



House Fiscal Agency

Revenue Review

AUGUST 2010

House Fiscal Agency: Economic/Revenue Overview

U.S. Economy

** Gross Domestic Product or GDP grew 2.4% in the second quarter of 2010 – down from the 3.7% pace in the first quarter of 2010. Economic growth in the next few quarters is expected to weaken as federal government spending (homebuyer's tax credit, ending of the Census, and diminishing affects of the stimulus package) is pulled back.

** Light motor vehicle sales increased in July to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 11.8 million units; this is above the June level of 11.1 million units. Compared to a year-ago, car sales were down 5.9% and light truck sales were up 17.8%. July sales for Ford increased 3.3%, for GM increased 6.1%, and for Chrysler increased 5.0% from a year-ago.

** Retail sales declined 0.5% in June following a decrease of 1.1% in May. The pullback occurred at building and garden supplies, sporting goods stores, home furnishing stores, and vehicle dealerships. The report points to weakening consumer spending due in part to concerns about the economy and job growth.

** National nonfarm employment decreased by 131,000 in July following a decrease of 221,000 in June. The loss of temporary Census jobs is responsible for most of the decreases in these two months. Private sector employment increased by a meager 71,000 in July, which was an improvement from the previous month. Job gains occurred in manufacturing and education and health services, while job losses occurred in financial activities, temporary help services, and state and local government.

Michigan Economy

** Michigan nonfarm employment increased by 3,000 in June, after an increase of 8,000 jobs in May. Job losses in construction, information, and education and health services were offset by gains in manufacturing and retail trade.

** In June, Michigan's unemployment rate was 13.2%; while the national unemployment rate was 9.5%. In June, Nevada had the highest unemployment rate in the nation at 14.2%, followed by Michigan at 13.2%, California at 12.3%, Rhode Island at 12.0%, and Florida at 11.4%.

State Revenue

** Based on HFA target estimates and revenue data through July, revenue is on target for the General Fund/General Purpose and is down \$5 million for the School Aid Fund. Target estimates are based on the May 2010 consensus estimates.

** According to the Rockefeller Institute, state tax revenue (personal income, corporate income, and sales tax) in the January – March 2010 period, increased 2.5% compared with the same period a year ago – the first increase in the last six quarters. The Far West, New England, and Mid-Atlantic regions posted gains, while the Great Lakes region posted the largest decline.