

## Talking Points

In this Take Five released on Monday, October 21, 2013 Assistant Vice President and Economist Bill Emmons discussed the outlook for the federal budget as outlined in the [Congressional Budget Officer's \(CBO\) fiscal update](#) published in September 2013. The fiscal update noted that while there is improvement in the long-term fiscal outlook, it may not be enough. Despite optimistic assumptions about the economy, interest rates and future fiscal policy changes, the debt of the United States may eventually overwhelm the economy. Reasons for this outlook included:

- Rising debt-to-GDP ratio (U.S. remains below 100% but the ratio is rising)
- Federal outlays are on track to grow faster than federal revenues and GDP
- Rising healthcare outlays and chronic budget deficits