



U.S. House of Representatives
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

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Paul Ryan
M.C.
PRSRT STD

ANNUAL REPORT TO TAXPAYERS



U.S. House of Representatives
Congressman Paul Ryan

December 2015

Dear Fellow Taxpayer:

Hardworking Wisconsinites deserve a government that works for them. That is why I am in Congress: *to serve you, the people of the 1st District.*

On October 29, my colleagues elected me speaker of the House. It continues to be a tremendous honor. And the way I see it, now I have an opportunity to fix the House and offer my constituents a bold, pro-growth agenda.

But, first we have to ask ourselves: What kind of country do we want to be?

I want America to be confident again—both at home and abroad. If you don't have a job, I want you to be confident that you can find one. If you do have a job, I want you to be confident that your job will pay well. I want students to know that all those years of school will be worth it. I want seniors to know that Medicare and Social Security will be there when you need them. I want all of my constituents, when they look at Washington, to see spending going down, taxes going down, and debt going down. *I want all Americans to believe in the future again.*

I want a country where no one is stuck, where no one settles, and where everyone can rise.

And the first thing we need to do is create jobs and raise wages. We know what's standing in our way. Instead of a tax code that all of us can live by, we have a tax code that none of us can understand.

We also need to fix our health care system. I don't believe the President's health care law has done the job. All the mandates and the red tape have resulted in higher costs and limited access.

And we have to make sure it always pays to work. Too many Americans are living in poverty and working only part time. They want to get back to work, but can't. To sum up, we need to push wages up and push the cost of living down. I could think of no better way to restore confidence in the American economy.

I'm excited to pass real reforms that will help create jobs and build a healthy economy. I'm going to do all I can to improve the lives of my constituents.

Please feel free to contact me if I can be of assistance to you in dealing with the federal government. I am always happy to be of service to you.

Sincerely,

Paul Ryan

Paul Ryan
Serving Wisconsin's 1st District

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2015 ANNUAL REPORT



on the
UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT



CONGRESSMAN PAUL RYAN
SERVING WISCONSIN'S 1ST DISTRICT

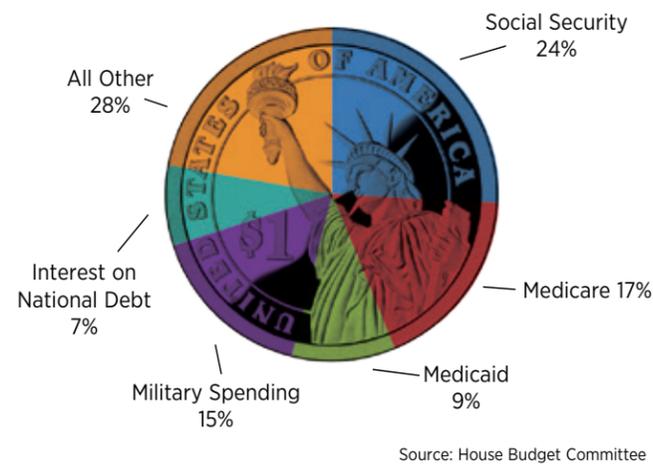
UNEMPLOYMENT UPDATE

When this report went to press, the unemployment rate in Wisconsin was 4.2 percent. In the country at large, it is stagnant at 5 percent. And though it is good to see these numbers fall from a few years ago, there is more to the story. In fact, as I travel around Wisconsin, one of the issues I hear about most is the struggle to make ends meet in an uncertain economy.

Currently, the labor force participation rate stands at 62.5 percent, the lowest since 1978. The participation rate refers to the number of people who are either employed or actively looking for work. The number of people who are no longer actively searching for work is not included. And, during an economic recession, many workers often get discouraged and stop looking for employment. As a result, the participation rate decreases. Another way of looking at this is by examining the U-6 unemployment rate, which takes into account the unemployed, the underemployed and people who have given up trying to find work. The U-6 rate is 9.9 percent.

One of the biggest sources of discouragement is the Affordable Care Act (ACA). In early December, the Congressional Budget Office noted that, “the labor force is projected to be about 2 million full-time-equivalent

Composition of Federal Spending—2015



workers smaller in 2025 under the ACA than it would have been otherwise.”

Ultimately, we cannot tax and spend our way to economic growth. True economic growth comes when American families and small businesses work, save, and invest. Congress needs to prioritize legislation that encourages job creation by keeping taxes low, controlling government spending, and addressing our national debt.

TAX REFORM UPDATE

The complexity of the U.S. tax code hurts individuals and American companies. While the effective top tax rate on successful small businesses in the U.S. is 44.6 percent, Canada taxes its small businesses at 15 percent. And because the tax code is so complex, American companies often have no choice but to buy foreign companies and pay the other country’s lower corporate tax rates. This has to end. Our tax code should encourage people to invest in America.

We need a tax code that will reward good work instead of good connections. We should close all of its loopholes and put every American on a level playing field. People work more, save more, and invest more when they know they will keep more of their hard-earned money. When there is more work to go around, wages ultimately rise.

Both sides of the aisle agree that the current tax code is unworkable, but a solution is possible. I will continue my work to make the tax code more simple and fair.

What You Paid For	
<i>A 2015 Taxpayer Receipt for a married couple with two children earning \$75,240 a year and paying \$12,927, in federal income tax and FICA taxes (including employer and employee)*</i>	
Social Security	\$3,103.23
Military Spending	1,971.87
Medicare	2,167.10
Medicaid	1,226.09
Interest on the National Debt	912.80
Welfare and Income Support	779.35
Veterans Programs and Military Retirement	778.86
Administrative and Independent Agencies	442.23
Education	315.60
Treasury	292.53

Source: Final Monthly Treasury Statement of Receipts and Outlays of the United States Government for FY2015, Department of Treasury; Tax Policy Center Tax Calculator
* Taxpayer Receipt is for illustrative purposes only. Individuals' tax situations will vary.

Statement of Federal Revenues and Expenses

Revenues

	Fiscal Year			
	2014	2015	% of total	% change
Individual Income Tax.....	\$1,394,567,000,000	\$1,540,802,000,000	47%	10%
Social Insurance Taxes				
Social Security Payroll Tax.....	735,565,000,000	770,394,000,000	24%	5%
Medicare Payroll Tax.....	229,465,000,000	240,055,000,000	7%	5%
Unemployment Insurance.....	54,957,000,000	51,177,000,000	2%	-7%
Railroad Retirement/Federal Employee Retirement.....	3,472,000,000	3,651,000,000	**%	5%
Corporate Income Taxes.....	320,731,000,000	343,797,000,000	11%	7%
Excise Taxes and Customs Receipts.....	127,294,000,000	133,320,000,000	4%	5%
Miscellaneous Receipts.....	135,021,000,000	146,294,000,000	5%	8%
Estate Taxes.....	19,300,000,000	19,232,000,000	1%	0%
Total	\$3,020,371,000,000	\$3,248,723,000,000		

Expenses

Social Security.....	\$847,909,000,000	\$885,242,000,000	24%	4%
Military Spending.....	577,902,000,000	562,506,000,000	15%	-3%
Medicare.....	575,825,000,000	618,198,000,000	17%	7%
Medicaid.....	301,471,000,000	349,762,000,000	9%	16%
Interest on National Debt.....	271,453,000,000	260,391,000,000	7%	-4%
Welfare and Income Support.....	218,935,000,000	222,320,000,000	6%	2%
Veterans Programs and Military Retirement.....	206,446,000,000	222,183,000,000	6%	8%
Administrative and Independent Agencies.....	116,025,000,000	126,153,000,000	3%	9%
Education ¹	56,609,000,000	90,031,000,000	2%	59%
Treasury (not including interest on debt) ²	17,325,000,000	83,449,000,000	2%	382%
Transportation.....	76,177,000,000	75,463,000,000	2%	-1%
Agriculture, Conservation, and Interior.....	50,742,000,000	47,502,000,000	1%	-6%
State and International Assistance.....	46,226,000,000	47,460,000,000	1%	3%
Labor.....	56,768,000,000	45,218,000,000	1%	-20%
Homeland Security.....	43,259,000,000	42,564,000,000	1%	-2%
Housing.....	38,524,000,000	35,521,000,000	1%	-8%
Justice and the Judiciary.....	35,573,000,000	34,091,000,000	1%	-4%
Energy.....	23,638,000,000	25,424,000,000	1%	8%
NASA.....	17,093,000,000	18,272,000,000	**%	7%
Environmental Protection Agency.....	9,400,000,000	7,005,000,000	**%	-25%
Congress.....	4,100,000,000	4,277,000,000	**%	4%
The President.....	373,000,000	394,000,000	**%	6%
Total Expenses	\$3,503,732,000,000	\$3,687,622,000,000		
Deficit(-)/Surplus(+)	-\$483,361,000,000	-\$438,899,000,000	Spending is 114% of revenues.	
Other Undistributed Offsetting Receipts ³	-88,041,000,000	-115,804,000,000		

1. Increase in Education outlays due to upward revision in estimated subsidy costs of student loans and loan guarantees, as well as an increase in originations of consolidated loans.
2. Increase in Treasury outlays due to a reduction in payments to the Treasury by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.
3. Offsetting receipts are receipts to the federal government that come from sources other than its sovereign power to tax. For example, fees to enter into the National Park System are considered offsetting receipts.
** less than 1%
Totals may not add due to rounding

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