

Comparative State/Local Taxes - Fiscal Year 1998

Capsule Comparison

- State and local taxes per \$1,000 personal income (\$115.00) rank Washington 17th nationally in fiscal 1998 (Table 1).
- Per capita state and local taxes rank Washington 13th among all states (Table 6) with an average tax burden of \$3,038 per person.
- Washington property taxes are ranked 16th on a per capita basis (Table 9) and 17th in relation to personal income (Table 4). Property taxes in Washington generate almost 32 percent of state and local revenues; the national average is 30 percent.
- The latest per capita personal income data (1999) indicates that Washington ranks 12th highest in the nation (Table 5).
- Washington's reliance on general sales and gross receipts taxes is by far the highest in the nation (Tables 10 and 12). These sources account for almost 46 percent of Washington's state/local taxes--nearly twice the national average. Including selective sales taxes, Washington's per capita sales tax burden--\$1,792--is more than any other state.

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This report presents comparisons of the average combined level of state and local taxes in Washington and other states. These comparisons are derived from data for all states compiled by the Census Bureau of the U.S. Department of Commerce. Also, summary information on certain tax rates in all states and historical tax changes in Washington is provided.

The intended audience includes the Governor's office, members and staff of the legislative fiscal committees and other interested legislators, and the media, as well as citizens and businesses who are interested in the comparative level of taxes in Washington. A limited number of additional copies may be obtained by writing to the Department of Revenue, Research Division, P.O. Box 47459, Olympia, WA 98504-7459.

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