# DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE \& FINANCIAL SERVICES 78 STATE HOUSE STATION <br> AUGUSTA, ME 04333-0078 

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Governor Paul R. LePage<br>Members, Legislative Council<br>Members, Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs Members, Joint Standing Committee on Taxation

FROM: Richard W. Rosen, Commissioner
Department of Administrative \& Financial Services
DATE: December 19, 2016
SUBJ: Revenues - November

November General Fund revenues were under budget by $\$ 2.9$ million or 1.1 percent. For the first five months of fiscal year 2017, General Fund revenues were $\$ 49.1$ million over budget (+3.5 percent). Compared to the same five-month period of last fiscal year, FY17 General Fund revenues were up by 4.8 percent ( $+\$ 67$ million). Please note that the November Controller's report has not been updated for the recently released December 1, 2016 revenue forecast by the Revenue Forecasting Committee (RFC). The December report will be adjusted for the new forecast and will provide the first test of the new economic and revenue forecasts.

October taxable sales (November revenue) increased by 2.7 percent over a year ago; one of the weakest months in over a year. For the month, sales and use and service provider taxes combined were $\$ 0.3$ million over budget. Auto/transportation sales decreased by 5.3 percent over last October and are up 0.8 percent year-over-year for the three-month period. Most industry experts expect automobile sales to flatten or decrease over the next 12 to 24 months. Tourism-related sales, specifically those tied to restaurants and lodging, increased over last October, growing 4.2 percent and 12.5 percent, respectively.

Individual income tax revenues were under budget for the month by $\$ 8.3$ million. Year-to-date individual income tax receipts are $\$ 5.7$ million over budget ( +0.9 percent). Withholding accounted for the entire monthly deficit. Withholding has been struggling to meet budget since spring and is likely due to a misallocation of monthly income tax revenues between the various sources of income tax receipts.

The new revenue forecast has been adjusted to better reflect the actual flow of receipts by type (e.g. final payments, withholding, estimated payments, etc.) which has been affected by the income tax cut that became effective on January 1, 2016.

## Sales \& Use Taxes

Revenue was $\$ 838,103$ over budget for the month and $\$ 17.3$ million or 2.8 percent over budget fiscal year-to-date. Revenue was $\$ 43.7$ million or 7.4 percent over prior fiscal year-to-date collections.

## Taxable Sales

Total taxable sales for the month of October (November revenue) were 2.7 percent over October 2015. The annual rate of change, excluding utilities, was 6.7 percent. Building supply sales were down 2.2 percent for the month and up 7.3 percent for the year ending in October. Sales of taxable items in food stores were up 23.2 percent for the month and 20.9 percent for the year. General merchandise sales (primarily sales of goods sold in large department and discount stores) were up 2.9 percent for the month and 5.9 percent for the year. Sales in other retail stores such as jewelry, drug, sporting goods, book, antique, pet, photo, toy, and craft stores were up 6.0 percent for the month and 7.0 percent for the year. Auto/transportation sector sales were down 5.3 percent for the month and up 3.9 percent for the year. Sales of meals and other prepared foods were up 4.2 percent for the month and 6.2 percent for the year. Lodging sales were up 12.5 percent for the month and 9.2 percent for the year. Business operating sales (primarily use tax paid by businesses) were up 1.4 percent for the month and 0.6 percent for the year.

## Service Provider Tax

Revenue was $\$ 559,584$ under budget for the month and $\$ 1.3$ million or 4.7 percent under budget fiscal year-to-date. Revenue was $\$ 6.6$ million or 34.1 percent over prior fiscal year-to-date collections.

## Individual Income Tax

Revenue was $\$ 8.3$ million or 6.6 percent under budget for the month and $\$ 5.7$ million or 0.9 percent over budget fiscal year-to-date. Fiscal year-to-date withholding payments were 7.5 percent under fiscal year 2016. Estimated payments were up 3.7 percent and final payments were up 12.5 percent fiscal year-to-date. Revenue was $\$ 21.7$ million or 3.4 percent under prior fiscal year-to-date collections.

## Corporate Income Tax

Revenue was $\$ 947,674$ or 37.9 percent over budget for the month and $\$ 13.9$ million or 38.8 percent over budget fiscal year-to-date. Estimated payments were up 7.3 percent and final payments were down 14.1 percent fiscal year-to-date. Revenue was $\$ 28.3$ million or 132.6 percent over prior fiscal year-to-date collections.

## Cigarette \& Tobacco Taxes

Cigarette and tobacco products tax revenue was $\$ 246,538$ over budget for the month and $\$ 461,560$ or 0.7 percent under budget fiscal year-to-date. Fiscal year-to-date revenue was $\$ 1.7$ million or 2.7 percent under prior fiscal year-to-date collections.

## Insurance Companies Taxes

The Insurance Companies Taxes were $\$ 1.9$ million under budget for the month and $\$ 2.3$ million over budget fiscal year-to-date.

## Estate Tax

The estate tax was $\$ 1.9$ million over budget for the month and $\$ 912,938$ over budget fiscal year-todate.

## Transfers for Tax Relief Programs

Refunds for the Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement (BETR) and Business Equipment Tax Exemption (BETE) programs were under budget in November by $\$ 4$ million and are now $\$ 10.1$ million under budget year-to-date. The BETR program has had a slow start and refunds are expected to pick up in December, and December is the month when reimbursements for the BETE program go out to municipalities that have timely filed their reimbursement request.

## Municipal Revenue Sharing

Revenue sharing was over budget in November by $\$ 0.4$ million and on a year-to-date basis is over budget by $\$ 0.8$ million.

## Lottery

Lottery revenues were under budget for the month by $\$ 0.3$ million and are now over budget for the fiscal year by $\$ 1.4$ million.

## Other Revenues

Other Revenues were slightly under budget for the month by $\$ 0.3$ million. For the fiscal year other revenues are under budget by $\$ 1.8$ million or 21.9 percent.

## Highway Fund

Motor fuel excise tax receipts were under budget in November by $\$ 0.9$ million. The Highway Fund, as a whole, was over budget for the month by $\$ 0.3$ million ( +1.0 percent). For the first five months of FY17 motor fuel excise tax revenues are under budget by $\$ 0.85$ million and total Highway Fund receipts are over budget by $\$ 2.2$ million.

## National Economy

The Federal Open Market Committee raised interest rates during their December meeting by 25 basis points ( 0.25 percent), the first rate increase since a year ago and only the second increase since 2006. The Fed is expected to increase rates by 25 basis points at least three times during 2017 and a couple of more times over the 2018-2019 period to get to their long-term target of 3 percent. Federal fiscal policy stimulus from the new administration may give the Fed more opportunities to raise rates as inflation expectations accelerate.

## Maine Economy

The Revenue Forecasting Committee (RFC) met on November 28, 2016 to revise its March 1, 2016 revenue forecast and to develop revenue projections through the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021. General Fund revenue estimates were revised upward by $\$ 34.2$ million for FY17 but downward by $\$ 1.5$ million for FY18 and $\$ 30.1$ million for FY19 (downward by $\$ 31.6$ million for the 2018-2019 biennium). The revised forecast reduces the overall rate of growth for General Fund revenue for FY18 from 3.6 percent to 2.5 percent and for FY19 from 4.2 percent to 3.4 percent. The new projections for FY20 assume a much smaller overall growth rate of 0.6 percent, largely the result of Municipal Revenue Sharing returning to the 5 percent level under current law from the 2 percent level in place for FY16 through FY19. These most recent revisions will form the basis of revenue estimates to be included in the Governor's upcoming budget submission to the $128^{\text {th }}$ Legislature.

While the adjustments for the fiscal year 2018-2019 biennium are minimal, an unprecedented number of substantive economic and budgetary state ballot measures were enacted by voters on November 8, 2016. National election results have many experts believing there will be significant federal tax changes during the early stages of the $115^{\text {th }}$ Congress and Trump Administration. Both of these situations have created a significant degree of uncertainty to the forecast. Both the Consensus Economic Forecasting Commission and the RFC will be carefully monitoring incoming economic and revenue data over the next three months and are committed to meeting in the interim, independently or jointly, should data or events require.

RWR: mja
Attachments

cc: John McGough<br>Aaron Chadbourne<br>Grant Pennoyer<br>Chris Nolan<br>Marc Cyr<br>Amanda Rector<br>Jim Breece<br>Jerome Gerard<br>Melissa Gott

STATE OF MAINE

Comparison to Budget


NOTES: (1) Included in the above is $\$ 5,205,410$ for the month and $\$ 27,674,027$ year to date, that was set aside for Revenue Sharing with cities and towns.
(2) Figures reflect estimates of the Maine State Revenue Forecasting Committee approved in March 2016 and laws enacted through the $127^{\text {th }}$ Legislature, $2^{\text {nd }}$ Regular Session, excluding PL 2015 c. 481.
(3) This report has been prepared from preliminary month end figures and is subject to change

## STATE OF MAINE

Comparison to Prior Year

|  | Month |  |  |  | Year to Date |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Current Year | Prior Year | Variance Over/(Under) | $\begin{gathered} \text { Percent } \\ \text { Over/(Under) } \end{gathered}$ | Current Year | Prior Year | $\begin{gathered} \text { Variance } \\ \text { Over/(Under) } \end{gathered}$ | Percent Over/(Under) |
| Sales and Use Tax | 108,892,038 | 103,896,340 | 4,995,698 | 4.8\% | 636,658,056 | 592,927,957 | 43,730,099 | 7.4\% |
| Service Provider Tax | 4,859,711 | 3,853,106 | 1,006,605 | 26.1\% | 25,829,204 | 19,264,242 | 6,564,963 | 34.1\% |
| Individual Income Tax | 116,887,960 | 122,897,691 | $(6,009,731)$ | (4.9\%) | 607,911,844 | 629,599,146 | $(21,687,302)$ | (3.4\%) |
| Corporate Income Tax | $(1,552,326)$ | $(6,930,359)$ | 5,378,033 | 77.6\% | 49,553,546 | 21,299,619 | 28,253,927 | 132.6\% |
| Cigarette and Tobacco Tax | 11,920,585 | 11,333,707 | 586,878 | 5.2\% | 61,516,650 | 63,222,905 | $(1,706,255)$ | (2.7\%) |
| Insurance Companies Tax | 2,952,911 | 3,619,116 | $(666,205)$ | (18.4\%) | 15,189,773 | 12,692,531 | 2,497,242 | 19.7\% |
| Estate Tax | 3,248,241 | 1,248,946 | 1,999,295 | 160.1\% | 9,771,261 | 7,648,353 | 2,122,908 | 27.8\% |
| Fines, Forfeits \& Penalties | 1,547,802 | 1,169,502 | 378,300 | 32.3\% | 7,726,454 | 8,428,274 | $(701,820)$ | (8.3\%) |
| Income from Investments | 281,306 | 94,069 | 187,237 | 199.0\% | 1,000,240 | 376,288 | 623,952 | 165.8\% |
| Transfer from Lottery Commission | 3,893,972 | 4,410,970 | $(516,998)$ | (11.7\%) | 24,586,516 | 22,570,340 | 2,016,176 | 8.9\% |
| Transfers for Tax Relief Programs | $(3,017,735)$ | $(3,938,354)$ | 920,619 | 23.4\% | $(8,949,773)$ | $(10,719,515)$ | 1,769,742 | 16.5\% |
| Transfer to Municipal Revenue Sharing | $(5,205,410)$ | $(4,909,258)$ | $(296,152)$ | (6.0\%) | $(27,674,027)$ | $(30,014,952)$ | 2,340,925 | 7.8\% |
| Other Taxes and Fees | 9,251,342 | 8,616,876 | 634,466 | 7.4\% | 62,083,349 | 58,198,293 | 3,885,056 | 6.7\% |
| Other Revenues | 2,527,745 | 2,346,788 | 180,957 | 7.7\% | $(9,972,860)$ | $(6,999,546)$ | $(2,973,313)$ | (42.5\%) |
| Total Collected | 256,488,141 | 247,709,138 | 8,779,003 | $3.5 \%$ | 1,455,230,235 | 1,388,493,935 | 66,736,300 | $4.8 \%$ |

NOTE: This report has been prepared from preliminary month end figures and is subject to change
For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017
Comparison to Budget

|  | Month |  |  |  | Year to Date |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Actual | Budget | $\begin{gathered} \text { Variance } \\ \text { Over/(Under) } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Percent } \\ \text { Over/(Under) } \end{gathered}$ | Actual | Budget | Variance Over/(Under) | $\begin{gathered} \text { Percent } \\ \text { Over/(Under) } \end{gathered}$ | Total Budgeted Fiscal Year Ending 6-30-2017 |
| Detail of Other Taxes \& Fees |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 0100s All Others | 1,877,827 | 1,611,590 | 266,237 | 16.5\% | 20,553,732 | 20,094,893 | 458,839 | 2.3\% | 32,592,780 |
| 0300s Aeronautical Gas Tax | 23,783 | 23,599 | 184 | $0.8 \%$ | 123,408 | 122,938 | 470 | 0.4\% | 270,355 |
| 0400s Alcohol Excise Tax | 1,490,435 | 1,427,050 | 63,385 | 4.4\% | 8,976,912 | 8,472,318 | 504,594 | 6.0\% | 18,061,850 |
| 0700s Corporation Taxes | 167,071 | 132,164 | 34,907 | 26.4\% | 1,436,251 | 1,162,337 | 273,914 | 23.6\% | 9,088,649 |
| 0800s Public Utilities | 22,157 | - | 22,157 | - | 22,157 | - | 22,157 | - | 7,500,000 |
| 1000s Banking Taxes | 2,523,850 | 2,195,991 | 327,859 | 14.9\% | 11,193,050 | 10,979,955 | 213,095 | 1.9\% | 26,851,990 |
| 1100s Alcoholic Beverages | 466,186 | 409,218 | 56,968 | 13.9\% | 2,734,455 | 1,884,310 | 850,145 | 45.1\% | 4,722,838 |
| 1200s Amusements Tax | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 1300s Harness Racing Pari-mutuel | 628,382 | 681,949 | $(53,567)$ | (7.9\%) | 3,733,407 | 3,876,893 | $(143,486)$ | (3.7\%) | 8,850,013 |
| 1400s Business Taxes | 604,274 | 859,497 | $(255,223)$ | (29.7\%) | 4,275,754 | 4,023,741 | 252,013 | 6.3\% | 11,591,277 |
| 1500s Motor Vehicle Licenses | 268,127 | 234,081 | 34,046 | 14.5\% | 1,690,716 | 2,109,031 | $(418,315)$ | (19.8\%) | 4,281,202 |
| 1700s Inland Fisheries \& Wildlife | 1,089,963 | 836,974 | 252,989 | 30.2\% | 7,142,492 | 6,588,734 | 553,758 | 8.4\% | 15,878,217 |
| 1900s Other Licenses | 89,288 | 60,729 | 28,559 | 47.0\% | 201,013 | 190,755 | 10,258 | $5.4 \%$ | 402,659 |
| Total Other Taxes \& Fees | 9,251,342 | 8,472,842 | 778,500 | 9.2\% | 62,083,349 | 59,505,905 | 2,577,444 | 4.3\% | 140,091,830 |
| $\underline{\text { Detail of Other Revenues }}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2200s Federal Revenues | $(6,870)$ | 32,916 | $(39,786)$ | (120.9\%) | 81,181 | 164,583 | $(83,402)$ | (50.7\%) | 395,000 |
| 2300s County Revenues | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 2400s Revenues from Cities and Towns | - | 7,902 | $(7,902)$ | (100.0\%) | 62,073 | 66,138 | $(4,065)$ | (6.1\%) | 277,996 |
| 2500s Revenues from Private Sources | 279,338 | 160,372 | 118,966 | 74.2\% | 612,556 | 737,515 | $(124,959)$ | (16.9\%) | 1,645,000 |
| 2600s Current Service Charges | 1,915,445 | 1,828,451 | 86,994 | 4.8\% | 12,304,195 | 11,940,681 | 363,514 | 3.0\% | 25,318,692 |
| 2700s Transfers from Other Funds | 281,382 | 786,730 | $(505,348)$ | (64.2\%) | $(23,161,265)$ | $(21,133,658)$ | $(2,027,607)$ | (9.6\%) | 39,238 |
| 2800s Sales of Property \& Equipment | 58,450 | 6,333 | 52,117 | $822.9 \%$ | 128,402 | 41,534 | 86,868 | 209.1\% | 133,600 |
| Total Other Revenues | 2,527,745 | 2,822,704 | $(294,959)$ | (10.4\%) | $(9,972,860)$ | $(8,183,207)$ | $(1,789,653)$ | (21.9\%) | 27,809,526 |

NOTE: This report has been prepared from preliminary month end figures and is subject to change

STATE OF MAINE
Undedicated Revenues - General Fund
For the Fifth Month Ended November 30, 2016 and 2015
For the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2017 and 2016
Comparison to Prior Year


NOTE: This report has been prepared from preliminary month end figures and is subject to change

STATE OF MAINE

For the Fifth Month Ended November 30, 2016
For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017
Comparison to Budget

## Fuel Taxes

Motor Vehicle Registration \& Fees
Motor Vehicle Inspection Fees
Miscellaneous Taxes \& Fees
Fines, Forfeits \& Penalties
Earnings on Investments
All Other
Total Collected

| Month |  |  |  |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Actual | Budget | Variance <br> Over/(Under) | Percent <br> Over/(Under) |
| $18,526,046$ | $19,439,062$ | $(913,016)$ | $(4.7 \%)$ |
| $8,143,751$ | $6,458,782$ | $1,684,969$ | $26.1 \%$ |
| 173,544 | 328,541 | $(154,997)$ | $(47.2 \%)$ |
| 94,122 | 110,050 | $(15,928)$ | $(14.5 \%)$ |
| 60,392 | 67,812 | $(7,420)$ | $(10.9 \%)$ |
| 27,747 | 39,028 | $(11,281)$ | $(28.9 \%)$ |
| $3,639,901$ | $3,914,220$ | $(274,319)$ | $(7.0 \%)$ |
| $30,665,503$ | $30,357,495$ | 308,008 | $1.0 \%$ |


| Year to Date |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Actual | Budget | Variance Over/(Under) | Percent Over/(Under) | Total Budgeted Fiscal Year Ending 6-30-2017 |
| 100,463,396 | 101,311,219 | $(847,823)$ | (0.8\%) | 224,110,357 |
| 38,343,987 | 34,431,102 | 3,912,885 | 11.4\% | 85,984,415 |
| 1,181,990 | 1,547,707 | $(365,717)$ | (23.6\%) | 2,982,500 |
| 565,530 | 542,485 | 23,045 | $4.2 \%$ | 1,280,229 |
| 348,012 | 317,087 | 30,925 | 9.8\% | 739,039 |
| 134,931 | 195,140 | $(60,209)$ | (30.9\%) | 468,341 |
| 5,459,426 | 5,949,973 | $(490,547)$ | (8.2\%) | 9,962,600 |
| 146,497,272 | 144,294,713 | 2,202,559 | 1.5\% | 325,527,481 |

NOTE: This report has been prepared from preliminary month end figures and is subject to change.

STATE OF MAINE
For the Fifth Month Ended November 30, 2016 and 2015
For the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2017 and 2016
Comparison to Prior Year

|  | Month |  |  |  | Year to Date |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Current Year | Prior Year | Variance Over/(Under) | $\begin{gathered} \text { Percent } \\ \text { Over/(Under) } \end{gathered}$ | Current Year | Prior Year | Variance Over/(Under) | Percent Over/(Under) |
| Fuel Taxes | 18,526,046 | 19,722,664 | $(1,196,618)$ | (6.1\%) | 100,463,396 | 100,782,762 | $(319,366)$ | (0.3\%) |
| Motor Vehicle Registration \& Fees | 8,143,751 | 6,824,347 | 1,319,403 | 19.3\% | 38,343,987 | 36,079,097 | 2,264,890 | 6.3\% |
| Motor Vehicle Inspection Fees | 173,544 | 138,606 | 34,938 | 25.2\% | 1,181,990 | 1,234,148 | $(52,158)$ | (4.2\%) |
| Miscellaneous Taxes \& Fees | 94,122 | 110,215 | $(16,093)$ | (14.6\%) | 565,530 | 569,932 | $(4,402)$ | (0.8\%) |
| Fines, Forfeits \& Penalties | 60,392 | 73,006 | $(12,614)$ | (17.3\%) | 348,012 | 314,430 | 33,582 | 10.7\% |
| Earnings on Investments | 27,747 | 20,153 | 7,594 | 37.7\% | 134,931 | 80,047 | 54,884 | 68.6\% |
| All Other | 3,639,901 | 3,806,409 | $(166,508)$ | (4.4\%) | 5,459,426 | 5,784,710 | $(325,283)$ | (5.6\%) |
| Total Collected | 30,665,503 | 30,695,400 | $(29,898)$ | (0.1\%) | 146,497,272 | 144,845,125 | 1,652,148 | 1.1\% |

NOTE: This report has been prepared from preliminary month end figures and is subject to change.

Maine Revenue Services Taxable Sales by Sector In Thousands of Dollars

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  | Oct. '16 | \% Ch. | Oct. '15 | $\%$ Ch. | Oct. '14 | Average <br> Last 3 Mos. | Moving Total <br> Last 12 Mos. <br> Vs. Prior | YTD Growth <br> CY'16 vs. '15 <br> Thru. Oct. |
| Vs. Last Yr. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

