STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT TAX REVENUE

The third quarter of 2021 combined tax revenues for property, sales and gross receipts, and income taxes decreased 1.3 percent to $446.6 billion from $452.4 billion in the same quarter of 2020.³

Property Tax Revenue

The estimated total for the third quarter of 2021 state and local property tax revenue decreased 0.1 percent to $162.1 billion (±3.2 billion), which is not statistically significant from the $162.2 billion (±3.1 billion) collected in the same quarter of 2020.

Individual Income Tax Collections

Individual income tax collections in the third quarter of 2021 showed a decrease of 11.1 percent to $131.6 billion (±0.5 billion), from $148.1 billion (±0.8 billion) collected in the same quarter of 2020.

General Sales and Gross Receipts Tax Revenue

General sales and gross receipts tax revenue increased 10.0 percent to $125.4 billion (±1.0 billion) in the third quarter of 2021, from $114.0 billion (±0.9 billion) collected in the same quarter of 2020.

Corporation Net Income Tax Revenue

Corporation net income tax revenue for the third quarter of 2021 was $27.6 billion (±0.06 billion), a decrease of 1.6 percent from the $28.1 billion (±0.1 billion) collected in the same quarter of 2020.

STATE TAX COLLECTIONS

Total state tax revenue decreased 1.6 percent to $301.9 billion in the third quarter of 2021, from $306.8 billion reported in the same quarter of 2020. Individual income tax, at $109.4 billion, was down 16.6 percent from $131.1 billion in the same quarter of 2020. General sales and gross receipts taxes, which accounted for $95.1 billion, increased 9.3 percent from $87.1 billion in the same quarter of 2020. At $21.7 billion, corporation net income tax collections decreased 0.1 percent from the $21.7 billion collected in the same quarter in 2020. In the third quarter of 2021, the majority of each states’ largest tax collection was either individual income tax or general sales and gross receipts tax.

Figure 1. Largest Tax by State: 2021 Q3

Type of tax

Corporate net income

Property taxes

Individual income

Severance

General sales and gross receipts

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

The data and technical documentation for this release can be found at <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/qtax.html>.

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 first quarter of 2019, State and Local Government Tax Revenue section data values are seasonally adjusted.

³ As of the first quarter of 2013, the local nonproperty tax survey (F-73) was redesigned to include only general sales, personal income, and corporation net income taxes. No changes were made to the local property tax survey (F-71).
However, Alaska and North Dakota collected the largest share of their tax revenue from severance taxes. And New Hampshire collected the largest share of its tax revenue from corporate net income tax (Figure 1).

The majority of the nation’s state tax revenue came from individual income (36.2 percent) and general sales and gross receipts (31.5 percent). In the Northeast, West, and Midwest regions, individual income tax collections accounted for the largest percentage of tax collections with 44.8 percent, 43.7 percent, and 34.9 percent, respectively. The South has the most reliance on general sales and gross receipts taxes as the largest percentage of tax collections at 39.8 percent and the least reliance of the four regions on individual income tax at 24.4 percent. Conversely, the Northeast relied upon general sales tax the least of the four regions as a percentage of tax collections at 23.8 percent (Figure 2).

Figure 3 shows the motor fuel tax collections as a percentage of total state tax collections. Four states collected over 8 percent of total tax collections via the motor fuels tax in the third quarter of 2021. Across all 50 states, motor fuels tax collections decreased 3.9 percent from last quarter, and increased 9.7 percent to 14.2 billion from the 12.9 billion collected in the third quarter of 2020.
Figure 3.
Motor Fuel Tax (T13) as a Percentage of Total State Taxes Collected: 2021 Q3

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

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