

# THE CLOCK IS TICKING: Understanding The Magnitude Of America's Crushing National Debt

By John Eidson | August 12, 2015

Few people who hear the numbers million, billion, trillion are aware of the exponential difference in the three. To grasp the incomprehensible size of America's national debt, you first must know the answer to the following question:

Just how big a number is a **TRILLION**?

Here's one way to put a trillion in perspective ...



Earth's circumference is 24,394 miles.  
A piece of string 24,394 miles long would have to encircle the earth **41 million times** to equal a trillion miles.  
(1 trillion divided by 24,394 = 41 million)

America's national debt is \$18 trillion.  
A piece of string 24,394 miles long would have to encircle the earth **738 million times** to equal 18 trillion miles.  
(41 million x 18 = 738 million)

## "America faces the most predictable economic crisis in history."

Joint statement by Erskine Bowles and Alan Simpson  
Co-chairs of the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform

In 2009, President Obama appointed Democrat Erskine Bowles and Republican Alan Simpson to head the bi-partisan commission he established to find a solution to America's looming fiscal crisis. In subsequent budgets he submitted to Congress, notably missing were most of the recommendations made by the commission he created.

President George W. Bush doubled the national debt in eight years, to \$10.5 trillion. By the time Barack Obama leaves office, he will have nearly doubled it again, to an estimated \$19.1 trillion. With a pending \$19 trillion national debt and another \$127 trillion in unfunded liabilities, the federal government has incurred obligations so incomprehensibly large that they can never be paid. According to the CBO, spending set in place by President Obama will cause the deficit to explode when he leaves office, primarily due to the unsustainable costs of the Affordable Care Act and other federal health care programs.

America is staring the most predictable economic crisis in history squarely in the eye. If something is not done, and soon, the country you love is destined for certain fiscal collapse. If that is allowed to happen, the lives of you and those you love will be impacted in ways you can't even begin to imagine.

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No nation is too big to fail, not even the great United States of America. When Democrats tell voters that America's staggering debt is nothing to worry about, Republicans awkwardly look the other way, more concerned with getting re-elected than facing up to the painful choices that must be made to save America from economic ruin. For different reasons, both parties continue to kick the can down the road. Meanwhile, the clock is ticking.

