
News Release



UNITED
STATES
GOVERNMENT
PRINTING
OFFICE

For Release: **IMMEDIATE**
February 23, 1998

Contact: **202-512-1991**
No. 98-6

PUBLIC USE OF ONLINE BUDGET JUMPS MORE THAN 500 PERCENT

As President Clinton's Fiscal Year 1999 Budget was released for sale to the public in Government Printing Office (GPO) Bookstores and through telephone mail orders, thousands of Americans were reviewing the individual budget documents through the GPO Access online service, the public's no-charge link with thousands of online resources available from their Federal Government, at www.access.gpo.gov/su—docs/budget/index.html.

The public's use of the online budget this year contrasts sharply with the use of the online budget in 1997. A year ago, the budget documents—including the Budget, the Budget Appendix, Historical Tables, Analytical Perspectives, Citizen's Guide, and Budget Systems and Concepts—were released online via GPO Access the same day that paper copies went on sale from GPO. At that time, first day sales were 7,918 copies while GPO Access hits for the budget documents were 10,149.

On February 2, 1998, the budget documents and the online version were again released the same day. This time, 7,390 paper copies were sold, a decrease of about 7 percent, while GPO Access hits for budget documents jumped to 64,428, an increase of 535 percent.

Public Printer of the United States Michael F. DiMario pointed out the significance of the numbers. "Clearly, electronic availability of the budget information has not ended the demand for the printed word. Many people still need the printed documents, but electronic availability has greatly expanded access to the budget by more persons than ever before. It's simply another successful part of the GPO's mission—keeping the public informed."

Since the award-winning GPO Access went online in June 1994, the public has expanded use dramatically, from downloading approximately 2 million documents per month to more than 8.5 million per month. In addition to the Federal Budget, such items as the Congressional Record, Federal Register, the Code of Federal Regulations, congressional bills, and a growing list of Government documents are available on the same day of publication.