator.

25 Years Ago

Golden Valley News, Jan. 6, 2000: Bobbi Olstad is as happy as a child at Christmas time. On Thursday, Dec. 30th, she officially moved into her new office building for Dakota Insurance. Bobbi purchased the building from Kay Lovell. Ralph Samuels Sr. Was born in Kentucky in 1897 and arrived in Beach in 1915 in a box car full of their animals along with his father. He started working for Harley Moore six miles west of Alpha on a ranch and the Windberg coal mines, earning \$1.50 a day. In 1986, Ralph sold the farm where he had lived for 71 years and moved to the Manor. With living in 3 different centuries, Ralph will be 103 in August.

Quote of the Week:

"Last year we said, 'Things can't go on like this,' and they didn't, they got worse."
- Will Rogers

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