

TAXES ON FARM PROPERTY IN THE UNITED STATES

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INTRODUCTION

In periods when the proportion of the public's income which is required for the support of government and all its attendant services increases rapidly, the whole public revenue system is apt to be studied and criticized. Therefore, at the present time, any data which bear upon the subject of taxes should be opportune and particularly so if such data point out either the equalities and inequalities in the whole system of taxation or if they indicate strong or weak administration of that form of tax, the general property tax, which contributes most of the local public revenues and also, in many States, contributes a substantial portion of the taxes collected for the support of State governments.

This study, presented by the Bureau of the Census,¹ is limited in the main to "Taxes on Farm Property" and most of the data herein have been obtained as a part of the 1930 general agricultural census, taken as of April 1 in that year. The tax figures, with few exceptions, are those for the calendar year 1929. In a few cases supplemental information from other sources is given in order to make fuller use of the census figures.

Some of the data assembled in this bulletin are given for the United States as a whole and for each of the individual States, with some of the State totals subdivided into district totals, but the bulk of the remaining data are given for 100 selected counties grouped in somewhat definite areas in 11 States. In some States the different groups of counties were selected to represent different type-of-farming areas, in others to represent good farming areas as distinct from poorer areas, while the whole selection, with several exceptions, was made with the idea of keeping at a minimum urban influence on both farm values and taxes. The principal purpose of the data for the 100 selected counties was to confirm or disprove the theory that the ratio of real-estate taxes paid to the value of farm real estate declined progressively as the value of the farms increased. In economic parlance such phenomenon is termed "regression." Two other tests were made to ascertain if regression is present when the same farms were arrayed according to size as measured by total acreage in the individual farms or when they were arrayed according to average value of land and buildings per acre. Whether or not the results for the 100 selected counties are fairly representative of all counties in general depends upon the uniformity of the results. It is the hope of those responsible for this study that the facts presented will be of basic importance to governing bodies, tax officials, students, and other citizens who are engaged in scrutinizing the tax system and incidence of each form of tax. However, it is not within the scope of this study to outline methods for improving that part of the fiscal activities of government which is concerned with securing revenue from taxes.

For the present it will suffice to mention that this contribution deals with general property taxes and certain special assessments. A distinction between taxes, in the ordinary or narrower sense, and special assessments, as made by Seligman, is

¹ In the preparation of this study frequent consultations were had with the staff of the Division of Agricultural Finance of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the United States Department of Agriculture. These consultations have greatly assisted in determining the material to be included.

quoted in part: "Taxes * * * are compulsory contributions levied to defray the expenses incurred in the common interest, without any reference to particular advantages accruing to the taxpayer; but in special assessments, as in fees, the services for which the expenses are incurred redound to the particular benefit of the individual. The primary test of a tax is that it imposes a common burden: The primary test of a special assessment is that it implies a special benefit."¹

The general property tax, as the term implies, is the common designation for a direct tax on property in general, that is, on real and personal property considered as a homogeneous whole. Amplifying what has been said in the preceding paragraph, special assessments are compulsory contributions imposed by proper authority, in proportion to assumed benefits, to defray the costs of specific public improvements or public services undertaken primarily in the interest of the public. Levies to meet costs of road construction and maintenance, and for other improvements and services against the benefited properties, or persons, come under this classification. A more complete discussion of the taxes and special assessments included in this report will be given in Chapter I where the census inquiries and accompanying instructions are given and explained in detail.

It is a well-known fact that, in most sections of the country, the general property tax has become almost wholly a tax on tangible property. Therefore, wherever the general property tax supplies the major portion of tax revenues the burden of the support of governmental functions is largely borne by those who possess tangible property. As the three main classes of agricultural property—namely, real estate, implements and machinery, and livestock, comprising nearly the whole of the wealth of agriculture, are tangible property, the setting for this study on "Taxes on Farm Property" is not complete until it is known what proportion the general property tax forms of the farmers' tax bill, the extent to which the general property tax is the mainstay of the public tax revenue system, and finally, the functional distribution of governmental expenditures.

Percentage distribution of the tax bill of farmers.—The most recent figures from a Government source, showing the percentage distribution of the tax bill of farmers, are those made by the United States Department of Agriculture for the year 1927 as presented in Technical Bulletin No. 172. The percentages as given in that publication for the year mentioned, were as follows: General property taxes, 83.8 per cent; gasoline taxes, 7.2 per cent; automobile-license fees, 5.5 per cent; Federal and State income taxes, 1.7 per cent; Federal and State inheritance taxes, 1.1 per cent; and poll taxes, 0.7 per cent. For this distribution, taxes paid by farmers on other than farm property were not included; taxes on farm property paid by owners of farm property not themselves farmers were included; while no attempt was made to estimate the amount of taxes that were shifted to the farmer by other groups or the amount that the farmer was able to shift to others.

From 1927 to 1929 it is probable that there were increases in the amounts paid for general property taxes, gasoline taxes, and automobile-license fees, and if the percentages quoted above were representative of conditions in 1927 they, no doubt, were still fairly representative of conditions in 1929. The general property tax, then, is the most important direct contribution that the farmer makes to defray the costs of government since, as shown by the foregoing figures, about 84 cents of his tax dollar are paid as a direct tax on his real estate, implements and machinery, and livestock.

Federal tax revenues.—The Federal Government does not make tax levies on an annual continuing basis on property as such, though of course, certain excise taxes, income taxes, inheritance taxes, or other taxes may be levied at some point against the owner of property which is used, or is to be used, in agricultural pro-

¹ Essays in Taxation, ninth edition, p. 415.

duction. In recent years the Federal Government has depended mainly on three sources of tax revenue, namely, (1) corporation and personal income taxes, (2) customs receipts, and (3) sumptuary excises (which include taxes on spirits, fermented liquors, tobacco, oleomargarine, opium, and narcotics). Therefore, the owners of capital used in agricultural production are more concerned with tax levies made by State or local governmental divisions.

State tax revenues.—Statistics for revenue receipts of State governments are secured annually by the Census Bureau and a segregation is made of that part of the receipts secured from taxes. These data for the different fiscal years are given in successive annual reports of the Bureau entitled, "Financial Statistics of States." The tax revenues of all State governments combined, for the fiscal year 1929, amounted to \$1,611,961,120, of which \$350,233,237 or 21.7 per cent was derived from the general property tax.

The total tax receipts, by source, of the individual States for the fiscal year 1929 are shown in Table 1 and the percentages which each source of tax revenue formed of the total tax revenue for each respective State are presented in Table 2. Quoting from the 1929 report: "Two States, Pennsylvania and North Carolina, reported no receipts from the general property tax in 1929; Delaware and California reported only receipts from levies of prior years; Ohio levied it only for the payment of maturing soldier-bonus bonds and public-building funds; and New York imposed it only for judicial and armory expenses. Several States reported relatively small amounts from this source, while in others the receipts from this tax constitute by far the larger portion of their total revenues. These facts indicate the varying degree to which States depend upon the general property tax for revenue." The percentages in Table 2, representing the proportion of tax revenue derived from general property taxes, may shed some light on the comparative average real-estate taxes per \$100 of value of farm land and buildings among the several States as presented in Chapters I and II.

Local tax revenues.—The amount of local tax revenues has not been secured by the Census Bureau since the year 1922, though at the present time the decennial compilation is under way covering the year 1931. In the former year, revenues of local governmental divisions derived from general property taxes represented 97.3 per cent of all tax revenues. More recent figures for the fiscal years 1928, 1929, and 1930 have been compiled and published by the National Industrial Conference Board (Inc.), in its report entitled "Cost of Government in the United States, 1929-1930." The sources of the data in this last-mentioned publication are fully given in the appendix thereto. According to this report, local tax revenues in 1929 amounted to \$4,818,872,000, which is almost exactly three times the amount of taxes collected by States in the same year. Out of the total tax revenues collected by local governments in 1929, property taxes¹ contributed \$4,446,940,000, or 92.3 per cent.

Table 3 presents, for the several States, the total local tax revenues, by source, with a percentage distribution of the same. Property taxes comprised three-fourths or more of all local tax revenues in every State. The smallest percentage from this source was 75.6 for Alabama and the highest was 98.8 for Oregon.

Functional distribution of State and local expenditures.—It remains to be shown for what purposes State and local expenditures are made. In the Census Bureau's report, "Financial Statistics of States—1929," two State tables are presented, one showing the governmental-cost payments for operation and maintenance of general departments and the other showing payments for outlays by principal divisions of governmental service. Similar distributions of expenditures for local governmental divisions have not been secured by this bureau. However, the expenditures of local governmental units in 1929 for the United States as a whole,

¹ Including general property taxes and apparently special property taxes, but omitting special assessments.

but not for individual States, have been computed by the National Industrial Conference Board.¹ These local expenditures, together with a combination of the census figures for the two general classes of State expenditures, as compiled by that organization, are given in Table 4. According to the percentage relationships shown therein, the largest expenditure made by State governments was for highways, followed by educational requirements, while for local governmental units education represented the largest single item. Expenditures for highways and education together made up 62.3 per cent of State expenditures and 43.4 per cent of local expenditures.

Relation of taxes to income.—The actual burden of taxes is closely related to one's income. Thus, if there is an increase in taxes when incomes are increasing less rapidly, or are constant, or declining, or if both taxes and incomes are declining with the latter declining more rapidly the tax burden becomes heavier. On the other hand, if there is a decrease in taxes when incomes are decreasing less rapidly, or are constant, or increasing, or if both taxes and incomes are increasing with the latter increasing more rapidly, the tax burden tends to become lighter. In recent years, a sharp falling off in agricultural income, as well as in national income, resulting from business depression and price declines, has caused the burden of support of government to weigh considerably more heavily on the various groups of people than it did in periods of general prosperity. The value of this study would be increased many times if the relationship between taxes and net income for agriculture were available for different years and could be compared with identical percentages for other groups of society.² Unfortunately, the census data are not that extensive, though figures are presented for cash-rented farms showing the proportion of gross rent required for real-estate taxes on the same farms.

Assessment of farm property.—The breakdown in the administration of the general property tax is of general knowledge though, as shown, this form of tax continues to hold foremost rank as a tax-revenue producer. Through the failure of administering officials to ascertain the existence of many kinds of property, coupled with the inequalities of assessment, this tax has largely become a tax on tangible property. Since the property of agricultural producers is on the whole of a rather visible nature a high proportion of agriculture's wealth is recorded on the assessors' books.

Does the lack of certainty and precision in assessment found among different classes of property prevail when farm property alone is considered? If so, to what causes can the differences in ratio of assessment to full value be attributed? Some of the factual data presented later may answer these questions at least in so far as farm real estate is concerned. However, in the case of personal property, varying exemption laws and lack of separation of the tax data for each class of property forbid a detailed study of assessments.

Text discussion of census inquiries and tabular material.—As the primary purpose of this bulletin is to make available to the public in general tax data collected by the Bureau of the Census, the discussion in the chapters following

¹ "Cost of Government in the United States, 1929-1930."

² For those who are interested in this question, it should be pointed out that the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the United States Department of Agriculture has published for the years 1909-1931, inclusive, the percentage of gross agricultural income required for property taxes, which, of course, differs materially from the proportion of net agricultural income required for property taxes. (Mimeographed release dated July, 1932, entitled "Tentative Estimates of Gross Income from Farm Production, Current Value of Agricultural Capital, and Selected Expenditures, 1909-1931.")

will deal first with the census inquiries and their limitations, then with the basic figures, and finally with certain computed data based on the actual returns. Brief comment will be made on the most significant figures, while reference to other data will be made only where necessary to explain unusual conditions.

Some of the tabular material is given in considerable detail, that is, with very narrow class intervals, which method of presentation affords students of taxation an opportunity to make other combinations desired. The tables and maps are presented in each chapter to which the text applies. Though visual presentation by maps has been confined largely to the percentage of cash rents required for taxes it is not considered that other data are of less importance.

TAXES ON FARM PROPERTY

TABLE I.—SOURCES OF STATE TAX REVENUES, BY DIVISIONS AND STATES:
FISCAL YEAR 1929

DIVISION AND STATE	Total tax revenues	General property taxes	Special property taxes ¹	Inheritance taxes	Income taxes	Other special taxes ²
United States.....	\$1,811,961,120	\$350,233,237	\$108,850,580	\$148,591,827	\$74,595,414	\$89,175,835
GEOGRAPHIC DIVISIONS:						
New England.....	124,553,255	20,530,247	18,791,772	22,130,789	604,636	2,157,766
Middle Atlantic.....	430,301,515	51,733,310	52,881,637	72,283,472	41,760,137	49,627,905
East North Central.....	277,518,012	74,963,049	15,465,929	20,049,713	8,007,454	5,044,410
West North Central.....	171,832,994	56,786,709	2,351,999	6,214,059	4,916,900	1,404,196
South Atlantic.....	182,266,597	20,406,193	5,009,730	7,633,935	16,801,367	6,992,397
East South Central.....	84,193,912	28,323,619	2,272,047	1,610,132	1,663,723	1,319,494
West South Central.....	138,448,757	43,867,937	2,834,914	2,671,530	721,053	969,605
Mountain.....	52,675,632	25,753,715	29,213	1,593,911	-----	1,065,366
Pacific.....	141,160,846	18,862,408	9,153,349	14,404,286	108	593,696
NEW ENGLAND:						
Maine.....	15,343,090	4,848,034	1,002,591	922,034	-----	110,161
New Hampshire.....	7,829,700	2,850,408	99,610	384,734	-----	21,998
Vermont.....	7,212,421	1,188,413	1,425,084	501,649	-----	21,944
Massachusetts.....	50,234,841	8,500,000	9,402,253	12,082,312	604,636	1,517,811
Rhode Island.....	13,993,861	1,231,975	2,721,940	4,661,412	-----	108,789
Connecticut.....	20,939,333	1,908,417	4,170,394	3,578,048	-----	377,063
MIDDLE ATLANTIC:						
New York.....	240,202,077	14,690,598	10,905,555	47,221,127	41,760,107	46,364,311
New Jersey.....	74,868,504	37,042,712	3,812,627	7,536,279	-----	620,521
Pennsylvania.....	124,200,934	-----	38,163,155	17,526,066	-----	2,643,073
EAST NORTH CENTRAL:						
Ohio.....	58,674,968	3,795,629	5,725,527	2,969,498	-----	1,547,529
Indiana.....	37,019,726	11,723,640	96,235	1,213,050	-----	454,604
Illinois.....	58,271,194	17,017,032	2,775,187	9,820,870	-----	1,118,926
Michigan.....	80,343,446	32,433,746	6,868,080	3,324,566	-----	1,651,171
Wisconsin.....	43,209,278	9,993,002	-----	2,721,720	8,067,464	272,180
WEST NORTH CENTRAL:						
Minnesota.....	45,808,790	13,950,239	-----	1,554,103	-----	170,414
Iowa.....	29,498,344	9,708,673	-----	1,105,383	-----	100,543
Missouri.....	37,877,147	6,825,920	2,348,492	2,729,625	4,252,440	490,265
North Dakota.....	7,917,538	3,579,419	3,404	36,369	664,460	9,845
South Dakota.....	11,118,644	4,899,732	-----	192,948	-----	23,114
Nebraska.....	14,926,626	7,758,663	-----	-----	-----	170,703
Kansas.....	24,685,905	10,064,063	103	595,631	-----	439,312
SOUTH ATLANTIC:						
Delaware.....	13,068,678	400,826	2,830,664	2,578,275	2,131,181	2,757,640
Maryland.....	21,332,274	6,556,364	844,127	882,276	-----	328,887
District of Columbia.....	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Virginia.....	34,003,778	4,877,678	-----	923,589	4,950,935	1,522,171
West Virginia.....	10,721,248	2,914,640	-----	1,277,602	-----	1,089,625
North Carolina.....	31,841,524	-----	917,623	922,172	7,653,759	158,941
South Carolina.....	18,314,201	2,219,518	406,793	355,030	2,065,492	409,676
Georgia.....	23,329,735	6,755,152	-----	696,991	-----	119,661
Florida.....	20,655,159	5,682,015	61,523	-----	-----	306,796
EAST SOUTH CENTRAL:						
Kentucky.....	27,239,596	10,724,144	426,806	1,011,143	-----	132,565
Tennessee.....	21,167,092	3,714,411	47,041	534,217	-----	657,849
Alabama.....	22,357,519	7,830,879	1,611,002	-----	-----	436,869
Mississippi.....	13,429,705	6,054,185	187,198	64,772	1,663,723	92,211
WEST SOUTH CENTRAL:						
Arkansas.....	18,480,045	5,624,977	458,927	312,217	-----	677,353
Louisiana.....	26,309,763	10,096,936	-----	698,232	-----	61,270
Oklahoma.....	21,676,696	3,260,115	406,445	413,988	721,053	230,982
Texas.....	71,922,253	24,885,959	1,969,872	1,247,093	-----	-----
MOUNTAIN:						
Montana.....	6,613,005	1,944,651	-----	154,444	-----	207,985
Idaho.....	4,700,999	2,034,049	-----	31,202	-----	113,138
Wyoming.....	3,841,989	1,731,016	-----	102,355	-----	43,429
Colorado.....	13,192,770	5,624,518	-----	919,984	-----	274,847
New Mexico.....	5,607,925	2,483,471	27,015	36,811	-----	31,149
Arizona.....	7,929,401	5,331,327	-----	80,197	-----	115,061
Utah.....	8,323,207	5,157,721	-----	268,918	-----	123,447
Nevada.....	2,466,336	1,446,962	2,198	-----	-----	157,310
PACIFIC:						
Washington.....	27,567,287	13,352,680	-----	679,606	-----	172,581
Oregon.....	19,843,543	5,500,303	-----	544,454	108	421,115
California.....	93,729,016	9,420	9,153,349	13,180,226	-----	-----

¹ Mostly taxes on the property of corporations, levied upon the basis of the amount of corporate stock, corporate indebtedness, or both corporate stock and indebtedness, or on any basis other than an assessed valuation applied to all property of the corporation; taxes upon savings banks and kindred corporations, which are levied in proportion to a certain specified proportion of deposits, etc. For a complete description see pp. 5-6, Financial Statistics of States, 1929.

² These are derived chiefly from incorporation or organization taxes; from certain filing fees, when imposed as a revenue measure, etc. See p. 17, Financial Statistics of States, 1929.

TAXES ON FARM PROPERTY

TABLE 1.—SOURCES OF STATE TAX REVENUES, BY DIVISIONS AND STATES:
FISCAL YEAR 1929—Continued

DIVISION AND STATE	Poll taxes	Motor-fuel taxes	Motor-vehicle licenses	Business licenses ³	Non-business licenses ⁴	Permits ⁴
United States.....	\$3,542,204	\$282,578,977	\$287,070,266	\$272,870,807	\$14,132,518	\$313,445
GEOGRAPHIC DIVISIONS:						
New England.....	48,437	18,596,001	23,640,926	16,862,807	1,066,309	57,565
Middle Atlantic.....	2,584	28,746,240	71,767,952	67,287,768	3,191,705	21,359
East North Central.....	636,991	55,322,428	55,593,660	39,697,006	2,647,900	60,072
West North Central.....	1,311,087	32,853,505	39,593,065	25,810,973	1,919,891	11,751
South Atlantic.....	1,545,602	49,282,443	31,241,819	32,969,474	1,476,312	131,900
East South Central.....	1,545,602	19,588,370	12,787,887	16,269,045	356,733	2,862
West South Central.....	1,545,602	33,484,933	27,036,113	24,506,930	796,767	20,223
Mountain.....	87	15,289,693	4,144,800	3,573,810	1,140,861	13,713
Pacific.....	87	20,466,264	21,299,984	45,833,564	1,556,110	-----
NEW ENGLAND:						
Maine.....	3,830	3,006,645	2,916,615	2,411,336	121,893	-----
New Hampshire.....	2,584	1,907,494	1,927,203	487,837	168,842	-----
Vermont.....	42,023	1,157,155	2,337,200	432,733	106,036	94
Massachusetts.....	7,417,078	6,550,490	3,813,680	260,107	17,574	-----
Rhode Island.....	1,441,123	2,445,355	1,343,560	39,712	-----	-----
Connecticut.....	3,666,501	7,463,893	8,373,771	360,759	39,897	-----
MIDDLE ATLANTIC:						
New York.....	-----	29,471,907	48,910,376	851,637	20,099	-----
New Jersey.....	-----	8,808,518	14,507,793	2,277,594	291,200	1,260
Pennsylvania.....	-----	19,937,722	27,788,252	10,093,768	2,048,868	-----
EAST NORTH CENTRAL:						
Ohio.....	-----	19,631,241	6,618,018	17,549,619	626,921	10,086
Indiana.....	636,991	14,033,711	4,817,298	3,462,465	351,549	153
Illinois.....	-----	16,419,717	10,654,807	450,014	14,632	-----
Michigan.....	-----	14,461,396	16,085,209	4,609,634	908,117	1,027
Wisconsin.....	-----	6,896,080	11,053,418	3,160,551	411,290	33,574
WEST NORTH CENTRAL:						
Minnesota.....	-----	3,678,105	10,738,300	15,185,171	532,458	-----
Iowa.....	-----	4,931,900	10,371,233	3,098,520	181,962	-----
Missouri.....	-----	8,136,623	9,673,935	3,055,771	364,076	-----
North Dakota.....	-----	1,490,000	1,196,681	884,705	72,649	-----
South Dakota.....	-----	3,172,608	1,619,930	977,072	221,489	11,751
Nebraska.....	-----	4,720,965	1,366,682	701,830	207,783	-----
Kansas.....	-----	6,723,304	4,596,174	1,927,904	339,414	-----
SOUTH ATLANTIC:						
Delaware.....	-----	841,081	1,075,147	409,641	34,360	2,863
Maryland.....	-----	4,970,386	2,130,079	5,475,252	144,313	-----
District of Columbia.....	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Virginia.....	638,190	6,885,204	5,665,059	8,694,149	313,521	43,282
West Virginia.....	337,726	4,463,860	4,321,370	5,087,455	209,083	19,878
North Carolina.....	-----	10,719,634	6,862,261	4,234,231	307,392	66,511
South Carolina.....	-----	5,227,064	2,851,614	4,690,579	88,435	-----
Georgia.....	335,171	7,678,994	4,567,860	2,768,610	106,929	360
Florida.....	-----	8,966,220	3,777,829	1,609,497	252,279	-----
EAST SOUTH CENTRAL:						
Kentucky.....	-----	6,969,116	5,170,669	2,647,431	157,722	-----
Tennessee.....	-----	6,342,809	4,368,976	5,432,892	78,897	-----
Alabama.....	-----	3,514,990	2,995,323	5,845,480	120,114	2,862
Mississippi.....	-----	2,771,455	262,919	2,333,242	-----	-----
WEST SOUTH CENTRAL:						
Arkansas.....	-----	5,333,556	4,005,641	1,903,588	143,893	20,223
Louisiana.....	-----	6,450,079	4,457,180	4,452,071	153,966	-----
Oklahoma.....	-----	5,693,733	3,125,000	7,604,942	220,433	-----
Texas.....	1,545,602	16,006,660	15,442,292	10,546,329	278,446	-----
MOUNTAIN:						
Montana.....	-----	2,661,975	-----	1,458,828	182,600	2,622
Idaho.....	-----	1,828,027	220,654	277,315	196,584	-----
Wyoming.....	-----	1,000,879	652,540	147,024	158,663	6,083
Colorado.....	-----	4,162,842	1,017,362	898,810	280,393	5,008
New Mexico.....	-----	2,219,465	545,026	156,032	108,656	-----
Arizona.....	-----	1,399,773	648,406	280,148	68,486	-----
Utah.....	-----	1,474,045	764,342	398,565	136,169	-----
Nevada.....	-----	512,784	296,530	50,552	-----	-----
PACIFIC:						
Washington.....	-----	4,245,237	7,011,103	2,013,425	122,655	-----
Oregon.....	-----	4,639,226	7,428,614	941,672	368,046	-----
California.....	87	20,581,801	6,860,267	42,878,457	1,065,409	-----

³ Business taxes are taxes upon business and business activities exacted, with or without the issue of licenses, from persons natural and corporate in proportion to the volume of their business or by reason of the business in which they are engaged.

⁴ For nonbusiness licenses and permits see p. 6, Financial Statistics of States, 1929.

TABLE 2.—PER CENT DISTRIBUTION OF STATE TAX REVENUES, BY SOURCE, BY DIVISIONS AND STATES: FISCAL YEAR 1929

[All percentages based on receipts from taxes as shown in Table 1. Total amount of tax revenues, exclusive of special assessments and special charges, equals 100 per cent.]

DIVISION AND STATE	General property taxes	Special property taxes	Inheritance taxes	Income taxes	Other special taxes	Poll taxes	Motor-fuel taxes	Motor-vehicle licenses	Business licenses	Non-business licenses	Permits
United States.....	21.73	6.75	9.22	4.69	4.29	0.22	17.53	17.81	16.93	0.88	0.02
GEOGRAPHIC DIVISIONS:											
New England.....	16.49	15.09	17.77	0.53	1.73	0.04	14.93	18.98	13.54	0.86	0.05
Middle Atlantic.....	11.78	12.04	16.45	9.51	11.30	-----	6.54	16.94	15.32	0.73	(1)
East North Central.....	27.01	5.57	7.22	2.91	1.82	0.23	18.93	20.03	14.29	0.95	0.02
West North Central.....	33.05	1.37	3.62	2.86	0.82	-----	10.12	23.02	15.02	1.12	0.01
South Atlantic.....	16.13	2.78	4.19	0.22	3.84	0.72	37.02	17.14	13.09	0.80	0.07
East South Central.....	33.04	2.70	1.91	1.98	1.57	-----	23.23	15.10	19.31	0.42	(1)
West South Central.....	31.69	2.05	1.93	0.52	1.70	1.12	24.19	19.52	17.70	0.58	0.01
Mountain.....	48.89	0.06	3.03	2.02	2.02	-----	28.97	7.87	6.97	2.17	0.03
Pacific.....	13.36	6.48	10.20	(1)	0.42	(1)	20.87	15.09	32.47	1.10	-----
NEW ENGLAND:											
Maine.....	31.60	6.53	6.01	-----	0.72	0.02	19.60	19.01	15.72	0.79	-----
New Hampshire.....	38.52	0.89	4.91	-----	0.28	0.03	24.36	24.62	8.23	2.16	-----
Vermont.....	16.48	10.76	6.96	-----	0.30	0.58	16.04	32.41	8.00	1.47	(1)
Massachusetts.....	16.92	18.72	24.05	1.32	3.02	-----	14.76	13.04	7.59	0.54	0.03
Rhode Island.....	8.80	19.45	33.31	-----	0.78	-----	10.30	17.47	9.60	0.28	-----
Connecticut.....	6.37	13.93	11.95	-----	1.26	-----	12.25	24.93	27.97	1.20	0.13
MIDDLE ATLANTIC:											
New York.....	6.12	4.54	19.66	17.39	16.30	-----	-----	12.27	20.36	0.35	0.01
New Jersey.....	49.46	5.09	10.06	-----	0.83	-----	11.76	10.37	3.04	0.39	(1)
Pennsylvania.....	-----	30.73	14.11	-----	2.13	-----	16.05	22.37	12.96	1.65	-----
EAST NORTH CENTRAL:											
Ohio.....	6.47	9.76	5.06	-----	2.64	-----	33.97	11.28	20.91	0.90	0.02
Indiana.....	31.67	0.26	3.28	-----	1.23	1.72	37.91	13.01	9.07	0.95	(1)
Illinois.....	29.20	4.78	16.85	-----	1.92	-----	-----	28.18	18.28	0.77	0.03
Michigan.....	40.37	8.55	4.14	-----	2.06	-----	18.00	20.02	5.74	1.13	(1)
Wisconsin.....	23.13	-----	6.30	18.67	0.63	-----	15.96	26.97	7.31	0.95	0.08
WEST NORTH CENTRAL:											
Minnesota.....	30.45	-----	3.39	-----	0.37	-----	8.03	23.44	33.15	1.16	(1)
Iowa.....	32.91	-----	3.75	-----	0.34	-----	16.72	35.16	10.50	0.62	(1)
Missouri.....	18.02	6.20	7.21	11.23	1.29	-----	21.48	25.54	8.07	0.96	(1)
North Dakota.....	45.21	0.04	0.46	8.39	0.12	-----	18.82	15.11	10.92	0.92	(1)
South Dakota.....	44.07	-----	1.74	-----	0.21	-----	28.53	14.67	8.79	1.09	0.11
Nebraska.....	51.98	-----	-----	-----	1.14	-----	31.63	9.16	4.70	1.39	-----
Kansas.....	40.77	(1)	2.41	-----	1.78	-----	27.24	18.62	7.81	1.37	-----
SOUTH ATLANTIC:											
Delaware.....	3.07	21.73	19.71	16.31	21.10	-----	6.44	8.23	3.13	0.26	0.02
Maryland.....	30.73	3.96	4.14	-----	1.54	-----	23.30	9.99	25.67	0.68	(1)
Dist. of Columbia.....	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Virginia.....	14.34	-----	2.72	14.50	4.48	1.88	18.78	16.63	25.57	0.92	0.13
West Virginia.....	14.78	-----	6.48	-----	5.53	1.71	22.63	21.91	25.80	1.06	0.10
North Carolina.....	-----	2.88	2.90	24.04	0.50	-----	33.67	21.55	13.30	0.97	0.21
South Carolina.....	12.12	2.22	1.94	11.28	2.24	-----	28.54	15.57	25.61	0.48	-----
Georgia.....	28.96	-----	2.09	-----	1.80	1.44	32.92	19.58	11.87	0.46	(1)
Florida.....	27.51	0.30	-----	-----	1.48	-----	43.41	18.29	7.79	1.22	-----
EAST SOUTH CENTRAL:											
Kentucky.....	39.37	1.57	3.71	-----	0.40	-----	25.58	18.08	0.72	0.58	-----
Tennessee.....	17.55	0.22	2.52	-----	3.11	-----	29.97	20.59	25.67	0.37	-----
Alabama.....	35.03	7.21	-----	-----	1.95	-----	15.72	13.40	26.15	0.54	0.01
Mississippi.....	45.08	1.39	0.48	12.39	0.69	-----	20.04	1.96	17.37	-----	-----
WEST SOUTH CENTRAL:											
Arkansas.....	30.44	2.43	1.69	-----	3.07	-----	28.86	21.68	10.30	0.78	0.11
Louisiana.....	38.29	-----	2.65	-----	0.23	-----	24.46	16.90	16.88	0.58	-----
Oklahoma.....	15.04	1.88	1.91	3.33	1.07	-----	26.27	14.42	35.08	1.02	-----
Texas.....	34.60	2.74	1.73	-----	-----	2.15	22.26	21.47	14.60	0.39	-----
MOUNTAIN:											
Montana.....	29.41	-----	2.34	-----	3.15	-----	40.25	-----	22.06	2.78	0.04
Idaho.....	43.27	-----	0.66	-----	2.41	-----	38.89	4.89	5.90	4.16	-----
Wyoming.....	45.06	-----	2.66	-----	1.13	-----	26.05	16.98	3.83	4.13	0.16
Colorado.....	42.63	-----	6.97	-----	2.08	-----	31.55	7.71	6.81	2.19	0.04
New Mexico.....	44.29	0.48	0.66	-----	0.56	-----	39.58	9.72	2.78	1.94	-----
Arizona.....	67.23	-----	1.01	-----	1.45	-----	17.65	8.18	3.61	0.80	-----
Utah.....	61.97	-----	3.23	-----	1.48	-----	17.71	9.18	4.79	1.64	-----
Nevada.....	58.67	0.09	-----	-----	6.38	-----	20.79	12.02	2.05	-----	-----
PACIFIC:											
Washington.....	48.38	-----	2.46	-----	0.63	-----	15.38	25.41	7.30	0.44	-----
Oregon.....	27.72	-----	2.74	(1)	2.12	-----	23.38	37.44	4.75	1.85	-----
California.....	0.01	9.77	14.06	-----	-----	(1)	21.96	7.32	45.75	1.14	-----

1 Less than 0.005 per cent.

TAXES ON FARM PROPERTY

TABLE 3.—SOURCES OF LOCAL TAX REVENUES, WITH PER CENT DISTRIBUTION, BY DIVISIONS AND STATES: FISCAL YEAR 1929

[Source: National Industrial Conference Board]

DIVISION AND STATE	AMOUNT OF LOCAL TAX REVENUES (Totals expressed in thousands)				PER CENT DISTRIBUTION, BY SOURCE		
	Total	Property taxes ¹	Other taxes	Licenses and permits	Property taxes	Other taxes	Licenses and permits
United States.....	\$4, 618, 872	\$4, 446, 940	\$158, 113	\$212, 819	92.28	3.30	4.42
GEOGRAPHIC DIVISIONS:							
New England.....	392, 729	333, 034	55, 078	3, 417	84.95	14.18	0.87
Middle Atlantic.....	1, 375, 870	1, 270, 705	75, 683	29, 392	92.30	5.50	2.14
East North Central.....	1, 120, 691	1, 047, 921	15, 295	57, 475	93.51	1.30	5.13
West North Central.....	516, 678	489, 561	3, 486	23, 541	94.77	0.67	4.66
South Atlantic.....	390, 038	360, 233	2, 997	27, 408	92.22	0.77	7.02
East South Central.....	171, 880	148, 864	3, 144	19, 889	86.00	1.83	11.57
West South Central.....	267, 001	243, 773	2, 070	21, 159	91.30	0.78	7.92
Mountain.....	145, 549	135, 617	760	9, 172	93.18	0.52	6.30
Pacific.....	437, 930	416, 502	-----	21, 368	95.12	-----	4.88
NEW ENGLAND:							
Maine.....	24, 085	23, 254	652	180	96.55	2.71	0.75
New Hampshire.....	18, 630	16, 074	1, 700	756	86.75	9.17	4.08
Vermont.....	10, 487	9, 827	616	44	93.71	5.87	0.42
Massachusetts.....	244, 842	192, 540	51, 076	1, 225	78.04	20.80	0.60
Rhode Island.....	24, 429	24, 012	167	250	98.29	0.68	1.02
Connecticut.....	70, 356	67, 926	1, 408	961	96.55	2.09	1.37
MIDDLE ATLANTIC:							
New York.....	783, 690	699, 616	70, 515	13, 458	80.28	9.00	1.72
New Jersey.....	239, 943	232, 601	654	6, 688	96.94	0.27	2.79
Pennsylvania.....	352, 338	338, 578	4, 514	9, 245	96.09	1.28	2.62
EAST NORTH CENTRAL:							
Ohio.....	307, 586	283, 540	2, 909	21, 077	92.18	0.97	6.85
Indiana.....	128, 119	124, 713	757	2, 649	97.34	0.50	2.07
Illinois.....	309, 893	292, 102	274	17, 018	94.41	0.09	5.50
Michigan.....	243, 564	228, 011	1, 242	14, 401	93.58	0.51	5.91
Wisconsin.....	131, 937	119, 556	10, 053	2, 329	90.62	7.62	1.77
WEST NORTH CENTRAL:							
Minnesota.....	112, 798	110, 725	575	1, 499	98.16	0.51	1.33
Iowa.....	100, 199	93, 235	768	6, 196	93.05	0.77	6.18
Missouri.....	107, 848	101, 683	268	5, 898	94.72	0.25	5.03
North Dakota.....	27, 048	26, 587	490	865	95.13	1.77	3.10
South Dakota.....	32, 081	29, 453	408	2, 219	91.81	1.27	6.92
Nebraska.....	53, 983	49, 735	571	3, 678	92.13	1.06	6.81
Kansas.....	82, 221	78, 134	401	3, 686	95.03	0.40	4.48
SOUTH ATLANTIC:							
Delaware.....	5, 089	4, 930	42	118	96.87	0.82	2.32
Maryland.....	54, 555	50, 866	-----	3, 688	93.24	-----	6.76
District of Columbia.....	28, 541	23, 704	4	4, 772	83.26	0.01	16.72
Virginia.....	46, 782	40, 659	360	5, 763	80.91	0.77	12.32
West Virginia.....	50, 067	49, 323	380	384	98.51	0.72	0.77
North Carolina.....	65, 457	63, 263	831	1, 363	96.65	1.27	2.08
South Carolina.....	26, 967	23, 888	674	2, 405	88.58	2.50	8.92
Georgia.....	42, 135	36, 676	555	4, 903	87.05	1.32	11.64
Florida.....	71, 045	66, 863	171	4, 011	94.11	0.34	5.65
EAST SOUTH CENTRAL:							
Kentucky.....	45, 298	42, 844	633	1, 820	94.58	1.40	4.02
Tennessee.....	45, 322	41, 808	750	2, 705	92.38	1.65	5.97
Alabama.....	31, 725	23, 983	196	7, 545	75.60	0.62	23.78
Mississippi.....	49, 641	40, 150	1, 504	7, 818	81.06	3.16	15.78
WEST SOUTH CENTRAL:							
Arkansas.....	23, 397	21, 895	753	749	93.58	3.22	3.20
Louisiana.....	49, 150	46, 527	713	1, 910	94.66	1.45	3.89
Oklahoma.....	60, 106	56, 906	119	0, 080	86.08	0.18	13.74
Texas.....	128, 349	118, 444	484	9, 420	92.28	0.38	7.34
MOUNTAIN:							
Montana.....	24, 400	22, 375	269	1, 755	91.70	1.10	7.19
Idaho.....	19, 952	17, 510	38	2, 403	87.76	0.19	12.04
Wyoming.....	9, 884	9, 336	90	457	94.46	0.91	4.63
Colorado.....	44, 714	42, 608	-----	2, 108	95.29	-----	4.71
New Mexico.....	8, 358	7, 988	-----	370	95.58	-----	4.43
Arizona.....	17, 242	15, 693	298	1, 250	91.02	1.73	7.25
Utah.....	15, 878	15, 479	-----	397	97.50	-----	2.50
Nevada.....	5, 125	4, 627	64	434	90.28	1.25	8.47
PACIFIC:							
Washington.....	67, 722	65, 672	-----	2, 049	96.97	-----	3.03
Oregon.....	45, 623	45, 055	-----	568	95.76	-----	1.24
California.....	324, 585	305, 835	-----	18, 750	94.22	-----	5.78

¹ Including general property taxes and apparently special property taxes (see Table 1), but omitting special assessments.

TABLE 4.—FUNCTIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL EXPENDITURES: FISCAL YEAR 1929

[Source: National Industrial Conference Board]

PURPOSE OF DISBURSEMENT	AMOUNT IN MILLIONS			PER CENT DISTRIBUTION					
	State ¹	Local		State ¹		Cities over 30,000 ²		All local	
		Cities over 30,000 ²	All local	Gross total	Net total	Gross total	Net total	Gross total	Net total
Gross total.....	\$2, 107. 9	\$3, 309. 2	\$7, 128. 1	100. 0	-----	100. 0	-----	100. 0	-----
Not total.....	1, 966. 9	2, 943. 5	6, 013. 5	93. 3	100. 0	88. 9	100. 0	84. 4	100. 0
Education.....	559. 7	812. 9	1, 925. 5	26. 6	28. 5	24. 6	27. 6	27. 0	32. 0
Highways.....	752. 2	548. 4	1, 169. 9	35. 7	38. 2	16. 6	18. 6	16. 4	19. 5
General government.....	126. 7	196. 4		6. 0	6. 4	5. 9	6. 7		
Protection.....	175. 2	492. 7		8. 3	8. 9	14. 0	15. 7		
Economic development.....	76. 3			3. 6	3. 9				
Social welfare.....	254. 7	569. 6	2, 918. 0	12. 1	13. 0	17. 2	19. 3	40. 9	48. 5
Miscellaneous.....	7. 3	29. 7		0. 3	0. 4	0. 9	1. 0		
Public utilities.....	14. 8	323. 9		0. 7	0. 8	9. 8	11. 0		
Debt redemption.....	46. 8		466. 1	2. 2	-----			5. 7	-----
Interest.....	94. 1	365. 7	706. 5	4. 5	-----	11. 1	-----	9. 9	-----

¹ Includes Federal aid to State governments, State aid to local governments, but not local aid to State governments.

² Exclusive of debt redemption. State and county aids are excluded, except for \$17,000,000 that could not be allocated by functions.