Quarterly Summary of State and Local Government Tax Revenue for 2015: Q1

PROPERTY AND INCOME TAXES SHOW GROWTH

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First quarter 2015 tax revenues for the four largest state and local government tax categories increased 4.2 percent to $306.8 billion from $294.5 billion in the same quarter of 2014. See Figure 1.

State and local governments collect $119.4 billion in property tax revenue

The estimated total first quarter 2015 state and local property tax revenue of $119.4 billion (±3.6 billion) was not statistically different from the $116.6 billion (±3.6 billion) that was collected for the same quarter of 2014. See Figure 2. Local governments collected $116.1 billion of total property tax revenue.

Figure 1.


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Quarterly Summary of State and Local Government Tax Revenue.

Figure 2.

Historical First Quarter State and Local Property Tax Revenue: 2005–2015

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Quarterly Summary of State and Local Government Tax Revenue.

1 The estimates for local or state and local totals are subject to sampling error. All estimates are subject to nonsampling errors, which include nonresponse, response, and keying errors. All comparative statements in this report have undergone statistical testing, and unless otherwise noted, all comparisons are statistically significant at the 10 percent significance level.

2 As of the third quarter of 2013, the local nonproperty tax survey (F-73) was redesigned to include only general sales, personal income, and corporate net income taxes. No changes were made to the local property tax survey (F-71).

For further information on state and local government tax revenue, please contact Economy-Wide Statistics Division, U.S. Census Bureau at 866-492-0140 or by e-mail at ewd.qtax@census.gov.
Individual income tax collections continue to rise

The first quarter of 2015 saw continued growth for individual income taxes. State and local individual income tax revenue in the first quarter of 2015 was $86.8 billion (±0.2 billion), up 6.8 percent from $81.3 billion (±0.1 billion) in the same quarter of 2014.

General sales tax collections on the rise

General sales and gross receipts tax revenue was $86.7 billion (±0.5 billion) in the first quarter. This is an increase of 4.7 percent from the $82.8 billion (±0.6 billion) that was collected in the same quarter of 2014.

Corporation net income tax shows slight decline in comparison to Q1 2014

Corporation net income tax revenue was $13.8 billion (±0.1 billion), which was not statistically different from $13.8 billion (±0.1 billion) collected in the same quarter of 2014.

STATE TAX COLLECTIONS CONTINUE TO GROW

Total state tax revenue rose 5.1 percent to $218.7 billion in the current quarter from the $208.1 billion reported in the same quarter of the prior year. Individual income tax, at $78.3 billion, is up 7.2 percent from the same quarter of 2014. The second largest category of state tax revenue, general sales and gross receipts taxes, accounted for $68.5 billion, an increase of 5.1 percent from the same quarter in 2014. At $11.3 billion, corporation net income tax collections increased 3.2 percent from the same quarter in 2014.

Overall for 2015, individual income tax accounted for 35.8 percent of total state tax revenue, general sales and gross receipts taxes accounted for 31.4 percent, other miscellaneous tax revenue accounted for 26.1 percent, corporate net income tax accounted for 5.2 percent, and property tax accounted for 1.5 percent of total state tax revenue.

The percentage distribution for state tax collections can be seen in Figure 3.

Figure 4 shows the total amounts of state tax revenue for the two largest tax subcategories, individual income and general sales and gross receipts taxes. Since 2012, income tax collections have been higher than general sales and gross receipts tax collections, especially in the second quarter. This trend continues in 2015.

Figure 5 shows the first quarter totals of state government revenues as a percentage of tax type by region. In the Northeast, Midwest, and West regions, individual income tax collections accounted for the largest percentage of tax collections with 46.0 percent, 35.0 percent, and 40.8 percent of total tax collections, respectively. In the South region, sales and gross receipts taxes were the largest of the four main categories at 39.6 percent.