

# Package ‘obr’

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**Title** Access 'Office for Budget Responsibility' Data

**Version** 0.2.5

**Description** Provides clean, tidy access to data published by the 'Office for Budget Responsibility' ('OBR'), the UK's independent fiscal watchdog. Covers the Public Finances Databank (outturn for PSNB, PSND, receipts, and expenditure since 1946), the Historical Official Forecasts Database (every 'OBR' forecast since 2010), the Economic and Fiscal Outlook detailed forecast tables (five-year projections from the latest Budget), the Welfare Trends Report (incapacity benefit spending and caseloads), and the Fiscal Risks and Sustainability Report (50-year state pension projections). Data is downloaded from the 'OBR' on first use and cached locally for subsequent calls. Data is sourced from the 'OBR' website <<https://obr.uk>>.

**License** MIT + file LICENSE

**Encoding** UTF-8

**Language** en-GB

**URL** <https://github.com/charlescoverdale/obr>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/charlescoverdale/obr/issues>

**RoxygenNote** 7.3.3

**Depends** R (>= 4.1.0)

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**Suggests** testthat (>= 3.0.0)

**Config/testthat/edition** 3

**NeedsCompilation** no

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clear_cache	<i>Clear cached OBR files</i>
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### Description

Deletes all files downloaded and cached by the obr package. The next function call will re-download fresh data from the OBR website.

### Usage

```
clear_cache()
```

### Value

Invisibly returns NULL.

### Examples

```
op <- options(obr.cache_dir = tempdir())
clear_cache()
options(op)
```

---

get_efo_economy	<i>Get EFO economy projections</i>
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### Description

Downloads (and caches) the OBR *Economic and Fiscal Outlook* Detailed Forecast Tables — Economy file and returns quarterly economic projections for a chosen measure in tidy long format.

### Usage

```
get_efo_economy(measure = "inflation", refresh = FALSE)
```

### Arguments

measure	Character. Which economy table to return. One of "labour", "inflation", or "output_gap". Defaults to "inflation".
refresh	Logical. If TRUE, re-download even if a cached copy exists. Defaults to FALSE.

### Details

Data runs from 2008 Q1 through the current forecast horizon (OBR, March 2026). Use [list\\_efo\\_economy\\_measures](#) to see all available measures.

### Value

A data frame with columns:

**period** Calendar quarter, e.g. "2025Q1" (character)  
**series** Variable name, e.g. "CPI" (character)  
**value** Value in units appropriate to the series (numeric)

### See Also

Other EFO: [get\\_efo\\_fiscal\(\)](#), [list\\_efo\\_economy\\_measures\(\)](#)

### Examples

```
op <- options(obr.cache_dir = tempdir())
# CPI and RPI since 2008
inf <- get_efo_economy("inflation")
inf[inf$series == "CPI", ]

# Labour market
lab <- get_efo_economy("labour")
options(op)
```

---

get_efo_fiscal	<i>Get EFO fiscal projections (net borrowing components)</i>
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---

### Description

Downloads (and caches) the OBR *Economic and Fiscal Outlook* Detailed Forecast Tables — Aggregates file and returns the components of net borrowing (Table 6.5) in tidy long format.

### Usage

```
get_efo_fiscal(refresh = FALSE)
```

### Arguments

**refresh** Logical. If TRUE, re-download even if a cached copy exists. Defaults to FALSE.

### Details

Covers the five-year forecast horizon published at the most recent Budget (OBR, March 2026). Key series include current receipts, current expenditure, depreciation, net investment, and net borrowing (PSNB).

### Value

A data frame with columns:

**fiscal\_year** Fiscal year being forecast, e.g. "2025-26" (character)

**series** Component name, e.g. "Net borrowing" (character)

**value\_bn** Projected value in £ billion (numeric)

### See Also

Other EFO: [get\\_efo\\_economy\(\)](#), [list\\_efo\\_economy\\_measures\(\)](#)

### Examples

```
op <- options(obr.cache_dir = tempdir())
efo <- get_efo_fiscal()
efo[efo$series == "Net borrowing", ]
options(op)
```

---

get_expenditure	<i>Get Total Managed Expenditure</i>
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**Description**

Downloads (and caches) the OBR Public Finances Databank and returns annual Total Managed Expenditure (TME) in £ billion. TME is the broadest measure of UK government spending.

**Usage**

```
get_expenditure(refresh = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

**refresh** Logical. If TRUE, re-download even if a cached copy exists. Defaults to FALSE.

**Value**

A data frame with columns:

**year** Fiscal year (character, e.g. "2024-25")

**tme\_bn** Total managed expenditure in £ billion (numeric)

**See Also**

Other public finances: [get\\_psnb\(\)](#), [get\\_psnd\(\)](#), [get\\_public\\_finances\(\)](#), [get\\_receipts\(\)](#)

**Examples**

```
op <- options(obr.cache_dir = tempdir())
tme <- get_expenditure()
tail(tme)
options(op)
```

---

get_forecasts	<i>Get OBR forecast history for a fiscal series</i>
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---

**Description**

Downloads (and caches) the OBR Historical Official Forecasts Database and returns a tidy long-format data frame showing every forecast the OBR has ever published for a given series. Each row is one forecast for one fiscal year, made at one fiscal event.

## Usage

```
get_forecasts(series = "PSNB", refresh = FALSE)
```

## Arguments

series	Character. The series to return. Use <a href="#">list_forecast_series</a> to see all options. Defaults to "PSNB" (Public Sector Net Borrowing in £bn).
refresh	Logical. If TRUE, re-download even if a cached copy exists. Defaults to FALSE.

## Details

This is useful for visualising how OBR forecasts have evolved over time, and for comparing forecasts against outturns.

## Value

A data frame with columns:

**series** Series name as supplied (character)

**forecast\_date** When the forecast was published, e.g. "March 2024" (character)

**fiscal\_year** The fiscal year being forecast, e.g. "2024-25" (character)

**value** Forecast value (numeric)

## See Also

Other forecasts: [list\\_forecast\\_series\(\)](#)

## Examples

```
op <- options(obr.cache_dir = tempdir())
# All PSNB forecasts
get_forecasts("PSNB")

# What did OBR forecast for 2024-25 PSNB at each Budget?
psnb <- get_forecasts("PSNB")
psnb[psnb$fiscal_year == "2024-25", ]
options(op)
```

---

`get_incapacity_caseloads`*Get incapacity benefit caseloads*

---

## Description

Downloads (and caches) the OBR Welfare Trends Report charts and tables workbook and returns the combined incapacity benefit caseload since 2008-09, in both absolute terms (thousands of claimants) and as a share of the working-age population.

## Usage

```
get_incapacity_caseloads(refresh = FALSE)
```

## Arguments

`refresh` Logical. If TRUE, re-download even if a cached copy exists. Defaults to FALSE.

## Value

A data frame with columns:

**year** Fiscal year, e.g. "2023-24" (character)

**series** Either "Claimants" (thousands) or "Share of working age population" (per cent) (character)

**value** Value in units appropriate to the series (numeric)

## See Also

Other welfare: [get\\_incapacity\\_spending\(\)](#), [get\\_welfare\\_spending\(\)](#)

## Examples

```
op <- options(obr.cache_dir = tempdir())
cases <- get_incapacity_caseloads()
# Total claimants
cases[cases$series == "Claimants", ]
options(op)
```

---

`get_incapacity_spending`*Get incapacity benefits spending by type*

---

### Description

Downloads (and caches) the OBR Welfare Trends Report charts and tables workbook and returns annual spending on each incapacity benefit as a share of GDP, from 1978-79 to the current forecast horizon.

### Usage

```
get_incapacity_spending(refresh = FALSE)
```

### Arguments

`refresh` Logical. If TRUE, re-download even if a cached copy exists. Defaults to FALSE.

### Details

Series include: Invalidity Benefit, Incapacity Benefit, Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), Sickness Benefit, and Severe Disablement Allowance.

### Value

A data frame with columns:

**year** Fiscal year, e.g. "2023-24" (character)

**series** Benefit name (character)

**value** Spending as a percentage of GDP (numeric)

### See Also

Other welfare: [get\\_incapacity\\_caseloads\(\)](#), [get\\_welfare\\_spending\(\)](#)

### Examples

```
op <- options(obr.cache_dir = tempdir())
ib <- get_incapacity_spending()
unique(ib$series)
options(op)
```

---

`get_pension_projections`*Get long-run state pension spending projections*

---

### Description

Downloads (and caches) the OBR Fiscal Risks and Sustainability Report executive summary charts and tables workbook and returns 50-year projections for state pension spending as a share of GDP, under alternative demographic and triple-lock uprating scenarios.

### Usage

```
get_pension_projections(refresh = FALSE)
```

### Arguments

`refresh` Logical. If TRUE, re-download even if a cached copy exists. Defaults to FALSE.

### Details

This data is unique to the Fiscal Risks and Sustainability Report (OBR, July 2025) and is not available in any other OBR publication. It illustrates how ageing demographics and pension uprating rules interact to determine the long-run cost of the state pension.

### Value

A data frame with columns:

**scenario\_type** Either "Demographic scenarios" or "Triple lock scenarios" (character)

**scenario** Scenario name, e.g. "Central projection", "Higher life expectancy" (character)

**fiscal\_year** Fiscal year, e.g. "2030-31" (character)

**pct\_gdp** State pension spending as a percentage of GDP (numeric)

### Examples

```
op <- options(obr.cache_dir = tempdir())
proj <- get_pension_projections()

# Central demographic projection over the 50-year horizon
central <- proj[proj$scenario_type == "Demographic scenarios" &
  proj$scenario == "Central projection", ]
tail(central, 10)

# How much more expensive is 'higher life expectancy' vs central?
dem <- proj[proj$scenario_type == "Demographic scenarios", ]
options(op)
```

---

`get_psnb`*Get Public Sector Net Borrowing (PSNB)*

---

### Description

Downloads (and caches) the OBR Public Finances Databank and returns annual Public Sector Net Borrowing in £ billion. A positive value means the government is borrowing (deficit); a negative value means a surplus.

### Usage

```
get_psnb(refresh = FALSE)
```

### Arguments

`refresh` Logical. If TRUE, re-download even if a cached copy exists. Defaults to FALSE.

### Value

A data frame with columns:

**year** Fiscal year (character, e.g. "2024-25")

**psnb\_bn** PSNB in £ billion (numeric)

### See Also

Other public finances: [get\\_expenditure\(\)](#), [get\\_psnd\(\)](#), [get\\_public\\_finances\(\)](#), [get\\_receipts\(\)](#)

### Examples

```
op <- options(obr.cache_dir = tempdir())
psnb <- get_psnb()
tail(psnb)
options(op)
```

---

get_psnd	<i>Get Public Sector Net Debt (PSND)</i>
----------	--

---

### Description

Downloads (and caches) the OBR Public Finances Databank and returns annual Public Sector Net Debt in £ billion.

### Usage

```
get_psnd(refresh = FALSE)
```

### Arguments

**refresh** Logical. If TRUE, re-download even if a cached copy exists. Defaults to FALSE.

### Value

A data frame with columns:

**year** Fiscal year (character, e.g. "2024-25")

**psnd\_bn** PSND in £ billion (numeric)

### See Also

Other public finances: [get\\_expenditure\(\)](#), [get\\_psnb\(\)](#), [get\\_public\\_finances\(\)](#), [get\\_receipts\(\)](#)

### Examples

```
op <- options(obr.cache_dir = tempdir())
psnd <- get_psnd()
tail(psnd)
options(op)
```

---

get_public_finances	<i>Get all Public Finances Databank aggregates</i>
---------------------	--

---

### Description

Downloads (and caches) the OBR Public Finances Databank and returns all aggregate fiscal series in tidy long format. Covers outturn from 1946-47 and OBR projections through the current forecast horizon.

**Usage**

```
get_public_finances(refresh = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

**refresh** Logical. If TRUE, re-download even if a cached copy exists. Defaults to FALSE.

**Details**

Series include: Public sector net borrowing, Public sector net debt, Total managed expenditure, Public sector current receipts, Nominal GDP, GDP deflator, and more.

**Value**

A data frame with columns:

**year** Fiscal year (character, e.g. "2024-25")

**series** Series name (character)

**value** Value in £ billion (numeric)

**See Also**

Other public finances: [get\\_expenditure\(\)](#), [get\\_psnb\(\)](#), [get\\_psnd\(\)](#), [get\\_receipts\(\)](#)

**Examples**

```
op <- options(obr.cache_dir = tempdir())
pf <- get_public_finances()
unique(pf$series)
options(op)
```

---

get\_receipts

*Get public sector receipts by tax type*

---

**Description**

Downloads (and caches) the OBR Public Finances Databank and returns public sector current receipts broken down by individual tax type, in tidy long format. Coverage begins in 1999-00.

**Usage**

```
get_receipts(refresh = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

**refresh** Logical. If TRUE, re-download even if a cached copy exists. Defaults to FALSE.

**Value**

A data frame with columns:

**year** Fiscal year (character, e.g. "2024-25")

**series** Tax or receipt category (character)

**value** Value in £ billion (numeric)

**See Also**

Other public finances: [get\\_expenditure\(\)](#), [get\\_psnb\(\)](#), [get\\_psnd\(\)](#), [get\\_public\\_finances\(\)](#)

**Examples**

```
op <- options(obr.cache_dir = tempdir())
receipts <- get_receipts()
# Filter to income tax
receipts[grepl("income tax", receipts$series, ignore.case = TRUE), ]
options(op)
```

---

get\_welfare\_spending *Get working-age welfare spending*

---

**Description**

Downloads (and caches) the OBR Welfare Trends Report charts and tables workbook and returns annual working-age welfare spending as a share of GDP, split into incapacity-related and non-incapacity spending.

**Usage**

```
get_welfare_spending(refresh = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

**refresh** Logical. If TRUE, re-download even if a cached copy exists. Defaults to FALSE.

**Details**

Data cover fiscal years from 1978-79 through the current forecast horizon (OBR, October 2024).

**Value**

A data frame with columns:

**year** Fiscal year, e.g. "2023-24" (character)

**series** Spending category: "Working-age incapacity benefits spending" or "Working-age non-incapacity spending" (character)

**value** Spending as a percentage of GDP (numeric)

**See Also**

Other welfare: [get\\_incapacity\\_caseloads\(\)](#), [get\\_incapacity\\_spending\(\)](#)

**Examples**

```
op <- options(obr.cache_dir = tempdir())
welfare <- get_welfare_spending()
# Incapacity share since 2000
welfare[welfare$series == "Working-age incapacity benefits spending" &
         welfare$year >= "2000-01", ]
options(op)
```

---

list\_efo\_economy\_measures

*List available EFO economy measures*

---

**Description**

Returns a data frame of the economy measures available via [get\\_efo\\_economy](#), showing the measure name to pass and a short description of what each covers.

**Usage**

```
list_efo_economy_measures()
```

**Value**

A data frame with columns measure, sheet, and description.

**See Also**

Other EFO: [get\\_efo\\_economy\(\)](#), [get\\_efo\\_fiscal\(\)](#)

**Examples**

```
list_efo_economy_measures()
```

---

list\_forecast\_series *List available forecast series*

---

**Description**

Returns a data frame showing the series names accepted by [get\\_forecasts](#), the corresponding Excel sheet in the OBR Historical Official Forecasts Database, and a plain-English description.

**Usage**

```
list_forecast_series()
```

**Value**

A data frame with columns series, sheet, and description.

**See Also**

Other forecasts: [get\\_forecasts\(\)](#)

**Examples**

```
list_forecast_series()
```

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