



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

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Discretionary Spending on the Decline During The 1990s

WASHINGTON, DC --Discretionary spending has actually fallen between 1995 and 1998, according to a new study released today by the **Joint Economic Committee (JEC)**. The new study, entitled [*Trends in Congressional Appropriations: Fiscal Restraint in the 1990s*](#), reviews spending trends and finds that appropriated spending has been restrained in recent years.

After adjusting for inflation, discretionary spending fell \$77 billion between fiscal years 1990 and 1998. In the past three years alone, discretionary spending --defined as defense, international, and domestic appropriations -- dropped a dramatic \$38 billion.

"Appropriated spending has actually declined in recent years," said **JEC Chairman Jim Saxton**. "Furthermore, this JEC study shows that the long-term upward trend in discretionary spending growth has been halted. For example, in 1996, domestic discretionary spending was cut by \$9.3 billion, the largest single-year reduction in domestic outlays since 1982. Even with increases in 1997 and 1998, appropriations for domestic discretionary spending for the current fiscal year are still \$3.3 billion below the 1995 level."

The study also suggests that restraint on all types of federal spending will be needed to ensure that budget surpluses materialize as projected.

For a copy of the study, call the JEC at (202) 224-5171 or view its website at www.house.gov/jec/.

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