

Which Taxes Do Pennsylvania's Local Governments Use?

Most of us are familiar with commonly used local taxes such as property and income taxes. But how many local governments use the mercantile tax? The amusement tax? The occupational privilege tax? Pennsylvania's local governments and school districts can levy a wide variety of taxes to generate revenue. Typically, not all of these are used by any one local government or school district. The choice of taxes is important because it affects how well the local tax base is used, which taxpayers bear the tax burden (the "fairness" of local taxes), and how much revenue is raised.

This publication is written to help local officials and interested citizens compare their own local government's or school district's use of taxes to that of others in their region and across Pennsylvania. This will help them understand how taxpayers in their jurisdiction fare compared to those in other communities. All data are from 1997.

How important are local taxes?

Local taxes are an important source of revenue to all local governments and school districts in Pennsylvania (see Figures 2a–f). In 1997, local taxes were the largest revenue source for municipal governments, providing about half of all their revenue (48 percent for cities, 47 percent for boroughs, 55 percent for townships of the first class and 50 percent for townships of the second class). Sewer fees were the second most important revenue source in boroughs (10 percent) and townships of the first class (14 percent), while state highway monies provided the second most important source of revenue for townships of the second class (20 percent). State and federal grants were the second most important source of revenue for cities (12 percent).

County governments relied less on local taxes than did municipalities, with about one-third (29 percent) of county revenue coming from that source. State grants such as those for human service programs accounted for another 29 percent. School district revenues were dominated by local taxes (55 percent) and state grants (39 percent).

Who collects the most local tax dollars?

School districts collect the majority of local taxes in Pennsylvania, accounting for 68 percent of all local tax dollars collected in 1997 (see Figure 1). Counties collected 14 percent of all local taxes. Boroughs, townships of the first class and second class, and cities collected a much smaller share of all local taxes.

Figure 1. Share of local tax revenue in Pennsylvania, 1997.

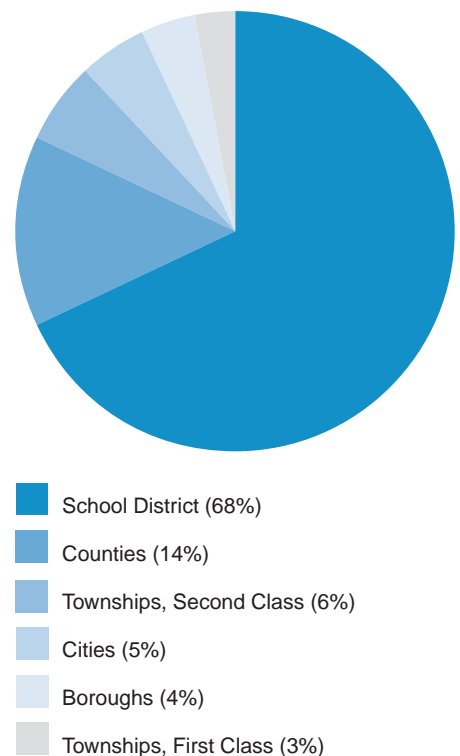
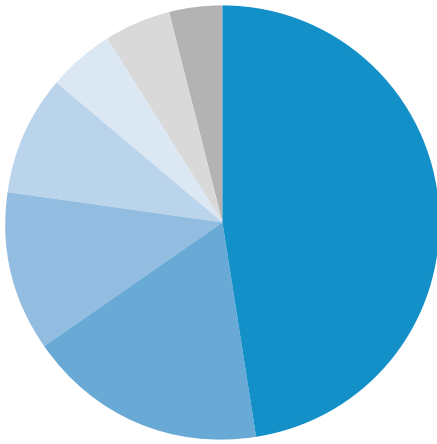
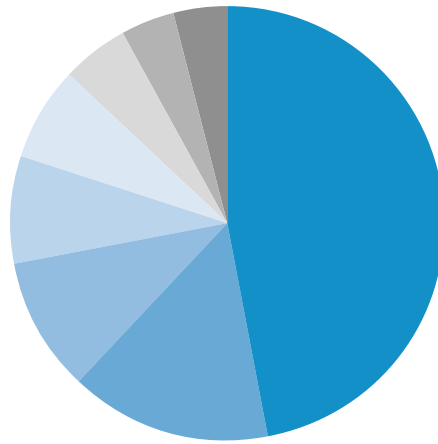


Figure 2a. Sources of city revenue in Pennsylvania, 1997.



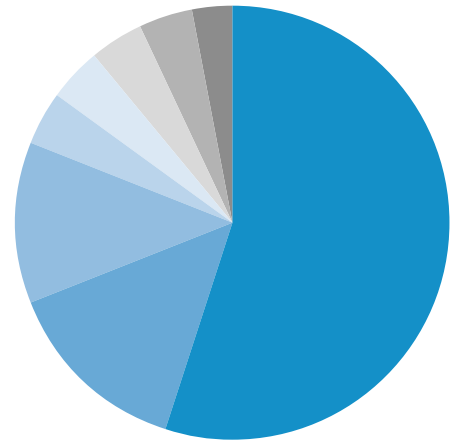
- Taxes (48%)
- Other (18%)
- State and Federal (12%)
- Sewer (9%)
- Department Services (5%)
- Public Services (5%)
- Use Revenue (4%)

Figure 2b. Sources of borough revenue in Pennsylvania, 1997.



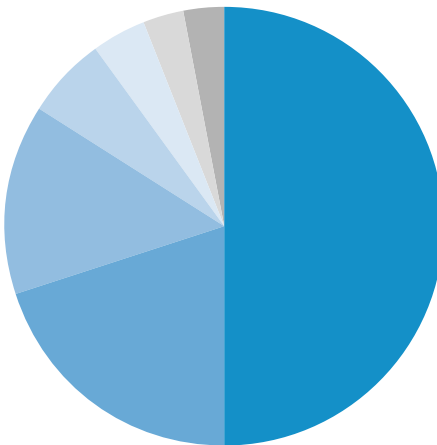
- Taxes (47%)
- Other (15%)
- Sewer (10%)
- Public Services (8%)
- Highway (7%)
- Waste and Refuse Disposal (4%)
- State and Federal (4%)
- Use Revenue (4%)

Figure 2c. Sources of revenue, townships of the first class in Pennsylvania, 1997.



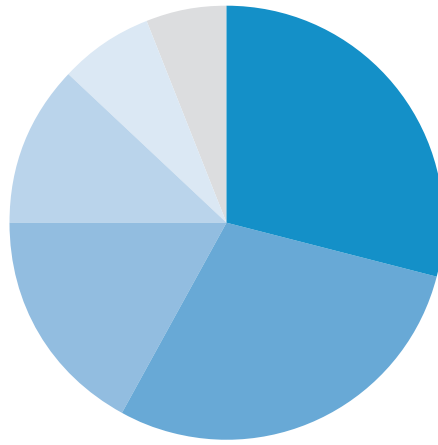
- Taxes (55%)
- Sewer (14%)
- Other (12%)
- Waste and Refuse Disposal (4%)
- Use Revenue (4%)
- Highways (4%)
- Department Services (4%)
- State and Federal (3%)

Figure 2d. Sources of revenue, townships of the second class in Pennsylvania, 1997.



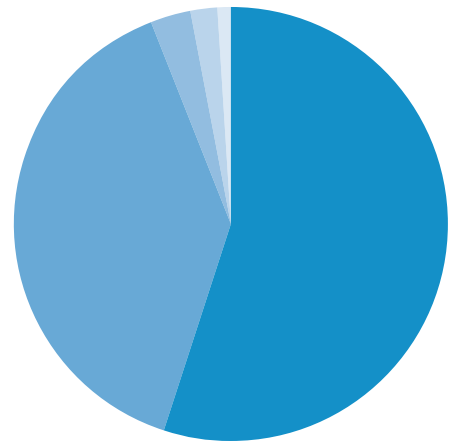
- Taxes (50%)
- Highway (20%)
- Other (14%)
- State and Federal (6%)
- Use Revenue (4%)
- Sewer (3%)
- Department Services (3%)

Figure 2e. Sources of county revenue in Pennsylvania, 1997.



- Taxes (29%)
- State (29%)
- Department Earnings (17%)
- Federal (12%)
- Other (7%)
- State and Federal (6%)

Figure 2f. Sources of school district revenue in Pennsylvania, 1997.



- Taxes (55%)
- State (39%)
- Federal (3%)
- Other Local Revenue (2%)
- Other (1%)

Which taxes can jurisdictions use?

It is important to recognize that local governments and school districts cannot create their own taxes, but instead must choose from a list authorized for them by the Pennsylvania General Assembly. This list of permissible taxes is created through the legal codes authorizing each type of jurisdiction (such as the official “Borough Code” or “County Code”), and through special legislation (such as Act 511 of 1965 or Act 50 of 1998). These state laws authorize the taxes available and (in most cases) the maximum tax rate possible with each. Local officials are restricted to choosing from within these options (see Table 1). Even municipalities and counties that have chosen to adopt a Home Rule charter are limited by the choice of taxes (though they are not subject to the same tax rate limits).

The effectiveness of these taxes is also influenced by other state laws or agreements. The Sterling Act, for example, reduces the attractiveness of the earned income tax to many jurisdictions near Philadelphia. The Sterling Act states that income tax paid to Philadelphia by people who work in the city but who live elsewhere must be credited on their home jurisdiction’s earned income tax (which effectively leaves nothing for their home jurisdiction). As a result, local governments and school districts who levy the earned income tax but who have many residents who work in the city find that the tax collects less revenue than it might, and that it is paid only by residents who work outside the city. Pennsylvania has an agreement with New York and New Jersey that provides similar local earned income tax credits for Pennsylvania residents who work in either of the two states, with a similar effect on tax collections near the borders. Both the Sterling Act and these interstate tax agreements effectively reduce the incentive for (and some would argue the fairness of) using the earned income tax in parts of Pennsylvania.

Table 1. Tax descriptions and availability to different Pennsylvania jurisdictions.

Real property tax:

Tax levied on the value of real estate.

Occupation tax:

Tax levied on residents’ occupations. It can be levied as a flat rate tax or as a millage.

Per capita tax:

Tax levied on adults who live in the jurisdiction.

Earned income tax:

Tax on residents’ earned income such as wages, salaries, and net profits from a business. Unearned income such as dividends, pensions, and social security is exempt.

Realty transfer tax:

Tax on the sale price of real estate.

Occupational Tax:

Tax on the privilege of working in the jurisdiction.

Amusement tax:

Tax levied on admissions prices to places of amusement, entertainment, and recreation.

Mechanical devices tax:

Tax levied on coin-operated machines such as jukeboxes, pinball machines, and video games.

Mercantile tax:

Tax levied on the gross receipts of businesses. New taxes based on the mercantile tax cannot be imposed after November 30, 1988.

Personal property tax:

Tax levied on the value of mortgages, other interest-bearing obligations and accounts, public loans, and corporate stocks. This tax is available only to counties.

Hotel and sales tax:

Tax levied on residents staying at hotels. This tax is available only in some Pennsylvania counties, and the funds generated with the tax must be used for tourism promotion.

Authorized Tax	Counties	Cities (excludes Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Scranton)	Boroughs and Townships	School Districts
Real property	x	x	x	x
Occupation—flat rate and millage	*	x	x	@
Per capita	*	x	x	@
Earned income		x	x	x
Realty transfer		x	x	x
Occupational privilege		x	x	@
Amusement		x	x	x
Mercantile		x	x	x
Personal property	x			
Hotel and sales	+			

* Can levy one or the other, but not both simultaneously.

@ Not available if the school district has adopted Act 50 provisions.

+ Not available to all counties.

Which taxes do jurisdictions use?

In 1997, the real property tax was the most important local tax for all jurisdictions except townships of the second class (for which the earned income tax provided more revenue).

Figure 3a. Sources of city total tax revenue in Pennsylvania, 1997.

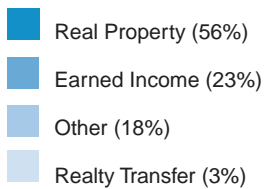
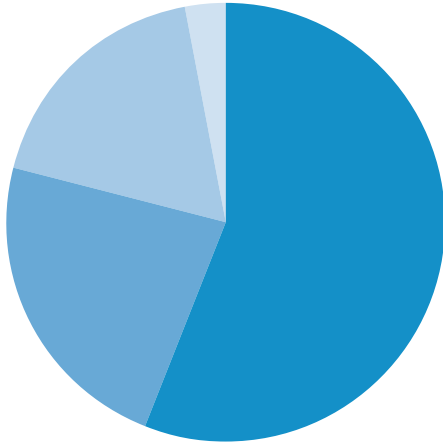
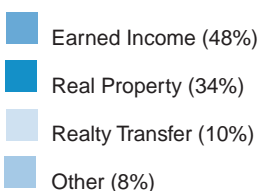
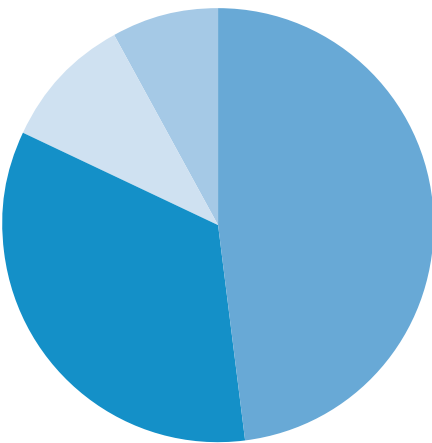


Figure 3d. Sources of total tax revenue, townships of the second class in Pennsylvania, 1997.



The real property tax provided 56 percent of city tax revenue, 52 percent of borough tax revenue, and 56 percent of township of the first class tax revenue (see Figures 3a–f). It also provided the vast majority of county government tax revenue (98 percent, which reflects the limited local tax choices available to counties) and school district tax revenue (80 percent).

Figure 3b. Sources of borough total tax revenue in Pennsylvania, 1997.

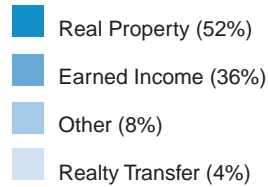
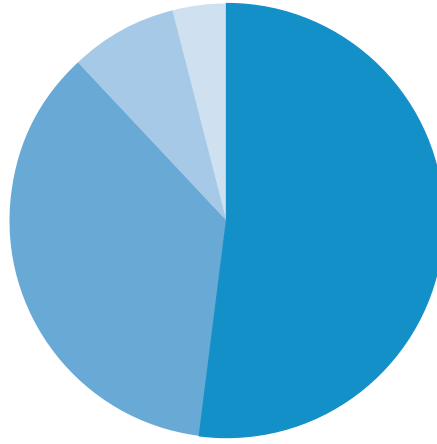
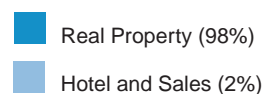
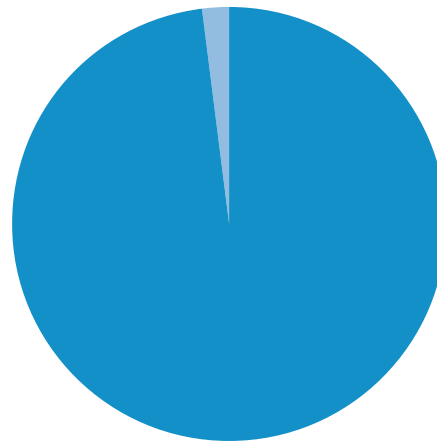


Figure 3e. Sources of county total tax revenue in Pennsylvania, 1997.



The earned income tax was the largest source of tax revenue for townships of the second class (48 percent of all taxes), and was the second largest source of tax revenue for cities, boroughs, townships of the first class, and school districts. The realty transfer tax provided 10 percent of local taxes in townships of the second class, but provided less in the other jurisdictions.

Figure 3c. Sources of total tax revenue, townships of the first class in Pennsylvania, 1997.

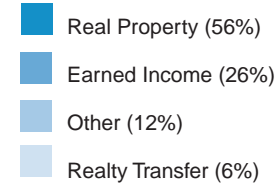
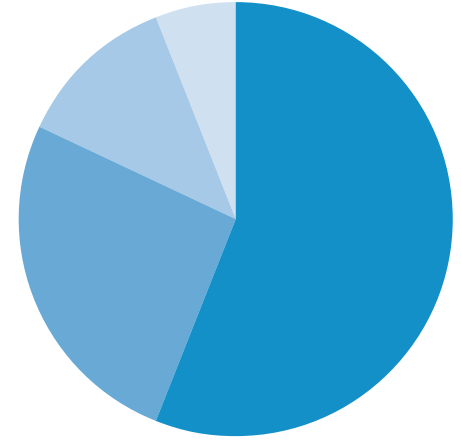
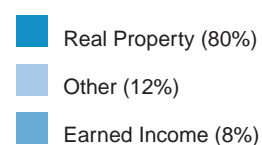
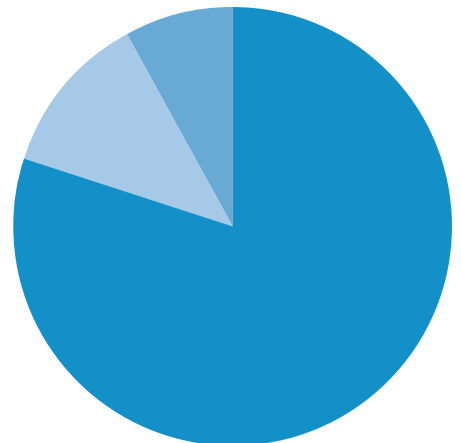


Figure 3f. Sources of school district local tax revenue in Pennsylvania, 1997.



How does the use of taxes vary across Pennsylvania?

It is useful to consider regional differences in taxation. Local governments and school districts in Pennsylvania are experiencing differing amounts of growth pressure and economic activity, and therefore have different tax bases. Jurisdictions with high per-capita incomes, for example, can raise more tax revenue from the earned income tax than those with much poorer residents.

Seven regions of Pennsylvania can be identified for the purpose of considering regional differences in taxation (see Figure 4). They were created by grouping counties with similar economic, labor, market, demographic, and tax base attributes:

Southeast:

Berks, Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Delaware, Lancaster, Lehigh, Montgomery, and Northampton counties

Poconos:

Monroe, Pike, and Wayne counties

Northern Tier:

Bradford, Clinton, Lycoming, Potter, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, and Wyoming counties

Northeast:

Columbia, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Montour, Northumberland, and Schuylkill counties

Central:

Adams, Centre, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry, Snyder, Union, and York counties

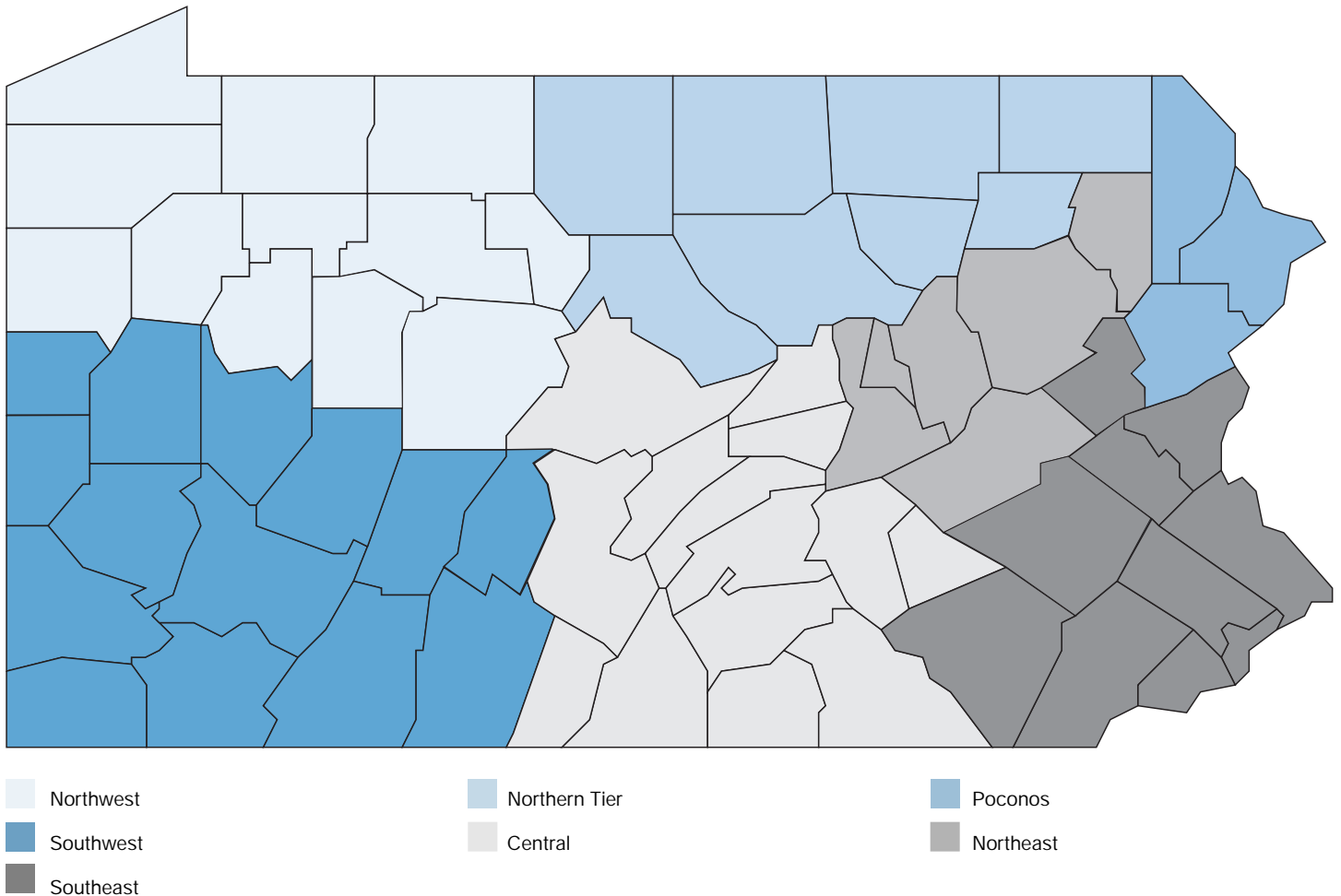
Southwest:

Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Bedford, Blair, Butler, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Somerset, Washington, and Westmoreland counties

Northwest:

Cameron, Clarion, Clearfield, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, McKean, Mercer, Venango, and Warren counties

Figure 4. Regions in Pennsylvania.



Which taxes do jurisdictions levy?

1. Cities (Table 2a)

Across all regions, most cities (excluding Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Scranton) levied the real property tax (98 percent), the earned income tax (98 percent), the occupational privilege tax (95 percent), and the realty transfer tax (89 percent). There were regional differences, particularly regarding the mercantile tax. Cities in the southeast were much less likely to levy the mercantile tax than were cities in the other regions.

2. Boroughs (Table 2b)

Across all regions, most boroughs levied the real property tax (98 percent), the earned income tax (93 percent), and the realty transfer tax (89 percent). There were regional differences. Only 33 percent of the boroughs in the Poconos levied the earned income tax, whereas all boroughs in the northwest levied such a tax. The low usage of this tax in the Poconos likely is a result of the tax agreements with New York and New Jersey.

3. Townships of the First Class (Table 2c)

Across all regions, the real property tax (99 percent) and the realty transfer tax (95 percent) were most commonly levied. Only 58 percent of the townships of the first class in the southeast region levied the earned income tax, while all townships in the other regions levied it.

Table 2a. Percentage of cities that levied a specific tax in 1997.*

Taxes	Southeast	Poconos	Northern Tier	Northeast	Central	Southwest	Northwest	All Regions
Real property	86%	—	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	98%
Occupation	14	—	50	33	33	5	0	13
Per capita	71	—	0	67	33	48	77	58
Earned income	86	—	100	100	100	100	100	98
Realty transfer	86	—	100	89	67	86	100	89
Mercantile	14	—	50	44	67	71	31	49
Amusement	0	—	0	22	0	14	0	9
Occupational privilege	86	—	100	100	67	100	92	95
All other	71	—	100	67	100	76	46	69
<i>Number of cities</i>	7	0	2	9	3	21	13	55

* Excludes Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Scranton.

Table 2b. Percentage of boroughs that levied a specific tax in 1997.

Taxes	Southeast	Poconos	Northern Tier	Northeast	Central	Southwest	Northwest	All Regions
Real property	98%	100%	100%	94%	97%	98%	100%	98%
Occupation	13	17	47	30	28	19	25	23
Per capita	65	33	63	57	83	60	75	66
Earned income	81	33	81	96	98	97	100	93
Realty transfer	97	92	90	89	86	88	80	89
Mercantile	11	0	3	12	1	12	0	8
Amusement	3	0	0	1	3	4	0	3
Occupational privilege	57	42	38	80	43	63	58	58
All other	22	0	9	31	14	39	17	26
<i>Number of boroughs</i>	175	12	68	105	150	345	110	965

4. Townships of the Second Class (Table 2d)

The real property tax (97 percent), earned income tax (93 percent), and realty transfer tax (93 percent) were the most common taxes levied by townships of the second class. Use of the earned income tax varied across the regions. In the northeast, central, southwest, and northwest regions, townships were highly likely to levy it, whereas in the Poconos it was used less often.

5. Counties (Table 2e)

Not surprisingly given the relatively few choices available to them, all Pennsylvania counties levy the real property tax. None of the other available taxes can generate much revenue by comparison. About half of the counties levied the per capita tax. Counties in the northwest region were more likely to levy the per capita tax than were those in the southwest region.

6. School Districts (Table 2f)

Across all regions, all school districts levied the real property tax. Most school districts levied the earned income tax (91 percent) and the per capita tax (87 percent). The occupation tax based on a millage was much more likely to be used in the northern tier (73 percent), central (49 percent), and northeast (43 percent) regions than in other parts of Pennsylvania. Use of the earned income tax similarly varied, with all districts in the northeast, central, southwest, and northwest regions using it, compared to only 38 percent in the Poconos and 70 percent in the southeast region.

Table 2c. Percentage of townships of the first class that levied a specific tax in 1997.

Taxes	Southeast	Poconos	Northern Tier	Northeast	Central	Southwest	Northwest	All Regions
Real property	97%	—	—	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%
Occupation	6	—	—	20	50	11	0	14
Per capita	44	—	—	100	83	32	0	47
Earned income	58	—	—	100	100	100	100	84
Realty transfer	97	—	—	100	100	100	100	95
Mercantile	47	—	—	60	17	43	0	42
Amusement	31	—	—	20	17	5	0	18
Occupational privilege	64	—	—	100	92	89	100	80
All other	61	—	—	80	33	78	100	66
<i>Number of townships</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>91</i>

Table 2d. Percentage of townships of the second class that levied a specific tax in 1997.

Taxes	Southeast	Poconos	Northern Tier	Northeast	Central	Southwest	Northwest	All Regions
Real property	95%	100%	100%	98%	94%	99%	99%	97%
Occupation	0	4	13	10	8	10	7	8
Per capita	53	27	58	70	82	73	70	67
Earned income	87	45	87	100	100	100	96	93
Realty transfer	99	100	91	93	91	97	83	93
Mercantile	5	0	3	1	2	6	0	3
Amusement	18	6	2	5	11	6	1	7
Occupational privilege	35	18	22	49	29	45	28	34
All other	13	2	1	8	5	11	3	7
<i>Number of townships</i>	<i>239</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>208</i>	<i>144</i>	<i>257</i>	<i>320</i>	<i>240</i>	<i>1,457</i>

Table 2e. Percentage of counties that levied a specific tax in 1997.*

Taxes	Southeast	Poconos	Northern Tier	Northeast	Central	Southwest	Northwest	All Regions
Real property	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Occupation	11	0	13	0	7	0	0	5
Per capita	0	0	63	67	57	50	83	52
Personal property	44	0	25	67	36	14	33	32
Hotel and sales	11	0	0	0	7	7	0	5
<i>Number of counties</i>	9	3	8	6	14	14	12	66

* Excludes Philadelphia.

Table 2f. Percentage of school districts that levied a specific tax in 1997.*

Taxes	Southeast	Poconos	Northern Tier	Northeast	Central	Southwest	Northwest	All Regions
Real property	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Occupation flat rate	6	0	12	28	28	24	26	20
Occupation millage	12	13	73	43	49	7	16	23
Per capita	78	50	94	80	97	86	97	87
Earned income	70	38	88	100	100	100	100	91
Realty transfer	97	100	100	100	99	96	92	97
Occupational privilege	36	25	27	63	42	62	47	48
<i>Number of school districts</i>	118	8	33	46	71	160	62	498

*Excludes Philadelphia and two other districts for which data was missing.

How much does each tax contribute to total tax revenue?

Finally, it is useful to consider how important each tax is to the jurisdictions that use it. Tables 3a–f show the percentage of total tax revenues that each tax provides to the average jurisdiction in a region. Across all regions, for example, the real property tax provided an average of 59 percent of total tax revenues for cities. The two numbers beneath each percentage show the smallest and the largest percentages that the tax provided in that region. For example, for cities statewide (“All Regions”), the smallest proportion of total tax revenue that the real property tax provided was 21 percent, and the most it provided was 86 percent. Any one jurisdiction’s reliance on a certain tax may vary from the numbers given, but it will fall somewhere within the given range. (Note that these numbers differ from the statewide reliance reported earlier because they are based on the average reliance, instead of the total revenue across Pennsylvania.)

1. Cities (Table 3a)

The real property tax was the most important tax to cities in all regions (excluding Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Scranton). It provided, on average, 59 percent of city tax revenue. The earned income tax was the second most important tax, providing 29 percent of the tax revenue. One city received 67 percent of its local tax revenue from the earned income tax.

2. Boroughs (Table 3b)

The real property tax was the most important local tax in four of the regions, while the earned income tax was the most important in the other three. The amount collected by the realty transfer tax also depended on the region; the regions undergoing fast growth (the Poconos and the southeast region) relied on it most. One borough in the southeast region received 59 percent of its tax from the realty transfer tax. Regions with less development pressure, such as those in western parts of the Commonwealth, on average received less. There were pockets of development even within these regions, however.

None of the other taxes on average provided a major amount of tax revenue to the boroughs. Some boroughs, however, were able to use several of these taxes to their advantage. The amusement tax, for example, provided 36 percent of the tax revenue to one borough in the southeast region, 28 percent to one borough in the southwest region, and 23 percent to one borough in the central region.

Table 3a. Contribution of each tax to the total tax revenue of cities. Percentages represent the average contribution, and the minimum and maximum contribution, in each region.*

Taxes	Southeast	Poconos	Northern Tier	Northeast	Central	Southwest	Northwest	All Regions
Real property	65% 44-74	—	61% 53-69	43% 30-67	58% 44-66	63% 42-86	60% 21-80	59% 21-86
Occupation	0 0-1	—	5 0-10	4 0-13	0 0-0	0 0-0	0 0-0	1 0-13
Per capita	1 0-2	—	0 0-0	1 0-3	0 0-0	0 0-2	1 0-4	1 0-4
Earned income	25 16-48	—	18 17-20	40 24-59	28 15-52	25 10-43	32 16-67	29 10-67
Realty transfer	3 2-4	—	2 2-3	2 0-5	2 0-3	2 0-4	3 1-6	2 0-6
Mercantile	1 0-4	—	2 0-3	4 0-11	6 0-13	2 0-9	1 0-5	2 0-13
Amusement	0 0-0	—	0 0-0	0 0-0	0 0-0	0 0-3	0 0-0	0 0-3
Occupational privilege	1 1-2	—	2 2-2	2 1-6	1 0-3	1 0-3	2 0-4	1 0-6
All other	4 0-14	—	10 7-12	4 0-21	4 0-11	5 0-24	1 4-13	4 0-24
<i>Number of cities</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>55</i>

* Excludes Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Scranton.

Table 3b. Contribution of each tax to the total tax revenue of boroughs. Percentages represent the average contribution, and the minimum and maximum contribution, in each region.

Taxes	Southeast	Poconos	Northern Tier	Northeast	Central	Southwest	Northwest	All Regions
Real property	50% 0-97	78% 43-100	62% 18-100	41% 0-65	38% 0-93	51% 0-94	43% 2-73	48% 0-100
Occupation	0 0-9	1 0-13	2 0-16	1 0-20	1 0-27	1 0-15	1 0-19	1 0-27
Per capita	1 0-6	1 0-7	2 0-8	2 0-7	3 0-9	2 0-20	3 0-15	2 0-15
Earned income	38 0-90	12 0-50	31 0-82	50 20-92	51 0-100	40 0-87	49 14-97	42 0-100
Realty transfer	6 0-59	7 0-24	3 0-16	3 0-16	5 0-24	3 0-43	3 0-15	4 0-59
Mercantile	1 0-29	0 0-0	0 0-7	1 0-38	0 0-13	1 0-21	0 0-0	1 0-38
Amusement	0 0-36	0 0-0	0 0-0	0 0-8	0 0-23	0 0-28	0 0-0	0 0-36
Occupational privilege	1 0-17	1 0-6	1 0-6	1 0-5	1 0-13	1 0-24	2 0-14	1 0-24
All other	1 0-33	0 0-0	0 0-6	1 0-14	1 0-35	1 0-31	0 0-1	1 0-35
<i>Number of boroughs</i>	<i>175</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>105</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>345</i>	<i>110</i>	<i>965</i>

3. Townships of the First Class (Table 3c)

The real property tax was the most important local tax in the southeast, northeast, and southwest regions, while the earned income tax was the most important in the central and northwest regions. The real property tax provided over half of all tax revenues in the southeast and southwest regions and 39 percent in the northeast region.

The amount collected by the realty transfer tax also varied by region; it provided, on average, 7 percent of the tax revenue in the southeast region and 6 percent in the central region, about twice as much as it contributed in the other regions. In the northeast region, the mercantile tax stood for 12 percent of the tax revenue, on average, while it was much less in all the other regions.

4. Townships of the Second Class (Table 3d)

The earned income tax provided over half of all tax revenues in all regions except two; in the Poconos, it accounted for only 22 percent (about one-third of the central region's average reliance on the tax), while in the northern tier region it provided 45 percent. The real property tax was the most important tax in the Poconos, providing an average of 60 percent of all tax revenue.

The amount collected by the realty transfer tax also depended upon the region; the regions undergoing fast growth (the Poconos and the southeast region) relied on it most. In those regions, an average of 13 percent of all tax revenue came from the realty transfer tax.

Some townships were able to use several of these taxes to their advantage. For example one township in the Poconos received 40 percent of its tax revenue from the amusement tax. In another example, one township in the southeast region was able to receive 36 percent of its tax revenue from the mercantile tax.

5. Counties (Table 3e)

The real property tax was the most important tax in all counties, providing 98 percent of local tax revenues. All other taxes were small in proportion, with a few exceptions. One county in the southeast region, for example, received 23 percent of its tax revenue from the occupation tax.

Table 3c. Contribution of each tax to the total tax revenue of townships of the first class. Percentages represent the average contribution, and the minimum and maximum contribution, in each region.

Taxes	Southeast	Poconos	Northern Tier	Northeast	Central	Southwest	Northwest	All Regions
Real property	57% 0-92	—	—	39% 30-49	37% 10-54	55% 26-87	31%	52% 0-92
Occupation	0 0-1	—	—	3 0-15	2 0-12	0 0-2	0	1 0-15
Per capita	1 0-4	—	—	1 0-3	1 0-3	1 0-2	0	1 0-4
Earned income	24 0-86	—	—	35 25-53	46 30-70	34 10-60	61	32 0-86
Realty transfer	7 0-18	—	—	3 2-4	6 0-17	4 0-8	4	5 0-18
Mercantile	3 0-18	—	—	12 0-30	2 0-12	3 0-13	0	3 0-30
Amusement	1 0-12	—	—	0 0-0	0 0-1	0 0-1	0	0 0-12
Occupational privilege	1 0-6	—	—	2 1-4	3 0-11	1 0-4	4	2 0-11
All other	5 0-18	—	—	5 0-9	3 0-19	2 0-14	0	4 0-19
<i>Number of townships</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>91</i>

6. School Districts (Table 3f)

The real property tax was the most important tax in all regions of Pennsylvania, accounting for between 53 and 100 percent of local tax revenues. The earned income tax provided an average of 11 percent of local tax revenue. Some school districts were able to use this tax to their advantage; one district in the central region, for example, received 28 percent of its tax revenue from the earned income tax.

Reliance upon the occupation millage tax also varied across the regions. Even though it provided an average of only 3 percent of local tax revenue to school districts, in some districts it provided much more. One school district in the central region received 31 percent of its total taxes from the occupation tax, for example, while several districts in the northern tier and northeast regions received more than 20 percent.

Table 3d. Contribution of each tax to the total tax revenue of townships of the second class. Percentages represent the average contribution, and the minimum and maximum contribution, in each region.

Tax	Southeast	Poconos	Northern Tier	Northeast	Central	Southwest	Northwest	All Regions
Real property	28% 0-88	60% 11-97	44% 0-100	30% 0-70	20% 0-68	33% 0-74	34% 0-100	32% 0-100
Occupation	0 0-1	0 0-2	0 0-13	0 0-13	1 0-54	0 0-8	0 0-51	0 0-54
Per capita	1 0-7	1 0-9	2 0-10	3 0-45	3 0-7	2 0-18	3 0-50	2 0-50
Earned income	54 0-100	22 0-76	45 0-100	58 2-95	67 24-100	56 0-87	56 0-97	55 0-100
Realty transfer	13 0-58	14 3-54	8 0-54	6 0-21	7 0-32	6 0-90	6 0-76	8 0-90
Mercantile	1 0-36	0 0-0	0 0-23	0 0-45	0 0-27	0 0-15	0 0-3	0 0-45
Amusement	1 0-26	1 0-40	0 0-30	0 0-7	1 0-35	1 0-25	0 0-3	0 0-40
Occupational privilege	1 0-10	1 0-24	1 0-7	1 0-13	1 0-14	1 0-11	1 0-11	1 0-24
All other	1 0-59	0 0-0	0 0-27	1 0-57	0 0-9	0 0-54	0 0-1	0 0-59
<i>Number of townships</i>	<i>239</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>208</i>	<i>144</i>	<i>257</i>	<i>320</i>	<i>240</i>	<i>1,457</i>

Table 3e. Contribution of each tax to the total tax revenue of counties. Percentages represent the average contribution, and the minimum and maximum contribution, in each region.

Taxes	Southeast	Poconos	Northern Tier	Northeast	Central	Southwest	Northwest	All Regions
Real property	97% 77-100	100% 100-100	99% 97-100	97% 94-100	98% 96-100	98% 89-100	97% 91-100	98% 77-100
Occupation	3 0-23	0 0-0	0 0-2	0 0-0	0 0-2	0 0-0	0 0-0	0 0-23
Per capita	0 0-0	0 0-0	1 0-3	3 0-6	2 0-4	1 0-4	2 0-4	1 0-6
Personal property	0 0-1	0 0-0	0 0-1	0 0-0	0 0-0	0 0-0	1 0-6	0 0-6
Hotel and sales	0 0-0	0 0-0	0 0-0	0 0-0	0 0-1	1 0-11	0 0-0	0 0-11
<i>Number of counties</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>66</i>

Table 3f. Contribution of each tax to the total tax revenue of school districts. Percentages represent the average contribution, and the minimum and maximum contribution, in each region.*

Taxes	Southeast	Poconos	Northern Tier	Northeast	Central	Southwest	Northwest	All Regions
Real property	88% 68–100	94% 89–97	78% 59–96	74% 55–89	75% 53–88	83% 55–93	80% 60–89	82% 53–100
Occupation flat rate	0 0–1	0 0–0	0 0–4	1 0–15	1 0–18	0 0–3	0 0–6	0 0–18
Occupation millage	1 0–16	0 0–2	8 0–20	6 0–26	7 0–31	0 0–11	1 0–16	3 0–31
Per capita	1 0–4	0 0–0	1 0–3	1 0–4	1 0–10	1 0–7	1 0–6	1 0–10
Earned income	7 0–15	2 0–8	9 0–14	14 9–22	12 8–28	11 5–19	13 5–23	11 0–28
Realty transfer	2 0–5	1 1–2	1 1–3	1 1–3	2 0–6	1 0–3	1 0–3	1 0–6
Occupational privilege	0 0–1	0 0–0	0 0–1	0 0–1	0 0–1	0 0–2	0 0–1	0 0–2
<i>Number of school districts</i>	<i>118</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>72</i>	<i>160</i>	<i>62</i>	<i>499</i>

* Excludes Philadelphia and one other district for which data was missing.

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