

**MEMORANDUM**

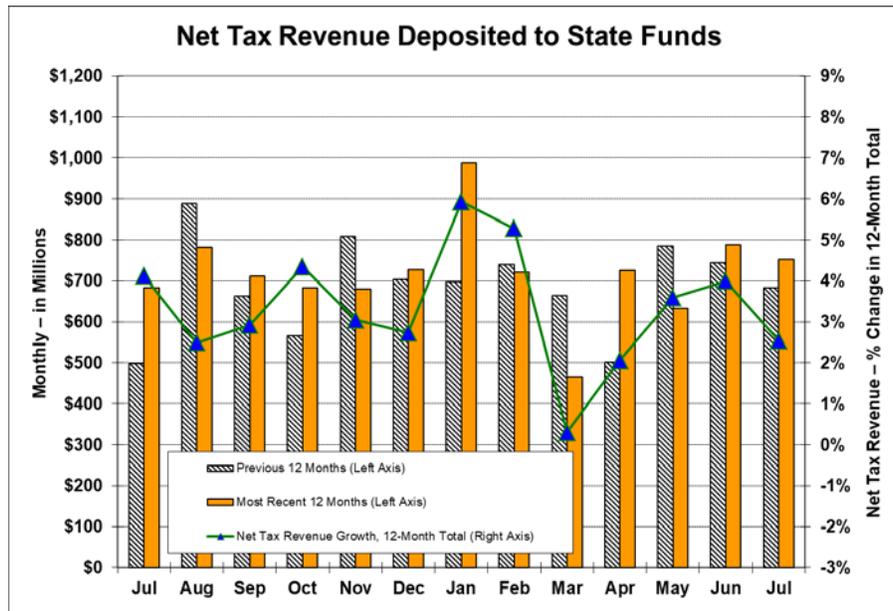
TO: Members of the Iowa Senate and  
 Members of the Iowa House of Representatives

FROM: Jeff Robinson

DATE: August 20, 2018

**Twelve-Month Total Net Tax Receipts Through July 31, 2018**

The attached spreadsheet presents net tax revenue deposited to State funds for the 12-month period ending July 31, 2018, with comparisons to the previous 12 months. July 2017 to July 2018 one-month comparisons are also presented. The source of the information is the State Accounting System, including 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 \$752.3 million for July 2018, an increase of \$69.9 million (10.2%) compared to the previous July. Over the most recent 12 months, net tax revenue increased \$214.6 million (2.5%). One year ago, the annual growth rate was 4.1%. Growth in net tax revenue collections for the most recent 12 months was concentrated in individual income tax and sales/use tax. Fuel tax, cigarette/tobacco tax, real estate transfer tax, and the franchise tax paid by financial institutions each declined over the annual period.

## Year-Over-Year Comparison — Net Tax Revenue

During the 12-month period ending July 31, 2018, net revenue from all taxes deposited to State funds totaled \$8.657 billion, an increase of \$214.6 million (2.5%) compared to the prior 12 months. Major contributors to the year-over-year dollar and percentage changes include:

- Individual Income Tax (positive \$215.8 million, 5.9%) — The recent reduction in federal income tax rates has resulted in an automatic increase in Iowa withholding tax receipts. This is the result of Iowa's income tax law that allows the deduction of federal income taxes paid from Iowa taxable income.
- Corporate Income Tax (positive \$3.8 million, 0.9%) — After being generally down year-over-year for the months of October 2015 through May 2017, annual growth in corporate income tax revenue turned positive one year ago.
- Sales/Use Tax (positive \$40.3 million, 1.4%) — Sales/use net tax growth breakdown for the most recent 12 months:
  - Gross tax receipts from the sale of vehicles (deposited to the Road Use Tax Fund) increased \$5.1 million (1.3%).
  - Sales/use tax deposited to other State funds, mainly the Flood Mitigation Fund, decreased \$6.7 million.
  - Sales/use tax deposited to the State General Fund increased \$73.4 million (2.5%).
  - Refunds of State General Fund sales/use tax payments increased \$39.5 million.
  - Sales tax payments to the school infrastructure account (recorded as tax refunds) decreased \$8.0 million.
- Bank Franchise Tax (negative \$12.2 million, -30.4%) — Over the most recent 12 months, tax deposits decreased \$5.3 million, while franchise tax refunds increased \$6.9 million.
- Fuel Tax (negative \$30.5 million, -4.3%) — Much of the decrease in annual fuel tax revenue is the result of deposit date differences between the two annual periods. According to Department of Revenue monthly fuel sales [reports](#), the total gallons<sup>1</sup> subject to fuel tax increased 0.2% over the most recent 12-month period. The numbers of gross taxable gallons sold over the most recent 12 months, along with the percentage change when compared to the previous 12 months, are as follows:
  - Unblended gasoline,<sup>2</sup> 613.8 million gallons, 0.8%.
  - Gasoline blended with ethanol, 1.137 billion gallons, -2.7%.
  - Diesel, including biodiesel blends, 732.4 million gallons, 4.7%.
  - Aviation, jet, and other fuels, 46.2 million gallons, -0.8%.
- Gambling Tax (positive \$3.7 million, 1.2%) — According to Racing and Gaming Commission statistics, 11 of Iowa's 19 State-regulated casino/track locations recorded negative annual adjusted gross revenue (AGR) growth for the 12 months ending July 31, 2018. The combined AGR change for the 19 facilities was positive 0.8% over the previous 12 months. Across all facilities, the AGR for the 12 months totaled \$1.461 billion, an amount that is 0.6% below the annual AGR peak (November 2012).
- Insurance Premium Tax (positive \$2.4 million, 2.1%).
- Real Estate Transfer Tax (negative \$0.5 million, -2.2%) — Prior to this month, annual real estate transfer tax growth had not been negative since March 2015.

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<sup>1</sup> Taxable gallons distributed in Iowa (all fuel types) over the latest 12 months totaled 2.529 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.

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

- Cigarette and Tobacco Tax (negative \$10.6 million, -4.7%) — The annual total for cigarette and tobacco tax deposits has been edging lower in recent months, breaking a long-standing trend of flat annual receipts.

### **Tax Spotlight — Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax**

Motor vehicle fuel is taxed under Iowa Code chapter [452A](#). The tax is imposed on each gallon of fuel sold in Iowa for use in most motor vehicles and aircraft. Tax rates for July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019, are:

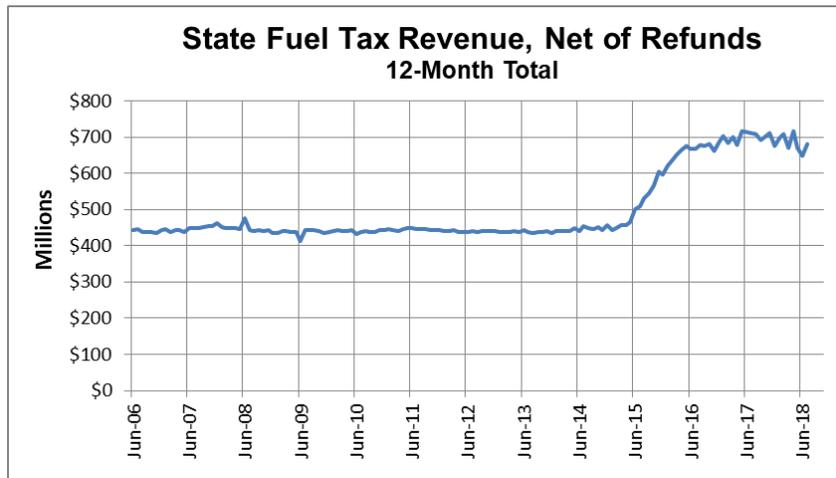
- Gasoline — \$0.307 per gallon
- Ethanol Blended Gasoline — \$0.290 per gallon
- E-85 — \$0.290 per gallon
- Aviation Gasoline — \$0.080 per gallon
- Diesel Fuel (including biodiesel B10 and lower) — \$0.325 per gallon
- Diesel Fuel (biodiesel B11 and higher) — \$0.295 per gallon
- Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) — \$0.300 per gallon
- Aviation Jet Fuel — \$0.050 per gallon
- Compressed Natural Gas — Taxed on a gasoline gallon equivalent basis designed to equal \$0.310 per gallon
- Liquefied Natural Gas — Taxed on a diesel gallon equivalent basis designed to equal \$0.325 per gallon

Tax rates for gasoline and ethanol blended gasoline (including E-85) are subject to adjustment each fiscal year by the Department of Revenue and are based on the previous calendar year's ethanol blended gasoline sales.

The Iowa motor fuel tax was imposed in 1925 in SF 312 (Gasoline License Fee Act) at a rate of \$0.02 per gallon. The tax rates for gasoline and diesel fuel have increased periodically since enactment. Effective March 1, 2015, tax rates were increased to the present rates ([SF 257](#), Transportation Funding Act of 2015).

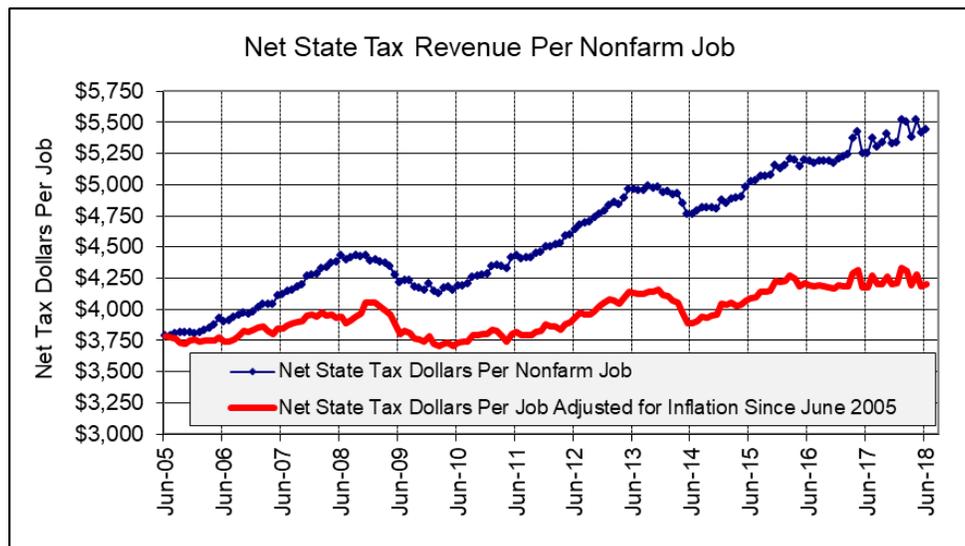
[House File 716](#) (Ethanol Blended Gasoline and Related Taxes Act of 2001) established a motor vehicle fuel tax schedule. Within an allowed tax rate range, the Department of Revenue establishes the per-gallon tax rate on gasoline and ethanol blended gasoline based on the tax schedule. The market share of ethanol blended gasoline during a calendar year determines the tax rate on gasoline and ethanol blended gasoline for the following fiscal year. The use of the tax schedule was scheduled to sunset after FY 2007; however, the General Assembly has extended the use of the tax schedule several times.

Motor vehicle fuel tax returns are filed by the licensee and are due by the last day of the month following the month when the fuel was withdrawn from its terminal. Aviation fuel tax receipts are credited to the State Aviation Fund (Iowa Code section [452A.82](#)). Beginning in FY 2008, tax receipts from the sale of gasoline used in watercraft have been deposited in the Marine Fuel Tax Fund (Iowa Code section [452A.84](#)). The remainder of the motor fuel tax revenue is credited to the Road Use Tax Fund.

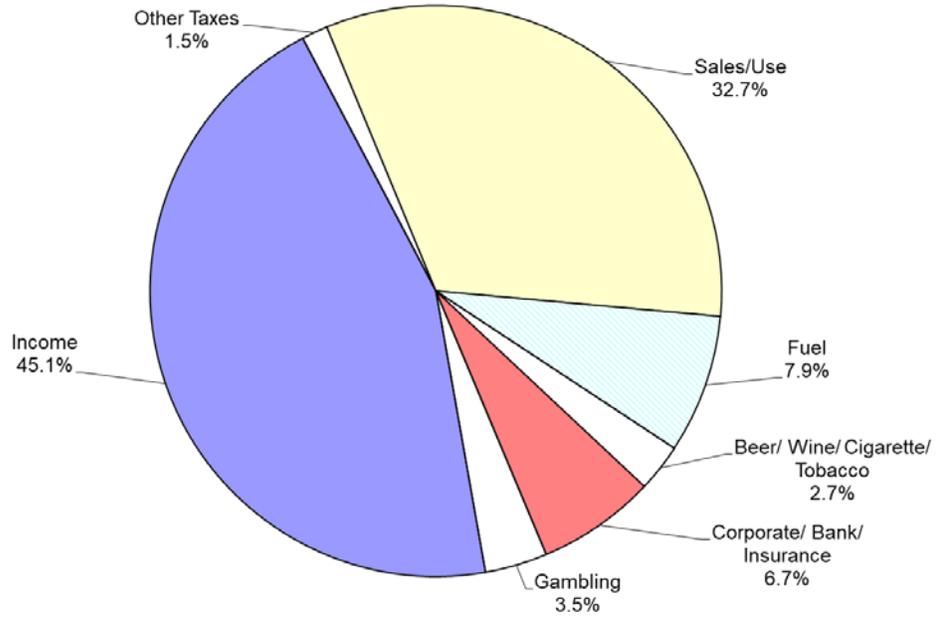


### Tax Revenue and Employment

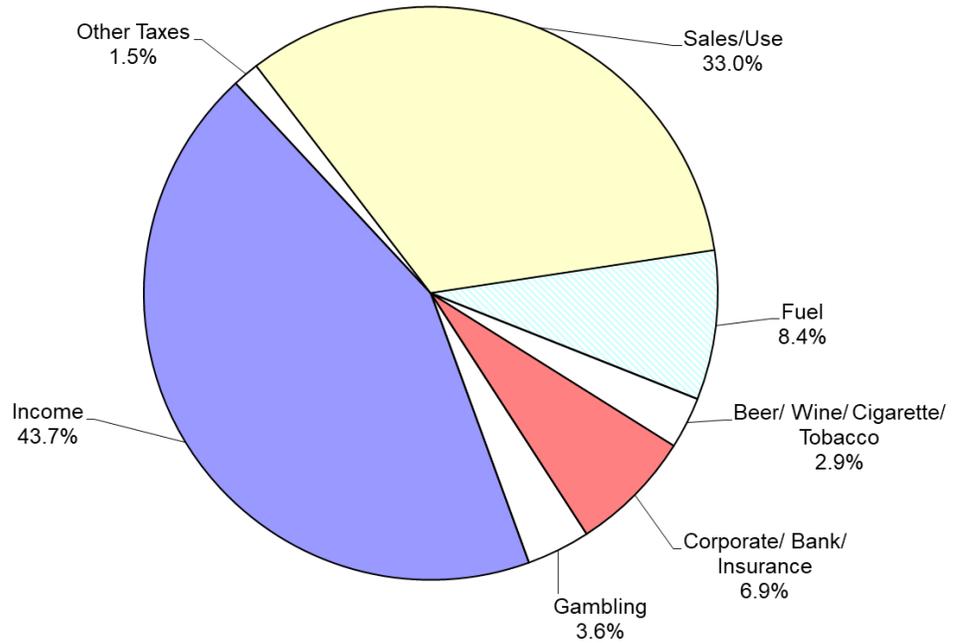
The average reading for Iowa nonfarm employment over the 12 months ending May 2018 is 1,579,200, and net State tax receipts over the same 12 months totaled \$8.588 billion, or \$5,438 per nonfarm job. This is \$1,653 higher than the per-job average for the 12 months ending June 2005. The blue (upper) 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 \$412 since June 2005, and the remainder of the \$1,653 increase (\$1,241) represents the impact of inflation. Note that the recent variability in both lines displayed in the following chart is due to changes in State procedures related to tax refunds and to tax deposit dates. The variability is not due to any tax changes or differences in taxpayer behavior.



**Net State Tax Revenue – 12 Months Ending July 2018**  
**Net Revenue = \$8.657 Billion**  
Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding



**Net State Tax Revenue – 12 Months Ending July 2017**  
**Net Revenue = \$8.443 Billion**  
Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding



## Net Tax Revenue Deposited to State Funds – Cash Basis

Dollars in millions – columns and rows may not add due to rounding

Net Tax by Tax Type	Previous 12-Month Period Total	Most Recent 12-Month Period Total	12-Month \$ Change	12-Month % Change	Month of July 2017	Month of July 2018	July \$ Change	July % Change
Banking	\$ 40.1	\$ 27.9	\$ - 12.2	-30.4%	\$ 1.2	\$ 2.2	\$ 1.0	83.3%
Beer & Wine	22.4	22.3	- 0.1	-0.4%	2.2	2.1	- 0.1	-4.5%
Cigarette & Tobacco	223.3	212.7	- 10.6	-4.7%	18.9	19.6	0.7	3.7%
Corporate Income	432.1	435.9	3.8	0.9%	21.1	28.8	7.7	36.5%
Fuel	710.8	680.3	- 30.5	-4.3%	53.4	85.7	32.3	60.5%
Gambling	302.0	305.7	3.7	1.2%	17.1	17.8	0.7	4.1%
Individual Income	3,685.5	3,901.3	215.8	5.9%	323.4	340.3	16.9	5.2%
Inheritance	83.3	82.5	- 0.8	-1.0%	7.0	9.0	2.0	28.6%
Insurance	113.4	115.8	2.4	2.1%	0.3	1.8	1.5	500.0%
Other Taxes	20.3	23.6	3.3	16.3%	- 0.3	- 0.5	- 0.2	--
Real Estate Transfer	22.7	22.2	- 0.5	-2.2%	2.7	2.3	- 0.4	-14.8%
Sales/Use	2,786.8	2,827.1	40.3	1.4%	235.4	243.2	7.8	3.3%
<b>Total Net Taxes</b>	<b>\$ 8,442.7</b>	<b>\$ 8,657.3</b>	<b>\$ 214.6</b>	<b>2.5%</b>	<b>\$ 682.4</b>	<b>\$ 752.3</b>	<b>\$ 69.9</b>	<b>10.2%</b>
<b>Gross Tax &amp; Refunds</b>								
Gross Tax	\$ 10,065.4	\$ 10,329.1	\$ 263.7	2.6%	\$ 762.9	\$ 835.4	\$ 72.5	9.5%
Tax Refunds	\$ - 1,622.6	\$ - 1,671.7	\$ - 49.1	3.0%	\$ - 80.4	\$ - 83.2	\$ - 2.8	3.5%
<b>Net Tax Receipts by Fund</b>								
State General Fund (GF)	\$ 6,748.4	\$ 6,998.9	\$ 250.5	3.7%	\$ 552.5	\$ 592.4	\$ 39.9	7.2%
Road Use Tax Fund	\$ 1,098.5	\$ 1,073.0	\$ - 25.5	-2.3%	\$ 93.2	\$ 121.7	\$ 28.5	30.6%
Non-GF Gambling	\$ 300.4	\$ 303.9	\$ 3.5	1.2%	\$ 17.0	\$ 17.6	\$ 0.6	3.5%
Other State Funds	\$ 295.6	\$ 281.5	\$ - 14.1	-4.8%	\$ 19.8	\$ 20.5	\$ 0.7	3.5%
<b>Local Option Taxes *</b>	<b>\$ 964.2</b>	<b>\$ 952.1</b>	<b>\$ - 12.1</b>	<b>-1.3%</b>	<b>\$ 70.5</b>	<b>\$ 71.4</b>	<b>\$ 0.9</b>	<b>1.3%</b>

\* Sales, income surtax, hotel/motel, and flood mitigation. 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 revenue was 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 cigarette and tobacco tax revenue 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. Beginning with FY 2014, the State no longer deposits gambling tax revenue to the State General Fund. Funds receiving deposits of gambling tax revenue over the last 24 months include the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund, the County Endowment Fund, the Vision Iowa Fund, the Revenue Bond Debt and Subsidy Holdback Funds, and the Iowa Skilled Worker and Job Creation Fund.

**Individual Income Tax:** Most individual income tax revenue is deposited in the State General Fund. A total of \$6.0 million per year (\$5.75 million in FY 2015) 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, 65.0% is deposited in the State General Fund, 30.0% in the Housing Trust Fund, and 5.0% in the Shelter Assistance 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 a new Sales Tax Increment Fund and used for local flood mitigation projects.

**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 Database:** The database 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.