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Tax Day 2012

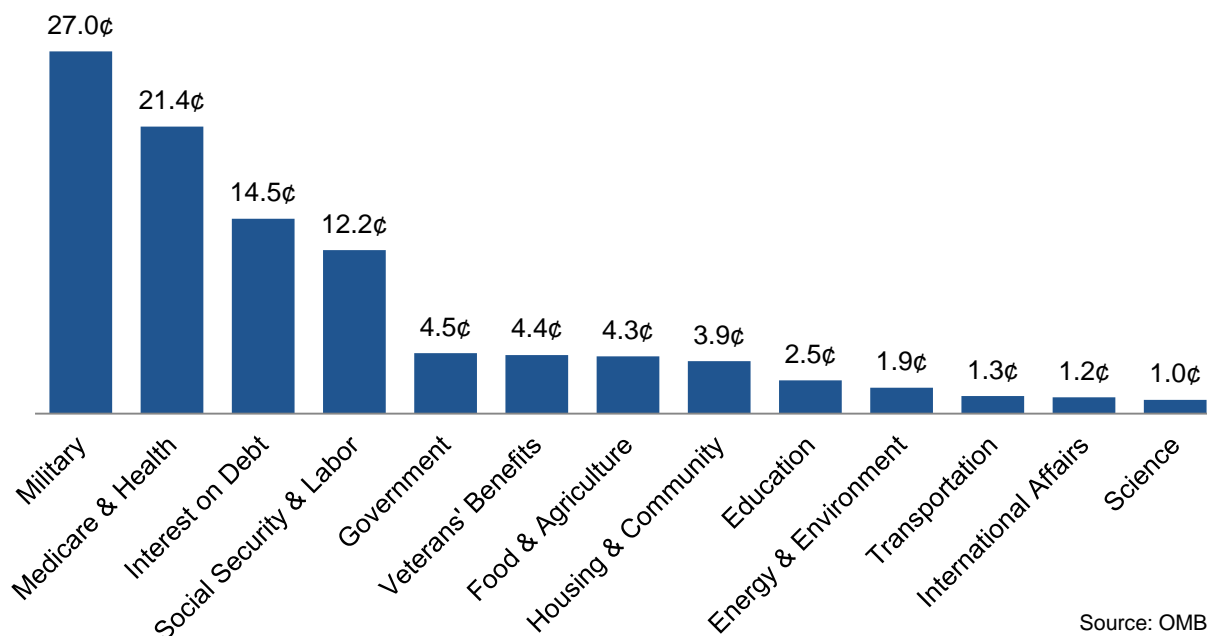
National Priorities Project looks at where the federal government spent your income taxes—down to the penny.

By Mattea Kramer

On April 17, 2012, your 2011 federal income tax return is due to the IRS. Where did the federal government spend your income taxes during fiscal year 2011?

Federal income tax revenues totaled around \$1.13 trillion in fiscal 2011, and this chart shows exactly where the federal government spent each one of those dollars:

Where Your 2011 Federal Income Tax Dollar Went



Source: OMB
National Priorities Project

When you pay federal income taxes, the U.S. Treasury designates that money as “federal funds.” That means Congress and the president can spend that money on any government activity—and the chart above shows how they chose to spend federal funds in 2011. This chart does not include your payroll taxes, also called Social Security and Medicare taxes, which are designated as “trust funds” and can only be used by the Treasury to fund those two programs. But as you

can see from the chart above, some federal funds are also used to pay for Social Security and Medicare.

Thanks for Your Business

Some people think the federal government should give them a receipt for their income taxes in order to show where all that money was spent. While you may not get a receipt from the IRS any time soon, National Priorities Project went ahead and wrote one up. This receipt shows where \$2,654 in income taxes was spent by the government in fiscal 2011. That's an estimate of the taxes paid by a single person earning around \$30,000 annually. To see where your own taxes were spent by the federal government, see our Tax Calculator at

nationalpriorities.org/en/interactive-data/taxday/

For More...

... About how federal income taxes and payroll taxes appear on your paystub: nationalpriorities.org/en/analysis/2012/taxes-and-your-paycheck

... About how the federal government raises trillions of dollars in tax revenue each year: nationalpriorities.org/en/budget-basics/federal-budget-101/revenues/

... About the Bush-era tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans: CostofTaxCuts.com

Federal Income Tax Receipt	
April 15, 2012	
Thank you for your business!	
Military	\$716.01
<i>Includes \$18.12 for nuclear weapons</i>	
Medicare & Health	\$567.38
<i>Includes 3¢ for Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Programs</i>	
Social Security & Labor	\$323.13
<i>Includes \$15.73 for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families</i>	
Housing & Community	\$103.23
<i>Includes \$9.34 for disaster relief</i>	
Government	\$119.54
<i>Includes 84¢ for the postal service</i>	
Food & Agriculture	\$113.00
<i>Includes \$71.37 for SNAP (food stamps)</i>	
Veterans Benefits	\$115.82
<i>Includes \$9.70 for rehabilitation, education, and job training for veterans</i>	
Education	\$65.53
<i>Includes 40¢ for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting</i>	
Energy & Environment	\$51.25
<i>Includes \$6.19 for energy conservation</i>	
Transportation	\$34.43
<i>Includes 28¢ for High Speed Rail</i>	
International Affairs	\$32.08
<i>Includes 28¢ for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria</i>	
Science	\$27.10
<i>Includes \$15.66 for space flight research</i>	
Interest on Federal Debt	\$385.49
Total federal income taxes	\$2,654
Have a nice day!	