

What is TARP?

TARP stands for The Troubled Assets Relief Program; this program was established by the US Department of Treasury under the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act. The Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (EESA) was signed into law on October 3, 2008. The main goal of EESA is to give stability to the country's financial system. US Treasury through TARP can spend up to \$700 billion through its programs to provide relief to the US economy.

Two entities were established to both overlook and audit TARP. The Oversight Board was created under EESA to oversee TARP. A list of the Oversight Board members can be found at:

<http://www.financialstability.gov/about/oversight.html>

The Office of the Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program (www.sig tarp.gov) was established to supervise the transactions under TARP. According to SIGTARP one of its main responsibilities is "conduct, supervise and coordinate audits and investigations of the purchase, management and sale of assets under the Troubled Asset Relief Program ("TARP")." www.sig tarp.gov

Under TARP, the US Treasury department has created several programs in an attempt to combat the financial crisis faced by the US in 2008 as well as to restore the availability of credit to both consumers and businesses. The US Treasury in its adherence to provide transparency and accountability has established the following website www.financialstability.gov. A detail description each of the TARP programs listed below can be found at financialstability.gov.

- The Making Home Affordable Program
- Regulatory Reform
- The Capital Purchase Program (CPP)
- Consumer and Business Lending Initiative – Unfreeze Secondary Credit Markets (CBLI)
- Public-Private Investment Program – Addressing the Challenge of Legacy Assets
- Capital Assistance Program – Ensure Banks Have Adequate Capital (CAP)
- Asset Guarantee Program (AGP)
- Targeted Investment Program (TPI)
- Automotive Industry Financing Program
- Systemically Significant Failing Institution Program (SSFI)

In a continuation with new policies of accountability a map of the local economic impact of these programs can be found at <http://www.financialstability.gov/impact/index.html> . The US Treasury also posts Section 102, 104, and 105 Congressional Reports; as well as TARP transaction, interest, dividend and other reports at <http://www.financialstability.gov/latest/reportsanddocs.html> .