



Deficit: Why Should I Care?

Marie Bussing-Burks

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At the turn of this century, the American national debt stood at just under \$6 trillion and the deficit at a "mere" \$86 billion. Today, the national debt has topped \$14 trillion, and the yearly deficit for 2011 is projected at a whopping \$1.4 trillion.

According to the U.S. Treasury Department's *Annual Report on the Public Debt*, the debt is estimated to hit \$19.6 trillion by 2015. The federal government has borrowed roughly 40 percent of its total budget for the last several years, a disturbing trend that could leave the U.S. in an economic crisis. Astronomical interest payments, a debt burden to your children and grandchildren, and an increased reliance on foreign creditors are just a few of the problems. Although the U.S. has experienced soaring unemployment, stagnant production, and a crippled housing market, foremost on economists' minds are rising deficits and ballooning debt. Others feel fears of the national debt are overblown or pale in comparison to today's economic problems.

This clear, concise book will give you the need-to-know on the debt. You will learn:

- How to calculate deficits and the national debt
- The history of U.S debt and its recent unparalleled growth over the years
- How and why the government borrows money
- Methods and tactics for balancing the budget
- The economic arguments for, and against, accruing a debt
- The impact of the debt on interest rates and inflation
- The impact of the debt on the value of the dollar and U.S. economic power

This book also answers key questions:

- Can the government go bankrupt?
- Why have there seemingly been no repercussions of the large debt to date and is that likely to change?
- When the interest on the debt becomes higher than the revenue of the government, what happens?

And many more practical insights into the government debt controversy.

Business professionals, parents, retirees, and students are all talking about the debt. This quick read will provide an understanding of the ramifications of the rising debt and what the consequences may be.

What you'll learn

- Why the debt now could be a problem when people have been crying wolf about the debt for for the last 40 years
- What the government can do to reduce the debt and the implications—especially for such programs as Medicare and Social Security
- The long-term implications of the debt
- Methods and tactics for balancing the budget
- When accruing a debt makes sense and when it does not
- Action steps for monitoring the debt

Who this book is for

Deficit: Why Should I Care? is written for the busy business professional, concerned parent, retired worker, or student. While academic and theoretical texts on the subject lack brevity, this book will help you understand the seriousness of the debt issue in a clear, concise format. This work has been condensed into seven need-to-know chapters, each containing the key points necessary for understanding this complex economic issue affecting the economic future of all Americans. Whether you are a businessperson concerned about the economy, a parent anxious about the debt burden of your children and grandchildren, a retiree fretful about programs like Social Security, or a student who needs additional information to supplement a

textbook, this is the book for you. The appendix provides a website selection covering government agencies, economic sources, and academic sites to assist you in finding the most up-to-date information on the debt drama.

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