



Ohio's Interactive Budget

Frequently Asked Questions

Are state employee salaries included on the Interactive Budget website?

Yes, the Interactive Budget website includes gross wages, overtime, leave payments and other costs. The Interactive Budget website shares information from the salary database maintained by the Department of Administrative Services. According to section 125.20 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Department of Administrative Services is responsible for making state employee salary information available to the public.

Can I export into a spreadsheet the data found on the Interactive Budget website?

There is a link at the bottom of each of the interactive pages to download a screenshot as either a PDF  document or as a PNG  image. Some visuals will allow you to download data as a spreadsheet. An icon will appear above the visual to download an Excel (XLSX)  file of the data.

Does Ohio have a budget deficit?

No. Ohio does not have a budget deficit. This question is usually asked by those who confuse the state budget with the federal budget. The Ohio Constitution prohibits the state from borrowing money to fund operating expenses. Therefore, the budget must be balanced.

Does the state use credit cards? Are those transactions included in the Interactive Budget?

Yes. The state credit cards are called payment cards. Payment card transactions are included in the Interactive Budget.

How big is the budget surplus?

The concept of a "surplus" is not one that is specifically defined. It is generally understood to be funds that remain above and beyond any planned uses (including planned reserves and planned carryover balances). Typically a surplus is an unexpected result of higher-than-anticipated revenues or lower-than-anticipated spending. Amounts typically exclude from consideration as part of the surplus include one-half of one percent of GRF revenues (considered to be a necessary amount for a beginning carryover fund balance), amounts in the Budget Stabilization Fund up to 8.5% of General Revenue Fund revenues, and funds needed to support appropriations made by the General Assembly. Based on statute, state budget surpluses cannot accumulate because the law requires that any "surplus" at the end of each fiscal year be deposited into the Income Tax Reduction Fund and returned to Ohio taxpayers.

How can I use the data contained in Ohio's Interactive Budget?

The information displayed in this site enables anyone to see how the state is collecting, budgeting and spending public resources. Financial information is provided in multiple formats with the capability to examine summarized data or to view the detail of individual expense transactions. Citizens can use this information to make informed decisions and provide feedback to the governor, their legislators and other public servants who work for the State of Ohio.



How do I increase or change the size of the text on the pages?

Press the "control" button and "+" (plus) button at the same time to increase the screen size of the text. Press the "control" button and the "-" (minus) button to decrease the size. If you wish to reset the size of text, press "control" and "0" (zero).

How often is the Interactive Budget website updated?

The Interactive Budget website's data is updated on a weekly basis.

Is the financial information presented audited?

The Interactive Budget data are unaudited. However, the State of Ohio's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, which is audited, can be found on the OBM website at obm.ohio.gov/StateAccounting/financialreporting .

On what does the state spend the most money?

The state's largest expenses are for Medicaid and other human services programs. This is followed by primary and secondary education and shared revenue to local governments. These payments are in the form of grants and subsidies to individuals, schools, and local governments. The Functional Categories presentation, available on the home page, best provides this information.

What companies are paid the most money by the State of Ohio?

Managed care providers that administer Medicaid insurance programs for the state generally receive the most money from the State of Ohio. Highway construction contractors also receive significant payments for services. The Suppliers and Subsidies presentation, available on the home page, best provides this information.

What historical information is available?

Revenue and disbursement data in the Interactive Budget includes the previous four fiscal years and the current fiscal year-to-date information. Budget data includes only the current budget year. Previous budgets can be found on the OBM website: obm.ohio.gov/Budget.

What is OAKS?

The Ohio Administrative Knowledge System (OAKS) is the state's accounting system which records both the spending and revenue activities of state agencies. The accounting system, maintained by the Office of Budget and Management (OBM), provides up-to-date accounting information to state government. Using OAKS, state agencies and OBM can monitor revenues and exercise control over payments and expenditures. Proper accounting of revenue and spending is necessary.

What is Ohio's Interactive Budget?

Ohio's Interactive Budget provides access to the state's financial data. This website allows visitors to see where state money is generated, budgeted and spent.

What state agency spends the largest amount of money?

The largest state agency in terms of dollars spent is the Department of Medicaid followed by the Department of Education. These two cabinet-level agencies provide grants and subsidies to individuals, health care providers and local schools. The Department of Taxation allocates tax revenues to local governments and pays tax refunds to individuals and businesses. The Agency Budgets and the Agency Expenses presentations, available on the home page, best provide this information.

Where can I find definitions for financial terms in the Interactive Budget?

A searchable glossary is available by clicking on the "Glossary" link in the drop down menu under Help & Info found in the menu bar on each page. In addition, visitors will be directed to a definition of certain terms in the glossary by clicking the term within the Interactive Budget.



Where can I find information explaining the State of Ohio's biennial budgets, accounting system, financial reports and debt management?

The Office of Budget and Management (OBM) holds primary responsibility over the financial transactions of the state. As such, the director of OBM is the state's chief financial officer. OBM's website is (obm.ohio.gov).

Where do the state's revenues come from?

The state's largest source of revenue is received from taxes, specifically income taxes and sales taxes. Other significant revenue comes from the federal government to support many programs including Medicaid and transportation. The Revenues presentation, available on the home page, best provides this information.

Where does the financial information come from?

Ohio's Interactive Budget data come from the Ohio Administrative Knowledge System (OAKS), the state's accounting system. The state accounting system enables the budget director to monitor and control both spending and revenue activities of state agencies. The accounting system, operated by the Office of Budget and Management, provides up-to-date accounting information for state government.

Which browsers are supported by the Interactive Budget?

All major web browsers are supported: Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Opera, Safari, and Internet Explorer.

Who do I contact if I have questions about the data contained in the Interactive Budget?

Any questions regarding the data contained on Ohio's Interactive Budget can be emailed to contact@obm.ohio.gov.

Why are payee names included on the Interactive Budget website?

Most information related to payments made by the state is public information. If state or federal law does not protect the identity of a payee, it is included on Ohio's Interactive Budget website.

Why did OBM make this information available online?

As the state's chief financial officer, the director of the Office of Budget and Management is responsible – pursuant to section 126.21 of the Ohio Revised Code – to maintain the accounting system of the state. As a public servant, the director desires to make this information available to the public by establishing and maintaining a searchable online database displaying financial information from the state accounting system.

Why do some expense drills terminate prior to reaching the individual transaction level?

Some drills terminate prior to individual transactions to protect against the release of personal and/or confidential information, or because the information is not available at this time.

Why do some visualizations show expenses that are greater than the budgeted amount?

Sometimes, especially near the end of a fiscal year, expenses appear greater than budgeted amounts because the budget amount displayed does not include appropriations that have been carried over from previous budget years.

Why is some financial information not available on the Interactive Budget website?

The Office of Budget Management makes every attempt to be transparent and shares data legally defined as public information. However, some information is considered confidential and/or personal and is protected by law. Examples include certain payments to individuals such as social services payments (payments made to an individual for cash assistance, medical and other health-related or welfare-related benefits or services, education and training benefits or aging services) and other



programs that provide direct monetary payments to an individual. Accordingly, some information is not contained in the state accounting system and will not be included on Ohio's Interactive Budget website.

Why is the Interactive Budget website important?

This website provides citizens a comprehensive view of the state's financial activities. This type of transparency is sought by both public servants and private citizens. This website makes it easier than ever to access the data contained in the state's accounting system.

