

LOSS OF REVENUE THROUGH ON-LINE RETAIL TRANSACTIONS

According to the Institute for State Studies, local and state governments will lose as much as \$54.8 billion by 2011 in uncollected remote sales taxes. (Mark, 2009)

Background: Why internet retailers do not have to collect sales tax

The 1967, the *Bellas Hess* Supreme Court decisions denied states the authority to require the collection of sales and use taxes by out-of-state sellers that have no physical presence in the taxing state under the Commerce Clause. This decision was reaffirmed in the 1992 *Quill v. North Dakota* Supreme Court case.

In 1992 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that retailers are exempt from collecting sales taxes in states where they have no physical presence. Although the case dealt with a catalog mail-order company, the ruling has been broadly applied to online retailers. The Court said that requiring these companies to comply with the varied sales tax rules and regulations of 45 states and some 7,500 different local taxing jurisdictions would burden interstate commerce.

In addition, the Court specifically noted that *Congress has the authority* to change this policy and could enact legislation requiring all retailers to collect sales taxes without violating the Constitution.

1992 v 2009 - Should Quill Be Upheld?

Today's retail environment is quite different than 17 years ago.

- Retailers now have the ability to easily calculate sales taxes for the country's many state and local jurisdictions through software.
- It is not a fair playing field - local businesses are at a disadvantage. Exempting online retailers from having to collect sales tax, as regular stores must, gives these companies a 4 to 9 percent price advantage over local
- It undermines state and local governments by reducing tax revenue for schools, police, and other services. Currently, 45 states assess sales taxes, from which they receive about 25 percent of their total revenue each year.
- It makes a regressive tax more regressive, because only those with internet access, a credit card, and a home or workplace where they can accept daytime deliveries are able to take advantage of the tax exemption.

Clarification of the Internet Tax Freedom Act of 1998

The ban of certain Internet taxes was first imposed in 1998, when Congress adopted a three-year moratorium on state and local taxation of "Internet access." "Multiple" and "discriminatory" taxes were also banned. The moratorium, with some modifications, has been extended three times, in 2001 and 2004, and 2007.

The extent of the moratorium is often misunderstood. It does not exempt Internet providers from most taxes of general applicability, such as corporate income taxes or property taxes, and does not exempt Internet sales from general state sales taxes, although the collection of such taxes from out-of-state vendors is problematic. It does prohibit all taxes on Internet access services--such as AOL accounts. Surcharges on Internet bills like those often present on cell phone bills, for example, are prohibited, as are "bit" taxes based on Internet usage. In addition, any taxes that single out Internet services or transactions for special or higher fees are also banned.

Current: H.R.3678 - Internet Tax Freedom Act Amendments Act of 2007 Sponsor: [John Conyers](#) /
110th Congress

Summary

This bill amends the Tax Freedom Act of 1998 by extending the internet tax moratorium until 2011. There is strong, varied support for a permanent ban, but state and local governments are resistant, as their budgets could benefit greatly from potential taxes. There is also an argument that it is unfair to businesses that don't sell on the internet, for they have to pay sales taxes that their internet competitors do not. *(by MAPLight.org)* The bill will also ban taxes on e-mail and instant messaging services.

Status

The bill has become law.

State and local governments had opposed making the ban on taxes permanent. The National Governors Association had urged Congress to pass a "reasonable extension" that would "promote Internet usage," but argued against keeping the ban in place indefinitely. Once broadband connections are as commonplace as stoves and refrigerators, proponents of a temporary ban argue, the question of whether Internet access should be taxed should be revisited, as they could prove a lucrative source of funding for state and local governments

Note: Nine states that enacted access taxes prior to the original passage of the Internet Tax Freedom Act in 1998 continue to be exempt from the ban. In addition, a prohibition against taxing e-mail and instant messaging services that are "not packaged with Internet access" was inserted into the bill by Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR).

Two Primary Strategies States are Currently Pursuing

The Main Street Fairness Act

- Persuading Congress that collecting sales taxes for numerous state and local jurisdictions is no longer a burden for remote sellers as cited in the 1992 case.
- Simplified Taxation - The National Governors Association established the Streamlined Sales Tax Project, a multi-state effort to simplify and align sales tax policies.
 - As of April 2009, 41 states and the District of Columbia had approved an interstate agreement that establishes uniform sales tax rules and definitions, and 23 states had taken the next step of passing implementing legislation.
 - Under this legislation, states and cities still have the authority to determine what goods are taxed at what rate, but must adhere to rules governing such things as how and when they can change tax rates, as well as uniform definitions.

Through uniform taxing rules and the ability to easily collect tax, the states are hoping to persuade Congress to pass the Main Street Fairness Act, introduced in 2009 by Senator Mike Enzi and Representative Bill Delahunt. The bill would authorize those states that have implemented the Streamlined Sales Tax to require online and other remote sellers to collect sales taxes.

State Authority to Clarify Nexus

The second strategy states are pursuing does not rely on Congressional action, but instead uses existing state authority to clarify what constitutes "nexus" for the purposes of sales tax liability.

In the past, many national chains, despite having nexus in every state by virtue of their stores, claimed their e-commerce sites were distinct legal entities, unrelated to their bricks-and-mortar stores and therefore were exempt from collecting sales taxes. This practice is known as "entity isolation."

State action in recent years has sharply curtailed the number of so-called "clicks-and-mortar" retailers using entity isolation to skirt collecting sales taxes on their online operations. In 2001, California became the first state to issue an administrative ruling against the practice of entity isolation when its Board of Equalization ruled that Borders.com was not a separate entity, but the online extension of the chain Borders Books & Music and therefore must collect sales taxes on sales to California residents.

In the following years, several states amended their sales tax laws to clarify that the e-commerce arms of national chains still have nexus and that entity isolation does not absolve them of their obligation to collect sales tax. (Below we include policy examples from Arkansas and Indiana.)

Increasingly concerned about the threat of court action by states and the potential liability, as well as the complexity and inefficiency of attempting to treat the e-commerce side of their operations as a separate company, in 2003 most national chains cut a deal with the states in which they were forgiven all of their back taxes in exchange for collecting sales taxes online from that point forward. Although most national chains now collect sales taxes on online orders, there remain a few that do not.

In 2008, New York became the first state to further extend the definition of nexus to cover some web-only retailers, including Amazon.com. The legislature passed a bill, accompanying its budget, that said that web retailers have nexus in New York and must collect sales taxes if they have sales affiliates in the state that generate a combined total \$10,000 a year or more in revenue for the retailer. (Sales affiliates are individuals or organizations that are paid commission for linking to the online retailer's web site. Amazon.com has thousands of sales affiliates nationwide, as do many other online retailers. In all, more than 30 companies are covered by New York's provision.)

Now, several other states are considering legislation modeled on New York's.

LOSS OF SALES TAX REVENUE

There have been multiple studies over the past decade that attempts to quantify the loss on sales tax revenue through on-line purchases. The National Tax Association's Communications and Electronic Commerce Project was one of the first detailed investigations into e-commerce tax implications. It was followed closely by the congressionally-initiated Advisory Commission on Electronic Commerce. More recently and more comprehensively, the Streamlined Sales Tax Project has tackled these issues through the operations of the Streamlined Sales Tax Governing Board and associated activities.

The University of Tennessee has completed a number of studies that have focused on the revenue losses associated with the inability of state and local governments to enforce sales and use tax collections on transactions conducted through e-commerce. (Bruce and Fox, 2000, 2001, and 2004, 2009). The latest report was completed April 13, 2009. Highlights and charts from the report are copied in below. The study is Titled:

'State and Local Government Sales Tax Revenue Losses from Electronic Commerce'

By Donald Bruce, Associate Professor of Economics William F. Fox, William B. Stokely Distinguished Professor of Business LeAnn Luna, Associate Professor of Accounting

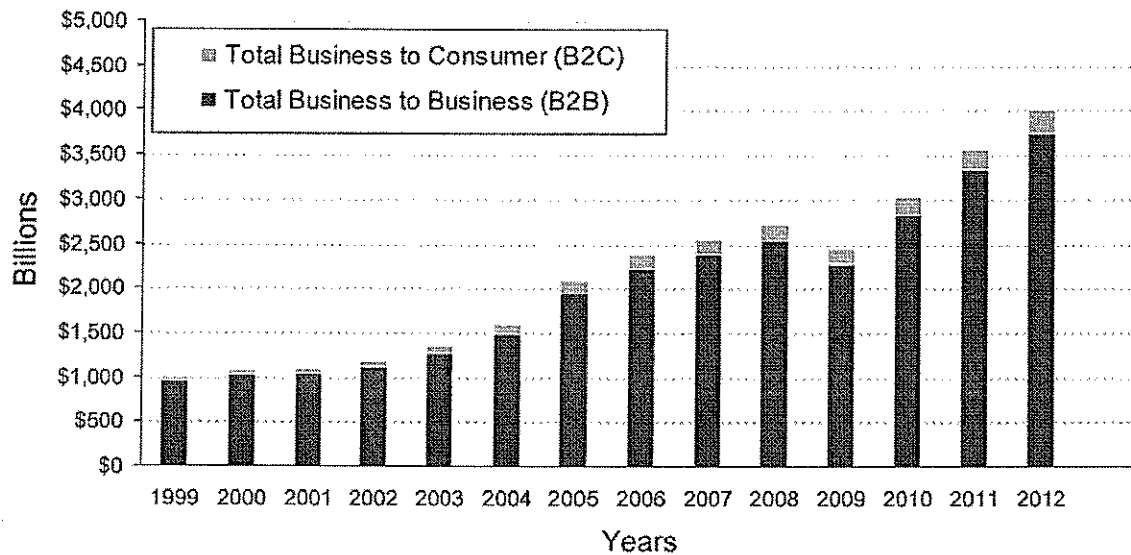
Overview of how the report is quantified

The on-line retail figures are provided by the U.S. Bureau of the Census through 2006. States were asked to complete a survey to identify specific taxable and nontaxable items so the data could be adjusted accordingly. Twenty-nine states participated – Feb 2009. States that did not participate were averaged into the study's results.

Highlights

- E-commerce sales have grown from \$995.0 billion in 1999 to \$2,385 billion by 2006

Figure 1: Estimated Total E-Commerce Sales



*Sales-taxing states only. (Bruce, et al 2009, p. 2)

- Despite the current recession, the initial analysis of Internet Retailer suggests that 2008 e-commerce sales expanded 21.4 percent from the previous year.

Table 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 – manually inserted (Fox, 2009, p. 7-11)

Table 1: National Total State and Local E-Commerce and Revenue Losses (\$millions)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Baseline E-Commerce Growth Scenario						
Total Business-to-Business E-commerce	2,325,701	2,480,011	2,231,283	2,767,010	3,253,412	3,656,856
Total Business-to-Consumer E-commerce	168,081	179,233	161,257	199,975	235,128	264,285
Total E-Commerce	2,493,782	2,659,244	2,392,540	2,966,985	3,488,540	3,921,140
Estimated Taxes Due	29,177	31,113	27,992	34,713	40,815	45,877
Estimated Taxes Collected	21,931	23,386	21,041	26,093	30,679	34,484
Estimated Total State and Local Revenue Loss	<u>7,246</u>	<u>7,726</u>	<u>6,951</u>	<u>8,620</u>	<u>10,136</u>	<u>11,393</u>
Optimistic E-Commerce Growth Scenario						
Total Business-to-Business E-commerce	2,325,701	2,486,222	2,408,247	3,184,050	3,634,500	4,060,293
Total Business-to-Consumer E-commerce	168,081	179,682	174,047	230,115	262,669	293,442
Total E-Commerce	2,493,782	2,665,904	2,582,294	3,414,165	3,897,170	4,353,735
Estimated Taxes Due	29,177	31,191	30,212	39,945	45,596	50,938
Estimated Taxes Collected	21,931	23,445	22,710	30,025	34,273	38,288
Estimated Total State and Local Revenue Loss	<u>7,246</u>	<u>7,746</u>	<u>7,503</u>	<u>9,920</u>	<u>11,323</u>	<u>12,650</u>

Table 2: Overall Taxability of Electronic Commerce

State	Percent Taxable
Arkansas	11.61
Arizona	18.14
Colorado	16.16
Connecticut	10.59
District of Columbia	22.89
Florida	16.83
Illinois	23.28
Kansas	21.60
Kentucky	17.84
Louisiana	22.89
Massachusetts	18.71
Michigan	8.97
Minnesota	21.01
North Carolina	14.40
North Dakota	11.86
Nebraska	16.45
New Jersey	10.49
Nevada	22.38
Ohio	15.43
Oklahoma	15.45
Pennsylvania	19.08
Rhode Island	14.01
South Carolina	18.32
South Dakota	15.53
Tennessee	16.33
Texas	11.80
Vermont	16.39
Washington	12.59
West Virginia	19.24
Non-DC Average*	18.24

*Note: This value is assigned to all non-responding states.

Table 3 provides our estimates of the tax revenue that are due on taxable e-commerce transactions given our estimates of taxability and our forecasts of e-commerce purchases by residents and businesses within each state.

Table 3: Total State and Local Sales and Use Taxes Due on E-Commerce (\$millions)

	Baseline Scenario						Total
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	
Alabama	429.7	458.2	412.3	511.2	601.1	675.7	3,088.2
Alaska	3.8	4.0	3.6	4.5	5.3	6.0	27.3
Arizona	928.2	989.8	890.5	1,104.3	1,298.5	1,459.5	6,670.8
Arkansas	285.5	304.4	273.9	339.7	399.4	448.9	2,051.7
California	4,898.3	5,223.3	4,699.5	5,827.8	6,852.3	7,702.0	35,203.2
Colorado	438.0	467.0	420.2	521.1	612.7	688.6	3,147.5
Connecticut	161.3	172.0	154.7	191.9	225.6	253.6	1,159.0
District of Columbia	90.1	96.0	86.4	107.2	126.0	141.6	647.3
Florida	2,056.0	2,192.4	1,972.5	2,446.1	2,876.1	3,232.7	14,775.7
Georgia	1,043.5	1,112.8	1,001.2	1,241.5	1,459.8	1,640.8	7,499.6
Hawaii	149.5	159.4	143.4	177.9	209.2	235.1	1,074.5
Idaho	117.1	124.9	112.4	139.3	163.8	184.2	841.7
Illinois	1,299.9	1,386.1	1,247.1	1,546.5	1,818.4	2,043.9	9,341.8
Indiana	497.2	530.2	477.0	591.5	695.5	781.8	3,573.3
Iowa	223.0	237.8	214.0	265.3	312.0	350.7	1,602.7
Kansas	380.0	405.2	364.6	452.1	531.6	597.5	2,731.2
Kentucky	291.5	310.9	279.7	346.9	407.8	458.4	2,095.3
Louisiana	989.1	1,054.7	948.9	1,176.8	1,383.6	1,555.2	7,108.4
Maine	80.6	85.9	77.3	95.9	112.7	126.7	579.1
Maryland	467.3	498.3	448.3	556.0	653.7	734.7	3,358.3
Massachusetts	331.7	353.7	318.3	394.7	464.0	521.6	2,384.0
Michigan	360.0	383.9	345.4	428.3	503.6	566.1	2,587.3
Minnesota	590.1	629.3	566.2	702.1	825.5	927.9	4,241.1
Mississippi	338.4	360.9	324.7	402.7	473.4	532.2	2,432.3
Missouri	534.9	570.4	513.2	636.4	748.3	841.1	3,844.4
Nebraska	153.9	164.1	147.6	183.1	215.3	242.0	1,105.9
Nevada	431.3	460.0	413.8	513.2	603.4	678.2	3,099.9
New Jersey	513.4	547.5	492.6	610.9	718.3	807.3	3,690.0
New Mexico	304.0	324.1	291.6	361.6	425.2	477.9	2,184.4
New York	2,334.3	2,489.1	2,239.5	2,777.2	3,265.4	3,670.3	16,775.8
North Carolina	545.7	581.9	523.6	649.3	763.4	858.1	3,921.9
North Dakota	39.9	42.6	38.3	47.5	55.9	62.8	287.1
Ohio	783.0	834.9	751.2	931.6	1,095.3	1,231.2	5,627.2
Oklahoma	354.6	378.2	340.2	421.9	496.1	557.6	2,548.7
Pennsylvania	871.2	929.0	835.8	1,036.5	1,218.7	1,369.9	6,261.2
Rhode Island	72.0	76.7	69.0	85.6	100.7	113.1	517.1
South Carolina	315.0	335.9	302.2	374.7	440.6	495.2	2,263.5
South Dakota	72.2	77.0	69.3	85.9	101.0	113.5	519.0
Tennessee	1,047.7	1,117.2	1,005.1	1,246.5	1,465.6	1,647.3	7,529.3
Texas	2,230.4	2,378.3	2,139.8	2,653.6	3,120.0	3,506.9	16,029.1
Utah	224.8	239.7	215.7	267.4	314.5	353.4	1,615.5
Vermont	60.7	64.7	58.2	72.2	84.9	95.4	436.1
Virginia	528.1	563.1	506.7	628.3	738.8	830.4	3,795.4
Washington	753.3	803.2	722.7	896.2	1,053.7	1,184.4	5,413.6
West Virginia	126.0	134.3	120.9	149.9	176.2	198.1	905.4
Wisconsin	360.1	384.0	345.5	428.5	503.8	566.2	2,588.1
Wyoming	70.5	75.2	67.7	83.9	98.7	110.9	506.9
TOTAL	29,176.8	31,112.6	27,992.3	34,713.2	40,815.2	45,876.6	209,686.7

Table 4 reports our estimates of the sales taxes that are actually collected on e-commerce for each state. Again, the collections vary dramatically by state with over \$2.1 billion expected to be collected in New York alone in 2010.

Table 4: Total State and Local Sales and Use Tax Collections on E-Commerce Sales (\$millions)

	Baseline Scenario						Total
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	
Alabama	321.4	342.7	308.3	382.3	449.6	505.3	2,309.6
Alaska	2.8	3.0	2.7	3.4	4.0	4.5	20.4
Arizona	693.0	739.0	664.9	824.5	969.5	1,089.7	4,980.5
Arkansas	213.1	227.2	204.4	253.5	298.1	335.0	1,531.2
California	3,687.1	3,931.7	3,537.4	4,386.7	5,157.9	5,797.5	26,498.4
Colorado	328.1	349.9	314.8	390.4	459.0	515.9	2,358.0
Connecticut	120.7	128.7	115.8	143.6	168.9	189.8	867.5
District of Columbia	67.5	71.9	64.7	80.3	94.4	106.1	484.8
Florida	1,544.8	1,647.3	1,482.0	1,837.9	2,161.0	2,428.9	11,101.8
Georgia	782.6	834.5	750.8	931.1	1,094.8	1,230.5	5,624.4
Hawaii	111.4	118.7	106.8	132.5	155.8	175.1	800.3
Idaho	87.6	93.5	84.1	104.3	122.6	137.8	629.8
Illinois	977.5	1,042.4	937.8	1,163.0	1,367.4	1,537.0	7,025.2
Indiana	373.0	397.7	357.8	443.8	521.8	586.5	2,680.5
Iowa	166.6	177.7	159.9	198.2	233.1	262.0	1,197.5
Kansas	289.1	308.3	277.4	344.0	404.5	454.6	2,077.9
Kentucky	221.6	236.3	212.6	263.7	310.0	348.5	1,592.7
Louisiana	737.3	786.2	707.4	877.2	1,031.4	1,159.3	5,298.9
Maine	60.2	64.2	57.7	71.6	84.2	94.6	432.6
Maryland	350.2	373.4	336.0	416.6	489.9	550.6	2,516.7
Massachusetts	248.2	264.7	238.2	295.3	347.3	390.3	1,784.0
Michigan	270.0	287.9	259.1	321.3	377.7	424.6	1,940.6
Minnesota	440.5	469.7	422.6	524.1	616.2	692.6	3,165.7
Mississippi	252.7	269.4	242.4	300.6	353.4	397.3	1,815.8
Missouri	400.9	427.5	384.6	477.0	560.9	630.4	2,881.4
Nebraska	114.9	122.5	110.2	136.7	160.7	180.6	825.6
Nevada	323.9	345.4	310.8	385.4	453.1	509.3	2,327.8
New Jersey	384.7	410.2	369.1	457.7	538.1	604.8	2,764.5
New Mexico	227.3	242.4	218.1	270.5	318.0	357.5	1,633.9
New York	1,783.8	1,902.2	1,711.4	2,122.3	2,495.4	2,804.9	12,820.1
North Carolina	409.8	436.9	393.1	487.5	573.2	644.3	2,944.8
North Dakota	30.2	32.2	29.0	35.9	42.2	47.5	217.0
Ohio	587.2	626.1	563.3	698.6	821.4	923.2	4,219.7
Oklahoma	265.1	282.7	254.3	315.4	370.8	416.8	1,905.2
Pennsylvania	651.2	694.4	624.8	774.8	911.0	1,024.0	4,680.3
Rhode Island	53.5	57.0	51.3	63.6	74.8	84.1	384.4
South Carolina	235.7	251.4	226.2	280.5	329.8	370.7	1,694.3
South Dakota	53.3	56.8	51.1	63.4	74.5	83.8	382.9
Tennessee	786.4	838.6	754.5	935.6	1,100.1	1,236.5	5,651.6
Texas	1,676.8	1,788.1	1,608.7	1,995.0	2,345.7	2,636.5	12,050.8
Utah	168.5	179.7	161.7	200.5	235.8	265.0	1,211.2
Vermont	44.7	47.7	42.9	53.2	62.5	70.3	321.3
Virginia	396.5	422.8	380.4	471.7	554.6	623.4	2,849.3
Washington	574.0	612.0	550.7	682.9	802.9	902.5	4,124.9
West Virginia	93.8	100.0	90.0	111.6	131.2	147.5	674.0
Wisconsin	269.7	287.6	258.8	320.9	377.3	424.1	1,938.4
Wyoming	52.3	55.8	50.2	62.3	73.2	82.3	376.1
TOTAL	21,931.2	23,386.3	21,040.8	26,092.7	30,679.5	34,483.9	157,614.4

Table 5

contains our estimates of the uncollected taxes, or the losses associated with the inability to collect taxes that are due.

Table 5: Total State and Local Sales and Use Tax Revenue Losses from E-Commerce Sales (\$millions)

	Baseline Scenario						Total
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	
Alabama	108.3	115.5	103.9	128.9	151.6	170.4	778.6
Alaska	1.0	1.0	0.9	1.1	1.3	1.5	6.8
Arizona	235.2	250.8	225.6	279.8	329.0	369.8	1,690.3
Arkansas	72.4	77.2	69.5	86.2	101.3	113.9	520.4
California	1,211.2	1,291.6	1,162.1	1,441.1	1,694.4	1,904.5	8,704.8
Colorado	109.9	117.1	105.4	130.7	153.7	172.7	789.5
Connecticut	40.6	43.2	38.9	48.3	56.7	63.8	291.5
District of Columbia	22.6	24.1	21.7	26.9	31.6	35.5	162.5
Florida	511.2	545.1	490.4	608.2	715.1	803.8	3,673.9
Georgia	260.9	278.2	250.3	310.4	365.0	410.3	1,875.2
Hawaii	38.2	40.7	36.6	45.4	53.4	60.0	274.2
Idaho	29.5	31.4	28.3	35.1	41.2	46.4	211.9
Illinois	322.3	343.7	309.3	383.5	450.9	506.8	2,316.6
Indiana	124.2	132.5	119.2	147.8	173.8	195.3	892.8
Iowa	56.4	60.1	54.1	67.1	78.9	88.7	405.3
Kansas	90.9	96.9	87.2	108.1	127.1	142.9	653.2
Kentucky	69.9	74.6	67.1	83.2	97.8	109.9	502.5
Louisiana	251.8	268.5	241.6	299.6	352.2	395.9	1,809.5
Maine	20.4	21.7	19.6	24.3	28.5	32.1	146.6
Maryland	117.1	124.9	112.4	139.3	163.8	184.1	841.6
Massachusetts	83.5	89.0	80.1	99.3	116.8	131.3	600.0
Michigan	90.0	96.0	86.3	107.1	125.9	141.5	646.7
Minnesota	149.6	159.6	143.6	178.0	209.3	235.3	1,075.3
Mississippi	85.8	91.5	82.3	102.1	120.0	134.9	616.5
Missouri	134.0	142.9	128.6	159.4	187.5	210.7	963.0
Nebraska	39.0	41.6	37.4	46.4	54.6	61.3	280.4
Nevada	107.4	114.6	103.1	127.8	150.3	168.9	772.1
New Jersey	128.8	137.3	123.5	153.2	180.1	202.5	925.5
New Mexico	76.6	81.7	73.5	91.1	107.2	120.5	550.5
New York	550.4	586.9	528.1	654.9	770.0	865.5	3,955.7
North Carolina	136.0	145.0	130.4	161.8	190.2	213.8	977.1
North Dakota	9.8	10.4	9.4	11.6	13.6	15.3	70.1
Ohio	195.8	208.8	187.9	233.0	274.0	307.9	1,407.5
Oklahoma	89.5	95.5	85.9	106.5	125.3	140.8	643.5
Pennsylvania	220.0	234.6	211.0	261.7	307.7	345.9	1,580.9
Rhode Island	18.5	19.7	17.7	22.0	25.8	29.0	132.7
South Carolina	79.2	84.5	76.0	94.2	110.8	124.5	569.3
South Dakota	18.9	20.2	18.2	22.5	26.5	29.8	136.1
Tennessee	261.3	278.6	250.7	310.9	365.5	410.8	1,877.7
Texas	553.6	590.3	531.1	658.6	774.4	870.4	3,978.3
Utah	56.3	60.0	54.0	66.9	78.7	88.5	404.3
Vermont	16.0	17.0	15.3	19.0	22.3	25.1	114.8
Virginia	131.6	140.4	126.3	156.6	184.1	207.0	946.0
Washington	179.3	191.2	172.0	213.3	250.8	281.9	1,288.7
West Virginia	32.2	34.3	30.9	38.3	45.0	50.6	231.4
Wisconsin	90.4	96.4	86.7	107.6	126.5	142.1	649.7
Wyoming	18.2	19.4	17.5	21.6	25.4	28.6	130.7
TOTAL	7,245.6	7,726.3	6,951.4	8,620.4	10,135.8	11,392.7	52,072.2

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Stay Informed

E-Fairness Everywhere:

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- Real World Needs 'Net' Taxes — Lee Gomes, *Wall Street Journal* (May 22, 2008)
- Taxing online retail sales is only fair — Michael Mazerov, *Marketplace*, American Public Media (May 5, 2008)
- 23 States Face Budget Gaps in '09 — Pamela M. Prah, *stateline.org* (April 25, 2008)
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- Tax on Internet Sales is Already the Law Here — Letter to the Editor of the *Wall Street Journal* by James R. Sherin, President and CEO, Retail Council of New York State (February 27, 2008)
- Amazon Plays Dumb in Internet Sales Tax Debate — Saul Hansell, *New York Times* (February 13, 2008)
- Point, Click, Pay Tax — Janet Novack, *Forbes* (November 28, 2007)

E-Fairness Advocates and Resources

Organizations devoted to promoting equitable enforcement of sales tax laws.

- **The E-Fairness Coalition**
ABA is a partner in the Coalition, which advocates fairness for consumers and retailers large and small, bricks-and-mortar and online, nationwide.
- **Multistate Tax Commission**
An intergovernmental state tax agency that works to administer tax laws that apply to multistate and multinational enterprises.
- **Streamlined Sales Tax Governing Board**
Assists states as they administer a simpler and more uniform sales and use tax system.