



# You Won't Believe How Much These States Have Made Since Legalizing Marijuana

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As of 2018, nine U.S. states have [legalized recreational marijuana](#), and 29 have legalized [medical marijuana](#) sales. States that have legalized recreational sales either have or expected to see major changes in tax revenue — a major driver behind legalization from state to state.

Some [states that have legalized recreational marijuana](#) have seen multi-million dollar boosts in tax revenue, including one that took in \$30 million in the first six months after legalization (**page 15**). Others, especially those who have limited their sales to medical marijuana exclusively, haven't seen the financial results they expected to.

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## 1. Hawaii



Hawaii is raking in money from medical marijuana sales. | Mike Ehrmann/Getty Images  
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- **The state has earned over \$1 million from medical marijuana sales alone.**

From initial legalization to the end of 2017, Hawaii's medical marijuana dispensaries **earned the state \$1.3 million** in tax revenue.

***Next:** Initial sales in this state were lower than expected.*

## 2. New York



New York didn't make as much money as expected. | MDBrockmann/iStock/Getty Images

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- **Medical marijuana revenues weren't as high as expected.**

In the first year medical marijuana sales were legal, New York state's marijuana companies brought in around \$16 million. The state did not expect such low sales, and believe a lack of certified patients to be a major contributing factor.

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*Next: How many tons of marijuana did people in this state consume in 2017? A lot.*

### 3. Arizona



Arizonans consumed 43 tons of cannabis products in 2017. | Dreamframer/iStock/Getty Images

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- **State residents consumed 43 tons of cannabis products in just one year.**

Arizona medical marijuana sales hit a statewide record in 2017. In total, residents consumed **43 tons of cannabis products**, bringing in millions.

*Next: Implementing a sales tax might help make this state a lot richer.*

## 4. Michigan

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Michigan has a 6% tax on medical marijuana. | garyrennis/iStock/Getty Images

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- **People must pay a 6% sales tax for all medical cannabis purchases.**

The state was struggling to make significant revenue from retail sales of medical marijuana. So at the beginning of 2018, Michigan **implemented a 6% sales tax** on all retail sales from dispensaries statewide, which patients weren't expecting.

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***Next:** Medical marijuana doesn't generate as much revenue as recreational, but it's still impressive.*

## **5. Montana**



A single quarter of legal medical marijuana sales generated \$300,000 in tax revenue. | wellesenterprises/iStock/Getty Images

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- **The state had a highly profitable first quarter of legal sales.**

In the first three months medical marijuana sales were legal in Montana, **the state generated about \$300,000** in tax revenue.

***Next:** This state could eventually make billions on medical marijuana alone.*

## 6. Florida

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Florida could eventually make \$1 billion from marijuana sales. | SeanPavonePhoto/iStock/Getty Images

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- **The state could make up 14% of the national medical marijuana market by 2020.**

Once Florida officially voted to legalize medical marijuana in 2016, experts started making predictions. They now estimate that [statewide revenue could top \\$1 billion](#) by 2020.

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***Next:** This state has no shortage of legal medical marijuana recipients.*

## 7. Illinois



Marijuana sales in Illinois are expected to grow. | David McNew/Getty Images

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- **The state's program keeps growing, and will probably continue to do so.**

In 2017, Illinois added over a thousand new patients to its medical marijuana program. The state brought in **an average of \$7 million** from retail sales per month that year.

***Next:** This state implemented a higher-than-average wholesale marijuana tax.*

## 8. Maine

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There's a 10% tax on marijuana retail sales in Maine. | Andrew Caballero-Reynolds/AFP/Getty Images

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- **The state implemented a 10% tax on retail sales, and over 20% wholesale.**

Officials are predicting that by the end of its first year following official legalization of recreational marijuana sales, Maine could generate **up to \$85 million from retail sales** alone.

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*Next: This is one of the most recent states to legalize recreational sales, and estimates are huge.*

## 9. Massachusetts



Once recreational marijuana is legal in Massachusetts, the state could generate up to \$82 million in tax revenue. | David McNew/Getty Images)

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- **Millions of dollars could go a long way, depending on how the state distributes it.**

It is estimated that recreational marijuana sales starting in July 2018 could generate **up to \$82 million in tax revenue** for the state of Massachusetts by the end of its first fiscal year.

***Next:** This state made \$1 million in just one month.*

## **10. Alaska**

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Alaska made \$1 million in tax revenue from marijuana sales in January 2018 alone. | Lars Hagberg/AFP/Getty Images)

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- **High wholesale taxes frustrated Alaska cannabis growers at first.**

In January 2018 alone, the state of Alaska generated **over \$1 million in tax revenue** from legal marijuana sales. Sales reportedly declined slightly the following month.

***Next:** The first state to legalize recreational marijuana had a profitable first three years.*

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## 11. Colorado



The state set the standard for pot legalization in the U.S. | Martin Bernetti/AFP/Getty Images

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- **Colorado set an example for many other states to follow.**

Reports indicated that between 2014 and 2017, the state of Colorado made **over half a billion dollars in tax revenue** from legal marijuana sales. The state has thus far used the majority of these revenues to benefit schools across the state.

***Next:*** *This state will generate major tax income by the end of its first full legal year.*

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## 12. California



Not everyone in California was happy about high taxes on marijuana. | Justin Sullivan/Getty Images

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- **At first, California residents weren't happy about high taxes.**

At the beginning of 2018, when California officially legalized marijuana on January 1, sales were estimated to **exceed \$3.7 billion by the end of the year**. With a population of over 40 million, it's expected to significantly boost revenue nationwide.

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*Next: A high sales tax was worth it in the end for this state.*

## 13. Oregon



There's a double-digit tax on marijuana sales in Oregon. | Josh Edelson/AFP/Getty Images)

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- **The state charges a 17% tax on retail marijuana sales.**

Oregon generated an estimated **\$13.4 million in tax revenue** from legal marijuana sales within the first three months after the law went into effect. The state distributed this revenue among education, health, public safety, and other programs.

***Next:** This state has sold over \$1 billion worth of legal pot.*

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## 14. Washington



More than \$1 billion of legal marijuana has been sold in Washington since 2016. | David Ryder/Getty Images

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- **The state sold \$1 billion worth in the first two years.**

In 2016, Washington state dispensaries **exceeded \$1 billion in sales** since marijuana's legalization two years earlier.

***Next:** This state had a record-breaking first six months of legal sales.*

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## 15. Nevada



There's a 10% tax on recreational pot in Nevada. | Ethan Miller/Getty Images

- **The state charges a 10% tax on every retail sale.**

Within its first six months of legalization, Nevada made [over \\$30 million in tax revenue](#). Retailers reportedly sold more than \$195 million in legal cannabis during that short amount of time. The state charges a 10% tax on retail sales.

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