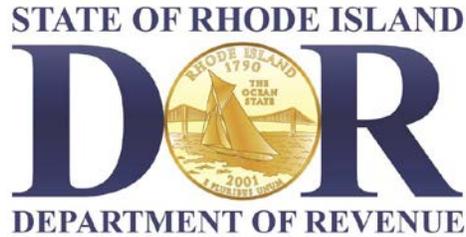


STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
GOVERNOR GINA M. RAIMONDO



Office of Revenue Analysis

State of Rhode Island Revenue Assessment Report
FY 2020 Monthly and Year-to-Date as of November 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 is the first report to compare adjusted revenues to expected revenues based on the revised revenue estimates adopted at the November 2019 REC. The November 2019 REC revised revenue estimates will remain the basis of comparison for all Revenue Assessment Reports through the April 2020 report. 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.

FY 2020 STATE OF RHODE ISLAND REVENUE ASSESSMENT REPORT
Year-to-Date Estimate to Actual

	YTD November Adjusted Revenues FY 2020		YTD November Estimate of Revised FY 2020 Revenues †		Difference	Variance
Personal Income Tax	\$ 569,182,274	a	\$ 562,018,256		\$ 7,164,018	1.3%
General Business Taxes						
Business Corporation	39,714,651	b	38,352,427		1,362,224	3.6%
Public Utilities Gross Earnings	25,159,172		25,283,632		(124,460)	-0.5%
Financial Institutions	6,820,972		6,264,088		556,884	8.9%
Insurance Company Gross Premiums †	34,667,941		29,708,083		4,959,858	16.7%
Bank Deposits	939,797	c	940,184		(387)	0.0%
Health Care Provider Assessment †	18,061,999		18,183,688		(121,689)	-0.7%
Excise Taxes						
Sales and Use †	522,567,930		521,971,612		596,318	0.1%
Motor Vehicle License and Reg Fees	539,775		609,626		(69,851)	-11.5%
Cigarettes	59,682,866		61,073,305		(1,390,439)	-2.3%
Alcohol	8,416,676		8,358,760		57,916	0.7%
Controlled Substances	2,000		2,000	+	-	0.0%
Other Taxes						
Estate and Transfer	39,840,590	d	41,938,611		(2,098,021)	-5.0%
Racing and Athletics	514,688		511,227		3,461	0.7%
Realty Transfer	6,643,375	e	6,825,458		(182,083)	-2.7%
Total Taxes	\$ 1,332,754,706		\$ 1,322,040,958		\$ 10,713,748	0.8%
Departmental Receipts †	\$ 89,712,535	f	\$ 86,598,327		\$ 3,114,208	3.6%
Taxes and Departmentals	\$ 1,422,467,241		\$ 1,408,639,285		\$ 13,827,956	1.0%
Other General Revenue Sources						
Other Miscellaneous Revenues	9,498,370	+	9,498,370	+	-	0.0%
Lottery Transfer †	122,384,151	g	122,369,725		14,426	0.0%
Unclaimed Property	-	+	-	+	-	n/a
Total Other Sources	\$ 131,882,521		\$ 131,868,095		\$ 14,426	0.0%
Total General Revenues	\$ 1,554,349,762		\$ 1,540,507,380		\$ 13,842,382	0.9%

PIT Component	YTD November Adj. Revenues		YTD November Revised Estimates		Difference	Variance
Estimated payments	\$ 77,366,746		\$ 77,207,965		\$ 158,781	0.2%
Final payments †	41,246,585		37,032,929		4,213,656	11.4%
Withholding	493,213,123		492,966,677		246,447	0.0%
Refunds and Adjustments	(42,644,180)	a	(45,189,315)		2,545,135	-5.6%
Total	\$ 569,182,274		\$ 562,018,256		\$ 7,164,018	1.3%

† Revised FY 2020 estimated revenues for insurance company gross premiums tax and departmental receipts are calculated using modified revenue flows to align expected revenues with the actual realization of revenues.

+ 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

- ^a Personal income tax estimated payments do not include payment(s) of \$243,109 received in October 2019 that were paid to business corporation tax. Personal income tax refunds and adjustments include net adjustments of \$5,806,658 for payments received in FY 2017-FY 2020.
- ^b Business corporation tax includes net adjustments of \$(4,559,018) for payments received in FY 2017-FY 2019.
- ^c Subtracts \$262,500 for estimated payment(s) received in July 2019 but accrued back to FY 2019.
- ^d Includes infrequently occurring large payment(s) of \$25.8 million.
- ^e Subtracts \$478,163 in funds that are designated to the Housing Resources Commission. The amount reflects the November 2019 transfer that will occur in December 2019.
- ^f Subtracts \$171,115,129 of hospital licensing fee payments received in FY 2020 year-to-date but accrued back to FY 2019.
- ^g Subtracts \$2.0 million of revenues that were transferred in October 2019 but accrued back to FY 2019. Also subtracts \$28.0 million of net advanced payments for gaming activity revenues that were advanced in November 2019. Revenues from November gaming activity are normally transferred in December.

FY 2020 STATE OF RHODE ISLAND REVENUE ASSESSMENT REPORT
Monthly Estimate to Actual

	November 2019 Adjusted Revenues FY 2020		November 2019 Estimate of Revised FY 2020 Revenues †		Difference	Variance
Personal Income Tax	\$ 109,227,059	a	\$ 102,063,042		\$ 7,164,018	7.0%
General Business Taxes						
Business Corporation	1,603,480	a	241,256		1,362,224	564.6%
Public Utilities Gross Earnings	149,498		273,958		(124,460)	-45.4%
Financial Institutions	768,108		211,224		556,884	263.6%
Insurance Company Gross Premiums †	6,151,969		1,192,111		4,959,858	416.1%
Bank Deposits	-		387		(387)	n/a
Health Care Provider Assessment †	3,533,006		3,654,695		(121,689)	-3.3%
Excise Taxes						
Sales and Use †	98,707,787		98,111,469		596,318	0.6%
Motor Vehicle License and Reg Fees	102,475		172,326		(69,851)	-40.5%
Cigarettes	10,356,783		11,747,222		(1,390,439)	-11.8%
Alcohol	1,919,243		1,861,327		57,916	3.1%
Controlled Substances	500		500	+	-	0.0%
Other Taxes						
Estate and Transfer	2,105,438		4,203,459		(2,098,021)	-49.9%
Racing and Athletics	98,127		94,666		3,461	3.7%
Realty Transfer	995,411	b	1,177,494		(182,083)	-15.5%
Total Taxes	\$ 235,718,884		\$ 225,005,137		\$ 10,713,747	4.8%
Departmental Receipts †	\$ 17,428,145	c	\$ 14,313,937		\$ 3,114,208	21.8%
Taxes and Departmentals	\$ 253,147,029		\$ 239,319,074		\$ 13,827,956	5.8%
Other General Revenue Sources						
Other Miscellaneous Revenues	9,461,322	+	9,461,322	+	-	0.0%
Lottery Transfer †	31,032,730	d	31,018,304		14,426	0.0%
Unclaimed Property	-	+	-	+	-	n/a
Total Other Sources	\$ 40,494,052		\$ 40,479,626		\$ 14,426	0.0%
Total General Revenues	\$ 293,641,082		\$ 279,798,700		\$ 13,842,382	4.9%

PIT Component	November 2019 Adj. Revenues		November 2019 Revised Estimates		Difference	Variance
Estimated payments	\$ 3,960,903		\$ 3,802,122		\$ 158,781	4.2%
Final payments †	8,327,852		4,114,196		4,213,656	102.4%
Withholding	105,210,433		104,963,987		246,447	0.2%
Refunds and Adjustments	(8,272,128)	a	(10,817,263)		2,545,135	-23.5%
Total	\$ 109,227,059		\$ 102,063,042		\$ 7,164,018	7.0%

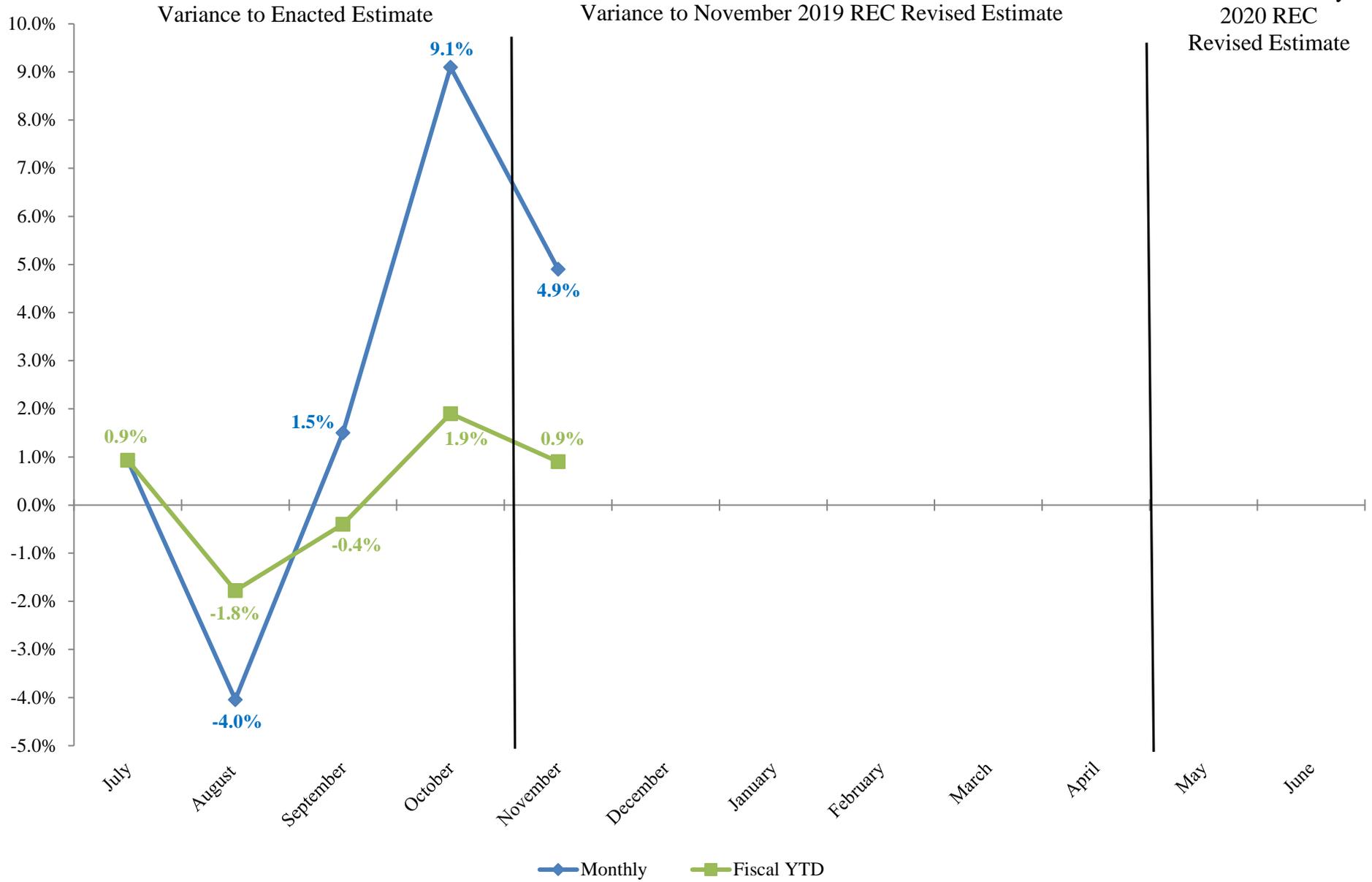
† Revised FY 2020 estimated revenues for insurance company gross premiums tax and departmental receipts are calculated using modified revenue
+ Set equal to actual amounts received.

Detailed notes on the following page

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND REVENUE ASSESSMENT REPORT
Monthly Estimate to Actual

- ^a Personal income tax refunds and adjustments include adjustments of \$2,770,100 for payments received in FY 2019 - FY 2020. Business corporation tax includes the offsetting adjustments of \$(2,770,100).
- ^b Subtracts \$478,163 in funds that are designated to the Housing Resources Commission. The amount reflects the November 2019 transfer that will occur in December 2019.
- ^c Subtracts \$2,842,284 of hospital licensing fee payments received in November 2019 but accrued back to FY 2019.
- ^d Adds \$2,000,300 to the lottery transfer. This amount reflects the difference between advanced payments made by the Division of Lottery in November 2019 and lottery activity in October 2019. Advanced transfers from the Lottery to the general fund are not incorporated in the revised estimate.

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 Revised FY 2020 Revenues Adopted at the November 2019 REC

In order to determine the expected monthly and fiscal year-to-date revenues for the fiscal year, ORA first calculated 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.¹ 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.² For motor vehicle license and registration fees adjusted FY 2019 percentages were used to account for the change in the transfer to the Rhode Island Highway Maintenance Account (RIHMA).³ In prior years, ORA then applied these percentages to the revised FY 2020 revenue estimate for each revenue item. For the fiscal year-to-date estimates, the monthly percentages were summed and then applied to the revised FY 2020 revenue estimate for each revenue item.

ORA has changed the methodology it uses in the calculation of the expected monthly and fiscal year-to-date revenues based on the November 2019 REC. ORA now incorporates the fact that the revised estimates were based on actual revenues through October of the fiscal year. Beginning

¹ 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.

² 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.

³ 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.

with the November 2019 REC revised estimates, ORA set expected revenues for the months of July through October equal to the actual revenues received in these months inclusive of adjustments and reimbursements of redeemed tax credits. ORA then subtracted from the revised November 2019 REC estimates for FY 2020 these actual revenues to determine the remaining amount of the adopted estimate that is expected to be realized over the November through June period. To determine how much of the remaining estimate will be received in each month, ORA took the percentage noted above for the relevant month and divided it by the sum of the remaining monthly percentages for November through June. ORA then applied this percentage to the amount of the estimate expected to be realized over the November to June period. This yielded the monthly expected revenues for each revenue item. The fiscal year-to-date expected revenues were determined by summing these monthly percentages and applying this percentage to the amount of the estimate expected to be realized over the November to June period. For controlled substances and other miscellaneous revenues, the actual monthly and 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. Since November is the first month post the November 2019 REC, the monthly and fiscal year-to-date calculations are equal for each revenue item.

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 November.⁴ 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 adopted at the November 2019 REC. These monthly and fiscal year-to-date percentages are unchanged from previous Revenue Assessment Reports and were used to execute ORA's new methodology in estimating expected revenues based on the revised revenue estimates adopted at the November 2019 REC.

⁴ 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..

Revenue Item	<u>Percent Received</u>		Revenue Item	<u>Percent Received</u>	
	November	YTD		November	YTD
Personal Income Taxes			Sales and Use Taxes	8.2 %	43.8 %
Estimated Payments	1.6 %	27.6 %	Motor Vehicles Fees	8.3 %	42.6 %
Final Payments	1.5 %	11.6 %	Cigarettes Taxes	8.6 %	44.5 %
Withholding Payments	8.3 %	38.8 %	Alcohol Excise Taxes	8.9 %	43.4 %
Refunds/Adjustments	3.0 %	11.3 %	Estate and Transfer	11.3 %	45.2 %
Business Corporation Taxes	0.2 %	34.2 %	Racing and Athletics	8.2 %	40.4 %
Utilities Gross Earnings Taxes	0.3 %	22.4 %	Realty Transfer	8.7 %	45.7 %
Financial Institutions Taxes	1.0 %	13.2 %	Departmental Receipts	5.7 %	34.7 %
Insurance Co. Gross Premiums	1.0 %	20.5 %	Lottery Transfer	6.4 %	26.5 %
Bank Deposits	0.0 %	26.7 %	Other Misc. Revenues	n/a	n/a
Health Care Provider Assessment	8.4 %	41.6 %	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 included in the November 2019 REC revenue estimates for insurance company gross premiums tax and departmental receipts, ORA had to adjust the revenue bases against which November through June adjusted revenues would be assessed for these revenue items. As a result, ORA will use modified revenue flows for expected November through June revenues for these revenue items to gauge the sufficiency of adjusted November through June 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 revised FY 2020 estimates by revenue item as adopted at the November 2019 REC are as follows:

Table B. FY 2020 Revised Revenue Estimates by Major Revenue Item			
Revenue Item	Nov. 2019 Revised FY 2020 Estimate	Revenue Item	Nov. 2019 Revised FY 2020 Estimate
Personal Income Taxes		Sales and Use Taxes	\$ 1,192,100,000
Estimated Payments	\$ 250,000,000	Motor Vehicles Fees	1,800,000
Final Payments	277,400,000	Cigarettes Taxes	137,300,000
Withholding Payments	1,270,300,000	Alcohol Excise Taxes	20,200,000
Refunds/Adjustments	(364,100,000)	Estate and Transfer	63,400,000
Business Corporation Taxes	143,700,000	Racing and Athletics	1,200,000
Public Utilities Gross Earnings	104,000,000	Realty Transfer	14,200,000
Financial Institutions Taxes	24,400,000	Departmental Receipts ^b	443,500,000
Insurance Co. Gross Premiums ^a	126,500,000	Lottery	377,100,000
Bank Deposits	3,000,000	Other Misc. Revenues	31,000,000
Health Care Provider Assessment	43,700,000	Unclaimed Property	9,900,000
		Total General Revenues *	\$ 4,178,800,000
* Total general revenues estimate includes a personal income tax net accrual of \$8,200,000.			

Notes to Table B:

^a Insurance company gross premiums tax revenues estimate of \$126,500,000 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 RIt Care program to its RIt 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 March 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. Insurance company gross premiums tax adjusted revenues were \$28,515,972 in FY 2020 through October, leaving an estimated \$97,984,028 to be received in November through June based on the November 2019 REC estimate. Due to the budgetary changes included in the revised estimate as noted above, ORA will assess adjusted November through June insurance company gross premiums tax revenue flows against "base" insurance company gross premiums tax revenues of \$98,031,726 for November 2019 through January 2020, and \$97,984,028 for February 2020 through June 2020.

^b 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 occurred in October 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 were deposited as general revenues prior to October 1, 2019). 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. 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. Departmental receipts adjusted revenues were \$72,284,390 in FY 2020 through October, leaving an estimated \$177,365,845 net of the hospital licensing fee to be received in November through June based on the November 2019 REC estimate. Due to the budgetary changes included in the revised estimate as noted above, ORA will assess adjusted November through June departmental receipts revenue flows against "base" departmental receipts revenues of \$177,365,845 for November 2019 through January 2020 and \$175,540,595 for February 2020 through June 2020.

Results for FY 2020 through November

The table, *Year-to-Date Estimate to Actual*, gives the results for FY 2020 through November. As is apparent from the table, the Department of Revenue finds that FY 2020 adjusted total general revenues through November exceeded the revised FY 2020 expected total general revenues estimate through November by \$13.8 million, a variance of 0.9%. In total taxes, fiscal year-to-date through November adjusted revenues were more than the revised FY 2020 year-to-date expected revenues estimate by \$10.7 million, a difference of 0.8%. For departmental receipts, FY 2020 through November adjusted revenues led the revised FY 2020 expected fiscal year-to-date revenues estimate by \$3.1 million, a variance of 3.6%. For other general revenue sources, adjusted FY 2020 through November revenues were \$14,426 more than revised FY 2020 expected fiscal year-to-date revenues.

Four revenue items had adjusted revenues in FY 2020 through November that exceeded expected FY 2020 revenue estimates, based on the revised revenue estimates adopted at the November 2019 REC, by more than \$1.0 million.

- Personal income tax adjusted revenues through November were \$7.2 million more than expected FY 2020 through November personal income tax revenues, a variance of 1.3%.
 - Adjusted FY 2020 through November personal income tax final payments revenues were \$4.2 million, or 11.4%, more than expected FY 2020 through November personal income tax final payments revenues. Adjusted FY 2020 personal income tax final payments revenues through November include \$6.1 million of reimbursed Historic Structures Tax Credits (HSTC).
 - Adjusted FY 2020 personal income tax refunds and adjustments revenues through November were \$2.5 million less than expected fiscal year-to-date personal income tax refunds and adjustments revenues, a difference of -5.6%.

- Adjusted fiscal year-to-date personal income tax estimated and withholding payments revenues were a combined \$405,227 more than expected year-to-date FY 2020 combined personal income tax estimated and withholding payments, a variance of 0.1%
- Adjusted FY 2020 year-to-date insurance company gross premiums tax revenues were \$4.9 million more than expected fiscal year-to-date insurance company gross premiums tax revenues, a difference of 16.7%.
 - The fiscal year-to-date gross premiums tax revenues from property, casualty, and life insurance companies were \$2.9 million more than expected for FY 2020 through November, accounting for 57.8% of the positive variance in fiscal year-to-date insurance company gross premiums tax revenues.
 - The fiscal year-to-date revenues from health insurers were \$2.1 million more than expected. Adjusted FY 2020 insurance company gross premiums tax revenues from health insurers through November include \$2.4 million of reimbursed HSTCs.
- FY 2020 year-to-date departmental receipts adjusted revenues were \$3.1 million more than expected fiscal year-to-date departmental receipts revenues based on the revised estimate, a difference of 3.6%. The departmental receipts revenue estimate was revised downward by \$5.0 million at the November 2019 REC.
- Business corporation tax adjusted revenues for FY 2020 through November were \$1.4 million more than expected fiscal year-to-date business corporation tax revenues, a variance of 3.6%. The business corporation tax revenue estimate was revised downward by \$20.3 million at the November 2019 REC.

FY 2020 adjusted revenues through November for sales and use tax, financial institutions tax, alcohol excise tax, lottery transfer, and racing and athletics tax were above the expected FY 2020 through November revised revenue estimates but by less than \$1.0 million each.

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

- Adjusted FY 2020 year-to-date estate and transfer tax revenues were \$2.1 million less than expected fiscal year-to-date estate and transfer tax revenues, a difference of -5.0%. FY 2020 year-to-date estate and transfer tax adjusted revenues include large payment(s) of \$25.8 million. The estate and transfer tax revenue estimate was revised upward by \$25.4 million at the November 2019 REC.
- Cigarette and other tobacco products (OTP) excise tax adjusted revenues through November were \$1.4 million less than expected revenues for FY 2020 through November, a variance of -2.3 percent.
 - Cigarette excise tax adjusted revenues through November were \$1.4 million less than expected revenues for the same period.
 - FY 2020 OTP excise tax adjusted revenues through November did not show a significant fiscal year-to-date variance compared to expected revenues.

FY 2020 adjusted revenues through November for realty transfer tax, public utilities gross earnings tax, health care provider assessment, motor vehicle license and registration fees, and bank deposits tax, were below their expected FY 2020 through November revenue estimates but by less than \$1.0 million each.

Results for the Month of November 2019

The table, *Monthly Estimate to Actual*, gives the results for November 2019. Given that November is the first month of the fiscal year after the adoption of the revised revenue estimates at the November 2019 REC, the differences between the monthly adjusted revenues and expected revenues is the same as the above year-to-date differences. The monthly percentage changes, however, are larger than the fiscal year-to-date percentage changes due to the smaller nominal base that comprises monthly revenues.

In addition, some discrete revenue receipts included in the fiscal year-to-date revenue items are not included in the monthly revenue item counterpart due to the receipt of the revenue in a month prior to November 2019.



Mark A. Furcolo, Director
Department of Revenue
December 17, 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 was 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 estimated impact on general revenue is included in the revised FY 2020 estimate of departmental receipts adopted at the November 2019 REC. 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 and are included in the November 2019 REC revised estimates 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 was 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 took effect on October 1, 2019. These estimates are included in the revised FY 2020 estimate of the health care provider assessment adopted at the November 2019 REC, 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 for this item, which was included in the November 2019 REC revised estimate for sales and use tax, is \$5,600,000. In July 2019, \$42,728 was received in sales and use tax rebates related to the Rebuild Rhode Island tax credit program. The remaining refund applications are expected to be received in November through June, 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.

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 included in the November 2019 REC revised estimate for sales and use tax is \$2,625,759 and is expected to be realized in accordance with the general monthly flow of revenues for this revenue item during the period of 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 included in the revised estimate for sales and use tax adopted at the November 2019 REC and are expected to be realized in accordance with the general monthly flow of revenues for this revenue item during the period of 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. These revenue impacts were included in the revised FY 2020 estimate for departmental receipts adopted at the November 2019 REC. 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 took 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.

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 15th of the month following the end of a fiscal quarter. The principals at the November 2019 REC revised down the expected FY 2020 revenues from the Department of Revenue's Central Collections Unit to \$500,000, down from the enacted estimate of \$2.8 million. Finally, there was an addition of \$2,045,438 to the revised other miscellaneous revenues estimate adopted at the November 2019 REC from a Providence Place Mall bond closeout. The Revenue Assessment report accounts for these revenues as they are received.

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.

Lottery Transfer

The 2019 General Assembly approved the Governor's proposal to add remote legalized sports betting in Rhode Island. The principals of the November 2019 REC revised the estimate of the revenue impact to be \$3,300,000 for this item, down from the enacted estimate of \$17.2 million. The implementation of statewide remote sports betting was on September 4, 2019, and, as a result, the realization of the revenue from this law change will 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.