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

PHONE: 207-624-7800
FAX: 207-624-7804
TDD: 207-287-4537

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: March 24, 2017
SUBJ: Revenues - February
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February General Fund revenues were under budget by $\$ 5.8$ million or 3.6 percent. For the first eight months of fiscal year 2017, General Fund revenues are $\$ 30$ million over budget ( +1.4 percent). Compared to the same eight-month period of last fiscal year, FY17 General Fund revenues are up by 3.2 percent ( $+\$ 68.2$ million).

January taxable sales (February revenue) increased by 6.0 percent over a year ago. For the month, sales and use and service provider taxes combined were $\$ 1.6$ million over budget. Auto/transportation sales increased by 5.7 percent over last January and are up 5.6 percent year-over-year for the threemonth period. Tourism-related sales, specifically those tied to restaurants and lodging, increased over last January, growing 1.3 percent and 3.7 percent, respectively. Other retail (7.4\%), building supply (11.5\%), and business operating ( $10.5 \%$ ) were other sectors that performed well above the forecast for year-over-year growth. Recent monthly surpluses have been supported by automobile sales exceeding expectations. If year-over-year auto sales growth flattens consistent with the December 2016 revenue forecast, then we would expect sales tax receipts to be closer to budgeted amounts over the remaining months of FY17.

Individual income tax revenues were under budget in January by $\$ 8.9$ million, with withholding and refunds accounting for the monthly negative variance. Withholding underperformed for the third straight month and is 1 percent below last year for the first two months of the calendar year. We continue to monitor withholding receipts to better understand why they are running behind a year ago.

There is some evidence that March withholding has rebounded, but will not likely be enough to cover the negative variance of $\$ 18$ million through February. April revenues will provide an abundance of information on the 2016 tax year and the first third of tax year 2017.

## Sales \& Use Taxes

Revenue was $\$ 1.7$ million over budget for the month and $\$ 4.4$ million or 0.5 percent over budget fiscal year-to-date. Revenue was $\$ 57.9$ million or 6.6 percent over prior fiscal year-to-date collections.

## Taxable Sales

Total taxable sales for the month of January (February revenue) were 6.0 percent over January 2016. The annual rate of change, excluding utilities, was 6.6 percent. Building supply sales were up 11.5 percent for the month and 5.6 percent for the year ending in January. Sales of taxable items in food stores were up 5.7 percent for the month and 23.8 percent for the year. General merchandise sales (primarily sales of goods sold in large department and discount stores) were up 2.8 percent for the month and 6.2 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 7.4 percent for the month and 7.0 percent for the year. Auto/transportation sector sales were up 5.7 percent for the month and 3.2 percent for the year. Sales of meals and other prepared foods were up 1.3 percent for the month and 5.6 percent for the year. Lodging sales were up 3.7 percent for the month and 9.6 percent for the year. Business operating sales (primarily use tax paid by businesses) were up 10.5 percent for the month and 1.1 percent for the year.

## Service Provider Tax

Revenue was $\$ 126,535$ under budget for the month and $\$ 267,824$ or 0.7 percent over budget fiscal year-to-date. Revenue was $\$ 9.5$ million or 30.7 percent over prior fiscal year-to-date collections.

## Individual Income Tax

Revenue was $\$ 8.9$ million or 15.7 percent under budget for the month and $\$ 7.2$ million or 0.7 percent over budget fiscal year-to-date. Fiscal year-to-date withholding payments were 5.9 percent under fiscal year 2016. Estimated payments were down 0.1 percent and final payments were up 10.6 percent fiscal year-to-date. Revenue was $\$ 21$ million or 2.1 percent under prior fiscal year-to-date collections.

## Corporate Income Tax

Revenue was $\$ 1.2$ million or 124.6 percent over budget for the month and $\$ 9.1$ million or 12.1 percent over budget fiscal year-to-date. Estimated payments were down 5.2 percent and final payments were up 8.6 percent fiscal year-to-date. Revenue was $\$ 33.4$ million or 65.3 percent over prior fiscal year-todate collections.

## Cigarette \& Tobacco Taxes

Cigarette and tobacco products tax revenue was $\$ 2.7$ million under budget for the month and $\$ 1.7$ million or 1.8 percent under budget fiscal year-to-date. Fiscal year-to-date revenue was $\$ 2.9$ million or 3.1 percent under prior fiscal year-to-date collections.

## Insurance Companies Taxes

The Insurance Companies Taxes were $\$ 259,155$ over budget for the month and $\$ 3$ million over budget fiscal year-to-date.

## Estate Tax

The estate tax was $\$ 54,371$ over budget for the month and $\$ 1.2$ million under budget fiscal year-todate.

## Property Tax Relief Programs

Refunds for the Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement (BETR) and Business Equipment Tax Exemption (BETE) programs were under budget in February by $\$ 2.4$ million and are now $\$ 4.8$ million under budget year-to-date. Most of the variance continues to be from BETR being under budget.

## Municipal Revenue Sharing

Revenue sharing was over budget in February by $\$ 0.4$ million and is $\$ 0.5$ million over budget for the first eight months of FY17.

## Lottery

Lottery revenues were slightly under budget for the month and are now over budget for the fiscal year by $\$ 0.55$ million.

## Other Revenues

Other Revenues were on budget for the month. For the fiscal year other revenues are over budget by $\$ 2.9$ million or 40.4 percent.

## Highway Fund

Motor fuel excise tax receipts were under budget in February by $\$ 0.1$ million. The Highway Fund, as a whole, was under budget for the month by $\$ 1.4$ million ( -5.3 percent). For the first eight months of FY17 motor fuel excise tax revenues are over budget by $\$ 0.9$ million and total Highway Fund receipts are over budget by $\$ 2.2$ million.

## National Economy

Most economic reports on first quarter activity in 2017 show continued strength in the labor market and moderate growth in economic activity. Both business and consumer confidence have surged, and the stock market has reached new highs since the election based on expectations of an expansionary fiscal policy. Many economists are concerned that the stock market in particular is vulnerable to a decline if investors feel that tax cuts and infrastructure spending are not likely to occur because of Congressional inaction. A decline in the market or increased volatility could reverse the buildup in business and consumer confidence and have implications on future economic growth.

## Maine Economy

Recent economic data on the performance of the Maine economy shows that 2016 was a much better year than previously thought. Nonfarm job growth in 2016 was substantially stronger than previous estimates indicated, nearly reaching 2007 levels. The average of 6,700 jobs gained was the most since 2000. Private sector jobs reached a new all-time high. Maine saw net in-migration of 3,954 from 20152016, which ranks Maine $21^{\text {st }}$ in the nation and third in New England. Maine and New Hampshire were the only New England states with positive net domestic migration. 2015-2016 saw the strongest post-recession population growth for Maine and net in-migration was higher than any year following the 2010 decennial census.

A recent report from The PEW Charitable Trusts' indicates that most states still face budget problems for the current and upcoming fiscal years. According to the report, two-thirds of states face a budget shortfall or are forecasting a shortfall in the coming fiscal year. While the report acknowledges some states are struggling because of their dependence on oil revenues, there are many other states that are not oil dependent that face significant budget gaps in the next fiscal year. PEW notes that potential changes in Washington are also creating challenges for states. PEW recommends that states should "take a long-term view" and that "government leaders can better prepare for the next downturn if they budget for the long term."

RWR: mja

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

STATE OF MAINE
Undedicated Revenues - General Fund
For the Eighth Month Ended February 28, 2017
For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017
Comparison to Budget


NOTES: (1) Included in the above is $\$ 6,336,113$ for the month and $\$ 44,172,060$ 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 December 2016, including PL 2015 c. 481 and Initiated Bill 2015 c. 4
(3) This report has been prepared from preliminary month end figures and is subject to change.

STATE OF MAINE
Undedicated Revenues - General Fund
For the Eighth Month Ended February 28, 2017 and February 29, 2016
For the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2017 and 2016
Comparison to Prior Year

|  | Month |  |  |  | Year to Date |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Current Year | Prior Year | $\begin{gathered} \text { Variance } \\ \text { Over/(Under) } \end{gathered}$ | Percent Over/(Under) | Current Year | Prior Year | $\begin{gathered} \text { Variance } \\ \text { Over/(Under) } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Percent } \\ \text { Over/(Under) } \end{gathered}$ |
| Sales and Use Tax | 83,066,724 | 79,181,400 | 3,885,324 | 4.9\% | 940,701,980 | 882,802,237 | 57,899,743 | 6.6\% |
| Service Provider Tax | 4,573,465 | 4,135,464 | 438,001 | 10.6\% | 40,337,317 | 30,871,970 | 9,465,347 | 30.7\% |
| Individual Income Tax | 47,817,603 | 34,055,962 | 13,761,640 | 40.4\% | 985,743,402 | 1,006,714,848 | $(20,971,446)$ | (2.1\%) |
| Corporate Income Tax | 245,956 | $(377,767)$ | 623,723 | 165.1\% | 84,687,962 | 51,247,218 | 33,440,744 | 65.3\% |
| Cigarette and Tobacco Tax | 7,500,841 | 10,477,725 | $(2,976,884)$ | (28.4\%) | 91,835,923 | 94,733,938 | $(2,898,015)$ | (3.1\%) |
| Insurance Companies Tax | 1,424,854 | 1,736,282 | $(311,429)$ | (17.9\%) | 17,145,897 | 14,466,176 | 2,679,720 | 18.5\% |
| Estate Tax | 998,371 | 1,864,926 | $(866,556)$ | (46.5\%) | 11,416,706 | 16,336,071 | $(4,919,365)$ | (30.1\%) |
| Fines, Forfeits \& Penalties | 1,565,309 | 2,478,075 | $(912,766)$ | (36.8\%) | 11,801,061 | 13,823,391 | $(2,022,330)$ | (14.6\%) |
| Income from Investments | 329,765 | 129,806 | 199,959 | 154.0\% | 1,901,918 | 701,571 | 1,200,347 | 171.1\% |
| Transfer from Lottery Commission | 4,156,412 | 5,143,620 | $(987,208)$ | (19.2\%) | 37,503,551 | 40,093,844 | $(2,590,293)$ | (6.5\%) |
| Transfers for Tax Relief Programs | $(2,109,468)$ | $(4,008,052)$ | 1,898,585 | 47.4\% | $(58,239,617)$ | $(50,767,760)$ | $(7,471,857)$ | (14.7\%) |
| Transfer to Municipal Revenue Sharing | $(6,336,113)$ | $(6,254,706)$ | $(81,407)$ | (1.3\%) | $(44,172,060)$ | $(46,320,293)$ | 2,148,233 | 4.6\% |
| Other Taxes and Fees | 9,607,023 | 9,068,910 | 538,113 | 5.9\% | 91,996,235 | 86,634,102 | 5,362,133 | 6.2\% |
| Other Revenues | 2,600,001 | 1,864,386 | 735,615 | 39.5\% | $(4,271,392)$ | $(1,134,259)$ | $(3,137,134)$ | (276.6\%) |
| Total Collected | 155,440,742 | 139,496,031 | 15,944,711 | 11.4\% | 2,208,388,881 | 2,140,203,053 | 68,185,828 | $3.2 \%$ |

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

Undedicated Revenues - General Fund
For the Eighth Month Ended February 28, 2017
For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017
Comparison to Budget


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

STATE OF MAINE
Ondedicated Revenues - General Fund 28,2017 and February 29, 2016
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 Eighth Month Ended February 28, 2017
For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017
Comparison to Budget

## Fuel Taxe

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

| Month |  |  |  | Year to Date |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Actual | Budget | Variance Over/(Under) | $\begin{gathered} \text { Percent } \\ \text { Over/(Under) } \end{gathered}$ | Actual | Budget | Variance Over/(Under) | Percent Over/(Under) |
| 17,143,374 | 17,280,898 | $(137,524)$ | (0.8\%) | 155,748,686 | 154,879,845 | 868,841 | 0.6\% |
| 7,378,859 | 8,424,467 | $(1,045,608)$ | (12.4\%) | 56,993,492 | 54,680,099 | 2,313,393 | 4.2\% |
| 129,749 | 293,541 | $(163,793)$ | (55.8\%) | 2,340,357 | 2,463,332 | $(122,976)$ | (5.0\%) |
| 77,455 | 80,759 | $(3,304)$ | (4.1\%) | 884,747 | 808,439 | 76,308 | 9.4\% |
| 47,633 | 69,332 | $(21,699)$ | (31.3\%) | 513,645 | 521,650 | $(8,005)$ | (1.5\%) |
| 19,139 | 56,127 | $(36,988)$ | (65.9\%) | 202,812 | 420,483 | $(217,671)$ | (51.8\%) |
| 533,283 | 555,897 | $(22,614)$ | (4.1\%) | 6,921,546 | 7,623,569 | $(702,023)$ | (9.2\%) |
| 25,329,491 | 26,761,021 | $(1,431,530)$ | (5.3\%) | 223,605,284 | 221,397,417 | 2,207,867 | 1.0\% |


| Total Budgeted <br> Fiscal Year <br> Ending 6-30-2017 |
| ---: |
| $224,110,357$ |
| $85,984,415$ |
| $2,982,500$ |
| $1,280,229$ |
| 739,039 |
| 585,484 |
| $9,959,100$ |
| $325,641,124$ |

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

STATE OF MAINE
For the Eighth Month Ended February 28, 2017 and February 29, 2016
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 | 17,143,374 | 17,386,407 | $(243,033)$ | (1.4\%) | 155,748,686 | 152,944,278 | 2,804,408 | 1.8\% |
| Motor Vehicle Registration \& Fees | 7,378,859 | 9,131,378 | $(1,752,519)$ | (19.2\%) | 56,993,492 | 58,150,693 | $(1,157,201)$ | (2.0\%) |
| Motor Vehicle Inspection Fees | 129,749 | 177,536 | $(47,788)$ | (26.9\%) | 2,340,357 | 2,510,304 | $(169,948)$ | (6.8\%) |
| Miscellaneous Taxes \& Fees | 77,455 | 84,286 | $(6,831)$ | (8.1\%) | 884,747 | 1,108,935 | $(224,188)$ | (20.2\%) |
| Fines, Forfeits \& Penalties | 47,633 | 74,786 | $(27,153)$ | (36.3\%) | 513,645 | 517,473 | $(3,828)$ | (0.7\%) |
| Earnings on Investments | 19,139 | 15,355 | 3,783 | 24.6\% | 202,812 | 128,532 | 74,280 | 57.8\% |
| All Other | 533,283 | 395,068 | 138,215 | 35.0\% | 6,921,546 | 7,346,466 | $(424,921)$ | (5.8\%) |
| Total Collected | 25,329,491 | 27,264,816 | $(1,935,325)$ | (7.1\%) | 223,605,284 | 222,706,681 | 898,603 | 0.4\% |

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

|  | Jan. '17 | \% Ch. | Jan. '16 | \% Ch. | Jan. '15 | Average Last 3 Mos. Vs. Last Yr. \% Change | Moving Total Last 12 Mos. Vs. Prior \% Change | YTD Growth CY'17 vs. '16 Thru. Jan. \% Change |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Building Supply | \$162,483.9 | 11.5\% | \$145,758.3 | 13.2\% | \$128,772.2 | 3.0\% | 5.6\% | 11.5\% |
| Food Store | \$158,653.0 | 5.7\% | \$150,073.2 | 21.9\% | \$123,105.2 | 18.8\% | 23.8\% | 5.7\% |
| General Merchandise | \$207,832.6 | 2.8\% | \$202,100.3 | 11.0\% | \$182,108.4 | 4.1\% | 6.2\% | 2.8\% |
| Other Retail | \$152,852.4 | 7.4\% | \$142,278.9 | 7.2\% | \$132,692.8 | 5.2\% | 7.0\% | 7.4\% |
| Auto/Transportation | \$323,319.9 | 5.7\% | \$305,997.7 | 15.7\% | \$264,462.9 | 5.6\% | 3.2\% | 5.7\% |
| Restaurant | \$161,568.4 | 1.3\% | \$159,571.9 | 10.6\% | \$144,334.7 | 3.4\% | 5.6\% | 1.3\% |
| Lodging | \$20,262.5 | 3.7\% | \$19,531.2 | 12.4\% | \$17,381.2 | 4.9\% | 9.6\% | 3.7\% |
| Consumer Sales | \$1,186,972.7 | 5.5\% | \$1,125,311.5 | 13.3\% | \$992,857.4 | 6.0\% | 7.3\% | 5.5\% |
| Business Operating | \$169,802.9 | 10.5\% | \$153,608.5 | -2.6\% | \$157,761.6 | 4.2\% | 1.1\% | 10.5\% |
| Total | \$1,356,775.6 | 6.1\% | \$1,278,920.0 | 11.2\% | \$1,150,619.0 | 5.8\% | 6.6\% | 6.1\% |
| Utilities | \$119,447.6 | 4.8\% | \$113,951.3 | -7.0\% | \$122,523.5 |  |  |  |
| Total plus Utilities | \$1,476,223.2 | 6.0\% | \$1,392,871.3 | 9.4\% | \$1,273,142.5 |  |  |  |

