

\$14.3 Trillion in Government Debt

\$4.6 trillion owed to the US itself, to cover revenues taken in and used elsewhere. I.e. The Social Security lockbox

\$9.7 trillion is owed to holders of Treasuries

\$1.4 trillion to the Federal Reserve System

\$1.1 trillion held by the Chinese

\$900 billion held by Japan

\$300 billion by the United Kingdom

Government Debt. It's THE hot topic of the last month, as republicans and democrats fight over how to deal with our liabilities and the infamous "debt ceiling". The "debt ceiling" is the overall limit that the US is allowed to put on its credit card. This ceiling has been raised 78 times in the last 50 years, and three times since President Obama took office. Now that the issue has been settled once more, a little perspective seems necessary.

1981 to 2012 (projected) US Gross Public Debt as a % of GDP

