

Frequently Asked Questions on the Government Securities Investment Fund

March 5, 2019

1. What is the Government Securities Investment Fund?

The G Fund is a money market defined-contribution retirement fund for Federal employees.

2. How does the debt ceiling affect the G Fund?

The G Fund is invested in special-issue Treasury securities, which count against the debt limit. The entire balance matures daily and is ordinarily reinvested. In 1987, Congress granted Treasury the statutory authority to suspend reinvestment of all or part of the balance of the G Fund when the Secretary determines that the Fund cannot be fully invested without exceeding the debt limit.

3. How much headroom will this Treasury action involving the G Fund provide?

As of February 28, \$257 billion. The balance of the G Fund can fluctuate for a variety of reasons. Based on recent historical trends, Treasury expects that approximately \$230 billion is a more accurate estimate of the value of the G Fund when projecting how long extraordinary measures may last.

4. What impact will this action have on Federal employees and their retirement benefits?

By law, the G Fund will be made whole once the debt limit is increased. Federal retirees and employees will be unaffected by this action.

5. Has Treasury ever suspended reinvestment of all or part of the G Fund before?

Yes, in the past 23 years, Treasury used this extraordinary measure in 1995-96, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017, and 2017-2018.