



MEMORANDUM

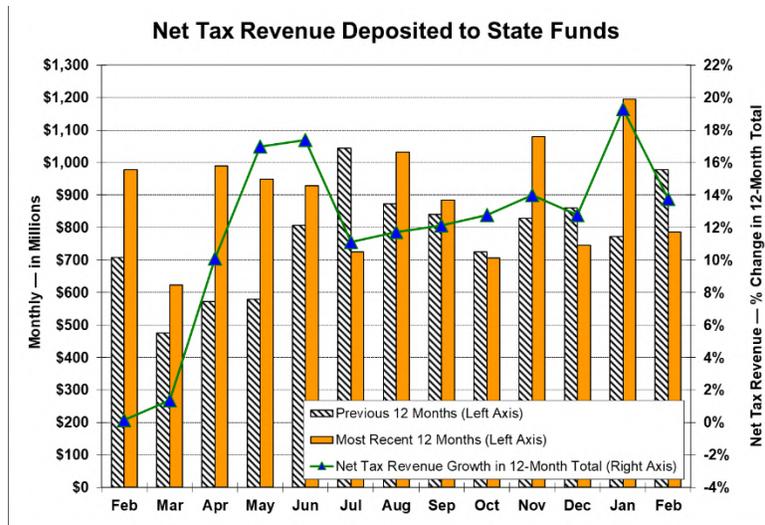
TO: Members of the Iowa Senate and
Members of the Iowa House of Representatives

FROM: Jeff Robinson

DATE: March 24, 2022

Twelve-Month Total Net Tax Receipts Through February 28, 2022

The attached spreadsheet presents net tax revenue deposited to State funds for the 12-month period ending February 28, 2022, with comparisons to the previous 12 months. February 2021 to February 2022 one-month comparisons are also presented. The source of the information is the State Accounting System and includes both General Fund and non-General Fund accounts. All accounting transactions related to taxes remitted to the State were reviewed, along with the refunds issued against those taxes.



Overview of Current Situation

Net tax revenue totaled \$785.7 million for the month of February 2022, a decrease of \$192.3 million (-19.7%) compared to the previous February. The February decrease was the result of a deposit timing issue that moved receipts into January at the expense of February this year. Combined, the two months experienced solid tax revenue growth.

Additionally, an accounting practice change that began in November 2021 has created considerable uncertainty as to the actual amounts and rates of revenue growth, both monthly and year-over-year, for sales/use, fuel, and individual income tax. It appears that this uncertainty will continue to varying degrees for the foreseeable future. At the conclusion of February 2022, \$44.6 million in tax revenue remained in a General Fund suspense account with the revenues not yet allocated to the appropriate tax type. Transfers out of the suspense account that took place on March 1, 2022, indicate that the large majority of the \$44.6 million

was motor fuel tax, as \$40.8 million was transferred out of the suspense account on that date and deposited to the Road Use Tax Fund.

For the most recent 12 months, net revenue increased \$1,288.5 million (13.8%). The growth relative to last year can be attributed to the low level of economic activity that occurred during the initial months of the COVID-19 pandemic that began in early calendar year 2020, combined with a recent surge in consumer spending financed through pent-up demand and federal stimulus payments. With the exception of cigarette/tobacco taxes, all major tax revenue categories increased year-over-year.

Year-Over-Year Comparison — Net Tax Revenue

During the 12-month period ending February 28, 2022, net revenue from all taxes deposited to State funds totaled \$10,643.6 million, an increase of 13.8% compared to the prior 12 months. Major contributors to the year-over-year dollar and percentage changes include:

- **Individual Income Tax (positive \$324.5 million, 8.0%)** — While the current annual rate of growth is strong at 8.0%, individual income tax net growth has averaged a much lower 3.5% over the past two years.
- **Corporate Income Tax (positive \$91.9 million, 12.8%)** — Gross deposits increased \$126.5 million year-over-year, while corporate tax refunds increased \$34.6 million. Annual growth in Iowa net corporate income tax revenue remained positive throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Sales/Use Tax (positive \$572.8 million, 18.1%)** — The sales/use net tax growth breakdown for the most recent 12 months is as follows:
 - Gross tax receipts from the sale of vehicles (deposited to the Road Use Tax Fund) increased \$134.4 million (34.5%). Vehicle sales have more than recovered from the COVID-19-related slump experienced during the summer months of 2020.
 - Sales/use tax transferred to other State funds (mainly the Flood Mitigation Fund, Reinvestment District Fund, and two water quality funds) increased \$23.8 million.
 - Sales/use tax deposited to the State General Fund increased \$498.0 million (15.1%). The pandemic-related economic slowdown one year ago, combined with spending fueled by pent-up demand and federal stimulus payments, likely created the current large year-over-year increase in sales/use tax revenue.
 - Increased refunds of State General Fund sales/use tax payments decreased net revenue \$18.4 million.
 - Increased sales tax payments to the school infrastructure account (recorded as tax refunds) decreased net revenue \$65.0 million.
- **Banking Taxes (positive \$18.0 million, 36.7%)** — Over the most recent 12 months, bank franchise tax deposits increased \$2.3 million, while franchise tax refunds decreased \$15.7 million.
- **Fuel Tax (positive \$54.6 million, 8.5%)** — According to Department of Revenue monthly fuel sales [reports](#), the total gallons¹ subject to fuel tax increased 7.8% over the most recent 12-month period (the 12-month total now exceeds the pre-pandemic level). The gross taxable gallons by fuel type sold over the most recent 12 months, along with the percentage change when compared to the previous 12 months, are as follows:
 - Unblended gasoline,² 388.8 million gallons, 4.2%.
 - Gasoline blended with ethanol, 1.248 billion gallons, 10.1%.

¹ Taxable gallons distributed in Iowa (all fuel types) over the last 12 months totaled 2.485 billion gallons. Taxed fuel later used for an exempt purpose is eligible for a fuel tax refund. Gallons that are originally distributed for an exempt purpose are not taxed and are not included in the Department's monthly report.

² A portion of the gallons listed as unblended gasoline is later blended with ethanol.

- Diesel, including biodiesel blends, 802.1 million gallons, 5.0%.
- Aviation, jet, and other fuels, 45.5 million gallons, 30.8%.
- **Gambling Tax (positive \$142.2 million, 60.1%)** — Iowa's 19 State-regulated casino/racetrack locations temporarily closed on March 17, 2020, as a result of the Governor's declaration of the COVID-19 State public health emergency. Most casinos reopened in early June 2020. The closure resulted in a significant decrease in casino gambling during calendar year 2020. In contrast, gambling activity since March 2021 has experienced a large increase when compared to an average year. March through January gambling tax deposits to State funds totaled the following amounts over the past four years:
 - March 2018 through February 2019 = \$309.7 million
 - March 2019 through February 2020 = \$313.1 million
 - March 2020 through February 2021 = \$236.6 million
 - March 2021 through February 2022 = \$378.8 million
- **Insurance Premium Tax (positive \$2.0 million, 1.4%).**
- **Real Estate Transfer Tax (positive \$9.4 million, 33.2%)** — Real estate transfer tax revenue growth has been strong for the past 23 months.
- **Cigarette and Tobacco Tax (negative \$6.6 million, -3.2%).**

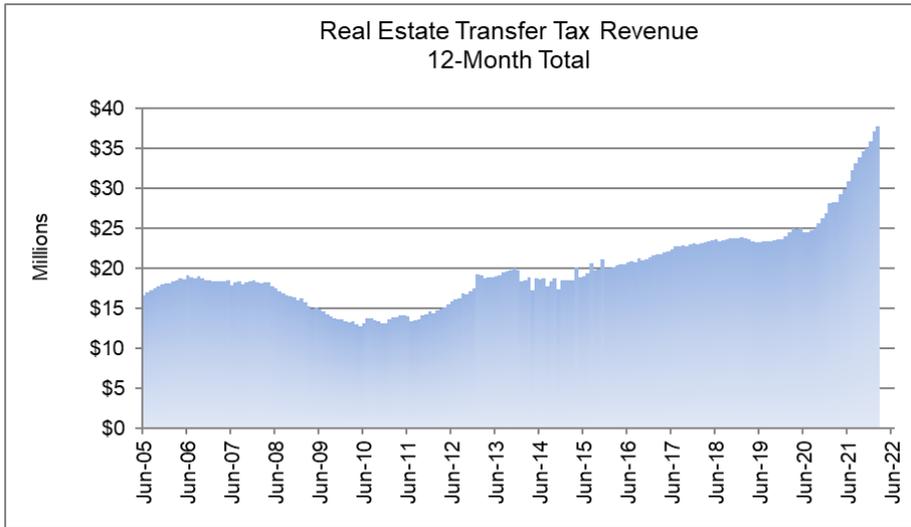
Tax Spotlight — Real Estate Transfer Tax

The transfer of real estate is taxed under the authority of Iowa Code chapter [428A](#). The tax was first effective July 1965, and the current tax rate became effective beginning July 1991. The tax rate is \$0.80 per \$500, including any fractional part of \$500, of consideration paid for real property transferred.

The real estate transfer tax is payable when the instrument conveying the real property is presented for recording. The tax payment is noted on the instrument of transfer (usually a deed) at the time the instrument is recorded. The county recorder must file tax returns with the State Treasurer by the 10th day of each month for tax collected during the preceding month.

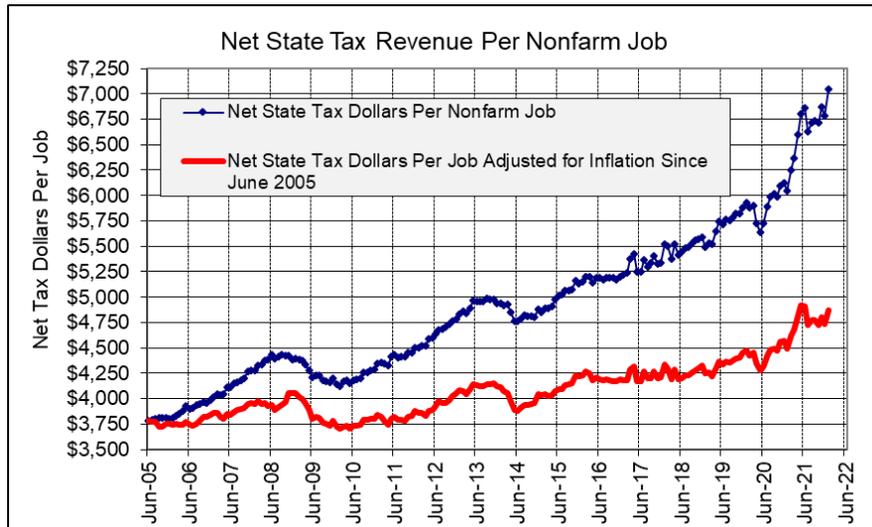
The county retains 17.25% of the real estate transfer tax collected. Of the remaining 82.75%, 5.0% is deposited in the Shelter Assistance Fund, the lesser of 30.0% or \$7.0 million in the Housing Trust Fund, and the remainder in the State General Fund. The real estate transfer tax dollars reflected in this report do not include the 17.25% retained by counties.

The Shelter Assistance Fund is administered by the Iowa Finance Authority (see Iowa Code section [16.41](#)). Financial assets of the Fund may be used for the cost of operation of homeless and domestic violence shelters and for essential services, evaluation, and reporting of services for the homeless. Grants to shelters are awarded on a competitive basis. The Housing Trust Fund is administered by the Iowa Finance Authority (Iowa Code section [16.181](#)). The Housing Trust Fund is to be used for the development and preservation of affordable housing for low-income Iowans and for the Iowa Mortgage Help initiative.

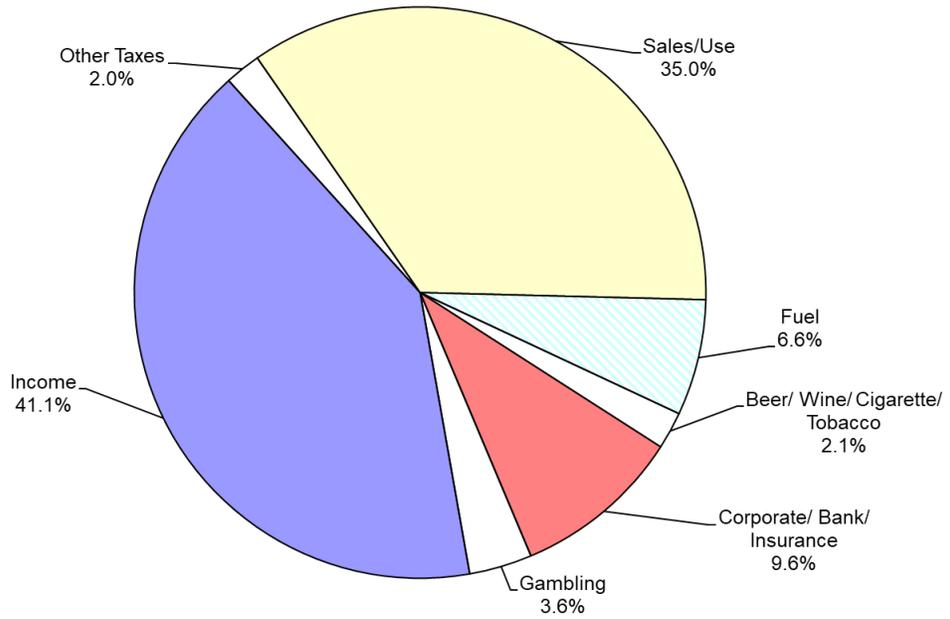


Tax Revenue and Employment

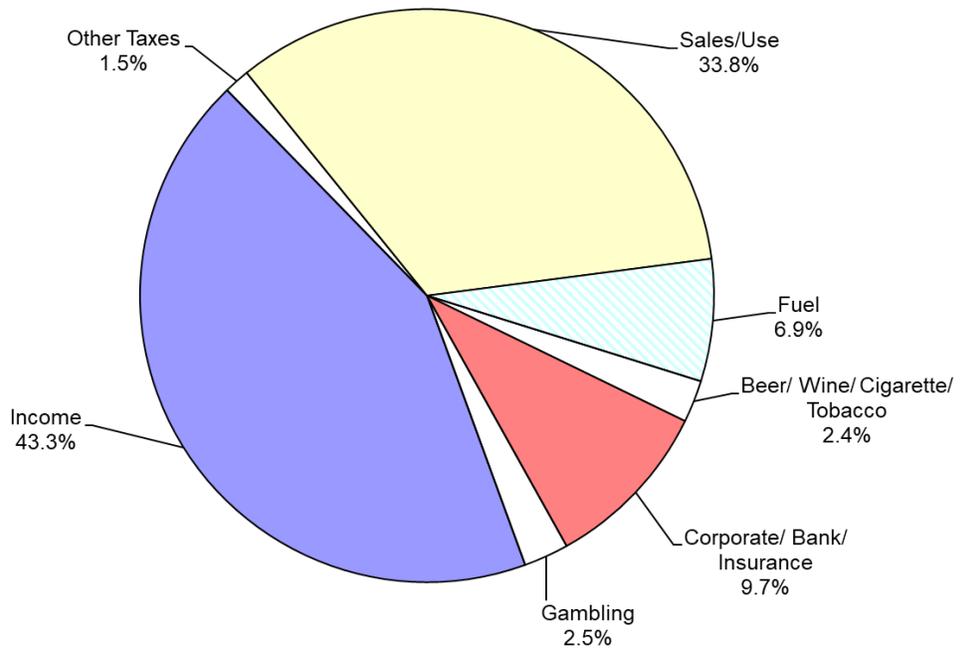
The average reading for Iowa nonfarm employment over the 12 months ending January 2022 was 1,538,400, and net State tax receipts over the same 12 months totaled \$10.836 billion, or \$7,044 per nonfarm job. This is \$3,259 higher than the per-job average for the 12 months ending June 2005. The blue (upper) line on the following chart depicts the annual tax revenue collected by the State per job, calculated monthly. The red (lower) line subtracts the impact of inflation since June 2005 from the blue line. The red line indicates that inflation-adjusted tax revenue per job has increased \$1,088 since June 2005, and the remainder of the \$3,259 increase (\$2,171) can be considered the impact of inflation.



Net State Tax Revenue — 12 Months Ending February 2022
Net Revenue = \$10.644 Billion
Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding



Net State Tax Revenue — 12 Months Ending February 2021
Net Revenue = \$9.355 Billion
Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding



Cash Basis Net Tax Revenue Deposited to State Funds

Dollars in millions. Columns and rows may not add due to rounding.

Net Tax by Tax Type	Previous	Most Recent	12-Month	12-Month	Month of	Month of	February \$	February %
	12-Month	12-Month						
	Period	Period	\$ Change	% Change	February	February	Change	Change
	Total	Total			2021	2022		
Banking	\$ 49.0	\$ 67.0	\$ 18.0	36.7%	\$ - 13.2	\$ 0.8	\$ 14.0	--
Beer and Wine	18.2	27.1	8.9	48.9%	2.8	1.3	- 1.5	-53.6%
Cigarette and Tobacco	204.7	198.1	- 6.6	-3.2%	15.5	14.0	- 1.5	-9.7%
Corporate Income	719.6	811.5	91.9	12.8%	18.8	0.5	- 18.3	-97.3%
Fuel	644.4	699.0	54.6	8.5%	52.3	50.9	- 1.4	-2.7%
Gambling	236.6	378.8	142.2	60.1%	23.5	30.0	6.5	27.7%
Individual Income	4,049.5	4,374.0	324.5	8.0%	490.4	492.1	1.7	0.3%
Inheritance	84.9	99.5	14.6	17.2%	10.6	5.0	- 5.6	-52.8%
Insurance	139.1	141.1	2.0	1.4%	11.0	10.2	- 0.8	-7.3%
Other Taxes	23.1	79.3	56.2	243.3%	- 0.2	- 197.1	- 196.9	--
Real Estate Transfer	28.3	37.7	9.4	33.2%	2.3	2.9	0.6	26.1%
Sales/Use	3,157.7	3,730.5	572.8	18.1%	364.2	375.1	10.9	3.0%
Total Net Taxes	\$ 9,355.1	\$ 10,643.6	\$ 1,288.5	13.8%	\$ 978.0	\$ 785.7	\$ - 192.3	-19.7%
Gross Tax & Refunds								
Gross Tax	\$ 11,006.7	\$ 12,466.3	\$ 1,459.6	13.3%	\$ 1,056.3	\$ 888.6	\$ - 167.7	-15.9%
Tax Refunds	\$ - 1,651.4	\$ - 1,822.5	\$ - 171.1	10.4%	\$ - 78.4	\$ - 102.9	\$ - 24.5	31.3%
Net Tax Receipts by Fund								
State General Fund (GF)	\$ 7,792.5	\$ 8,718.9	\$ 926.4	11.9%	\$ 849.8	\$ 606.9	\$ - 242.9	-28.6%
Road Use Tax Fund	\$ 1,035.4	\$ 1,227.8	\$ 192.4	18.6%	\$ 63.6	\$ 88.7	\$ 25.1	39.5%
Non-GF Gambling	\$ 233.0	\$ 374.5	\$ 141.5	60.7%	\$ 23.4	\$ 29.9	\$ 6.5	27.8%
Other State Funds	\$ 294.3	\$ 322.5	\$ 28.2	9.6%	\$ 41.1	\$ 60.2	\$ 19.1	46.5%
Local Option Taxes *	\$ 1,150.5	\$ 1,324.3	\$ 173.8	15.1%	\$ 78.2	\$ 97.0	\$ 18.8	24.0%

* Sales, income surtax, and hotel/motel tax. Distributed to local governments and not included in numbers above.

Numbers are rounded to the nearest \$0.1 million. Percentages are calculated after rounding.

A percentage change displayed as "--" represents instances where the base year net revenue amount is zero or negative so no meaningful percentage change may be calculated.

Tax Categories Used in Table

Franchise (Bank) Tax: The franchise tax paid by banks is deposited in the State General Fund. Credit unions are taxed under a different system than banks, but the credit union tax is also included in this line. Of the total deposited, the bank tax provides approximately 98.5% of the revenue, and the credit union tax provides 1.5%.

Beer & Liquor Tax: Taxes on beer, liquor, and wine are deposited in the State General Fund, the Liquor Control Fund, and a small amount is deposited in an Iowa Economic Development Authority fund for wine promotion.

Cigarette & Tobacco Tax: Prior to July 1, 2011, all cigarette and tobacco product tax revenues were deposited in the State General Fund. Beginning with FY 2012, the first \$106.0 million of revenue from cigarette and tobacco taxes was deposited in the Health Care Trust Fund and the remainder deposited in the State General Fund. Beginning with FY 2014, all revenue from the cigarette and tobacco tax is deposited in the Health Care Trust Fund.

Corporate Income Tax: All corporate income tax is deposited in the State General Fund.

Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax: All motor vehicle fuel tax is deposited in one of two road use funds, with the exception of tax revenue from the sale of aviation and marine fuels.

Gambling Tax: Gambling tax is deposited in several State funds. Funds receiving deposits of gambling tax revenue over the past two fiscal years include the State General Fund, the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund, the County Endowment Fund, the Vision Iowa Fund, the Revenue Bond Debt and Subsidy Holdback Funds, the Sports Wagering Receipts Fund, the Iowa Skilled Worker and Job Creation Fund, and the Water Quality Infrastructure Fund.

Individual Income Tax: Most individual income tax revenue is deposited in the State General Fund. A total of \$6.0 million per year is deposited in the Workforce Development Fund. An annual \$2.6 million diversion to the Child Daycare Fund ended in FY 2009. In addition, several economic development programs are financed by individual income tax withholding. In those instances, the employer does not remit the tax withheld from employees, and it is never deposited in a State fund. That revenue is not included here.

Inheritance Tax: All inheritance tax is deposited in the State General Fund.

Insurance Premium Tax: All insurance premium tax is deposited in the State General Fund.

Other Taxes: Other taxes include brucellosis eradication property tax (deposited in a Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship fund), drug stamp tax (State General Fund), utility replacement property tax (State General Fund), and car rental tax (Road Use Tax Fund). Other taxes also include a suspense account used to hold tax deposits prior to determining the correct tax revenue type, and tax revenue transferred by the Department of Revenue to separate accounts to fund tax collection activities (tax gap and Department operations).

Real Estate Transfer Tax: Real estate transfer tax is collected by counties. Counties retain 17.25% of the tax collected and remit the remainder to the State. Of the 82.75% remitted to the State, 5.0% is deposited in the Shelter Assistance Fund, the lesser of 30.0% or \$7.0 million to the Housing Trust Fund, and the remainder in the State General Fund.

Sales/Use Tax: General sales/use tax is deposited in the State General Fund, while most vehicle use tax is deposited in the Road Use Tax Fund. Beginning FY 2009, the vehicle use tax is referred to as a fee in the Iowa Code. To allow continuity of data, the revenue from the fee is reflected in this document as tax revenue. Also beginning FY 2009, the School Infrastructure Local Option (SILO) sales tax was converted to a statewide 1.0% sales/use tax, and the revenue from that statewide tax is transferred out of the State General Fund monthly through a refund appropriation. To allow for continuity of data, the refund transfers are subtracted from State revenue as part of the net sales/use tax calculation. Beginning FY 2014, a portion of State sales/use tax revenue is deposited in the Sales Tax Increment Fund and used for local flood mitigation projects. Beginning FY 2019, a portion of State sales/use tax revenue is deposited in the Reinvestment District Fund and used for local economic development projects. Also beginning FY 2019, a new Water Excise Tax is deposited in the State General Fund and two water quality funds.

Local Option Taxes: Local option taxes are presented at the bottom of the table and are not included in the numbers above. Prior to FY 2009, local option taxes included the SILO tax, Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) for local government finance, Local Option Income Surcharge for schools, and hotel/motel tax. Beginning in FY 2009, the SILO tax was converted to a 1.0% statewide tax and was eliminated. To allow for continuity of data, the transfers from the State General Fund as a result of the 1.0% statewide tax are included in the local option tax amount. Flood mitigation sales tax increment transfers to local governments were added beginning July 2014.

Report Dataset: The dataset for this report is the State Accounting System. If transactions are incorrectly coded in the system as tax revenue or tax refunds, the numbers presented here will be impacted.