Quarterly Summary of State and Local Government Tax Revenue

TOTAL TAX REVENUES CONTINUE TO INCREASE

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STATE AND LOCAL TAX COLLECTIONS

Third quarter 2012 (2012:3) tax revenues for state and local governments, as compared with third quarter 2011 (2011:3), were up 5.3 percent, marking the twelfth consecutive quarter of positive year-over-year growth. Tax revenue for the quarter totaled $302.9 billion, as compared with $287.7 billion reported for the third quarter of 2011 (see Figure 1).

The largest tax categories, (property, individual and corporate income, and general sales tax) all showed growth over the same quarter in 2011.

TAXES BY CATEGORY

Property Tax

Total state and local property tax revenue was $92.5 billion, an increase of 8.0 percent from the third quarter of 2011 (see Figure 2). Local governments collected $90.0 billion of total property tax revenue, an increase of 8.7 percent from the same quarter in 2011. (Note: Cook County, IL changed their collection period from the fourth quarter to the third quarter in 2012.)
Individual Income Tax

Individual income tax revenue grew for the tenth consecutive quarter compared to the same quarter of previous years. State and local individual income revenue in 2012:3 was $68.8 billion, up 4.5 percent from $65.8 billion in 2011:3.

General Sales Tax

General sales tax revenue rose 6.1 percent in 2012:3, from the same period in the prior year, to $71.0 billion from $67.0 billion in 2011:3.

Corporate Income Tax

Corporate income tax revenue increased by 4.0 percent from the same period in the prior year. Revenue for 2012:3 was $9.9 billion, up from $9.5 billion in 2011:3.

State Tax Collections

Did you know?

Severance taxes were the largest source of state government tax revenue in North Dakota and Alaska in the third quarter of 2012.

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

Total state tax revenue was $184.2 billion in the third quarter of 2012, up 2.9 percent from the $179.0 billion reported in the same quarter of 2011. At $64.6 billion, individual income tax was the single largest source of state tax revenue, up 4.5 percent from the same quarter of 2011. The second largest category of state tax revenue, general sales and gross receipts taxes, accounted for $59.0 billion, an increase of 3.3 percent from the same quarter in 2011 when it was $57.1 billion. Corporation net income tax collections increased by 8.3 percent in the third quarter of 2012.

Overall, individual income tax accounted for 35.1 percent of total state tax revenue, general sales and gross receipts taxes measured 32.0 percent, and other taxes collected accounted for 32.9 percent of total state tax revenue.

The percentage breakdown for state-only tax collections versus state and local combined can be seen in Figure 3. Property tax, a predominant tax source for local governments, totaled $92.5 billion and 30.6 percent of total state and local government taxes in the third quarter of 2012.

Percent Change in Historical Third Quarter Totals of State Tax Revenue: 2001–2012

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