



FEDERATION OF TAX ADMINISTRATORS - UPDATE

WSATA Annual Conference

October 6-9, 2013

Salt Lake City, Utah



History of Federation of Tax Administrators

- 1926 – North American Gasoline Tax Conference (NAGTC) organized by motor fuel tax administrators.





History of FTA

- 1927 – National Tobacco Tax Association (NTTA) organized by tobacco tax administrators.





History of FTA

- 1934 – National Association of Tax Administrators (NATA) organized by state tax administrators.
- Mission: To communicate and cooperate with each other to promote more effective tax administration and enforcement.



History of FTA



National Association of Tax Administrators-1934



History of FTA

- At the December, 1934 meeting, topics of major concern included:
 - Taxation of retail sales in interstate commerce.
 - Establishing opportunities for the exchange of information to assist tax administrators in their efforts to increase revenues and cut costs.



History of FTA

- The three associations recognized value of having a common clearing house to deal with day-to-day administrative issues.
- 1937 – Federation of Tax Administrators (FTA) created by representatives of NAGTC, NTTA and NATA to serve as “common secretariat,” or staff for all three organizations.



History of FTA

- 1984 – NAGTC and NTTA became sections of NATA, which then became the remaining constituent organization of FTA.
- 1988 – NATA merged with FTA, assumed name of Federation of Tax Administrators.



History of FTA

- Today – FTA’s purpose remains unchanged -- to improve quality of state tax administration by providing services to state tax authorities:
 - Information Exchange
 - Research
 - Training
 - Intergovernmental Coordination



Listserve

Active email service allowing states to ask questions and receive answers from other states, including:

- Does your state seize property to satisfy tax debts?
- How does your state determine timeliness of paper-filed returns?
- How is your state handling married filing jointly returns of same sex couples?



Conference Calls

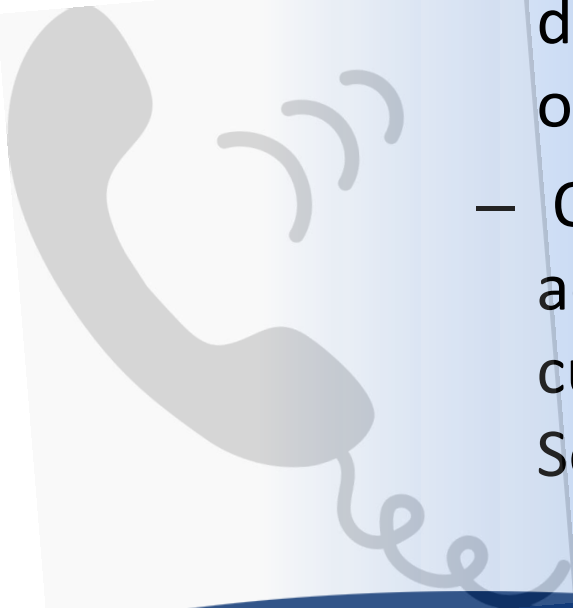
- Twice-a-month open forum calls with eFile coordinators to discuss variety of issues, including software developer testing, perfection dates, eFile trends.
- Monthly suspicious filers call.





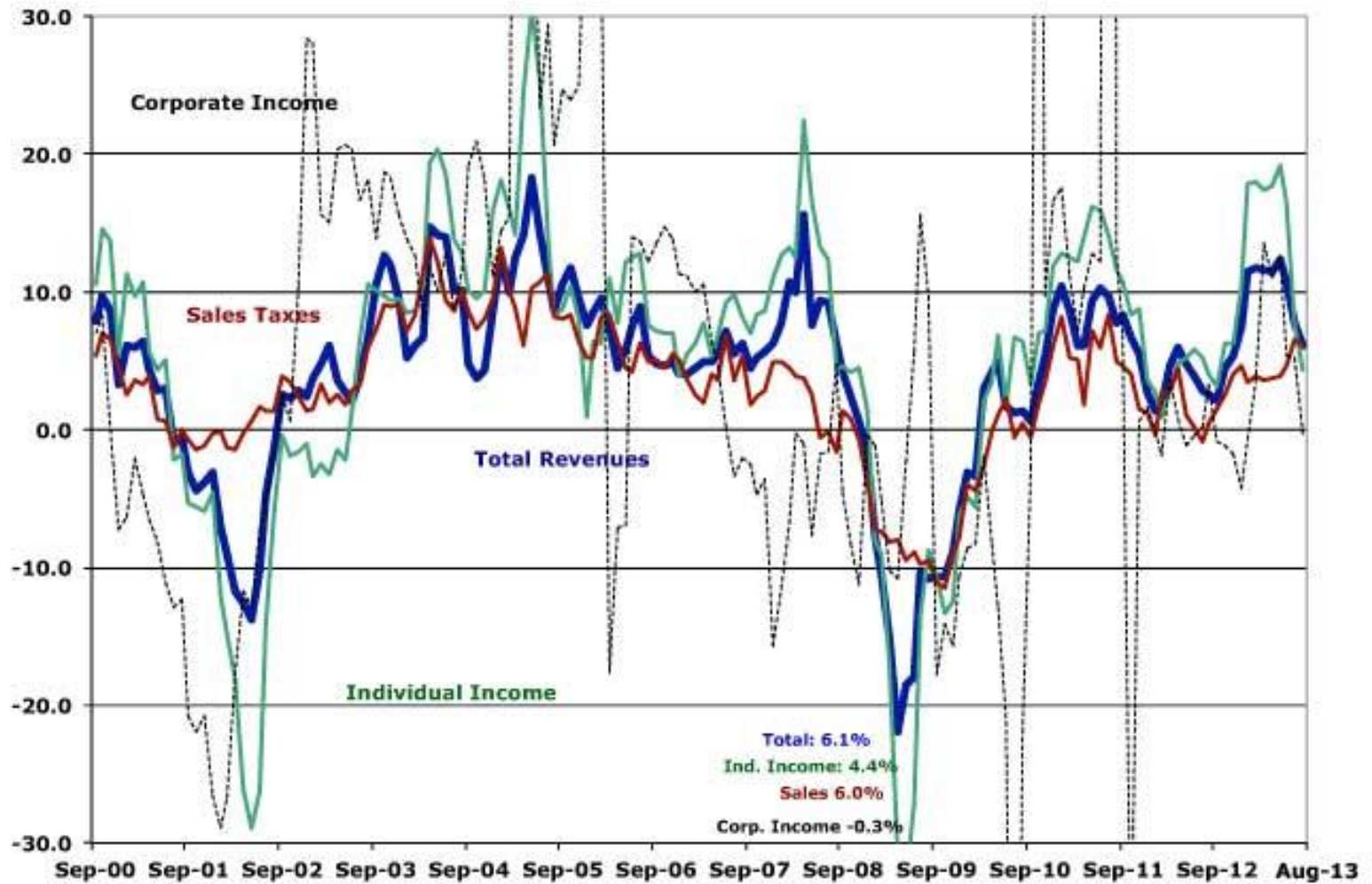
Conference Calls

- Bi-monthly call with states' chief information officers to discuss technology issues, including consolidation of state data centers, mobile tax applications, use of social media.
- Quarterly calls with tobacco tax administrators to discuss issues such as current trends, legislation, Master Settlement Agreement updates.

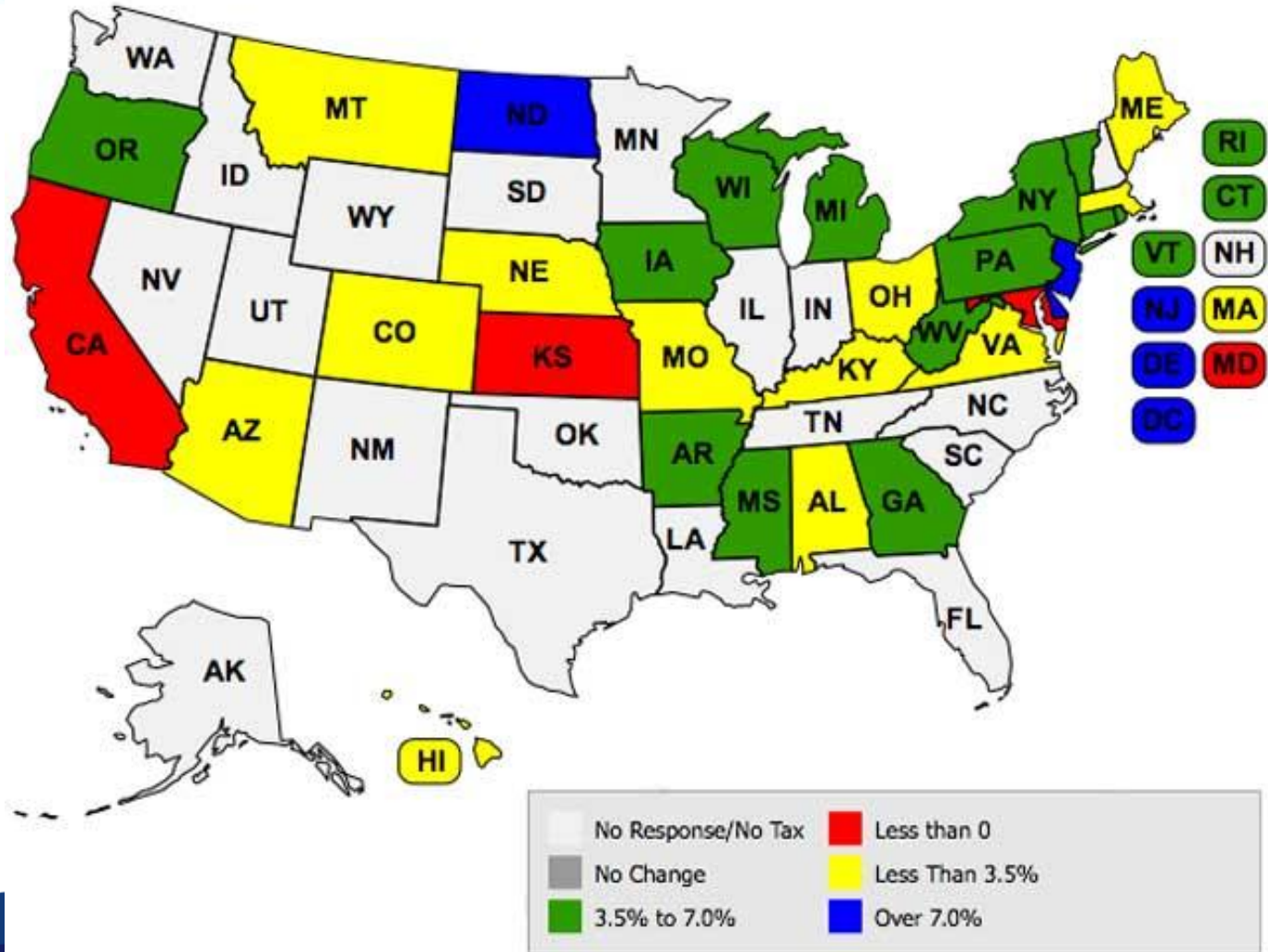




Revenue Research – Total Tax Collections

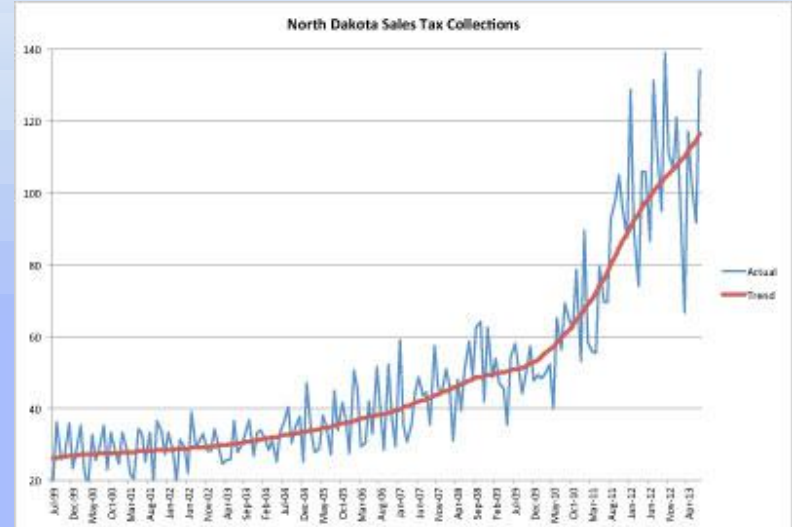
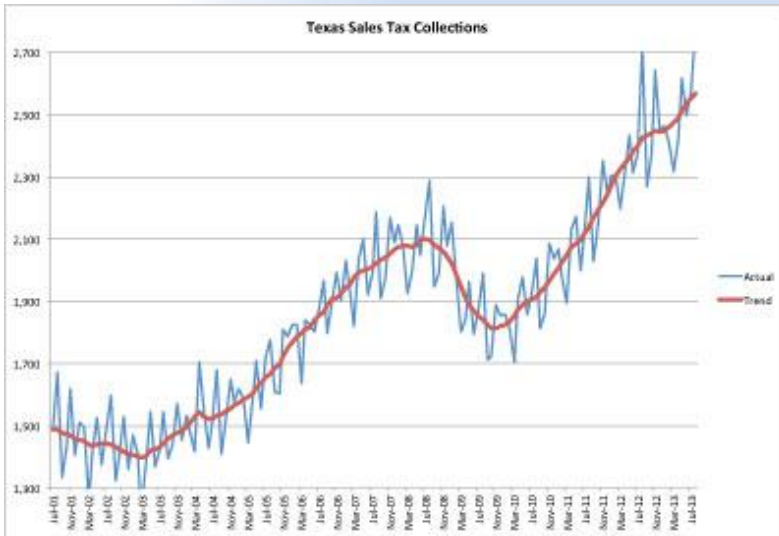


Revenue Research – Withholding Tax Collections





Texas and North Dakota





Upcoming Events

- Data Match Workshop – October 24-25, 2013, Nashville, Tennessee. A new FTA project -- comprehensive sharing of the most productive and efficient data matches used in individual income, corporate income and sales tax compliance efforts.



Upcoming Events

- Training Workshop – TBD, 2014. Developing a new training class on auditing tobacco products, to include information on exercise of due diligence.



Upcoming Events

- FTA full membership conference call – October 24, 2013, 4:00 Eastern. To consider whether the city population requirement in FTA's Bylaws should be amended to allow cities with a population of less than 2,000,000 to be eligible for membership.



Upcoming Events

- Zapper Workshop – TBD. Sales suppression software programs that falsify electronic records of businesses in order to evade taxes.
- Evidence of use found in Canada, several European countries, South Africa.
- FTA assisting California in organizing a zapper workshop.



Upcoming Event

- November 2013 – Washington to begin implementation of live chat on website.
- Will join Virginia and Kentucky as the only other revenue agencies to offer this feature.
- Enables taxpayer assistance employees to service multiple taxpayers at once and reduce phone contacts.



Federal Legislation

- Marketplace Fairness Act (H.R. 684, S. 743).
 - S. 743 passed Senate 69-27.
 - H.R. 684 referred to House Judiciary Committee chaired by Rep. Goodlatte.
 - No House hearing scheduled.
 - Chairman Goodlatte has released a set of principles for a “fresh approach.”



Federal Legislation

- Digital Goods and Services Tax Fairness Act (S. 1364).
 - Introduced in the Senate (no hearings yet – not yet introduced in the House.
 - This version is different than the version introduced in the last Congress – but continues to give certain tax preferences to digital goods and services.



Federal Legislation

- Mobile Workforce State Income Tax Simplification Act (H.R. 1129).
 - Referred to House Judiciary Committee.
 - No hearing scheduled.
 - No bill introduced in Senate.



Federal Legislation

- Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act (H.R. 434, S.31).
 - H.R. 434 referred to House Judiciary Committee.
 - S. 31 referred to Senate Finance Committee.
 - No hearings currently scheduled.



Federal Legislation

- Wireless Tax Fairness Act (H.R. 2309, S. 1235).
 - H.R. 2309 referred to House Judiciary Committee.
 - S. 1235 referred to Senate Finance Committee.
 - No hearing scheduled.



Federal Income Tax Turns 100!



- February 3, 1913 – 16th Amendment adopted giving congress authority to levy an income tax.
- October 3, 1913 – President Woodrow Wilson signed Revenue Act of 1913 allowing collection of federal income tax.





Quotation

- Taxation with representation ain't so hot either. -- Gerald Barzan, humorist



Quotation

- I am proud to be paying taxes in the United States. The only thing is, I could be just as proud for half the money. -- Arthur Godfrey



Quotation

- I owe the federal government \$3,400 in taxes.
So I sent them two hammers and a toilet seat.
-- Michael McShane



QUESTIONS?

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