

U.S. Government Pensions and Other Transfers

In this section:

[Coverage and definitions](#)

[Estimation methods overview](#)

[U.S. government pensions and other transfers](#)

Coverage and definitions

Entries for U.S. government pensions and other transfers offset transfers of real resources or financial assets to foreign residents recorded in the goods, services, or financial accounts. This account consists primarily of unilateral payments by the U.S. government of pensions and other social insurance benefits to eligible persons residing abroad and of periodic payments of membership dues to nonfinancial international organizations. These transactions are considered transfers because no corresponding items of economic value are expected, or received, in return for these cash disbursements. Because a transfer is the corresponding entry to an actual resource flow, the value of the transfer equals the value of the corresponding flow. In general, these transfers are recorded at the time of the cash disbursements.

Estimation methods overview

The account is estimated on the basis of data submitted quarterly by U.S. government operating

agencies under Office of Management and Budget Directive No. 19.

1 U.S. Government Pensions and Other Transfers (line 37)

1.1 This account measures (1) payments of social security, railroad retirement, and other social insurance benefits to eligible persons residing abroad, (2) payments under retirement and compensation programs for former U.S. government civilian employees, military personnel, and veterans residing abroad, including the cost of providing medical services abroad under Veterans' Administration programs, (3) membership contributions (dues) to international nonfinancial organizations, (4) payments under U.S. educational, cultural exchange, and research programs, and (5) damage claims paid by the U.S. armed services in countries where they have installations (see [table 15](#)).

1.2 Other transfers include receipts from foreign residents on U.S. claims arising from damage to, or nationalization of, U.S. property abroad settled by intergovernmental agreements. Generally, these are one-time transactions involving receipts of funds by the United States. If funds received from foreign governments are distributed to U.S. owners residing abroad, the transfers are recorded in this account as payments. When foreign payments for damage or nationalization are made in installments over a period of time, they are recorded as U.S. receipts in repayments on U.S. credits and other long-term assets (line 48).

Table 15. U.S. Government Pensions and Other Transfers, 2009 (Line 37)

[Millions of dollars; credits +, debits -]

Total	-8,874
Transfers of annuities and other benefits:	
Under social security and related programs	-3,656
Under retirement and compensation programs for federal government service	-996
Membership contributions to international nonfinancial organizations	-4,159
Transfers under educational, cultural exchange, and research programs	-41
Damage claims paid by U.S. armed services	-22