

Progress on the Redesign of the Quarterly Tax Survey

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Federation of Tax Administrators
Revenue Estimation & Tax Research
Conference

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U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

Helping You Make Informed Decisions

Quarterly Survey of State & Local Tax Collections

- Purpose
- Coverage
- Background
- Redesign

Purpose

- Provide estimates of state and local government tax revenues
- National totals
- State government totals
- Trends in tax revenue

Coverage

Coverage

The universe for this survey includes:

- All state governments
- All local property tax collectors
- Selected local government non-property tax collectors

Content

- Property Taxes
- Sales and Gross Receipts Taxes
- License & Fees
- Income Taxes
- Other Taxes

Users

- BEA (NIPAs)
- Federal Reserve Board
- State and local governments
- Business and financial market analysts
- Macroeconomic analysts

Background

Background

- Collection began in 1962
- Sample drawn from each Census of Governments year
- Last sample drawn 1997 (new sample drawn for property tax in 2008 based on 2002 data)
- Non-property tax portion currently a panel

Publication

- Table 1- National totals of state and local government tax revenue
- Table 2- National totals of state government revenue
- Table 3- Quarterly summary of state government tax collections by state and detailed tax item

Three Components of QTax

- F71- sample collecting local government property tax data
- F72- census of state governments collecting state tax data
- F73- panel collecting local government non-property tax

Redesign

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CNSTAT

- In 2007, the National Research Council (2007) issued a report entitled *State and Local Government Statistics at a Crossroads*
- This report contained 21 recommendations for Governments Division
- Recommendation 4-11

F71 - Local Property Tax

- Stratified sample of county-areas
 - Estimated number of tax collectors
 - Population
 - Annual collection of property tax
- 609 county-areas selected into the sample containing 5,407 tax collectors; not imposers
- National estimate of local property tax collections

F71 - Edit redesign

- Quarter to quarter edits
- Four quarter sum to four quarter sum prior year
- New edits reduced edit process from over a thousand edits to a couple hundred

F71 - Concurrent Samples

- Processing four quarters of old and new sample, concurrently
- Currently in third quarter of processing
- Imputation methodology
- Estimation
- Coefficient of variations
- Bridge study

F73 - Non-Property Tax

- Currently panel of 111 local governments with significant non-property tax collection yields
- Local general sales tax and individual income tax collectors
- Other local taxes

F73 - Non-Property Tax (cont.)

- Expanding form to meet statistical standards
- Forms design
- Cognitive interviews
- Imposers of taxes

F73 - Non-Property Tax (cont.)

- Current form asks for tax collections for two tax codes:
 - T09- General sales tax
 - T40- Individual income tax
- New form will be expanded to cover 11 categories of taxes and licenses imposed by local governments

F73 - Non-Property Tax (cont.)

- General Sales and Gross Receipts
- Motor Fuel Sales Tax
- Public Utilities Sales
- Alcoholic Beverage Sales
- Tobacco Product Sales
- Motor Vehicle and Operator's Licenses
- Individual Income Tax
- Corporation Net Income Tax
- All Other

F73 - Non-Property Tax (cont.)

- Conducted two rounds of cognitive interviews
- 60 large and small governments across the nation
- Results:
 - Methodological issues
 - Questionnaire item issues

F73 - Non-Property Tax (cont.)

- Initially used the same methodology as the F71 design
- New methodology
 - Sample tax imposers
 - Frame being developed based on 2007 Census of Governments
- National estimate of local non-property tax collections

F73 - Non-Property Tax (cont.)

- New sample selection Fall 2009
- Begin dual processing Summer 2010
- Release new estimates with CVs
Summer 2011

F72 Redesign

- Redesigned edits
- Imputation methodology
- Comparison to annual tax survey
- Benchmarking

Going Forward

- Estimates of property tax with CVs in Spring 2010
- Improved edit flags on state tax item imputes
- Regional estimates
- Classification Research for Hybrid Taxes
- Involvement from user community
- Comments, questions, suggestions?

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