

REVENUE TRENDS – OCTOBER 2003

October state tax collections from all revenue sources amounted to \$321.9 million, an increase of \$44.1 million or 15.9% when compared with the previous October. This increase brought cumulative state tax collections for the first four months of the 2003-2004 fiscal year to \$1,303.4 million, \$59.3 million more than the amount collected for the same four months the previous year.

A strong October resulted in a \$24.4 million increase in general excise and use taxes, the state's largest revenue source. This increase pushed cumulative fiscal year collections from this source 4.1% ahead of the amount collected during the corresponding period the prior year.

Also strong in October was individual income tax revenue, which rose by \$17.6 million, thanks to substantial increases in estimated taxes and withholding taxes coupled with a sizable decline in refunds. October's increase propelled cumulative fiscal year revenue from this source \$25.6 million or 7.3% ahead of the previous year's pace.

A \$5.3 million increase in employment security contributions was largely due to a change to a higher employer contribution schedule for calendar 2003. Meanwhile, a sharp drop in franchise taxes resulted from fluctuation in the timing of payments.

STATE GENERAL FUND

Tax collections accruing to the state general fund for the month of October totaled \$272.7 million, \$36.8 million or 15.6% more than the amount that accrued the previous October.

Cumulative general fund accruals for the first four months of fiscal 2003-2004 amounted to \$1,091.9 million, an increase of \$35.7 million or 3.4% when compared with the same period the prior fiscal year. The Council on Revenues has projected a 6.2% increase in general fund accruals for the full fiscal year.

