Package 'obr'

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Title Access Office for Budget Responsibility Data

Version 0.2.2

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>.

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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)

Imports httr2, readxl, cli

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NeedsCompilation no

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Repository CRAN

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Contents

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clear_cache   *Clear cached OBR files*

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

```
clear_cache()
```

---

get_efo_economy *Get EFO economy projections*

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)

Examples

```
# CPI and RPI since 2008
inf <- get_efo_economy("inflation")
inf[inf$series == "CPI", ]

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

---

get_efo_fiscal   *Get EFO fiscal projections (net borrowing components)*

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)

Examples

```
efo <- get_efo_fiscal()
efo[efo$series == "Net borrowing", ]
```

---

get_expenditure   *Get Total Managed Expenditure*

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)

Examples

```
tme <- get_expenditure()
tail(tme)
```

---

get_forecasts   *Get OBR forecast history for a fiscal series*

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 [list_forecast_series](#) 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)

Examples

```
# 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", ]
```

---

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)

Examples

```
cases <- get_incapacity_caseloads()
# Total claimants
cases[cases$series == "Claimants", ]
```

---

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)

Examples

```
ib <- get_incapacity_spending()
unique(ib$series)
```

---

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

```
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", ]
```

---

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)

Examples

```
psnb <- get_psnb()
tail(psnb)
```

---

get_psnd *Get Public Sector Net Debt (PSND)*

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)

Examples

```
psnd <- get_psnd()
tail(psnd)
```

---

get_public_finances *Get all Public Finances Databank aggregates*

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)

Examples

```
pf <- get_public_finances()
unique(pf$series)
```

---

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)

Examples

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

---

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)

Examples

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

---

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`.

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`.

Examples

```
list_forecast_series()
```

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