

S/P/R

STATE POLICY REPORTS

VOLUME 35

ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2017

IN THIS ISSUE

Drilling Down on State Population Changes

The change in state population reflects births and deaths, as well as domestic and international migration. These various sources of change carry different implications for state revenues and spending.

Alcohol as a Model for Taxing Sugar

In the wake of recent successful efforts to enact taxes on sweetened drinks in places such as San Francisco, Philadelphia, and Cook County, Illinois, a recent Urban Institute *Research Report* considers the pros and cons of taxing sugar-sweetened beverages.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Drilling Down on State Population Changes	2
Alcohol as a Model for Taxing Sugar	6
Technical Notes	7

Please do not make unauthorized copies of *State Policy Reports*. Your subscription permits you to print your PDF version one time and route it, or route your hard copy. Forwarding or photocopying for other users is not permitted unless you have made prior arrangements with FFIS. FFIS offers volume discounts for organizations that wish to purchase multiple copies of *State Policy Reports* for their employees. Please call 202-624-5849 for information.

Copyright: Federal Funds Information for States. Reproduction without permission of the publisher is prohibited.

S/P/R

STATE POLICY REPORTS

VOLUME 35

ISSUE 2

JANUARY 2017

IN THIS ISSUE

America's Health Rankings

The 27th annual release of the United Health Foundation's *America's Health Rankings* finds ongoing progress in some areas and setbacks in others.

Fun Facts about State Spending

The Urban Institute has launched a new interactive website tool focused on how much state and local governments spend, and why they rank where they do.

Tax Back-Tracking in Kansas?

The Tax Foundation weighs in on a proposal to undo some of the state's controversial tax changes from 2012.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

America's Health Rankings	2
Fun Facts about State Spending	5
Tax Back-Tracking in Kansas?	6
Technical Notes	7

Please do not make unauthorized copies of *State Policy Reports*. Your subscription permits you to print your PDF version one time and route it, or route your hard copy. Forwarding or photocopying for other users is not permitted unless you have made prior arrangements with FFIS. FFIS offers volume discounts for organizations that wish to purchase multiple copies of *State Policy Reports* for their employees. Please call 202-624-5849 for information.

Copyright: Federal Funds Information for States. Reproduction without permission of the publisher is prohibited.

S/P/R

STATE POLICY REPORTS

VOLUME 35

ISSUE 3

FEBRUARY 2017

IN THIS ISSUE

GAO's Song Remains the Same

Since 2007, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) has run periodic simulations of the fiscal outlook for the state-local government sector.

Economies Grow, Revenues Lag

Even as the national and individual state economies continue to grow, attention is being given to the weak performance of some states' tax collections.

The Current Convoy of State Sales Tax Rates

Are state sales tax rates clustered around the median? What about state-local rates?

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GAO's Song Remains the Same	2
Economies Grow, Revenues Lag	3
The Current Convoy of State Sales Tax Rates	5
Technical Notes	7

Please do not make unauthorized copies of *State Policy Reports*. Your subscription permits you to print your PDF version one time and route it, or route your hard copy. Forwarding or photocopying for other users is not permitted unless you have made prior arrangements with FFIS. FFIS offers volume discounts for organizations that wish to purchase multiple copies of *State Policy Reports* for their employees. Please call 202-624-5849 for information.

Copyright: Federal Funds Information for States. Reproduction without permission of the publisher is prohibited.

S/P/R

STATE POLICY REPORTS

VOLUME 35

ISSUE 4

FEBRUARY 2017

IN THIS ISSUE

State and Local Finances in FY 2014

The Census Bureau has released its state and local finance series for fiscal year 2014, which allows an apples-to-apples comparison of tax structures and burdens among the states. This issue focuses on the revenue highlights of the new data.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

State and Local Finances in FY 2014	2
Technical Notes	14

Please do not make unauthorized copies of *State Policy Reports*. Your subscription permits you to print your PDF version one time and route it, or route your hard copy. Forwarding or photocopying for other users is not permitted unless you have made prior arrangements with FFIS. FFIS offers volume discounts for organizations that wish to purchase multiple copies of *State Policy Reports* for their employees. Please call 202-624-5849 for information.

Copyright: Federal Funds Information for States. Reproduction without permission of the publisher is prohibited.

S/P/R

STATE POLICY REPORTS

VOLUME 35

ISSUE 5

MARCH 2017

IN THIS ISSUE

A Good News-Bad News Revenue Report

The good news is that state tax revenues are growing. The bad news is that the growth is tepid.

A Skinny Budget Indeed

The president has released an abbreviated budget for federal FY 2018.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Good News-Bad News Revenue Report	2
A Skinny Budget Indeed	5
Technical Notes	7

Please do not make unauthorized copies of *State Policy Reports*. Your subscription permits you to print your PDF version one time and route it, or route your hard copy. Forwarding or photocopying for other users is not permitted unless you have made prior arrangements with FFIS. FFIS offers volume discounts for organizations that wish to purchase multiple copies of *State Policy Reports* for their employees. Please call 202-624-5849 for information.

Copyright: Federal Funds Information for States. Reproduction without permission of the publisher is prohibited.

S/P/R

STATE POLICY REPORTS

VOLUME 35

ISSUE 6

March 2017

IN THIS ISSUE

Index of State Economic Momentum

The Index of State Economic Momentum, developed by *Reports* founding editor Hal Hovey, ranks states based on their most recent performance in three key measures of economic vitality: personal income growth, employment growth, and population growth. *Reports* updates the index each quarter. In the first quarter of 2017, **Massachusetts** most closely approximated the national average economic performance.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Index of State Economic Momentum	2
Technical Notes	7

Please do not make unauthorized copies of *State Policy Reports*. Your subscription permits you to print your PDF version one time and route it, or route your hard copy. Forwarding or photocopying for other users is not permitted unless you have made prior arrangements with FFIS. FFIS offers volume discounts for organizations that wish to purchase multiple copies of *State Policy Reports* for their employees. Please call 202-624-5849 for information.

Copyright: Federal Funds Information for States. Reproduction without permission of the publisher is prohibited.

S/P/R

STATE POLICY REPORTS

VOLUME 35

ISSUE 7

APRIL 2017

IN THIS ISSUE

The 2017 Camelot Index

The Camelot Index was developed by *Reports* founding editor Hal Hovey, a longtime observer and analyst of state budgets and economies. It ranks states on six “quality of life” measures: economy, health, crime, education, society, and state government.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The 2017 Camelot Index	2
Technical Notes	13

Please do not make unauthorized copies of *State Policy Reports*. Your subscription permits you to print your PDF version one time and route it, or route your hard copy. Forwarding or photocopying for other users is not permitted unless you have made prior arrangements with FFIS. FFIS offers rewards for information about unauthorized copying or distribution of *State Policy Reports*. FFIS also offers volume discounts for organizations that wish to purchase multiple copies of *State Policy Reports* for their employees. Please call 202-624-5849 for information.

Copyright: Federal Funds Information for States. Reproduction without permission of the publisher is prohibited.

S/P/R

STATE POLICY REPORTS

VOLUME 35

ISSUE 8

APRIL 2017

IN THIS ISSUE

Another Round of Fend-for-Yourself Federalism

It began with the president's "skinny" budget for fiscal year (FY) 2018, and it is continuing with chatter around tax reform. "It" is the notion that state and local governments are about to see an escalation of fend-for-yourself federalism.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Another Round of Fend-for-Yourself Federalism	2
Technical Notes	7

Please do not make unauthorized copies of *State Policy Reports*. Your subscription permits you to print your PDF version one time and route it, or route your hard copy. Forwarding or photocopying for other users is not permitted unless you have made prior arrangements with FFIS. Please call 202-624-5849 for information.

Copyright: Federal Funds Information for States. Reproduction without permission of the publisher is prohibited.

S/P/R

STATE POLICY REPORTS

VOLUME 35

ISSUE 9

MAY 2017

IN THIS ISSUE

State Spending on Children, Sort of

The Urban Institute has published a report, *Unequal Playing Field? State Differences in Spending on Children in 2013*.

Pedestrians Beware

The Governors Highway Safety Association recently released data that show just how risky it has become to be a pedestrian, and the extent to which that risk is increasing.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

State Spending on Children, Sort of	2
Pedestrians Beware	5
Technical Notes	8

Please do not make unauthorized copies of *State Policy Reports*. Your subscription permits you to print your PDF version one time and route it, or route your hard copy. Forwarding or photocopying for other users is not permitted unless you have made prior arrangements with FFIS. FFIS offers volume discounts for organizations that wish to purchase multiple copies of *State Policy Reports* for their employees. Please call 202-624-5849 for information.

Copyright: Federal Funds Information for States. Reproduction without permission of the publisher is prohibited.

S/P/R

STATE POLICY REPORTS

VOLUME 35

ISSUE 10

MAY 2017

IN THIS ISSUE

NCSL Weighs in on State Fiscal Conditions

The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) has released two of its periodic fiscal reports, *2016 State Tax Actions*, and *State Budget Update: Spring 2017*.

A Thought Experiment: A Universal Basic Income

What if you eliminated all the targeted federal assistance provided to individuals, and replaced them with a lump sum payment, often referred to as a universal basic income (UBI)?

TABLE OF CONTENTS

NCSL Weighs in on State Fiscal Conditions	2
A Thought Experiment: A Universal Basic Income	6
Technical Notes	7

Please do not make unauthorized copies of *State Policy Reports*. Your subscription permits you to print your PDF version one time and route it, or route your hard copy. Forwarding or photocopying for other users is not permitted unless you have made prior arrangements with FFIS. FFIS offers volume discounts for organizations that wish to purchase multiple copies of *State Policy Reports* for their employees. Please call 202-624-5849 for information.

Copyright: Federal Funds Information for States. Reproduction without permission of the publisher is prohibited.

S/P/R

STATE POLICY REPORTS

VOLUME 35

ISSUE 11

JUNE 2017

IN THIS ISSUE

Kansas Says Goodbye to All That

Nearly five years on, Kansas's bold supply-side tax experiment has been largely abandoned.

Where the Wind Comes Sweeping Down the Plain

The U.S. Energy Information Administration reports that wind and solar accounted for more than 10% of U.S. electricity generation in March, for the first time ever.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Kansas Says Goodbye to All That	2
Where the Wind Comes Sweeping Down the Plain	6
Technical Notes	7

Please do not make unauthorized copies of *State Policy Reports*. Your subscription permits you to print your PDF version one time and route it, or route your hard copy. Forwarding or photocopying for other users is not permitted unless you have made prior arrangements with FFIS. FFIS offers volume discounts for organizations that wish to purchase multiple copies of *State Policy Reports* for their employees. Please call 202-624-5849 for information.

Copyright: Federal Funds Information for States. Reproduction without permission of the publisher is prohibited.

S/P/R

STATE POLICY REPORTS

VOLUME 35

ISSUE 12

JUNE 2017

IN THIS ISSUE

Index of State Economic Momentum

The Index of State Economic Momentum, developed by *Reports* founding editor Hal Hovey, ranks states based on their most recent performance in three key measures of economic vitality: personal income growth, employment growth, and population growth. *Reports* updates the index each quarter. In the second quarter of 2017, **Virginia** most closely approximated the national average economic performance.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Index of State Economic Momentum	2
Technical Notes	7

Please do not make unauthorized copies of *State Policy Reports*. Your subscription permits you to print your PDF version one time and route it, or route your hard copy. Forwarding or photocopying for other users is not permitted unless you have made prior arrangements with FFIS. FFIS offers volume discounts for organizations that wish to purchase multiple copies of *State Policy Reports* for their employees. Please call 202-624-5849 for information.

Copyright: Federal Funds Information for States. Reproduction without permission of the publisher is prohibited.

S/P/R

STATE POLICY REPORTS

VOLUME 35

ISSUE 13

JULY 2017

IN THIS ISSUE

Medicaid on the Chopping Block?

Even if its health care repeal efforts fail, Congress could still adopt some version of changes recently proposed to Medicaid.

Defending the SALT Deduction

As plans are laid for federal tax reform in the coming months, the state-local community is marshalling its resources to retain the federal itemized tax deduction for state and local taxes paid.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Medicaid on the Chopping Block?	2
Defending the SALT Deduction	4
Technical Notes	7

Please do not make unauthorized copies of *State Policy Reports*. Your subscription permits you to print your PDF version one time and route it, or route your hard copy. Forwarding or photocopying for other users is not permitted unless you have made prior arrangements with FFIS. FFIS offers volume discounts for organizations that wish to purchase multiple copies of *State Policy Reports* for their employees. Please call 202-624-5849 for information.

Copyright: Federal Funds Information for States. Reproduction without permission of the publisher is prohibited.

S/P/R

STATE POLICY REPORTS

VOLUME 35

ISSUE 14

JULY 2017

IN THIS ISSUE

Safety Check

The National Safety Council (NSC) has released *State of Safety: A State-by-State Report*, which evaluates states on three measures.

April Tax Collections: Depressed and Depressing

In its most recent update, the Rockefeller Institute checks in on states' April tax collections, since that month can make or break a state's annual revenue estimate.

FY 2016 State Tax Revenues

The Federation of Tax Administrators provided state tax revenue rankings for fiscal year 2016, based on Census Bureau data.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Safety Check	2
April Tax Collections: Depressed and Depressing	3
FY 2016 State Tax Revenues	6
Technical Notes	7

Please do not make unauthorized copies of *State Policy Reports*. Your subscription permits you to print your PDF version one time and route it, or route your hard copy. Forwarding or photocopying for other users is not permitted unless you have made prior arrangements with FFIS. FFIS offers volume discounts for organizations that wish to purchase multiple copies of *State Policy Reports* for their employees. Please call 202-624-5849 for information.

Copyright: Federal Funds Information for States. Reproduction without permission of the publisher is prohibited.

S/P/R

STATE POLICY REPORTS

VOLUME 35

JOINT ISSUE 15-16

AUGUST 2017

IN THIS ISSUE

Federal Spending Traceable to States in FY 2015

The Council of State Governments (CSG) has cataloged federal spending by state for fiscal year (FY) 2015. CSG's analysis continues work launched by the Pew Charitable Trusts to fill the void left by discontinuation of the Census Bureau's *Consolidated Federal Funds Report* after FY 2010.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Federal Spending Traceable to States in FY 2015	2
Technical Notes	17

Please do not make unauthorized copies of *State Policy Reports*. Your subscription permits you to print your PDF version one time and route it, or route your hard copy. Forwarding or photocopying for other users is not permitted unless you have made prior arrangements with FFIS. FFIS offers rewards for information about unauthorized copying or distribution of *State Policy Reports*. FFIS also offers volume discounts for organizations that wish to purchase multiple copies of *State Policy Reports* for their employees. Please call 202-624-5849 for information.

Copyright: Federal Funds Information for States. Reproduction without permission of the publisher is prohibited.

S/P/R

STATE POLICY REPORTS

VOLUME 35

ISSUE 17

SEPTEMBER 2017

IN THIS ISSUE

Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance

The U.S. Census Bureau has released a host of new federal statistics in recent weeks, most of which point to improved situations for Americans in general, and lower-income persons in particular.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance 2

Technical Notes 7

Please do not make unauthorized copies of *State Policy Reports*. Your subscription permits you to print your PDF version one time and route it, or route your hard copy. Forwarding or photocopying for other users is not permitted unless you have made prior arrangements with FFIS. FFIS offers volume discounts for organizations that wish to purchase multiple copies of *State Policy Reports* for their employees. Please call 202-624-5849 for information.

Copyright: Federal Funds Information for States. Reproduction without permission of the publisher is prohibited.

S/P/R

STATE POLICY REPORTS

VOLUME 35

ISSUE 18

SEPTEMBER 2017

IN THIS ISSUE

Index of State Economic Momentum

The Index of State Economic Momentum, developed by *Reports* founding editor Hal Hovey, ranks states based on their most recent performance in three key measures of economic vitality: personal income growth, employment growth, and population growth. *Reports* updates the index each quarter. In the third quarter of 2017, **Nevada** claimed the top spot.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Index of State Economic Momentum	2
Technical Notes	7

Please do not make unauthorized copies of *State Policy Reports*. Your subscription permits you to print your PDF version one time and route it, or route your hard copy. Forwarding or photocopying for other users is not permitted unless you have made prior arrangements with FFIS. FFIS offers volume discounts for organizations that wish to purchase multiple copies of *State Policy Reports* for their employees. Please call 202-624-5849 for information.

Copyright: Federal Funds Information for States. Reproduction without permission of the publisher is prohibited.

S/P/R

STATE POLICY REPORTS

VOLUME 35

ISSUE 19

OCTOBER 2017

IN THIS ISSUE

The State-Federal Balance of Payments

An enduring question in state-federal fiscal relations is, “How much does each state get back for every dollar it sends to Washington?” Recent weeks have seen two reports that answer the question. Happily, their results are similar.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The State-Federal Balance of Payments	2
Technical Notes	7

Please do not make unauthorized copies of *State Policy Reports*. Your subscription permits you to print your PDF version one time and route it, or route your hard copy. Forwarding or photocopying for other users is not permitted unless you have made prior arrangements with FFIS. FFIS offers rewards for information about unauthorized copying or distribution of *State Policy Reports*. FFIS also offers volume discounts for organizations that wish to purchase multiple copies of *State Policy Reports* for their employees. Please call 202-624-5849 for information.

Copyright: Federal Funds Information for States. Reproduction without permission of the publisher is prohibited.

S/P/R

STATE POLICY REPORTS

VOLUME 35

ISSUE 20

OCTOBER 2017

IN THIS ISSUE

State and Local Finances in FY 2015

The Census Bureau has released its state and local finance series for fiscal year 2015, which allows an apples-to-apples comparison of tax structures and burdens among the states. This issue focuses on the revenue highlights of the new data.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

State and Local Finances in FY 2015	2
Technical Notes	14

Please do not make unauthorized copies of *State Policy Reports*. Your subscription permits you to print your PDF version one time and route it, or route your hard copy. Forwarding or photocopying for other users is not permitted unless you have made prior arrangements with FFIS. FFIS offers volume discounts for organizations that wish to purchase multiple copies of *State Policy Reports* for their employees. Please call 202-624-5849 for information.

Copyright: Federal Funds Information for States. Reproduction without permission of the publisher is prohibited.

S/P/R

STATE POLICY REPORTS

VOLUME 35

ISSUE 21

NOVEMBER 2017

IN THIS ISSUE

Personal Consumption Expenditures and State Sales Taxes

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) released personal consumption expenditures by state for 2016, which reflect state economies and affect state revenues. They also raise the issue of whether state sales tax bases are well-positioned to tax consumption.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Personal Consumption Expenditures and State Sales Taxes	2
Technical Notes	8

Please do not make unauthorized copies of *State Policy Reports*. Your subscription permits you to print your PDF version one time and route it, or route your hard copy. Forwarding or photocopying for other users is not permitted unless you have made prior arrangements with FFIS. FFIS offers rewards for information about unauthorized copying or distribution of *State Policy Reports*. FFIS also offers volume discounts for organizations that wish to purchase multiple copies of *State Policy Reports* for their employees. Please call 202-624-5849 for information.

Copyright: Federal Funds Information for States. Reproduction without permission of the publisher is prohibited.

S/P/R

STATE POLICY REPORTS

VOLUME 35

ISSUE 22

NOVEMBER 2017

IN THIS ISSUE

State Spending: Medicaid Marches On...

The National Association of State Budget Officers (NASBO) recently released its annual *State Expenditure Report*. As in prior years, increases were dominated by Medicaid.

... to the Beat of FMAP

Within Medicaid, one factor that plays a huge role in state spending is the federal medical assistance percentage, or FMAP.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

State Spending: Medicaid Marches On...	2
... to the Beat of FMAP	4
Technical Notes	7

Please do not make unauthorized copies of *State Policy Reports*. Your subscription permits you to print your PDF version one time and route it, or route your hard copy. Forwarding or photocopying for other users is not permitted unless you have made prior arrangements with FFIS. FFIS offers volume discounts for organizations that wish to purchase multiple copies of *State Policy Reports* for their employees. Please call 202-624-5849 for information.

Copyright: Federal Funds Information for States. Reproduction without permission of the publisher is prohibited.

S/P/R

STATE POLICY REPORTS

VOLUME 35

JOINT ISSUE 23-24

DECEMBER 2017

IN THIS ISSUE

Index of State Economic Momentum

The Index of State Economic Momentum, developed by *Reports* founding editor Hal Hovey, ranks states based on their most recent performance in three key measures of economic vitality: personal income growth, employment growth, and population growth. *Reports* updates the index each quarter. In the final quarter of 2017, **Idaho** claimed the top spot, while **Alabama** most closely approximated the national average economic performance.

The Continuum of State Fiscal Stress

Reports developed the Continuum of State Fiscal Stress to give a sense of the challenges states face in a given fiscal year. This edition of the continuum focuses on fiscal year 2017.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Index of State Economic Momentum	2
The Continuum of State Fiscal Stress	8
Technical Notes	12

Please do not make unauthorized copies of *State Policy Reports*. Your subscription permits you to print your PDF version one time and route it, or route your hard copy. Forwarding or photocopying for other users is not permitted unless you have made prior arrangements with FFIS. FFIS offers volume discounts for organizations that wish to purchase multiple copies of *State Policy Reports* for their employees. Please call 202-624-5849 for information.

Copyright: Federal Funds Information for States. Reproduction without permission of the publisher is prohibited.