

Table 7.3—STATUTORY LIMITS ON FEDERAL DEBT: 1940–CURRENT

Date and Act	History of Legislation	Dollar Amount of Limit
June 25, 1940 54 Stat. 526	Amended sec. 21, adding new authority for issuance of \$4 billion National Defense Series obligations outstanding	49,000,000,000
February 19, 1941 55 Stat. 7	Amended sec. 21, eliminating authority for \$4 billion of National Defense Series obligations and increasing limitation to	65,000,000,000
March 28, 1942 56 Stat. 189	Amended sec. 21, increasing limitation to	125,000,000,000
April 11, 1943 57 Stat. 63	Amended sec. 21, increasing limitation to	210,000,000,000
June 9, 1944 58 Stat. 272	Amended sec. 21, increasing limitation to	260,000,000,000
April 3, 1945 59 Stat. 47	Amended sec. 21, including obligations guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States and increasing limitation to	300,000,000,000
June 26, 1946 60 Stat. 316	Amended sec. 21, defining face amount of savings bonds to be current redemption value and decreasing limitation to	275,000,000,000
August 28, 1954 68 Stat. 895	Increasing sec. 21 limitation by \$6 billion during period beginning August 28, 1954, and ending June 30, 1955	281,000,000,000
June 30, 1955 69 Stat. 241	Amended act of August 28, 1954, extending increase in limitation until June 30, 1956	281,000,000,000
July 9, 1956 70 Stat. 519	Increased sec. 21 limitation by \$3 billion during period beginning July 1, 1956, and ending June 30, 1957	278,000,000,000
February 26, 1958 72 Stat. 27	Temporary increase terminated July 1, 1957, and limitation reverted to	275,000,000,000
September 2, 1958 72 Stat. 1758	Increased sec. 21 limitation by \$5 billion during period beginning February 26, 1958, and ending June 30, 1959	280,000,000,000
June 30, 1959 73 Stat. 156	Amended sec. 21, increasing limitation to \$283 billion, which with temporary increase of February 26, 1958 made limitation	288,000,000,000
June 30, 1960 74 Stat. 290	Amended sec. 21, increasing limitation to \$285 billion and increased sec. 21 limitation by \$10 billion during period beginning July 1, 1959, and ending June 30, 1960	295,000,000,000
June 30, 1961 75 Stat. 148	Increased sec. 21 limitation by \$8 billion during period beginning July 1, 1960, and ending June 30, 1961	293,000,000,000
March 13, 1962 76 Stat. 23	Increased sec. 21 limitation by \$13 billion during period beginning July 1, 1961, and ending June 30, 1962	298,000,000,000
July 1, 1962 76 Stat. 124	Increased sec. 21 limitation by \$2 billion (in addition to temporary increase of \$13 billion in act of June 30, 1961) during period beginning March 13, 1962, and ending June 30, 1962	300,000,000,000
May 29, 1963 77 Stat. 90	Increased sec. 21 limitation during the periods: (1) beginning July 1, 1962, and ending March 31, 1963, to	308,000,000,000
August 27, 1963 77 Stat. 131	(2) beginning April 1, 1963, and ending June 24, 1963, to	305,000,000,000
November 26, 1963 77 Stat. 342	(3) beginning June 25, 1963, and ending June 30, 1963, to	300,000,000,000
June 29, 1964 78 Stat. 225	Increased sec. 21 limitation during the periods: (1) beginning May 29, 1963, and ending June 30, 1963, to	307,000,000,000
June 24, 1965 79 Stat. 172	(2) beginning July 1, 1963, and ending August 31, 1963, to	309,000,000,000
June 24, 1966 80 Stat. 221	Increased sec. 21 limitation during the period beginning September 1, 1963, and ending November 30, 1963, to	309,000,000,000
March 2, 1967 81 Stat. 4	Increased sec. 21 limitation during the periods: (1) beginning December 1, 1963, and ending June 29, 1964, to	315,000,000,000
	(2) ending June 30, 1964, to	309,000,000,000
	Increased sec. 21 limitation during the period beginning June 29, 1964, and ending June 30, 1965, to	324,000,000,000
	Increased sec. 21 limitation during the period beginning July 1, 1965, and ending June 30, 1966, to	328,000,000,000
	Increased sec. 21 limitation during the period beginning July 1, 1966, and ending June 30, 1967, to	330,000,000,000
	Increased sec. 21 limitation during the period beginning March 2, 1967, and ending June 30, 1967, to	336,000,000,000

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June 30, 1967		
81 Stat. 99	Sec. 21 amended to increase limitation on aggregate outstanding at any time to	358,000,000,000
	Sec. 21 amended also to increase the limitation temporarily, beginning July 1, 1968, and each July 1 thereafter for the period beginning July 1 and ending June 29 of each succeeding calendar year by \$7 billion, providing an operating limitation of	365,000,000,000
April 7, 1969		
83 Stat. 7	Amended sec. 21, increasing limitation to \$365 billion, and increased sec. 21 limitation by \$12 billion during period beginning April 7, 1969, and ending June 30, 1970	377,000,000,000
June 30, 1970		
84 Stat. 368	Amended sec. 21, increasing limitation to \$380 billion, and increased sec. 21 limitation by \$15 billion during period beginning July 1, 1970, and ending June 30, 1971	395,000,000,000
March 17, 1971		
85 Stat. 5	Amended sec. 21, increasing limitation to \$400 billion, and increased sec. 21 limitation by \$30 billion during period beginning March 17, 1971, and ending June 30, 1972	430,000,000,000
March 15, 1972		
86 Stat. 63	Amended sec. 21, to further increase the limitation temporarily by \$20 billion during period beginning March 15, 1972, and ending June 30, 1972	450,000,000,000
July 1, 1972		
86 Stat. 406	Amended act of March 15, 1972, striking out June 30, 1972, and inserting in lieu thereof October 31, 1972	450,000,000,000
October 27, 1972		
86 Stat. 1324	Increased sec. 21 limitation during the period beginning November 1, 1972, and ending June 30, 1973	465,000,000,000
July 1, 1973		
86 Stat. 1324	Amended act of October 27, 1972, striking out June 30, 1973, and inserting in lieu thereof November 30, 1973	465,000,000,000
December 3, 1973		
87 Stat. 691	Increased sec. 21 limitation during the period beginning December 3, 1973, and ending June 30, 1974	475,700,000,000
June 30, 1974		
88 Stat. 285	Increased sec. 21 limitation during the period beginning June 30, 1974, and ending March 31, 1975	495,000,000,000
February 19, 1975		
89 Stat. 5	Increased sec. 21 limitation during the period beginning February 19, 1975, and ending June 30, 1975	577,000,000,000
June 30, 1975		
89 Stat. 246	Increased sec. 21 limitation during the period beginning June 30, 1975, and ending November 15, 1975	577,000,000,000
November 14, 1975		
89 Stat. 693	Increased sec. 21 limitation during the period beginning November 14, 1975, and ending March 15, 1976	595,000,000,000
March 15, 1976		
90 Stat. 217	Increased sec. 21 limitation during the period beginning March 15, 1976, and ending June 30, 1976	627,000,000,000
June 30, 1976		
90 Stat. 793	Increased sec. 21 limitation during the periods: (1) beginning July 1, 1976, and ending September 30, 1976, to (2) beginning October 1, 1976, and ending March 31, 1977, to (3) beginning April 1, 1977, and ending September 30, 1977, to Temporary increase terminated October 1, 1977, and limitation reverted to	636,000,000,000 682,000,000,000 700,000,000,000 400,000,000,000
October 4, 1977		
91 Stat. 1090	Increased sec. 21 limitation by \$352 billion during the period beginning October 4, 1977, and ending March 31, 1978	752,000,000,000
March 27, 1978		
92 Stat. 185	Amended act of October 4, 1977, striking out March 31, 1978, and inserting in lieu thereof July 31, 1978 Temporary increase terminated August 1, 1978, and limitation reverted to	752,000,000,000 400,000,000,000
August 3, 1978		
92 Stat. 419	Increased sec. 21 limitation by \$398 billion during the period beginning August 3, 1978, and ending March 31, 1979 Temporary increase terminated April 1, 1979, and limitation reverted to	798,000,000,000 400,000,000,000
April 2, 1979		
93 Stat. 8	Increased sec. 21 limitation by \$430 billion during the period beginning April 2, 1979, and ending September 30, 1979	830,000,000,000
September 29, 1979		
93 Stat. 589	Increased sec. 21 limitation by \$479 billion during the period beginning September 29, 1979, and ending May 31, 1980	879,000,000,000
May 30, 1980		
94 Stat. 421	Amended act of September 29, 1979, striking out May 31, 1980, and inserting in lieu thereof June 5, 1980	879,000,000,000
June 6, 1980		
94 Stat. 439	Amended act of September 29, 1979, striking out June 5, 1980, and inserting in lieu thereof June 30, 1980	879,000,000,000
June 28, 1980		
94 Stat. 598	Increased sec. 21 limitation by \$525 billion during the period beginning June 28, 1980, and ending February 28, 1981	925,000,000,000
December 19, 1980		
94 Stat. 3261	Increased the total debt limit (composed of \$400.0 billion of permanent ceiling, \$535.1 billion of temporary ceiling) to	935,100,000,000

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Date and Act	History of Legislation	Dollar Amount of Limit
February 7, 1981 95 Stat. 4	Increased the temporary portion of the debt limit to \$585.0 billion through September 30, 1980, raising the total debt ceiling to	985,000,000,000
September 30, 1981 95 Stat. 955	Increased the temporary portion of the debt limit to \$599.8 billion for one day—September 30, 1981	999,800,000,000
September 30, 1981 95 Stat. 956	Increased the temporary portion of the debt limit to \$679.8 billion through September 30, 1982	1,079,800,000,000
June 28, 1982 96 Stat. 130	Increased the temporary portion of the debt limit to \$743.1 billion through September 30, 1982	1,143,100,000,000
September 30, 1982 96 Stat. 1156	Increased the temporary portion of the debt limit to \$890.2 billion through September 30, 1983	1,290,200,000,000
May 26, 1983 97 Stat. 196	Eliminated the distinction between permanent and temporary limit with the enactment of a single permanent limit. Raised the debt limit to	1,389,000,000,000
November 21, 1983 97 Stat. 1012	Increased the debt limit to	1,490,000,000,000
May 25, 1984 98 Stat. 217	Increased the debt limit to	1,520,000,000,000
July 6, 1984 98 Stat. 313	Increased the debt limit to	1,573,000,000,000
October 13, 1984 98 Stat. 2206	Increased the debt limit to	1,823,800,000,000
November 14, 1985 99 Stat. 814	Increased the debt limit temporarily through December 6, 1985 to	1,903,800,000,000
December 12, 1985 99 Stat. 1037	Increased the debt limit to	2,078,700,000,000
August 21, 1986 100 Stat. 818	Increased the debt limit to	2,111,000,000,000
October 21, 1986 100 Stat. 1874	Increased the debt limit temporarily through May 15, 1987 to	2,300,000,000,000
May 15, 1987 101 Stat. 308	Increased the debt limit temporarily through July 17, 1987 to	2,320,000,000,000
July 30, 1987 101 Stat. 542	Increased the debt limit temporarily through August 6, 1987 to	2,320,000,000,000
August 10, 1987 101 Stat. 550	Increased the debt limit temporarily through September 23, 1987 to	2,352,000,000,000
September 29, 1987 101 Stat. 754	Increased the debt limit to	2,800,000,000,000
August 7, 1989 103 Stat. 182	Increased the debt limit temporarily through October 31, 1989 to	2,870,000,000,000
November 8, 1989 103 Stat. 830	Increased the debt limit to	3,122,700,000,000
August 9, 1990 104 Stat. 403	Increased the debt limit temporarily through October 2, 1990 to	3,195,000,000,000
October 2, 1990 104 Stat. 878	Increased the debt limit temporarily through October 6, 1990 to	3,195,000,000,000
October 9, 1990 104 Stat. 894	Increased the debt limit temporarily through October 19, 1990 to	3,195,000,000,000
October 19, 1990 104 Stat. 1030	Increased the debt limit temporarily through October 24, 1990 to	3,195,000,000,000
October 25, 1990 104 Stat. 1075	Increased the debt limit temporarily through October 27, 1990 to	3,195,000,000,000
October 28, 1990 104 Stat. 1086	Increased the debt limit temporarily through November 5, 1990 to	3,230,000,000,000
November 5, 1990 104 Stat. 1388–560	Increased the debt limit to	4,145,000,000,000
April 6, 1993 107 Stat. 42	Increased the debt limit temporarily through September 30, 1993 to	4,370,000,000,000
August 10, 1993 107 Stat. 312	Increased the debt limit to	4,900,000,000,000

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Date and Act	History of Legislation	Dollar Amount of Limit
February 8, 1996 110 Stat. 55	Temporarily exempted from limit obligations in an amount equal to the monthly insurance benefits payable under Title II of the Social Security Act in March 1996, the exemption to expire on the earlier of an increase in the limit or March 15, 1996.	
March 12, 1996 110 Stat. 825	Temporarily exempted from limit (a) obligations in an amount equal to the monthly insurance benefits payable under Title II of the Social Security Act in March 1996 and (b) certain obligations issued to trust funds and other Federal Government accounts, both exemptions to expire on the earlier of an increase in the limit or March 30, 1996.	
March 29, 1996 110 Stat. 875	Increased the debt limit to	5,500,000,000,000
August 5, 1997 111 Stat. 648	Increased the debt limit to	5,950,000,000,000