



BUDGET DIGEST – Week of November 30 2015

Fiscal Year 2016 Appropriations and the “Omnibus”

Current Status of FY 2016 Appropriations. To date, the House has passed 6 of the 12 annual appropriations bills for fiscal year 2016 (Commerce-Justice-Science, Defense, Energy and Water, Legislative Branch, Military Construction-Veterans Affairs, and Transportation-HUD). The remaining bills have been reported by the House Appropriations Committee. The Senate Appropriations Committee has reported 12 of the bills, and the FY 2016 Military Construction-Veterans Affairs bill passed the full Senate earlier this month.

Fiscal year 2016 began on October 1, 2015. A continuing resolution was enacted prior to the conclusion of FY 2015 to keep discretionary spending programs funded through December 11, 2015 at the FY 2015 level. The FY 2016 appropriations process may conclude with an “omnibus” that would combine all twelve bills into one larger bill and provide spending authority for discretionary programs through the end of FY 2016.

BBA15 Amends Spending Limits. With enactment of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, appropriations bills for FY 2016 and FY 2017 will be considered within the context of new, higher discretionary spending limits. Specifically, in FY 2016, non-defense and defense caps are both increased by \$25 billion. In FY 2017, non-defense and defense caps are both increased by \$15 billion.

Recent Trends in Discretionary Spending. Base discretionary appropriations spending increased from \$933 billion in FY 2008 to \$1,091 billion in FY 2010, but it has declined from this peak in recent years. FY 2015 base discretionary spending was \$78 billion below FY 2010 levels, and total FY 2015 discretionary spending was \$176 billion below the FY 2010 level. Table 1 shows the recent history of discretionary spending.

Table 1 - Discretionary Appropriations since FY2008 (BA in billions)

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013 Pre- Sequester	2013 Post- Sequester	2014	2015	2016 Budget/ BBA Cap ³
Base	933	1,013	1,091	1,050	1,043	1,043	988	1,012	1,013	1,067
Defense	499	534	554	552	554	552	518	520	521	548
Non-Defense	434	478	537	498	489	491	470	492	492	519
OCO	187	154	165	159	127	99	93	92	74	74
Emergency	56	338	20	2	0	42	40	0.2	5	1
Disasters ¹	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	10	12	11	6	6	6
Program Integrity ²	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0.5	0.5	0.5	1	1	1
Grand Total	1,176	1,504	1,276	1,211	1,180	1,195	1,132	1,111	1,100	1,149

^{1,2}The disaster and program integrity designations did not exist prior to the Budget Control Act of 2011.

³Final amounts for FY 2016 have not yet been enacted.