


Here's how much debt the US government added under President Obama

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🕒 Jan. 20, 2017, 6:10 AM 🔥 125,979

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As part of the broader

Alex Wong/Getty Images

economic legacy of President

Barack Obama, [from jobs](#) to the stock market, one of the most notable changes has been the increase in the national debt.

Based on quarterly data released by the US Treasury, the debt at the end of 2008 — just before Obama took office — stood at roughly \$10,699,805,000,000.

As of the third quarter of 2016, the most recent data available, the debt as Obama is set to leave office stood at \$19,573,445,000,000.

Based on the website [USdebtclock.com](#), which extrapolates the US national debt in real time based on committed government spending, the debt will be roughly \$19.97 trillion when President-elect Donald Trump takes office on Friday.

Thus, the national debt under Obama will have grown by about \$9 trillion, or an increase of 86%.

Some of this debt is attributable to bills passed by Obama's predecessor, George W. Bush, since the federal government's fiscal year budget operate differently from the calendar year. Also, both Bush and Obama rolled out large investment bills to help the US recover from the depths of the financial crisis.

A majority of economists agree that debt-financed government spending during the depths of a recession is a good way to help mitigate the impact of the crisis and help return the country to economic growth. In addition, the [debt may not be a scary as some think](#), since the US is still in good credit standing and prints the reserve currency of the world.

Additionally, as the Obama administration often notes, the annual deficit has decreased each year of the Obama presidency.

With those facts in mind, the size of the debt increase is quite staggering.

Andy Kiersz/Business Insider

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