



General Fund Tax Collections

Informational
Paper
1

Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau

January, 2019

General Fund Tax Collections

Prepared by

Sean Moran

Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau
One East Main, Suite 301
Madison, WI 53703
<http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lfb>

General Fund Tax Collections

General fund tax collections represent the major source of revenues available to fund appropriations from the state's general fund. In 2017-18, Wisconsin general fund tax collections totaled \$16.1 billion. While many different taxes provide revenues to the general fund, the three major general fund taxes are the individual income tax, the general sales and use tax, and the corporate income/franchise tax. In total for 2017-18, these three taxes represented 91.8% of general fund tax collections. A detailed summary for each of the general fund revenue sources is provided in separate informational papers prepared by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau. This paper provides information on the overall level and sources of general fund tax collections.

As background on the major sources of state taxes, information is provided on the history of general fund tax collections since 2007-08. The attached tables show: (a) the amount of Wisconsin general fund tax collections by source of tax annually since 2007-08; (b) the share each tax represented of total general fund tax collections in each fiscal year; and (c) the percentage change in each tax over the prior year's tax collections.

To illustrate the information in the attached tables, the individual income tax can be used as an example. In fiscal year 2017-18, the individual

income tax totaled \$8.48 billion. This amount comprised 52.52% of total general fund tax collections in 2017-18 and represented an increase of 5.47% from the individual income tax collections in the previous fiscal year, 2016-17. Along with comparisons within a particular fiscal year, the tables show the growth in tax collections since 2007-08.

While general fund tax collections data show the actual amount of revenues collected each year, several factors should be considered in using and interpreting this data. First, the growth in certain taxes, especially in the state's three major taxes, can be volatile because of changes in national economic growth and the way in which the state tax structure responds to such changes. Second, since 2007-08, many tax law changes, including one-time changes, have altered the amount of revenues collected from year to year. Moreover, modifications to payment dates and accrual procedures, revisions of withholding tables, enhanced collection measures, and the impact of lawsuits have also affected the pattern of state tax collections. Thus, while actual tax collections have tended to grow over time, annual variations have occurred because of many factors, including changes in economic growth and inflation, tax law provisions, and one-time modifications.

Wisconsin General Fund Tax Collections: 2007-08 Through 2017-18 (In Millions)

<u>Revenue Source</u>	<u>2007-08</u>	<u>2008-09</u>	<u>2009-10</u>	<u>2010-11</u>	<u>2011-12</u>	<u>2012-13</u>	<u>2013-14</u>	<u>2014-15</u>	<u>2015-16</u>	<u>2016-17</u>	<u>2017-18</u>
Individual Income	\$6,713.68	\$6,222.74	\$6,089.17	\$6,700.65	\$7,041.67	\$7,496.85	\$7,061.39	\$7,325.82	\$7,740.83	\$8,039.51	\$8,479.15
Corporate Income/Franchise	837.81	629.52	834.48	852.86	906.58	925.38	967.18	1,004.93	963.03	920.95	893.89
General Sales & Use Tax	4,268.05	4,083.96	3,944.19	4,109.02	4,288.74	4,410.13	4,628.34	4,892.13	5,065.76	5,223.93	5,448.12
Excise Taxes											
Cigarette	455.72	551.34	644.27	604.83	587.75	569.15	573.04	569.55	573.41	564.20	538.90
Tobacco	29.75	42.24	59.89	60.89	65.52	63.02	67.69	71.92	76.13	80.28	80.20
Liquor & Wine	45.17	44.13	44.18	45.80	47.04	48.29	48.99	48.77	49.99	52.08	51.97
Beer	<u>9.62</u>	<u>9.91</u>	<u>9.61</u>	<u>9.33</u>	<u>9.24</u>	<u>9.00</u>	<u>8.97</u>	<u>8.83</u>	<u>8.98</u>	<u>9.13</u>	<u>8.91</u>
Total Excise Taxes	540.26	647.62	757.95	720.85	709.55	689.46	698.69	699.06	708.51	705.68	679.98
Estate Tax	158.79	20.85	0.87	-0.13	0.32	0.31	-0.08	-0.11	1.75	0.43	-0.03
Public Utility Taxes											
Priv. Light/Heat/Power	212.13	223.47	208.62	227.32	231.58	226.08	232.35	243.79	226.05	229.62	235.39
Muni. Light/Heat/Power	2.70	2.75	2.93	3.19	3.03	3.17	3.35	3.30	3.49	2.90	3.07
Telephone	59.54	63.46	70.03	67.02	80.98	67.34	72.20	81.94	76.47	70.78	63.59
Pipeline	11.19	16.18	23.05	27.11	33.67	28.40	35.46	34.99	37.32	39.73	45.53
Electric Cooperatives	9.36	10.55	10.40	11.55	11.16	11.28	12.09	12.23	11.75	12.05	12.46
Conservation/Regulation	0.26	0.24	0.21	0.29	0.31	0.31	0.34	0.39	0.38	0.35	0.43
Municipal Electric	2.24	3.46	4.15	4.86	5.17	4.99	5.17	5.16	4.95	4.93	4.80
Interest & Penalty Refund	<u>0.04</u>	<u>0.01</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.01</u>	<u>-0.31</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.02</u>	<u>0.20</u>	<u>0.12</u>	<u>0.07</u>
Total Public Utility Tax	297.46	320.11	319.38	341.34	365.91	341.26	360.97	381.82	360.60	360.47	365.34
Insurance Premiums Tax	156.61	136.29	130.72	139.95	148.08	159.28	165.77	165.45	177.33	181.58	186.27
Miscellaneous Taxes											
Lawsuits (Courts)	10.74	10.79	10.49	11.67	13.83	14.88	14.60	14.23	14.49	14.40	14.80
Real Estate Transfer Fee	59.45	41.16	44.31	35.56	39.84	48.02	51.18	57.82	65.13	70.55	76.60
Other	<u>0.11</u>	<u>0.11</u>	<u>0.11</u>	<u>0.10</u>	<u>0.10</u>	<u>0.07</u>	<u>0.07</u>	<u>0.07</u>	<u>0.07</u>	<u>0.07</u>	<u>0.05</u>
Total Miscellaneous Taxes	70.30	52.06	54.91	47.32	53.77	62.96	65.85	72.12	79.70	85.02	91.45
Total General Fund Taxes	\$13,042.94	\$12,113.15	\$12,131.66	\$12,911.87	\$13,514.63	\$14,085.63	\$13,948.10	\$14,541.20	\$15,097.49	\$15,517.59	\$16,144.17

Change in Revenue Source Over Prior Year

<u>Revenue Source</u>	<u>2007-08</u>	<u>2008-09</u>	<u>2009-10</u>	<u>2010-11</u>	<u>2011-12</u>	<u>2012-13</u>	<u>2013-14</u>	<u>2014-15</u>	<u>2015-16</u>	<u>2016-17</u>	<u>2017-18</u>
Individual Income	2.13%	-7.31%	-2.15%	10.04%	5.09%	6.46%	-5.81%	3.74%	5.67%	3.86%	5.47%
Corporate Income/Franchise	-5.87	-24.86	32.56	2.20	6.30	2.07	4.52	3.90	-4.17	-4.37	-2.94
General Sales & Use Tax	2.63	-4.31	-3.42	4.18	4.37	2.83	4.95	5.70	3.55	3.12	4.29
Excise Taxes											
Cigarette	53.89	20.98	16.86	-6.12	-2.82	-3.16	0.68	-0.61	0.68	-1.61	-4.48
Tobacco	69.84	41.99	41.78	1.67	7.62	-3.82	7.41	6.24	5.86	5.45	-0.10
Liquor & Wine	5.84	-2.29	0.11	3.67	2.69	2.66	1.46	-0.46	2.51	4.17	-0.21
Beer	0.99	3.00	-3.07	-2.93	-0.92	-2.61	-0.38	-1.52	1.70	1.63	-2.38
Total Excise Taxes	47.67	19.87	17.04	-4.89	-1.57	-2.83	1.34	0.05	1.35	-0.40	-3.64
Estate Tax	31.11	-86.87	-95.82	-114.70	-352.34	-5.57	-125.57	43.59	-1,658.04	-75.13	-107.60
Public Utility Taxes											
Priv. Light/Heat/Power	8.54	5.35	-6.65	8.96	1.87	-2.38	2.77	4.92	-7.28	1.58	2.51
Muni. Light/Heat/Power	15.80	1.59	6.48	9.06	-5.05	4.62	5.84	-1.67	5.76	-17.00	5.87
Telephone	-8.75	6.57	10.36	-4.30	20.82	-16.84	7.22	13.50	-6.67	-7.44	-10.16
Pipeline	4.88	44.63	42.45	17.60	24.22	-15.67	24.89	-1.33	6.64	6.46	14.61
Electric Cooperatives	6.04	12.72	-1.46	11.15	-3.38	1.00	7.21	1.17	-3.96	2.55	3.47
Conservation/Regulation	-9.28	-10.23	-10.97	36.49	8.33	0.00	9.29	13.20	-2.85	-6.93	24.36
Municipal Electric	9.49	54.56	19.86	17.29	6.33	-3.46	3.57	-0.15	-4.17	-0.26	-2.68
Interest & Penalty Refund	-58.70	-76.32	-100.00	N.A.	500.00	-5,233.33	-100.97	433.33	1,150.00	-41.50	-43.59
Total Public Utility Tax	4.39	7.61	-0.23	6.88	7.20	-6.74	5.78	5.78	-5.56	-0.03	1.35
Insurance Premiums Tax	10.75	-12.97	-4.09	7.06	5.81	7.56	4.07	-0.19	7.18	2.40	2.58
Miscellaneous Taxes											
Lawsuits (Courts)	3.16	0.49	-2.75	11.23	18.53	7.54	-1.86	-2.56	1.87	-0.65	2.76
Real Estate Transfer Fee	-17.13	-30.76	7.65	-19.75	12.06	20.51	6.59	12.98	12.65	8.32	8.57
Other	6.60	-2.65	0.91	-11.71	1.02	-32.32	5.97	1.41	2.78	0.00	-32.43
Total Miscellaneous Taxes	-14.53	-25.94	5.48	-13.82	13.63	17.08	4.59	9.52	10.51	6.68	7.55
Total General Fund Taxes	3.37%	-7.13%	0.15%	6.43%	4.67%	4.23%	-0.98%	4.25%	3.83%	2.78%	4.04%