Eight Charts that Show the Growth in Government
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CHART 1

**Federal Government Has a Spending Problem, Not a Revenue Problem**

In the aftermath of the Great Recession, federal revenues plummeted, and spending rose dramatically due to the stimulus. As the economy has slowly improved, revenues have nearly returned to the pre-recession average. Spending has decreased as well, but it is still far above average and rising.

Note: Pre-recession averages are for 1965–2008.


CHART 2

**Major Regulations Soaring**

Number of planned regulations expected to cost at least $100 million a year

Federal Spending per Household Projected to Rise

The federal government spent nearly $29,000 per household in 2014, and that figure is projected to rise to more than $47,000 per household in 10 years.

Note: Figures are in current dollars.

All Tax Revenue Will Go Toward Entitlements and Net Interest by 2031

In less than two decades, all projected tax revenues would be consumed by three federal programs (Medicare, Social Security, and Medicaid, which includes CHIP and Obamacare) and interest on the debt.

PUBLIC DEBT AS A PERCENTAGE OF GDP

Runaway spending on Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security will drive federal debt to unsustainable levels over the next few decades. Total national debt comprises publicly held debt (the most relevant to credit markets) and debt that one part of the government owes to another, such as the Social Security Trust Fund.


Each American’s Share of the Public Debt is Skyrocketing

As Washington continues spending well beyond its means, it is burdening all Americans with increasing levels of debt. We must cut spending to fix the debt.

Sequestration Does Little to Reduce Total Federal Spending

Without sequestration, total federal spending was projected to grow 76 percent from 2013 to 2023. With sequestration the projected growth is 74 percent—a difference of about 2 percentage points.


Looking Ahead: Comparing 10-Year Federal Budgets

President Obama’s budget proposal increases spending far more than the House-passed plan and seeks spending hikes above current projections as shown in the Congressional Budget Office baseline.