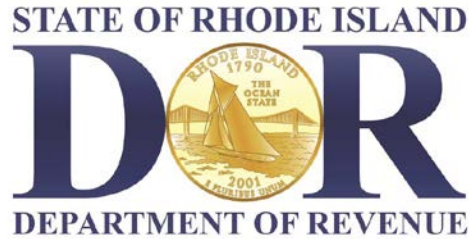


STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
GOVERNOR GINA M. RAIMONDO



Office of Revenue Analysis

State of Rhode Island Revenue Assessment Report  
FY 2020 Monthly and Year-to-Date as of August 2019

The monthly revenue assessment report compares adjusted revenues, on a monthly and fiscal year-to-date basis, to the Office of Revenue Analysis' monthly and fiscal year-to-date estimates of expected revenues based on the current fiscal year revenue estimates. It should be noted that the fiscal year revenue estimates will vary over the course of the fiscal year as the Revenue Estimating Conference (REC) (see Rhode Island General Laws § 35-16-1 et seq.) convenes and modifies the fiscal year revenue estimates as enacted by the General Assembly.

*The purpose of the Revenue Assessment Report is to give readers a sense of how the state's general revenues compare to those that might be expected if the official revenue estimates were being met in a predictable way. Caution should be exercised when interpreting this report as actual revenues may vary significantly from historical patterns. In addition, it is important for the reader to understand that enacted and adopted revenue estimates are made on an accrual basis, not a cash basis. Revenue accruals are not determined until at least one month after the fiscal year-end in June. Thus, even if the assessment of actual fiscal year-to-date revenues trails the fiscal year-to-date revenue estimates, it is possible for the fiscal year-end accrual to make up any shortfall.*

This monthly revenue assessment report compares adjusted revenues to expected revenues based on the revenue estimates enacted in the FY 2020 budget, which was signed into law on July 5, 2019. The enacted revenue estimates will remain the basis of comparison for all Revenue Assessment Reports through the October 2019 report. Beginning with the November 2019 Revenue Assessment Report, the basis of comparison will be revenue estimates adopted at the November 2019 REC. For the May 2020 Revenue Assessment Report, the basis of comparison will be revenue estimates adopted at the May 2020 REC. There is no Revenue Assessment Report issued for the month of June. Instead, a Special Report on Preliminary Revenues for FY 2020 will be prepared and issued in September 2020.

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND REVENUE ASSESSMENT REPORT**  
**Year-to-Date Estimate to Actual**

	YTD August Adjusted Revenues FY 2020			YTD August Estimate of Revised FY 2020 Revenues †		Difference	Variance
<b>Personal Income Tax</b>	\$	191,730,231	<sup>a</sup>	\$	197,621,846	\$ (5,891,615)	-3.0%
<b>General Business Taxes</b>							
Business Corporation		11,842,483	<sup>a</sup>		9,194,748	2,647,734	28.8%
Public Utilities Gross Earnings		556,944			579,640	(22,696)	-3.9%
Financial Institutions		163,285			106,290	56,995	53.6%
Insurance Company Gross Premiums †		316,798			34,390	282,408	821.2%
Bank Deposits		23,882	<sup>b</sup>		(11,988)	35,871	-299.2%
Health Care Provider Assessment †		7,392,502			7,685,562	(293,060)	-3.8%
<b>Excise Taxes</b>							
Sales and Use †		214,643,054			213,990,338	652,717	0.3%
Motor Vehicle License and Reg Fees		210,625			521,825	(311,200)	-59.6%
Cigarettes		25,950,117			23,969,772	1,980,345	8.3%
Alcohol		3,349,382			3,911,430	(562,048)	-14.4%
Controlled Substances		500			-	500	n/a
<b>Other Taxes</b>							
Estate and Transfer		3,345,382			6,567,820	(3,222,438)	-49.1%
Racing and Athletics		208,446			186,212	22,234	11.9%
Realty Transfer		3,119,610	<sup>c</sup>		2,530,323	589,288	23.3%
<b>Total Taxes</b>	\$	<b>462,853,241</b>		\$	<b>466,888,206</b>	\$ <b>(4,034,966)</b>	<b>-0.9%</b>
<b>Departmental Receipts †</b>	\$	28,980,723	<sup>d</sup>	\$	31,473,819	\$ (2,493,096)	-7.9%
<b>Taxes and Departmentals</b>	\$	<b>491,833,964</b>		\$	<b>498,362,025</b>	\$ <b>(6,528,061)</b>	<b>-1.3%</b>
<b>Other General Revenue Sources</b>							
Other Miscellaneous Revenues		31,447	<sup>+</sup>		31,447	-	0.0%
Lottery Transfer †		30,793,748			33,293,321	(2,499,573)	-7.5%
Unclaimed Property		-	<sup>+</sup>		-	-	n/a
<b>Total Other Sources</b>	\$	<b>30,825,195</b>		\$	<b>33,324,768</b>	\$ <b>(2,499,573)</b>	<b>-7.5%</b>
<b>Total General Revenues</b>	\$	<b>522,659,159</b>		\$	<b>531,686,793</b>	\$ <b>(9,027,634)</b>	<b>-1.7%</b>

PIT Component	YTD August Adj. Revenues			YTD August Revised Estimates		Difference	Variance
Estimated payments	\$	10,418,771		\$	8,509,929	\$ 1,908,842	22.4%
Final payments †		9,767,631			7,742,379	2,025,253	26.2%
Withholding		190,375,720			195,494,809	(5,119,089)	-2.6%
Refunds and Adjustments		(18,831,892)	<sup>a</sup>		(14,125,271)	(4,706,621)	33.3%
<b>Total</b>	\$	<b>191,730,231</b>		\$	<b>197,621,846</b>	\$ <b>(5,891,615)</b>	<b>-3.0%</b>

† Enacted FY 2020 estimated revenues for insurance company gross premiums tax, health care provider assessment, sales and use tax, departmental receipts, and the lottery transfer are calculated using modified revenue flows to align expected revenues with the actual realization of revenues.

∴ The estimate for controlled substances was set at zero for FY 2020.

+ Set equal to actual amounts received.

*Detailed notes on the following page*

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND REVENUE ASSESSMENT REPORT**  
**Year-to-Date Estimate to Actual**

- <sup>a</sup> Includes an adjustment of \$(519,000) to personal income tax refunds and adjustments for a transfer to business corporation tax for estimated payment(s) received in March 2017 and transferred in August 2019. An offsetting adjustment of \$519,000 is included in business corporation tax adjusted revenues.
- <sup>b</sup> Subtracts \$262,500 for estimated payment(s) received in July 2019 but accrued back to FY 2019.
- <sup>c</sup> Subtracts \$66,571 that are designated to the Housing Resources Commission. The amount reflects the difference between the July 2019 transfer that occurred in August 2019 and the August 2019 transfer that will occur in September 2019.
- <sup>d</sup> Subtracts \$165,430,641 of hospital licensing fee payments received in July 2019 but accrued back to FY 2019.

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND REVENUE ASSESSMENT REPORT**  
**Monthly Estimate to Actual**

	August 2019 Adjusted Revenues FY 2020		August 2019 Estimate of Revised FY 2020 Revenues †		Difference	Variance
<b>Personal Income Tax</b>	\$ 95,823,781		\$ 105,761,058		\$ (9,937,277)	-9.4%
<b>General Business Taxes</b>						
Business Corporation	4,785,809		2,939,439		1,846,370	62.8%
Public Utilities Gross Earnings	(30,638)		191,182		(221,820)	-116.0%
Financial Institutions	29,872		106,290		(76,418)	-71.9%
Insurance Company Gross Premiums †	1,041,646		907,498		134,147	14.8%
Bank Deposits	24,002		(11,988)		35,991	-300.2%
Health Care Provider Assessment †	3,655,296		3,774,356		(119,060)	-3.2%
<b>Excise Taxes</b>						
Sales and Use †	109,602,531		106,940,346		2,662,186	2.5%
Motor Vehicle License and Reg Fees	108,750	a	281,991		(173,241)	-61.4%
Cigarettes	12,828,671		12,531,577		297,094	2.4%
Alcohol	1,492,786		1,690,536		(197,750)	-11.7%
Controlled Substances	500		-	∴	500	n/a
<b>Other Taxes</b>						
Estate and Transfer	1,067,042		3,429,623		(2,362,581)	-68.9%
Racing and Athletics	114,852		103,330		11,522	11.2%
Realty Transfer	1,433,850	b	1,304,798		129,052	9.9%
<b>Total Taxes</b>	<b>\$ 231,978,750</b>		<b>\$ 239,950,034</b>		<b>\$ (7,971,285)</b>	<b>-3.3%</b>
<b>Departmental Receipts †</b>	<b>\$ 15,649,457</b>		<b>\$ 16,908,469</b>		<b>\$ (1,259,012)</b>	<b>-7.4%</b>
<b>Taxes and Departmentals</b>	<b>\$ 247,628,207</b>		<b>\$ 256,858,503</b>		<b>\$ (9,230,296)</b>	<b>-3.6%</b>
<b>Other General Revenue Sources</b>						
Other Miscellaneous Revenues	15,469	+	15,469	+	-	0.0%
Lottery Transfer †	30,793,748		33,293,321		(2,499,573)	-7.5%
Unclaimed Property	-	+	-	+	-	n/a
<b>Total Other Sources</b>	<b>\$ 30,809,217</b>		<b>\$ 33,308,790</b>		<b>\$ (2,499,573)</b>	<b>-7.5%</b>
<b>Total General Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 278,437,424</b>		<b>\$ 290,167,293</b>		<b>\$ (11,729,869)</b>	<b>-4.0%</b>

<b>PIT Component</b>	August 2019 Adj. Revenues		August 2019 Revised Estimates		Difference	Variance
Estimated payments	\$ 4,902,870		\$ 4,088,894		\$ 813,976	19.9%
Final payments †	4,256,774		3,783,164		473,610	12.5%
Withholding	92,650,926		104,071,135		(11,420,208)	-11.0%
Refunds and Adjustments	(5,986,790)		(6,182,136)		195,345	-3.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 95,823,781</b>		<b>\$ 105,761,058</b>		<b>\$ (9,937,277)</b>	<b>-9.4%</b>

† Enacted FY 2020 estimated revenues for insurance company gross premiums tax, health care provider assessment, sales and use tax, departmental receipts, and the lottery transfer are calculated using modified revenue flows to align expected revenues with the actual realization of revenues.

∴ The estimate for controlled substances was set at zero for FY 2020.

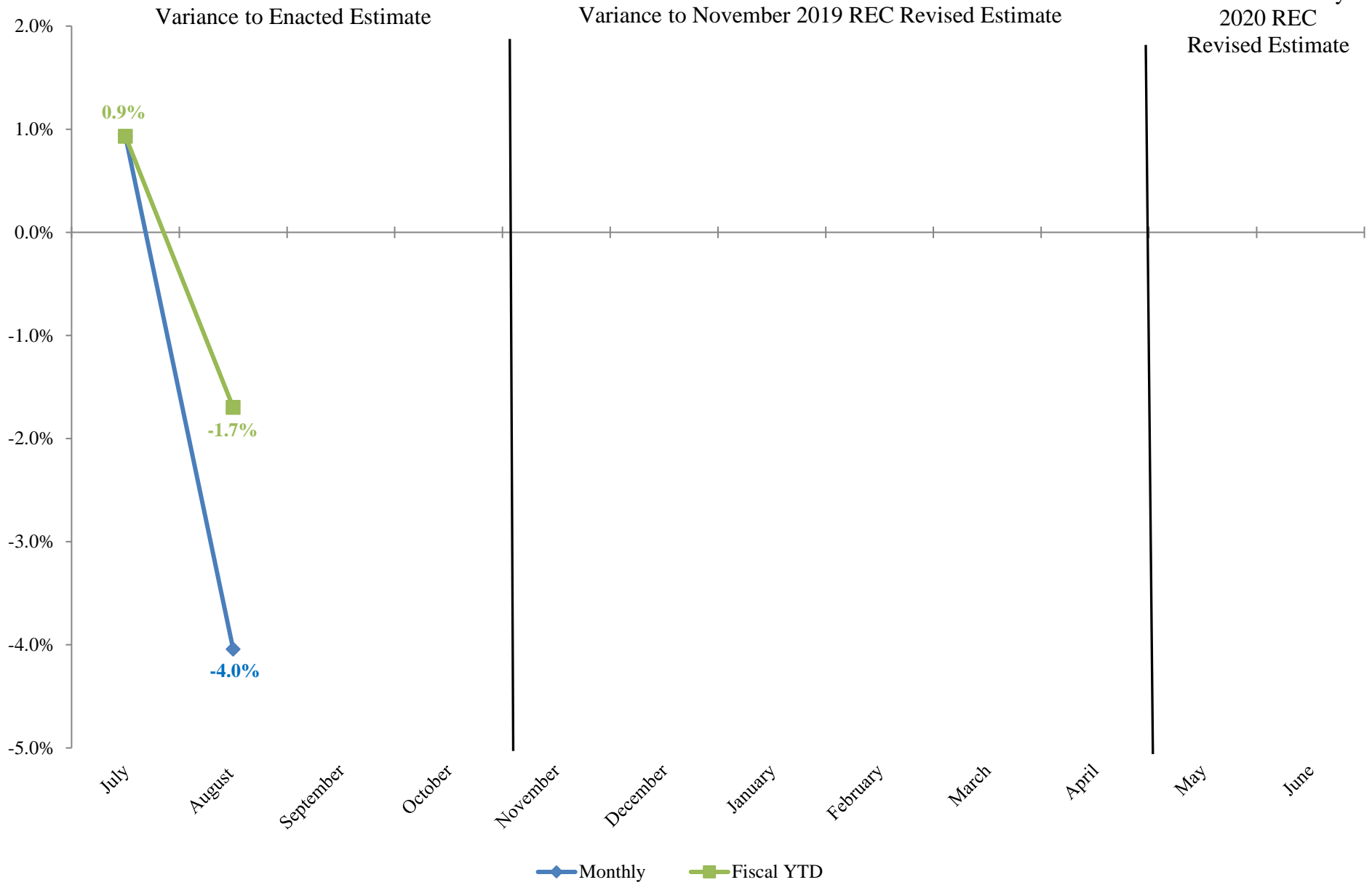
+ Set equal to actual amounts received.

*Detailed notes on the following page*

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND REVENUE ASSESSMENT REPORT**  
**Monthly Estimate to Actual**

- <sup>a</sup> Adds back \$94,500 of license update/duplicate license fees received for the Rhode Island Highway Maintenance Account (RIHMA) in July 2019 but accrued back to FY 2019. This amount was transferred to RIHMA in August 2019.
- <sup>b</sup> Subtracts \$66,571 that are designated to the Housing Resources Commission. The amount reflects the difference between the July 2019 transfer that occurred in August 2019 and the August 2019 transfer that will occur in September 2019.

# FY 2020 Variance of Adjusted Revenues to Estimate



## **Law Changes Enacted in the 2019 Session That Impact General Revenues**

In the 2019 session, and earlier sessions, the General Assembly enacted several changes to the state's general laws that impact general revenues. These changes can be categorized as follows: (1) changes that reclassify revenues that were previously considered to be general revenues to other funds; and (2) changes that impact FY 2020 general revenues that will be realized through monthly revenue flows. Those changes in state law that impact monthly revenue flows will generally exhibit seasonality in the receipt of the revenue. The Office of Revenue Analysis (ORA) attempts to model the seasonality in such revenue flows in order to better align the expected receipt of revenues with the actual receipt of revenues. A more specific discussion of these items is provided in the appendix to this report.

## **Estimate of Enacted FY 2020 Revenues**

In order to determine the expected monthly and fiscal year-to-date revenue estimates based on the enacted FY 2020 budget signed into law by Governor Raimondo on July 5, 2019, ORA first calculates the average percentage of total adjusted revenues that occurred in a given month over the previous five fiscal years for each revenue item, except for estate and transfer taxes for which the previous ten fiscal years are used.<sup>1</sup> For business corporation tax, public utilities gross earnings tax, financial institutions tax, insurance company gross premiums tax, and bank deposits tax revenues, ORA used adjusted FY 2019 percentages to account for the change in the estimated payments schedule for these tax types.<sup>2</sup> For motor vehicle license and registration fees adjusted FY 2019 percentages are used to account for the change in the transfer to the Rhode Island Highway Maintenance Account (RIHMA).<sup>3</sup> For monthly estimates, these percentages are applied to the enacted FY 2020 revenue estimate for each revenue item. For the fiscal year-to-date estimates, the monthly percentages are summed and then applied to the enacted FY 2020 revenue estimate for each revenue item. For other miscellaneous revenues, the actual fiscal year-to-date revenues are used in place of an estimate due to the discrete and unpredictable nature in the timing of these receipts.

---

<sup>1</sup> The previous five fiscal years are FY 2015 through FY 2019, and the previous ten fiscal years are FY 2010 through FY 2019. In the case of personal income tax refunds and adjustments revenues, FY 2013 through FY 2015 and FY 2018 through FY 2019 were used in computing the five-fiscal year average percentages. These fiscal years were selected due to the impact on refund processing in FY 2016 and FY 2017 that resulted from the implementation of the new personal income tax system by the Division of Taxation.

<sup>2</sup> Prior to tax year 2018, these taxpayers paid 100 percent of their projected tax year liability by the sixth month of their tax year. For taxpayers with a tax year that coincided with the calendar year, this meant that 100 percent of their projected tax liability had to be paid by June of the calendar year which was the end of the state fiscal year. Effective for tax year 2018 and beyond, these same taxpayers now pay 50 percent of their projected tax year liability by the sixth month of their tax year. As a result of the change in the estimated payment schedule, ORA used the actual revenues received in each month of FY 2019 as a percentage of the total revenues received in FY 2019.

<sup>3</sup> In FY 2019, all motor vehicle license and registration fees were transferred to the Rhode Island Highway Maintenance Account except for duplicate license and license update fees, which were retained as general revenues. Since registration fees are the largest component of motor vehicle license and registration fees and registration fee deposits have an uneven periodicity, ORA chose to use the FY 2019 percentages for FY 2020 since only duplicate license and license update fees will be retained as general revenues in FY 2020.

Table A provides the rounded five-year or ten-year, in the case of estate and transfer tax revenues, average percentages used to determine expected monthly and fiscal year-to-date revenues for August.<sup>4</sup> It should be noted that ORA has made adjustments to these percentages based on the estimated flow of revenues that result from the changes in law enacted by the 2019 General Assembly and included as part of the revenue estimates enacted in the FY 2020 budget.

Revenue Item	<u>Percent Received</u>		Revenue Item	<u>Percent Received</u>	
	August	YTD		August	YTD
Personal Income Taxes			Sales and Use Taxes	9.1 %	18.1 %
Estimated Payments	1.7 %	3.6 %	Motor Vehicles Fees	9.4 %	17.4 %
Final Payments	1.4 %	2.8 %	Cigarettes Taxes	9.3 %	17.8 %
Withholding Payments	8.2 %	15.4 %	Alcohol Excise Taxes	7.9 %	18.3 %
Refunds/Adjustments	1.7%	3.9 %	Estate and Transfer	9.4 %	17.9 %
Business Corporation Taxes	1.8 %	5.6 %	Racing and Athletics	9.4 %	16.9 %
Utilities Gross Earnings Taxes	0.2 %	0.6 %	Realty Transfer	9.7 %	18.7 %
Financial Institutions Taxes	0.4 %	0.4 %	Departmental Receipts	6.6 %	12.2 %
Insurance Co. Gross Premiums	0.8 %	0.0 %	Lottery Transfer	6.9 %	6.9 %
Bank Deposits	-0.4 %	-0.4 %	Other Misc. Revenues	n/a	n/a
Health Care Provider Assessment	8.3 %	16.9 %	Unclaimed Property	0.0 %	0.0 %

The health care provider assessment consists of an assessment on nursing homes. Motor vehicle fees are comprised of fees paid to issue updated or duplicate operators' licenses. Racing and athletics taxes consist of a tax on wagers placed on out-of-state greyhound and horse races that are broadcast to Rhode Island via closed circuit television. The "Percent Received" for monthly and year-to-date departmental receipts is calculated excluding hospital licensing fee revenues, which are large and generally made only once in the fiscal year. Finally, the lottery transfer does not begin in a given fiscal year until August, while the unclaimed property transfer occurs only in June of each fiscal year.

Due to the unusual characteristics of the enacted FY 2020 legislative changes for insurance company gross premiums tax, health care provider assessment, sales and use tax, departmental receipts and the lottery transfer, ORA had to adjust the revenue bases against which FY 2020 adjusted revenues would be assessed for these revenue items. As a result, ORA will use modified revenue flows for expected FY 2020 revenues for these revenue items to gauge the sufficiency of

<sup>4</sup> As noted previously, FY 2019 percentages were used for business corporation tax, public utilities gross earnings tax, financial institutions tax, insurance company gross premiums tax, and bank deposits tax revenues due to the change in the estimated payments schedule for tax year 2018 and beyond and for motor vehicle license and registration fees due to the retention of only duplicate license and license update fees as general revenue in FY 2020..



adjusted FY 2020 revenues in meeting estimated revenues. The footnotes to Table B detail the breakdown of modified cash revenue flows and accruals for each of these revenue items.

The FY 2020 estimates by revenue item as enacted by the General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Raimondo are as follows:

<b>Table B. FY 2020 Enacted Revenue Estimates by Major Revenue Item</b>			
<b>Revenue Item</b>	<b>Enacted FY 2020 Estimate</b>	<b>Revenue Item</b>	<b>Enacted FY 2020 Estimate</b>
Personal Income Taxes		Sales and Use Taxes <sup>c</sup>	\$ 1,180,433,548
Estimated Payments	\$ 236,000,000	Motor Vehicles Fees	3,000,000
Final Payments	274,500,000	Cigarettes Taxes	135,000,000
Withholding Payments	1,273,200,000	Alcohol Excise Taxes	21,400,000
Refunds/Adjustments	(360,800,000)	Estate and Transfer	38,000,000
Business Corporation Taxes	164,000,000	Racing and Athletics	1,100,000
Public Utilities Gross Earnings	103,200,000	Realty Transfer	13,500,000
Financial Institutions Taxes	24,400,000	Departmental Receipts <sup>d</sup>	451,451,653
Insurance Co. Gross Premiums <sup>a</sup>	119,675,238	Lottery	412,800,000
Bank Deposits	3,000,000	Other Misc. Revenues	25,650,000
Health Care Provider Assessment <sup>b</sup>	45,418,233	Unclaimed Property	9,900,000
		<b>Total General Revenues *</b>	<b>\$ 4,178,728,672</b>
* Total general revenues estimate includes a personal income tax net accrual of \$3,900,000.			

*Notes to Table B:*

<sup>a</sup> Insurance company gross premiums tax revenues estimate includes a projected revenue impact of \$(11,182) from a downward revision to a 1% increase in the nursing home provider rate paid directly by the state effective October 1, 2019. The realization of this revenue impact is expected to occur in November 2019 through June 2020. The insurance company gross premiums tax revenues estimate also includes a revenue impact of \$(47,698) from a shift in enrollment from the state's RItE Care program to its RItE Share program resulting in reduced capitation payments made to Medicaid plan sponsors effective January 1, 2020. The realization of these revenues is expected to occur in February 2020 through June 2020. Additionally, the insurance company gross premiums tax revenues estimate includes \$(102,758) from the repeal of a managed care organization performance goal program, \$(5,700) from an initiative to reduce the number of C-section births, \$(127,201) from the shifting of audit recoveries realized by the Office of Internal Audit from the Department of Administration to the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, and \$469,777 from a 7.2 percent increase in the rate paid to hospitals for inpatient and outpatient services. These revenues are expected to be realized in FY 2020 in accordance to the general flow of revenues for insurance company gross premiums tax. As a result, ORA will assess adjusted FY 2020 insurance company gross premiums tax revenue flows against "base" insurance company gross premiums tax revenues of \$119,734,118 for July 2019 through October 2019, \$119,722,936 for November 2019 through January 2020, and \$119,675,238 for February 2020 through June 2020.

- <sup>b</sup> Health care provider assessment revenues estimate includes a projected revenue impact of \$(379,267) from a downward adjustment to a 1% increase in the nursing home provider rate paid directly by the state effective October 1, 2019. The realization of these revenues is expected to occur in November 2019 through June 2020. The health care provider assessment revenues estimate also includes a revenue impact of \$(302,500) from a correction to the reimbursement of hospice care and nursing homes. These revenues are expected to occur in FY 2020 in accordance to the general flow of revenues for the health care provider assessment. As a result, ORA will assess adjusted FY 2020 health care provider assessment revenue flows against “base” health care provider assessment revenues of \$45,797,500 for July 2019 through September 2019 and \$45,418,233 for October 2019 through June 2020.
- <sup>c</sup> Sales and use tax revenues estimate of \$1,180,433,548 includes a projected revenue impact of \$2,625,759 from the expansion of sales and use tax to digital products such as streaming services. The FY 2020 enacted budget also includes an exemption from the sales and use tax for feminine hygiene products and the expansion of the coffins and caskets sales and use tax exemption to urns. The expected revenue impact for these budgetary items is \$(617,211) and \$(75,000), respectively. The effective date for each of these items is October 1, 2019 and thus, the realization of these revenue impacts is expected to occur unevenly in November 2019 through June 2020. Additionally, there is a revenue impact of \$5,600,000 for the reimbursement from the Rebuild Rhode Island Tax Credit Fund to general revenues for the refund of sales taxes paid on projects that have received Rebuild Rhode Island tax credits. The refund applications are expected to be received throughout FY 2020, and it is assumed that the reimbursements will be received in a pattern similar to the general flow of revenues for the sales and use tax. As a result, ORA will assess adjusted FY 2019 sales and use tax revenue flows against “base” sales and use tax revenues of \$1,178,500,000 for July 2019 through October 2019 and \$1,180,433,548 for November 2019 through June 2020.
- <sup>d</sup> Departmental receipts revenues estimate includes hospital licensing fee revenues of \$193,849,765. These revenues will be booked as a receivable in June. The departmental receipts revenues estimate also includes \$5,000,000 from a transfer of settlement monies received by the Office of the Attorney General to general revenues, which is expected to occur in September 2019. Estimated departmental receipts revenues include \$(5,600,000) from the restructuring of the state’s E-911 surcharge into an E-911 fee and a first response surcharge, with revenues generated from the E-911 fee being deposited in a restricted receipts account (these revenues are currently deposited as general revenues). The restructured E-911 fee/first response surcharge takes effect on October 1, 2019, and thus, the realization of this revenue impact is expected to occur unevenly in November 2019 through June 2020. Additionally, the departmental receipts enacted revenue estimate includes a projected impact of \$1,247,400 from the increase in the mortgage loan originator license fee and \$577,850 from the increase in the debt collector license fee. The revenue impacts from these fee increases are expected to occur in November 2019 through January 2020. Further, the departmental receipts revenue estimate includes \$3,000,000 from the licensing of six new “full service” compassion centers. Due to the regulatory complexity associated with issuing these licenses, ORA assumed that the first license would be issued in January 2020 with an additional license issued in each subsequent month through June 2020. Finally, the departmental receipts revenue estimate includes a net impact of \$2,376,638 from enacted changes to various fees, such as the increased beverage container case fee, Department of Environmental Management campground and hard-to-dispose fees, etc. Revenues associated with these changes are expected to be realized in FY 2020 in accordance to the general flow of revenues for departmental receipts. Further information on these fee changes may be found in the Appendix. As a result of these enacted changes, ORA will assess adjusted FY 2020 departmental receipts revenue flows against “base” departmental receipts revenues of \$253,376,638 for July 2019 through August 2019 and October 2019, \$258,376,638 for September 2019, \$249,601,888 for November 2019 through December 2019, \$252,601,888 for January 2020, \$256,376,639 for February 2020 through June 2020.

<sup>h</sup> Lottery transfer revenues estimate of \$412,800,000 includes \$17,200,000 of expected revenues from the addition of remote sports betting in Rhode Island. The realization of this law change is expected to impact revenue flows in October 2019 through June 2020. As a result, ORA will assess adjusted FY 2020 lottery transfer revenue flows against “base” lottery transfer revenues of \$395,600,000 for July 2019 through September 2019 and \$412,800,000 for October 2019 through June 2020.

### **Results for FY 2020 through August**

The table, *Year-to-Date Estimate to Actual*, gives the results for FY 2020 through August. As is apparent from the table, the Department of Revenue finds that FY 2020 adjusted total general revenues through August trailed the enacted FY 2020 expected total general revenues estimate through August by \$9.0 million, a variance of -1.7%. In total taxes, fiscal year-to-date through August adjusted revenues were less than the enacted FY 2020 year-to-date expected revenues estimate by \$4.0 million, a difference of -0.9%. For departmental receipts, FY 2020 through August adjusted revenues trailed the enacted FY 2020 expected fiscal year-to-date revenues estimate by \$2.5 million, a variance of -7.9%. For other general revenue sources, adjusted FY 2020 through August revenues were \$2.5 million, or 7.5%, less than enacted FY 2020 expected fiscal year-to-date revenues.

Two revenue items had adjusted revenues in FY 2020 through August that exceeded expected FY 2020 revenue estimates, based on the enacted revenues included in the FY 2020 budget, by more than \$1.0 million.

- Adjusted FY 2020 year-to-date business corporation tax adjusted revenues are \$2.6 million more than expected fiscal year-to-date business corporation tax revenues, a difference of 28.8%.
- Adjusted FY 2020 year-to-date cigarette and other tobacco products (OTP) excise tax adjusted revenues are \$2.0 million more than expected fiscal year-to-date cigarette and OTP excise tax revenues, a difference of 8.3%. These revenues are heavily dependent on the timing of when cigarette and OTP wholesalers import tobacco products into the state for resale.

FY 2020 adjusted revenues through August for the sales and use tax, realty transfer tax, insurance company gross premiums tax, public financial institutions tax, bank deposits tax, and racing and athletics tax revenues are above the expected FY 2020 through August enacted revenue estimates but by less than \$1.0 million each.

On the negative side, four revenue items had adjusted revenues through August that fell short of the expected FY 2020 through August revenues estimate by \$1.0 million or more.

- Personal income tax adjusted revenues for August are \$5.9 million less than expected August personal income tax revenues, a variance of -3.0%.
  - Adjusted fiscal year-to-date personal income tax withholding payments revenues are \$5.1 million less than the \$195.5 million of expected year-to-date FY 2020 personal income tax withholding payments revenues, a variance of -2.6%.

- Adjusted FY 2020 personal income tax refunds and adjustments revenues through August are \$4.7 million more than expected fiscal year-to-date personal income tax refunds and adjustments revenues, a difference of 33.3%.
- Adjusted FY 2019 through August personal income tax final payments revenues are \$2.0 million, or 26.2%, more than expected FY 2019 through August personal income tax final payments revenues.
- Personal income tax estimated payments adjusted year-to-date FY 2019 revenues are \$1.9 million, or 22.4%, above expected fiscal year-to-date personal income tax estimated payments revenues.
- Estate and transfer tax adjusted revenues in year-to-date FY 2020 were \$3.2 million below the expected FY 2020 through August revenues estimate of \$6.6 million, a variance of -49.1%.
- Adjusted lottery transfer revenues in FY 2020 through August were \$2.5 million below the expected FY 2020 year-to-date lottery transfer revenues estimate of \$33.3 million, a variance of -7.5%.
- Adjusted FY 2020 year-to-date departmental receipts adjusted revenues were \$2.5 million less than expected fiscal year-to-date departmental receipts based on the enacted estimate, a difference of -7.9%.

FY 2020 adjusted revenues through August for the alcohol excise tax, motor vehicle license and registration fees, health care provider assessment, and public utilities gross earnings tax are below their expected FY 2020 through August revenue estimates but by less than \$1.0 million each.

### **Results for the Month of August 2019**

The table, *Monthly Estimate to Actual*, gives the results for August 2019. As is apparent from the table, the Department of Revenue finds that August adjusted total general revenues lagged the enacted FY 2020 expected total general revenues estimate for August by \$11.7 million, a variance of -4.0%. In total taxes, August adjusted revenues were less than the enacted FY 2020 expected monthly revenues estimate by \$8.0 million, a difference of -3.3%. For departmental receipts, August adjusted revenues trailed the enacted FY 2020 expected monthly revenues estimate by \$1.3 million, a variance of -7.4%. For other general revenue sources, adjusted FY 2020 monthly revenues for August were \$2.5 million below enacted FY 2020 expected monthly revenues for August, a variance of -7.5%.

Two revenue items had adjusted revenues in August that exceeded expected FY 2020 monthly estimates, based on the enacted revenues included in the FY 2020 budget, by more than \$1.0 million.

- Sales and use tax adjusted revenues in August were \$2.7 million above the expected monthly revenues estimate of \$106.9 million, a variance of 2.5 percent.
- August business corporation tax adjusted revenues were \$1.8 million above expected August revenues of \$2.9 million, a variance of 62.8 percent.

FY 2020 adjusted August revenues for cigarettes and other tobacco products excise tax, insurance company gross premiums tax, realty transfer tax, bank deposits tax and racing and athletics tax revenues are above the expected August enacted revenue estimates but by less than \$1.0 million each.

On the negative side, four revenue items had adjusted revenues for August that fell short of the expected monthly revenues estimate by \$1.0 million or more.

- Personal income tax adjusted August revenues are \$9.9.0 million less than expected August personal income tax revenues, a variance of -9.4%.
  - Adjusted personal income tax withholding payments revenues for August are \$11.4 million less than the \$104.1 million of expected FY 2020 personal income tax withholding payments August revenues, a variance of -11.0%.
  - Adjusted August personal income tax estimated and final payments revenues are a combined \$1.3 million, or 16.4%, more than expected monthly combined personal income tax estimated and final payments revenues.
  - Adjusted FY 2020 personal income tax refunds and adjustments revenues for August are \$195,345 less than expected August personal income tax refunds and adjustments revenues, a difference of -3.2%.
- August adjusted lottery transfer revenues were \$2.5 million below the expected August lottery transfer revenues estimate of \$33.3 million, a variance of -7.5%.
- Adjusted August estate and transfer tax revenues were \$2.4 million behind expected monthly estate and transfer tax revenues based on the enacted estimate, a difference of -68.9%.
- Adjusted departmental receipts revenues for August were \$1.3 million trailed expected August departmental receipts revenues of \$16.9 million, a difference of -7.4 percent.

FY 2020 adjusted August revenues for public utilities gross earnings tax, alcohol excise tax, motor vehicle license and registration fees, health care provider assessment, and financial institutions tax are below their expected August revenue estimates but by less than \$1.0 million each.



Mark A. Furcolo, Director  
Department of Revenue  
September 16, 2019

## **Appendix: Law Changes Enacted in the 2019 Session of the General Assembly**

### ***Revenue Changes That Reclassify General Revenues***

#### Departmental Receipts

The 2019 General Assembly enacted legislation that restructured the state's E-911 wireline and wireless surcharges. Prior to the restructuring, the state imposed a \$1.00 per month per line E-911 surcharge on both wireline and wireless telecommunications. The revenues generated from this surcharge were deposited as general revenues. In the 2019 session, the General Assembly repealed the E-911 surcharge for both wireline and wireless telecommunications and replaced this surcharge with a new E-911 fee and a new first response surcharge. The new E-911 fee is set at \$0.50 per month per line and is applied to both wireline and wireless telecommunications. The revenues generated from the E-911 fee will be deposited as restricted receipts and used only for the support of the state's E-911 system. In addition, the 2.5 percent surcharge that is applied to prepaid wireless telecommunications is also being reclassified from general revenues to restricted receipts and will also be used only to finance the state's E-911 system. The effective date of this restructuring of the state's E-911 wireline and wireless surcharges and the reclassification of the prepaid wireless assessment is October 1, 2019. The estimated impact of these changes is a reduction in general revenues of \$5.6 million and an associated increase in restricted receipts. The decrease in general revenues will be realized over the November 2019 through June 2020 period.

### ***Revenue Changes That Will Be Realized Through Monthly Revenue Flows***

#### Insurance Company Gross Premiums Tax

The 2019 General Assembly enacted initiatives that will impact the monthly revenue flows for insurance company gross premiums taxes. Several of these legislative changes became effective on July 1, 2019. These initiatives are the elimination of the managed care organization performance goal program, the reduction in C-section births, a 7.2 percent increase in the payment to hospitals for inpatient and outpatient services, and the shifting of Office of Internal Audit recoveries from the Department of Administration to the Executive Office of Health and Human Services. The net impact of these changes is to increase insurance company gross premiums tax revenues by \$234,118, with this increased revenue realized in accordance with the general monthly flow of revenues for this revenue item.

Two legislative enactments become effective after July 1, 2019. These are the downward adjustment to a 1% increase in the nursing home provider rate paid directly by the state, which is effective October 1, 2019, and a shift in enrollment from the state's RItE Care program to its RItE Share program resulting in reduced capitation payments made to Medicaid plan sponsors, which is effective January 1, 2020. The downward revision to the 1% increase in the nursing home provider rate is expected to decrease revenues by \$11,182 over the period from November 2019 to June 2020, while the shift of enrollment from the RItE Care program to the RItE Share program is estimated to decrease insurance company gross premiums tax revenues by \$47,698 over the March 2020 to June 2020 period.

### Health Care Provider Assessment

The 2019 General Assembly enacted legislation that includes a projected revenue impact of \$(302,500) to correct for an error in the reimbursement of hospice care and nursing homes, which took effect on July 1, 2019. The realization of this decrease in revenues is expected to be in the July through June period in FY 2020. The health care provider assessment revenues estimate also includes an impact of \$(379,267) from the downward adjustment to a 1% increase in the nursing home provider rate paid directly by the state. As noted under the Insurance Company Gross Premiums Tax section, this reduced increase takes effect on October 1, 2019 and the realization of this change on monthly revenue flows will cover the November 2019 to June 2020 period.

### Sales and Use Tax

During the 2019 session, the General Assembly passed legislation that would reimburse the general fund for Rebuild Rhode Island sales and use tax rebates, effective July 1, 2019. The budgetary impact of \$5,600,000 for this item is expected to occur in accordance to the general flow of revenues for the sales and use tax.

The 2019 General Assembly also enacted legislation to expand the sales and use tax base to specified digital products, which include movies, TV shows, music, e-books, and related items, that are streamed or downloaded to computers, phones, TVs, or other devices. Effective October 1, 2019, the estimated revenue impact is \$2,625,759 and is expected to occur unevenly in November 2019 through June 2020.

Further, the 2019 General Assembly enacted legislation to provide a sales and use tax exemption for feminine hygiene products and to expand the sales and use tax exemption for coffins and caskets to urns. Effective October 1, 2019, these sales and use tax exemptions have estimated revenue impacts of \$(617,211) and \$(75,000), respectively. These revenue impacts are expected to occur unevenly in November 2019 through June 2020.

### Departmental Receipts

The 2019 General Assembly passed legislation that impacts the FY 2020 revenue flows for several departmental receipts items. As noted above, the state E-911 surcharge has been restructured to now consist of a \$0.50 monthly per line E-911 fee assessed on wireline and wireless telecommunications and a first response surcharge, which is \$0.50 per month per line for wireline telecommunications and \$0.75 per month per line for wireless telecommunications. In addition, the \$0.26 per month per line technical and geographic information system (GIS) charge on wireless telecommunications has been repealed. The revenues generated by the E-911 fee will be deposited as restricted receipts, while the revenues generated from the first response surcharge will be deposited as general revenues. These changes take effect on October 1, 2019. Prior to October 1, 2019, the \$1.00 per month per line E-911 surcharge on wireline and wireless telecommunications and the \$0.26 per month per line technical and GIS surcharge on wireless telecommunications remain in place with the revenue generated being deposited as general revenues. Once the new E-911 fee is in place, there will be an expected general revenue impact on departmental receipts of \$(5,600,000) which will be realized in the November 2019 through June 2020 period.

During the 2019 session, the General Assembly enacted fee increases for the mortgage loan originator license, from \$100 to \$400, and the debt collector license, from \$100 to \$750. These items have estimated revenue impacts of \$1,247,400 and \$577,850, respectively, and are expected to be received relatively evenly in the months of November 2019 through January 2020.

The 2019 General Assembly also enacted legislation to transfer excess settlement payments from the Office of the Attorney General's restricted receipts account to general revenues. The estimated budgetary impact of this transfer is \$5,000,000, and it is anticipated that the full amount of the transfer will occur in September 2019.

Further, in the 2019 session, the General Assembly passed legislation to expand the number of "full service" medical marijuana compassion centers from three to nine. The six new compassion centers are required to pay a licensing fee of \$500,000 annually, and the General Assembly included \$3.0 million in additional revenues based on the opening of the six new compassion centers in FY 2020. Given the complexity associated with the regulatory process for establishing these new "full service" compassion centers, it is assumed that the first new compassion center will not open until January 2020 and that one additional new compassion center will open in each subsequent month. Thus, the expected revenue will be realized in equal increments over the January 2020 to June 2020 period.

Other changes enacted by the 2019 General Assembly, which impact departmental receipts, include an increase in the beverage container case fee from \$0.04 to \$0.08, which is expected to generate \$2,117,450; an increase in campground fees, which is estimated to produce \$495,539; an increase in Department of Environmental Management parks fees, which is anticipated to generate \$74,979; an increase in fees assessed at the time of purchase on hard-to-dispose items, which is forecasted to produce \$1,000,000; an increase in oversized and overweight permit fees charged by the Division of Motor Vehicles, which is estimated to generate \$501,840; and the delay in the issuance of new license plates, which reduces license plate reissuance fees by \$1,813,170. These revenue changes are effective July 1, 2019, and the monthly distribution of these revenue flows is expected to be the same as departmental receipts revenues in general.

#### Other Miscellaneous Revenues

In the 2019 Session, the General Assembly enacted legislation that added \$18,800,000 to FY 2020 other miscellaneous revenues. This revenue includes \$8,200,000 in transfers of excess reserves from various quasi-public agencies as follows: the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank, \$4,000,000; the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority, \$1,500,000; Rhode Island Housing, \$1,500,000; and the Rhode Island Quonset Development Corporation, \$1,200,000. Additionally, other miscellaneous revenues include a transfer of \$5,000,000 from the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation's First Wave Closing fund. The enacted legislation also includes the transfer of five percent of the total resources deposited in the Rhode Island Highway Maintenance Account (RIHMA) to general revenues to offset the Division of Motor Vehicles costs in assessing and collecting the revenues it deposits in RIHMA. This transfer will occur quarterly on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month following the end of a fiscal quarter. Finally, the additions of one lawyer and a case management system to the Department of Revenue's Central Collections Unit are expected to add \$750,000 in revenues in FY 2020. The Revenue Assessment report accounts for these revenues as they are received.



### Lottery Transfer

The 2019 General Assembly approved the Governor's proposal to add remote legalized sports betting in Rhode Island. This new revenue item is expected to increase revenues by \$17,200,000. The implementation of statewide remote sports betting is expected to be completed by September 1, 2019, and, as a result, the realization of the revenue from this law change is expected to occur in October 2019 through June 2020. It should be noted that, in general, the revenue from a given month's gaming activity is not transferred to general revenues until the following month.