

FIFTY-FIRST BIENNIAL REPORT

**TAX COMMISSIONER
OF
WEST VIRGINIA**

WEST VIRGINIA

TAX LAWS

October 2015

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Part I--state Tax Department Organization.	<u>1</u>
Part II--Tax Overview.	<u>7</u>
Part III--State Taxes Collected by the State Tax Commissioner.	<u>13</u>
Beer Barrel Tax.	<u>14</u>
Business and Occupation Tax.	<u>15</u>
Business Registration Tax	<u>19</u>
Consumers Sales Tax and Use Tax.	<u>21</u>
Consumers Sales Tax.	<u>21</u>
Use Tax.	<u>29</u>
Corporation Net Income Tax.	<u>32</u>
Health Care Provider Taxes.	<u>35</u>
Broad-based Health Care Provider Tax.	<u>35</u>
Acute Care Hospital Tax.	<u>36</u>
Motor Fuel Excise Tax	<u>37</u>
Personal Income Tax	<u>42</u>
Severance Tax	<u>54</u>
Soft Drinks Tax.	<u>61</u>
Tobacco Products Excise Tax.	<u>62</u>
Part IV--Other Responsibilities Administered by the State Tax Commissioner.	<u>65</u>
Cemetery Registration Act	<u>66</u>
Charitable Bingo and Raffle Licenses	<u>68</u>
Collection Agency Act.	<u>71</u>
Consumer Credit and Protection Act.	<u>72</u>
Sparklers and Novelties Registration.	<u>73</u>
Solid Waste Assessment Fees.	<u>75</u>
Part V--Property Taxes.	<u>76</u>
Property Tax	<u>77</u>
Property Transfer Tax	<u>88</u>
Part VI--Other State Taxes and Fees.	<u>90</u>
Insurance Taxes	<u>91</u>
Liquor Taxes	<u>94</u>
Part VII--Tax Credits.	<u>96</u>
Economic Opportunity Tax Credit.	<u>97</u>
Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit.	<u>99</u>
Commercial Patent Incentives Tax Credit.	<u>100</u>
Industrial Expansion or Industrial Revitalization Credit for Electric Power Producers.	<u>100</u>

Coal-loading Facilities Credit.	<u>101</u>
West Virginia Film Industry Investment Credit.. . . .	<u>101</u>
Tourism Development Project Credit.	<u>101</u>
Tourism Development Expansion Project Credit.	<u>101</u>
Military Incentives Credit.	<u>102</u>
Natural Gas Industry Jobs Retention Credit.. . . .	<u>102</u>
Apprenticeship Training Tax Credit.	<u>102</u>
Environmental Agricultural Equipment Credit.	<u>102</u>
Credit for Reducing Utility Charges to Low-income Families.	<u>103</u>
Credit for Reducing Telephone Charges to Low-income Families.	<u>103</u>
Historic Rehabilitated Buildings Investment Credit.	<u>103</u>
Residential Historic Rehabilitated Buildings Investment Credit	<u>103</u>
Neighborhood Investment Program Credit.	<u>103</u>
Credit for Utilities with Net Operating Loss Carryovers.. . . .	<u>104</u>
Manufacturing Property Tax Adjustment Credit	<u>104</u>
Innovative Mine Safety Technology Tax Credit.	<u>104</u>
Reclamation Tax Credit.. . . .	<u>104</u>
 Part VIII--Civil Penalties.	 <u>105</u>

PART I

STATE TAX DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION

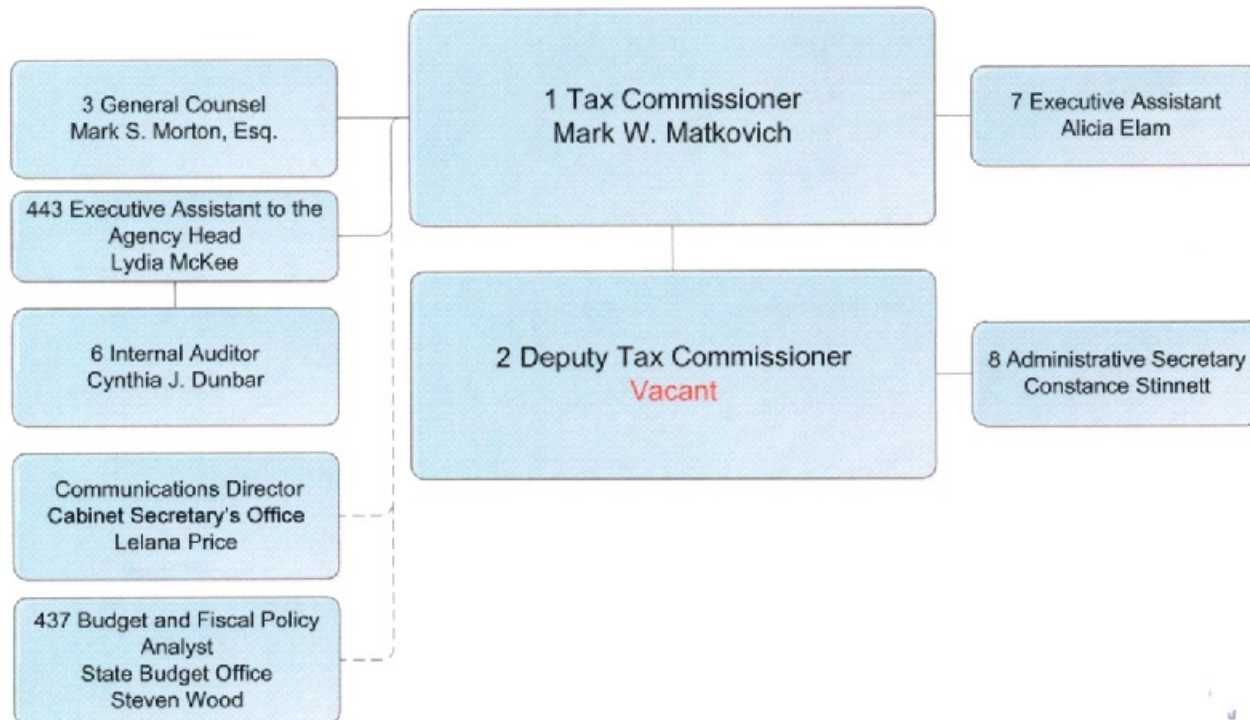
State Tax Commissioners

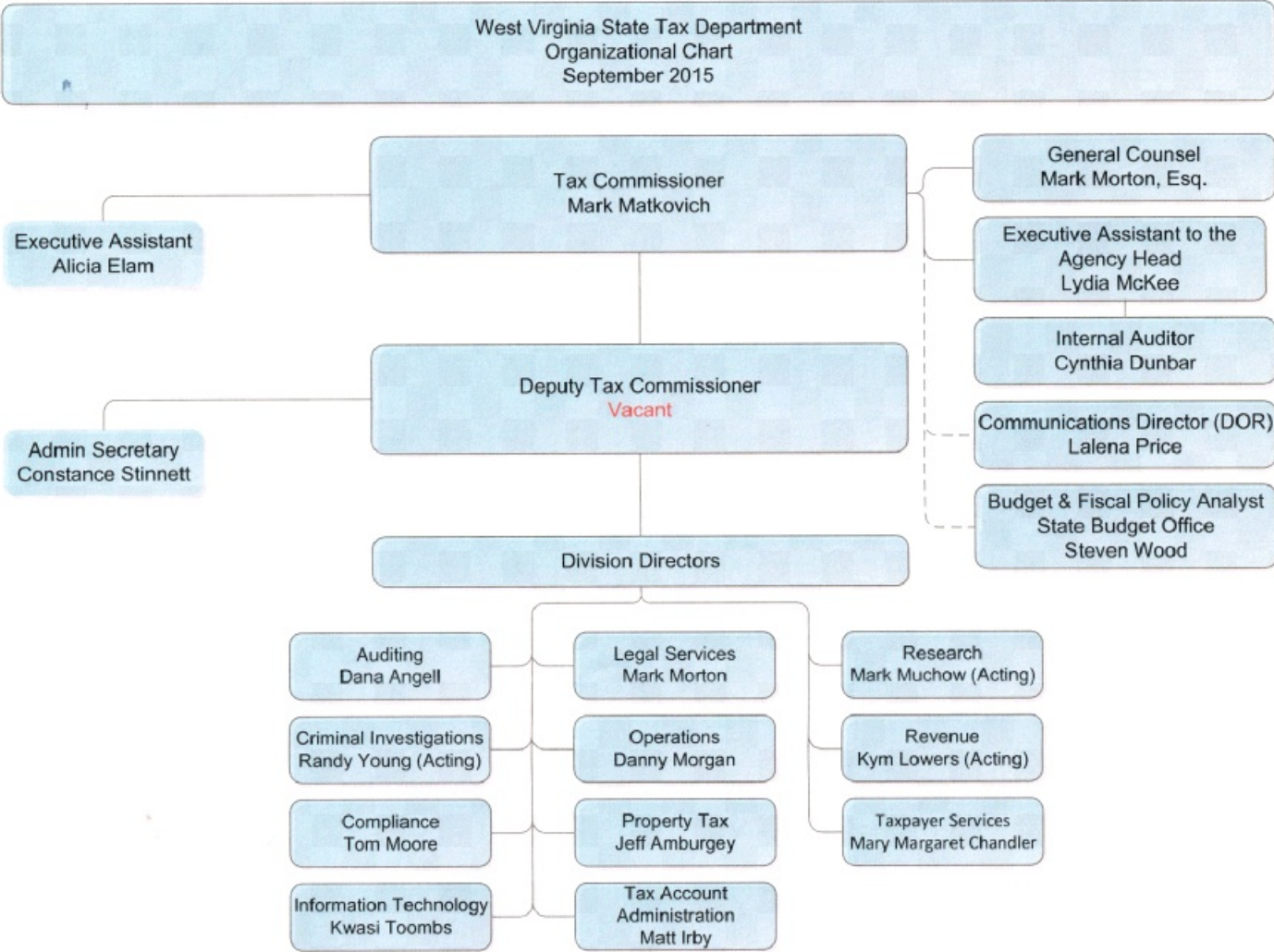
Commissioner

Dates of Service

Charles W. Dillon	November 28, 1904 to March 31, 1907
Albert B. White	April 1, 1907 to December 31, 1908
Thomas C. Townsend	January 1, 1909 to February 28, 1911
Fred O. Blue	March 1, 1911 to February 27, 1917
Walter S. Hallanan	February 28, 1917 to May 3, 1923
Grant P. Hall	May 4, 1923 to April 13, 1929
Thomas C. Townsend	April 14, 1929 to March 7, 1933
Fred L. Fox	March 8, 1933 to December 31, 1936
Ernest K. James	January 1, 1937 to March 31, 1941
Geo P. Alderson	April 1, 1941 to February 9, 1947
C. H. Koontz	February 11, 1947 to February 28, 1953
M. M. Ferguson	March 1, 1953 to July 31, 1955
William R. Laird III	August 1, 1955 to March 19, 1956
Joseph S. Soto	March 19, 1956 to March 11, 1957
John A. Field, Jr.	March 11, 1957 to August 19, 1959
Donald C. Carman	August 20, 1959 to February 28, 1961
C. Howard Hardesty, Jr.	March 1, 1961 to October 14, 1962
Thomas G. Battle	October 15, 1962 to April 14, 1968
Clifford G. Lantz	April 15, 1968 to January 31, 1969
Charles H. Haden II	February 1, 1969 to June 25, 1972
Richard L. Dailey	June 27, 1972 to January 17, 1977
Thomas R. Goodwin	January 18, 1977 to September 18, 1977
David C. Hardesty, Jr.	September 19, 1977 to December 31, 1980
Herschel H. Rose III	January 1, 1981 to November 18, 1984
John M. Farmer	November 19, 1984 to February 18, 1985
Michael E. Caryl	February 25, 1985–December 9, 1988
John Marlow, Jr. (Acting)	December 12, 1988 to December 30, 1988
Brad A. Crouser (Acting)	December 30, 1988 to January 13, 1989
Charles O. Lorensen	January 16, 1989 to July 31, 1990
Alan L. Mierke (Acting)	August 1, 1990 to February 4, 1991
L. Fred Williams	February 5, 1991 to December 13, 1991
Alan L. Mierke (Acting)	December 16, 1991 to March 16, 1992
James H. Paige III	March 17, 1992 to February 9, 1997
Robin Capehart	February 10, 1997 to April 15, 1997
Richard E. Boyle	April 16, 1997 to October 30, 1998
Joseph M. Palmer	December 7, 1998 to January 17, 2001
Ronald C. Stone (Acting)	January 18, 2001 to September 27, 2001
Rebecca Melton Craig	September 28, 2001 to August 31, 2004
Dale W. Steager (Acting)	August 31, 2004 to January 31, 2005
Virgil T. Helton	February 1, 2005 to October 15, 2007
Christopher. G. Morris	October 16, 2007 to March 28, 2010
Craig A. Griffith	March 29, 2010 to January 31, 2013
Charles O. Lorensen (Acting)	February 1, 2013 to May 14, 2013
Mark W. Matkovich (Acting)	May 15, 2013 to January 15, 2014
Mark W. Matkovich	January 16, 2014 to present

Executive Division
Organizational Chart
September 2015





PART II
TAX OVERVIEW

TAX OVERVIEW

Taxes are levied at the State, county and municipal levels in West Virginia. Counties administer and collect property taxes although property tax rates reflect levies for State government, county governments, county boards of education and municipalities. Counties may also impose a hotel occupancy tax on lodging places not located within the city limits of any municipality that levies such a tax. Municipalities may levy license and gross receipts taxes on businesses located within the city limits and a hotel occupancy tax on lodging places in the city. Additionally, a municipality may levy a sales tax if certain qualifying criteria are met. However, any local sales tax must be administered by the State Tax Commissioner.

At the State level, taxes are levied on businesses and individuals. All resident individuals and nonresident individuals with West Virginia source income are subject to West Virginia Personal Income Tax.

A business must first apply for a Business Registration Certificate to do business in West Virginia. All business registration certificates or renewals issued on or after July 1, 2010 are permanent registration certificates. If the business is incorporated, it must register with the Secretary of State and pay an annual fee. In addition, some businesses must apply for specific permits or licenses (e. g., a Contractor License through the Department of Labor).

All Corporations are subject to the Corporation Net Income Tax. Certain types of businesses are also subject to other privilege taxes. Natural resource producers must pay the Severance Tax while public utilities, electric power producers, and gas storage businesses are subject to the Business and Occupation Tax. Insurance companies must pay the Insurance Tax. Certain health care providers are subject to either the Severance & Business Privilege Tax or the Health Care Provider Tax.

Although the Consumers Sales and Service Tax and the Use Tax are paid by the consumer, businesses registered with the West Virginia State Tax Department as vendors must collect and remit these taxes to the West Virginia State Tax Department unless the consumer presents a direct pay permit or an exemption certificate issued by the Department.

Besides the taxes listed above, the State also levies excise taxes on gasoline, tobacco products, soft drinks and alcohol.

WEST VIRGINIA STATE TAX OVERVIEW

<u>Tax</u>	<u>Tax Base</u>	<u>Calendar Year 2015 Tax Rate</u>
Business Registration	Fee per business location	\$30
Corporation Net Income	Federal taxable income with modifications apportioned and allocated to WV	6.5%
Severance	Gross receipts attributable to natural resource production	Various rate--coal 0.00%--timber 5.00%--oil, gas, coalbed methane
Additional Severance	Natural resource production	56¢ per ton--coal 4.7¢ per MCF--natural gas and coalbed methane 2.78%--timber
Business and Occupation	Gross receipts or units of activity: Public utility services Street and Interurban Electric Railways Natural gas storage Electric power production	4.40%--water 4.29%--natural gas 2.86%--other 1.40% \$0.05 per net dekatherm Generally capped at the average tax for the 1991-1994 period
Health Care Provider	Gross receipts	1.75% - 5.50%
Acute Care Hospital	Gross receipts	0.72%

Tax Overview

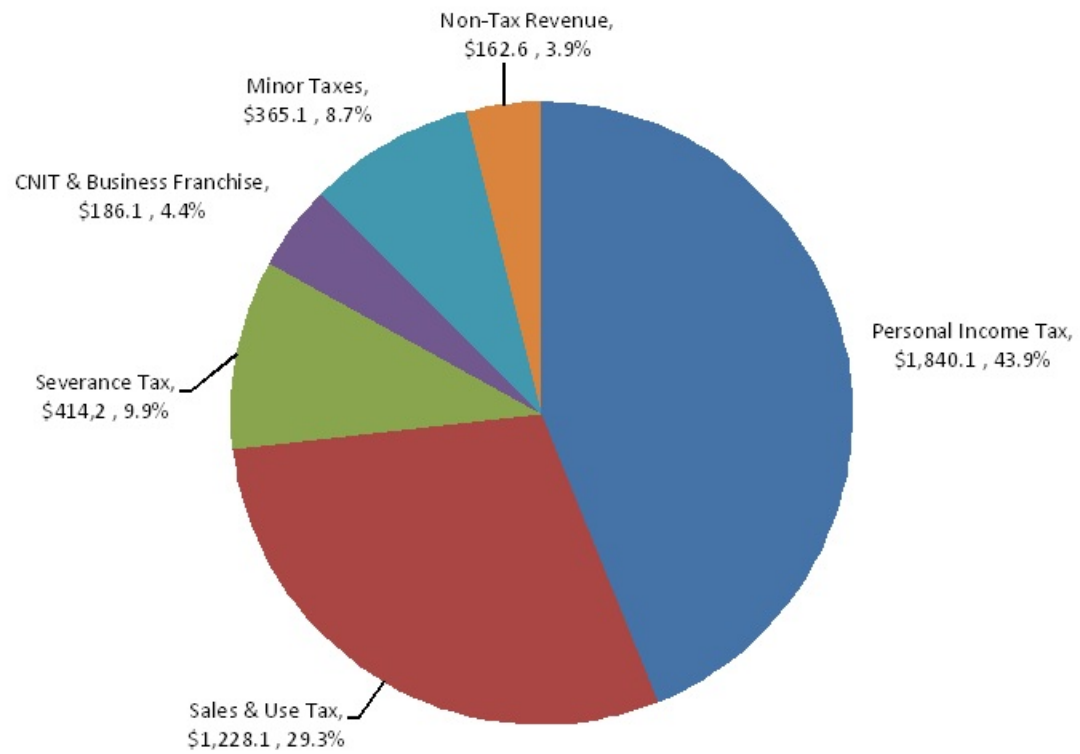
<u>Tax</u>	<u>Tax Base</u>	Calendar Year 2015 <u>Tax Rate</u>
Insurance	Gross premiums	3%- 5.5%
Consumers Sales & Use	Sales of tangible personal property and certain services	6%
Local Sales & Use ¹	Same as State	Up to 1% (in addition to State rate)
Personal Income	Federal adjusted gross income with WV adjustments	3% - 6.5% graduated
Motor Fuel Excise	Gallon	20.5 cents per gallon
Motor Fuel Sales	5% of average wholesale price	14.1 cents per gallon
Beer	Barrel	\$5.50 per barrel
Cigarette	Pack of 20	55 cents per pack
Other Tobacco Products	Gross invoice price	7%
Soft Drinks	Half-liter	1 cent
Wine Liter	Liter	\$.26406 per liter

¹ Currently 16 municipalities impose a local sales and use tax.

**GENERAL REVENUE FUND SOURCES
FISCAL YEAR 2015**

Revenue Source	Collections	Percent of Total
Major Taxes		
Personal Income Tax	\$1,840,056,422	43.85%
Sales and Use Tax	1,228,221,103	29.27%
Severance Tax	414,172,499	9.87%
Corporation Net Income & Business Franchise Taxes	186,101,080	4.43%
Total Major Taxes	3,668,551,104	87.42%
Minor Taxes		
Business and Occupation Tax	120,521,715	
Insurance Tax	116,162,598	
Tobacco Products Excise Tax	102,163,206	
Property Transfer Tax	11,041,554	
Beer Tax and Licenses	7,773,253	
Property Tax	6,678,574	
Business Registration Tax	746,924	
Charter Tax	43,149	
Total Minor Taxes	365,130,973	8.70%
Other Non-Tax Revenue		
Liquor Profits	18,361,384	
Racing Fees	0	
Departmental Collections	18,223,108	
Interest Income	2,342,693	
Lottery Transfers	92,600,000	
Refundable Credit Reimbursement	10,000,000	
Liquor License Renewal	451,328	
Miscellaneous	20,649,087	
Total Other Non-Tax Revenue	162,627,600	3.88%
Total	\$4,196,309,677	

General Revenue Fund Sources Fiscal Year 2015 (Millions of Dollars)



**Selected West Virginia Tax Sources
Administered by the State Tax Commissioner
Fiscal Years 2000 to 2015**

	Personal Income Tax	State Sales & Use Tax	Severance Tax	Corporation Net Income & Business Franchise Taxes	B&O	Tobacco Taxes	Total
2015	\$1,932,456,422	\$1,288,721,103	\$562,876,424	\$190,401,080	\$120,521,715	\$102,163,206	\$4,197,139,950
2014	1,770,466,171	1,221,981,551	621,145,508	207,808,473	120,142,546	101,779,776	4,043,324,025
2013	1,795,947,272	1,255,369,626	528,239,697	242,429,821	127,111,826	107,021,658	4,056,119,900
2012	1,784,363,133	1,277,328,113	585,701,352	192,385,447	121,031,382	109,609,465	4,070,418,892
2011	1,688,568,829	1,210,253,342	558,502,784	307,277,776	127,591,014	110,760,444	4,002,954,189
2010	1,542,252,095	1,156,522,173	516,734,971	236,159,163	133,386,079	114,128,347	3,699,182,828
2009	1,652,803,317	1,170,553,246	510,433,270	287,537,027	150,292,700	115,094,599	3,886,714,159
2008	1,614,146,238	1,164,889,725	487,827,992	400,167,410	150,822,471	114,668,779	3,932,522,615
2007	1,413,911,071	1,167,139,564	447,155,165	368,388,437	180,748,060	111,392,726	3,688,735,023
2006	1,344,720,394	1,161,231,652	383,050,307	347,569,611	185,456,897	112,027,627	3,534,056,488
2005	1,171,987,478	1,095,339,835	275,687,402	280,788,003	182,460,781	102,824,768	3,109,088,267
2004	1,074,912,080	1,051,461,638	211,724,610	181,515,211	177,395,094	107,608,566	2,804,617,199
2003	1,060,522,753	1,008,337,161	188,952,296	181,178,243	178,415,433	49,689,480	2,667,095,366
2002	1,038,431,204	990,518,918	193,688,325	220,158,497	173,712,450	34,436,409	2,650,945,803
2001	1,020,689,767	955,681,158	190,536,592	214,296,629	177,362,771	31,838,476	2,590,405,393
2000	972,345,790	942,262,361	175,710,993	217,793,467	167,994,888	32,344,669	2,508,452,168

PART III

***STATE TAXES
COLLECTED BY
THE STATE TAX COMMISSIONER***

BEER BARREL TAX

The West Virginia Beer Barrel Tax (West Virginia Code, Chapter 11, Article 16) is an excise tax levied upon the in-state sale, use, handling or distribution of nonintoxicating beer whether manufactured within or outside West Virginia. The tax was originally levied in 1933 at a rate of \$1.00 for each barrel of beer whether sold in barrels or other containers. The tax rate was increased to \$1.375 per barrel in 1937 and to \$2.75 per barrel in 1947. In 1951, in order to aid in the payment of veterans' bonus bonds, the tax was raised to \$5.50 per barrel, and license fees and bonding requirements were added to the statute. In 1966, the Legislature repealed the dedication of the tax to the veterans' bonus bonds but kept the rate at \$5.50 per barrel.

Caterers and party supply stores are included in the same category as retail grocery stores with respect to the sale of nonintoxicating beer.

Every applicant for a license must also post a bond. The amount of the bond shall be set by the Alcohol Beverage Control Commissioner.

Tax Rates

The tax is levied at a rate of \$5.50 on each barrel of thirty-one gallons and, in like ratios, on each part barrel manufactured or sold within the State.

The term "nonintoxicating beer" refers to products of the brewing industry. These products include all cereal malt beverages, beer, lager beer, ale, malt coolers, and other similar items. The maximum amount of alcohol allowed in "nonintoxicating beer" is 9.6 percent by weight and 12 percent by volume, whichever is greater.

Comparison with Other States

The tax rates listed on this chart are the excise tax rates in effect on January 1, 2015. In all of the states listed except Maryland, sales of beer are also subject to the state's sales tax. In Maryland, unlike sales of other types of tangible personal property and taxable services that are taxed at a 6% rate, the sales and use tax is imposed at a 9% rate on the taxable price of alcoholic beverages.

Revenue from Beer Barrel Tax and Licenses Fiscal Year 2011 to 2015	
Fiscal Year	Collections
2011	\$8,478,815
2012	\$8,416,390
2013	\$8,414,729
2014	\$8,301,702
2015	\$7,773,253

Taxpayers

Every individual who manufactures, distributes or sells beer products within West Virginia must first obtain an annual license to conduct these activities. The license period starts on July 1 of each year and ends on June 30 of the following year. The following license fees apply:

Place of Business	Annual License Fee
Manufacturer (brewer) of Beer	\$1,500
Distributor of Beer	1,000
Brewpub	1,000
Fairs and Festivals	250
Retailers	150
Social, Fraternal and Private Clubs, Not Operating for Profit	150
Railroad Cars	10

Comparison of Beer Tax Rates (per gallon) January 2015	
State	Tax Rate
Kentucky	\$.08
Maryland	\$.09
Ohio	\$.18
Pennsylvania	\$.08
Virginia	\$.26
West Virginia	\$.18

BUSINESS AND OCCUPATION TAX

The West Virginia Business and Occupation (West Virginia Code, Chapter 13) was first enacted in 1921. The original Business and Occupation Tax applied to all persons, corporations, partnerships and associations doing business in West Virginia. Over the years, this statute has often been amended.

Enactment of the "Tax Reform Act of 1985" altered the scope of the Business and Occupation Tax to a tax on public utilities and electric power producers only, effective July 1, 1987. As of 1989, natural gas storage facility operators are subject to a per unit tax under the Business and Occupation Tax statutes. Additionally, legislation in 1989 provided that electric power producers and distributors would be subject to the greater of the gross sales tax or a per unit tax on kilowatt-hours of electricity generated or distributed. Beginning in June 1995, electric power producers whose tax liability for every month in 1994 was based on kilowatt-hours of electricity generated were to determine their tax liability based upon "taxable generating capacity." The legislation enacted in 1995 defined "taxable generating capacity" as the "capacity factor" times the official capability of a generating unit. "Capacity factor" was defined as the fraction of the average four-year generation for the 1991 to 1994 period divided by the "maximum possible annual generation" of a unit. The official capability of a unit times 8,760 (the number of hours in a year) was defined as the "maximum possible annual generation." In 2001, the Business and Occupation Tax statute was revised to subject the manufacturing or production of synthetic fuel from coal to a tax at a rate of \$0.50 per ton.

During fiscal year 2015, total collections for State Severance Taxes were roughly \$120.5 million.

Taxpayers

The Business and Occupation Tax applies only to public utilities, electric power producers, gas storage businesses, and producers of synthetic fuel from coal.

Tax Rates

The following chart shows the tax rates as of July 1, 2015.

Business and Occupation Tax Revenue (in millions) Fiscal Year 2011 to 2015	
Fiscal Year	General Revenue Fund
2011	\$127.6
2012	\$121.0
2013	\$127.1
2014	\$120.1
2015	\$120.5

BUSINESS AND OCCUPATION TAX RATES

<u>Taxpayer Type</u>	<u>Activity and West Virginia Code Citation</u>	<u>Tax Base</u>	<u>Tax Rate</u>
Electric power company	Generating or producing electricity for sale, profit or commercial use (§11-13-2o(b)(1))	Generating capacity	\$22.78 per KW ¹
Electric power company	Generating or producing electricity for sale, profit or commercial use by a unit which has installed a flue gas desulfurization system (§11-13-2o(b)(1))	Generating capacity	\$20.70 per KW ¹
Electric power company	Selling electricity that is not generated or produced in West Virginia by the taxpayer (§11-13-2o(b)(2))	Electricity sold	\$0.0019 per KWH ²
Electric power company	Selling electricity that is not generated or produced in West Virginia by the taxpayer and sale is to a plant location of a customer engaged in a manufacturing activity, if the contract demand at such plant location exceeds 200,000 kilowatts per hour per year (§11-13-2o(b)(2))	Electricity sold	\$0.0005 per KWH ²

1. Kilowatt

2. Killowatt-hour

BUSINESS AND OCCUPATION TAX RATES (continued)

<u>Taxpayer Type</u>	<u>Activity and West Virginia Code Citation</u>	<u>Tax Base</u>	<u>Tax Rate</u>
Natural gas storage operator	Withdrawal and/or injection of natural gas from/into storage reservoirs (11-13-2e)	Net Dekatherms (maximum base = 1990-1994 average)	\$0.05 per dekatherm
Natural gas utility	Public service or utility business (§11-13-2d(a)(4))	Gross income	4.29 percent
Water utility	Public service or utility business (§11-13-2d(a)(2))	Gross income	4.40 percent
Street and interurban and electric railways	Public service or utility business (§11-13-2d(a)(1))	Gross income	1.40 percent
Toll bridge companies	Public service or utility business (§11-13-2d(a)(5))	Gross income	4.29 percent
All other public service or utility business	Public service or utility business (§11-13-2d(a)(6))	Gross income	2.86 percent
Manufacturer or producer of synthetic fuel from coal	Producing synthetic fuel from coal (§11-13-2f)	Tons produced	\$0.50 per ton

Exemptions

Nonprofit water and sewer companies governed by the West Virginia Public Service Commission that are organized and operated for the exclusive benefit of their members are exempt from the Business and Occupation Tax. In addition, gross income of a nonprofit homeowners' association received from assessment on its members for community services, such as road maintenance, common area maintenance, water service, sewage service, and security service, is exempt from Business and Occupation Tax. Sales of natural gas are exempt if separately metered and used by the purchaser to derive hydrogen and carbon monoxide for use in the manufacture of chemicals in West Virginia.

Special Taxable Generating Capacity

If a new generating unit, other than a peaking unit is placed into service after March 10, 1995, that unit's taxable generating capacity equals 40 percent of its nameplate capacity. If a peaking unit is placed in service after March 10, 1995, that unit's taxable generating capacity equals 5 percent of its nameplate capacity. A peaking unit is a unit designed for the limited purpose of meeting peak demands for electricity or filling emergency electricity requirements. The taxable generating capacity of a wind-power generating unit is equal to 12 percent of the official capability of the unit, except for county-owned units.

Credits Against Tax Liability

An annual tax credit of \$500 is provided for each business engaged in activities in this State that are subject to the Business and Occupation Tax. The West Virginia Code provides for a variety of other tax credits that may be applied against Business and Occupation Tax liability in some cases. These include the Economic Opportunity Tax Credit, the Industrial Expansion or Revitalization Credit for Electric Power Producers, the Natural Gas Industry Jobs Retention Credit, and the Credit for Reducing Utility Charges to Low-Income Families. Explanations of these credits may be found in the Tax Credits section.

Disposition of Revenue

All revenue from the Business and Occupation Tax is deposited into the General Revenue Fund.

BUSINESS REGISTRATION TAX

The West Virginia Business Registration Tax (West Virginia Code, Chapter 11, Article 12) was first enacted in 1863. From 1863 to 1969, the tax was known as the General License Tax. From 1970 to 1986, the tax was entitled the Business Franchise Registration Tax. Since July 1, 1971, Business Registration Tax collections are deposited into the State General Revenue Fund. Prior to that, the collections were used to fund free schools in the State and deposited to the general school fund.

Business Registration Tax Revenue Fiscal Year 2011 to 2015	
Fiscal Year	Collections
2011	\$2,239,181
2012	\$1,192,959
2013	\$692,394
2014	\$697,842
2015	\$746,924

The Business Registration Certificate is a permit to conduct business in the State and must be displayed at all times at the place of business. Contractors must also have a copy of their Business Registration Certificate available at each of their construction sites until the work at that site is completed. Businesses that sell tangible personal property or services from or out of one or more vehicles must carry a copy of their Business Registration Certificate in each vehicle and publicly display it while business is conducted from or out of the vehicle.

Taxpayers

Persons or corporations intending to do business in West Virginia, including individuals who are self-employed, must first apply for a Business Registration Certificate. The Business Registration Tax is important, not because of the revenue it produces directly, but because registration for this tax requires the taxpayer to describe his business so that the West Virginia State Tax Department can correctly identify the various taxes the business is subject to or that the business must collect and remit to the State. Once a Business Registration Certificate is issued,

the taxpayer will receive all tax forms and information necessary to pay State taxes before the due dates.

Churches and nonprofit organizations are not considered to be "businesses" or engaged in business or subject to any other tax laws by the mere completion of an application for a Business Registration Certificate.

Fee

There is a one-time fee for obtaining a Business Registration Certificate of \$30. A separate certificate is required for each fixed business location from which property or services are offered for sale or lease or at which customer accounts may be opened, closed or serviced. Additionally, any registered dba must likewise obtain a separate certificate.

Organizations Not Required to Register

Persons engaged in the following activities are not required to register if they engage solely in these activities:

1. judicial sales directed by law or court order,
2. sales for delinquent taxes on real or personal property,
3. the conduct of a charitable bingo occasion licensed under West Virginia Code §47-20 or a charitable raffle licensed under West Virginia Code §47-21,
4. the conduct of a horse or dog race meeting by any racing association licensed under West Virginia Code §19-23,
5. the operation or maintenance of the pari-mutuel system of wagering during the conduct of a licensed horse or dog race meeting,
6. the sale of any commodity during the conduct of a licensed horse or dog race meeting,
7. the services of owners, trainers, or jockeys which are essential to the effective conduct of a licensed horse or dog race meeting, or
8. occasional or casual sales of property or services by persons not engaged in a business activity.

In addition, any person engaging in a business activity who

1. is not required by law to collect any tax or withhold a tax, and

Business Registration Tax

2. does not claim exemption from payment of the West Virginia Consumers Sales and Service Tax or Use Tax, and
3. had gross income from business activity of \$4,000 or less from operations in all states during the income tax year most recently completed

is not required to obtain a Business Registration Certificate. In order to claim this exemption, all three conditions must be met.

Organizations Not Required to Pay

Although any person who is engaging in any business activity in this State is required to obtain a Business Registration Certificate, not all persons are required to pay the \$30 fee. The following are exempt from the \$30 fee:

1. a nonprofit organization that qualifies, or would qualify, for exemption from federal income taxes under section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended,
2. this State, or a political subdivision thereof, selling tangible personal property, admissions or services when those activities compete with or may compete with the activities of another person,
3. the United States, or any agency or instrumentality thereof, which is exempt from taxation by the states,
4. any person engaged in the business of agriculture or farming,
5. a foreign retailer, who is not engaging in business in this State, who volunteers to collect and remit Use Tax on sales to West Virginia customers,
6. an out-of-state company that does not have nexus in West Virginia and employs a West Virginia resident (the company must register for a 'withholding only' account), and
7. a West Virginia private household employing domestic help (taxpayer must register for a 'withholding only' account).

Special Filing Requirements

Some businesses must register with other State agencies, which may levy additional taxes or fees. The following is a list of types of businesses that must meet special registration requirements before the West Virginia

State Tax Department can issue a Business Registration Certificate.

1. Corporations, limited partnerships, limited liability companies, and voluntary associations must first register with the West Virginia Secretary of State.
2. Collection agencies must file an approved surety bond of \$5,000 with the West Virginia State Tax Department for each West Virginia location.
3. Employment agencies must first obtain a letter of approval from the Division of Labor of the West Virginia Department of Commerce.
4. Transient vendors must, in addition to filing the Application for Registration Certificate and paying the \$30 fee, file an Application for Transient Vendor's License and post a \$500 bond with the West Virginia State Tax Department.
5. Businesses selling drug paraphernalia must obtain a special Drug Paraphernalia License from the West Virginia State Tax Department. The cost of the license is \$150 for each location. In addition, Drug Paraphernalia Affidavits must be completed for each employee that will be selling drug paraphernalia.
6. All contractors must obtain a contractor's license from the Division of Labor of the West Virginia Department of Commerce.
7. Nonresident contractors must also register with the West Virginia State Tax Department under the Consumers Sales and Use Tax laws prior to engaging in the performance of a contract in West Virginia and must file a cash bond or corporation surety bond for each contract or an Umbrella Corporate Surety Bond.
8. Telemarketers must file an approved bond of \$100,000.

Disposition of Revenue

All revenue from the Business Registration Tax is deposited into the General Revenue Fund for fiscal years beginning on July 1, 1971 or after. Prior to that, revenue from this tax was used to fund schools in the State and deposited in the General School Fund.

CONSUMERS SALES TAX AND USE TAX

The West Virginia Consumers Sales and Service Tax (West Virginia Code, Chapter 11, Articles 15 and, 15A) was first enacted in 1933, and the complementary Use Tax (West Virginia Code, Chapter 11, Articles 15B) was enacted in 1951. The Consumers Sales and Service Tax Act has been amended several times. Over the years, the rates, exemptions, and credits have changed.

The Consumers Sales and Service Tax and Use Tax is the State's second largest source of revenue. During fiscal year 2015, total collections were roughly \$1.3 billion. Of that amount, \$1.2 billion was deposited in the State General Revenue Fund, representing 29.3 percent of the total revenue in that fund.

Consumers Sales and Service Tax and Use Tax Revenue (in millions) Fiscal Year 2011 to 2015				
Fiscal Year	General Revenue Fund	Special Revenue	Sales Tax Increment Financing	Total Receipts
2011	\$1,148.2	\$47.8	\$14.2	\$1,210.3
2012	\$1,216.0	\$46.7	\$14.6	\$1,277.3
2013	\$1,193.3	\$45.1	\$17.0	\$1,255.4
2014	\$1,173.1	\$33.7	\$15.2	\$1,222.0
2015	\$1,228.2	\$45.6	\$14.9	\$1,288.7

CONSUMERS SALES TAX

Taxpayers

Consumers Sales Tax is to be paid by the ultimate consumer; retailers engaging in business in West Virginia collect the tax and remit their collections to the West Virginia State Tax Department. The definition of "retailer engaging in business" includes those entities that are subsidiaries of, related to or unitary with a retailer that

1. maintains an office, distribution house, sales house, warehouse or other place of business in West Virginia, or
2. directly, or by agent or representative, performs services in West Virginia in connection with tangible personal property or services sold by the retailer, or
3. by agent or representative, solicits business in West Virginia for or on behalf of the

retailer or any related entity, related member or part of the unitary business.

The retailer collects the tax due from the purchaser at the time of sale unless the purchaser presents the retailer with a properly executed exemption certificate or a direct pay permit number. The tax collected is remitted to the West Virginia State Tax Department.

Only one collection of Consumers Sales Tax should occur from production to ultimate consumption for any consumer good or service. Any seller who fails to collect the Consumers Sales Tax must pay the tax himself unless the sale is exempt or the seller receives a direct pay permit number for the purchase. Exempt sales are of three main types:

1. exemption because of the nature of the buyer to whom the sale is made;
2. exemption because of the nature of the article sold, and
3. exemption because of the nature of the sale.

Tax Base

The tax is imposed on the sale or lease of tangible personal property and the furnishing of certain services. Services rendered by an employee to his employer, services subject to regulation by the West Virginia Public Service Commission and professional and personal services are exempt from Consumers Sales Tax. Most rentals, excluding those of real estate, are taxable as though they were sales. The tax is also imposed on persons producing for sale, profit or commercial use any natural resource or manufacturing product who also use or consume that product in a contracting activity. Purchases of prepaid wireless calling services, such as wireless airtime cards, prepaid cellular phone cards, prepaid cellular rechargeable minute cards and prepaid wireless ring tone download cards, are subject to the Consumers Sales Tax.

All motor vehicle sales to West Virginia residents are subject to a special motor vehicle sales tax in lieu of the Consumers Sales and Service Tax, but at a lower rate of 5.0 percent of the sale price of the vehicle, not including the value of vehicle(s) exchanged in the transaction. The tax applies to all motor vehicles, regardless of whether purchased in or outside of West Virginia. The Division of Motor Vehicles is required to collect the tax, and the revenue from the tax is dedicated to the State Road Fund.

Consumers Sales Tax and Use Tax

A credit is allowed for new residents for sales tax paid on motor vehicles in other states at the time of registration.

Rates

The State tax rate on the sale or lease of tangible personal property and the furnishing of certain services is levied at a rate of 6.0 percent. Municipalities may impose an alternative municipal sales and service tax at a rate not to exceed 1.0 percent. As of July 1, 2015, the following municipalities imposed a municipal sales tax of 1 percent:

Bolivar	Quinwood
Charleston	Parkersburg
Charles Town	Ranson
Harrisville	Rupert
Huntington	Thomas
Martinsburg	Vienna
Milton	Wheeling
Nitro	Williamstown

The State Tax Commissioner is responsible for collecting, enforcing and administering municipal sales and service tax and municipal use tax in the same manner as the State Consumers Sales and Service Tax and the State Use Tax.

Exemptions

Exempt sales are of three main types:

1. exemption because of the nature of the buyer to whom the sale is made;
2. exemption because of the nature of the article sold, and
3. exemption because of the nature of the sale.

There are several distinct methods by which the exemptions must be claimed. Based on the method by which the exemption must be claimed, exemptions are categorized into three classifications: per se exemptions, exemptions for which exemption certificates are required, and refundable exemptions.

"Per se" exemptions are those for which no separate exemption document is required as proof of the exempt status. The following sales and services are exempt "per se" from Consumers Sales Tax:

1. Advertising--sales of radio and television broadcasting time, preprinted circulars and outdoor advertising space, and newspaper

- and magazine advertising space for the advertisement of goods and services;
2. Artistic Services or Performances--the charges to the owner or operator of an entertainment facility for the artistic performances of an entertainer or performing artist pursuant to a contract if the contract amount does not exceed \$3,000;
3. Burial Charges--charges for the services of opening and closing burial lots;
4. Child Care Services--charges for babysitting services provided by individuals who babysit for profit if the gross income of the individual from babysitting services does not exceed \$5,000 in a taxable year (all charges or fees over the \$5,000 limit are taxable);
5. Clothing Sold by Tax-Exempt Organizations--sales of clothing and clothing accessories by organizations that are exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) or (c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, if the proceeds from such sales are used for exempt purposes, the clothing was donated or acquired without cost, and the annual revenue from the sales is less than \$40,000;
6. Clothing Vouchers--purchases made with the clothing vouchers issued by West Virginia Department of Health & Human Resources for low-income school-aged children;
7. College Room and Board--sales of room and board by public or private colleges or universities if the sale is for more than thirty consecutive days and is on a contract basis to students enrolled at the school;
8. Contracting--the construction, alteration, repair, improvement or decoration of real property when the work done results in a "capital improvement" to the real property (all other construction activities are subject to the tax unless otherwise exempt);
9. Day Care Centers--sales and services performed by licensed day care centers;
10. Digital Goods--sales of goods that are electronically transferred, such as digital audio or digital books;

Consumers Sales Tax and Use Tax

11. Educational Summer Camp Tuition--tuition charged for attending educational summer camps (sales of tangible personal property or food by the camps are taxable);
12. Employees--services provided by an employee to his or her employer if the services are within the scope of the employment contract;
13. Environmental Testing Services--the service of providing technical evaluations for compliance with federal and State environmental standards by environmental and industrial consultants who are certified by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection or the West Virginia Bureau of Health;
14. Farm Products--sales of livestock, poultry and other farm products in their original state by producers of those products or members of their immediate family when the producer is not otherwise engaged in making retail sales;
15. Federal and State Law--sales to or sales by certain organizations, including federal or state chartered credit unions, regional transit authorities, county ambulance authorities and nonprofit health care corporations;
16. Flags--sales of regulation size United States and West Virginia flags for display;
17. Food for Home Consumption--sales, purchases and uses of food and food ingredients intended for human consumption, not including sales, purchases and uses by consumers of prepared food, food sold through vending machines and soft drinks;
18. Food Stamps--sales of food lawfully purchased with federal food stamps or with drafts issued by the West Virginia special supplemental food program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC);
19. Fraternities and Sororities--charges of room and meals by fraternities or sororities to their members;
20. Fundraising Sales--fundraising sales by
 - a. churches,
 - b. elementary and secondary schools,
 - c. organizations that receive more than half their support from gifts, grants, direct or indirect charitable contributions or membership fees,
- d. organizations that have no paid employees and whose gross income from fundraising is donated to an organization that is exempt from federal income taxes under section 501(c)(3) or (c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code, and
- e. youth organizations, such as the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts or YMCA Indian Guide/Princess Program, which are operated exclusively for charitable purposes and whose primary purpose is character development and citizenship training for its members if the organization has a current Business Registration Certificate and the organization is exempt from federal income taxes under sections 501(c)(3) or (c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code and these fundraising events are limited to six events per year and each event lasts no more than eighty-four hours;
21. Governmental Services and Materials--sales of governmental services or governmental materials by county assessors, county sheriffs, county clerks, or circuit clerks in the normal course of local governmental operations;
22. Health and Fitness Organizations--sales of membership or services provided by health and fitness organizations for personalized fitness programs;
23. Intangible Property--sales of intangibles, such as copyrights, royalties, notes and bonds;
24. Isolated Transactions--sales of tangible personal property or taxable services by persons who are not in the business of making such sales, such as individuals selling their used furniture, if the person or business holding the sale holds no more than four in one year and each sale lasts no more than forty-eight hours, and sales of taxable services by persons who are not routinely engaged in the business of providing taxable services, such as teenagers who occasionally mow lawns, babysit or do odd jobs (persons who

- routinely sell odd items at yard sales, flea markets or along the roadside are engaged in the business of selling and must register with the West Virginia State Tax Department as a business);
25. Libraries--sales of services by public libraries, libraries at academic institutions, or libraries at institutions of higher learning;
 26. Livestock--sales of livestock sold at public sales sponsored by the breeder's or registry associations or at livestock auction markets;
 27. Lodging Franchise Fees--lodging franchise fees, including royalties, marketing fees, reservation system fees or other fees that may have been imposed by a lodging franchiser as a condition of the franchise agreement;
 28. Lottery Tickets--sales of West Virginia lottery tickets and materials by authorized lottery retailers;
 29. Magazines Sold by State Agencies--direct or subscription sales by the Division of Natural Resources of Wonderful West Virginia magazine and by the Division of Culture and History of Goldenseal magazine and the West Virginia History journal;
 30. Manufacturer's Representatives--commissions received by a manufacturer's representative;
 31. Membership Organizations--charges to a member by a membership organization that is exempt from paying federal income taxes under sections 501(c)(3) or (c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code for
 - a. membership in the association or organization,
 - b. newsletters prepared by the association or organization primarily for distribution to members,
 - c. continuing education seminars, workshops, conventions, lectures or courses put on or sponsored by the association or organization, including charges for related course materials prepared by the association or organization or by the speaker for use during the continuing education seminar, workshop, convention, lecture or course, not including separate charges for meals, lodging, entertainment or transportation;
 32. Mortgage Brokers--brokerage fees, additional charges and finance charges imposed by licensed mortgage brokers, lenders and loan originators;
 33. Music Instructional Services--sales of music instructional services by a music teacher;
 34. Newspapers--sales of newspapers when delivered to consumers by route carriers (other newspaper sales are taxable);
 35. Nonprofit organizations--sales of otherwise taxable services by 501(c)(3) organizations if the organization meets the following criteria:
 - a. the corporation or organization must be organized and operated primarily for charitable or educational purposes,
 - b. the activities and programs of the organization must contribute to promoting the general welfare of youth, families and the aged, improving health or fitness and providing recreational opportunities to the public,
 - c. the corporation or organization must offer membership or participation in its programs and activities to the public,
 - d. the charges, fees and dues of the organization must be arranged so that its programs and activities are accessible by a reasonable cross-section of the community, and
 - e. the corporation or organization must offer financial assistance on a regular and ongoing basis to individuals who are unable to afford the organizations membership dues or fees;
 36. Personal Services--personal services, such as barbering, hairstyling, manicuring and massages;
 37. Prepared Food Sales--exempt food sales are as follows:
 - a. food sold by public or private schools, school-sponsored student organizations or school-sponsored parent-teacher organizations to students enrolled in such school or to

- b. employees of the school during normal school hours,
 - b. sales of food by public or private colleges or universities or by officially recognized student organizations to students enrolled at such college when such sales are made on contract basis,
 - c. sales of food by a nonprofit organization or a governmental agency to low-income persons at or below cost,
 - d. food sold in an occasional sale by a charitable or nonprofit organization, including volunteer fire departments and rescue squads, or by a religious organization if the purpose of the sale is to obtain revenue for the functions and activities of the organization and the revenue so obtained is actually expended for that purpose, and
 - e. sales of food by little leagues, midget football leagues, youth football or soccer leagues, band boosters or other school or athletic booster organizations supporting activities for grades kindergarten through twelve and similar types of organizations, including scouting groups and church youth groups, if the purpose of the sale is to obtain revenue for the functions of the organization and the revenue so obtained is actually used for such functions;
38. Prescriptions--sales of drugs, durable medical goods, mobility-enhancing equipment and prosthetic devices dispensed upon prescription and sales of insulin to consumers for medical purposes;
39. Primary Opinion Research Services--sales of primary research opinion services when such services are provided to an out-of-state client by means of interstate commerce for use by the client outside West Virginia;
40. Professional Services--sales of professional services performed by licensed professionals, such as doctors, lawyers, engineers, architects, certified public accountants and licensed auctioneers;
41. Public Services--sales of services that are subject to regulation by the West Virginia Public Service Commission, including sales of gas, steam or water delivered to consumers through mains or pipes, sales of electricity, most telephone services and services provided by regulated public or common carriers, and bus or taxi services (mobile telephone and paging services that may not be regulated are taxable);
42. Real Property--sales of real property (land, houses, buildings and other structures attached to the land) and leases or rentals of real property to the same person for thirty or more consecutive days (rentals of less than thirty days are taxable);
43. Sales Incentive Program--payments received by a vendor of tangible personal property as part of a sales incentive program, cooperative advertising agreement, or similar type of program;
44. School Activities--sales of tickets for activities sponsored by elementary and secondary schools located in West Virginia;
45. State Military Training Facility--sales of goods by a canteen or snack bar facility on a state reservation or state training facility under the jurisdiction of the adjutant general (i.e., Camp Dawson);
46. Textbooks--sales of textbooks required to be used in any of the schools of the State whether the books are sold directly to the school or to students, including written course materials and audio and video materials if they are a required text of the school;
47. Transportation--charges for transporting passengers in interstate commerce, such as airline and bus tickets, if the trip begins or ends outside the State;
48. Travel Agents--commissions received by a travel agency from an out-of-state vendor, and
49. Volunteer Fire Departments--sales of tangible personal property and services by volunteer fire departments for fundraising purposes.

Some exemptions must be claimed by using a current tax exemption certificate. If a vendor fails to obtain a properly completed exemption certificate from the purchaser or if the purchaser refuses to provide a

certificate, the vendor must collect the tax and purchaser must pay the tax. The following is a list of the exemptions for which an exemption certificate is required:

1. Aircraft Repair--aircraft repair, remodeling and maintenance services for licensed carriers of persons or property or for a governmental entity; sales of component parts affixed or attached to such aircraft during repair, remodeling and maintenance services, and sales of tools and equipment directly used to do such services;
2. Car Wash Soap--sales of soap to be used at car wash facilities;
3. Certain Computer Hardware and Software--certain sales of computer hardware and software, including
 - a. sales of computer hardware and software to be directly incorporated into a manufactured product, including licensing fees,
 - b. sales of computer hardware and software directly used in communication,
 - c. sales of electronic data processing services,
 - d. sales of educational software required to be used in any public school or institution in this State that is subject to the requirements of the Department of Education or the Higher Education Policy Commission,
 - e. sales of Internet advertising of goods and services,
 - f. sales of high technology business services to high technology businesses that enter into contracts with State and federal governmental agencies, and
 - g. sales of prewritten software, computers, computer hardware, servers and building materials and tangible personal property to be installed in a building or facility for direct use in a high technology industry or an Internet advertising business;
4. Controlled Groups--purchases of services by one corporation, limited liability company or partnership from another corporation, limited liability company or partnership when both entities are members of the same controlled group;
5. Electronic Data Processing Services--sales of electronic data processing services and software related to such purchases to another company (sales of data processing equipment, material and supplies are taxable);
6. Food--food purchased by a nonprofit organization or governmental agency that provides meals to low-income persons at or below cost;
7. Motion Picture Films--sales of motion picture films to motion picture exhibitors when the sales of tickets or the charge to view the film are taxable;
8. Purchases by Certain Nonprofit Organizations--purchases by a corporation or organization that has a current registration certificate and is exempt from federal income taxes under section 501(c)(3) or (c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code and
 - a. receives more than half its support from gifts, grants, direct or indirect charitable contributions and membership fees, or
 - b. is a youth organization, such as the Girl Scouts and the Boy Scouts, or
 - c. is an organization with no paid employees whose gross income from fundraisers is donated to a 501(c)(3) or (c)(4) organization;
9. Purchases by Churches--purchases of services, equipment, supplies, food for meals and material directly used or consumed by churches that make no charge at all for the services they render;
10. Purchases by Governments--purchases by the federal government and governmental units of West Virginia or another state if that state grants a sales tax exemption to governmental units of West Virginia (purchases by employees while on government business are not exempt unless such purchases are directly billed to and paid for by the government entity);
11. Purchases by Producers of Materials Used in the Production of Certain Value-Added Products from Raw Agricultural Products--sales of property or services to persons for

direct use in the production of a “value-added product” for a period of no more than five years by such persons engaged exclusively in such production activity for the following:

- a. the conversion of lumber into furniture, toys, collectibles, and home furnishings,
 - b. the conversion of fruit into wine,
 - c. the conversion of honey into wine,
 - d. the conversion of wool into fabric,
 - e. the conversion of raw hides into semi-finished or finished leather products,
 - f. the conversion of milk into cheese,
 - g. the conversion of fruits or vegetables into dried, canned or frozen products,
 - h. the conversion of feeder cattle into commonly acceptable slaughter weights,
 - I. the conversion of aquatic animals into dried, canned, cooked or frozen products, and
 - j. the conversion of poultry into dried, canned, cooked or frozen products;
12. Purchases by Schools—purchases by an elementary or secondary school in this State or by a school that has its principal campus in this State and has approval from the Board of Trustees of the University System of West Virginia or the Board of Directors of the State College System to award degrees;
13. Purchases for Commercial Agriculture--purchases of tangible personal property or taxable services for use or consumption in the commercial production of an agricultural product, including the purchase of fencing and nails used for the construction of fencing, and purchases of propane for use in heating poultry houses;
14. Purchases for New or Expanded Warehouse or Distribution Facility—purchases of computers and computer software, primary material handling equipment, racking and racking systems and components thereof, building materials and tangible personal property installed into or directly used or consumed in the construction, addition, alteration or improvement of a qualified new or expanded warehouse or distribution facility

provided that the investment is at least \$50 million and at least 300 full-time West Virginia equivalent jobs are created;

15. Purchases for Resale--purchases of tangible personal property intended for resale in the form of tangible personal property;
16. Video Arcade Games--sales of coin-operated video arcade machines or video arcade games to a person who provides such machines to the public for a charge upon which the tax is imposed, and
17. Video Lottery Terminals and Games—purchases of video lottery terminals and video lottery games by persons holding a current operator’s license or a current limited video lottery operator’s license issued under W.Va. Code §29-22-1 et. seq. and consideration paid by a patron of a restricted access adult only facility to play video lottery games.

For purchases for which there are no per se exemptions or for which no exemption certificate may be issued, the purchaser must pay the Consumers Sales Tax and Use Tax unless he has a direct pay permit number from the West Virginia State Tax Department. Each business with a direct pay permit must keep a record of taxable and exempt purchases and remit any tax due directly to the West Virginia State Tax Department. Those without a direct pay permit may either credit the tax paid for items that qualify for a refundable exemption against sales or use tax due and owed on nonexempt purchases or apply for a refund of the tax paid. Refundable exemptions are allowed for the following classifications:

1. Charitable Organizations--purchases by bona fide charitable organizations that make no charge at all for the services they render;
2. Direct Use—purchases of services, machinery, supplies and materials directly used or consumed in the activities of manufacturing, transportation, transmission, communication, production of natural resources, gas storage, generation or production or selling electric power, provision of a public utility service, the operation of a utility service, or the operation of a utility business;
3. Fraternal or Social Organizations--purchases by nationally chartered fraternal

or social organizations for the sole purpose of free distribution in public welfare or relief work;

4. Housing—sales of building materials or building supplies to organizations that are exempt from federal income taxes under section 501(c)(3) or (c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code when such are to be installed in buildings or structures used as permanent low-income housing, transitional housing, emergency homeless shelters, domestic violence shelters or emergency children and youth shelters if the shelter is owned, managed, developed or operated by such qualified organization;
5. Prescription Drugs and Medical Goods—sales of drugs, durable medical goods, mobility enhancing equipment and prosthetic devices are exempt when purchased by the following:
 - a. hospitals,
 - b. medical clinics,
 - c. nursing homes,
 - d. providers of inpatient hospital services, and
 - e. providers of outpatient hospital services, physician services, nursing services, ambulance services or surgical services, and
 - f. veterinariansprovided that these items are dispensed upon prescription and intended for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of injury or disease;
6. Research and Development Activities—purchases of tangible personal property and services that directly used or consumed in the activity of research and development, and
7. Volunteer Fire Departments--purchases of fire fighting or station house equipment, construction and automotive equipment by volunteer fire departments organized and incorporated under the laws of the State of West Virginia.

Direct Use Pass-Through Exemption

Purchases by contractors constructing, altering, repairing or improving a new or existing building or structure for businesses in the manufacturing,

transportation, production of natural resources or utilities industries will be exempt if utilized directly in the activities of manufacturing, transportation, production of natural resources or public utilities. The contractor receives a pass-through exemption for tax-exempt direct use purchases.

In addition, purchases by contractors of services, building materials and tangible personal property to be installed in a building or facility or directly used or consumed in the construction, alteration, repair or improvement of a new or existing building or structure if the purchaser of the contracting service is a nonprofit youth organization that would be entitled to claim a Consumers Sales Tax exemption had the organization made the purchases are exempt. The contractor receives a pass-through exemption for such purchases. A special contractor exemption certificate must be completed by the contractor.

Direct Pay Permit

The State Tax Commissioner may, at his discretion, authorize a person who is a user, consumer, distributor or lessee to pay Consumers Sales Tax and Use Tax directly to the West Virginia State Tax Department and waive the collection of tax by that person's vendors, including out-of-state vendors. No such authority is granted or exercised except upon application to the State Tax Commissioner and after issuance by the State Tax Commissioner of a direct pay permit number. To avoid paying the tax or presenting an exemption certificate at the time of each transaction, the direct pay permit number issued to a specific taxpayer may be used when making taxable or exempt purchases. A direct pay permit number does not apply to purchases of gasoline or special fuel. The permit is valid until it is surrendered by the taxpayer or cancelled. When using a direct pay permit, the holder of the permit must notify each specified vendor from whom tangible personal property is purchased or leased or from whom services are purchased of their direct pay permit number and that any tax thereon will be paid directly to the West Virginia State Tax Department. Vendors must maintain records identifying the purchase by name, permit number and the amount of the sale for which the direct pay permit was accepted.

Upon the cancellation or surrender of the direct pay permit, the holder must promptly notify, in writing, the specified vendors from whom tangible personal property is purchased or leased or by whom services are rendered of the cancellation or surrender.

Mobile Homes

Sales of mobile homes to be used by purchasers as their principal year-round residence are taxed at 50 percent of the sale price.

Credits

Purchasers who pay Consumers Sales Tax or Use Tax on items that qualify for a refundable exemption may credit such tax overpayment against their monthly or quarterly remittances of Consumers Sales Tax and Use Tax.

Special District Excise Tax

Counties and municipalities may levy a special district excise tax of 6 percent on sales and services within a defined economic opportunity development district. The special district excise tax must be authorized by the Legislature. Generally, the special district excise tax acts as a sales tax increment financing tool to benefit the economic opportunity development districts. Since the base and rate of the special district excise tax are the same as that of the Consumers Sales and Service Tax, sales in these districts are not subject to the Consumers Sales and Service Tax. Currently, the only three special districts levying a special district excise tax are The Highlands district in Ohio County, the Charles Pointe district in Harrison County, and the University Towne Center district in Monongalia County.

USE TAX

The Use Tax is imposed upon the use within West Virginia of tangible personal property and services bought or leased outside West Virginia for use or consumption within this State. The tax is levied at the rate of 6.0 percent of the purchase price. The Use Tax complements the Consumers Sales Tax, and Use Tax due is remitted on the same form as the Consumers Sales Tax.

Municipalities may impose an alternative municipal use tax at a rate not to exceed 1.0 percent. As of July 1, 2015, the following municipalities imposed a municipal sales tax of 1 percent:

Bolivar	Quinwood
Charleston	Parkersburg
Charles Town	Ranson
Harrisville	Rupert
Huntington	Thomas

Martinsburg	Vienna
Milton	Wheeling
Nitro	Williamstown

The State Tax Commissioner is responsible for collecting, enforcing and administering municipal sales and service tax and municipal use tax in the same manner as the State Consumers Sales and Service Tax and the State Use Tax.

Out-of-state vendors engaging in business in this State are required to collect Use Tax from their West Virginia customers. The State Tax Commissioner is empowered to authorize certain foreign retailers to collect Use Tax at the time a sale is made. Collected tax must be remitted along with the Consumers Sales Tax. Any person who used tangible personal property purchased outside West Virginia upon which the tax has not been paid to the seller is personally liable for such tax and is required to remit quarterly the tax imposed upon all such property directly to the West Virginia State Tax Department.

The use in West Virginia of the following tangible personal property is exempt from the tax:

1. all articles of tangible personal property brought into the State by a nonresident individual for his or her use or enjoyment while in the State;
2. tangible personal property and services that are exempt from Consumers Sales Tax;
3. tangible personal property and services upon which the Consumers Sales Tax has been paid;
4. tangible personal property and services that are not subject to the Consumers Sales Tax, and
5. tangible personal property purchased outside West Virginia for use outside this State by a nonresident personal or business who later brings such property into this State in connection with his establishment of a permanent resident or business in West Virginia.

Credits Against Use Tax

A credit is allowed against a taxpayer's Use Tax liability for sales tax lawfully paid to another state, but the amount of the credit allowed may not exceed the amount of Use Tax imposed on the use of property in West Virginia.

Disposition of Revenue

During fiscal year 2015, \$1.2 billion, or 95.3 percent, of the revenue from the Consumers Sales and Service Tax and Use Tax was deposited in the State General Revenue Fund. \$33.7 million, or 2.6 percent, went to the special revenue funds, and \$14.9 million was from the sales tax increment financing.

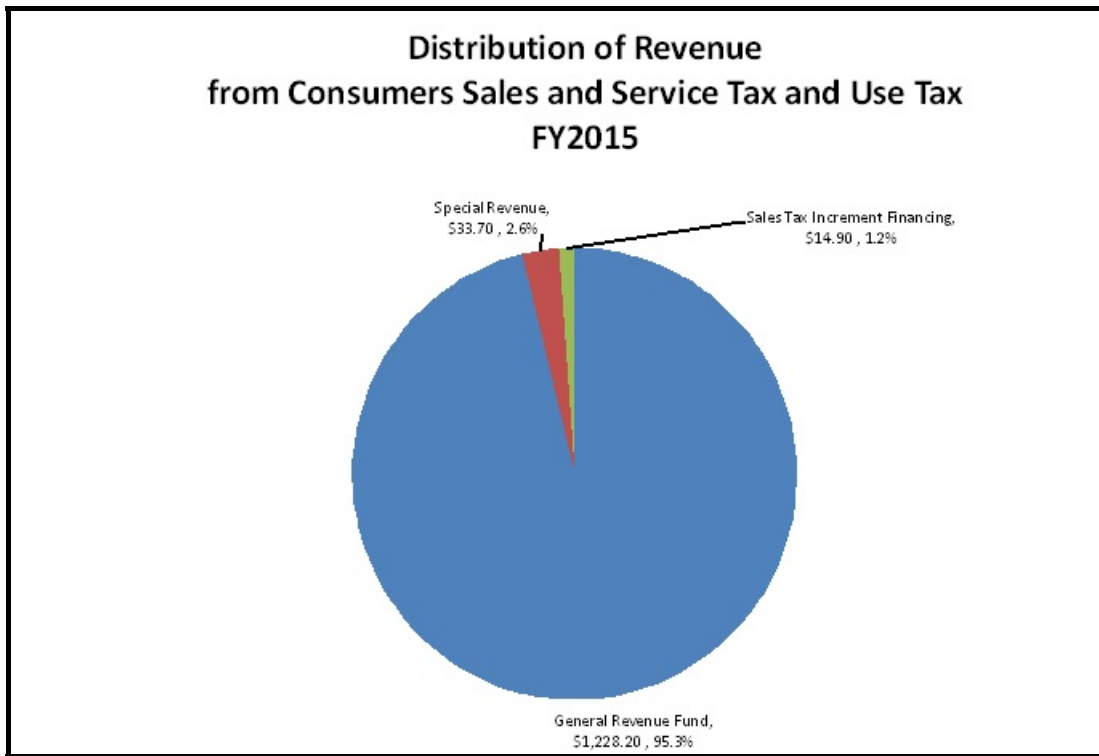
Comparison with Other States

The tax rates listed in this section are for as of January 1, 2015.

Comparison of State Tax Rates January 1, 2015			
	State Tax Rate	Maximum Local Rate	Total Maximum Rate
Kentucky	6.00%	0.00%	6.00%
Maryland	6.00%	0.00%	6.00%
Ohio	5.75%	2.25%	8.00%
Pennsylvania	6.00%	2.00%	8.00%
Virginia	4.30%	1.70%	6.00%
West Virginia	6.00%	1.00%	7.00%

Tables and Charts

The following provides information on distribution of revenue from the West Virginia Consumers Sales and Service Tax and Use Tax and data on local sales taxes.



Local Sales Tax Distributions by Fiscal Year						
Municipality	Start Date	Tax Rate	Fiscal Year 2011-2012	Fiscal Year 2012-2013	Fiscal Year 2013-2014	Fiscal Year 2014-2015
Charleston	1-Oct-13	0.5%			\$2,832,041	\$7,302,175
Harrisville	1-Oct-13	1.0%			\$51,747	\$157,680
Huntington	1-Jan-12	1.0%	\$763,064	\$6,247,712	\$6,894,544	\$6,379,184
Quinwood	1-Oct-13	1.0%			\$2,497	\$7,768
Rupert	1-Apr-13	1.0%			\$16,103	\$21,593
Wheeling	1-Oct-13	0.5%			\$793,242	\$2,273,895
Williamstown	1-Oct-11	1.0%	\$125,797	\$363,522	\$266,680	\$295,137
Total			\$888,861	\$6,611,235	\$10,856,855	\$16,437,432

CORPORATION NET INCOME TAX

The West Virginia Corporation Net Income Tax (West Virginia Code, Chapter 11, Article 24) was first enacted in 1967. The West Virginia Corporation Net Tax has adopted many provisions of the laws of the United States Internal Revenue Code relating to the determination of income for federal tax purposes. Annually, the Corporation Net Income Tax is updated to reflect changes in the federal tax code.

Prior to January 1, 2015, all corporations were also subject to the Business Franchise Tax. The Corporation Net Income Tax and Business Franchise Tax were filed on one return. The following chart shows the combined revenue for these two taxes for the past five fiscal years.

Corporation Net Income Tax and Business Franchise Tax Revenue (in millions) Fiscal Year 2011 to 2015			
Fiscal Year	General Revenue Fund	Special Revenue	Total Receipts
2011	\$302,977,776	\$4,300,000	\$307,277,776
2012	\$188,085,447	\$4,300,000	\$192,385,447
2013	\$238,129,824	\$4,300,000	\$242,429,821
2014	\$203,508,473	\$0	\$203,508,473
2015	\$186,101,080	\$4,300,000	\$190,401,080

Taxpayers

Domestic and foreign corporations doing business in West Virginia or deriving income from property, activity or other sources within the State are subject to the Corporation Net Income Tax (CNIT). Certain insurance companies and mutual companies, certain trusts, S corporations, certain production credit associations and nonprofit corporations are all exempt from tax. However, the tax is applicable to the unrelated business income of nonprofit corporations. Pass-through entities, such as S corporations and partnerships and LLC's, must file an information return.

Tax Base

CNIT is imposed on taxable corporation income as defined by federal law and as adjusted by State law. Some adjustments that can increase taxable income are as follows:

1. interest or dividends on U.S. government obligations or securities that are exempt from federal income tax but not from state income tax;
2. interest or dividends from all state or local bonds or securities excluded from federal taxable income;
3. all taxes imposed on or measured by net income that are expensed on the federal corporate income tax return;
4. the amount of unrelated business taxable income of a corporation that because of its purposes is generally exempt from federal income tax;
5. the federal net operating loss deduction;
6. the amount of foreign taxes deducted in determining federal taxable income;
7. net operating loss from sources outside the United States, and
8. dividend paid deduction otherwise allowed by federal law in computing net income of certain real estate investment trusts (REIT) or of certain regulated investment companies.

Modifications that can decrease taxable income are as follows:

1. state income tax refunds or credits for overpayment included in federal taxable income;
2. interest expense incurred to purchase or carry obligations or securities of states or their political subdivisions, if disallowed in determining federal taxable income;
3. the amount of dividends received from a foreign (non-United States) corporation to the extent the dividends were added to federal taxable income by a corporation claiming a foreign tax credit;
4. that portion of salary expenses disallowed as a deduction for federal income tax purposes due to the claiming of the federal jobs credit;
5. the amount received from a foreign corporation as dividend income to the extent included in federal taxable income, and
6. foreign source income to the extent included in federal taxable income.

CNIT law also provides for the elective adjustment to taxable income for expenditures for water and air

pollution control facilities as defined by sections 48(h)(12)(B) and (C) of the Internal Revenue Code with the addition to taxable income of depreciation and amortization allowances taken on such facilities.

A decreasing adjustment is allowed for certain government obligations and obligations secured by residential property. The deduction is equal to the average monthly percentage of total corporate assets represented by tax-exempt federal obligations, West Virginia obligations and mortgages on residential property located within the State multiplied by taxable income.

A taxpayer may claim its aggregated West Virginia net operating loss carry-overs plus the net operating loss carry-backs. However, no more than \$300,000 of the net operating loss from any taxable year may be carried back to prior tax years. Net operating losses may be carried back for up to two years (subject to the \$300,000 limitation) and then excess losses may be carried forward for up to twenty years.

Corporations subject to taxation in West Virginia and one or more other states must generally use a four-factor apportionment formula to determine the portion of their total income that is subject to taxation in West Virginia. The factors consist of property, payroll and sales. The sales factor is given a 50 percent weight while the other two factors each receive a weight of 25 percent. Any factor with a zero denominator is eliminated from the apportionment computation. The value of moveable property to be included in the numerator of the property factor is based on the number of days the property is physically located in West Virginia expressed as a percentage of the total number of days the property is located everywhere. The gross receipts from sales of tangible personal property shipped from this State before sale and not subject to an income tax by the state of destination are excluded from both the numerator and the denominator of the sales apportionment factor. This rule does not apply to sales to the United States government.

Special apportionment rules apply to motor carriers and financial organizations. Motor carriers with West Virginia nexus apportion business income by use of the ratio of total vehicle miles in West Virginia to total vehicle miles everywhere. Multi-state financial organizations apportion business income by a special gross receipts factor. The gross receipts factor is the ratio of receipts attributable to West Virginia customers to receipts attributable to all customers. A financial organization has nexus in West Virginia if it obtains or solicits business from twenty or more persons within the State or if total West Virginia receipts equal at least \$100,000.

While most business income of multi-state corporations is subject to the apportionment formula mentioned above, some types of income are directly allocated to the State. Adjusted income that is not gained in the regular course of the taxpayer's business and which comes from

1. rents and royalties from real or tangible personal property, and/or
2. capital gains and losses from sales of real property located within this State, and/or
3. interest and dividends if the taxpayer's commercial domicile is in the State, and/or
4. patent or copyright royalties

is allocated to West Virginia and becomes West Virginia taxable income to the extent that these sources of non-business income are owned, used or otherwise represent taxable activity in West Virginia.

Rate

The rate of tax is 6.5 percent.

Combined Reporting

A combined income method of reporting for unitary groups is required when filing the Corporation Net Income Tax Return.

Credits Against Tax Liability

The West Virginia Code provides for a variety of tax credits that may be applied against CNIT liability in some cases. These include the Economic Opportunity Tax Credit, the Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit, the Commercial Patent Incentives Tax Credit, the West Virginia Film Industry Investment Credit, the Military Incentives Credit, the Apprenticeship Training Tax Credit, the Environmental Agricultural Equipment Credit, the Credit for Reducing Utility Charges to Low-Income Families, the Credit for Reducing Telephone Charges to Low-Income Families, the Historic Rehabilitated Buildings Investment Credit, the Neighborhood Investment Program Credit, the Credit for Utilities with Net Operating Loss Carryovers, the Manufacturing Property Tax Adjustment Credit, and the Innovative Mine Safety Technology Tax Credit. Explanations of these credits may be found in the Tax Credits section.

Corporation Net Income Tax

Disposition of Revenue

During fiscal year 2015, collections for the Corporation Net Income Tax and Business Franchise Tax were \$190,401,080. Most of this revenue was deposited in the General Revenue Fund. The West Virginia Public Port Authority received \$4,300,000 in corporate tax revenues.

HEALTH CARE PROVIDER TAXES

The State of West Virginia imposes certain special taxes on taxpayers who provide health care-related services within the State, the broad-based Health Care Provider Tax (West Virginia Code §11-27) and the Acute Care Hospital Tax (West Virginia Code 11-27-38).

During fiscal year 2015, total collections from these taxes were \$199.9 million. Of that amount, \$180.3 million was deposited in the Medicaid State Share Fund and \$19.6 was deposited in the Eligible Acute Care Provider Enhancement Account.

Nursing Facilities other than Intermediate Care Facility Services for the Mentally Retarded (7/1/15 to 9/30/15)	5.50%
(10/1/15 to 6/30/16)	5.72%
(Beginning 7/1/16)	5.50%
Outpatient Hospital Services	2.50%

The Health Care Provider Taxes are measured by the application of a rate to the gross receipts received from providing the particular health care services. Gross receipts include all payments, in cash or in kind, from patients, third-party providers and others for the services rendered, including retroactive adjustments under reimbursement agreements with third-party providers. No expenses are to be deducted. Gross receipts that are not related to providing of health care services (i.e., fees received by health care providers for providing expert testimony) and charitable donations are not subject to the Health Care Provider Taxes.

Health Care Provider Taxes Revenue (in millions) Fiscal Year 2011 to 2015			
Fiscal Year	Medicaid State Share Net Revenue	Eligible Acute Care Provider Enhancement Account Net Revenue	Total Net Revenue
2011	\$164.9	\$0.0	\$164.9
2012	\$168.9	\$0.0	\$168.9
2013	\$168.6	\$49.0	\$217.6
2014	\$174.1	\$19.4	\$193.5
2015	\$180.3	\$19.6	\$199.9

BROAD-BASED HEALTH CARE PROVIDER TAX

Taxpayers

The Health Care Provider Taxes are imposed on the provisions of selected types of health care services provided in West Virginia.

Tax Rates

The following is a list of taxable health care services and their respective tax rates, effective July 1, 2015:

Ambulatory Surgical Centers	1.75%
Independent Laboratory or X-ray Services	5.00%
Inpatient Hospital Services	2.50%
Intermediate Care Facility Services for the Mentally Retarded	5.50%

Deductions

The following deductions can be made from gross receipts before the calculation of the tax:

1. Accrual-based taxpayers may deduct bad debts from their gross receipts to the extent that the amount of the bad debt was included previously in gross receipts upon which the Health Care Provider Taxes were paid.
2. Accrual-based taxpayers, except nursing homes, can reduce gross receipts by the amount of their contractual allowances to the extent included in the amount of gross receipts upon which taxes were previously paid. Contractual allowances are the differences between revenue or gross receipts at established rates and the amounts realized from third party providers under contractual agreements.

ACUTE CARE HOSPITAL TAX

Taxpayers

The Acute Care Hospital Tax is imposed on providers of inpatient and outpatient hospital services in addition to the Health Care Provider Tax.

Tax Rates

The Acute Care Hospital Tax is imposed on certain eligible acute care hospitals at a rate of 0.72 percent on the gross receipts received or receivable by the eligible acute care Hospital that provides inpatient hospital services in West Virginia through a Medicaid upper payment limit program.

Gross receipts is the amount received or receivable, whether in cash or in kind, from patients, third-party payers and others for inpatient hospital services furnished by the provider, including retroactive adjustments under reimbursement agreements with third-party payers, without any deduction for expenses.

Deductions

The following deductions can be made from gross receipts before the calculation of the tax:

1. Accrual-based taxpayers may deduct bad debts from their gross receipts to the extent that the amount of the bad debt was included previously in gross receipts upon which the Acute Care Hospital Tax was paid.
2. Accrual-based taxpayers can reduce gross receipts by the amount of their contractual allowances to the extent included in the amount of gross receipts upon which taxes were previously paid.

Disposition of Revenue

The revenue from the Health Care Provider Tax on acute care hospitals is to be deposited in the Eligible Acute Care Provider Enhancement Account. The revenue from all other Health Care Provider Taxes, including any interest, additions to tax and penalties and excluding allowable refunds and the cost of administration of these taxes, is to be deposited into the Medicaid State Share

Fund. All appropriations from this fund must be made by the Legislature.

During fiscal year 2015, \$180.3 million, or 90.2 percent, of the revenue from Health Care Provider Taxes was deposited in the Medical State Share Fund. The Acute Care Hospital Tax generated \$19.6 million which was deposited in the Eligible Acute Care Provider Enhancement Account.

MOTOR FUEL EXCISE TAX

The West Virginia Motor Fuel Excise Tax (West Virginia Code, Chapter 11, Articles 14C, 15-18b and 15A-13a) was enacted by the 2003 Regular Session of the Legislature and became effective January 2004. The Motor Fuel Excise Tax replaced the Gasoline and Special Fuel Excise Tax, which was enacted in 1923.

The Motor Fuel Excise Tax is the largest source of revenue for the State Road Fund. During fiscal year 2015, total collections were roughly \$434.9 million, or 58.5 percent of all State Road Fund collections.

Motor Fuel Excise Tax Revenue (in millions) Fiscal Year 2011 to 2015	
Fiscal Year	Total Receipts
2011	\$397.7
2012	\$387.0
2013	\$408.9
2014	\$441.1
2015	\$434.9

General Provisions

The Motor Fuel Excise Tax is a combination of a flat rate of 20.5 cents per invoiced gallon and a variable component of 5 percent of the average wholesale price of each fuel. The variable component of the tax is the Consumers Sales and Service Tax and Use Tax, which is based on the average wholesale price of gasoline and special fuel as determined by the State Tax Commissioner. Each January 1, the State Tax Commissioner will determine the average wholesale price for the annual period based on sales data gathered for the preceding period of July 1 through October 31. However, the average wholesale price will never be deemed to be less than \$2.34 per gallon. The average wholesale price cannot vary by more than 10 percent from the average wholesale price for the previous calendar year.

The Use Tax for carriers including aircraft, barge or other watercraft or railroad locomotives, is based on the percentage of carrier operations in West Virginia. The relevant percentage is the proportion of West Virginia miles compared with the total miles traveled within and without West Virginia. Consumers Sales and Service Tax

will be included in the price of fuel purchased in West Virginia and can offset the Use Tax.

The Motor Fuel Excise Tax is imposed at the time motor fuel is imported into West Virginia, other than by a bulk transfer and is measured by invoiced gallons received outside this State at a refinery, terminal or bulk plant for delivery to a destination in West Virginia. The tax is payable by the person importing the motor fuel. The tax is also imposed on invoiced gallons of motor fuel removed, other than by bulk transfer,

1. from the bulk transfer/terminal system in West Virginia,
2. from the bulk transfer/terminal system outside West Virginia for delivery to a location in West Virginia as represented on the shipping papers, or
3. upon sale or transfer in a terminal or refinery in West Virginia to any person not holding a supplier's license.

The tax does not apply to motor fuel imported into West Virginia in the motor fuel supply tank or tanks of a motor vehicle, but the Motor Carrier Road Tax may still apply. Tax applies to fuel blended in West Virginia and is calculated on the difference between the total quantity blended and the quantity used for blending but previously taxed.

Both the flat rate of the motor fuel excise tax and the variable rate is imposed on alternative fuel based on a gasoline gallon equivalent basis. Alternative fuels include butane, propane, compressed natural gas, liquefied natural gas, liquefied petroleum gas, and natural gas hydrocarbons and derivatives. For periods beginning on or after January 1, 2015, the gasoline gallon equivalents for alternative fuel are as follows:

Gasoline Gallon Equivalents of Alternative Fuels	
Alternative Fuel	Measure of Fuel with Energy Equal to One Gallon of Gasoline
Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)	126.67 cubic feet
Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)	5.66 pounds
Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)	1.554 gallons
Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG--Propane)	1.367 gallons
Field Gas	126.67 cubic fee
Field Gas	5.66 pounds

Exemptions

The following sales of motor fuel are exempt per se from the flat rate component of tax:

1. all motor fuel exported from West Virginia to any other state or nation, provided the destination state tax is collected,
2. sales of aviation fuel,
3. sales of dyed special fuel, and
4. sales of propane unless sold for use in a motor vehicle.

Refundable exemptions are also available. The following entities may apply for a refund of the flat rate component and the variable rate component of the tax:

1. the United States government,
2. any county government or agency thereof,
3. any municipal government or agency thereof,
4. county boards of education,
5. any urban mass transportation authority;
6. any municipal, county, state or federal civil defense or emergency service program, and
7. any bona fide volunteer fire department, nonprofit ambulance service or emergency rescue service.

Also refundable are flat rate taxes for certain non-highway uses:

1. all gallons of motor fuel used and consumed in stationary off-highway turbine engines,
2. all gallons of special fuel used for heating any public or private dwelling, building or other premises,
3. all gallons of special fuel used for boilers,
4. all gallons of motor fuel used as a dry cleaning solvent or commercial or industrial solvent,
5. all gallons of motor fuel used as lubricants, ingredients or components of any manufactured product or compound,
6. all gallons of motor fuel sold for use or used as a motor fuel for commercial watercraft,
7. all gallons of special fuel sold for use or consumed in railroad diesel locomotives,
8. all gallons of motor fuel purchased in quantities of 25 gallons or more for use as a motor fuel for internal combustion engines not operated upon the highways of West Virginia,
9. all gallons of motor fuel purchased in quantities of 25 gallons or more and used to power a power take-off unit on a motor vehicle,
10. motor fuel used by any person regularly operating any vehicle under a certificate of public convenience and necessity or under a contract carrier permit for transportation of persons when the amount purchased is 25 gallons or more (amount refunded is equal to 6 cents per gallon), and
11. all gallons of motor fuel that are purchased and used by any bona fide volunteer fire department, nonprofit ambulance service or emergency rescue service.

The Motor Fuel Excise Tax law allows the seller of tax-paid motor fuel to the federal government to claim a refund for the variable rate component of the Motor Fuel Excise Tax and the flat rate component of the Motor Fuel Excise Tax when the federal government does not pay these taxes.

All motor fuel exported from West Virginia to another state or nation is exempt per se from the flat rate and the variable rate component of the tax, provided that the destination state tax is collected.

Licensing

The following classifications have been established for motor fuel licensing:

1. suppliers which includes refiners,
2. permissive suppliers (out-of-state supplier who is licensed to collect the Motor Fuel Excise Tax and remit the tax to the State),
3. importers,
4. exporters,
5. terminal operators,
6. blenders,
7. motor fuel transporters,
8. distributors,
9. producers/manufacturers,
10. alternative fuel bulk end users,
11. providers of alternative fuel, and
12. retailers of alternative fuel.

Persons who are engaged in more than one activity for which a license is required must have a separate license for each activity.

Motor Carrier Provisions

Most interstate motor carriers pay motor fuel excise tax according to the provisions of the International Fuel Tax Agreement. Intrastate motor carriers pay the excise tax according to the provisions of the Motor Carrier Road Tax. A description of both the IFTA and MCRT provisions follows.

International Fuel Tax Agreement

The International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA) is a fuel tax reciprocity agreement among states of the United States and provinces of Canada to simplify the reporting and payment of all fuel use taxes by interstate motor carriers for all IFTA qualified vehicles. Qualified motor vehicles are the only vehicles taxed under IFTA and, for purposes of fuel tax reporting, are described as vehicles used, designed or maintained for transportation of persons or property having

1. two axles and gross vehicle weight or registered gross vehicle weight exceeding 26,000 pounds,
2. three or more axles regardless of weight, or
3. when used in combination, when the weight of such combination exceeds 26,000 pounds

gross vehicle weight or registered gross vehicle weight.

All West Virginia-based motor carriers who travel in at least one other IFTA jurisdiction and operate one or more qualified vehicles must obtain IFTA credentials. IFTA credentials, consisting of a license and decals, are issued by the West Virginia Department of Transportation.

All IFTA licensees based in West Virginia must file a single tax return to the West Virginia State Tax Department on a quarterly basis. This tax return will contain detailed information about vehicle operations in each IFTA member jurisdiction. West Virginia will then distribute both taxes and carrier information to the other IFTA jurisdictions on behalf of the carrier. The types of fuel that can be reported on an IFTA return include gasoline, diesel, gasohol, propane, LNG, CNG, ethanol, methane, E-85, M-85, A55, and biodiesel. Not all states require that all types of fuel be reported.

West Virginia will receive its portion of fuel taxes due from motor carriers based in other IFTA jurisdictions from the carrier's base jurisdiction. If the motor carrier does not operate in any other IFTA jurisdiction, the motor carrier will file the Motor Carrier Road Tax return described below.

Motor Carrier Road Tax

The Motor Carrier Road Tax (MCRT), which is very closely related to the IFTA Motor Fuel Excise Tax, is imposed on any vehicle used, designed or maintained for the transportation of persons or property having two axles and a gross vehicle weight or registered gross vehicle weight exceeding 26,000 pounds, or having three or more axles regardless of weight, or is used in combination when the weight of such combination exceeds 26,000 pounds gross vehicle weight or registered gross vehicle weight. Recreational vehicles are not subject to the Motor Carrier Road Tax.

This tax must be paid on each gallon of motor fuel used in motor carrier operations within West Virginia.

Exemptions from Motor Carrier Road Tax are granted for the following vehicles:

1. motor carriers operated or caused to be operated by or for any agency of the federal government, any state government, or any political subdivision of any state;

Motor Fuel Excise Tax

2. school buses operated or caused to be operated by or for this State or any of its political subdivisions, and
3. school buses of private schools.

Filing and Payment Dates

The tax is due on or before the last day of the month for the preceding month.

Disposition of Revenue

During fiscal year 2015, \$434.9 million was collected in Motor Fuel Excise Tax and deposited into the State Road Fund. Revenue deposited into the State Road Fund is to be used only for the purpose of construction, reconstruction, maintenance and repair of highways, matching federal funds available for highway purposes and payment of interest and sinking fund obligations on State highway bonds.

Comparison with Other States

The tax rates listed in this section are as of July 1, 2015.

Comparison of Total State Taxes/Fees (Cents per Gallon) July 2015		
State	Gasoline	Diesel
Kentucky ¹	29.00	31.80
Maryland	32.10	32.85
Ohio	28.00	28.00
Pennsylvania	50.50	64.20
Virginia ²	23.70	23.70
West Virginia	34.60	34.60

¹ In Kentucky the tax on gasoline is 24.60 cents per gallon with a surcharge of 4.40 cents for a total of 29.00 cents per gallon. The tax on diesel is 21.60 cents per gallon with a surcharge of 10.20 cents for a total of 31.80 cents per gallon.

² In Virginia the tax on gasoline is 16.20 cents per gallon with a surcharge of 7.50 cents for a total tax of 23.70 cents per gallon. The tax on diesel is 20.20 cents per gallon with a surcharge of 3.50 cents for a total tax of 23.70 cents per gallon.

Tables and Charts

The following chart provides the current rates for Motor Fuel Excise Tax.

2015 Motor Fuel Rates

Fuel Type	Flat Rate	Variable Rate	Combined Rate
Gasoline	\$0.2050	\$0.1410	\$0.3460
Diesel	\$0.2050	\$0.1410	\$0.3460
Gasohol	\$0.2050	\$0.1410	\$0.3460
Liquid Propane	\$0.1500	\$0.0610	\$0.2110
Liquid Natural Gas	\$0.1320	\$0.0230	\$0.1550
Compressed Natural Gas	\$0.2050	\$0.0350	\$0.2400
Ethanol	\$0.2050	\$0.1410	\$0.3460
Methanol	\$0.2050	\$0.1410	\$0.3460
E8 - E-85	\$0.2050	\$0.1410	\$0.3460
M8 - M-85	\$0.2050	\$0.1410	\$0.3460
A5 - A55	\$0.2050	\$0.1410	\$0.3460
BD - Biodiesel	\$0.2050	\$0.1410	\$0.3460

PERSONAL INCOME TAX

The West Virginia Personal Income Tax Act (West Virginia Code, Chapter 11, Article 21) was first enacted by the 1961 Regular Session of the Legislature on February 10, 1961, and signed by the Governor on February 14, 1961. The Personal Income Tax Act has been amended several times. Over the years, the rates, deductions and exemptions have changed. The statute has also been amended various times to include many tax credits, generally expiring within a defined period of time.

The Personal Income Tax is the State's largest source of revenue. During fiscal year 2015, total collections were roughly \$1.9 billion. Of that amount, \$1.8 billion was deposited in the State General Revenue Fund, representing 41% of the total revenue in that fund.

Income Tax Revenue (in millions) Fiscal Year 2011 to 2015				
Fiscal Year	General Revenue Fund	Refund Reserve Fund	Workers Compensation Debt Fund	Total Receipts
2011	\$1,593.2	\$0	\$95.4	\$1,688.6
2012	\$1,689.0	\$0	\$95.4	\$1,784.4
2013	\$1,745.6	\$45.0	\$95.4	\$1,796.0
2014	\$1,664.1	\$11.0	\$95.4	\$1,770.5
2015	\$1,840.1	\$3.0	\$95.4	\$1,932.5

Taxpayers

State Personal Income Tax is imposed on the West Virginia taxable income of resident individuals, estates and trusts wherever their income is earned. Nonresident individuals, estates and trusts are also subject to this tax on income from West Virginia sources. Corporations, partnerships (but not partners), and certain trusts and associations are exempt from West Virginia Personal Income Tax. Individuals, estates and trusts that are required to file a federal individual income tax return or that have West Virginia adjusted gross income in excess of their total personal exemptions must file a West Virginia return. Individuals, estates and trusts are also required to file West Virginia returns even though they may be exempt from filing a federal return or may have correctly reported zero federal tax liability.

Filing Status

There are five filing status categories for state income tax purposes. The filing status will determine the rate used to calculate to the income tax liability. The categories are

- Single
- Head of Household
- Married Filing Jointly
- Married Filing Separately
- Widow(er) with a dependent child

Tax Base

Computation of West Virginia taxable income begins with federal adjusted gross income. West Virginia adjusted gross income is determined by application of various State modifications increasing or decreasing federal adjusted gross income. Modifications include, among others, decreasing adjustments for interest from U.S. savings bonds and an \$8,000 income exclusion for those age 65 and older. Individuals with federal adjusted gross income below \$10,000 (\$5,000 for married filing separate taxpayers) may exclude up to 100% of earned income from tax.

West Virginia taxable income is determined by subtraction of a value related to personal exemption allowances from West Virginia adjusted gross income. Taxpayers are generally allowed a \$2,000 personal exemption for each personal exemption claimed for federal income tax purposes. The exemption for an estate or trust is \$600. Persons claimed as dependents on another's return are allowed a \$500 exemption.

Rates

Personal Income Tax rates are graduated from 3.0% to 6.5%. Two rate schedules are provided: one for joint returns, individuals, heads of household, estate and trusts; and one for married taxpayers filing separate returns. Taxpayers with income at or below 100% of the annual federal poverty income guideline based upon household size are exempt from payment of State personal income tax through a family tax credit program.

Tax Rate Schedules
All Taxpayers
Except Married Filing Separate Returns

Taxable Income	Tax Liability		Excess Over
		Plus	
\$0 - \$10,000	\$ 0.00	3.0%	\$ 0
\$10,001 - \$25,000	300.00	4.0%	10,000
\$25,001 - \$40,000	900.00	4.5%	25,000
\$40,001 - \$60,000	1,575.00	6.0%	40,000
Over \$60,000	2,775.00	6.5%	60,000

Tax Rate Schedules
Married Filing Separate Returns

Taxable Income	Tax Liability		Excess Over
		Plus	
\$0 - \$ 5,000	\$ 0.00	3.0%	\$ 0
\$5,001 - \$12,500	150.00	4.0%	5,000
\$12,501 - \$20,000	450.00	4.5%	12,500
\$20,001 - \$30,000	787.50	6.0%	20,000
Over \$30,000	1,387.50	6.5%	30,000

Exemptions

Any individual taxpayer, whether resident or nonresident, is currently allowed \$2,000 for each exemption to which he is entitled for the taxable year for federal income tax purposes. A husband and wife who file a joint federal return but separate West Virginia returns may each claim only the exemptions to which they would have been entitled as individuals if they had filed separate federal returns. A surviving spouse is allowed one additional \$2,000 exemption for two taxable years following the year of the death of his or her spouse. Those claimed as dependents on another's return are entitled to a \$500 exemption. Estates and trusts are allowed only one \$600 exemption.

Increasing and Decreasing Modifications

Increasing Modifications

West Virginia modifications that increase federal adjusted gross income are as follows:

1. interest income on State and local obligations other than those of West Virginia and its political subdivisions;

2. interest or dividend income from obligations or securities of any United States authority, commission or agency that are, by federal law, exempt from federal income tax but not from State income tax;
3. interest on money borrowed to purchase obligations that earn income exempt from State income tax;
4. certain other elements of income received from partnership or fiduciary roles primarily those of the types described above;
5. the amount of lump sum distributions for which the taxpayer has elected to be separately taxed for federal income tax purposes under Section 402(e) of the Internal Revenue Code, and
7. the amount withdrawn from a tuition prepayment plan not used for payment of qualified expenses.

Decreasing Modifications

West Virginia modifications that decrease federal adjusted gross income are as follows:

1. the first \$2,000 of benefits received under the West Virginia Public Employees' Retirement System or the West Virginia Teachers' Retirement System or military or federal civil service retirement benefits received to the extent included in federal taxable income;
2. up to an additional \$20,000 of annual military retirement income, including survivorship annuities;
3. all benefits received under the West Virginia Department of Public Safety Death, Disability, and Retirement Fund or retirement income received as pensions or annuities from any qualified West Virginia or local police, deputy sheriffs' or firefighters' retirement system;
4. income from any source received by persons who are sixty-five years of age or older or who are totally and permanently disabled or received by their surviving spouses, regardless of age, to the extent included in federal taxable income, if the deduction does not exceed \$8,000 for a single return or a maximum of \$8,000 per person for a joint return;

Personal Income Tax

5. interest on United States obligations to the extent included in federal adjusted gross income;
6. interest or dividends on obligations or other securities of any United States authority, commission or agency, which is included in federal adjusted gross income but is exempt by federal law from State income taxation except for dividends from national bank stock, but including federal interest and dividends paid to shareholders of a regulated investment company under section 852 of the Internal Revenue Code;
7. interest or dividend income from bonds issued by the State of West Virginia or its authorities, commissions, or instrumentalities where the interest is subject to federal taxation but exempt by West Virginia law from State taxation;
8. shareholder modifications related to distributive shares of ownership in an S corporation;
9. the amount of any refund or credit for overpayment of income taxes imposed by West Virginia or any other taxing jurisdiction to the extent included in federal adjusted gross income;
10. qualified payments made toward tuition pre-payment contracts during the tax year;
11. certain other income which this State is prohibited from taxing under federal law that is included in federal adjusted gross income, specifically Railroad Retirement benefits;
12. premiums that are paid for long-term care insurance that provides coverage for the taxpayer, the taxpayer's spouse, parent or dependent if the amount of the premiums is not allowable as a deduction when determining the taxpayer's federal adjusted gross income;
13. active duty military pay received by West Virginia National Guard or reserve forces members who are called to active duty as a result of a call out under the authority of the President of the United States for domestic security duty;
14. amount of not less than \$25 and not more than \$1,200 of any payment for amounts expended for tolls paid electronically through use of a West Virginia Parkways Authority Commuter Card for

noncommercial passes for travel on toll roads in West Virginia;

15. contributions to a qualified trust maintained for the benefit of a child with autism by the parent or guardian of a child with autism to the extent the amount is not allowable as a deduction when arriving at federal adjusted gross income up to a maximum of \$1,000 per year for single filers and persons who are married but filing separately and \$2,000 per year for persons who are married and filing jointly, and
16. active duty military pay of a West Virginia resident who was on active duty for thirty or more consecutive days and who has separated from active military duty to the extent included in federal adjusted gross income.

Credits

Various credit are allowed against Personal Income Tax liability.

1. A credit is granted to taxpayers in an amount equal to the West Virginia Personal Income Tax already withheld from their wages or salaries.
2. A credit is granted to taxpayers for their payments of estimated taxes. Estimated taxes must be paid by each resident and nonresident taxpayer whose West Virginia adjusted gross income, except for any part of that income from which West Virginia income tax is withheld, can reasonably be expected to exceed \$400 plus the sum of the personal exemption allowances to which the taxpayer is entitled.
3. A one-time credit is allowed for non-family adoptions. The credit is equal to \$4,000, which may be taken in the year of the adoption of each non-family child whose age at adoption is under eighteen. This credit may be taken over a period of three years. A non-family adoption is the adoption of a child by a taxpayer or taxpayers who are not the father, mother or stepparent of the child.
4. Low-income taxpayers who are eligible for the Homestead Exemption for property tax purposes are eligible for the Senior Citizen Tax Credit for Property Tax Paid. The tax credit is based on the amount of ad valorem property taxes paid on the first \$20,000, or

portion thereof, of the taxable assessed value over the \$20,000 Homestead Exemption.

5. Homeowners with income of not more than 300 percent of federal poverty guidelines may eligible to take the Homestead Excess Property Tax Credit for owner-occupied residential property taxes paid in excess of 4 percent of total gross income. The maximum credit is \$1,000. The Homestead Excess Property Tax Credit is to be equal to the amount by which the difference between real property taxes paid for the tax year on owner-occupied residential property minus the amount of credit calculated for the Senior Citizen Tax Credit for Property Tax paid exceeds 4 percent of the taxpayer's gross household income for the tax year.
6. Families meeting certain income criteria are eligible for the Family Tax Credit. The credit is based on family size and the federal poverty guidelines.
7. Several additional tax credits may be available to some taxpayers. These include the Economic Opportunity Tax Credit, the Commercial Patent Incentives Tax Credit, the West Virginia Film Industry Investment Credit, the Military Incentives Credit, the Apprenticeship Training Tax Credit, the Environmental Agricultural Equipment Credit, the Historic Rehabilitated Buildings Investment Credit, and the Neighborhood Investment Program Credit. Additional information regarding these credits may be found in the Tax Credits section.

Special Provisions

Military

If the taxpayer is a member of the United States military forces and was domiciled in West Virginia at the time of entering military service, then assignment to duty outside the State does not change his or her West Virginia domicile. Such a taxpayer must file a West Virginia return and pay any tax owed in the same manner as any other resident individual unless both of the following conditions were met:

1. had no permanent place of abode in West Virginia during the taxable year, and

2. did not spend more than thirty not necessarily consecutive days in West Virginia during the taxable year.

If the military taxpayer met both of the conditions listed above but had income from some West Virginia sources, then he or she may be required to file an income tax return as a nonresident depending on the nature of the income. If the taxpayer has separated from active military service but was on active duty for thirty or more continuous days outside of West Virginia, the active military pay is exempt for the year of separation from the service. Members of the United States military forces whose domicile is outside West Virginia are not taxed by this State on their military compensation, even though they may be stationed in West Virginia and maintain a permanent place of abode in the State.

Spouses of military service members may be exempt from Personal Income Tax on wages received from services performed in West Virginia if all three of the following conditions are met:

1. the service member is present in West Virginia in compliance with military orders;
2. the spouse is in West Virginia solely to be with the service member, and
3. the spouse maintains domicile in another state.

Reciprocal Agreements

A credit may be granted to West Virginia residents because of income tax imposed by another state but not for taxes imposed by any city, township, borough or political subdivision of a state. Currently, credit is allowed for income tax imposed by thirty-six states and the District of Columbia. Taxpayers who are residents for income tax purposes of one of the other states or of Pennsylvania or Virginia may also become residents for tax purposes of West Virginia under certain conditions. The West Virginia State Tax Department cannot grant this credit unless the taxpayer's domicile is in West Virginia. In the cases of five of these states, Kentucky, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Virginia, credit is allowed only on taxable income from some source other than salaries or wages.

Some credit may be granted to nonresident West Virginia taxpayers when income they receive from West Virginia sources is also subject to income taxation by their state of residence, provided their state has entered into a written reciprocal agreement with this State.

Residency

For Personal Income Tax purposes, a resident is a person who

1. has his domicile in West Virginia, even though he maintains a permanent place of abode outside the State and does not maintain a permanent place of abode in West Virginia if he spends more than thirty (not necessarily consecutive) days of the taxable year here, or
2. has his domicile outside West Virginia but maintains a permanent place of abode in West Virginia and spends more than 183 (not necessarily consecutive) days of the taxable year here unless the person involved is a member of the United States military forces.

A taxpayer who changes his or her residence either from West Virginia to another state or from another state to West Virginia during the tax year is required to file a tax return as a nonresident or part-year resident. The taxpayer who changes from being a resident to being a nonresident must include on the return all items of income, gain or loss that have accrued to him (that is, for the same transaction, the items that he has received plus all items that are owed to him) up to the time of his change of residence. This means, for example, that if a taxpayer sold property while still a resident and agreed to accept payment for it on an installment basis, he must report his income on his tax return as though he had already received all the payments, not just the ones he received before he moved.

Filing Dates

For Individuals, Estates and Trusts

The annual income tax return is due by April 15 for taxpayers without an extension. Taxpayers whose West Virginia adjusted gross income other than wages are expected to exceed \$600 plus the amount allowed for the personal exemptions must file quarterly returns and pay estimated tax. Taxpayers who fail to remit quarterly estimated tax payments may be subject to penalties. The annual return of a farmer will be treated as his declaration of estimated tax if the annual return is filed on or before March 1 of the succeeding year and the tax shown to be due on the return is paid in full at the time of filing.

For Employers

An employer who is required to file a withholding return for 50 or more employees must file all data by electronic media. Taxpayers who withhold less than \$600 annually or who employ certain domestic and/or household employees can file an annual return.

Disposition of Revenue

During fiscal year 2015, \$1.7 billion, or 95.2 percent, of the revenue from the Personal Income Tax was deposited in the State General Revenue Fund. \$95.4 million, or 4.9%, went to the Workers Compensation Debt Fund, and \$3.0 million was transferred from the Refund Reserve Fund.

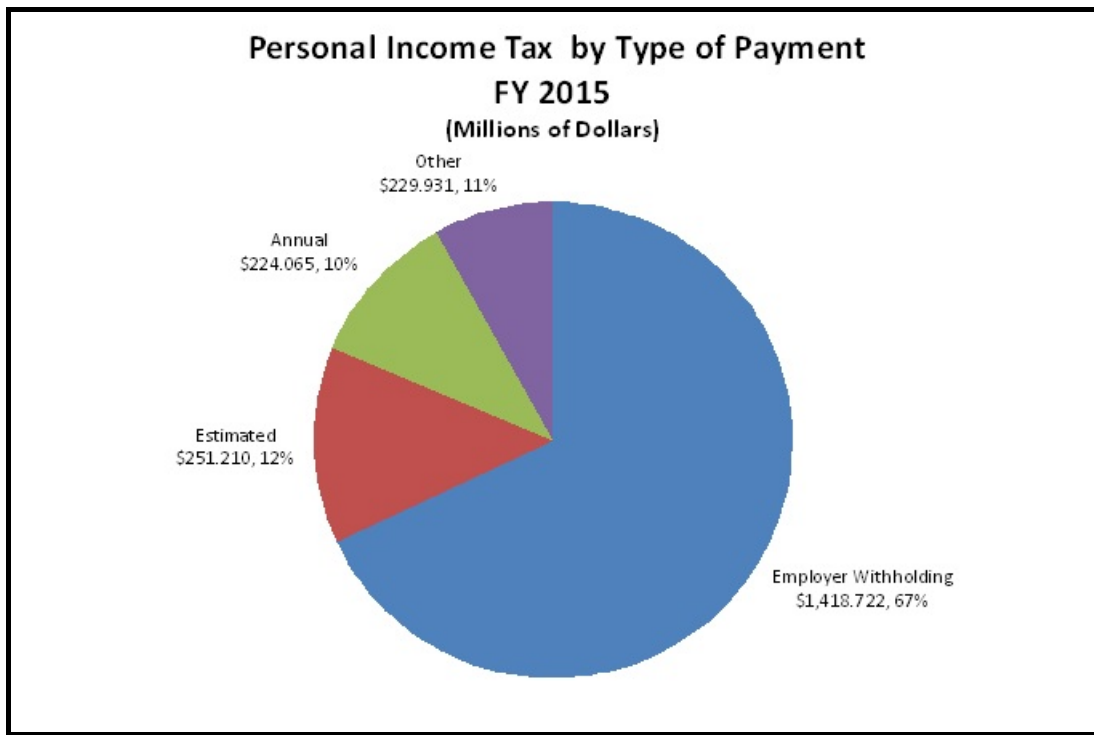
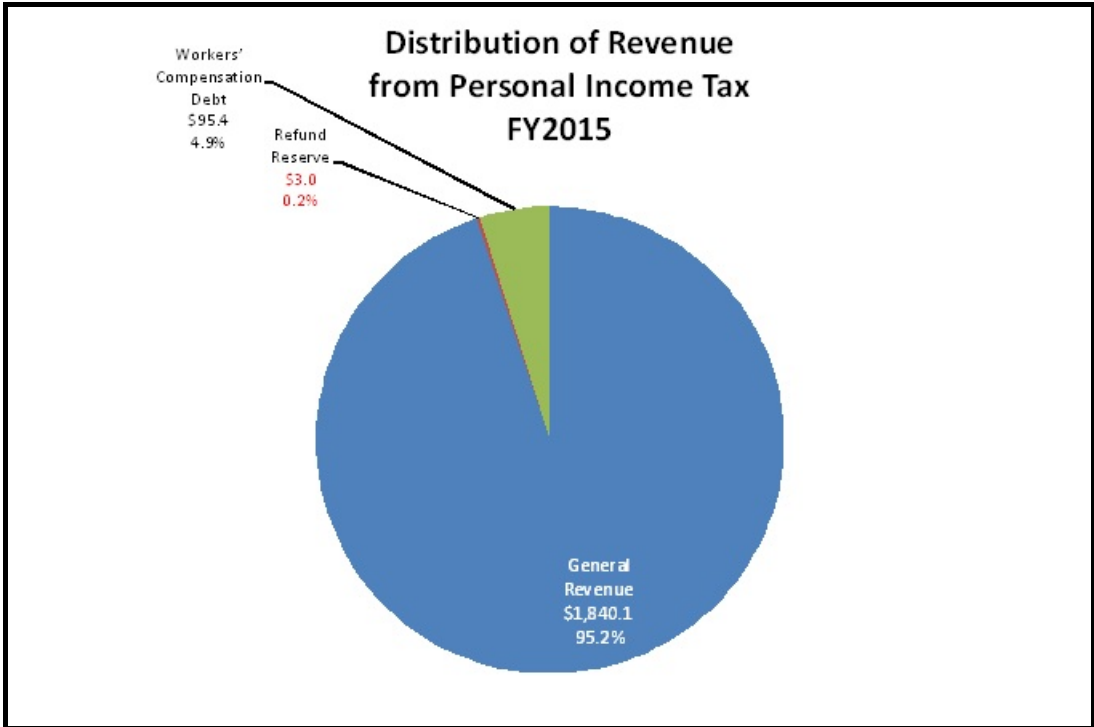
Comparison with Other States

The tax rates listed in this section are for tax year 2014 and for individuals. In some states, rate schedules vary according to filing status. In addition to the State income tax, local income taxes are imposed in Kentucky, Maryland, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

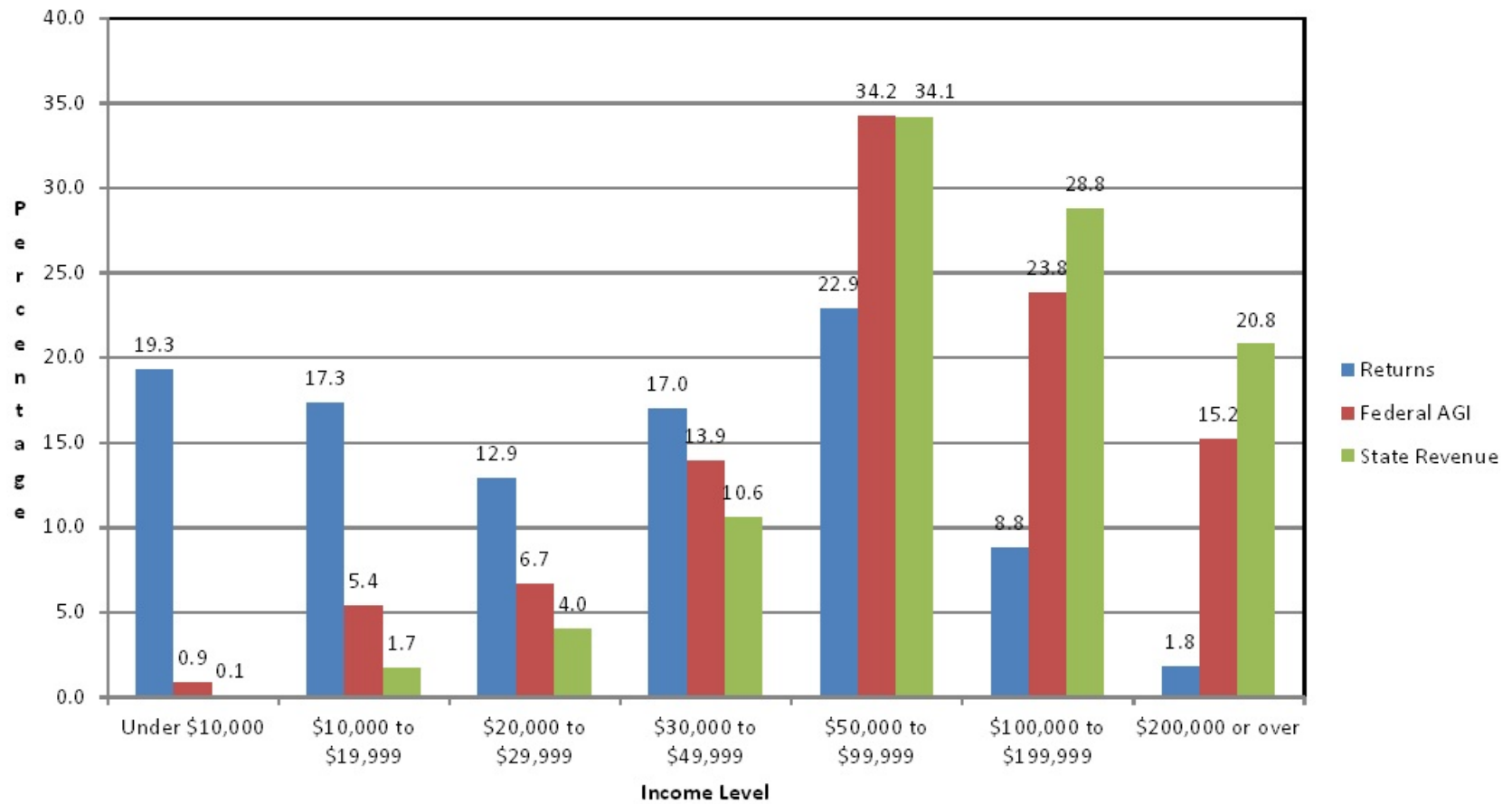
Comparison of State Tax Rates Tax Year 2014	
Kentucky	Rates range from 2% on taxable net income not over \$3,000 to 6% of taxable net income in excess of \$75,000
Maryland	Rates range from 2% on the first \$1,000 of taxable income to 5.75% on incomes exceeding \$250,000
Ohio	Rates range from 0.528% on taxable income not over \$5,200 to 5.333% of taxable income in excess of \$208,500
Pennsylvania	Flat rate of 3.07%
Virginia	Rates range from 2% on the first \$3,000 of taxable income to 5.75% percent on taxable income of \$17,001 and above
West Virginia	Rates range from 3% on taxable income not over \$10,000 to 6.5% of taxable income in excess of \$60,000

Tables and Charts

The following tables provide a variety of statistical information from West Virginia Personal Income Tax returns, including distribution of revenue, source of revenue and data compiled on individual tax returns.



Personal Income Tax Resident Returns Total Returns, Income and Tax by Income Level Tax Year 2013



**Personal Income Tax Summary for Tax Year 2013
Total Resident Returns**

Adjusted Gross Income Level	Total Returns	Single, Head of Household, Joint & Other	Married Filing Separately	Gross Income	Exemptions	Taxable Income	State Revenue
Under 10,000	147,151	144,914	2,237	\$320,234,146	172,871	\$52,203,761	\$982,664
10,000 to 20,000	132,217	130,089	2,128	1,960,601,437	225,985	1,225,790,052	25,178,971
20,000 to 30,000	98,444	96,271	2,173	2,434,280,053	184,742	1,846,701,137	60,833,135
30,000 to 40,000	72,310	70,462	1,848	2,514,950,466	142,884	2,051,831,677	76,148,835
40,000 to 50,000	56,959	55,593	1,366	2,553,014,518	118,578	2,169,223,614	85,628,340
50,000 to 60,000	47,754	46,836	918	2,619,807,069	106,434	2,272,742,429	96,576,024
60,000 to 70,000	40,724	40,155	569	2,641,759,593	97,475	2,325,755,367	104,557,023
70,000 to 80,000	34,721	34,346	375	2,599,555,527	87,318	2,317,612,699	109,610,817
80,000 to 90,000	28,761	28,522	239	2,439,526,706	75,282	2,192,814,337	108,138,340
90,000 to 100,000	22,865	22,707	158	2,166,510,042	61,314	1,967,415,185	100,208,159
100,000 to 200,000	66,839	66,420	419	8,669,177,163	184,987	8,041,957,436	439,167,772
200,000 or over	13,774	13,644	130	5,524,987,044	38,716	5,390,069,639	316,260,512
Total	762,519	749,959	12,560	\$36,444,403,764	1,496,586	\$31,854,117,333	\$1,523,290,592

Personal Income Tax

Comparison of 2012 and 2013 Total Personal Income Tax Returns								
Adjusted Gross Income Level	Number of Returns		Federal Adjusted Gross Income		Taxable Income		State Revenue	
	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013
Under \$10,000	157,743	155,869	(\$3,742,812,688)	(\$3,905,872,770)	\$68,682,975	\$59,286,469	\$989,702	\$1,034,705
\$10,000 to \$20,000	141,101	140,435	2,090,286,846	2,081,744,070	1,319,646,154	1,314,085,672	27,170,509	26,072,008
\$20,000 to \$30,000	104,551	104,267	2,584,569,813	2,578,094,673	1,969,708,200	1,961,560,789	63,027,249	62,376,529
\$30,000 to \$50,000	138,773	137,992	5,445,829,614	5,413,511,121	4,552,660,098	4,518,271,370	167,387,498	165,964,155
\$50,000 to \$100,000	191,140	189,227	13,637,590,743	13,517,908,566	12,158,426,802	12,023,921,746	534,543,844	532,503,854
\$100,000 to \$200,000	76,616	78,134	10,016,724,658	10,231,566,119	9,332,931,404	9,507,558,632	443,252,433	458,068,711
\$200,000 or over	26,734	26,689	71,143,126,039	52,562,027,814	71,183,501,063	52,570,322,042	428,468,395	374,550,402
Total	836,658	832,613	\$101,175,315,025	\$82,478,979,593	\$100,585,556,696	\$81,955,006,720	\$1,664,839,630	\$1,620,582,364

Comparison of 2012 and 2013 Personal Income Tax Returns				
Income Level	Number of Returns With Tax Liability		West Virginia Income Tax	
	2012	2013	2012	2013
Under \$5,000	5,497	5,210	\$308,670	\$451,589
\$5,001-\$10,000	4,827	4,593	682,299	654,987
\$10,001-\$15,000	35,894	33,154	7,646,578	6,946,127
\$15,001-\$20,000	52,243	50,352	19,661,769	19,234,915
\$20,001-\$40,000	173,535	172,176	142,854,346	141,650,019
\$40,001-\$80,000	194,189	191,542	419,781,713	413,752,951
\$80,001-\$100,000	55,991	55,801	219,785,902	218,366,130
\$100,001-\$200,000	75,118	76,423	459,346,123	466,887,947
\$200,000 and above	23,876	23,761	451,536,852	393,876,152
Totals	621,170	613,012	\$1,721,604,252	\$1,661,820,817

2013 Personal Income Tax Returns by County

	West Virginia				West Virginia		
	Number of Returns	Federal Adjusted Gross Income	Personal Income Tax Liability		Number of Returns	Federal Adjusted Gross Income	Personal Income Tax Liability
Barbour	7,527	\$324,335,957	\$12,977,095	Mineral	12,200	521,662,368	20,706,406
Berkeley	46,447	2,297,409,192	95,089,396	Mingo	8,265	366,466,257	14,677,943
Boone	8,467	397,245,740	16,236,951	Monongalia	37,906	2,377,175,240	110,811,159
Braxton	5,225	221,395,849	9,041,436	Monroe	5,231	201,123,157	7,469,380
Brooke	9,868	450,415,872	18,257,264	Morgan	7,261	302,261,530	11,563,784
Cabell	39,308	1,975,394,136	84,814,725	Nicholas	10,138	431,275,732	17,728,993
Calhoun	2,619	114,665,314	4,680,191	Ohio	21,508	1,176,670,160	52,937,633
Clay	3,315	129,831,914	4,996,557	Pendleton	3,169	113,318,754	4,449,969
Doddridge	2,637	140,325,803	6,234,877	Pleasants	3,067	145,878,840	6,022,515
Fayette	17,424	713,310,661	27,939,316	Pocahontas	3,693	140,249,036	5,438,571
Gilmer	2,526	106,334,211	4,285,930	Preston	13,623	603,589,705	24,428,250
Grant	5,028	196,536,002	7,448,805	Putnam	24,362	1,426,549,077	63,847,167
Greenbrier	14,871	625,108,899	24,907,879	Raleigh	31,487	1,444,822,970	65,225,233
Hampshire	9,305	372,550,481	14,313,066	Randolph	10,974	441,028,989	17,551,669
Hancock	14,397	653,062,042	26,141,113	Ritchie	4,370	188,511,537	7,671,514
Hardy	6,119	222,011,504	8,423,011	Roane	5,542	222,740,510	8,849,783
Harrison	30,955	1,631,417,057	71,833,428	Summers	4,454	174,217,619	6,421,562
Jackson	12,174	541,241,713	22,045,208	Taylor	6,976	314,688,988	12,859,480
Jefferson	23,592	1,463,332,319	65,485,061	Tucker	3,437	141,755,872	5,494,155
Kanawha	85,616	4,554,625,979	201,131,892	Tyler	3,520	176,949,903	7,498,415
Lewis	7,947	348,840,807	14,195,317	Upshur	8,537	356,613,823	14,087,732
Lincoln	7,389	315,906,050	12,341,368	Wayne	13,945	594,057,539	23,370,073
Logan	12,513	585,912,712	24,280,212	Webster	3,085	148,304,062	6,369,239
McDowell	5,920	237,077,095	8,951,184	Wetzel	6,950	341,687,878	14,212,898
Marion	26,387	1,261,925,869	53,269,245	Wirt	2,602	102,835,712	3,924,804
Marshall	13,068	623,328,082	26,103,797	Wood	37,456	1,792,520,441	74,921,326
Mason	10,030	420,846,117	16,681,878	Wyoming	7,426	323,250,161	12,729,832
Mercer	23,519	984,126,667	38,597,714				
				State Total	755,377	\$36,478,719,904	\$1,541,973,401

Rank of Counties by Average Income as Reported on 2013 Personal Income Tax Returns

	Average	% of State Average	Rank		Average	% of State Average	Rank
Barbour	\$43,090	89.2%	30	Mineral	42,759	88.5%	31
Berkeley	49,463	102.4%	10	Mingo	44,340	91.8%	24
Boone	46,917	97.2%	17	Monongalia	62,712	129.9%	1
Braxton	42,372	87.7%	35	Monroe	38,448	79.6%	52
Brooke	45,644	94.5%	20	Morgan	41,628	86.2%	41
Cabell	50,254	104.1%	9	Nicholas	42,541	88.1%	34
Calhoun	43,782	90.7%	27	Ohio	54,708	113.3%	4
Clay	39,165	81.1%	49	Pendleton	35,759	74.0%	55
Doddridge	53,214	110.2%	5	Pleasants	47,654	98.5%	16
Fayette	40,938	84.8%	43	Pocahontas	37,977	78.6%	53
Gilmer	42,096	87.2%	36	Preston	44,307	91.7%	25
Grant	39,088	80.9%	51	Putnam	58,556	121.3%	3
Greenbrier	42,035	87.0%	37	Raleigh	45,886	95.0%	19
Hampshire	40,038	82.9%	47	Randolph	40,189	83.2%	45
Hancock	45,631	93.9%	21	Ritchie	43,138	89.3%	29
Hardy	36,282	75.1%	54	Roane	40,191	83.2%	44
Harrison	52,703	109.1%	7	Summers	39,115	81.0%	50
Jackson	44,459	92.1%	23	Taylor	45,110	93.4%	22
Jefferson	62,027	128.4%	2	Tucker	41,244	85.4%	42
Kanawha	53,198	110.2%	6	Tyler	50,270	104.1%	8
Lewis	43,896	90.9%	26	Upshur	41,773	86.5%	40
Lincoln	42,754	88.5%	32	Wayne	42,600	88.2%	33
Logan	46,824	97.0%	18	Webster	48,073	99.5%	12
McDowell	40,047	82.9%	46	Wetzel	49,164	101.8%	11
Marion	47,824	99.0%	14	Wirt	39,522	81.8%	48
Marshall	47,699	98.8%	15	Wood	47,857	99.1%	13
Mason	41,959	86.9%	38	Wyoming	43,530	90.1%	28
Mercer	41,844	86.6%	39				
				State Total	\$48,292	100.0%	

SEVERANCE TAX

The West Virginia Severance Tax (West Virginia Code, Chapter 11, Articles 12B, 13A, and 13V) was first enacted during the 1985 Legislative Session as part of the reform of the business tax structure and went into effect in 1987. The Severance Tax was enacted to apply to businesses that sever or extract natural resources.

During fiscal year 2015, total collections for State Severance Taxes were roughly \$562.9 million. Of that amount, \$414.2 million was deposited in the State General Revenue Fund.

State Severance Tax Revenue (in millions) Fiscal Year 2011 to 2015				
Fiscal Year	General Revenue Fund	Infrastructure Bond Fund	Workers Compensation Debt Fund	All State Severance Taxes
2011	\$440.9	\$24.0	\$93.1	\$558.5
2012	\$467.9	\$24.0	\$93.9	\$585.7
2013	\$409.7	\$24.0	\$94.6	\$528.2
2014	\$488.7	\$23.0	\$109.5	\$621.1
2015	\$414.2	\$23.0	\$125.7	\$562.9

Taxpayers

The Severance Tax is a gross receipts tax levied on businesses that sever, extract, and/or produce natural resource products within West Virginia. The Severance Tax base includes the processing and treatment of natural resource products as part of the production process. However, a person subject to the Severance Tax who purchases raw natural resources and processes them into commercially usable products only pays tax on the value added in the processing and not on the total value of the product. The processing tax provision does not apply to oil, natural gas, timber, or limestone or sandstone quarried or mined. The tax under these natural resource categories is levied only on the value of the product immediately after severance from the earth and before processing.

Tax Rates

The tax rates on natural resources, except timber, are generally 5.0 percent of gross receipts. The following is a list of natural resources and their respective tax rates:

Natural Resource¹	Tax Rate
Coal mined and produced, average underground seam thickness in excess of 45 inches	5.00%
Coal mined and produced from new underground mines, average seam thickness of 37 inches to 45 inches	2.00%
Coal mined and produced from new underground mines, average seam thickness less than 37 inches	1.00%
Waste coal	2.50%
Limestone or sandstone quarried or mined	5.00%
Oil	5.00%
Natural gas and coalbed methane	5.00%
Blast furnace slag	5.00%
Timber (Moratorium period - for tax periods beginning on or after January 1, 2010)	0.00%
Timber (when Worker's Compensation Tax expires)	1.22%
Other natural resource products	5.00%

Also, raw coal purchased and further processed into a commercially useable product is assessed tax on the value added in the processing.

A Minimum Severance Tax of 75 cents per ton of coal produced by a taxpayer for sale, profit or commercial use applies to coal subject to the 5.0 percent rate.

Exemptions for Natural Gas Severance Tax

The gross receipts attributable to the following activities are excluded from the Severance Tax on natural gas and oil:

1. free natural gas provided to the surface owner;

¹Reduced severance tax rates for "thin-seam" production apply only to new underground mines (mines first opened on or after April 11, 1997) with average seam thickness of less than 45 inches.

Severance Tax

2. natural gas from any well which produced an average of less than 5,000 cubic feet of natural gas per day during the calendar year immediately preceding the given tax year;
3. oil from an oil well which produced an average of less than one-half barrel of oil per day during the calendar year immediately preceding the given tax year, and
4. for a maximum period of ten years, all natural gas or oil produced from any well which has not produced marketable quantities of natural gas or oil for five consecutive years immediately preceding the year in which a well is placed back into production and thereafter produced marketable quantities of natural gas or oil.¹

Credits Against Tax Liability

An annual tax credit of \$500 is provided for each business engaged in activities in this State that are subject to the Severance Tax. The West Virginia Code provides for other tax credits that may be applied against Severance Tax liability in some cases. These include the Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit and the Coal-Loading Facilities Credit. Explanations of these credits may be found in the Tax Credits section.

Additional Tax on the Severance, Extraction and Production of Coal (W.Va. Code §11-13A-6)

An additional tax is levied on the severance, extraction and production of coal for the benefit of local governments at the rate of \$0.35 per \$100. This additional tax is collected for counties and municipalities by the West Virginia State Tax Department. Therefore, the tax rate for the coal classification on the Severance Tax return is the total of the State rate and the additional tax for the benefit of local governments. The revenue from the additional severance tax is then distributed to local governments quarterly. The amount to be distributed is calculated without application of any credits against the Severance Tax that are otherwise authorized.

Revenue produced by the additional severance tax is divided into two funds. Seventy-five percent goes into the County Coal Revenue Fund, and the remaining 25 percent goes into the All Counties and Municipalities Revenue

Fund. All counties and municipalities must create a coal severance tax revenue fund that shall be the depository for money distributed to any county or municipality.

County Coal Revenue Fund

A share of the County Coal Revenue Fund is distributed quarterly by the State Treasurer to the sheriff of each coal-producing county. Each coal-producing county receives as payment a fraction of this fund that is the same fraction that the coal produced in that county is of the total amount of coal produced in West Virginia. The amount of each quarterly payment is based on production data for the previous quarter. In counties with population over 200,000, at least 75 percent of the funds received from the County Coal Revenue Fund shall be apportioned to and expended within the coal-producing area or areas of the county.

All Counties and Municipalities Revenue Fund

Money from this smaller fund is distributed proportionately based on population to every municipality and county on a quarterly basis. Based on the population data from the most recent decennial U.S. Census of Population, the State Treasurer divides the smaller fund into shares for each of the fifty-five counties. Each county's share is then divided into two parts: rural and municipal. The rural part is equal to the fraction of the county's population that lives in unincorporated or rural areas, and this part is distributed to the sheriff of each county. The municipal part is equal to the fraction of the county's population that lives in incorporated towns or cities. The municipal part is further divided among the cities and towns based on their population in relation to the total municipal population of the county. Payments from the municipal portion are distributed to the treasurers of each incorporated city or town.

Additional Dedication of the Severance Tax Attributable to Coal

A percentage of the State Severance Tax on coal is to be shared with producing counties. The amount of Severance Tax attributable to the severance of coal to be distributed to the coal-producing counties increases by an additional percentage point each succeeding first of July until reaching 5 percent. The maximum amount of Severance Tax attributable to the severance of coal to be distributed to the coal-producing counties cannot exceed \$20 million in any fiscal year.

¹Effective July 1, 2013, this exemption is eliminated for horizontally drilled wells.

Dedication of Oil and Gas Severance Tax Revenue

Ten percent of Severance Tax revenue from the production of gas or oil in West Virginia is dedicated for distribution to counties and municipalities annually. The dedicated Severance Tax revenue is divided into two funds. Seventy-five percent goes into the Oil and Gas County Revenue Fund, and the remaining 25 percent goes into the All Counties and Municipalities Oil and Gas Revenue Fund. Distributions to any county or municipality are deposited into the general revenue fund of the entity and may be expended for any purpose, except that no more than 25 percent of the amount received may be spent for personal services. Also, in oil and gas-producing counties with a population in excess of 200,000, 75 percent of the monies received from the Oil and Gas County Revenue Fund must be spent in the oil and gas-producing areas of the county.

Oil and Gas County Revenue Fund

A share of the Oil and Gas County Revenue Fund is distributed annually by the State Treasurer to each oil or gas-producing county. The amount allocated to each county is determined as follows:

1. For gas, the total amount available for distribution derived from Severance Tax on gas is divided by the total volume of cubic feet of gas extracted in West Virginia during the preceding year. This quotient is multiplied by the number of cubic feet of gas taken from the ground in each county during the preceding year.
2. For oil, the total amount available for distribution derived from Severance Tax on oil is divided by the total number of barrels of oil extracted in West Virginia during the preceding year. This quotient is multiplied by the number of barrels of oil taken from the ground in each county during the preceding year.

All Counties and Municipalities Oil and Gas Revenue Fund

Money from this smaller fund is distributed proportionately based on population to every municipality and county on an annual basis. Based on the population data from the most recent decennial U.S. Census of Population, the State Treasurer divides the smaller fund

into shares for each of the fifty-five counties. Each county's share is then divided into two parts: rural and municipal. The rural part is equal to the fraction of the county's population that lives in unincorporated or rural areas, and this part is distributed to the sheriff of each county. The municipal part is equal to the fraction of the county's population that lives in incorporated towns or cities. The municipal part is further divided among the cities and towns based on their population in relation to the total municipal population of the county. Payments from the municipal portion are distributed to the treasurers of each incorporated city or town.

Dedication of Coalbed Methane Severance Tax Revenue

The first \$4 million of Severance Tax attributable to coalbed methane collected each fiscal year is dedicated to counties and county economic development authorities. Subject to proportional adjustments, 75 percent of the dedicated revenue is set aside for producing counties and allocated based upon production levels while the remaining 25 percent is set aside for all other counties and allocated in equal amounts. A proportional adjustment is required in the event that the initial allocation to a county with coalbed methane production is less than the allocation to a non-producing county. The final county allocations for each fiscal year are distributed to county commissions if the amount is \$10,000 or less, while final allocations that are greater than \$10,000 are distributed to county economic entities designated by the county commission of the county receiving the funds.

Special Two-Cent Tax

A special 2-cent per ton tax is imposed on producers of coal. For purposes of this tax, producers of coal are persons who own the coal immediately after its severance from the ground. The measure of this tax is "tons of clean coal" sold during the reporting period produced by the seller of the coal. The person who produces and sells unprocessed coal must convert raw tonnage sold to "tons of clean coal" and pay tax on the lower number.

Reclamation Tax

Coal production within West Virginia is subject to the Reclamation Tax of 27.9 cents per ton of clean coal mined. The tax proceeds are deposited into the special reclamation fund for use in mine reclamation projects. A tax credit is available against the Reclamation Tax on coal

Severance Tax

to any mine operator who performs reclamation or remediation at a bond forfeiture site which otherwise would have been reclaimed using funds from the Special Reclamation Fund or Special Reclamation Water Trust Fund.

Special Taxes to Provide Funding for Unfunded Workers' Compensation Liability

Three taxes were temporarily imposed to provide funding to reduce and pay the unfunded Workers' Compensation liability. The three taxes are

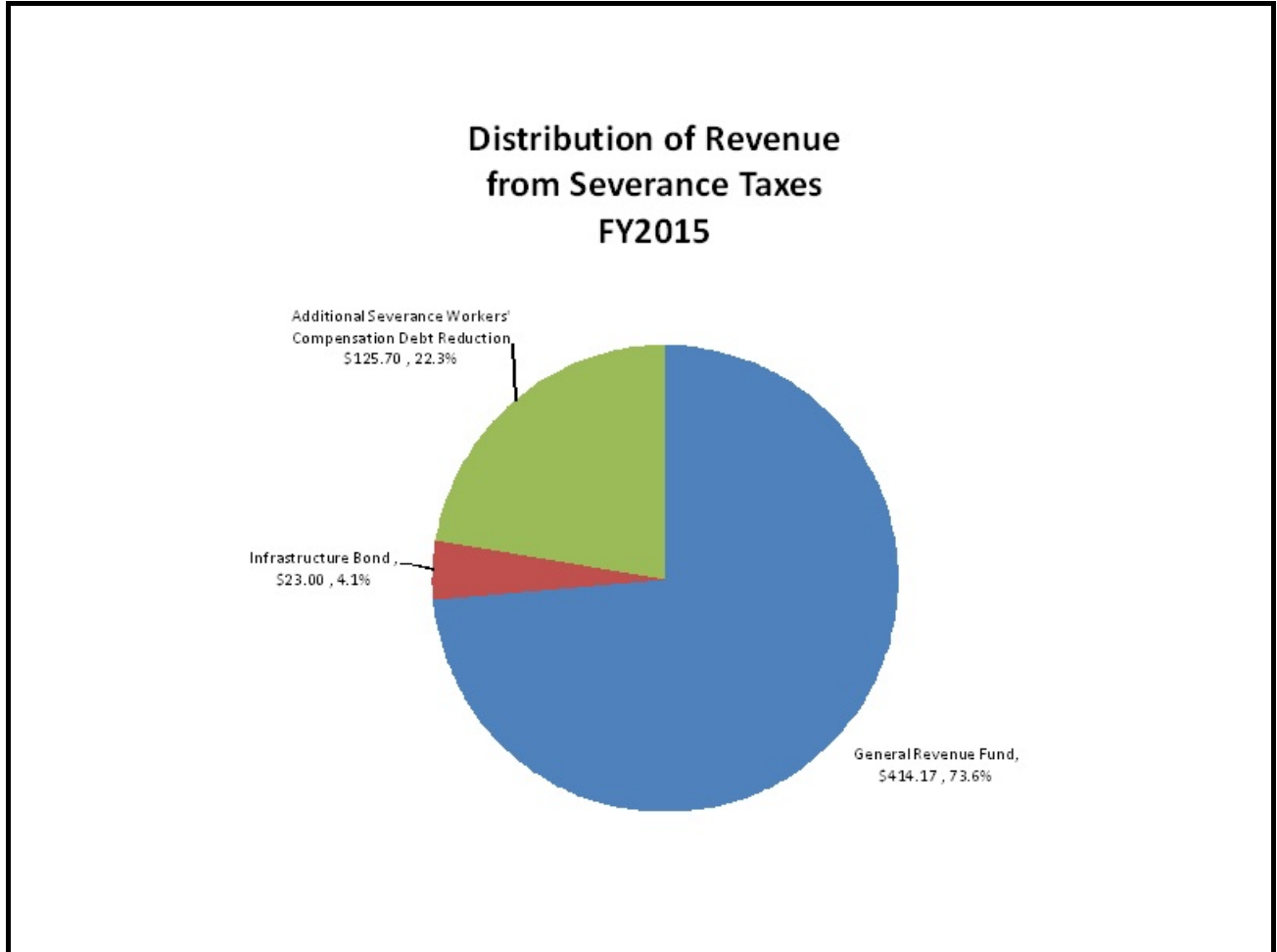
1. a 56 cents per ton additional Severance Tax on persons within West Virginia in the business of severing, extracting, reducing to possession and producing coal for sale, profit or commercial use;
2. a 4.7 cents per MCF (thousand cubic feet) additional Severance Tax on persons for the privilege of engaging in West Virginia in the business of severing natural gas for sale, profit or commercial use, and
3. an additional Severance Tax imposed at the rate of 2.78 percent on persons engaging in West Virginia in the business of severing timber for sale, profit or commercial use (the measure of tax is the gross value of the timber at the point where the production privilege ends).

Disposition of Revenue

During fiscal year 2015, \$414.2 million, or 73.6 percent, of the revenue from State Severance Taxes was deposited in the State General Revenue Fund. \$125.7 million, or 22.3%, went to the Workers Compensation Debt Fund, and \$23.0 million went to the Infrastructure Bond Fund.

Tables and Charts

The following tables provide a variety of statistical information on West Virginia Severance Taxes.



**DISTRIBUTION OF
THE ADDITIONAL TAX ON THE SEVERANCE,
EXTRACTION AND PRODUCTION OF COAL¹**

Fiscal Year	(Millions)
2003-2004.	\$15.1
2004-2005.	20.2
2005-2006.	24.2
2006-2007.	26.0
2007-2008.	27.4
2008-2009.	35.6
2009-2010.	34.5
2010-2011.	37.8
2011-2012.	39.3
2012-2013.	32.5
2013-2014.	19.2
2014-2015.	26.8

**DISTRIBUTION OF
THE ADDITIONAL DEDICATION OF SEVERANCE TAX
ATTRIBUTABLE TO COAL**

Fiscal Year	(Millions)
2012-2013.	\$2.2
2013-2014.	4.9
2014-2015.	7.6

¹For calendar quarters ending prior to July 1, 2013, the quarterly distributions were made in the first month of the following quarter. The quarterly distributions for calendar quarters beginning after June 30, 2013 will be made in the first month of the second quarter.

**DISTRIBUTION OF
DEDICATED OIL AND GAS SEVERANCE TAX¹**

Fiscal Year	(Millions)
2004-2005.	\$5.3
2005-2006.	6.9
2006-2007.	6.7
2007-2008.	7.2
2008-2009.	8.4
2009-2010.	6.0
2010-2011.	6.1
2011-2012.	7.3
2012-2013.	7.0
2013-2014.	0.0
2014-2015.	13.5

**DISTRIBUTION OF
DEDICATED COALBED METHANE SEVERANCE TAX**

Fiscal Year	(Millions)
2008-2009.	\$0.5
2009-2010.	1.3
2010-2011.	2.8 ²
2011-2012.	1.5
2012-2013.	1.0
2013-2014.	1.4

¹For calendar years ending prior to January 1, 2013, the annual distributions were made in June of the following year. The annual distributions for calendar years beginning after December 31, 2012 will be made in October of the following year.

²A recording error inadvertently added the FY2010 collection total to the FY2011 collection total in determine the amount of coal bed methane Severance Tax available for distribution to county commissions and county economic development entities in October 2011.

SOFT DRINKS TAX

The West Virginia Soft Drinks Tax (West Virginia Code, Chapter 11, Article 19) went into effect in 1951. The Soft Drinks Tax is an excise tax levied upon the sale, use, handling or distribution of bottled soft drinks, syrups and powder bases prepared for mixing soft drinks whether manufactured within or outside West Virginia. The tax on soft drinks was created for the sole purpose of providing revenue for the construction, maintenance and operation of a four-year school of medicine, dentistry and nursing of West Virginia University. The revenue collected is deposited into a special medical school fund.

Soft Drinks Tax Revenue Fiscal Year 2011 to 2015	
Fiscal Year	Collections
2011	\$16,215,413
2012	\$15,495,168
2013	\$15,039,303
2014	\$14,178,530
2015	\$15,017,826

Taxpayers

The tax is imposed on any West Virginia manufacturer or producer of bottled soft drinks or soft drink syrup for sale within this State. The tax also applies to distributors and wholesale or retail dealers who are the original consignees of any bottled soft drink or soft drink syrup brought into the State that was manufactured or produced outside of this State. In addition, the tax is imposed on any out-of-state bottler who puts indicia on a product to be sold in West Virginia.

Tax Rates

The tax is paid through the purchase of tax stamps or tax crowns by manufacturers, distributors, wholesale or retail dealers or any other person who is the original consignee of the soft drinks. The rates of the tax are as follows:

On bottled soft drinks

1 cent on each 16.9 fluid ounces or any fraction of that amount, or 1 cent on each ½-liter or any fraction of that amount;

On soft drinks syrup (single strength)

80 cents on each gallon and, on each fractional part of a gallon, the same fractional part of 80 cents, or

84 cents on each 4 liters and, on any fractional part of 4 liters, the same fractional part of 84 cents, or 0.625 cents per ounce

On dry mixture used for making soft drinks

1 cent on each ounce or any fraction of that amount

1 cent on each 28.35 grams or any fraction of that amount.

The tax must be paid in advance when the stamps are bought. Stamp discounts from the face value of the stamps are as follows:

on sales under \$25, no discount;

on sales from \$25 but less than \$50, 5%, and

on sales of \$50 or more, 10%.

When crowns are bought, payment of tax may be made either in advance or on credit bound by the terms on appropriate surety bond. Both cash and credit buyers of tax crowns are granted a discount of 12.5 percent from the face value of the crowns.

Other States

West Virginia is only of only two states (the other being Arkansas) that has a special excise tax on soft drinks.

TOBACCO PRODUCTS EXCISE TAX

The West Virginia Tobacco Products Excise Tax (West Virginia Code, Chapter 11, Articles 17) was formerly know as the Cigarette Tax. It was renamed on April 13, 2001,

The Cigarette Tax Act was originally enacted by the 1947 Legislature. It imposed a tax of 0.5 cent upon the sale of ten cigarettes. The code was amended many times with rates being raised in small increments and portions of the proceeds being dedicated to veterans’ bonds and the general school fund. In 1966, the Legislature repealed dedication to the veterans’ bonds. In 1978, the Legislature repealed dedication to the school fund.

In 1978 the Cigarette Tax rate was raised to 17 cents per package of twenty. The rate did not increase again until the 2003 Legislative Session when it was raised to 55 cents per package of twenty.

In 2001, the Cigarette Tax Act was amended to include all tobacco products, not just cigarettes, and renamed the Tobacco Products Excise Tax. Other tobacco products are snuff, chewing tobacco, and tobacco products meant to be consumed by means other than smoking. Other products also include pipe tobacco and cigars. These products are taxed at a rate of 7 percent of the wholesale price.

Revenue from Tobacco Products Excise Tax has decreased in recent years.

Tobacco Products Excise Tax Revenue (in millions) Fiscal Year 2011 to 2015	
Fiscal Year	General Revenue Fund
2011	\$110.8
2012	\$109.6
2013	\$107.0
2014	\$101.8
2015	\$102.2

Taxpayers

The Tobacco Excise Tax is paid by the purchase of stamps or impressions, which must be affixed to the cigarette package. The stamps or impressions are purchased by the wholesaler.

The tax on other tobacco products is paid by the wholesaler, sub-jobber, or vending machine operator.

Tax Base

The Tobacco Products Excise Tax is imposed on every wholesaler, subjobber, subjobber dealer, retail dealer and vending machine operator by the purchase of stamps to be affixed to or impressed upon each package of cigarettes to be sold. Stamps or meter impressions are purchased from the State Tax Commissioner and are evidence of payment of the tax.

Other tobacco products are taxed at the wholesale price. Products to be taxed include cigars, snuff, chewing tobacco, and other non-cigarette tobacco products. The wholesale price is the gross invoice price, including all federal excise taxes, at which the tobacco products are sold to distributors or wholesalers and excludes all trade discounts and other reductions in the manufacturer's price.

Rates

The tax rate on cigarettes is 55 cents on each pack of twenty cigarettes. Tobacco products other than cigarettes are taxed at the rate of 7.0 percent of the wholesale price.

Discounts

Discounts are allowed on all tax due on cigarettes for affixing stamps and collecting and paying the tax as required by law. Wholesalers of other tobacco products are also allowed a discount for collecting and remitting the tax.

Disposition of Revenue

All revenue from the Tobacco Products Excise Tax is to be deposited into the General Revenue Fund and appropriated by the Legislature.

Comparison with Other States

The tax rates listed in this section are for as of July 1, 2015.

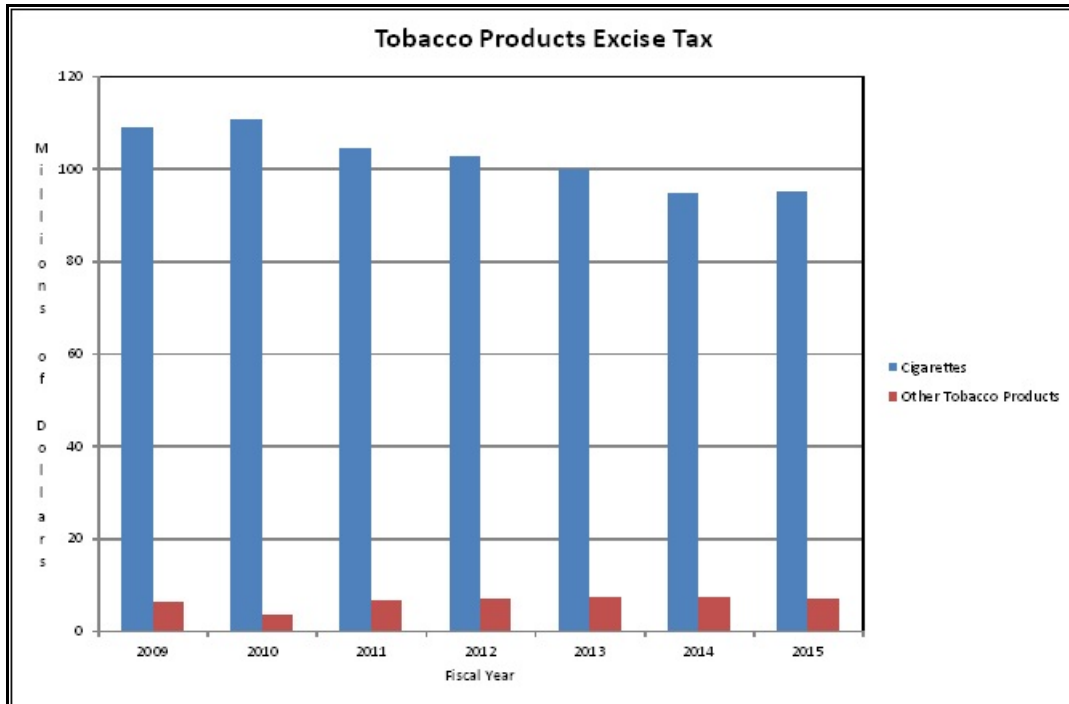
Comparison of Cigarette Tax Rates (per pack)	
Kentucky	\$0.60
Maryland	\$2.00
Ohio	\$1.60
Pennsylvania	\$1.60
Virginia ¹	\$0.30
West Virginia	\$0.55

Comparison of Tax Rates on Other Tobacco Products (per pack)	
Kentucky	15% of wholesale price
Maryland	30% of wholesale price for tobacco and snuff 70% of wholesale price for cigars
Ohio	17% of wholesale price
Pennsylvania	No tax
Virginia	10% of manufacturer's price 18 cents per ounce for snuff
West Virginia	7% of wholesale price

¹Additional local taxes apply in Virginia.

Tables and Charts

The following charts show the break-out of Tobacco Products Excise Tax revenue between cigarettes and other tobacco products.



Fiscal Year	Cigarettes	Other Tobacco Products	Total
2002	\$32,219,157	\$2,217,252	\$34,436,409
2003	45,062,379	4,627,101	49,689,480
2004	102,876,773	4,731,793	107,608,566
2005	98,065,896	4,758,872	102,824,768
2006	107,118,357	4,909,270	112,027,627
2007	106,570,122	4,822,604	111,392,726
2008	109,152,254	5,516,525	114,668,779
2009	108,903,702	6,190,897	115,094,599
2010	110,640,447	3,487,899	114,128,346
2011	104,305,498	6,454,946	110,760,444
2012	102,650,985	6,958,480	109,609,465
2013	99,882,020	7,139,638	107,021,658
2014	94,618,301	7,161,465	101,779,766
2015	95,100,934	7,062,272	102,163,206

PART IV

***OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES
ADMINISTERED BY
THE STATE TAX COMMISSIONER***

CEMETERY REGISTRATION ACT

The Cemetery Registration Act (West Virginia Code, Chapter 35, Article 5B) went into effect on June 1, 1993. After that date, cemetery companies in West Virginia are required to register with the State Tax Commissioner.

Taxpayers

Cemetery companies are required to register with the West Virginia State Tax Department and establish trust accounts for a portion of the proceeds from certain sales. Cemetery companies required to register are persons, partnerships, firms or corporations operating a cemetery or selling property, goods or services used in connection with interring or disposing of the remains or commemorating the memory of a deceased human being under certain conditions. These companies must only register if the delivery of the property or goods sold or the performance of the services may take place more than 120 days after the receipt of the initial payment on the account. The property, goods or services include but are not limited to burial vaults, mausoleum crypts, lawn crypts, memorials, marker bases and opening and closing and/or interment services. This does not include graves or incidental additions, such as dates or scrolls, representing not more than 10 percent of the total contract price.

Fee

The registration fee set by regulation is \$200. An additional \$100 annual filing fee is due when a cemetery company reports a change in ownership or a change in the name of the compliance agent designated by the cemetery company.

Exemptions

Certain companies are exempt from the requirement to register and establish trust accounts. They are as follows:

1. cemeteries owned and operated by a county, municipal corporation, church or a non-stock corporation not operated for profit if the cemetery company
 - a. does not compensate any officer or director, except for reimbursement of reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of official duties;

- b. does not sell or construct or directly or indirectly contract for the sale or construction of vaults or lawn or mausoleum crypts, and
 - c. uses proceeds from the sale of all graves and entombment rights for the sole purpose of defraying the direct expenses of managing the cemetery;
2. community cemeteries not operated for profit if the cemetery
 - a. does not compensate any officer, owner or director except for reimbursement of reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of official duties, and
 - b. uses proceeds from the sale of all graves and entombment rights for the sole purpose of defraying the direct expenses of managing the cemetery, and
3. family cemeteries in which lots or spaces are not offered for public sale.

Trust Fund Requirements

Every cemetery company or seller of pre-need goods or services used in the interring or disposing of the remains or commemorating the memory of a deceased human being shall deposit in an interest-bearing trust fund 40 percent of the receipts from the sale of property, goods or services purchased pursuant to a pre-need cemetery company contract. This includes sales of opening and closing or interment services when the delivery will be delayed more than 120 days from the initial payment of the contract.

Deposits must be made within thirty days after the close of the month in which the receipts are paid. If payment is made on an installment or deferred payment plan, the cemetery company or seller may deposit 40 percent of the payments as they are made. If the proceeds from the sale are financed through a lending institution, it is considered a cash sale. All funds deposited in the trust account must be identified in the records of the seller by the contract number and by the name of the buyer.

Within four months of the end of the cemetery company's fiscal year, the company must file an annual report with State Tax Commissioner. In addition, the

Cemetery Registration Act

cemetery company must employ an independent certified public accountant to audit the account and provide assurance that 40 percent of the cash receipts from pre-need contracts was deposited in the account within thirty days after the close of each month. Such assurance must be sent with the report to the State Tax Commissioner.

CHARITABLE BINGO AND RAFFLE LICENSES

West Virginia allows bingo and raffle occasions to be held by charitable organizations. A charitable organization is defined as a tax-exempt, nonprofit, benevolent, educational, philanthropic, humane, patriotic, civic, religious or fraternal organization or a volunteer fire department, rescue unit or other such volunteer service organizations. It does not include any nonprofit organizations organized mainly to influence legislation or support a public office candidate. An organization is tax-exempt if it has 501(c) status with the Internal Revenue Service.

CHARITABLE BINGO LICENSE (West Virginia Code §47-20)

Taxpayers

Bingo licenses can be issued to charitable organizations that have been in existence in West Virginia for two years. The West Virginia State Fair Board may also apply for a bingo license and conduct bingo occasions at the State Fair.

Fees

License fees are as follows:

Annual License	\$ 500
Annual License (bingo occasions grossing less than \$20,000 annually)	\$ 200
Annual License Fee (bona fide senior citizen organizations)	\$ 50
Limited Occasion License	\$ 100
State Fair License	\$ 500
Super Bingo License	\$5,000

An annual bingo occasion license is valid for one year and entitles the licensee to hold no more than two bingo occasions per week. No bingo occasion held pursuant to an annual license may exceed six hours in duration.

A limited occasion license is valid only for the time period specified in the application and entitles the licensee to hold a bingo occasion once every twenty-four hours for a time period not to exceed two weeks. No bingo occasion held pursuant to a limited occasion license may exceed twelve hours in duration. Only three limited occasion licenses per year in the aggregate may be granted to an applicant not holding an annual license.

No licensee which holds an annual license may obtain more than one limited license.

Any charitable or public service organization, including those organizations already holding a regular or limited occasion license, may apply for an annual Super Bingo license. A Super Bingo licensee may hold one Super Bingo occasion every month during the license year. No more than \$50,000 in prizes may be awarded to persons playing Super Bingo during each Super Bingo occasion.

Exemption

All organizations intending to conduct bingo occasions must complete an application. However, if the charge per card is 5 cents or less and the prizes per game do not exceed \$10, the organization is exempt from obtaining a license.

Rules

No bingo occasions may be held until sixty days after an application for a bingo license has been filed and approved by the State Tax Commissioner. All bingo occasions must be open to the general public. No individual under the age of eighteen may play in any bingo game. With the exception of junior volunteer firefighters who are sixteen years of age or older and under the supervision of a senior member of the same volunteer fire department, no individual under the age of eighteen may participate in the operation of any bingo game. Licensees may receive and cash personal checks in an amount not to exceed \$100 per person during the normal operation of a bingo game.

Gross proceeds means all moneys collected or received from the conduct of bingo at all bingo occasions held by the licensee during a license period. No gross proceeds from any bingo operation may be devoted or in any manner used by any licensee or qualified recipient organization for the construction or acquisition of real or personal property except that which is used exclusively for one or more charitable or public service purposes or used as equipment or supplies necessary to conduct bingo occasions.

Prizes may be merchandise or money but may not be any type of alcoholic beverage. The value of prizes awarded at a single bingo occasion (excluding Super Bingo) shall not exceed an average of \$10,000 for all bingo occasions held under the license. The value assigned to merchandise awarded as prizes is the fair market value at the time of purchase or acquisition.

Charitable Bingo and Raffle Licenses

The reasonable, necessary and actual expenses incurred in connection with the conduct of bingo occasions, not to exceed 25 percent of the gross proceeds collected during a license period, may be paid from the gross proceeds of the conduct of bingo. Net proceeds are all moneys left after deducting prize payouts and allowable expenses from gross proceeds. All net proceeds from the bingo operation must be distributed either to a qualified recipient organization or to support a charitable or public service activity or endeavor that the licensee sponsors.

CHARITABLE RAFFLE LICENSE (West Virginia Code §47-21)

Taxpayers

Charitable raffle licenses can be issued to qualified charitable or public service organizations, including the State Fair Board, that have been in existence in West Virginia for two years.

Fees

License fees are as follows:

Annual License	\$500
Limited License	\$ 50
State Fair License	\$500

An annual license is valid for one year from the date of issuance. A limited occasion license is valid only for the time period specified in the application and entitles the licensee to hold two raffle occasions during the specified time period which may not exceed six months from the date of issuance of such limited occasion license. An applicant may be granted only three limited occasion licenses per year in the aggregate.

Exemption

If the gross proceeds of the organization from raffles for a calendar year do not exceed \$15,000 and the value of any one prize does not exceed \$4,000, the organization is exempt from obtaining a license but is still required to maintain applicable records for three years.

Rules

All licensees may receive and cash personal checks in an amount not to exceed \$100 per person during the normal operation of a raffle game. Charitable raffle occasions may be open to the general public or may be restricted to members of the licensee organizations.

Gross proceeds means all moneys collected or received from the conduct of raffles at all raffle occasions held by the licensee during a license period. No gross proceeds from any raffle operation may be devoted or in any manner used by any licensee or qualified recipient organization for the construction or acquisition of real or personal property except that which is used exclusively for one or more charitable or public service purposes or used as equipment or supplies necessary to conduct raffle occasions.

Prizes may be merchandise or money but may not be any type of alcoholic beverage. The value assigned to merchandise awarded as prizes is the fair market value at the time of purchase or acquisition. There is no value limitation on charitable raffle prizes.

The reasonable, necessary and actual expenses incurred in connection with the conduct of raffle occasions, not to exceed 25 percent of the gross proceeds collected during a license period, may be paid from the gross proceeds of the conduct of raffles. Net proceeds are all moneys left after deducting prize payouts and allowable expenses from gross proceeds. All net proceeds from the raffle operation must be distributed either to a qualified recipient organization or to support a charitable or public service activity or endeavor that the licensee sponsors.

All raffle boards and games must be purchased from a licensed wholesaler, distributor or manufacturer. All raffle boards and games sold in West Virginia must have some identification as to the manufacturer of the product and a unique serial number printed on each ticket. In addition, the seller is required to provide an original invoice to the purchaser showing the serial numbers of all games purchased and that the "retail value" fee has been paid on those games. Any games in the possession of the purchaser for which the State Tax Commissioner cannot verify through the original invoice that the tax has been paid, will be considered contraband and may be seized and destroyed by the State Tax Commissioner.

RAFFLE BOARD WHOLESALERS AND DISTRIBUTORS FEES (West Virginia Code §47-23)

Taxpayers

Wholesalers, distributors and manufacturers of raffle boards and games must pay an annual license fee.

Fees

Wholesalers, distributors and manufacturers must pay an annual license fee of \$500.

The sale of raffle boards and games to West Virginia retailers is subject to a "retail value" fee of 20 percent. This "retail value" fee is in addition to any Consumers Sales Tax due. However, if a charitable or public service organization qualifies to conduct exempt raffle occasions under West Virginia Code §47-21-3, it is exempt from paying the "retail value" fee on its purchases of raffle boards and games.

All raffle boards and games sold in West Virginia are required to have identification as to the manufacturer of the product and a unique game serial number printed on each ticket. The seller of the games is required to provide an original invoice to the purchaser showing that the fee has been paid on the games.

Any charitable raffle boards and games subject to the "retail value" fee imposed by the Code and upon which the fee has not been paid are deemed to be contraband and may be seized without a warrant by the State Tax Commissioner, or any of his deputies or employees authorized by him, or any peace officer of this state and destroyed. Persons found in possession of contraband games may also be subject to fines or imprisonment.

COLLECTION AGENCY ACT

The West Virginia Collection Agency Act (West Virginia Code, Chapter, 47) was passed in 1973 by the West Virginia Legislature. The Act provides for the regulation and bonding of persons who engage directly or indirectly in the business of operating a collection agency in West Virginia.

Taxpayers

The Collection Agency Act is very broad and inclusive in its definition of the business or operating a collection agency. "Collection agency" means and includes all persons, firms, corporations and associations

1. that are directly or indirectly engaged in the business of soliciting from or collecting for others any account, bill or indebtedness originally due or asserted to be owed or due another and all persons, firms, corporations and associations directly or indirectly engaged in asserting, enforcing or prosecuting those claims;
2. that uses fictitious names or names other than their own names when attempting to collect or when collecting his or her own accounts;
3. that attempts to or does give away or sell to others any system or series of letters or forms for use in the collection of accounts or claims which assert or indicate directly or indirectly that the claims or accounts are being asserted or collected by any person, firm, corporation or association other than the creditor or owner of the claim or account, or
4. that are directly or indirectly engaged in the business of soliciting, or who holds himself or herself out as engaged in the business of soliciting, debts of any kind owed or due, or asserted to be owed or due, to any solicited person, firm, corporation or association for fee, commission or other compensation.

Specific persons not considered collection agencies are as follows:

1. regular employees of a single creditor or a collection agency licensed under the Act,
2. banks,
3. trust companies,
4. savings and loan associations,
5. building and loan associations,

6. industrial loan companies,
7. small loan companies,
8. abstract companies doing escrow business,
9. properly licensed real estate brokers or agents when claims and/or accounts they handle are related to or are part of their regular real estate businesses,
10. express and telegraph companies subject to public regulation,
11. attorneys-at-law when they handle claims and/or collections in their own names as attorneys,
12. any individual or organization which acts under the order of any court of competent jurisdiction, and
13. any person collecting a debt owed to another person only where
 - a. both persons are related by wholly-owned, common ownership or affiliated by wholly-owned corporation control,
 - b. the person collecting the debt acts only on behalf of persons related as described in (a), and
 - c. debt collection is not the principal business of the person collecting the debt.

Out-of-state collection agencies without an office in West Virginia and whose only contact with residents of this State is by letter or telephone call are required to designate a resident agent upon whom notice of orders may be served. The West Virginia Secretary of State may be designated as the resident agent for service of process pursuant to W. Va. Code §56-3-33.

Bonds

Individuals and organizations that are not exempt and which conduct the business of a collection agency in West Virginia must file separate approved surety bonds of \$5,000 with the State Tax Commissioner. A separate bond must be filed for the principal office and each branch office. These bonds must be renewed annually during the operation of the agency.

CONSUMER CREDIT AND PROTECTION ACT

The West Virginia Consumers Credit and Protection Act (West Virginia Code, Chapter, 46A) was passed on March 5, 1974, by the West Virginia Legislature and became effective on June 9, 1974. The Act requires every person who is in the business of making consumer credit sales or consumer loans in West Virginia to file notification with the State Tax Department.

Taxpayers

Persons who are in the business of making consumer credit sales or consumer loans in West Virginia or who maintain a place of business in this State and take assignment of debts that arise from such sales and then undertake direct collection of payments or enforcement of rights against the debtor are required to register with the State Tax Department. Government agencies and national banks are subject to the provisions of this Act as are providers of professional services who include finance charges in their payment schedules.

“Consumer credit sale” is a sale of goods, services or an interest in land in which:

1. credit is granted either by a seller who regularly engages as a seller in credit transactions of the same kind or pursuant to a seller credit card;
2. the buyer is a person other than an organization;
3. the real property, personal property or services are purchased primarily for personal, family, household or agricultural purposes;
4. either the debt is payable on installments or sales finance charges made, and
5. either the principal amount does not exceed \$25,000 or the debt must be secured by an interest in land

“Consumer loan” is a loan made by a person regularly engaged in the business of making loans in which:

1. the debtor is a person other than an organization;
2. the debt is incurred primarily for personal, family, household or agricultural purpose;
3. either the debt is payable on installments or loan finance charges are made, and

4. either the principal does not exceed \$25,000.00 or the debt is secured by an interest in land.

Registration

Initial registration must be made within thirty days of the start of business in West Virginia; subsequent annual notification must be made before January 31 of each year in which business is conducted.

SPARKLERS AND NOVELTIES REGISTRATION

The Fire Prevention and Control Act (W. Va. Code § 29-3-1 et seq., as amended) requires businesses that want to sell sparklers and novelties in West Virginia to obtain a Certificate to Sell Sparklers and Novelties from the State Tax Commissioner. The requirement was passed during the 1995 session of the West Virginia Legislature and went into effect on June 8, 1995.

Taxpayers

Any business that has a current West Virginia Business Registration Certificate and desires to sell sparklers and novelties in West Virginia must obtain a Sparklers and Novelties Registration Certificate from the State Tax Commissioner. The certificate must be obtained before the sale of any sparklers or novelties.

A Sparklers and Novelties Registration Certificate is required to sell the following items:

1. explosive caps designed to be fired in toy pistols, provided the explosive mixture of the caps does not exceed 0.25 of a grain for each cap;
2. snake and glow worms composed of pressed pellets of a pyrotechnic mixture that produce a snake-like ash when burning;
3. smoke devices consisting of a tube or sphere containing a pyrotechnic mixture that produces white or colored smoke;
4. trick noisemakers that produce a small report designed to surprise the user, including
 - a. a party popper, which is a small plastic or paper item containing not more than 0.25 of a grain of explosive mixture, which has a string protruding from the device that is pulled to activate the device, expelling paper streamers and producing a small report,
 - b. a string popper, which is a small tube containing not in excess of 0.25 of a grain of explosive mixture that has a string protruding from both ends that are pulled to activate the friction-sensitive mixture, producing a small report, and
 - c. a snapper or drop pop, which is a small paper wrapped item containing no more than 0.25 of a grain of explosive mixture coated on small bits of sand that, when dropped, produces a small report;
5. wire sparklers consisting of wire or stick coated with a nonexplosive pyrotechnic mixture of 100 grams or less per item that produces a shower of sparks upon ignition, and
6. other sparkling devices which emit showers of sparks and sometimes a whistling or crackling effect when burning, do not detonate or explode, are hand-held or ground-based, cannot propel themselves through the air and contain no more than seventy-five grams of chemical compound per tube, or not more than a total of 200 grams if multiple tubes are used.

These sparklers and sparkling devices may not be sold to anyone under the age of sixteen.

A Sparklers and Novelties Registration Certificate is not needed to sell the following items:

1. model rockets and model rocket engines designed, sold and used to propel recoverable acro models;
2. toy pistols, toy canes, toy guns or other devices in which paper or plastic caps manufactured according to the United States Department of Transportation regulations for packing and shipping of toy paper or plastic caps are used, and
3. toy paper or plastic caps manufactured as provided in the United States Department of Transportation regulations for packing and shipping of toy paper or plastic caps.

Although the sale of these items is permitted at all times, W. Va. Code §29-3-23 specifies that each package containing toy paper or plastic caps offered for retail sale must be labeled to indicate the maximum explosive content per cap.

It is unlawful to offer for sale, possess, expose for sale, sell at retail, use or explode any fireworks. "Fireworks" is defined to include any combustible or explosive composition, or any substance or combination of substances, or article prepared for the purpose of producing a visible or audible effect by combustion, explosion, deflagration or detonation and includes, but is not limited to

Sparklers and Novelties Registration

1. blank cartridges, toy pistols, toy cannons, toy canes, or toy guns in which explosives are used,
2. the type of unmanned balloons that require fire underneath to propel the same,
3. firecrackers,
4. torpedoes,
5. skyrockets,
6. Roman candles,
7. daygo bombs,
8. other fireworks of like construction, and
9. any fireworks containing any explosive or flammable compound or any tablet or other device containing any explosive substance.

Fee

The fee for this certificate is \$15. If a business has more than one business location in this State from which sparklers and novelties will be sold, each business location must have both a Business Registration Certificate and a Sparklers and Novelties Registration Certificate. The Certificate to Sell Sparklers and Novelties issued will run concurrently with the Business Registration Certificate for each location. The Business Registration and Certificate to Sell Sparklers and Novelties are considered permanent unless the Business Registration Certificate is suspended, revoked or cancelled by the Tax Commissioner.

SOLID WASTE ASSESSMENT FEES

Several Solid Waste Assessment Fees are levied and imposed on the disposal of solid waste at any solid waste disposal facility in West Virginia. The Solid Waste Assessment Fees are imposed in addition to all other fees levied. The fees are to be added to, and constitute part of, any fee charged by the operator or owner of a solid waste disposal facility for receiving and disposing of solid waste.

mechanical separation of materials for the purpose of reselling or recycling at least 70 percent by weight of the materials coming into the commercial recycling facility.

The Horizontal Drilling Waste Assessment Fee is levied upon the disposal of drill cuttings and drilling waste generated by horizontal well sites.

Exemptions

The following types of waste collected at solid waste disposal facilities are exempt:

1. waste disposed by owner, operator or renter of waste disposal facility;
2. reused or recycled waste, and
3. residential waste disposed by individuals on specific days designated by the Director of the Division of Environmental Protection.

Solid waste disposed of at a recycling facility is exempt from all solid waste disposal assessment fees. A "recycling facility" is a facility that only accepts, buys or transfers source-separated material or recycled material for use, resale or transfer for further processing.

Solid Waste Fee Clearing Fund Fiscal Year 2011 to 2015	
Fiscal Year	Collections
2011	\$16,036,207
2012	\$16,711,788
2013	\$18,583,190
2014	\$20,886,016
2015	\$19,835,637

Fees

The following table shows the Solid Waste Assessment Fees by West Virginia Code Section:

Fee	West Virginia Code	Fee Per Ton
Solid Waste Assessment Fee	§22-15-11(a)	\$1.75
Solid Waste Assessment Interim Fee	§22C-4-30(a)	\$1.00
Recycling Assessment Fee	§22-15A-19(a)	\$2.00
Solid Waste Assessment Fee—Landfill Closure	§22-16-4(a)	\$3.50
Horizontal Drilling Waste Assessment Fee	§22-15-11(a)	\$1.00

By statute, waste disposed of by commercial recyclers is only subject to the \$2.00 per ton Recycling Assessment Fee levied via W. Va. Code §22-15A-19. The term "commercial recyclers" refers to any person, corporation or business entity whose operation involves

PART V
PROPERTY TAXES

PROPERTY TAX

The West Virginia Property Tax (West Virginia Code, Chapter 11, Articles 1C through 8, Chapter 11A, and Chapter 18, Article 9A) was first enacted in 1863. The Property Tax is administered by county officials and officials of several State government agencies. Although the West Virginia State Tax Department plays a major role in the administration of this tax, less than 0.5 percent of the Property Tax collected goes to State government. The primary beneficiaries of the Property Tax are county boards of education.

Property Tax General Revenue Fund Fiscal Year 2011 to 2015	
Fiscal Year	Collections
2011	\$6,016,025
2012	\$6,051,316
2013	\$6,148,781
2014	\$6,651,832
2015	\$6,678,574

Taxpayers

It is the responsibility of each property owner to pay property taxes. Property taxes are paid to the sheriff of each of the fifty-five counties. Each county and municipality can impose its own rates of property taxation within the limits set by the West Virginia Constitution. The West Virginia Legislature sets the current regular school levy rate of tax used by all county boards of education Statewide. However, the total tax rate for county boards of education may differ from county to county due to excess levies, bond levies or public improvement levies.

Tax Base

Property can be divided into two categories: real and personal. Although there are many practical and legal distinctions involved, real property is, in general, land and anything permanently attached to land, and personal property is, in general, all other objects or rights that can be owned. Personal property can also be categorized as tangible and intangible. Generally, intangible property consists of rights to, or claims against, other property or

services. West Virginia law defines the following classes of property for tax purposes:

- Class I
 - a. All tangible personal property used exclusively in agriculture, including horticulture and grazing, and
 - b. All products of agriculture, including livestock, while owned by the producer
 - c. All notes, bonds, bills and accounts receivable, stocks and any other intangible personal property
- Class II
 - a. All property owned, used and occupied by the owner exclusively for residential purposes, and
 - b. All farms, including land used for horticulture and grazing, which are occupied and cultivated by their owners or bona fide tenants
- Class III All real and personal property situated outside of municipalities, exclusive of Classes I and II
- Class IV All real and personal property situated inside of municipalities, exclusive of Classes I and II

Although the West Virginia Constitution defines Class I property, all the property that falls in this class is exempt from Property Tax. Beginning with Tax Year 2003, all intangible personal property was exempted from taxation. Personal property used on a farm or farming operation was exempted by the Legislature beginning in Tax Year 2008. The significance of the classes of property is that the applicable levy rates vary by class.

Property Values

Property is assessed according to its use, location and value as of July 1 of each year. The amount of tax paid on property depends upon the following:

1. the assessed value of the property as determined by a county assessor, and
2. the rate of tax levied against each \$100 of assessed valuation.

The assessed value of property must be 60 percent of the property's true and actual value. In most cases, that value is defined as the amount of money the property would be worth in a sale between a willing buyer and a willing seller.

In order to have property in West Virginia fairly and equally valued, all real property is to be visited once every

Property Tax

three years, and annual adjustments are to be made to the assessments for those properties for which a change in value is determined. All property, except farms and managed timberland property, is to be assessed annually at 60 percent of its current fair market value.

Farmland that is used, occupied and cultivated by the owner or a bona fide tenant is to be valued at the fair and reasonable value of such property for farmland use, regardless of what the value of the property would be if it was used for another purpose.

Managed timberland is to be valued based on the use and productive potential of such timberland. Managed timberland is defined to be any surface real property of not less than ten contiguous acres that is devoted primarily to forest use and which, in consideration of its size, has sufficient numbers of commercially valuable species of trees that are well distributed over the growing site and that is managed pursuant to a plan provided in W. Va. Code §11-1C-10. In order for property to qualify as managed timberland, the owner must annually certify in writing to the Division of Forestry that the property meets the definition of managed timberland and is managed according to the plan provided for in W. Va. Code §11-1C-10. Timberland that does not qualify as managed timberland is to be valued at its market value.

Each assessor is required to maintain current values on the real and personal property within the county by having a member of his staff visit each parcel of real property in repeating three-year cycles to determine if any changes have occurred in the value of the property. The assessor must make any adjustments that are necessary to maintain accurate current valuations of all real and personal property.

The State Tax Commissioner is required to determine the fair market value of all industrial property and all natural resource property in the State. The State Tax Commissioner values these properties according to rules approved by the West Virginia Legislature and special methods given in W. Va. Code §§11-6A, 11-6E and 11-6K.

The State Tax Commissioner also is responsible for the valuation of public utility property and all types of property that are to be included in the operating property of a public utility. Only real and personal property that is an integral part of the public utility's function as a utility is to be included as operating property and assessed by the Board of Public Works.

The State Tax Commissioner is required to develop an inventory of all natural resource properties, except managed timberland, on a county-by-county basis. Special

methods for appraising natural resource property can be found in W. Va. Code §11-6K.

Special methods are used for appraising dealer inventories. The value of vehicle, motorboat, factory-built home, house trailer and farm equipment inventories is based upon average monthly sales in lieu of actual value of inventory in place on July 1 of each year. The value of rental car inventories is the gross value of all rental cars on the first day of each month of the preceding calendar year divided by twelve. Information on these methods can be found in West Virginia Code §11-6C.

Reduced Assessment Property

The following types of property may qualify for a special reduced property valuation:

1. pollution abatement facilities;
2. molds, jigs, dies and templates directly used in manufacturing;
3. certified capital additions to manufacturing facilities;
4. all aircraft owned or leased by commercial airlines, charter carriers, private carriers, private companies or private firms;
5. servers or tangible personal property directly used in a high-technology business or an Internet advertising business, and
6. qualified farmland per Legislative Rule Title 110, Series 1A.

These properties are appraised at salvage value. In addition, each wind turbine installed at a wind power project and each tower upon which the turbine is affixed shall be considered personal property that is a pollution control facility and appraised at its salvage value. No more than 79 percent of the total value of the facility shall be accorded salvage value. Personal property at a wind power project other than a wind turbine and the tower shall not be accorded salvage value.

In addition, property belonging to qualified continuing care retirement communities, which are defined as being

1. owned by a corporation or other organization exempt from federal income taxes under the Internal Revenue Code;
2. used in a manner consistent with the purpose of providing housing and health care for residents, and

Property Tax

- 3. receiving no Medicaid funding under the provisions of W. Va. Code §9-4

is classified and taxed as Class II property.

Tax Rates

The West Virginia Legislature sets the current regular school rate of tax for county boards of education. This rate is used by all county boards of education Statewide. The West Virginia State Tax Department and the State Auditor's Office supervise and otherwise assist counties and municipalities in their work of assessment and tax rate determination. The first step toward determination of tax rates for county commissions and municipalities is the preparation of tentative budgets by county and municipal governments. These tentative budgets show not only estimated expenditures and receipts but also the tax rates necessary to produce the receipts. Budgets and tax rates must then be approved by the Chief Inspector Division of the State Auditor's Office, and public hearings must be held before the final budgets and tax rates can be adopted. The State Tax Commissioner reports the approved tax rates for each taxing authority to the county assessor. County boards of education must adopt a budget that details the expenditures to be made from revenues generated by the Property Tax rate approved by the West Virginia Legislature and other revenues. Each assessor then applies these tax rates to all items of taxable property listed in the county's real and personal property books. When this process is complete, each assessor must deliver copies of these books with their new tax rates to the sheriff of the county enabling the sheriff to begin the process of tax collection.

Maximum tax rates are shown in the table below for each of the taxing authorities and are given in terms of each of the four classes of property.

MAXIMUM PROPERTY TAX RATES

Rates are given in cents per \$100

Taxing Authority	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV
State	0.25¢	0.50¢	1.00¢	1.00¢
County	14.30	28.60	57.20	57.20
Schools	22.95	45.90	91.80	91.80
Municipal	12.50	25.00	n/a	50.00
	50.00¢	100.00¢	150.00¢	200.00¢

Amendments to the State Constitution provide that these maximum rates can be temporarily exceeded by all the taxing authorities except State government. The voters of each taxing authority must approve any excess levy of tax proposed for their municipality, school board or county. The average actual tax rates per \$100 of assessed valuation for the 2015 tax year, expressed in rounded dollars, are shown in the following table.

**STATEWIDE AVERAGE
2015 PROPERTY TAX RATES**

Rates are given in dollars per \$100 of assessed valuation

	Average
Class I	\$.00
Class II	1.19
Class III	2.19
Class IV	2.86

Statewide, the average rate for all property was \$1.91 per \$100 of assessed valuation.

When an annual appraisal or general valuation of property would result in an increase in total projected Property Tax revenues for county commissions and municipalities of 1 percent or more, the rate of levy is to be reduced proportionately for all classes of property for the forthcoming tax year so that the new levy rate will produce no more than 101 percent of the previous year's projected Property Tax revenues plus an additional amount to fund the on-going work of the assessor. Additional property value due to new construction or improvements to existing real property are not to be included when considering increases in projected revenue and calculating the new levy rate. Special levies are not to be included in this reduced levy rate calculation. The governing body of a county or municipality may increase the tax rate resulting from the reduced levy rate calculation above as long as a public hearing is conducted before such action. Any such increase cannot have the effect of exceeding the prior year's tax revenue by more than 10 percent.

When any appraisal of general valuation of property would produce a statewide aggregate assessment that would cause an increase of 2 percent or more in the total Property Tax revenue for county boards of education, the levy is to be reduced uniformly Statewide and proportionately for all classes of property for the forthcoming year to produce no more than 102 percent of the previous year's projected Statewide aggregate Property Tax revenues plus an additional amount to fund the

Property Tax

on-going work of the assessor. However, the Legislature may take action to increase the reduced rate by holding a public hearing.

Exemptions

Although all property is presumed to be taxable unless shown otherwise, there are many exemptions from the Property Tax. Some of these exemptions are based on the ownership of the property while others are based on the use of the property. A partial list of types of properties that may be exempt from ad valorem property taxation follows:

1. property that belongs to the United States government unless the United States government permits the State to tax it;
2. property that belongs exclusively to the State;
3. property that belongs exclusively to any county, district, city, village or town in this State when it is used for public purposes;
4. property that belongs exclusively to any political subdivision of any other state when it is used exclusively for public purposes;
5. property used exclusively for divine worship;
6. parsonages and the household goods and furniture pertaining thereto;
7. mortgages, bonds and other evidence of indebtedness in the hands of bona fide owners and holders hereafter issued and sold by churches and religious societies for the purposes of securing money to be used in the erection of church buildings used exclusively for divine worship or for the purpose of paying indebtedness thereon;
8. cemeteries, except for certain personal property of commercial cemeteries, including any sites of unmarked graves certified as such by the Division of Culture and History;
9. property that belongs to, or which is held in trust for, colleges, seminaries, academies and free schools when it is used for the educational, literary or scientific purposes, including books, equipment, annuities and furniture;
10. property that belongs to, or which is held in trust for, colleges or universities located in

West Virginia, or any public or private nonprofit foundation or corporation which receives contributions exclusively for such college or university, if the property or dividends, interest, rents or royalties derived therefrom are used or devoted to educational purposes of such college or university;

11. public and family libraries;
12. property used for charitable purposes and not held or leased out for profit;
13. property used for the public purposes of distributing electricity, water or natural gas or providing sewer service by a duly chartered nonprofit corporation when such property is not held, leased out or used for profit;
14. property used for area economic development purposes by nonprofit corporations when such property is not leased out for profit;
15. all real estate not exceeding one acre in extent, and the buildings thereon, used exclusively by any college or university society as a literary hall or as a dormitory or clubroom, if not used with a view to profit, including but not limited to property owned by a fraternity or sorority organization affiliated with a university or college, when the property is used as residential accommodations, or as a dormitory, for members of the organization;
16. all property belonging to benevolent associations, not conducted for private profit;
17. property belonging to any public institution for the education of the deaf, dumb or blind, or any hospital not held or leased out for profit;
18. houses of refuge and mental health facility or orphanage;
19. homes for children or for the aged, friendless or infirm, not conducted for private profit;
20. fire engines and implements for extinguishing fires, and the property used exclusively for the safekeeping thereof, and for the meeting of fire companies;

Property Tax

21. all property to be used for the subsistence of livestock on hand at the beginning of the assessment year;
22. household goods to the value of \$200 whether or not they are used for profit;
23. bank deposits and money;
24. household goods (personal property and goods commonly found within the house and items to care for the house and its surrounding property);
25. personal effects (articles and items of personal property commonly worn on or about the body or carried and normally associated with the person) when they are not held or used for profit;
26. non-living items of food reserved by a family for its own use;
27. property acquired by lease purchase agreement by the state, a county, district, city, village, town or other political subdivision, or state college or university as long as title to the leased property rests in the name of the lessee;
28. all implements, equipment, machinery, vehicles, supplies, crops and livestock used to engage in commercial farming;
29. property owned by a nonprofit organization whose primary purpose is youth development by means of adventure, educational or recreational activities for young people, at nonprofit constructed facility built with the expenditure of not less than \$100 million, which is leased or used to generate revenue for the nonprofit organization whether or not the property is used by the nonprofit organization for its nonprofit purpose, and
30. tangible personal property that is moving in interstate commerce through West Virginia, or which was consigned from a point of origin outside the State to a warehouse within the State for storage in transit to a final destination outside the State.

The preceding list is not an exhaustive list of exemptions; it shows only some of the possible types of exemptions.

In addition, the Wayport Authority is not required to pay any Property Taxes on any project or any property acquired and used by that Authority as a wayport. A wayport is defined as an airport where passengers and cargo are transferred between flights that is not located in

a major metropolitan area. In lieu of the payment of Property Taxes to local governments, the Wayport Authority is required to make an annual payment equal to the amount of Property Taxes otherwise payable.

Homestead Exemption

This program provides for a \$20,000 exemption against the total assessed value of a single-family dwelling, including mobile or manufactured homes, owned and occupied as a residence by any person who is at least sixty-five years old or totally and permanently disabled and who has legally resided in and paid taxes on a homestead in this State for two consecutive taxable years before filing for this exemption. However, if an owner receives a similar exemption for a homestead in another state, then the owner is ineligible for the Homestead Exemption in West Virginia. Homeowners who, as a result of illness, accident, or infirmity, reside with a family member or are residents of a nursing home, personal care home, rehabilitation center or similar facility retain a Homestead Exemption and Class II property designation for their property as long as the property is not used for any other purposes.

If a resident of West Virginia establishes a residence in another state or country and returns to West Virginia within five years, then the resident may be allowed a Homestead Exemption in West Virginia if the person was a resident of this State for two calendar years out of the ten calendar years immediately preceding the tax year for which the Homestead Exemption is sought.

When a member of the United States military forces maintains West Virginia as his state of residence throughout his military service and returns to this State and purchases a homestead upon his retirement or separation from the military service due to permanent and total physical or mental disability, that person is deemed to satisfy the residency test and shall be allowed a Homestead Exemption if the person otherwise qualifies.

Only one exemption can be granted for each owner-occupied residence. Elderly homeowners may apply for this exemption at the office of their county assessor from July 1 through December 1 provided that the applicant will be at least sixty-five years old by June 30 of the following year. A person who is totally and permanently disabled may also apply for the Homestead Exemption from July 1 through December 1. Once the application of a person sixty-five years of age or older is approved, registration in later years is unnecessary. A person who is permanently and totally disabled does not need to refile in subsequent years if he signs a statement

Property Tax

that he will notify the assessor within thirty days if he ceases to be eligible for the exemption based on such disability.

Payment Dates

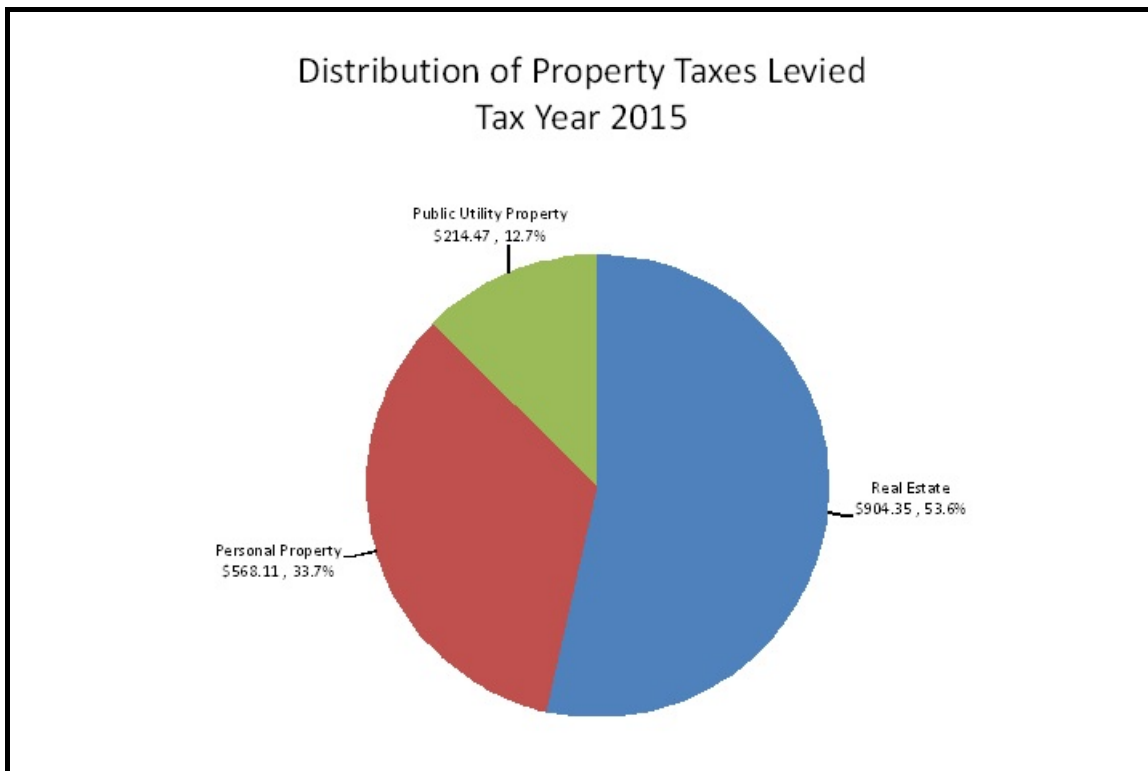
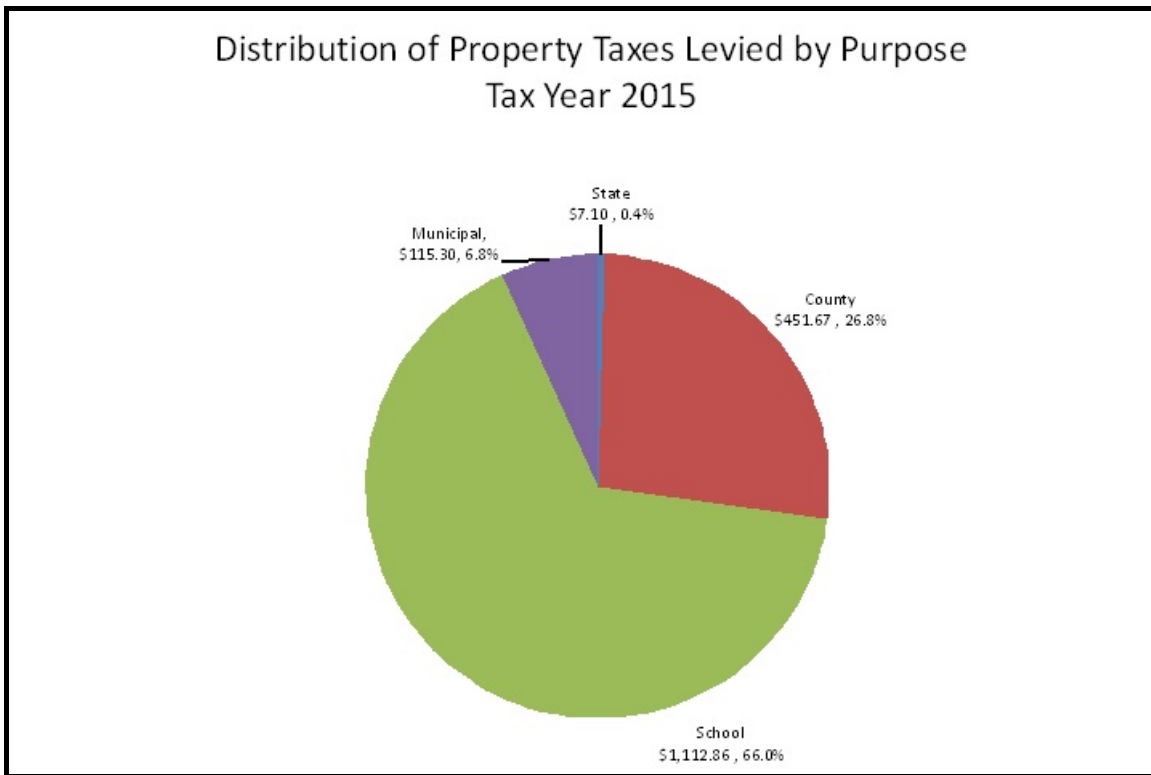
For each tax year, Property Taxes are due on all personal property you own as of July 1 of the prior year. Property Taxes are also due on all real property that you own in West Virginia on July 1 prior to the tax year. The tax payments are divided into a first-half and second-half payment schedule. The first-half is due by September 1 of that year and the second-half is due by March 1 of the following year.

Disposition of Revenue

For tax year 2015, \$1.1 billion, or 66.0 percent, of the Property Taxes levied went to benefit county boards of education, the primary beneficiaries of Property Tax collections. County commissions levied \$451.7 million dollars in taxes, which represents 26.8 percent of the taxes levied. Municipal levies account for \$115.3 million, or 6.8 percent of the taxes levied, and the State receives 0.4 percent of the Property Taxes levied.

Tables and Charts

The following tables provide a variety of statistical information on West Virginia Property Taxes.



DISTRIBUTION OF PROPERTY TAXES LEVIED BY TAX YEARS¹

	For The State	For Counties	For School Boards	For Municipalities	Total
2005.	\$4,362,526.	\$275,742,359.	\$715,225,221.	\$79,589,482.	\$1,074,919,588
2006.	4,783,634.	297,356,091.	773,084,610.	95,626,862.	1,170,851,197
2007.	5,351,156.	328,290,839.	843,356,672.	88,122,900.	1,265,121,567
2008.	5,666,782.	344,661,969.	890,294,171.	92,885,200.	1,333,508,122
2009.	5,928,225.	367,903,396.	932,299,107.	95,891,365.	1,402,022,093
2010.	6,066,031.	381,380,523.	956,427,263.	98,782,883.	1,442,656,700
2011.	6,042,911.	382,493,113.	960,188,009.	97,210,605.	1,445,934,638
2012.	6,262,238.	398,867,977.	989,885,613.	102,052,748.	1,497,068,576
2013.	6,675,579.	421,381,573.	1,048,140,348.	106,210,093.	1,582,407,593
2014.	6,763,028.	427,943,271.	1,060,323,290.	114,742,034.	1,609,771,623
2015.	7,101,572.	451,667,378.	1,112,862,839.	115,300,456.	1,686,932,245

DISTRIBUTION OF PROPERTY TAXES LEVIED FOR TAX YEAR 2015¹

	By the State	By Counties	By School Boards	By Municipalities	Total
On Real Estate.	\$3,807,086.	\$242,134,626.	\$596,595,284.	\$61,811,488.	\$904,348,484
On Personal Property.	2,391,603.	152,108,443.	374,779,853.	38,829,842.	568,109,740
On Public Utility Property.	<u>902,883.</u>	<u>57,424,309.</u>	<u>141,487,702.</u>	<u>14,659,126.</u>	<u>214,474,021</u>
Total.	\$7,101,572.	\$451,667,378.	\$1,112,862,839.	\$115,300,456.	\$1,686,932,245

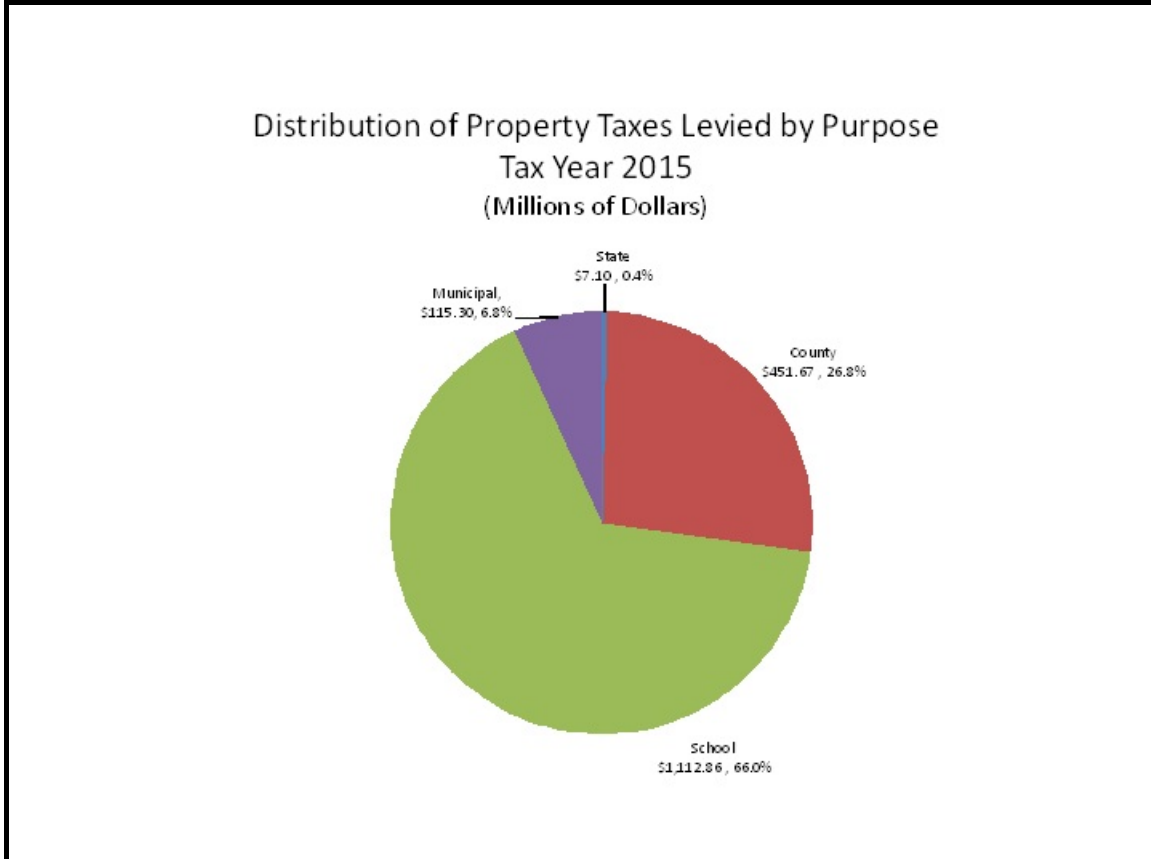
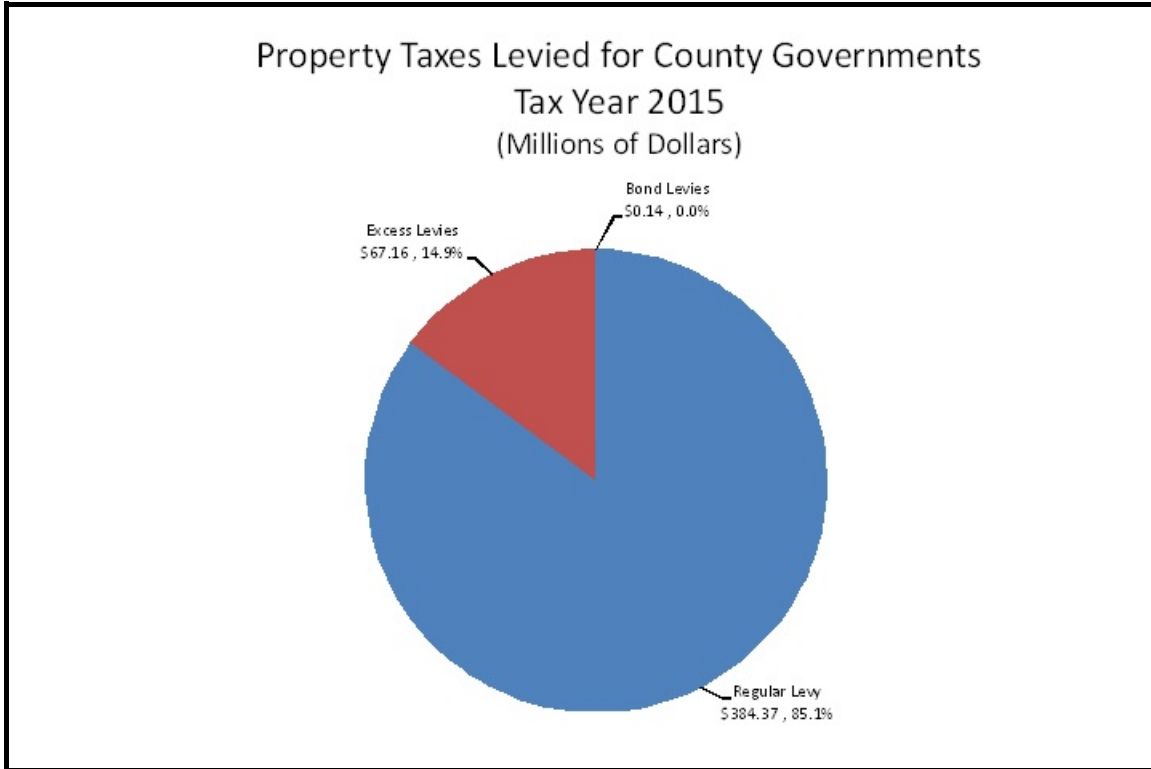
¹ These amounts reflect the total amount of taxes billed.

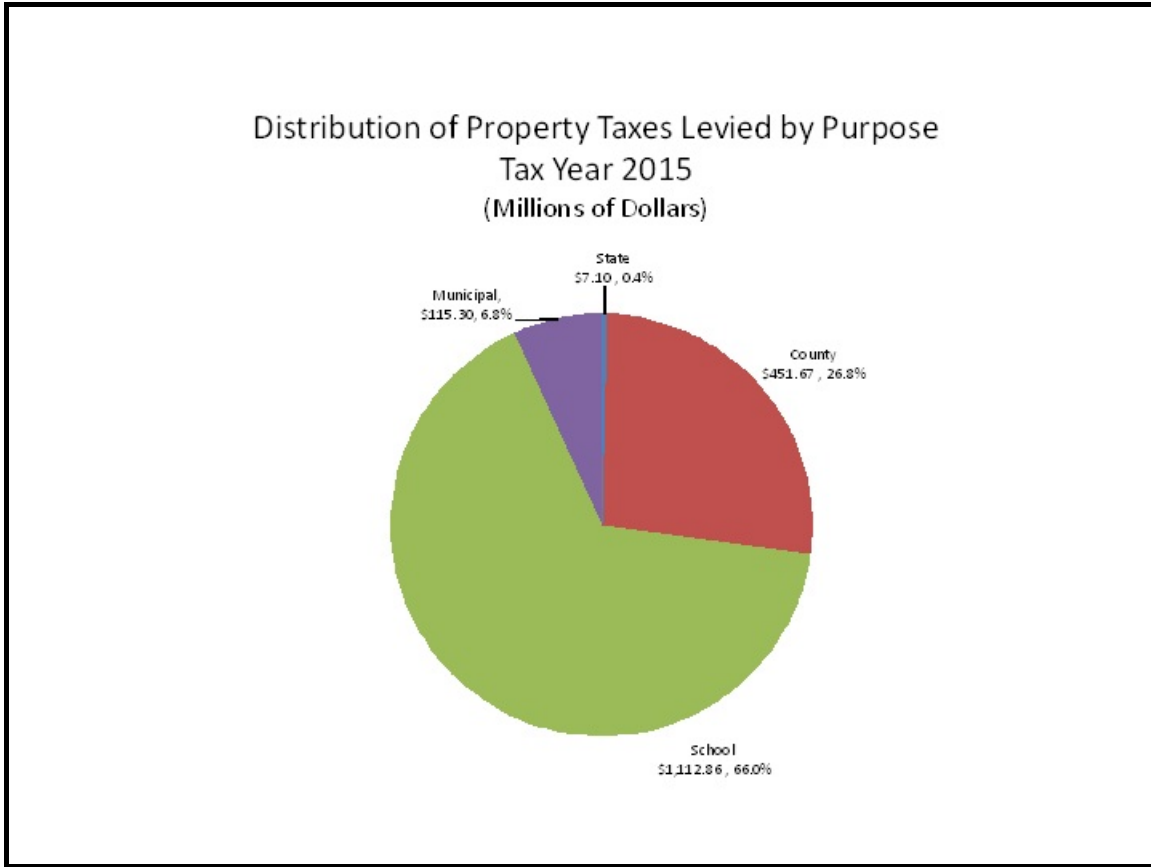
DISTRIBUTION OF PROPERTY TAXES LEVIED BY PERCENTAGES¹

	On Real Estate	On Personal Property	On Public Utilities Property	Total
2005.....	53.81%.....	32.04%.....	14.15%.....	100.00%
2006.....	54.71%.....	31.72%.....	13.57%.....	100.00%
2007.....	55.05%.....	32.13%.....	12.82%.....	100.00%
2008.....	55.12%.....	32.23%.....	12.65%.....	100.00%
2009.....	55.58%.....	31.91%.....	12.51%.....	100.00%
2010.....	55.34%.....	31.88%.....	12.78%.....	100.00%
2011.....	55.33%.....	31.55%.....	13.11%.....	100.00%
2012.....	54.62%.....	32.29%.....	13.08%.....	100.00%
2013.....	53.58%.....	33.63%.....	12.79%.....	100.00%
2014.....	54.32%.....	32.85%.....	12.83%.....	100.00%
2015.....	53.61%.....	33.68%.....	12.71%.....	100.00%

	For The State	For Counties	For School Boards	For Municipalities	Total
2005.....	0.41%.....	25.65%.....	66.54%.....	7.40%.....	100.00%
2006.....	0.42%.....	26.04%.....	65.16%.....	8.38%.....	100.00%
2007.....	0.42%.....	25.95%.....	66.66%.....	6.97%.....	100.00%
2008.....	0.42%.....	25.85%.....	66.76%.....	6.97%.....	100.00%
2009.....	0.42%.....	26.24%.....	66.50%.....	6.84%.....	100.00%
2010.....	0.42%.....	26.44%.....	66.30%.....	6.85%.....	100.00%
2011.....	0.42%.....	26.45%.....	66.41%.....	6.72%.....	100.00%
2012.....	0.42%.....	26.64%.....	66.12%.....	6.82%.....	100.00%
2013.....	0.42%.....	26.63%.....	66.24%.....	6.71%.....	100.00%
2014.....	0.42%.....	26.58%.....	65.87%.....	7.13%.....	100.00%
2015.....	0.42%.....	26.77%.....	65.97%.....	6.84%.....	100.00%

¹ These amounts reflect the total amount of taxes billed.





PROPERTY TRANSFER TAX

The Excise Tax on the Privilege of Transferring Real Property (West Virginia Code, Chapter 11, Article 22) was first enacted in 1859. The tax, commonly known as the Property Transfer Tax, is administered by the West Virginia State Tax Department and by the county clerks and consists of an excise tax paid to the State and an excise tax paid to the treasury of the county where the transfer is to be recorded. Excise stamps purchased from the county clerk are to be affixed to all documents, such as deeds, which transfer rights to, or interests in rights to, real property from one person to another prior to recording. "Person" also means an association or corporation.

Property Transfer Tax General Revenue Fund Fiscal Year 2011 to 2015	
Fiscal Year	Collections
2011	\$8,107,846
2012	\$8,127,577
2013	\$8,776,174
2014	\$10,391,897
2015	\$11,041,554

Taxpayers

The tax must be paid either by the person who transfers the property or by the person to whom the transfer is made. Transfers from trustees of estates or from county clerks for real estate sold for delinquent taxes must be paid by the person to whom the transfer is made.

Tax Rate

The State portion of this tax is levied at the rate of \$1.10 for each \$500 of value or any fraction of that amount. The county portion of the tax is a minimum of 55 cents on each \$500 of value or any fractional part of that amount. County commissions may increase that rate to \$1.10 per \$500 or any fractional part of that amount. A \$20 fee, in addition to the Property Transfer Tax, will be assessed on the transfer of title to real estate. The money collected from this fee is to be deposited by the

respective county assessors in the West Virginia Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

If the rights to, or the interests in the rights to, the real property to be transferred constitute a gift or if they are made without consideration, then the value of the transfer document is determined by the actual monetary value of the property transferred. All other transfers require the value of the document to be determined by the full consideration paid or to be paid, including any claims against or in favor of the property.

Proportional valuations must be made when transfers of real property lie partly inside and partly outside West Virginia or when some of the transfer is made up of personal property. Tax on the transfer of property which lies in two counties must be paid only to one of the counties. Both parts of this tax are embodied in a single State-issued series of stamps or by use of another proof of purchase approved by the State Tax Commissioner.

Exemptions

There are many exemptions from this tax, which fall into four main categories:

1. those principally for the benefit of individuals, which are as follows:
 - a. wills,
 - b. leases,
 - c. testamentary or inter vivos trusts,
 - d. deeds of partition,
 - e. quitclaim or corrective deeds made without consideration,
 - f. mortgages or deeds of trust given as security for a debt,
 - g. transfers between husband and wife,
 - h. transfers made between parent and child without consideration,
 - I. certain transfers made between parent and child and the spouse of the child without consideration,
 - j. certain transfers made between grandparent and grandchild and the spouse of the grandchild without consideration,
 - k. transfers in which the value transferred is \$100 or less, and
1. transfers made between any person and a "straw" party without consideration;

Property Transfer Tax

2. those principally for the benefit of corporations, which are as follows:
 - a. deeds made pursuant to corporate mergers,
 - b. deeds made from a subsidiary corporation to its parent corporation for no consideration other than surrender of stock, and
 - c. deeds made pursuant to mergers of limited liability companies, partnerships, limited partnerships, and conversions of corporations or certain other business organizations into limited liability companies;
3. transfers by gift, dedication deed or condemnation proceeding to or from the United States government or the West Virginia government, including any agencies, instrumentalities or political subdivisions of either, and
4. gifts to or transfers from or between certain voluntary charitable and educational organizations.

PART VI

OTHER STATE TAXES AND FEES

INSURANCE TAXES

The State of West Virginia collects taxes, fees and surcharges from insurance companies in West Virginia. Taxes on insurance (West Virginia Code, Chapter 33) was first enacted in 1957.

Insurance Taxes deposited into the General Revenue Fund totaled \$116.2 million in FY2015.

Insurance Taxes General Revenue Fund Fiscal Year 2011 to 2015	
Fiscal Year	Collections
2011	\$107,202,349
2012	\$109,665,255
2013	\$112,746,727
2014	\$116,092,224
2015	\$115,241,218

Taxpayers

The Insurance Premium Tax is collected from every insurance company transacting insurance in West Virginia, based on gross premiums from business in the State, with certain exceptions. An Annuity Tax is imposed based on the gross amount of annuity considerations collected by life insurers on business transacted in West Virginia. Annual license fees are also collected from persons acting as insurers and transacting insurance in West Virginia and from insurance agents and brokers. In addition, fees are received for processing of reports and documents. The taxes and fees are administered by and payable to the Insurance Commissioner.

Premium Tax

The Premium Tax is imposed on all insurance companies, except farmers' mutual fire insurance companies, annuity writers, fraternal beneficiary societies and health care corporations and health maintenance organizations. This tax is levied at the rate of 3.0 percent on gross direct premiums, including dividends, collected and received for the previous calendar year on policies covering residents of or risks located in this State minus any premiums returned to policyholders because of cancellations. Reciprocal insurers pay the tax based upon premiums on business in West Virginia minus any

premiums returnable because of cancellation and amounts returned to subscribers or credited to their accounts as savings.

The following are exempt from the Premium Tax:

1. fraternal benefit services;
2. farmers' mutual fire insurance companies;
3. health care corporations, and
4. health maintenance organizations.

Additional Premium Tax

An additional premium tax of 1.0 percent of taxable premiums is levied on fire insurance and casualty insurance policies. The purpose of this additional tax is to provide revenue for municipal policemen's and firemen's pension and relief funds and the Teachers Retirement System reserve fund and for volunteer and part volunteer fire companies and departments.

Surcharge on Fire and Casualty Insurance Policies

Every fire and casualty insurance policy holder must pay a surcharge equal to 0.55 percent of the gross direct premium paid on the policy. The surcharge is to benefit volunteer and part-volunteer fire departments. The policy surcharge will not be subject to premium taxes, agent commissions or any other assessments against premiums. Casualty insurance does not include credit life insurance or credit disability insurance. The policy surcharge is to be collected by the insurer and remitted to the Insurance Commissioner.

All monies collected are deposited in the Fire Protection Fund, a special account in the State Treasury. The State Treasurer must distribute the revenues in the Fire Protection Fund quarterly. Each volunteer fire department or company is to receive an equal share of the revenues deposited in the Fire Protection Fund.

License Tax and Fees

All companies and persons acting as insurers in West Virginia are required to be licensed except those companies whose only business consists of investigating and settling losses under policies written in West Virginia while duly licensed or those companies who are not transacting new business but are only collecting premiums on policies remaining in force. The fee for an annual

Insurance Taxes

license for insurers is \$200. The following is a list of other fees:

Each excess line broker	\$200
Each licensed agent, adjuster, broker, solicitor and service representative	\$ 25
Receiving and filing annual reports	\$100
Rating organization	\$100
Filing certified copy of articles of incorporation	\$ 50
Filing copies of charter	\$ 50
Filing statements preliminary to admission	\$100
Filing any additional paper required by law or furnishing copies thereof	\$ 1
Each certificate of compliance, deposit and valuation copy of report or certificate of condition of company to be filed in any other State	\$ 15
Each form filing	\$ 50
Each rate filing	\$ 75

Annuity Tax

All life insurers who transact insurance in West Virginia are required to pay the Annuity Tax that is based on the gross amount of annuity considerations minus any annuity considerations returned and termination allowances upon group annuity contracts. This tax is levied at the rate of 1.0 percent of the gross amount.

Fire Marshall Tax

Every insurance company doing business in West Virginia, except farmers' mutual fire insurance companies, must pay in addition to any other taxes, 0.5 percent of the direct net premium receipts on insurance against fire hazards.

Minimum Tax

Any insurer licensed in West Virginia must pay a minimum tax of \$200 for any calendar year. Taxes used in calculating the minimum are those imposed by W. Va. Code §33-3. The minimum tax is to be paid annually on or before March 1.

Disposition of Revenue

During fiscal year 2015, \$115.2 million, or 79.4 percent, of the revenue from Insurance Taxes was deposited in the State General Revenue Fund. The Municipal Pension Fund, Teachers' Retirement Fund and

Fire Protection Fund received a total \$27.3 million from additional 1 percent tax. Revenue from the Fire Protection Surcharge was \$13.2 million in fiscal year 2015.

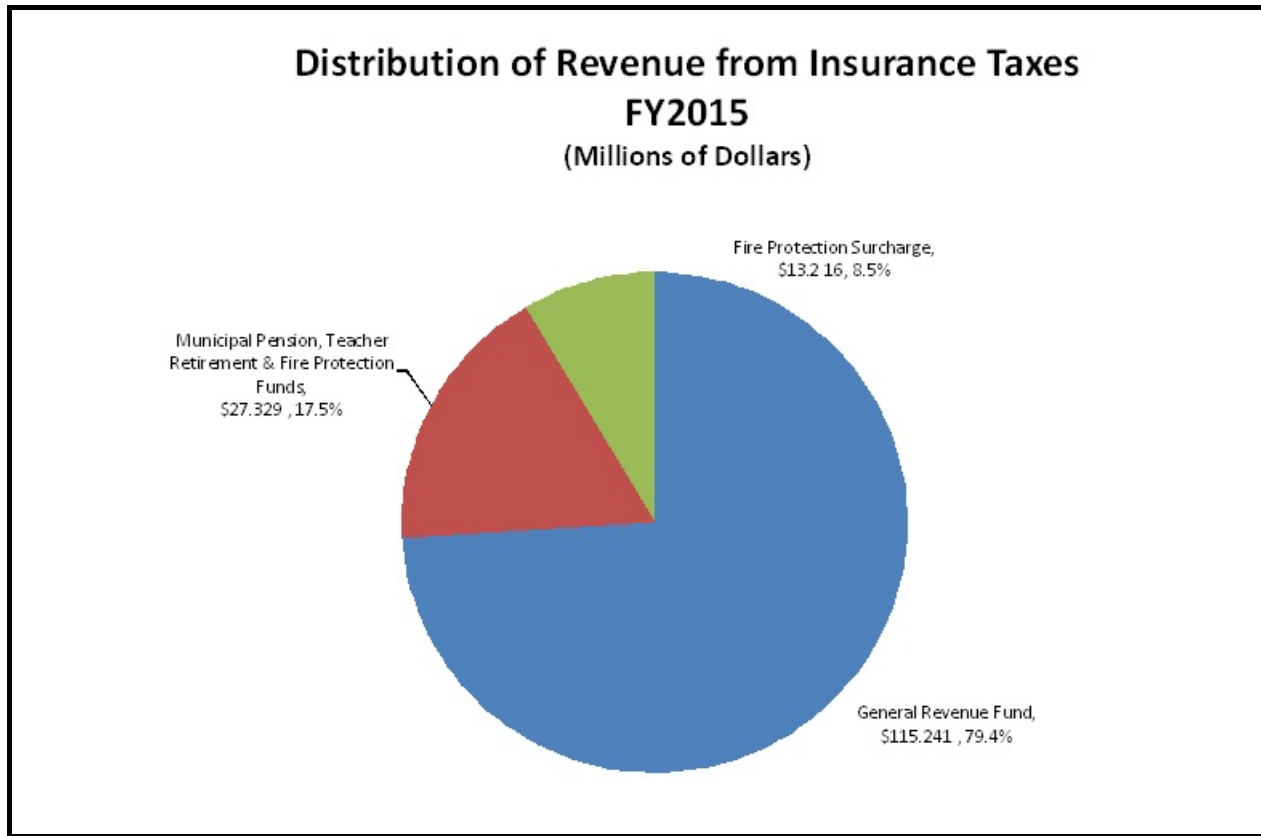
Comparison with Other States

The tax rates listed in this section are for as of July 1, 2015.

Comparison of State Tax Rates July 1, 2015	
	Rate
Kentucky	2.0% of gross premiums. Additionally, a 1.8 percent surcharge applies on premiums for Kentucky risks. Fire insurers pay an additional 0.75 percent on premiums. Life insurance companies may elect to pay a tax on intangible property instead of the gross premiums tax of 1.5 percent.
Maryland	2.00% of gross premiums
Ohio	1.4 percent of gross premiums. Fire insurers pay an additional 0.75 percent on premiums derived from fire insurance.
Pennsylvania	2.0 percent of gross premiums
Virginia	2.25% of gross premiums
West Virginia	3.0 percent of gross premiums. An additional 1.0 percent on taxable premiums for fire insurance and casualty insurance policies.

Tables and Charts

The following graph and table provides information on distribution of revenue from West Virginia Insurance Taxes.



Insurance Premium Tax Collections

Fiscal Year	General Revenue	Municipal Pension, Teachers Retirement, & Fire Protection Funds 1% Tax	Fire Protection Surcharge	Rainy D B Fund	Total Insurance Premium Tax
2011	\$107,202,349	\$23,893,977	\$12,076,654	\$1,427,330	\$146,610,310
2012	109,665,255	25,701,648	12,560,582	1,552,578	149,480,063
2013	112,746,727	25,892,051	12,508,591	1,432,166	152,579,535
2014	116,092,114	26,475,290	12,252,996	0	155,020,400
2015	115,241,218	27,329,997	13,216,445	0	155,787,660

LIQUOR TAXES

The West Virginia Liquor Profits Tax (West Virginia Code, Chapter 60, Articles 1-8) was first enacted in 1995. Sales of alcoholic liquor at both the wholesale and retail level were at the control of the State until the early 1990's. The Legislature changed the statute during the 1990 session. Currently, retail liquor is sold by retail licensees only.

General Revenue Fund from Liquor Profits Fiscal Year 2011 to 2015	
Fiscal Year	Collections
2011	\$15,200,485
2012	\$15,354,525
2013	\$16,321,225
2014	\$15,155,048
2015	\$18,361,384

Industrial Use	50
Industrial Plants Producing Alcohol	250
Farm Wineries	50
Mini-distilleries	50
Wine Supplier	150
Wine Distributor (per location)	2,500
Wine Retailer	150
Wine Speciality Shop	250
Wine Tasting	150
Private Wine Bed and Breakfast (per location)	150
Private Wine Restaurant (per location)	250
Private Wine Spa	150
Wine Sampling	150
Direct Shipper (wine only)	150
Direct Shipper (wine, sherry, port and Madeira)	250
Multi-capacity Winery or Farm Winery	300
One Day License for Heritage Fairs and Festivals	0
Festivals and Fairs	250
Professional Baseball Stadium	250
Fraternal, Veterans, or Nonprofit Club	750
Private Clubs (< 1,000 Members)	1,000
Private Clubs (> 1,000 Members)	2,500
Agent or Broker	100

Licenseses

Retail sales of liquor can only be made in West Virginia by retail licensees. Retail licensees are either freestanding liquor retail outlets or a mixed retail liquor outlet. The annual license fee for a retail licensee is \$2,000.

A variety of license fees exist for those who wish to manufacture, distribute or sell alcoholic liquor within West Virginia. The term "alcoholic liquor" includes alcohol, wine, spirits and any other liquor or solid capable of being used as a beverage. The following license fees are currently in effect within West Virginia.

Alcohol License	Annual Fee Per Location
Distilleries	\$1,500
Wineries	1,500
Breweries	1,500
Bottling Plant (Beer)	1,500
Wholesale Druggist	500
Retail Druggist	10
Institutions (Education or Laboratory)	10

Caterers and party supply stores may be licensed as retail dealers of wine, but the business must not have less than \$500 in monthly sales of food, food products and supplies for the table, exclusive of wine. The caterer or party supply store must also have at least \$3,000 in inventory, excluding wine. Caterers and party supply stores may sell both wine and beer if it is licensed in both capacities.

Municipalities may also impose license fees. These fees may equal the State fee amount except for the license fee for private clubs for which the limit is 50 percent of the State fee.

Tax Rates

There is a 5.0 percent tax imposed on the purchase price of retail sales of liquor in addition to the 6.0 percent Consumers Sales Tax. The retailer must collect the tax, which is deposited in the State Treasury and distributed quarterly to counties and municipalities. A municipality receives the taxes collected within that municipality or within one mile of the municipal boundaries, and the county gets any tax collected in the county from retailers

West Virginia Liquor Taxes

not located within one mile of any municipality. If any tax is collected within one mile of two or more municipalities, that tax is divided equally among them.

In addition, liquor and wine sold to private clubs by private retail liquor stores are subject to a 6.0 percent excise tax. State revenue generated by this tax is deposited in the Drunk Driving Prevention Fund. Sales by private clubs to their members are also subject to the 6.0 percent Consumers Sales Tax.

Wine Liter Tax

The Wine Liter Tax is levied on all wine sold by suppliers to distributors, except wine sold to the Alcohol Beverage Control Commissioner, and on all wine sold to West Virginia adult residents from direct shippers. The tax is levied at a rate of 26.406 cents per liter. Collections of the Wine Liter Tax are deposited into the General Revenue Fund.

General Revenue Fund from Wine Liter Tax Fiscal Year 2011 to 2015	
Fiscal Year	Collections
2011	\$1,788,067
2012	\$2,065,474
2013	\$2,108,359
2014	\$2,145,989
2015	\$2,148,579

Comparison of Taxes on Liquor January 2015	
State	Tax Rate
Kentucky	Wine--50 cents per gallon Spirits--\$1.92 per gallon Distilled spirits place in containers for resale (less than 6%)--\$2.68 per gallon
Maryland	Liquor--\$1.50 per gallon
Ohio	Wine (containing alcohol 4%-14% by volume--32 cents per gallon Wine (containing alcohol 14%-21% by volume--\$1.00 per gallon Vermouth--\$1.10 per gallon Sparkling & carbonated wine & champagne--\$1.50 per gallon Cider--24 cents per gallon Mixed Beverages--\$1.20 per gallon
Pennsylvania	Alcoholic beverages, not including malt or brewed beverages, which contains more than 5%--18% of net price
Virginia	Government directly controls liquor sales--revenue is generated from various taxes, fees, price mark-ups and net liquor profits
West Virginia	Wine--\$1.00 per gallon Liquor--5% of retail price

Comparison with Other States

The tax rates listed on this chart are the excise tax rates in effect on January 1, 2015. In all of the states listed except Maryland, sales of beer are also subject to the state's sales tax. In Maryland, unlike sales of other types of tangible personal property and taxable services that are taxed at a 6% rate, the sales and use tax is imposed at a 9% rate on the taxable price of alcoholic beverages.

PART VII
TAX CREDITS

TAX CREDITS

A number of West Virginia tax credits can be taken against one or more taxes. Explanations of all West Virginia's tax credits can be found in this section, rather than in the various sections of this report dealing with specific taxes.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY TAX CREDIT

The Economic Opportunity Tax Credit is available to qualified businesses that make a qualified investment in a new or expanded business in West Virginia and, as a result of this investment, create at least twenty new jobs. Qualified businesses include only those businesses engaged in the activities of manufacturing, information processing, warehousing, non-retail goods distribution, qualified research and development, the relocation of a corporate headquarters or destination-oriented recreation and tourism.

A qualified business creating at least twenty new jobs within three tax years is allowed a credit equal to 20 percent of its qualified investment. This percentage increases with the number of new jobs created. A business creating at least 280 new jobs is allowed a credit equal to 25 percent of its qualified investment, and a business creating at least 520 new jobs can claim 30 percent of its qualified investment. The applicable jobs percentage for most taxpayers range as follows:

<u>New West Virginia Jobs Total At Least</u>	<u>Applicable Percentage¹</u>
520	30
280	25
20	20
15 (Corporate headquarters relocation only)	10
10 (Small business credit)	10

The Economic Opportunity Tax Credit is pro-rated over a ten-year period at a rate of 10 percent per year.

The calculation of qualified investment is determined by multiplying the net cost of eligible property by its applicable useful life percentage based on the projected

actual economic useful life of the asset. The percentages shown in the following table apply.

<u>Useful Life</u>	<u>Applicable Percentage</u>
Less than 4 years	0
4 years or more but less than 6 years	33⅓
6 years or more but less than 8 years	66⅔
8 years or more	100

For example, if a taxpayer purchases a machine for \$25,000 for use in a new industrial facility which has a useful life of six years, the qualified investment is equal to \$16,666.66.

The Economic Opportunity Tax Credit can offset a portion of the tax attributable to qualified investment for the Business and Occupation Tax (electric power generation taxes only), Corporation Net Income Tax and Personal Income Tax (tax on flow-through business profits only) in the order stated.

The amount of tax attributable to qualified investment is generally determined by use of a payroll factor. The taxpayer multiplies total tax available by a fraction, the numerator of which is the compensation paid to the employees hired as a result of the new qualified investment and the denominator of which is the compensation paid to all West Virginia employees of the taxpayer. The result of this computation is tax attributable to qualified investment.

If the annual median compensation paid by the taxpayer to qualified new employees exceeds the statewide average non-farm payroll wage as determined annually from WORKFORCE West Virginia information, then the taxpayer may use the available credit to offset up to 100 percent of each of the above taxes attributable to qualified investment. All other qualified taxpayers may use the available credit to offset up to 80 percent of each of the above taxes attributable to the qualified investment.

The following is a summary of the Statewide average non-farm payroll wages above which the median compensation of new jobs must exceed to obtain the 100 percent tax offset:

¹For projects having qualified investment of \$20 million or more that are constructed using construction labor and mechanics numbering 75 or more employees or equivalent employees who are paid an average wage of at least the prevailing wage, the new jobs percentage for the 20 to 520 employee range is increased by five percentage points.

Tax Credits

Applicable Tax Year ¹	Statewide Average Nonfarm Payroll Wage For Economic Opportunity Tax Credit
2011	\$36,895
2012	37,701
2013	39,091
2014	39,721
2015	40,198

Excess credit remaining after application of the credit against current year taxes may be carried forward for up to twelve years following the year of the initial credit claim attributable to the placement of qualified investment into service. The year of the initial credit claim is either the tax year that the qualified investment was first placed into service or, at the election of the taxpayer, the next succeeding tax year. Credit recapture may occur when the actual useful life of the qualified investment property or the period of actual use of qualified investment property within West Virginia falls short of the projected useful life applicable percentage category used in the original credit calculations. Additional recapture provisions exist for the Economic Opportunity Tax Credit whenever the taxpayer fails to maintain the required number of new jobs upon which the credit is based.

Economic Opportunity Tax Credit for Corporate Headquarters Relocation

A taxpayer that moves its corporation headquarters to West Virginia from a location outside of West Virginia may be entitled to an Economic Opportunity Tax Credit if the relocation creates at least fifteen new West Virginia jobs. If the relocation creates at least fifteen but less than twenty new jobs, then the amount of the credit is equal to 10 percent of the taxpayer's adjusted qualified investment. "Adjusted qualified investment" is the qualified investment of the taxpayer in real and tangible personal property purchased for the corporate headquarters plus the cost of the reasonable and necessary expenses incurred by the taxpayer to relocate the corporation headquarters from its out-of-state location to West Virginia. Generally, the tax credit may be used to offset tax liabilities in the same manner as for the general Economic Opportunity Tax Credit. The Economic Opportunity Tax Credit for a

corporation headquarters relocation may be used to offset the sum of 100 percent of tax on allocated corporate net income and 80 percent of the tax attributable to qualified investment on apportioned corporation net income.

Economic Opportunity Tax Credit for "Small Business"

Certain small businesses may also be entitled to an Economic Opportunity Tax Credit. "Small business" means a business or a controlled group of foreign and domestic affiliated businesses with annual gross sales of not more than \$7 million adjusted for inflation on January 1 by a percentage reflecting the cost of living increase. This constraint must be met by the small business only during the year qualified investment is first placed into service or use. The following is a summary of the applicable inflation adjusted small business credit constraint by tax year:

<u>Year²</u>	<u>Gross Sales</u>
2011	\$8,507,850
2012	8,714,300
2013	8,938,250
2014	9,089,800
2015	9,233,450

An eligible small business taxpayer is allowed a credit in the manner described above for the general Economic Opportunity Tax Credit, except that the small business must create at least ten new West Virginia jobs within twelve months, rather than twenty new jobs. If the qualified small business creates at least ten qualified new jobs, the small business may receive a credit equal to 10 percent of its qualified investment.

Tax Credit for High Technology Manufacturers

A credit is also provided for specified high technology manufacturers. A "high technology manufacturing business" is defined as a business properly classified under the NAICS Code as manufacturers of electronic computers, computer storage devices, electron tubes, electronic capacitors, semiconductors and related devices, and semiconductor machinery. The credit is based on the qualified taxpayer's qualified investment which results in the creation of at least 20 new jobs within twelve months after placing the qualified investment in

¹Annual updates may be found in the Administrative Notices section at <http://www.wvtax.gov>.

²Annual updates may be found in the Administrative Notices Section at <http://www.wvtax.gov>.

Tax Credits

service. The credit is 100 percent of the tax attributable to the qualified investment and is allowed for each year for a twenty-year credit period. The credit is to be taken beginning with the taxable year in which the qualified investment is placed in service unless the taxpayer elects to delay to the next succeeding tax year. A taxpayer who uses this credit cannot take any other credit under West Virginia Code §§ 11-13Q-1 et seq. In order to claim or retain the credit, the median compensation of the new jobs attributable to the qualified investment must exceed inflation-adjusted values as follows:

<u>Year</u> ¹	<u>Median Annual Compensation or Salary</u>
2011	\$32,450
2012	33,250
2013	34,100
2014	34,650
2015	35,200

<u>Year</u> ¹	<u>Median Compensation or Salary</u>
2011	\$47,650
2012	48,850
2013	50,100
2014	50,950
2015	51,750

Credit for Taxpayers That Do Not Satisfy the New Jobs Percentage Requirement

Taxpayers that do not satisfy the new jobs percentage requirements are permitted to claim a credit of \$3,000 per year per new job created for a period of five consecutive years beginning in the tax year when the new employee is first hired if

1. the new job pays at least \$32,000 annually (see inflation adjusted values below);
2. health insurance and other benefits, such as child care and retirement, are offered, and
3. the position is a full-time permanent position.

The inflation adjusted annual pay for the new jobs created for purposes of the tax credit must equal or exceed the following:

MANUFACTURING INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT

Manufacturers that make qualified investments for industrial expansion or industrial revitalization may be eligible for the Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit. The term “manufacturing” means any business activity whose first two digits of its North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Code are 31, 32 or 33 or whose six digit code is 211112.

Eligible investments include real property and improvements to real property and tangible personal property constructed or purchased for use as a part of a new or expanded business of a qualified industrial taxpayer. Eligible investments may also include replaced or refurbished buildings, equipment, machinery and other tangible personal property used in the operation of a qualified facility located in West Virginia. Eligible investments may also include real or tangible personal property acquired by written lease for a primary term of ten years or longer if used as a component part of a new, expanded or revitalized industrial facility. The credit is equal to 5 percent of the taxpayer’s qualified investment pro-rated over a ten-year period at a rate of 10 percent per year.

Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit may be used to offset up to 60 percent of the taxpayer’s annual liability for Severance Tax and Corporation Net Income Tax for a period of ten years. Any portion of a particular year’s annual credit that remains after application against these taxes for the taxable year is forfeited. Credit recapture may occur when the actual useful life of the qualified investment property or the period of actual use of qualified investment property within West Virginia falls short of the projected useful life applicable percentage category used in the original credit calculations.

¹Annual updates may be found in the Administrative Notices Section at <http://www.wvtax.gov>.

COMMERCIAL PATENT INCENTIVES TAX CREDIT

The Commercial Patent Incentives Tax Credit was enacted to encourage greater development and use in West Virginia of commercial intellectual properties by West Virginia businesses and thereby increase economic opportunity in West Virginia. The credit is available for the following:

1. the development, in West Virginia, of plant patent, design patent, or patents for direct use in a manufacturing process or product, or
2. the use of a patent in a manufacturing process or product in West Virginia when the patent was developed in West Virginia.

Available Commercial Patent Incentives Tax Credit may be applied against tax liability attributable to the Personal Income Tax or Corporation Net Income Tax. No Commercial Patent Incentives Tax Credit is allowed for any activity, investment, assets or expenditures for which any of the following tax credits has been authorized, taken or allowed:

1. Industrial Expansion or Revitalization Credit (W. Va. Code §11-13D et seq.)
2. Coal-Loading Facilities Credit (W. Va. Code §11-13E et seq.)
3. Economic Opportunity Tax Credit (W. Va. Code §11-13Q et seq.)
4. Strategic Research and Development Tax Credit (W. Va. Code §11-13R et seq.)
5. Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit (W. Va. Code §11-13S et seq.)
6. West Virginia Film Industry Investment Tax Credit (W. Va. Code §11-13X et seq.).

Also, no Commercial Patent Incentives Tax Credit is allowed for any activity, investment, assets or expenditures for which any tax credit authorized under W. Va. Code §18B-13 et seq. has been taken or allowed.

The Commercial Patent Incentives Tax Credit for developing patents in West Virginia is generally equal to 20 percent of the total royalties, license fees or other consideration from the sales, lease or licensing of the patent developed in West Virginia, subject to allocation if a portion of the direct costs of the development of the patent occurred outside West Virginia. The credit percentage increases to 30 percent if at least 80 percent of

the previous year's tax credit was reinvested in West Virginia for certain uses.

Similarly, the Commercial Patent Incentives Tax Credit for use of a patent in a manufacturing process or product in West Virginia that was developed in West Virginia is generally equal to 20 percent of the net profit attributable to the use of the patent. The credit percentage increases to 30 percent if at least 80 percent of the previous year's tax credit was reinvested in West Virginia for certain uses.

INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION OR INDUSTRIAL REVITALIZATION CREDIT FOR ELECTRIC POWER PRODUCERS

Electric power generation companies that make eligible investments for industrial expansion or industrial revitalization within West Virginia may be eligible for the Industrial Expansion or Revitalization Credit. Eligible investment for industrial expansion includes real property and improvements thereto and tangible personal property constructed or purchased for use as a part of a new or expanded electric power generation facility. Eligible investment for industrial revitalization includes replaced or refurbished facilities, equipment, machinery and other tangible personal property used in the operation of an electric power generation facility located in West Virginia. Eligible investment may also include real or tangible personal property acquired by written lease for a primary term of ten years or longer if used as a component part of a new, expanded or revitalized electric power generation facility. The credit is equal to 10 percent of the taxpayer's qualified investment. The calculation of qualified investment for this credit is similar to that required for the Economic Opportunity Tax Credit. Industrial Expansion or Revitalization Credit may be used to offset up to 50 percent of the taxpayer's annual liability for Business and Occupation Tax for a period of ten years. Any portion of a particular year's annual credit that remains after application against this tax for the taxable year is forfeited. Credit recapture may occur when the actual useful life of the qualified investment property or the period of actual use of qualified investment property within West Virginia falls short of the projected useful life applicable percentage category used in the original credit calculations.

COAL-LOADING FACILITIES CREDIT

A tax credit is granted against Severance Tax liability for qualified investment in a new, expanded or revitalized coal-loading facility. A coal-loading facility that will qualify for the credit is limited to any building or structure specifically designed and solely used to transfer coal from a coal processing or preparation facility or from a coal storage facility, or both, or from any means of rail or barge transportation used to move coal, including such land as is directly associated with and solely used for the coal-loading facility.

The credit is equal to 10 percent of the cost of the eligible investment made in the coal-loading facility and must be applied over a ten-year period at the rate of one-tenth of the credit per taxable year. The amount of investment that is eligible for the credit is determined by applying a prescribed percentage to the total cost of the project. The percentages shown in the following table apply:

<u>Useful Life</u>	<u>Applicable Percentage</u>
Less than 4 years	0
4 years or more but less than 6 years	33 $\frac{1}{3}$
6 years or more but less than 8 years	66 $\frac{2}{3}$
8 years or more	100

Property with a useful life of less than four years does not qualify for purposes of this credit.

The credit may reduce Severance Tax liability, but the credit cannot be over 50 percent of the total tax liability. No carry-over to a subsequent tax year or carry-back to a prior tax year is allowed for the amount of any unused portion of the allowed credit. Unused credit is forfeited. Credit recapture may occur when the actual useful life of the qualified investment property or the period of actual use of qualified investment property within West Virginia falls short of the projected useful life applicable percentage category used in the original credit calculations.

WEST VIRGINIA FILM INDUSTRY INVESTMENT CREDIT

Eligible film production companies may claim a tax credit in an amount equaling up to 26 percent of direct production and post production expenditures made in West Virginia. The base credit percentage is 22 percent with an additional 4 percent available if the film

production company or its authorized payroll service company employ ten or more West Virginia residents as full-time employees or apprentices. The credit may be applied to Corporation Net Income Tax and Personal Income Tax liabilities. The eligible claimants would not be able to receive a refund of any credit amount in excess of tax liability, and no more than \$5 million in credit may be allocated in any tax year. Qualified film makers, who produce their product in West Virginia, can sell or transfer excess film tax credits to other individuals or businesses.

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT PROJECT CREDIT

A tax credit is granted against Consumers Sales Tax liability for qualified investment in tourism development projects approved by the Development Office. An approved company must provide the amount of approved costs that qualify for the credit and the date by which the project is to be completed and open to the public. No new applications for the credit may be accepted on or after January 1, 2020.

Approved companies are allowed a credit against Consumers Sales Tax collected by the company only from the project. The maximum amount of the credit is 25 percent of the company's approved costs. However, if the project site is within the permit area or an adjacent area of a surface coal mine from which all coal will have been extracted prior to the commencement of the project, the credit is equal to 50 percent of the approved costs. The credit shall be taken over a ten-year period at a rate of one-tenth of the total credit amount per taxable year.

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT EXPANSION PROJECT CREDIT

A tax credit is granted against Consumers Sales Tax liability for qualified investment in tourism development expansion projects. Approved companies are allowed a credit against Consumers Sales Tax collected by the company only from the project. The maximum amount of the credit is 25 percent of the company's approved costs. However, if the project site is within the permit area or an adjacent area of a surface coal mine from which all coal will have been extracted prior to the commencement of the project, the credit is equal to 35 percent of the approved costs. The credit shall be taken over a ten-year period at a rate of one-tenth of the total credit amount per taxable year.

MILITARY INCENTIVES CREDIT

Every employer may take a credit against its Corporation Net Income or Personal Income Tax liability for hiring an economically disadvantaged veteran of the Vietnam era, a disabled veteran or an unemployed member of the National Guard or reserve forces of the United States military. For hiring an economically disadvantaged Vietnam era veteran, the taxpayer may take a credit of 30 percent of the first \$5,000 paid in wages and compensation. For each disabled veteran hired, the taxpayer may take a credit in the amount of the first \$5,000 of wages and compensation paid multiplied by the percentage of disability suffered as determined by the Veterans Administration. For members of the National Guard or the reserve forces of the United States military, the tax credit is 25 percent of the first \$5,000 paid in wages and compensation.

To take a credit under this program, the taxpayer must hire veterans who have received vouchers from the Department of Employment Security, the West Virginia National Guard or participating Reserve forces certifying their eligibility. The employer is not eligible to take a credit if the veteran is already employed or displaces a person who is already employed or the employer is already receiving job training payments for the veteran. A credit also cannot be taken if the veteran is employed for less than one continuous year unless the employee voluntarily resigns, becomes totally disabled or is discharged for just cause. However, if the employee is discharged, becomes totally disabled or resigns before he has worked one year, the employer can take a partial tax credit. The partial tax credit equals the amount of the tax credit the employer would have received for the full year multiplied by the ratio of the time period worked to the full-year period.

NATURAL GAS INDUSTRY JOBS RETENTION CREDIT

The Natural Gas Industry Jobs Retention Credit is an annual offset to the Natural Gas Storage Tax (i.e., Business and Occupation Tax on natural gas storage activities). The credit equals \$1,000 per qualified full-time employee (i.e., one who works at least 1,500 hours per year) employed by the taxpayer during the tax year. The credit is available as long as the qualified taxpayer retains at least 60 percent of the number of jobs in existence with the business as of January 1, 1996. The credit applies only against the Natural Gas Storage Tax. Any unused credit is forfeited.

APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING TAX CREDIT

A tax credit is available to taxpayers for wages paid to apprentices in the construction trades. The tax credit is equal to \$2 per hour multiplied by the total number of hours worked during the tax year by the apprentice. The amount of the tax credit allowed for any tax year for each apprentice may not exceed \$2,000. The apprentice must be participating in a qualified apprenticeship training program, which is registered with the United States Department of Labor and consists of at least 2,000 hours but not more than 10,000 hours of on the job apprenticeship training.

ENVIRONMENTAL AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT CREDIT

Eligible taxpayers are allowed a credit against State income tax (i.e., Corporation Net Income Tax or Personal Income Tax) for 25 percent of expenditures for the purchase and installation of qualified agricultural equipment and structures that protect the environment. Eligible taxpayers must purchase and install the qualified equipment for use in their agricultural operations in West Virginia.

The maximum amount of credit in any year is limited to the lesser of \$2,500 or the State income tax due for the year. Excess credits may be carried forward for a period not to exceed five years.

Agricultural operations include the commercial production of food, fiber or woodland products (but not timbering activity) by means of cultivation or tillage of the soil; the conduct of livestock, dairy, apiary, equine or poultry husbandry; aquacultural activity; horticultural activity; or any other plant or animal production activity. Commercial production generally consists of annual sales by the producer of at least \$1,000 of agricultural products.

"Qualified agricultural equipment" includes advanced technology pesticide and fertilizer application equipment, conservation tillage equipment, dead poultry composting facilities, nutrient management systems, streambank and shoreline protection systems, stream channel stabilization systems, stream crossing or access plans, waste management systems, waste storage facilities, and waste treatment lagoons located on or at agricultural operations in West Virginia. Qualified agricultural equipment must meet certain certification requirements to qualify for the tax credit benefit. These requirements include proof of purchase and installation and written certification by the Commissioner of Agriculture that each item is in fact qualified agricultural

equipment. In lieu of written certification by the Commissioner of Agriculture, written certification from the West Virginia Division of Environmental Protection is required for advanced technology pesticide and fertilizer application equipment.

CREDIT FOR REDUCING UTILITY CHARGES TO LOW-INCOME FAMILIES

Natural gas and electric utility companies must grant a rate reduction of 20 percent to qualified low-income residential customers for the heating season of November through March. A qualified low-income resident is one who is eligible to receive electric or natural gas utility service, or both, under special reduced rates. The utility companies may take a credit against Business and Occupation Tax liability for the amount of revenue lost by providing the reduced rates to qualified customers. Any unused portion of the credit may be taken as a credit against Corporation Net Income Tax. Businesses providing water utility services at reduced rates to qualified low-income residential customers which have not been reimbursed by other means are also eligible for the credit.

CREDIT FOR REDUCING TELEPHONE CHARGES TO LOW-INCOME FAMILIES

Telephone companies are required to provide low-cost service called Tele-Assistance Service to qualified low-income customers. Telephone companies may take a credit against Corporation Net Income Tax liability in an amount equal to the certified cost of providing Tele-Assistance Service.

HISTORIC REHABILITATED BUILDINGS INVESTMENT CREDIT

This credit equals 10 percent of the qualified expenditures for rehabilitation of residential and non-residential buildings designated by the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, as "certified historic structures" and further defined as "qualified rehabilitated structures". The building or area must be located within West Virginia to be eligible for the credit, and rehabilitation expenditures must be reviewed and approved by the West Virginia Department of Culture and History in order to qualify for the credit.

The credit may offset up to 100 percent of the taxpayer's liability for Personal Income Tax or Corporation Net Income Tax. Taxpayers may transfer, sell

or assign any unused tax credits after first obtaining a certificate of approval from the Division of Culture and History to transfer, sell or assign the stated amount of unused tax credit.

RESIDENTIAL HISTORIC REHABILITATED BUILDINGS INVESTMENT CREDIT

The Residential Historic Rehabilitated Buildings Investment Credit equals 20 percent of the qualified expenditures for the rehabilitation of residential homesteads designated by the West Virginia Department of Culture and History as "certified historic structures" and further defined as a "qualified rehabilitated structure". The building or area must be located within West Virginia to be eligible for the credit, and rehabilitation expenditures must be reviewed and approved by the West Virginia Department of Culture and History in order to qualify for credit.

The credit may offset up to 100 percent of the taxpayer's liability for Personal Income Tax. Taxpayers may transfer, sell or assign any unused tax credits after first obtaining a certificate of approval from the Division of Culture and History to transfer, sell or assign the stated amount of unused tax credit. Excess credit may be carried forward five years.

NEIGHBORHOOD INVESTMENT PROGRAM CREDIT

Eligible taxpayers are allowed a credit for 50 percent of eligible contributions made to a community-based nonprofit organization for a certified project plan providing neighborhood assistance, community services, crime prevention, housing, education, job training and physical and environmental improvements. An eligible contribution may consist of cash, tangible personal or real property at fair market value and in-kind professional services valued at 75 percent of fair market value. "Professional services" are limited to services provided by physicians, dentists, registered nurses, practical nurses, dental hygienists, other licensed health care professionals, lawyers and licensed public accountants.

Individual contributions must have a fair market value of at least \$500 but no more than \$200,000 to qualify for a credit. In addition, no more than 25 percent of total eligible contributions made by any taxpayer to any certified project may be in-kind contributions. The maximum credit for any one taxpayer is \$100,000 per year and the aggregate amount of credits that may be granted to all taxpayers in any fiscal year is capped at \$3.0

Tax Credits

million. The credit must be used within five years. The credit may be fully used in the first year or excess amounts may be carried over for use in the succeeding four years. Available credits may offset up to 50 percent of qualified taxpayer's liability for the Corporation Net Income or Personal Income Tax. Unused credits are forfeited.

CREDIT FOR UTILITIES WITH NET OPERATING LOSS CARRYOVERS

Taxpayers subject to the Business and Occupation Tax on electric power generation and/or distribution may claim a nonrefundable credit against their Corporation Net Income Tax liability in an amount equal to 0.25 percent of their West Virginia net operating loss carryovers that existed on December 31, 2006. Any credit remaining after application against the taxpayer's tax liabilities for the current year may be carried forward to subsequent tax years until used.

MANUFACTURING PROPERTY TAX ADJUSTMENT CREDIT

Manufacturers may claim a nonrefundable credit against Corporation Net Income Tax liabilities equal to the amount of local property taxes paid on West Virginia manufacturing inventory. For purposes of the Manufacturing Property Tax Adjustment Tax Credit, manufacturing inventory means, and is limited to, raw materials, goods in process and finished goods of a business primarily engaged in business activity classified as having a sector identifier whose first two digits of its North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Code are 31, 32 or 33. The credit may be applied against the Corporation Net Income Tax.

INNOVATIVE MINE SAFETY TECHNOLOGY TAX CREDIT

A tax credit is available for qualified investment in innovative mine safety technology equipment by a coal mining company, including methane monitoring equipment. The qualified investment is equal to 50 percent of purchases of qualified safety equipment. The Office of Miners' Health, Safety and Training, pursuant to applications for the tax credit, may allocate no more than \$2 million of Innovative Mine Safety Technology Tax Credit per fiscal year. No one taxpayer may be allocated more than \$100,000 in credit in any given year.

The tax credit may be applied against the Corporation Net Income Tax. For pass-through entities (i.e., limited liability companies treated as a partnership, small business corporations or partnership), if any credit remains after application against the Corporation Net Income Tax, the credit can be applied against the Personal Income Tax liability of the owners of the pass-through entity.

RECLAMATION TAX CREDIT

A tax credit is available against the Reclamation Tax on coal to any mine operator who performs reclamation or remediation at a bond forfeiture site which otherwise would have been reclaimed using funds from the Special Reclamation Fund or Special Reclamation Water Trust Fund. The amount of a Reclamation Tax Credit is equal to the amount that the State Tax Commissioner determines, based on the project costs, would have been spent from the Special Reclamation Fund or Special Reclamation Water Trust Fund to accomplish the reclamation or remediation performed by the mine operator, including expenditures for water treatment.

PART VIII
CIVIL PENALTIES

CIVIL PENALTIES

Interest

Interest is due when the tax amount is not paid in a timely manner. Interest accrues daily from the due date of the return until paid without regard to any extension of time to file. The West Virginia Code requires the State Tax Commissioner to establish interest rates for tax underpayments and overpayments of tax based on the adjusted prime rate. This rate shall not be less than 8 percent per year and is determined every six months. The interest rates on underpayments and overpayments of tax are as follows:

	Interest Rate for Underpayments	Interest Rate for Overpayments
January 1, 1987 - December 31, 1987	8.0%	8.0%
January 1, 1988 - June 30, 1989	9.0%	9.0%
June 1, 1989 - June 30, 1990	11.0%	11.0%
July 1, 1990 - December 31, 1991	10.0%	10.0%
January 1, 1992 - June 30, 1992	9.0%	9.0%
July 1, 1992 - December 31, 1995	8.0%	8.0%
January 1, 1996 - December 31, 1996	9.0%	9.0%
January 1, 1997 - December 31, 1997	8.0%	8.0%
January 1, 1998 - December 31, 1998	9.0%	9.0%
January 1, 1999 - June 30, 2000	8.0%	8.0%
July 1, 2000 - December 31, 2001	9.0%	9.0%
January 1, 2002 - June 30, 2002	8.0%	8.0%
July 1, 2002 - December 31, 2015	9.5%	8.0%

Penalties (Additions to Tax)

Penalties (Additions to tax) are imposed to encourage voluntary compliance with this State's tax laws. The penalty is only imposed on those taxpayers whose action, inaction, or delayed action warrants impositions of a penalty. Additions to tax penalties are imposed as a percentage of tax as follows:

Penalty	Rate	Measure
Failure to timely file a return	5% per month (25% maximum)	Tax due (as shown on return or as adjusted by the State Tax Department)
Failure to timely pay tax due	0.5% per month (25% maximum)	Tax due (as shown on return or as adjusted by the State Tax Department)
Failure to timely pay deficiency	0.5% per month (25% maximum)	A m o u n t o f deficiency

Additions to tax for failure to timely file and failure to timely pay tax due may be imposed concurrently; however, the total penalty may not exceed 5% per month and the maximum of both penalties may not exceed 50%. Additions to tax may be waived only if the taxpayer can prove that its failure was due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect. The penalty for failure to obtain a Business Registration Certificate, negligence, intentional disregard of rules and fraud is nonwaivable. Also, the costs of the additions to tax are not deductible for either Federal or State income tax purposes.

Rules for Personal Income Tax Underpayments

For Personal Income Tax purposes, additions to tax are due if you did not have enough West Virginia state income tax withheld from your income or pay enough estimated tax payments by any of the four due dates. There will be no additions to tax for underpayments of estimated tax if the total amount of all estimated payments equals or exceeds the lesser of

1. 100 percent of the prior year's tax, or
2. 90 percent of the current year's liability.

Civil Penalties

No addition to tax will be imposed if the tax on the return, less the credit for withheld tax, is less than \$600. Also, no additions to tax are imposed if all of the following conditions are met:

1. the preceding taxable year was twelve months;
2. the taxpayer had no West Virginia Personal Income Tax liability for the preceding taxable year;
3. the taxpayer was a United States citizen or resident throughout the preceding taxable year, and
4. the West Virginia Personal Income Tax liability for the current taxable year is less than \$5,000.

If at least two-thirds of the gross income was from farming, there is only one estimated payment required. The due date for this payment is January 15 of the following year. The amount of the payment is $66 \frac{2}{3}$ percent of the tax due. The required payment is treated as the fourth estimated payment. There will be no additions to tax on underpayments of estimated tax if the taxpayer files his or her annual Personal Income Tax return and pays the amount due on or before March 1.