

PRESIDENT BUSH'S LEGACY: **FISCAL MELTDOWN, ECONOMIC CRISIS**

*After Eight Years of Deficits and Debt,
Economic Recovery Will Be Slow and Difficult*

*"We can proceed with tax relief without fear of budget deficits, even if the economy softens.
Projections for the surplus in my budget are cautious and conservative."*

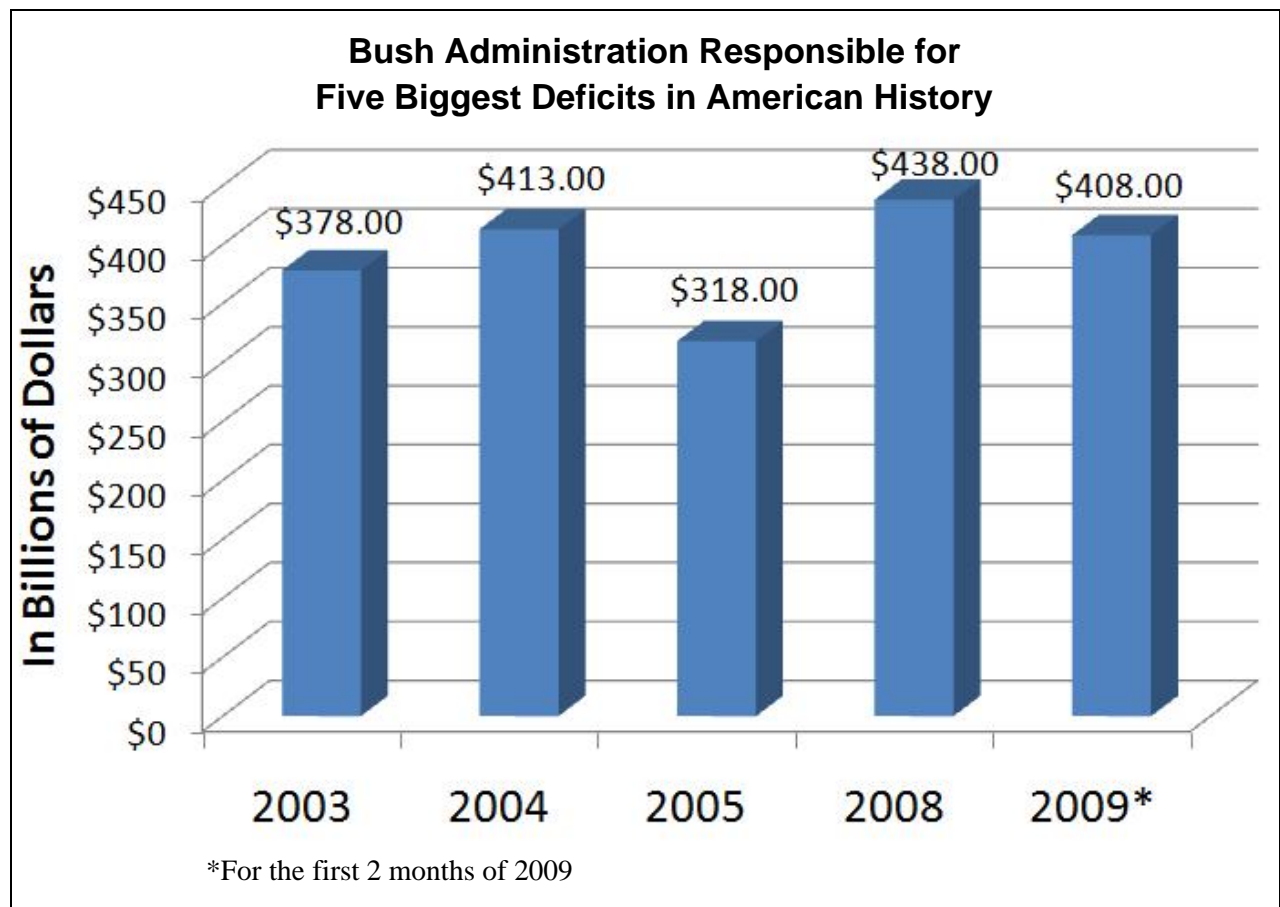
- President George W. Bush, 3/27/01

"[O]ur budget will run a deficit that will be small and short-term."

- President George W. Bush, 1/7/03

"Deficits don't matter."

- Vice President Dick Cheney, 2004



Over the last eight years, President Bush and Republicans have built a record of failed fiscal policies that are contributing to the devastating economic crisis facing our nation and will make the road to economic recovery a slow and difficult process. In addition, President Bush's budgets have repeatedly cut funding for the programs that help Americans cope during an economic downturn while providing massive tax relief to big business and wealthy Americans.

A LEGACY OF DEFICITS AND DEBT

President Bush will leave behind a legacy of debt, transforming the biggest surpluses in history into the biggest deficits and affecting our ability to confront the current economic crisis.

Bush presided over the 5 largest deficits in American history:

- #1: \$438 billion deficit in FY08
- #2: \$413 billion deficit in FY04
- #3: \$408 billion deficit in the first 2 months of FY09
- #4: \$378 billion deficit in FY03
- #5: \$318 billion deficit in FY05

When Bush took office...

- ... There was a **projected \$710 billion surplus for FY08** [Congressional Budget Office]. In fact, in FY08 the CBO reported a **\$438 billion deficit – a swing of \$1.073 TRILLION.**
- ... The **national debt was \$5.8 trillion.** As of November 30, 2008, the **national debt was \$10.6 trillion.**
- ...There was a **\$5.6 trillion ten-year projected surplus.** It is now a **\$3.4 trillion deficit** over the same period.

OBAMA, DEMOCRATS WORK ON LONG-TERM POLICIES FOR SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH

“Well, fortunately, as tough as times are right now--and **things are going to get worse before they get better**--there is a convergence between circumstances and agenda. The key for us is making sure that we jump-start that economy in a way that doesn't just deal with the short term, doesn't just create jobs immediately, but also puts us on a **glide path for long-term, sustainable economic growth.**”

- *President-Elect Barack Obama, 12/7/08*

Appearing on *Meet the Press*, President-Elect Obama discussed the need for an economic recovery package to revive our failing economy, but he cautioned that “things are going to get worse before they get better.” When President Bush leaves office in January, he is handing the next president the consequences of 8 years in the red.

	WHEN BUSH TOOK OFFICE	TODAY – IN THE RED
UNEMPLOYMENT	5.7 million unemployed	10.3 million unemployed
HOUSEHOLD INCOME	\$50,566	\$50,233
HEALTH INSURANCE	38 million uninsured	47 million uninsured
POVERTY	31.6 million	37.3 million
JOBS CREATED	22.7 million over Clinton's 8 years	5 million over 8 years
REAL GDP GROWTH	3.6% over Clinton's 8 years	2.2% over 8 years
NATIONAL DEBT	\$5.8 Trillion	\$10.6 Trillion