

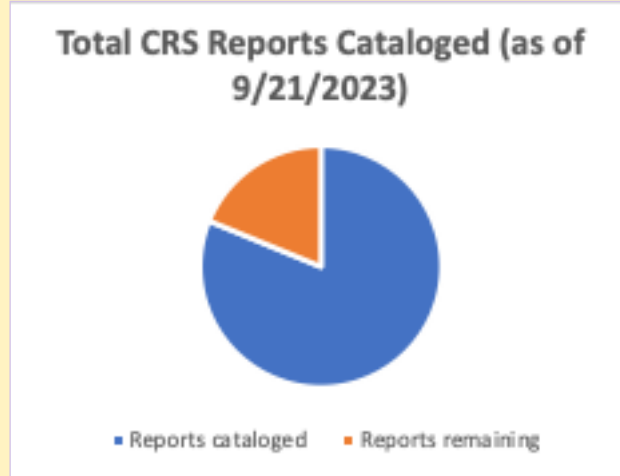
# CRS Reports: Process and Progress

## History and progress of the project

Since October of 2018, GPO's Library Services and Content Management (LSCM) Library Technical Services (LTS) department has been cataloging Congressional Research Service (CRS) Reports. As of September 2023, LTS staff have cataloged over 9,467 separate, unique CRS report titles. This is approximately 82% of all reports available on the site.

Reports cataloged	9,467
Reports remaining	2,046
Total reports	11,513

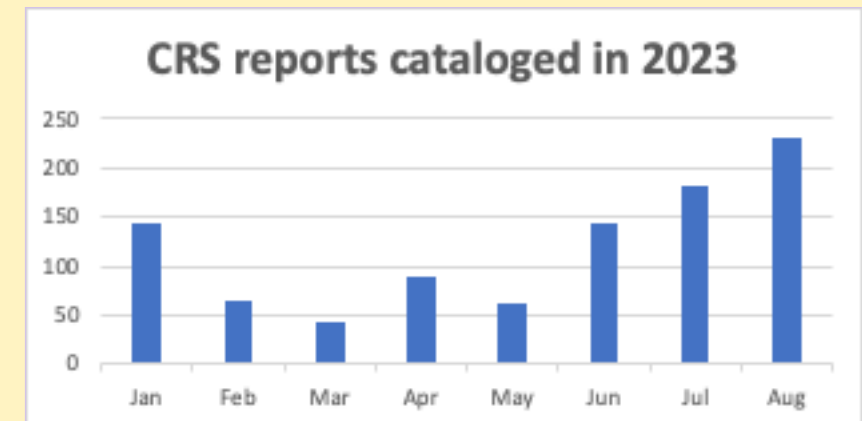
LSCM is cataloging reports in the CRS report series as well as the *In Focus*, *Infographic*, *Insight*, *Legal Sidebar*, and *Testimony* reports. In August of 2020, LTS confirmed that the CRS completed publishing its back catalog of reports, which means only newly-published reports (a much smaller number) need to be cataloged going forward. From 2020 through 2023, LSCM has prioritized cataloging any reports concerning COVID-19 and the coronavirus. These records are available in the [CGP](#).



## New workflow

In April of 2023, LTS began developing a new workflow for cataloging CRS Reports. We collaborated with the CRS to generate monthly spreadsheets listing newly published reports. LTS team members created scripts that generate preliminary MARC records from these reports, which populate basic bibliographic data including 856 fields with PURLs linking to the "version history" webpages for the reports. By July of 2023, these preliminary records were ready to be assigned to LTS catalogers for cataloging. These workflow enhancements have improved cataloging efficiency by streamlining the process of compiling the reports, and expediting cataloging. As a result, cataloging productivity has nearly doubled in recent months:

Jan	144
Feb	65
Mar	43
Apr	88
May	61
Jun	143
Jul	182
Aug	232



## What's next?

LTS plans to complete cataloging for our remaining backlog of compiled reports by the end of 2023. We plan to continue enhancing the workflow with the aim to stay current in cataloging newly published reports each month.

## How to locate CRS Reports

To access CRS Reports in the Catalog of U.S. Government Publications (CGP):

- Click on the "Expert" tab
- Input "wlts=crsrep" (this command will compile all of the CRS Report records)
- To narrow the search by month, input "wlts=crsrep and wcat=202309?" (this example will compile the records cataloged in the month of September, 2023)



## Recent interesting CRS Reports

**Generative Artificial Intelligence: Overview, Issues, and Questions for Congress**  
June 9, 2023

Generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) refers to AI systems, in particular those using machine learning (ML) and trained on large volumes of data, that are able to generate new content. In contrast, other AI systems may have a primary goal of classifying data, such as facial recognition image data, or making decisions, such as those used in autonomous vehicles. GenAI systems, when prompted (often by a user inputting text), can create various outputs, including text responses (e.g., OpenAI's ChatGPT and Google's Bard), images (e.g., Stability AI's Stable Diffusion and Midjourney's self-titled program), videos, computer code, or music.

The recent public release of many GenAI tools, and the race by companies to develop ever-more powerful models, have generated widespread discussion of their capabilities, potential concerns with their use, and debates about their

attention to detect how data elements, even when far away sequentially, influence and depend on each other. These methods make GPT models faster to train, more efficient in understanding context, and highly scalable.

Other critical components to the recent GenAI advances are the availability of large amounts of data and the size of their language models. Large language models (LLMs) are AI systems that aim to model language, sometimes using millions or billions of parameters (i.e., numbers in the model that determine how inputs are converted to outputs). Repeatedly tweaking these parameters, using mathematical optimization techniques, is a computationally intensive task.

Notably, GenAI's appearance of being shown to

**Commercial Space Launch and the April 2023 Starship Mishap**  
May 19, 2023

The commercial space industry, including the launch sector, has been expanding rapidly (see Figure 1). A mishap during a test of a new rocket in April 2023 has drawn congressional attention to issues such as federal regulation and licensing of commercial space launch, safety and liability, and the use of commercial space capabilities by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and other federal agencies.

**The April 2023 Mishap**  
Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (SpaceX) is developing a new, very large rocket called Starship. It is designed to be the most powerful rocket ever built.

On April 20, 2023, a test flight of Starship from a SpaceX-As part of the licensing process, AST also conducts a payload review and an environmental review. The payload review is to make sure that payloads carried by the launch vehicle have all the required licenses and approvals from other agencies, such as the Federal Communications Commission and the Department of Commerce. The environmental review is to ensure compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and other requirements (for more information, see CRS In Focus IF11540, *The Legal Framework of the National Environmental Policy Act*).

The FAA license under which SpaceX conducted the April 2023 test is valid for five years, but only for one flight (the one in which the mishap occurred) unless the FAA modifies

[Commercial space launch and the April 2023 starship mishap](#)

**Congressional Court Watcher: Recent Appellate Decisions of Interest to Lawmakers (Apr. 24–Apr. 30, 2023)**  
May 1, 2023

The federal courts issue hundreds of decisions every week in cases involving diverse legal disputes. This Sidebar series selects decisions from the past week that may be of particular interest to federal lawmakers, focusing on orders and decisions of the Supreme Court and precedential decisions of the courts of appeals for the thirteen federal circuits. Selected cases typically involve the interpretation or validity of federal statutes and regulations, or constitutional issues relevant to Congress's lawmaking and oversight functions.

Some cases identified in this Sidebar, or the legal questions they address, are examined in other CRS general distribution products. Members of Congress and congressional staff may click here to subscribe to regular notifications of new products and upcoming seminars by CRS

[Generative artificial intelligence: overview, issues, and questions for Congress](#)

[Introduction to cryptocurrency](#)

**Introduction to Cryptocurrency**  
May 23, 2023

Cryptocurrencies (or crypto) are digital financial instruments exchanged and recorded on public ledgers (known as blockchains) that do not require central intermediation (e.g., commercial banks, central banks) for clearing and settlement. Users and transactions are public but pseudonymous, which means users' identities may be obscured. Initially introduced as payments tools, cryptocurrencies are mostly used as a form of investment.

This In Focus introduces crypto market structure, regulatory frameworks, and policy issues. For more, see CRS Report R47425, *Cryptocurrency: Selected Policy Issues*, and CRS Report R47064, *Blockchain: Novel Provenance Applications*.

**Cryptocurrencies: An Overview**  
Once used by a small subset of computer scientists, crypto has gone global. Crypto has been characterized by continual and rapid price increases and decreases. Recently, after experiencing dramatic growth that propelled it to a record high of around \$1 trillion in November 2021, the market capitalization fell to less than \$800 billion in November

Off-chain transactions are any transactions that occur outside of the main blockchain. Instead, they are generally facilitated, processed, and recorded by online platforms, such as crypto exchanges (e.g., Binance, Coinbase), which host users' custodial or hosted wallets. Exchanges allow users to exchange fiat currency into crypto and vice versa. These platforms allow users to trade digital assets, make markets for various assets, and offer other services.

**Types of Cryptocurrencies**  
The two most widely used cryptocurrencies are Bitcoin and Ether, which, as of May 2023, represent more than 60% of the crypto market capitalization. Bitcoin was the first cryptocurrency to gain widespread adoption. Bitcoin functions as a unit of account and medium of exchange. In Bitcoin, decentralized consensus mechanisms encourage some network participants (called miners) to secure the system for financial gain. Bitcoin relies on a *proof of work* (PoW) consensus mechanism that rewards miners who possess greater computational resources and energy demands.

**Global Food Security: Selected Multilateral Efforts**  
June 21, 2023

Members of the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress may consider the role of multilateral institutions and initiatives in addressing global food insecurity. The United States, the largest government donor of global food assistance, participates in and funds many of these entities. Some of the organizations—which may share similar and/or overlapping mandates—date to the founding of the United Nations (U.N.) in 1945. Others have emerged within the past two decades in response to specific events or crises. When considering U.S. participation in these entities, Congress may examine the effectiveness of U.S. and global food security coordination; the role of multilateral versus bilateral activities; administration actions in multilateral fora; and U.S. funding priorities.

**Background and Context**  
**Global Food Security Crisis.** A number of factors—human-induced and natural—have led to global food insecurity. Such dynamics, which are often interrelated, include conflict and forced displacement; natural disasters and effects of climate change; economic downturns; and ongoing repercussions of public health events like the

also funds related activities that support food security initiatives such as agricultural productivity and nutrition.

**Selected U.N. System Efforts**  
**U.N. Food Agencies.** The United Nations system plays a significant role in responding to food insecurity. The United States is the top financial contributor to several key U.N. food agencies. The *World Food Program* is the largest global humanitarian agency, operating in over 120 countries. It provides emergency and development food assistance, mainly in conflict and natural disaster situations. WFP is funded through voluntary contributions; its estimated budget for calendar year 2023 is \$19.7 billion. U.S. funding for WFP in FY2022 totaled \$5.6 billion.

The *Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)* is a U.N. specialized agency comprising 194 member states that aims to improve food quality and combat hunger in over 130 countries. Although it often works with WFP, FAO typically focuses on longer-term activities; for example, it provides technical expertise on agricultural sustainability and market access. FAO is funded through assessed

[Global food security: selected multilateral efforts](#)