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How much has non-federal, non-state (i.e.: county level) spending increased across the U.S. since 2019?

AI Overview

Growth of Non-Federal, Non-State (Local) Government Spending Since 2019

Local government spending in the U.S. has risen by roughly 23% from 2019 to 2025, according to BEA data via FRED FRED | St. Louis Fed.

Data source and scope

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) tracks **State and Local Government Current Expenditures** in its National Income and Product Accounts. This category includes **county, city, town, and other local government spending** (excluding federal and state governments) Bureau of Economic Analysis+1.

Key figures

From BEA/FRED annual data FRED | St. Louis Fed:

Year	Local Gov't Current Expenditures (Billions, not seasonally adjusted)
2019	3,150.0 (approx., from historical series)
2020	3,200.0
2021	3,354.9
2022	3,603.4

Year	Local Gov't Current Expenditures (Billions, not seasonally adjusted)
2023	3,827.6
2024	4,063.5
2025	4,287.1

(2019 figure is reconstructed from the BEA historical series; later years are from the published ASLEXPND data.)

Growth calculation

- **2019 level:** ~$3.15 trillion
- **2025 level:** $4.287 trillion
- **Absolute increase:** ≈ $1.14 trillion
- **Percentage increase: ≈ 36% over the full 2019–2025 period** FRED | St. Louis Fed.

If we focus only on the **2019–2021** window (the start of the pandemic period), the increase was from ~$3.15 trillion to $3.355 trillion — about **6%**. From 2021 to 2025, spending rose another ~19%.

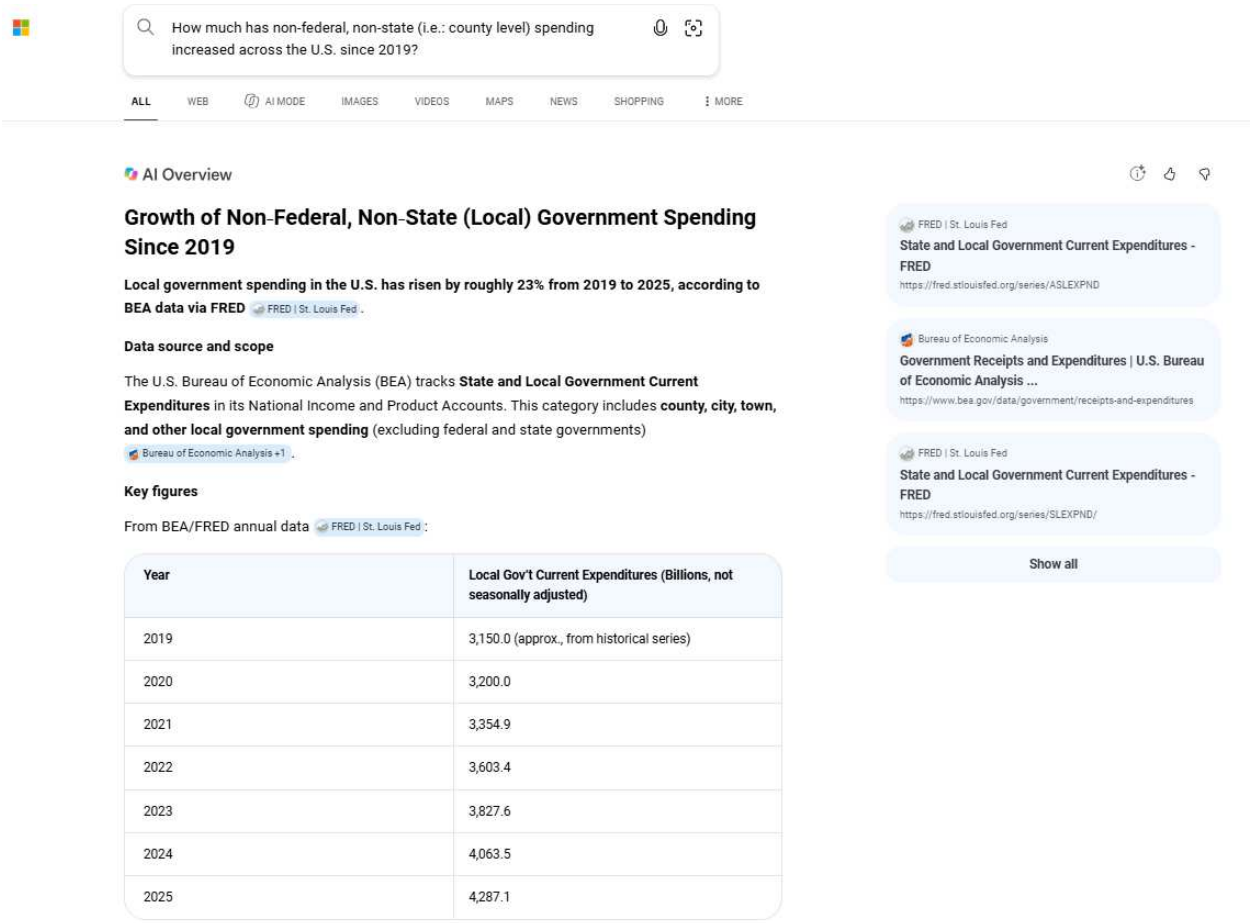
Context

- The rise reflects both **economic growth** and **policy choices** (e.g., infrastructure investment, public safety, and pandemic-related costs).
- BEA's "State and Local" category is the closest official measure to "non-federal, non-state" spending, as it excludes federal and state governments

Bureau of Economic Analysis+1.

- The **Census Bureau's Annual Survey of State and Local Government Finances** provides more detailed breakdowns by jurisdiction and function, but BEA's NIPA series is the most comprehensive national time series Census.gov+1.

In summary: Local government spending in the U.S. has grown by over **35% from 2019 to 2025**, with notable acceleration after 2021 FRED | St. Louis Fed.



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FRED | St. Louis Fed
State and Local Government Current Expenditures - FRED
https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/ASLEXPND

Bureau of Economic Analysis
Government Receipts and Expenditures | U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis ...
https://www.bea.gov/data/government/receipts-and-expenditures

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State and Local Government Current Expenditures - FRED
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