

1990

## Annual Deficit or Surplus = Revenues – Outlays

To fund government spending in years of deficits, the Treasury borrows from individuals, businesses, the Federal Reserve, and other countries.

| <b>14.9</b> % of GDP | <b>3.3</b> % of GDP                               | <b>\$3.1</b><br>Trillion | <b>100%</b> of GDP                         | 44%<br>of GDP   |
|----------------------|---|--------------------------|--|---|
| Deficit in<br>2020   | Deficit, on average,<br>over the past 50<br>years | Deficit in<br>2020       | Debt held by the public at the end of 2020 | Debt held by the<br>public, on average,<br>over the past 50 years |

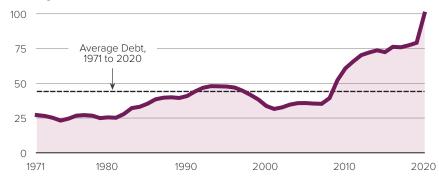
2010

2000

## Federal Debt Held by the Public, 1971 to 2020

2020

Percentage of Gross Domestic Product



## Debt

1971

1980

Debt held by the public is roughly equal to the sum of annual deficits and surpluses from prior years plus the Treasury's cash balances and outstanding federal loans.

Prepared by Christine Bogusz, Dan Ready, and Jorge Salazar Source: Congressional Budget Office, April 2021 All data are for federal fiscal years, which run from October 1 to September 30.

Numbers may not add up to totals because of rounding.