## **Revenue and Economic Update**

Independent Fiscal Office | August 2019

On August 8th, the Independent Fiscal Office (IFO) released monthly revenue projections for fiscal year (FY) 2019-20. Compared to those estimates, General Fund collections of \$2,192.9 million in August were \$67.1 million (3.2 percent) above estimate. The overage was largely attributable to sales and use tax (SUT) and personal income tax (PIT). Fiscal-year-to-date (FYTD) collections are short of estimate by \$24.8 million (-0.5 percent).

August SUT collections were \$28.9 million (3.1 percent) over estimate, due entirely to higher than expected non-motor collections, which exceeded estimate by \$29.7 million (3.7 percent). Motor vehicle collections for the month were short by \$0.9 million (-0.6 percent). FYTD SUT collections are \$83.7 million (-4.2 percent) under estimate due to an unexpected, one-time transfer that occurred in July.

Monthly PIT revenues were \$20.8 million (2.6 percent) higher than anticipated. The differential was in part due to withholding payments, which were \$10.5 million (1.4 percent) above estimate. FYTD PIT collections are \$35.7 million (2.0 percent) above estimate, due largely to higher than expected annual payments, which are exceeding estimate by \$17.4 million (43.8 percent.)

August corporate net income tax (CNIT) collections came in \$4.8 million (8.2 percent) over estimate. FYTD CNIT revenues are exceeding expectations by \$5.0 million (3.3 percent).

All remaining tax revenues were above estimate by \$4.7 million (1.5 percent) for the month. An overage in inheritance tax collections (\$7.4 million, 8.2 percent) was partially offset by a shortfall in realty transfer tax of \$2.8 million (-5.0 percent).

August non-tax collections were \$7.9 million (78.1 percent) above estimate. The overage was driven by Treasury (\$3.7 million) and escheats (\$4.5 million) collections. FYTD non-tax collections are \$5.5 million (-9.6 percent) below estimate. The shortfall is from lower than anticipated licenses and fees collections (-\$12.9 million) and is related to a gaming license fee that was anticipated in July 2019 but received in June.

| FY 2019-20 Revenue Performance Through August  |           |                 |         |           |                |         |  |  |
|--|-----------|-----------------|---------|-----------|----------------|---------|--|--|
|  | Auç       | gust Collection | ns      | F         | FY Collections |         |  |  |
| _  | Actual    | Estimate        | \$ Diff | Actual    | Estimate       | \$ Diff |  |  |
| General Fund   | \$2,192.9 | \$2,125.8       | \$67.1  | \$4,522.1 | \$4,546.9      | -\$24.8 |  |  |
| Corporate Net Income   | 63.3      | 58.5            | 4.8     | 156.4     | 151.4          | 5.0     |  |  |
| SUT - Non-Motor  | 830.6     | 800.9           | 29.7    | 1,613.6   | 1,704.3        | -90.7   |  |  |
| SUT - Motor Vehicle  | 137.2     | 138.1           | -0.9    | 279.6     | 272.7          | 6.9     |  |  |
| PIT - Withholding  | 760.1     | 749.6           | 10.5    | 1,705.4   | 1,697.3        | 8.1     |  |  |
| PIT - Non-Withholding  | 64.0      | 53.6            | 10.4    | 141.5     | 113.9          | 27.6    |  |  |
| Cigarette  | 102.6     | 101.7           | 0.9     | 153.3     | 159.2          | -5.9    |  |  |
| Inheritance  | 97.0      | 89.7            | 7.4     | 195.5     | 181.2          | 14.3    |  |  |
| Other Taxes  | 120.2     | 123.7           | -3.5    | 224.8     | 209.5          | 15.3    |  |  |
| Non-Tax  | 17.9      | 10.1            | 7.9     | 51.9      | 57.4           | -5.5    |  |  |
| Dollar amounts in millions. Estimate refers to IFO official estimate published in June 2019. |           |                 |         |           |                |         |  |  |

### **MONTHLY ECONOMIC INDICATORS**

|                                       | United States |        |        |        | Pennsylvania |        |        |        |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|--------|--------|--------|--------------|--------|--------|--------|
|                                       | May-19        | Jun-19 | Jul-19 | Aug-19 | May-19       | Jun-19 | Jul-19 | Aug-19 |
| Unemployment Rate <sup>1</sup>        | 3.6%          | 3.7%   | 3.7%   | n.a.   | 3.8%         | 3.8%   | 3.9%   | n.a.   |
| Net Job Gains (000s) <sup>2</sup>     | 62.0          | 193.0  | 164.0  | n.a.   | 51.9         | 45.4   | 37.7   | n.a.   |
| Average Gasoline Price <sup>3</sup>   | \$2.86        | \$2.72 | \$2.74 | \$2.62 | \$2.90       | \$2.77 | \$2.80 | \$2.71 |
| CPI-U All Items <sup>4</sup>          | 1.8%          | 1.6%   | 1.8%   | n.a.   | 2.0%         | 2.1%   | n.a.   | n.a.   |
| Retail Sales <sup>5</sup>             | 3.5%          | 3.4%   | 3.3%   | n.a.   | 7.2%         | 6.6%   | 4.9%   | 4.4%   |
| Consumer Sentiment Index <sup>6</sup> | 100.0         | 98.2   | 98.4   | 89.3   | n.a.         | n.a.   | n.a.   | n.a.   |

### **QUARTERLY ECONOMIC INDICATORS**

|                                      | United States |        |        |        | Pennsylvania |        |        |        |  |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|--------|--------|--------|--------------|--------|--------|--------|--|
|                                      | 2018.3        | 2018.4 | 2019.1 | 2019.2 | 2018.3       | 2018.4 | 2019.1 | 2019.2 |  |
| Gross Domestic Product 7             | 2.9%          | 1.1%   | 3.1%   | 2.0%   | 3.2%         | 2.5%   | 2.9%   | n.a.   |  |
| Net Job Gains (000s) <sup>2</sup>    | 189.3         | 233.3  | 173.7  | 157.0  | 64.1         | 60.5   | 50.8   | 45.4   |  |
| Personal Income <sup>8</sup>         | 5.9%          | 4.9%   | 4.6%   | 4.9%   | 3.7%         | 3.9%   | 3.6%   | n.a.   |  |
| Wages and Salaries <sup>9</sup>      | 5.2%          | 4.0%   | 5.0%   | 5.4%   | 3.5%         | 3.1%   | 3.0%   | n.a.   |  |
| CPI-U All Items <sup>4</sup>         | 2.6%          | 2.2%   | 1.6%   | 1.8%   | 1.7%         | 1.3%   | 1.5%   | 2.0%   |  |
| FHFA House Price Index <sup>10</sup> | 6.4%          | 6.0%   | 5.4%   | 5.0%   | 4.8%         | 5.5%   | 5.5%   | 4.9%   |  |

#### **Economic Trends**

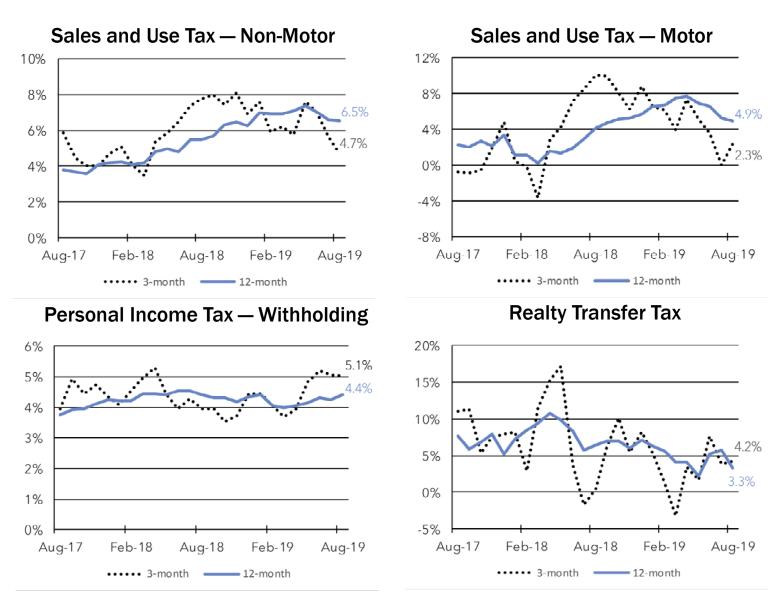
- National net job gains decelerated in July, after a solid gain in June.
- Pennsylvania net job gains were weak in July. The net gain for July was 30,300 above the prior year, the weakest year-over-year gain since spring 2014. However, the data are preliminary and will be revised. (The figure in the table is a three-month average gain.)
- Retail sales remains a bright spot for the Pennsylvania economy. Year-over-year growth in retail sales was strong in August (6.4%), but slower growth in June and July pulled down the three-month moving average.

Sources and notes:

- 1. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics—Survey of Households.
- 2. U.S.: Increase in payroll employment compared to the previous month or quarter. PA: Average year-over-year increase in payroll employment based on latest three months of data. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics—Survey of Establishments.
- 3. Average price for one gallon of regular gasoline. Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration.
- 4. Annual change in average price level for U.S. and PA-NJ-DE-MD. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.
- 5. U.S.: Annual growth rate of advance retail sales based on latest three months of data. Excludes services. Source: U.S. Department of Commerce. PA: Annual growth rate of sales tax revenues based on latest three months of data. Source: PA Department of Revenue.
- 6. Source: UM—Survey of Consumers.
- 7. The quarterly, annualized real growth rate of the economy. Excludes inflation. Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.
- 8. The year-over-year growth rate of personal income. Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.
- 9. Year-over-year growth rate of wages and salaries paid to all payroll employees. Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.
- 10. Source: Federal Housing Finance Agency.

# SELECT GENERAL FUND TAX REVENUES

**ANNUAL GROWTH RATES** 



#### **Revenue Trends**

- The non-motor SUT growth rate excludes a \$115 million one-time transfer that occurred in July 2019.
- The 3-month non-motor SUT growth rate continues to decelerate as revenue gains from the taxation of internet sales are fully incorporated into the year-over-year comparisons.
- The 3-month motor vehicle SUT growth rate shows moderate gains, far below the 12-month trend. Many analysts expect minimal growth in car and truck sales for the rest of the year.
- The 3-month PIT withholding growth rate continues to exhibit strength despite the weak July jobs report.
- The 3-month realty transfer tax growth rate continues to recover from a sharp decline in March 2019. Unexpectedly low mortgage rates are likely providing support to the state and national housing markets.

# **GENERAL FUND REVENUES SUMMARY**

| Revenue Source              | August<br>2019 | August<br>2018 | FYTD<br>2019-20 | FYTD<br>2018-19 | Monthly<br>Growth | FYTD<br>Growth |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Total General Fund          | \$2,192.9      | \$2,274.2      | \$4,522.1       | \$4,512.6       | -3.6%             | 0.2%           |
| Total Tax Revenue           | 2,175.0        | 2,266.5        | 4,470.2         | 4,473.7         | -4.0              | -0.1           |
| Total Corporation Taxes     | 69.0           | 83.7           | 185.9           | 183.2           | -17.6             | 1.5            |
| Accelerated Deposits        | (0.8)          | 0.1            | 0.3             | (0.7)           | n.a.              | 144.0          |
| Corporate Net Income        | 63.3           | 74.3           | 156.4           | 149.1           | -14.8             | 4.9            |
| Gross Receipts              | 4.4            | 6.9            | 8.7             | 11.4            | -37.1             | -24.3          |
| Utility Property            | 0.2            | 0.1            | 0.6             | 0.1             | 138.7             | 663.5          |
| Insurance Premiums          | 0.5            | 1.0            | 18.1            | 21.7            | -48.2             | -16.7          |
| Financial Institution       | 1.4            | 1.3            | 1.9             | 1.7             | 9.5               | 7.7            |
| Total Consumption Taxes     | 1,116.4        | 1,064.7        | 2,136.2         | 2,182.8         | 4.9               | -2.1           |
| Sales and Use - Total       | 967.9          | 910.6          | 1,893.3         | 1,922.0         | 6.3               | -1.5           |
| Non-Motor                   | 830.6          | 778.8          | 1,613.6         | 1,653.1         | 6.7               | -2.4           |
| Motor Vehicle               | 137.2          | 131.8          | 279.6           | 268.9           | 4.1               | 4.0            |
| Cigarette                   | 102.6          | 110.2          | 153.3           | 175.5           | -7.0              | -12.6          |
| Other Tobacco Products      | 11.9           | 10.4           | 22.8            | 20.8            | 14.0              | 9.9            |
| Malt Beverage               | 2.0            | 2.2            | 4.2             | 4.6             | -10.9             | -9.3           |
| Liquor                      | 32.2           | 31.3           | 62.6            | 59.9            | 2.7               | 4.6            |
| Total Other Taxes           | 989.6          | 1,118.0        | 2,148.1         | 2,107.7         | -11.5             | 1.9            |
| Personal Income - Total     | 824.0          | 949.6          | 1,846.9         | 1,807.8         | -13.2             | 2.2            |
| Withholding                 | 760.1          | 894.5          | 1,705.4         | 1,689.7         | -15.0             | 0.9            |
| Quarterly                   | 36.4           | 32.6           | 84.4            | 74.1            | 11.6              | 13.9           |
| Annual                      | 27.6           | 22.4           | 57.1            | 43.9            | 22.8              | 30.0           |
| Realty Transfer             | 53.9           | 58.2           | 74.9            | 90.9            | -7.5              | -17.6          |
| Inheritance                 | 97.0           | 90.9           | 195.5           | 176.1           | 6.7               | 11.1           |
| Gaming                      | 13.9           | 11.7           | 24.8            | 21.3            | 19.1              | 16.7           |
| Minor and Repealed          | 0.8            | 7.6            | 5.9             | 11.6            | -89.7             | -49.0          |
| Total Non-Tax Revenue       | 17.9           | 7.8            | 51.9            | 38.9            | 130.2             | 33.3           |
| State Store Fund Transfers  | 0.0            | 0.0            | 0.0             | 0.0             | 0.0               | 0.0            |
| Lic., Fees & Miscellaneous  | 10.6           | (0.1)          | 37.0            | 22.6            | n.a.              | 63.5           |
| Licenses and Fees           | 5.9            | 7.8            | 26.6            | 15.3            | -24.7             | 73.5           |
| Miscellaneous               | 4.7            | (7.9)          | 10.4            | 7.3             | 159.9             | 42.6           |
| Treasury                    | 5.7            | 6.0            | 11.5            | 43.1            | -5.5              | -73.4          |
| Escheats                    | (6.2)          | (22.4)         | (10.6)          | (50.1)          | 72.3              | 78.8           |
| Other Miscellaneous         | 5.3            | 8.5            | 9.6             | 14.3            | -38.0             | -33.2          |
| Fines, Penalties & Interest | 7.3            | 7.8            | 14.9            | 16.3            | -7.2              | -8.8           |

Note: Dollar amounts in millions. Growth rates computed from same time period in previous year and use the unrounded amounts.