

GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES

Last year expenditures from the General Fund were \$348,766,436, compared to revenue of \$370,070,466. During the past dozen years, this is the smallest increase in General Fund revenue experienced. As reflected in the figures that follow, except for last year, revenue has shown relatively stable growth over the years. The same obviously cannot be said for expenditures, however. In fact, FY 1982 was only the second time in the last dozen years that expenditures declined from the prior year's spending. This happened in 1977, when expenditures declined from \$117,045,773 to \$116,886,130. After declining by \$15 million in FY 1982, expenditures last year increased by over \$48 million, or 16% over the prior year.

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Percent Increase</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Percent Increase</u>
1971	\$ 45,122,284		\$ 36,948,579	
1972	48,687,543	8%	45,814,754	24%
1973	56,906,658	17%	53,637,303	17%
1974	73,538,372	29%	68,971,816	29%
1975	96,161,494	31%	74,485,032	8%
1976	112,036,790	17%	117,045,773	57%
1977	131,587,241	17%	116,886,130	0%
1978	159,023,831	21%	152,169,015	30%
1979	195,929,114	23%	162,072,991	7%
1980	225,000,106	15%	204,302,315	26%
1981	269,328,267	20%	315,153,654	54%
1982	362,704,605	35%	300,035,704	- 5%
1983	370,070,466	2%	348,766,436	16%

The result of revenue again exceeding expenditures during FY 1983 resulted in a record General Fund cash balance which climbed from \$156.8 million to over \$179.3 million. This is the largest General Fund cash balance ever recorded at the end of any fiscal year in the state's history.

Where has the Money Gone?

There are currently 82 agencies, boards, commissions, institutions, judicial districts and other entities in state government receiving General Funds. These agencies are grouped into 13 functional areas to provide some insight into where the state is spending its money.

THEN and NOW

In 1948, the Legislature appropriated \$22,497,540 from the General Fund for the support of state government, for the 1948-49 biennium.

In 1983, thirty-five years later, the biennial appropriation for the support of state government was \$929,048,237 -- an increase of over \$900 million.

FUND vs. CASH BALANCE

The Fund Balance is the excess of a fund's assets over its liabilities and reserves, except in the case of funds subject to budgetary accounting where prior to the end of a fiscal period, it represents the excess of the fund's assets and estimated revenue, over its liabilities, reserves, and appropriations for the period. The Cash Balance is simply the balance of a fund's cash.

At the close of FY 1983, the General Fund had a Cash Balance of \$179,368,482. However, the Fund Balance was only \$23,091,460.

Over the last several years, Wyoming has committed more funds to higher education than to any other category in government. Last year a total of \$102.6 million was expended for higher education out of a total expenditure of \$348,766,436. This is equal to roughly 30 percent of all state spending. The second largest spender of General Funds during FY 1983 was the general government category. This category alone expended \$85.3 million, or nearly 25 percent of the total General Funds expended. The third largest user of General Fund monies in FY 1983 was the hospitals, health and social services category. Total expenditures for this category last year were \$81.4 million.

The remaining functional categories of state government were supported by the General Fund to the tune of \$79,471,514, ranging from a low of \$119,702 for Professional and Commercial Licensing to a high of \$20,786,442 for Resources and Recreation.

A pictorial view of the major General Fund expending agencies is shown on the chart that follows.

