



Useful Databases and Other Resources for Conducting Oversight¹

The American Association for Budget and Program Analysis's **Departmental and Agency Budgets** page compiles links to the budget landing pages of various federal agencies. From these individual pages, users can access each agency's congressional budget justifications for a given fiscal year:

https://www.aabpa.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=225:budget-landing-pages&catid=19:default&Itemid=99

Better Business Bureau's database of businesses and charities:

<http://www.bbb.org/search>

BRB Publications allows you to search free public records organized primarily by state and county:

<http://www.brbpub.com/>

The **Bureau of Labor Statistics** (BLS) provides a variety of information to help you evaluate public policies on retirement benefits, the minimum wage, workforce education and training, economic development, workplace safety, monetary policy, consumer spending, and other topics that affect the well-being of American workers, retirees, and their families:

<http://www.bls.gov/data/>

The **Bureau of Transportation Statistics** includes national and state transportation statistics, freight data, border crossing data, multimodal transportation indicators, and more:

<https://www.bts.gov/browse-statistical-products-and-data>

Candid (A merger of GuideStar and Foundation Center) collects information on nonprofit organizations registered with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). You can find information on each nonprofit's mission, finances, programs, and more:

<https://candid.org/>

Census Bureau Data includes quick facts, easy stats, mapping tools, and more:

<http://www.census.gov/data/data-tools.html>

<https://data.census.gov/>

The **Federal Audit Clearinghouse** is operated by the Census Bureau on behalf of the Office of Management and Budget, and houses a public database of more than 300,000 audits. Users can

¹ For updates to this list and current links, please visit the Project On Government Oversight's website at <https://www.pogo.org/congressional-oversight-staff-resources>.

search for and download audits of government programs, local governments (cities and counties), school districts, housing authorities, and more:

<https://www.fac.gov/>

Civic Impulse's **GovTrack** helps you find the status of federal legislation, voting records for the Senate and House of Representatives, information on members of Congress, congressional district maps, and the status of state legislation:

<http://www.govtrack.us/>

Congressional Budget Office (CBO) produces independent analyses of budgetary and economic issues to support the congressional budget process. The agency is strictly nonpartisan and conducts objective, impartial analysis:

<http://www.cbo.gov/>

Congressional Research Service (CRS) reports address a wide variety of topics and are excellent sources of independent information. Congress can request reports directly from the CRS. The public will soon have direct access to CRS reports, but until that happens, many are uploaded on a number of websites:

<https://archive-it.org/collections/1078>

<https://sgp.fas.org/crs/index.html> (Note: This archive of CRS reports is no longer actively maintained, but it still provides new reports on a broad range of national policy issues. The last annual report update was in 2021.)

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's (CFPB) **Consumer Complaint Database** contains data on complaints received by the CFPB regarding credit cards, mortgages, student loans, and other financial products and services:

<http://www.consumerfinance.gov/complaintdatabase/>

The Consumer Product Safety Commission's **SaferProducts.gov** has a database of product safety information:

<https://www.saferproducts.gov/>

The **Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE)** is an independent entity established within the executive branch that addresses integrity, economy, and effectiveness issues that transcend individual government agencies, and aids in the establishment of a professional, well-trained, and highly skilled workforce in the Offices of Inspectors General:

<https://www.ignet.gov/>

CIGIE also maintains **Oversight.gov**, a central repository for reports from most of the 72 inspectors general. The site allows Congress and the public to efficiently search for inspector general reports across the government, as opposed to going to each individual site:

www.oversight.gov

Data.gov contains thousands of federal agency information databases. Topics include Business, Education, Energy, Environment, Food Security, Health, Oceans, Older Adults, Transportation,

and Water Resources: <http://www.data.gov/>

The **Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA)** provides audit and financial advisory services to Department of Defense and other federal entities responsible for acquisition and contract administration, including audit manuals and contracting checklists:

<http://www.dcaa.mil>

The **Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS)** provides current defense acquisition regulations and updates, including all parts, subparts, and appendices. It offers browsing, search, and download options. The **Procedures, Guidance, and Information (PGI)** provides access to the companion regulatory guidance and internal procedures supporting the core Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement:

<https://www.acquisition.gov/dfars>

<https://www.acquisition.gov/dfarspgi>

Department of Defense's historical **budget materials**, including the Green Book, which is the Department of Defense's annual National Defense Budget Estimates report that offers comprehensive financial details supporting the president's budget request:

<https://comptroller.war.gov/Budget-Materials/>

Department of Defense's **Public Affairs** website presents transcripts of news briefings, speeches, and press releases of the department:

<https://www.war.gov/About/Office-of-the-Secretary-of-War/Public-Affairs/>

Department of Defense's **Publications page** lists all recent reports and plans released by the department:

<https://www.war.gov/news/publications/>

Department of Defense's **Selected Acquisition Reports** record cost data on weapons systems:

https://www.esd.whs.mil/Records-Declass/FOIA/Reading-Room/Reading-Room-List_2/Selected_Acquisition_Reports/

DuckDuckGo is an internet search engine that emphasizes protecting searchers' privacy and avoiding the filter bubble of personalized search results:

<https://duckduckgo.com/>

Environmental Protection Agency's **enforcement data** outlines how the agency enforces environmental laws through civil and criminal actions. It provides enforcement results, public reporting guidance, and information on initiatives addressing air, water, waste, and chemical safety:

<http://www.epa.gov/enforcement>

The **Federal Acquisition Regulation** is over 2,000 pages of contracting administration fun.

Enjoy: <http://www.acquisition.gov/far/>

Federal Advisory Committee Act Database contains every federal advisory committee, the

members on those committees, the committee charters, meeting dates, committee reports, committee costs, and a host of other information:

<http://facadatabase.gov/>

Federal Election Commission maintains a database of campaign finance disclosures by recipient and donor:

<http://www.fec.gov>

Federal Procurement Data System - Next Generation (FPDS-NG) contains contracts whose estimated value is \$3,000 or more. Every modification to that contract, regardless of dollar value, must be reported to FPDS-NG:

https://www.fpds.gov/fpdsng_cms/index.php/en/

The **Federal Register** is a daily journal of the federal government's proposed rules, notices, and final rules. The online site provides access to all materials published in issues going back to 1994. Users can search for particular documents or browse by agency, issue, or date:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/>

StatsPolicy (Formerly FedStats) provides easy, one-stop public access to statistical information from more than 100 programs broken down by state or agency, and includes links to government databases: <https://statspolicy.gov/>

The Financial Management Service's (FMS) **Payment Information Repository (PIR)** is a centralized repository of federal payment-related data from both the Treasury and the Non-Treasury Disbursing Offices. PIR provides a single, web-based system from which managers and executives at agencies can view disbursement information, provides business analytics and government-wide accounting reporting on the payment transactions originating from Federal Program Agencies, and supplies both summary and detailed information on payment transactions:

<https://fiscal.treasury.gov/pir/>

The Food and Drug Administration's **Adverse Event Reporting System (FAERS)** is a database that contains information on adverse events — including death, disability, and hospitalization — and medication error reports submitted to the FDA. Reports can be submitted by patients, health care professionals, and drug manufacturers. The FDA uses the reports to monitor the safety of products approved by the agency. There are limitations to the FAERS data since many reports are submitted voluntarily, and the FDA does not require proof of a causal relationship between a product and an adverse event:

<https://www.fda.gov/drugs/fdas-adverse-event-reporting-system-faers/fda-adverse-event-reporting-system-faers-public-dashboard>

The Food and Drug Administration's **Manufacturer and User Facility Device Experience (MAUDE) database** contains data that represents reports of adverse events involving medical devices. The data consists of user facility reports since 1991, distributor reports since 1993, voluntary reports since June 1993, and manufacturer reports since August 1996. MAUDE may not include reports made according to exemptions, variances, or alternative reporting

requirements granted under 21 CFR 803.19:

<http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfMAUDE/search.CFM>

Free Public Records allows you to search free public records, organized by category and state:

<http://publicrecords.searchsystems.net/>

General Services Administration's **Schedule eLibrary** of goods and service contractors provides a centralized online source for the latest contract award information from GSA Federal Supply Schedules, VA Federal Supply Schedules, government-wide Acquisition Contracts, Technology Contracts, Assisted Acquisition Services, and Strategically Sourced Blanket Purchase Agreements:

<http://www.gsaelibrary.gsa.gov/ElibMain/ElibHome>

Good Jobs First's **Subsidy Tracker** is a database of local, state, and federal economic development subsidies and other financial assistance to corporations:

<https://subsidytracker.goodjobsfirst.org/>

Good Jobs First's **Violation Tracker** provides corporate misconduct information, covering banking, consumer protection, false claims, environment, wage and hour, unfair labor practices, health, safety, employment discrimination, price-fixing, bribery, and other cases initiated by more than 50 federal regulatory agencies and all divisions of the Justice Department since 2000:

<https://violationtracker.goodjobsfirst.org/>

The **Government Accountability Office (GAO)** is well known as a government watchdog. In addition to the publicly available reports and information, congressional staff have access to a special non-public area that lists all reports currently under development. There is a public-facing GAO webpage called "restricted products," which lists all classified or sensitive reports.

Congressional staff can request copies of these reports that are not readily available to the public:

<https://www.gao.gov/>

Government Accountability Office's **Legal Decisions (bid protests)** web page is where GAO's Office of General Counsel posts legal decisions, opinions, and reports on bid protests, appropriations law, and other issues of federal law:

<http://www.gao.gov/legal/bid-protests/search>

Health and Human Services' **Hospital Compare** database displays ratings for process-of-care measures, information on hospital outcome-of-care measures, surveys of patients' hospital experiences, and more:

<http://www.medicare.gov/hospitalcompare/search.html>

The **IT Dashboard** enables federal agencies, industry, the general public, and other stakeholders to view details of federal information technology investments:

<http://www.itdashboard.gov/>

The Department of Justice's **FOIA Office of Information Policy site** serves as a central hub for administration and guidance of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). It provides policy

documents, training resources, FOIA request logs, annual reports, and tools to help both federal agencies and the public understand and navigate the FOIA process:

<http://www.justice.gov/oip>

FOIA.gov is a Freedom of Information Act website run by the Department of Justice. It lets users search across federal agencies' websites for already-published records, submit FOIA requests for unreleased documents, and compare agency compliance data (like request volumes and processing times) using graphical tools:

<https://www.foia.gov/>

The **Office of Government Information Services (OGIS)** is the federal Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) ombudsman responsible for fielding complaints and questions about FOIA. In addition to serving as a bridge between agencies and the public, OGIS also offers mediation services for FOIA disputes and offers suggestions to Congress for improving FOIA:

<https://www.archives.gov/ogis>

The **Department of Labor** provides data on the agency's administration and enforcement of federal labor laws that guarantee workers' rights to safe and healthful working conditions, a minimum hourly wage and overtime pay, and freedom from employment discrimination, as well as the integrity of their pensions and health plans. You can find enforcement data for the Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA), Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and the Department's Wage and Hour Division (WHD):

<https://enforcedata.dol.gov/homePage.php>

<https://data.dol.gov/>

The Library of Congress's **Congress.gov** provides access to federal legislative information. It offers bills and resolutions, activity in Congress, congressional records, schedules and calendars, committee information, presidential nominations, and treaties:

<https://www.congress.gov/>

Million Short allows you to remove the top million (or top 100,000, 10,000, 1,000, or 100) sites from internet search results so you can discover more obscure sources and sites:

<https://millionshort.com/>

National Institute on Money in State Politics database of state campaign contributions:

<http://www.followthemoney.org/> (Merged to become [OpenSecrets](#))

NETR Online allows you to search public records related to property and land:

<http://www.netronline.com/>

Occupational Safety and Health Administration's **Fatality and Catastrophe Investigation Summaries** provides access to accident investigation information:

<http://www.osha.gov/pls/imis/accidentsearch.html>

Occupational Safety and Health Administration's **Injury and Illness Data** provides data on

work-related injuries and illnesses collected from employers within specific industry and employment size specifications:

http://www.osha.gov/pls/odi/establishment_search.html

The **Office of Government Ethics** provides overall leadership and oversight of the executive branch ethics program designed to prevent and resolve conflicts of interest. The website provides access to certain government officials' ethics information, including financial disclosure forms:

<https://oge.gov>

<https://www.oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/Presidential%20Appointee%20&%20Nominee%20Records>

<https://extapps2.oge.gov/201/Presiden.nsf>

Office of Management and Budget's **Analytical Perspectives volume** provides key data on the national defense budget function and all of its components from 2012 to 2026. It includes discretionary and mandatory spending:

<https://www.govinfo.gov/app/collection/budget/2026>

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/information-resources/budget/analytical-perspectives/>

Office of Management and Budget's **Appendix** web page provides access to current agency budget appendices:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/information-resources/budget/appendix/>

Office of Management and Budget's **Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA)** reviews all collections of information by the federal government. OIRA also develops and oversees the implementation of government-wide policies in several areas and maintains information about government meetings and communications with outside entities:

<https://www.reginfo.gov/public/>

Office of Management and Budget's **USAspending.gov** includes for each federal award the name of the entity receiving the award, the amount of the award, the transaction type, the funding agency, the location of the entity receiving the award, and the unique identifier of the entity receiving the award:

<https://www.usaspending.gov/>

OpenSecrets offers financial data on campaign contributions, lobbying, and the revolving door:

<http://www.opensecrets.org/>

Pandemic Recovery Accountability Committee independently oversees more than \$5 trillion in pandemic relief programs and spending. (Note: As of July 14, 2025, the PRAC's State and Territory Funding Data pages are no longer available. You can still download the data for all states and territories in Excel format from their website.)

<https://pandemicoversight.gov/data-interactive-tools/states>

PaymentAccuracy.gov contains dedicated information on improper payments as required by Executive Order 13520. The site provides government-wide improper payment estimates, as well as agency-level and program-specific improper payment information. The Numbers section presents data on improper payments using both graphs and tables for clear visualization:

<http://www.paymentaccuracy.gov/>

Pipl searches for people, including on the deep web. It is effective, though it will return some results that are subscription-based:

<https://pipl.com/>

POGO's **COVID Spending Tracker** is an interactive map that provides a comprehensive view of COVID-19 relief spending, including grants, loans, contracts, and related agency expenditures:

<https://covidtracker.pogo.org/>

The **Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER)** provides online access to court records for federal district courts, courts of appeals, and bankruptcy courts. The site charges a per-page access fee that applies to all search results, whether the pages are viewed, downloaded, or printed:

<https://www.pacer.gov/>

Regulations.gov provides access to agency proposed and final rules, as well as to comments from the public:

<http://www.regulations.gov/#!home>

Securities and Exchange Commission's **Electronic Data Gathering, Analysis, and Retrieval (EDGAR)** system contains the financial filings of publicly traded companies:

<http://www.sec.gov/edgar/searchedgar/companysearch.html>

The U.S. Senate's **Lobbying Disclosure Act Search Site** provides access to all documents filed under the Lobbying Disclosure Act. It allows researchers to use a query system, download the secretary's lobbying documents database, and access both registrations (LD-1) and reports (LD-2):

<https://lda.senate.gov/system/public/>

System for Award Management (SAM) combines several federal procurement and award datasets into one system. The current SAM system includes the capabilities found previously in Central Contractor Registration (CCR), Online Representations and Certifications Application (ORCA), the Excluded Parties List System (EPLS), legacy SAM, Past Performance Information Retrieval System (PPIRS), Contractor Performance Assessment Reporting System (CPARS), and Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS). The overarching benefits of SAM include streamlined and integrated processes, elimination of data redundancies, and reduced costs while providing improved capability:

<https://sam.gov/>

Taxpayers for Common Sense, a nonpartisan budget watchdog, lists budget information and other federal spending data, including earmarks:

<https://www.taxpayer.net/library/data-documents/>

<https://www.taxpayer.net/databases/>

<https://www.taxpayer.net/earmarks/>

Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC) provides comprehensive information about staffing, spending, and enforcement activities of the federal government:

<https://tracreports.org/>

The **Wayback Machine** is an archive of websites from all over the internet:

<https://web.archive.org/>

World Bank's debarment website provides a searchable database of firms and individuals prohibited from participating in World Bank-financed projects due to violations of procurement or integrity rules. It includes details on sanction periods, reasons for debarment, and related entities, helping governments and organizations screen ineligible vendors:

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/procurement/debarred-firms>

Geo-location on X allows you to gather posts from a discrete geographic area. To use this tool, 1) Drop a pin on the location in Google maps; 2) Copy the coordinates into X, preceded by "geocode:" and followed by a comma and the desired radius in either miles (mi) or kilometers (km). Do not use spaces. For example, "geocode:38.898135,-77.027321,1mi" will return all of the posts within a 1-mile radius of POGO's offices.