**Fiscal Impact:** (louise changed this)

**Panel One: Jobs and Public Construction:** After the economic downturn in 2007-2009, state and local governments decreased their workforce and reduced their spending on construction. In contrast, the federal government continued to expand its hiring even as state and local cutbacks increased.

**Monthly Change in State and Local Employment**: This chart represents monthly change in employees hired by state and local governments. Despite a collapse in the years following the recession, recently, there has been an increase in hiring at the state and local government levels

**Monthly Change in Federal Employment**: This chart represents monthly change in employees hired by the federal government.

**State and Local Government Spending on Real Structures:** State and local government total investment in structures (such as highways and schools) has declined precipitously since 2009.

**Panel two: Taxes and Spending:** Fiscalpolicy mainly consists of taxes and spending decisions made at the state, local, and federal levels. Click on each chart for more detail.

**State and Local Tax Receipts**: This chart displays the year-over-year change in the amount of money that state and local governments collect in taxes.

**Federal Receipts and Outlays:** This tablebreaks down the government’s revenues and spending by category over the last year. We compare the government tax receipts and spending over the last 12 months to the total amount spent over the previous 12 months to gauge how policy has shifted in recent years.

**Panel three: The Longer Run:** The federal government pays for its various spending programs (known as outlays) by raising revenue from taxes and borrowing from the public. Click on each chart for more detail.

**Revenues and Outlays**: The federal government gets money from its tax revenues, and records its spending as outlays.

**Federal Budget Deficit or Surplus:** The federal budget surplus is the amount of money the federal government takes in (revenues) minus the amount of money it spends (known as outlays) in a given year. A positive number indicates that the government is running a surplus, and a negative number indicates a deficit.

**Debt Held by the Public:** The federal government can borrow from investors, banks, and foreign governments by issuing IOUs. The debt held by the public is the total amount of such IOUs, relative to the size of the economy.

**Federal Spending by Category:** Federal spending can be divided into four main groups: health, social security, net interest, and other. Net interest represents the interest that the government pays on its debt minus the amount it earns for any assets it owns. Government spending on health care, which includes Medicare and Medicaid, is the fastest-growing component of the budget.