STATE APPROPRIATIONS LIMIT

The Arizona Constitution restricts the appropriation of certain state revenues to no more than 7.41% of Arizona personal income. The applicable revenues are primarily tax and fee collections that may be deposited to either the General Fund or dedicated funds. A.R.S. § 41-1273 requires our office to determine how state spending compares to the appropriations limit. This report is due annually to the Governor and Legislature by February 15 and is to cover the spending for the prior year, the current year, and next year.

The FY 2025 calculations are based on actual appropriations. FY 2026 represents all currently enacted appropriations. FY 2027 reflects the projected appropriations in the JLBC Baseline.

Our calculations are as follows:

FY 2026 Arizona Personal Income is projected to be $532.9 billion. With a 7.41% limit, the spending cap is $39.49 billion. In comparison, the FY 2026 spending level subject to the limit is $30.65 billion, or 5.75% of personal income.

FY 2027 Arizona Personal Income is projected to be $565.5 billion. With a 7.41% limit, the spending cap is $41.90 billion. Under the FY 2027 JLBC Baseline, the combination of General Fund and all other fund spending is $30.29 billion, or 5.36% of personal income.

In general, the revenues subject to the appropriations limit consist of (1) taxes, (2) university collections, and (3) licenses, fees and permits. These revenues may be either general or earmarked for special purposes. The appropriation of certain other state revenues is not subject to the limit. These revenues include (1) interest and dividends, (2) receipts from sales, rentals and consideration for services, (3) federal grants, (4) donations and gifts, and (5) amounts received by the state in the capacity of trustee, custodian or agent.

The Arizona Constitution requires the Economic Estimates Commission (EEC) to determine the estimate of total personal income used to compute the appropriations limit. The FY 2026 limit is based upon the March 2025 EEC calculation, while the January 2026 report is used for the FY 2027 limit. The EEC is composed of three members: the Director of the Department of Revenue and two members who are knowledgeable in the field of economics - one appointed by the Speaker of the House and one by the President of the Senate.

On the next 2 pages, there is a numerical history of the appropriations limit. To limit the file size, we have not attached a copy of our detailed calculations. If you would like a full copy of the report or have any other questions, please contact our office.

	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
		(dollars in billions)	
Arizona Personal Income	$499.50	$532.90	$565.50
Appropriations Limit (7.41% of Arizona Personal Income)	$37.01	$39.49	$41.90
Spending subject to the Limit	$27.98	$30.65	$30.29
Spending as a % of Personal Income	5.60%	5.75%	5.36%

HISTORY OF APPROPRIATIONS LIMIT

Fiscal Year	Personal Income	Statutory Limit	Approp. Limit	Actual Approp.	Actual Appr. As % of PI
	(Billions)	%	(Billions)	(Billions)	%
1980	$20.65	7.00%	$1.446	$1.437	6.96%
1981	24.70	7.00	1.729	1.718	6.96
1982	28.50	7.00	1.995	1.903	6.68
1983	31.60	7.18	2.270	1.918	6.07
1984	33.50	7.18	2.410	2.187	6.53
1985	37.00	7.18	2.656	2.414	6.52
1986	41.30	7.18	2.965	2.752	6.66
1987	45.40	7.18	3.260	3.068	6.76
1988	49.30	7.18	3.540	3.370	6.84
1989	53.00	7.18	3.800	3.676	6.94
1990	57.60	7.18	4.136	3.781	6.56
1991	62.60	7.18	4.495	4.156	6.64
1992	66.30	7.23	4.793	4.372	6.60
1993	69.10	7.23	4.996	4.524	6.55
1994	72.50	7.23	5.242	4.758	6.56
1995	80.42	7.23	5.814	5.424	6.74
1996	88.00	7.23	6.362	5.606	6.37
1997	94.90	7.23	6.861	6.086	6.41
1998	102.70	7.23	7.425	6.396	6.23
1999	113.00	7.41	8.373	7.144	6.32
2000	120.00	7.41	8.892	7.486	6.24
2001	127.60	7.41	9.455	7.969	6.25
2002	142.80	7.41	10.581	8.063	5.65
2003	147.90	7.41	10.959	7.962	5.38
2004	154.90	7.41	11.478	8.892	5.74
2005	166.20	7.41	12.315	10.636	6.40
2006	180.00	7.41	13.338	12.126	6.74
2007	202.00	7.41	14.968	13.961	6.91
2008	217.20	7.41	16.095	13.645	6.28
2009	224.00	7.41	16.598	12.649	5.65
2010	216.00	7.41	16.006	12.045	5.58
2011	222.10	7.41	16.458	13.269	5.97
2012	236.30	7.41	17.510	13.821	5.85
2013	253.20	7.41	18.762	14.051	5.55
2014	252.00	7.41	18.673	14.606	5.80
2015	260.10	7.41	19.273	15.180	5.84
2016	273.20	7.41	20.244	15.735	5.76
2017	286.70	7.41	21.244	16.393	5.72
2018	298.50	7.41	22.119	17.106	5.73
2019	315.50	7.41	23.379	18.262	5.79
2020	340.00	7.41	25.194	20.583	6.05
2021	329.60	7.41	24.423	23.543	7.14
2022	390.10	7.41	28.906	22.396	5.74
2023	415.00	7.41	30.752	27.197	6.55
2024	442.50	7.41	32.789	28.677	6.48
2025	499.50	7.41	37.013	27.976	5.60
2026	532.90	7.41	39.488	30.648	5.75
2027	565.50	7.41	41.904	30.294	5.36

ANNUAL AND CUMULATIVE GROWTH OF PERSONAL INCOME AND ACTUAL APPROPRIATIONS

Fiscal Year	Annual % Growth in Pers. Income	Annual % Growth in Actual Appr.
1981	19.61%	19.55%
1982	15.38	10.77
1983	10.88	0.79
1984	6.01	14.03
1985	10.45	10.38
1986	11.62	14.00
1987	9.93	11.48
1988	8.59	9.84
1989	7.51	9.08
1990	8.68	2.86
1991	8.68	9.92
1992	5.91	5.20
1993	4.22	3.48
1994	4.92	5.17
1995	10.92	14.00
1996	9.43	3.36
1997	7.84	8.56
1998	8.22	5.09
1999	10.03	11.69
2000	6.19	4.79
2001	6.33	6.45
2002	11.91	1.18
2003	3.57	(1.25)
2004	4.73	11.68
2005	7.30	19.61
2006	8.30	14.01
2007	12.22	15.13
2008	7.52	(2.26)
2009	3.13	(7.30)
2010	(3.57)	(4.78)
2011	2.82	10.16
2012	6.39	4.16
2013	7.15	1.66
2014	(0.47)	3.95
2015	3.21	3.93
2016	5.04	3.66
2017	4.94	4.18
2018	4.12	4.35
2019	5.70	6.76
2020	7.77	12.71
2021	(3.06)	14.38
2022	18.36	(4.87)
2023	6.38	21.44
2024	6.63	5.44
2025	12.88	(2.44)
2026	6.69	9.55
2027	6.12	(1.16)