

SEC News

SEC's FY 2026 Congressional Budget Request is Flat

On May 30, 2025, the SEC submitted its fiscal year (**FY**) 2026 Congressional Budget Justification and Annual Performance Plan. "The SEC is pleased to submit its budget request for fiscal year (**FY**) 2026. With a focus on returning to the core mission that Congress set for the agency; to include priority areas as noted above, the SEC's FY 2026 request is \$2.149 billion in support of 4,101 full-time equivalents (**FTE**). This requested budget level is flat compared to both FY 2025 and FY 2024 enacted funding levels. As a result of attrition following early retirement and buy-out offers, the agency's FY 2026 request reflects a net reduction of 447 FTEs as compared to the FTE level for FY 2025." In its report, the SEC highlighted that "The agency currently oversees . . . more than 15,900 investment advisers...." "IM also regulates certain investment advisers to private funds, including private equity, hedge, venture capital, and similar funds. These funds have also experienced dramatic growth over the past decade, nearly tripling their population from approximately 35,000 to over 100,000 funds."

OBLIGATIONS BY PROGRAM

(DOLLARS IN THOUSANDS)	FY 2024 Actual ¹	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Request
SEC Program			
Enforcement	\$ 695,319	\$ 698,432	\$ 682,718
Examinations	497,458	498,107	494,020
Corporation Finance	183,447	184,753	184,779
Trading and Markets	121,980	122,445	120,793
Investment Management	93,810	95,679	93,930
Economic and Risk Analysis	82,534	87,558	88,083
General Counsel	71,747	70,314	66,068
Other Program Offices	110,860	109,089	110,425
Agency Direction and Administrative Support	311,449	309,611	307,178
Inspector General	24,055	24,961	26,005
Total, Obligations	\$ 2,192,660	\$ 2,200,950	\$ 2,174,000
Less: Anticipated Carryover of Prior Year Unobligated Balances	—	(1,950)	—
Less: Anticipated Recoveries of Prior Year Obligations	—	(50,000)	(25,000)
Request for SEC Operations	\$ 2,192,660	\$ 2,149,000	\$ 2,149,000
Replacement Leases for the Commission's Office Facilities	\$ 72	\$ 40,000	—

In Congressional testimony on June 3, 2025, discussing the budget request, Chairman Paul Atkins further noted that the SEC's Offices and Divisions have decreased headcount by 15% since the beginning of the current fiscal year and that departures leave vacancies that in many cases need to be filled. "When I

left the agency in 2008, we had approximately 3,600 employees. At our height a year ago, we had approximately 5,000 employees plus 2,000 contractors. Today we are at approximately 4,200 employees and 1,700 contractors.”

Chairman Atkins noted in his testimony that the SEC has 10 regional offices across the country. In late February, the General Services Administration (**GSA**) informed the SEC that it would terminate leases utilized by the SEC’s Los Angeles Regional Office and the Philadelphia Regional Office. Discussions with the GSA and the landlords were ongoing as of that date, and Atkins vowed to keep this Committee apprised of those developments. In the meantime, the leases are in their “soft term” and are not terminated.

Atkins further highlighted recent and expected changes regarding roles and reporting lines at the SEC. He noted that Commissioner Caroline Crenshaw agreed to take on the SEC’s administrative law proceedings framework and the procedures in adjudications used by administrative law judges in light of Supreme Court rulings that oblige the SEC to rethink and reform this area. Under Acting Chairman Uyeda, the reporting lines in the Divisions of Enforcement and Examinations were realigned to better reflect each Division’s national programs in an effort to improve efficiency, management, and oversight of the Divisions. Atkins committed that there will be targeted, common-sense reorganizations to come at the SEC. “To start, I am seeking approval from Congress to disband what is known as agency’s Strategic Hub for Innovation and Financial Technology (**FinHub**). Innovation should be ingrained into the culture SEC-wide and not limited to a relatively small office.”

See SEC Budget Report - <https://www.sec.gov/about/reports-publications/secfy26congbudgjust>

See Chairman Atkins Congressional Testimony - https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/chairman_paul_s_atkins_testimony_6325.pdf