

Press Release

Press Release December Revenue Collections Total \$2.611 Billion

Monthly collections up \$44 million vs. December 2018 actual; \$40 million below monthly benchmark

For immediate release:

1/06/2020

- Massachusetts Department of Revenue

(Boston, MA) — Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR) Acting Commissioner Kevin Brown today announced that preliminary revenue collections for December totaled \$2.611 billion, which is \$44 million or 1.7% more than the actual collections in December 2018, and \$40 million or 1.5% less than benchmark.¹

“Revenues for the month of December were slightly below benchmark, but above the prior year. On a fiscal year-to-date basis, we continue to see steady, moderate revenue growth. The slightly below benchmark performance in December is due to a shortfall in withholdings and regular sales tax, which was partly offset by the surplus in corporate and business taxes and non-withheld income tax,” said Acting Commissioner Brown. “The lower December withholding figures follow a strong November for withholding, which indicates a timing shift rather than a changing trend. Halfway through the fiscal year, state tax revenue collections are moderately above benchmark on a year-to-date basis.”

In recent years, December has contributed an average of 9.5% total annual collections, ranking number five among the twelve months of the year for share of collections. Estimated Payments for Corporate & Business Taxes are due in the month. Income Estimated Payments also begin to come in December.

- December 2019 revenues of \$2.611 billion were \$44 million or 1.7% more than last December, and \$40 million below benchmark
- Income tax collections were \$1.431 billion, \$19 million or 1.3% short of last December, and \$83 million below benchmark
- Withholding tax collections (a subcategory of income tax) were \$1.262 billion, \$57 million or 4.3% less than last December, and \$111 million below benchmark
- Sales and use tax collections were \$591 million, \$35 million or 6.3% ahead of last December, but \$8 million below benchmark
- Corporate and business taxes were \$386 million, \$18 million or 4.8% more than last December, and \$50 million above benchmark
- Other taxes, which include motor fuels, cigarette, estate, and other tax categories, were \$202 million, \$10 million or 5.1% ahead of last December, and roughly on target

Details:

- Income tax collections for December were \$1.431 billion, \$83 million or 5.5% below benchmark, and \$19 million or 1.3% less than December 2018.
- Withholding tax collections for December totaled \$1.262 billion, \$111 million or 8.1% below benchmark, and \$57 million or 4.3% less than December 2018.
- Income tax estimated payments totaled \$141 million for December, \$15 million or 11.5% more than benchmark, and \$20 million or 16.3% more than December 2018.
- Income returns and bills totaled \$35 million for December, \$1 million or 3.7% less than benchmark, and \$2 million or 6.1% less than December 2018.
- Income cash refunds in December totaled \$7 million in outflows, \$15 million or 69.0% less than benchmark, and \$20 million or 75.1% less than December 2018.
- Sales and use tax collections for December totaled \$591 million, \$8 million or 1.3% below benchmark, but \$35 million or 6.3% more than December 2018.
- Corporate and business tax collections for the month totaled \$386 million, \$50 million or 15.0% above benchmark, and \$18 million or 4.8% more than December 2018.
- Other tax collections for December totaled \$202 million, roughly on target, and \$10 million or 5.1% more than December 2018.

¹ The FY20 revenue benchmark of \$30.099 billion was used in building the signed FY20 General Appropriations Act.