

# GOVERNMENTAL DEBT IN 1949

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Charles Sawyer, Secretary

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS  
Philip M. Hauser,  
Acting Director

GOVERNMENTAL FINANCES IN  
THE UNITED STATES: 1949

GOVERNMENT DIVISION  
Allen D. Menvel, Chief

G-GF49-No.1

Washington 25, D. C.

December 1949

Outstanding debt of State and local governments amounted to \$20.9 billion on June 30, 1949, having increased nearly \$2.1 billion during the previous 12 months. Public debt of the Federal Government rose slightly in the same period, from \$252.3 to \$252.8 billion. Total governmental debt in the Nation on June 30, 1949, therefore, was over \$273.6 billion as compared with \$271.0 billion a year earlier.

Outstanding public debt in 1949 amounted to \$1,834 per capita, including \$1,694 per capita of Federal, \$113 of local government, and \$27 of State obligations.

## RECENT DEBT TRENDS

As indicated by the chart below, Federal debt rose sharply during World War II to a peak in 1946, from which it dropped off for two years and then moved slightly upward. Indebtedness of States and local governments, on the other hand, declined gradually from prewar levels to a 1946 low, and has since risen at an accelerating rate.

Gross debt of States and local governments rose about \$5 billion in the 3 years ending

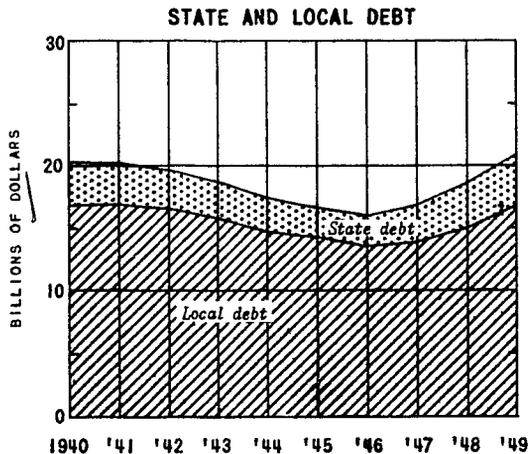
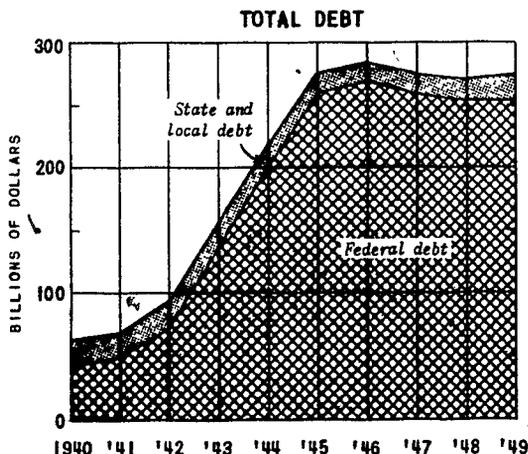
June 30, 1949. This increase more than canceled out their debt reductions of the preceding 6-year period, and brought the total outstanding to a new high. Population growth has been even greater, however, so that the 1949 amount of State and local debt per capita—\$140—was less than the related per capita amounts of 1942 and previous years back through the '30's.

State debt increased again in 1949, reaching a new high of \$4.0 billion as compared with \$3.7 billion a year before and \$2.4 billion in 1946. Gross debt of local governments rose even more sharply to approach \$16.9 billion. This exceeds slightly the total of \$16.7 billion reported for 1932 and 1940, and marks a new record level for outstanding local government debt.

Every major type of local government has shared in the postwar increase in outstanding gross debt. The rise in school district indebtedness—from \$1.3 billion in 1946 to \$2.1 billion in 1949—has been particularly marked.

Trends in gross debt of Federal, State, and local governments since 1922 are summarized in table 1. More detailed information on State and local government debt outstanding on June

## GOVERNMENTAL DEBT: 1940 - 1949



30 of 1949 and prior years is presented in tables 2 and 3. Federal debt statistics are shown in detail in reports of the Treasury Department. Accordingly, they are treated only in summary in this report, which relates mainly to indebtedness of State and local governments.

Changes in amount of public debt outstanding during recent decades have, of course, been accompanied by significant changes in population and in the scale of the nation's economy in terms of such measures as total income payments and gross national product.<sup>1</sup> These trends may be summarized, for convenient reference, as follows:

Year	Population*	National Income**	Gross national product**
1949.....	149.2	\$224.9	\$261.6
1948.....	146.6	226.2	262.4
1947.....	144.0	201.7	235.7
1946.....	141.2	179.6	212.6
1945.....	139.6	182.7	215.2
1944.....	138.1	183.8	213.7
1942.....	134.7	187.1	161.6
1940.....	131.7	81.3	101.4
1932.....	124.8	41.7	58.3

\*In millions; including armed forces overseas; July 1 estimates except for 1940, representing April 1 enumeration.

\*\*In billions; calendar years, except that 1949 amount is the annual rate, seasonally adjusted, for the first 2 quarters.

#### COMPOSITION OF STATE AND LOCAL DEBT

Only \$0.7 billion of the gross debt of State and local governments outstanding on June 30, 1949 was short-term in nature. Of the remaining \$20.1 billion, representing long-term debt, \$2.6 billion was offset by assets of sinking funds. Net long-term debt therefore totaled \$17.5 billion.

Local government indebtedness in 1949 was over 4 times as great as that of State governments. In turn, more than half of all local government debt was owed by cities, whose obligations as of June 30, 1949 are estimated at \$9.5 billion. Special districts accounted for \$3.3 billion, or 20 percent of all local government debt, school districts for \$2.1 billion or 13 percent, and county and township governments for the remaining smaller amounts of outstanding local indebtedness.

More than one-third, or \$7.5 billion, of all indebtedness of State and local governments in 1949 was for publicly owned enterprises. Cities accounted for \$4.7 billion, or nearly two-thirds, of such enterprise debt, and special districts for most of the remainder. Of gross debt totaling \$13.4 billion for general-government purposes, cities owed 36 percent, States

<sup>1</sup>See Survey of Current Business, July 1949 and November 1949.

27 percent, school districts 16 percent, counties 12 percent, and special districts and townships 7 and 2 percent, respectively.

Most of the outstanding debt of State and local governments is backed by their full faith and credit. However, an estimated \$2.5 billion of their long-term indebtedness as of June 30, 1949 was nonguaranteed, being payable solely from pledged specific revenues. Cities owed nearly half such nonguaranteed debt, with special districts and State institutions and agencies responsible for most of the balance.

Preliminary 1949 data concerning outstanding debt of individual State governments are presented in table 4. Gross debt of 21 States increased, and that of 27 decreased, during their 1949 fiscal years, with particularly large increases noted for Ohio and Pennsylvania. Final State figures for 1949, with additional detail, will appear in the Census Bureau publication, Compendium of State Government Finances in 1949.

#### INTEREST PAYMENTS

Data for interest payments on governmental debt for 1948 and selected prior years are shown in table 5. Detailed analysis of the relation between interest and debt data in this report should not be attempted, but rough comparisons and broad generalizations regarding the data are possible.<sup>2</sup>

It is apparent that the relatively low interest rates of the past decade have resulted in materially different trends as between interest payments and governmental debt. While total public debt was nearly 7 times as great in 1948 as in 1932, interest payments in 1948 were only 4 times those of 1932. Interest payments by State and local governments in fiscal 1948 amounted to \$544 million as against \$840 million in 1932, even though their debt outstanding was rather similar in amount in the two years.

Trends in interest payments are currently dominated by the operations of the Federal Government. Federal interest payments accounted for over 90 percent of all interest payments on governmental debt in 1948.

#### OWNERSHIP OF GOVERNMENTAL SECURITIES

Of the \$272 billion total of public interest-bearing securities outstanding on June 30, 1949,

<sup>2</sup>Interest amounts shown in this report represent total expenditure for interest during the fiscal periods covered. They will not accurately reflect average coupon rates on indebtedness outstanding at the end of related periods, since they include interest on debt retired during the year and only some fraction of annual charges on debt issued during the year. Moreover, interest payments as reported here make no allowance for premiums or discounts on debt issued. It should also be noted that, except in table 6, debt statistics in this report include noninterest-bearing long-term debt.

\$49.4 billion or 18 percent was held by the issuing governments themselves or other governments. Federal reserve banks owned \$19.3 billion, and private holdings accounted for the remaining \$203.4 billion.

States increased their holdings of interest-bearing governmental securities slightly, to over \$6.5 billion, during the year ended June 30, 1949. State ownership of such securities has doubled since 1944, and has increased fourfold since 1940. All but \$970 million of the 1949 total of State holdings were Federal securities.

The volume of public interest-bearing securities held by local governments also rose in 1949, to \$4.1 billion, which compares with \$3.8 billion in 1948 and with \$2.6 billion in 1940.

A considerable portion of the public security holdings of State and local governments represent assets of employee-retirement and other trust funds or of sinking funds.

Ownership of interest-bearing governmental debt is shown in detail in table 6. It should be noted that the figures do not include noninterest-bearing obligations and, for that reason, total less than gross debt amounts shown for the same dates in tables 1, 2, and 3.

#### RELATION TO PREVIOUS REPORTS ON DEBT

The present report is designed to supply information which in previous years has been released through two separate publications—an initial summary and a more detailed final debt report.

Several months' earlier release of figures as to the composition of State and local debt is permitted by reporting such data as of June 30, rather than—as in the past—on the basis of the fiscal year endings of the governments involved. This change affects tables 2 and 3, where prior-year amounts for the period 1940 to 1948 have been adjusted to a June 30 basis and will therefore differ somewhat from related fiscal-year-end amounts shown in previous Census debt reports.

Data here regarding interest payments are on a fiscal year basis, as in previous reports. However, previous exceptions to the Census Bureau's usual grouping of fiscal year data for local governments have been eliminated, so that local government interest payments shown for 1948 and recent prior years comprise amounts paid during fiscal years ending within the specified calendar year. This change affects only table 5.

Another minor change in the present report involves the method of presenting State-and-local debt totals. Such composite amounts here represent simple additions of component State and local government totals, without adjustment for any type of intergovernmental borrowing. In prior years, certain "duplicating" debt amounts, representing State loans to local governments financed from proceeds of State debt,

were deducted in arriving at combined totals. Back-year figures affected have been revised accordingly. Amounts involved are relatively small (e.g., \$58 million of gross debt in 1948).

#### SOURCES AND METHODS

Federal government statistics.—Statistics of Federal Government debt and interest payments, and data as to ownership of governmental securities, except State and local government holdings, are from reports of the Treasury Department.

Historical State and local government data.—State and local government figures for 1932 and earlier years were derived from reports of the decennial censuses of governments for the specified years. Other back-year figures were derived from the Census Bureau's annual reports on governmental debt, inaugurated in 1940. Original sources and methods used were described in those reports. (See also the section above on "Relation to Previous Reports on Debt.")

Current State and local government statistics.—Current statistics presented herein on State and local government debt and on related subjects are based primarily on data obtained from a random stratified sample of State and local governments by mail canvass. To minimize possible bias from the incomplete response that is inherent in the mail canvass method of collecting data, follow-up letters and telegrams, and, in selected instances, direct field compilation from local or State records by Census representatives were employed to achieve maximum reporting from the designated sample of governments.

The sample design provides for complete coverage of the 48 State governments, the 37 cities and the 56 counties having over 250,000 inhabitants in 1940, and the 74 townships and the 212 special districts having either outstanding indebtedness or annual revenue of more than \$1 million. For these classes of governments, only minor estimation was required as to missing items.

Housing authority data and statistics as to liabilities of western irrigation and reclamation districts to the United States Government were supplied by two Federal agencies, the Public Housing Administration and the Bureau of Reclamation, respectively.

School district figures are based on information obtained from the United States Office of Education and from State agencies which compile public school statistics. Of the 41 States having school districts (i.e., units of school administration that are independent units of local government and not school systems operating as administrative segments of State, county, city, and township governments), comprehensive 1949 data were available for only 11 States. For school districts in the remaining 30 States, 1948 debt was projected to 1949 on the basis of statistics on debt issued and estimates as to

debt retired during the 12-month period. Debt retired was estimated primarily on the basis of data as to debt retired in the preceding year, with rough adjustments to take account of changes in debt outstanding.

Statistics as to local governments not enumerated above were arrived at by sampling methods. June 30, 1949 data were collected by mail canvass or from State sources for a stratified sample of these governments. Sample units were selected on a random basis. Reports of 1949 debt were received for these sample units, as follows: cities, 535; counties, 170; townships, 189; and special districts, 114.

Estimates as to debt of cities having 25,000 to 250,000 inhabitants in 1940 were made by applying to city debt totals from tabulations for the forthcoming Census Bureau report, Compendium of City Government Finances in 1948, ratios of change from 1948 computed from reports of the sample units.

For cities having 2,500 to 25,000 inhabitants in 1940, estimates were made by applying to "bench mark" statistics for these units from the 1942 Census of Governments, ratios of change from 1942 computed from reports of the sample units.

Estimates as to county debt were made by applying to 1948 county debt totals from the Census Bureau report, Summary of County Government Finances in 1948, ratios of change from 1948 computed from reports of the sample units.

Estimates as to the smallest size-class cities (having less than 2,500 inhabitants) and small townships and special districts (having indebtedness and annual general revenue of less than \$1 million) were made on the basis of averages for each type of government, computed from reports of the sample units.

Factors affecting estimates—The estimates presented in this report based on sample data are subject to sampling variation that may cause them to differ somewhat from the results

that would have been obtained from a complete canvass of all units. The estimate of State and local government gross debt is subject to a relative sampling variation of less than 1 percent and the estimate of local government gross debt to a relative sampling variation of approximately 1 percent.<sup>3</sup> Estimates for sub-classifications of debt and for particular types of local governments have a somewhat higher relative sampling variation.

In addition to the effects of sampling variation, the estimates may be affected by the failure of some governmental units to report. Such nonresponse may introduce a bias into the estimates because of possible selectivity in the reporting governments. Intensive efforts have been made to reduce the possible effects of such bias by concentrating on obtaining reports from all units in the sample, particularly the large ones. However, no effort has been made to measure or adjust for any possible bias due to nonresponse.

Both the estimates and the completely reported data are affected by the quality of the basic reports of debt received from the governmental officials themselves. Explicit definitions and instructions to officials, intensive examination of reported data and comparison with other sources, and supplementary correspondence with reporting officials are used to promote completeness and uniformity of reporting.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The cooperation and assistance of State and local government officials who provided information for this report is gratefully acknowledged.

<sup>3</sup>In repeated surveys using the same sampling and estimating procedures, the chances are that 2 estimates out of 3 would be within the specified percentage of the results that would be obtained from a complete enumeration; 19 out of 20 would be within double that percentage.

LIST OF TABLES	
	Page
Table 1.—Gross Debt of Federal, State, and Local Governments: Selected Years 1902 to 1949	5
Table 2.—Gross, Long-Term, and Net Long-Term Debt of State and Local Governments, by Type of Government: Selected Years 1922 to 1949	6
Table 3.—Outstanding Debt of State and Local Governments, by Type of Debt and by Type of Government: June 30, 1949 and 1948	7
Table 4.—Debt of State Governments Outstanding at End of Fiscal Year, by State: 1949	8
Table 5.—Annual Interest Payments on Debt of Federal, State, and Local Governments: Selected Years 1932 to 1948	9
Table 6.—Interest-Bearing Governmental Securities Outstanding on June 30, Selected Years 1940 to 1949, by Issuer and by Ownership	9

Table 1.—GROSS DEBT OF FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS: SELECTED YEARS 1902 TO 1949

Year <sup>1</sup>	Total	Federal <sup>2</sup>	State and local			Total	Federal	State and local		
			Total	State	Local			Total	State	Local
AMOUNT IN MILLIONS										
1949	\$278,645	\$252,770	\$20,875	\$4,024	\$16,851	100.0	92.4	7.6	1.5	6.2
1948	270,994	252,292	18,702	3,722	14,980	100.0	93.1	6.9	1.4	5.5
1947	275,111	258,286	16,825	2,978	13,847	100.0	93.9	6.1	1.1	5.0
1946	285,344	269,422	15,922	2,358	13,564	100.0	94.4	5.6	.8	4.6
1945	275,271	258,682	16,589	2,425	14,164	100.0	94.0	6.0	.9	5.1
1944	218,474	201,003	17,471	2,768	14,703	100.0	92.0	8.0	1.3	6.7
1942	92,112	72,422	19,690	3,211	16,479	100.0	76.6	21.4	3.5	17.9
1940	63,214	42,968	20,246	3,526	16,720	100.0	68.0	32.0	5.6	26.4
1932	39,068	19,487	19,576	2,896	16,680	100.0	49.9	50.1	7.4	42.7
1922	33,219	22,963	10,256	1,163	9,093	100.0	69.1	30.9	3.5	27.4
1912	5,692	1,194	4,498	423	4,075	100.0	21.0	79.0	7.4	71.6
1902	3,373	1,178	2,195	270	1,925	100.0	34.9	65.1	8.0	57.1
PER CAPITA <sup>3</sup>										
1949	1,834	1,694	140	27	113	432.9	588.3	103.1	114.1	100.8
1948	1,849	1,721	128	25	102	428.7	587.2	92.4	105.6	89.6
1947	1,910	1,793	117	21	96	435.2	601.1	83.1	84.5	82.8
1946	2,020	1,908	113	17	96	451.4	627.0	78.6	66.9	81.1
1945	1,972	1,853	119	17	101	435.5	602.0	81.9	68.8	84.7
1944	1,582	1,456	127	20	106	345.6	467.8	86.3	78.5	87.9
1942	684	538	146	24	122	145.7	168.5	97.3	91.1	98.5
1940	480	326	154	27	127	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1932	313	156	157	23	134	61.8	45.4	96.7	82.1	99.8
1922	302	209	98	11	88	52.6	53.4	50.7	33.0	54.4
1912	60	13	46	4	42	9.0	2.8	22.2	12.0	24.4
1902	43	15	28	3	24	5.3	2.7	10.8	7.7	11.5
INDEX (GROSS DEBT, 1940 = 100)										
1949	441.8	400.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1948	441.8	400.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1947	441.8	400.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1946	441.8	400.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1945	441.8	400.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1944	441.8	400.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1942	441.8	400.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1940	441.8	400.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1932	441.8	400.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1922	441.8	400.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1912	441.8	400.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1902	441.8	400.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

<sup>1</sup>For years 1940 to 1949, data are as of June 30; data for earlier years are as of fiscal year endings.

<sup>2</sup>Public debt of the United States Government on Daily Treasury Statement basis; excludes debt of Federal agencies incurred outside of the general treasury.

<sup>3</sup>Based on estimated population, including armed forces overseas, as of July 1 in the specified years—except 1940, for which population was enumerated as of April 1.

Table 2.—GROSS, LONG-TERM, AND NET LONG-TERM DEBT OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, BY TYPE OF GOVERNMENT: SELECTED YEARS 1922 TO 1949

(In millions)

Item and year <sup>1</sup>	Total	State	Local					Special district
			Total	County	City <sup>2</sup>	Township <sup>3</sup>	School district <sup>4</sup>	
<b>Gross debt:</b>								
1949.....	\$20,875	\$4,024	\$16,851	\$1,603	\$9,496	\$310	\$2,147	\$3,295
1948.....	18,702	3,722	14,980	1,408	8,859	276	1,560	2,877
1947.....	16,825	2,978	13,847	1,481	8,097	(5)	1,355	2,736
1946.....	15,922	2,358	13,564	1,417	8,101	(5)	1,283	2,597
1945.....	16,589	2,425	14,164	1,545	8,411	(5)	1,363	2,667
1944.....	17,471	2,768	14,703	1,694	8,624	(5)	1,465	2,718
1942.....	19,690	3,211	16,479	1,846	9,806	273	1,701	2,853
1940.....	20,245	3,526	16,720	2,156	9,899	290	1,813	2,362
1932.....	19,576	2,895	16,680	2,775	9,909	433	2,170	1,393
1922.....	10,256	1,163	9,093	1,387	5,810	130	1,127	639
<b>Long-term debt:</b>								
1949.....	20,141	4,015	16,126	1,535	9,224	268	2,044	3,055
1948.....	18,073	3,716	14,357	1,371	8,641	247	1,477	2,621
1947.....	16,446	2,894	13,552	1,442	7,914	(5)	1,294	2,736
1946.....	15,667	2,333	13,334	1,381	7,981	(5)	1,220	2,597
1945.....	16,312	2,422	13,890	1,510	8,270	(5)	1,273	2,667
1944.....	16,846	2,760	14,086	1,659	8,407	(5)	1,380	2,449
1942.....	18,724	3,067	15,657	1,776	9,485	250	1,626	2,520
1940.....	19,387	3,280	16,057	2,036	9,511	280	1,699	2,531
1932.....	17,819	2,502	15,317	2,548	9,157	343	1,987	1,282
1922.....	9,578	1,106	8,472	1,282	5,477	101	985	627
<b>Sinking-fund offsets to long-term debt:</b>								
1949.....	2,623	738	1,885	124	1,407	16	123	215
1948.....	2,347	584	1,763	133	1,355	12	82	181
1947.....	2,256	609	1,647	141	1,304	(5)	76	118
1946.....	2,198	608	1,590	143	1,293	(5)	62	82
1945.....	2,195	613	1,582	141	1,284	(5)	82	66
1944.....	2,338	646	1,692	141	1,595	(5)	99	49
1942.....	2,018	504	1,514	116	1,189	8	139	63
1940.....	2,155	669	1,486	144	1,161	16	108	57
1932.....	1,938	473	1,465	150	1,146	10	136	24
1922.....	1,566	227	1,339	114	1,131	7	74	18
<b>Net long-term debt:<sup>6</sup></b>								
1949.....	17,518	3,277	14,241	1,411	7,817	252	1,921	2,840
1948.....	15,726	3,132	12,594	1,238	7,286	235	1,395	2,440
1947.....	14,190	2,285	11,905	1,301	6,610	(5)	1,218	2,618
1946.....	13,469	1,725	11,744	1,238	6,688	(5)	1,158	2,515
1945.....	14,117	1,809	12,308	1,369	6,986	(5)	1,191	2,601
1944.....	14,308	2,114	12,194	1,518	6,812	(5)	1,281	2,400
1942.....	16,706	2,563	14,143	1,660	8,296	242	1,487	2,458
1940.....	17,182	2,611	14,571	1,832	8,350	264	1,591	2,474
1932.....	15,881	2,029	13,852	2,398	8,011	333	1,851	1,258
1922.....	8,012	879	7,133	1,168	4,346	94	911	614

<sup>1</sup>For years 1940 to 1949, data are as of June 30; data for earlier years are as of fiscal year endings (see "Relation to Previous Reports on Debt," page 3).

<sup>2</sup>Comprises incorporated places with powers of general government, including units known locally as villages, boroughs, and (except in New England States and in New York and Wisconsin) towns, as well as cities.

<sup>3</sup>Includes towns in New England States, New York, and Wisconsin.

<sup>4</sup>Comprises only units of school administration that are independent units of local government and not school systems operated as administrative segments of State, county, city, and township governments.

<sup>5</sup>Estimated amounts are included in local government totals, but are not shown separately. These estimates, in detail, are not comparable with data for other years.

<sup>6</sup>Long-term debt less sinking-fund offsets to long-term debt.

Table 3.—OUTSTANDING DEBT OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, BY TYPE OF DEBT AND BY TYPE OF GOVERNMENT: JUNE 30, 1949 AND 1948

Item	Total	State	Local					School district	Special district
			Total	County	City	Township	School district		
1949 AMOUNT IN MILLIONS									
Gross debt.....	\$20,875	\$4,024	\$16,851	\$1,603	\$9,496	\$310	\$2,147	\$3,295	
General.....	13,399	3,566	9,833	1,582	4,836	279	2,147	989	
Long-term.....	12,889	3,556	9,333	1,515	4,572	237	2,044	963	
Net long-term.....	11,303	2,892	8,411	1,394	3,955	222	1,921	919	
Enterprise.....	7,476	458	7,018	20	4,660	31	...	2,307	
Long-term.....	7,252	458	6,794	20	4,651	31	...	2,092	
Net long-term.....	6,215	385	5,830	17	3,862	30	...	1,921	
Long-term debt.....	20,141	4,015	16,126	1,535	9,224	268	2,044	3,055	
Full faith and credit.....	17,663	3,897	14,265	1,493	8,121	266	2,044	2,340	
Nonguaranteed.....	2,478	617	1,861	42	1,102	2	...	715	
1948 AMOUNT IN MILLIONS									
Gross debt.....	\$18,702	\$3,722	\$14,980	\$1,408	\$8,859	\$276	\$1,560	\$2,877	
General.....	12,061	3,433	8,628	1,387	4,645	247	1,560	789	
Enterprise.....	6,640	289	6,351	21	4,214	28	...	2,088	
Long-term debt.....	18,073	3,716	14,357	1,371	8,641	247	1,477	2,621	
Full faith and credit.....	16,153	3,321	12,832	1,338	7,742	245	1,477	2,034	
Nonguaranteed.....	1,920	395	1,525	37	899	2	...	587	
PERCENT CHANGE FROM 1948 TO 1949									
Gross debt.....	11.6	8.1	12.5	13.8	7.2	12.3	37.6	14.5	
General.....	11.1	3.9	14.0	14.1	4.1	13.9	37.6	25.3	
Enterprise.....	12.6	58.5	10.5	-4.8	10.6	10.7	...	10.5	
Long-term debt.....	11.4	8.0	12.3	12.0	6.7	8.5	38.4	16.6	
Full faith and credit.....	9.3	2.3	11.2	12.0	4.9	8.6	38.4	15.0	
Nonguaranteed.....	29.1	56.2	22.0	13.5	22.6	...	...	21.8	
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION, BY TYPE OF GOVERNMENT: 1949									
Gross debt.....	100.0	19.3	80.7	7.7	45.5	1.5	10.3	15.8	
General.....	100.0	26.6	73.4	11.8	36.1	2.1	16.0	7.4	
Enterprise.....	100.0	6.1	93.9	.3	62.3	.4	...	30.9	
Long-term debt.....	100.0	19.9	80.1	7.6	45.8	1.3	10.1	15.2	
Full faith and credit.....	100.0	19.2	80.8	8.5	46.0	1.5	11.6	13.2	
Nonguaranteed.....	100.0	24.9	75.1	1.7	44.5	.1	...	28.9	
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEBT, BY TYPE OF GOVERNMENT: 1949									
Gross debt.....	xxx	xxx	100.0	9.5	56.4	1.8	12.7	19.6	
General.....	xxx	xxx	100.0	16.1	49.2	2.8	21.8	10.1	
Enterprise.....	xxx	xxx	100.0	.3	66.4	.4	...	32.9	
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION, BY GENERAL OR ENTERPRISE PURPOSE: 1949									
Gross debt.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
General.....	64.2	88.6	58.4	98.7	50.9	90.0	100.0	30.0	
Enterprise.....	35.8	11.4	41.6	1.2	49.1	10.0	...	70.0	
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF LONG-TERM DEBT, BY CHARACTER OF LIABILITY: 1949									
Long-term debt.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
Full faith and credit.....	87.7	84.6	88.5	97.3	88.0	99.3	100.0	76.6	
Nonguaranteed.....	12.3	15.4	11.5	2.7	11.9	.7	...	23.4	

## GOVERNMENTAL FINANCES IN THE UNITED STATES: 1949

Table 4.—DEBT OF STATE GOVERNMENTS OUTSTANDING AT END OF FISCAL YEAR, BY STATE: 1949

(1949 data are preliminary; all amounts in thousands)

State	Gross debt				Long-term debt			Short-term debt	Sinking-fund <sup>1</sup> offsets to long-term debt	Net long-term debt
	Total		General	Enterprise	Total	Full faith and credit	Non-guaranteed			
	1949	1948								
Total.....	\$4,024,473	\$3,592,240	\$3,566,165	\$458,308	\$4,008,929	\$3,391,242	\$617,687	\$15,544	\$734,225	\$3,274,704
Alabama.....	57,012	58,335	50,187	6,825	57,012	51,998	5,014	...	18,454	38,558
Arizona.....	2,743	2,900	2,743	...	2,743	778	1,965	...	293	2,450
Arkansas.....	121,739	125,905	121,739	...	121,739	116,484	5,255	...	10,180	111,559
California.....	205,779	167,338	153,088	52,691	205,779	177,997	27,782	...	141,723	64,056
Colorado.....	14,739	16,066	14,739	...	14,432	470	15,962	307	501	13,931
Connecticut.....	82,530	82,753	68,010	14,520	82,230	82,230	...	300	10,906	71,324
Delaware.....	48,218	7,231	8,218	40,000	48,218	8,218	40,000	...	...	48,218
Florida.....	15,539	2,531	15,539	...	15,539	...	15,539	...	640	14,899
Georgia.....	3,187	4,668	3,149	38	3,187	312	2,875	...	464	2,723
Idaho.....	313	361	313	...	313	16	297	...	120	193
Illinois.....	454,727	474,431	454,727	...	454,727	449,929	4,798	...	17,054	437,673
Indiana.....	13,389	14,820	13,389	...	13,389	...	13,389	...	2,839	10,550
Iowa.....	1,953	1,928	1,953	...	1,953	22	1,931	...	22	1,931
Kansas.....	6,347	7,665	6,347	...	6,347	6,347	...	...	1,411	4,936
Kentucky.....	8,350	8,017	7,415	935	8,350	2,584	5,766	...	146	8,204
Louisiana.....	162,568	171,908	138,238	24,380	162,568	151,705	10,863	...	...	162,568
Maine.....	10,922	12,856	10,442	480	10,922	10,222	700	...	366	10,556
Maryland.....	69,182	33,031	31,682	37,500	69,182	25,849	43,333	...	2,862	66,320
Massachusetts.....	207,261	179,296	166,146	41,115	207,261	207,261	...	...	7,015	200,246
Michigan.....	248,660	255,270	248,660	...	248,660	215,563	33,097	...	2,520	246,140
Minnesota.....	52,573	58,906	52,573	...	52,573	51,793	780	...	19,639	32,934
Mississippi.....	76,181	76,761	76,181	...	76,181	13,177	63,004	...	13,571	62,610
Missouri.....	51,370	53,639	51,370	...	51,370	48,399	2,971	...	7,852	43,518
Montana.....	20,480	12,691	16,490	3,990	20,480	14,364	6,116	...	2,109	18,371
Nebraska.....	741	918	741	...	741	...	741	...	12	729
Nevada.....	615	300	615	...	615	615	...	...	25	590
New Hampshire.....	19,725	15,393	16,667	3,058	19,475	12,287	1,188	6,250	2,188	11,287
New Jersey.....	106,605	102,195	106,605	...	106,605	106,605	...	...	26,359	80,246
New Mexico.....	28,507	25,397	28,507	...	28,507	21,716	6,791	...	258	28,249
New York.....	836,100	926,570	836,100	...	828,309	828,232	77	7,791	160,151	668,158
North Carolina.....	76,705	84,180	76,705	...	76,705	75,650	1,045	...	57,122	19,583
North Dakota.....	45,604	18,265	45,604	...	44,912	43,049	1,863	692	17,214	27,698
Ohio.....	203,901	9,556	203,326	575	203,842	201,613	2,229	59	20,056	183,786
Oklahoma.....	38,513	23,813	38,513	...	38,513	17,650	20,863	...	17,650	20,863
Oregon.....	32,065	20,547	32,065	...	32,065	24,822	7,243	...	22,397	9,668
Pennsylvania.....	301,415	165,415	122,329	179,086	301,415	118,829	187,586	...	93,967	207,448
Rhode Island.....	42,857	43,277	41,995	862	42,857	42,857	...	...	4,707	38,150
South Carolina.....	96,426	86,291	67,412	29,014	96,426	67,412	29,014	...	9,043	87,383
South Dakota.....	17,606	16,778	17,606	...	17,606	17,199	407	...	6,537	11,069
Tennessee.....	97,469	79,095	97,469	...	97,469	94,487	2,982	...	9,536	87,933
Texas.....	24,404	20,445	24,404	...	24,376	4,102	20,274	28	2,080	22,296
Utah.....	1,113	1,456	1,113	...	1,113	962	151	...	975	138
Vermont.....	2,992	2,890	2,992	...	2,992	2,992	...	...	...	2,992
Virginia.....	18,582	19,304	18,532	...	18,415	13,115	5,300	117	13,634	4,781
Washington.....	24,840	25,772	4,050	20,790	24,840	3,228	21,612	...	3,722	21,118
West Virginia.....	65,651	66,162	63,152	2,499	65,651	61,822	3,829	...	5,905	59,746
Wisconsin.....	4,152	4,586	4,152	...	4,152	...	4,152	...	...	4,152
Wyoming.....	2,173	2,319	2,173	...	2,173	1,270	903	...	...	2,173

NOTE: Data are for State fiscal years ending on June 30 of the specified year, except for 7 States with earlier closing dates (in the same calendar year—May 31 for Pennsylvania, March 31 for New York and Washington; in the previous calendar year—December 31 for Ohio, September 30 for Alabama and Wyoming, August 31 for Texas). Total amounts shown in this table, therefore, do not agree with State total amounts shown in table 1, which are as of June 30, 1949 for all 48 States combined. For the seven States having fiscal years ending prior to June 30, gross debt as of June 30, 1949 was as follows (preliminary figures, in thousands): Alabama \$55,660, New York \$830,447, Ohio \$210,651, Pennsylvania \$301,415, Texas \$24,283, Washington \$24,840, and Wyoming \$2,173.

## GOVERNMENTAL DEBT IN 1949

Table 5.—ANNUAL INTEREST PAYMENTS ON DEBT OF FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS: SELECTED YEARS 1932 TO 1948

Year <sup>1</sup>	Amount in millions <sup>2</sup>						Per capita <sup>3</sup>				
	Total	Federal <sup>4</sup>	State and local			Total	Federal	State and local			
			Total	State	Local			Total	State	Local	
1948.....	\$5,732	\$5,188	\$544	\$87	\$457	\$232	\$39	\$25	\$4	\$1	\$3
1947.....	5,474	4,958	515	78	438	272	38	34	4	1	3
1946.....	5,305	4,747	558	85	473	289	38	34	4	1	3
1945.....	4,226	3,622	604	95	509	308	30	26	4	1	4
1944.....	3,246	2,610	636	102	534	314	24	19	5	1	4
1942.....	1,967	1,250	707	123	584	345	15	9	5	1	4
1932.....	1,439	599	840	114	726	419	12	5	7	1	6

<sup>1</sup>Data are for fiscal years of the various governments ended within the specified calendar year, except that State data and all 1942 amounts are for fiscal years ended June 30 of the year specified or within the 12 preceding months (see "Relation to Previous Reports on Debt," page 3).

<sup>2</sup>Based on estimated population, including armed forces overseas, as of July 1 in the specified years.

<sup>3</sup>Interest paid on public debt of the United States government, on basis of Public Debt accounts.

Table 6.—INTEREST-BEARING GOVERNMENTAL SECURITIES OUTSTANDING ON JUNE 30, SELECTED YEARS 1940 TO 1949, BY ISSUER AND BY OWNERSHIP

(In millions)

Type of issuer	Total	Governmental ownership				Other ownership	
		Total	Federal (including agencies)	State	Local	Federal reserve banks	Private <sup>1</sup>
Total:							
1949.....	\$272,143	\$49,364	\$38,681	\$6,544	\$4,139	\$19,343	\$203,436
1948.....	269,980	46,467	36,255	6,459	3,753	21,366	202,147
1947.....	272,922	33,279	42,754	5,640	3,835	21,872	208,296
1946.....	235,297	38,336	29,597	4,959	3,780	23,783	223,178
1945.....	274,067	33,473	25,431	4,152	3,597	21,792	218,797
1944.....	219,706	26,423	19,866	3,222	3,337	14,901	178,352
1940.....	69,964	12,608	8,403	1,607	2,598	2,467	54,889
Federal Government:							
1949.....	250,762	46,231	38,274	5,574	2,383	19,343	186,188
1948.....	250,063	43,485	35,749	5,608	2,128	21,366	185,212
1947.....	255,118	39,855	32,808	4,836	2,211	21,872	193,366
1946.....	268,111	35,511	29,121	4,205	2,185	23,783	208,817
1945.....	256,357	30,117	24,934	3,106	2,077	21,792	204,448
1944.....	199,543	22,082	18,920	1,871	1,291	14,899	162,562
1940.....	42,376	7,223	6,803	174	246	2,458	32,695
Federal agencies: <sup>2</sup>							
1949.....	900	...	...	...	...	...	900
1948.....	1,563	...	...	...	...	...	1,563
1947.....	1,279	2	2	...	...	...	1,277
1946.....	1,560	9	9	...	...	...	1,551
1945.....	1,417	7	7	...	...	...	1,410
1944.....	2,969	362	362	...	...	2	2,605
1940.....	7,697	1,121	1,121	...	...	9	6,567
State and local governments:							
1949.....	20,481	3,133	407	970	1,756	...	17,348
1948.....	18,354	2,982	506	851	1,625	...	15,372
1947.....	16,529	2,897	469	804	1,624	...	13,633
1946.....	15,626	2,816	467	754	1,596	...	12,810
1945.....	16,293	3,354	490	1,046	1,818	...	12,939
1944.....	17,194	3,979	582	1,351	2,045	...	13,215
1940.....	19,891	4,264	479	1,438	2,352	...	15,627

NOTE: Total amounts will not agree with gross indebtedness, which includes special noninterest-bearing obligations and matured obligations not presented for payment. It also is to be noted that securities issued by Federal agencies, shown in this table, are not included in Federal public debt figures, as shown in table 1. Statistics as to outstanding securities of the Federal Government and Federal agencies, and as to ownership of securities, except State and local government holdings, are from the U. S. Treasury Department Treasury Bulletin and Annual Report of the Secretary of the Treasury.

<sup>1</sup>Includes amounts held by Territories and Possessions.

<sup>2</sup>Excludes interagency loans and guaranteed obligations held by the United States Treasury.

## DEFINITIONS OF TERMS.

**DEBT.**—All long-term credit obligations incurred and outstanding in the name of the government or its dependent agencies, whether backed by the government's full faith and credit or nonguaranteed, and all interest-bearing short-term credit obligations.

**DEBT OUTSTANDING.**—All debt obligations remaining unpaid on the date specified. Includes obligations for which funds for redemption have been turned over to a fiscal agent, but which have not actually been redeemed as of the reported date.

**ENTERPRISE DEBT.**—Debt incurred by a government to finance enterprise activities. Includes all such obligations regardless of the sources of funds for or conditions governing payment of interest and redemption charges.

**ENTERPRISES.**—Undertakings of governments—other than those incident to performance of general governmental functions—which involve selling, or producing for sale, to the general public goods or services which are usually or commonly sold or produced for profit under private auspices (i.e., water, electric, gas, and transit systems, and other large commercial activities for which separate and relatively complete accounts are kept).

**FULL FAITH AND CREDIT DEBT.**—All long-term obligations for which the credit of the government is unconditionally pledged. Includes obligations payable in the first instance from specific taxes or nontax revenue, but representing a legal liability payable from any other available resources if the pledged sources are insufficient.

**GENERAL DEBT.**—Debt incurred by a government to finance its general government activities as distinguished from its enterprises.

**GENERAL GOVERNMENT.**—All activities of a governmental unit including its dependent agencies, boards, and commissions, except the conduct of enterprises and transactions of sinking and trust funds.

**GROSS DEBT.**—Total of outstanding long- and short-term, general and enterprise debt.

**INTEREST.**—Charges for the use of borrowed money, without adjustment for premiums or discount on debt issued or retired. Comprises all interest paid on general and enterprise debt including interest paid from accumulated assets and earnings of trust and sinking funds.

**LONG-TERM DEBT.**—All debt payable more than one year after date of issue, including bonds, debt to trust funds, judgments, mortgages, and the like. Tax anticipation warrants or notes outstanding more than a year are considered short-term if they are payable from a specific tax levy.

**NET LONG-TERM DEBT.**—"Long-term debt" (q.v.) less "sinking-fund offsets to debt" (q.v.).

**NONGUARANTEED DEBT.**—Long-term obligations payable solely from pledged specific revenues, such as earnings of plants or activities or special assessments, and which do not constitute obligations on any other resources of the government even if the pledged sources are insufficient.

**SHORT-TERM DEBT.**—Interest-bearing debt payable within one year from date of issue, such as bond anticipation notes, bank loans, and tax anticipation notes and warrants; also includes similar obligations having no fixed maturity date even where outstanding over one year, if payable from a tax levied for collection in the year of their issuance. Excludes noninterest-bearing warrants, accounts payable, and other noninterest-bearing short-term obligations.

**SINKING-FUND OFFSETS.**—All cash and investment assets of sinking funds except amounts in excess of the specific debt for which they were accumulated and except any separately recorded amounts held for future interest payments.

**SINKING FUNDS.**—All reserve funds specifically held for redemption of long-term debt. Includes funds which accumulate, hold, and invest assets over a period of years and funds having no assets other than cash balances (e.g., deposits in hands of fiscal agents for redemption of uncanceled debt, balances in refunding bond accounts held pending completion of refunding transactions, etc.).

## CENSUS BUREAU REPORTS ON GOVERNMENTS

## RECOMMENDED COMPLETE CITATION FOR THIS REPORT:

U. S. Bureau of the Census, Governmental Debt in 1949 (Governmental Finances in the United States: 1949, No. 1), Washington, D. C., December 1949, 10 pp. tables.

## REPORTS IN THE SERIES "GOVERNMENTAL FINANCES IN THE UNITED STATES: 1949"

- No. 1. Governmental Debt in 1949—basic debt statistics for all governments, showing National totals as of June 30 by type of government and preliminary figures on outstanding debt of individual States.
- No. 2. Governmental Revenue in 1949—basic revenue statistics for all governments, showing National totals by type of government.

## OTHER SERIES OF CURRENT CENSUS REPORTS ON GOVERNMENTS:\*

State Finances  
City Finances  
Government Employment

\*A processed listing "Census Bureau Publications on Governments" (available on request) describes each report in the various current series.