

State Government Tax Collections: 2020 Technical Documentation

The United States Census Bureau conducts an Annual Survey of State Government Tax Collections, as authorized by law under Title 13, United States Code, Section 182. The State Government Tax Collection files and tables contain annual statistics on the fiscal year tax collections of all 50 state governments in the United States. The statistics are for state governments only. They should not be interpreted as state area data (state plus local government tax collections combined).

The tables and files contained here provide a summary of taxes collected by state for up to 25 tax categories. They present the details on tax collections by type of tax imposed and collected by state governments. To view the most common aggregate tax categories that are used in tables and special tabulations, please see the section of the [Government Finance and Employment Classification Manual](#), entitled Methodology for Summary Tabulations.

To view the 2020 Survey Methodology for State Government Tax Collections, please see the [2020 State Government Tax Collections Methodology \[PDF\]](#).

Introduction

Current Dollars

The statistics in these files are in terms of current dollar amounts and are reported in thousands. They have not been adjusted for price or wage level changes occurring through the years.

Fiscal Years

The tax revenue data pertain to state fiscal years that end on June 30, 2020 in all but four states (NY, TX, AL, MI). Amounts shown for these four states reflect the different timing of their respective fiscal years, which were the 12-month periods ending on March 31, 2020 for New York, August 31, 2020 for Texas, and September 30, 2020 for Alabama and Michigan.

Coverage

The state government tax data presented by the Census Bureau may differ from data published by state governments because the Census Bureau may be using a different definition of which organizations are covered under the term, “state government.”

For the purpose of State Government Tax Collections statistics, the term “state government” refers not only to the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of a given state, but it also

includes agencies, institutions, commissions, and public authorities that operate separately or somewhat autonomously from the central state government but where the state government maintains administrative or fiscal control over their activities as defined by the Census Bureau.

For further information on the definition and organization of governments:

See Chapter 1 of the [Government Finance and Employment Classification Manual](#) and the [2017 Census of Governments](#).

Revisions

The Annual Survey of State Government Tax Collections released data for fiscal year 2020 in April 2021. Revisions to Fiscal Years 2019 and 2018 were also released at this time.

Given the nested nature of the State Tax Collections data within the Annual Survey of State Government Finances and the Annual Survey of State & Local Government Finances, users should also note that the tax data presented here are the most current revised data for the State Government Tax Collections Survey. The State Government Finance Survey data are initially released approximately 8 months following the initial release of State Government Tax Collections data. Any revisions made to the tax component will be made with that release.

Ranking Table

Beginning in 2013, the ranking table was discontinued. From 2006 through 2012, the ranking table shows states ranked by total taxes. Prior to 2006, the ranking table also showed states ranked by per capita amount. The ranking tables should be interpreted with caution; analysis based on rankings or per capita statistics can be misleading and misinterpreted because of subtle yet important differences in state government organization and economic structure. For example, using total taxes or per capita taxes as a measure of tax burden on the citizens of that state can be misleading because different states use different approaches to taxation, comparing only the total taxes collected by each state is not enough to understand the economic impact of those states' taxes – one must also understand how those taxes are collected. Comparing taxes across states can be difficult. The Census Bureau's statistics on tax revenue reflect taxes a state collects from activity within the state, not necessarily from its people within a state. Alaska, for instance, does not have general sales taxes or individual income taxes, but it does collect severance taxes from companies that extract oil and natural gas. Like Alaska, Florida does not collect individual income taxes, instead Florida relies largely on a general sales tax, which, because of its tourist industry, is partially supported by visitors from outside Florida. In that sense, both Alaska and Florida collect "exported taxes" – taxes

from people or organizations that may reside outside of their state, and the burden does not fall to their residents.

Item Codes and Short Descriptions

Below are the finance tax codes with their corresponding description. Further definitions for each code are found in the [Government Finance and Employment Classification Manual](#). An Excel table of this information is available for download online at <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/stc/technical-documentation/file-layout.html>.

Item Code	Description
T01	Property Taxes
T09	General Sales and Gross Receipts Taxes
T10	Alcoholic Beverages Sales Tax
T11	Amusements Sales Tax
T12	Insurance Premiums Sales Tax
T13	Motor Fuels Sales Tax
T14	Pari-mutuels Sales Tax
T15	Public Utilities Sales Tax
T16	Tobacco Products Sales Tax
T19	Other Selective Sales and Gross Receipts Taxes
T20	Alcoholic Beverages License
T21	Amusements License
T22	Corporations in General License
T23	Hunting and Fishing License
T24	Motor Vehicles License
T25	Motor Vehicle Operators License
T27	Public Utilities License
T28	Occupation and Businesses License, NEC
T29	Other License Taxes
T40	Individual Income Taxes
T41	Corporation Net Income Taxes
T50	Death and Gift Taxes
T51	Documentary and Stock Transfer Taxes

T53	Severance Taxes
T99	Taxes, NEC