## Joe Stephenshaw, Director

## Economic Update

U.S. headline inflation increased to 3.2 percent year-over-year in February 2024, up just 0.1 percentage point from January 2024, but also down 5.9 percentage points from its most recent peak of 9.1 percent in June 2022. Core inflation-which excludes food and energy-slowed to 3.8 percent year-overyear. Transportation inflation-which includes gasoline-increased to 2.7 percent from 1.6 percent in January, while shelter inflation slowed for the eleventh consecutive month to 5.7 percent from 6 percent in January.

## Labor Market Conditions



■ In February 2024, the U.S. unemployment rate rose 0.2 percentage point from January to 3.9 percent as civilian unemployment increased by 334,000 and employment declined by 184,000. The U.S. added 275,000 nonfarm payroll jobs with nine sectors gaining jobs driven by private educational and health services $(85,000)$ and leisure and hospitality $(58,000)$, followed by government $(52,000)$, trade, transportation, and utilities $(40,000)$, construction $(23,000)$, other services $(9,000)$, professional and business services $(9,000)$, information $(2,000)$ and financial activities ( 1,000 ). The manufacturing sector lost 4,000 jobs in February while mining and logging remained unchanged.

- Following annual benchmark revisions to state employment numbers, California total nonfarm employment as of December 2023 was revised down by 231,800 jobs from nearly 18.2 million to just under 18 million. The over 2.7 million pandemic-related job losses were recovered in July 2022, a month later than previously estimated in June 2022, and the unemployment rate peak remained unchanged at 16.1 percent in April 2020, following the revision and bottomed out at 3.8 percent only in August 2022 (not in both July and August 2022 as previously estimated).
- California's unemployment rate rose 0.1 percentage point to 5.2 percent in January 2024 as civilian household employment decreased by 8,000 and civilian unemployment increased by 23,300 people. California added 58,100 nonfarm payroll jobs in January 2024. Ten sectors added jobs: private educational and health services $(18,100)$, professional and business services ( 15,700 ), government $(10,800)$, trade, transportation, and utilities $(4,900)$, information $(3,400)$, construction $(2,200)$, leisure and hospitality $(1,700)$, other services ( 1,300 ), financial activities (700), and mining and logging (100). The manufacturing sector lost 800 jobs in January. California accounted for 25.4 percent of the 229,000 U.S. nonfarm jobs added in January in 2024.


## Building Activity \& Real Estate

- Year-to-date through January 2024, California permitted 99,000 housing units at a seasonally adjusted annualized rate (SAAR), up 16.7 percent from December 2023 and up 9.3 percent from a year ago in January 2023. January year-to-date total permits consisted of 67,000 single-family units (up 14.7 percent from December 2023, and up 56.2 percent year-over-year) and 32,000 multi-family units (up 21.1 percent from December, but down 33.2 percent year-over-year).
- The statewide median sale price of existing single-family homes decreased to $\$ 788,940$ in January 2024, down 3.8 percent from December 2023 but up 5 percent from one year ago. Sales of existing single-family homes in California were 256,160 (SAAR) in January 2024, up 14.4 percent from December 2023, and up 5.9 percent from January 2023.

Preliminary General Fund agency cash receipts were $\$ 288$ million, or 3 percent, above the Governor's Budget forecast for February, and were $\$ 5.6$ billion, or 4.3 percent, below the 2024-25 Governor's Budget fiscal year-to-date forecast of $\$ 131.1$ billion. The Governor's Budget forecast was completed toward the end of November; therefore the fiscal year-to-date variances in this report reflect variance since November. The primary driver of the cumulative shortfall was personal income tax estimated payments, which were $\$ 4.7$ billion below forecast fiscal year-to-date through February, indicating weakness in receipts relating to tax year 2023. Personal income tax withholding, which is more indicative of current activity in tax year 2024, were $\$ 670$ million above the fiscal year-to-date forecast. Additionally, fiscal year-to-date corporate tax cash receipts were $\$ 1.1$ billion below forecast due to $\$ 970$ million in higher corporate refunds.

- Personal income tax cash receipts were $\$ 579$ million above forecast in February due to withholding exceeding the forecast by $\$ 1.2$ billion, partially offset by higher refunds of $\$ 706$ million. This brings the fiscal year-to-date shortfall in personal income tax receipts to $\$ 4.1$ billion, or 5.1 percent. Withholding receipts were $\$ 670$ million above forecast cumulatively through February. While withholding reflects more of a real-time indicator of economic activity than estimated payments, single-month readings can be misleading: calendar changes can affect when payments are recorded, and the timing of stock-based compensation can also affect payments, therefore, withholding should be evaluated over multiple months for longer-term trends. Personal income tax withholding receipts were 2 percent above forecast for November through February and increased by 6.9 percent year-over-year over that same period. Personal income tax estimated payments were $\$ 65$ million below forecast in February, bringing the fiscal year-to-date shortfall to $\$ 4.7$ billion.
- Corporation tax cash receipts were $\$ 165$ million below forecast in February and $\$ 1.1$ billion, or 5.3 percent, below the fiscal year-to-date forecast. The February shortfall is due to refunds exceeding the forecast by $\$ 418$ million in February, partially offset by higher corporation tax payments of $\$ 253$ million. Corporate refunds have been consistently running above forecast, which is partially due to higher-than-expected refunds related to overpayments of the Pass-Through Entity Elective Tax.
- Sales and use tax cash receipts were $\$ 148$ million below forecast in February and $\$ 347$ million, or 1.5 percent, below the fiscal year-to-date forecast. February sales and use tax receipts reflect part of the final payment for calendar year fourth quarter taxable sales, which was due on January 31.

2023-24 Comparison of Actual and Forecast Agency General Fund Revenues (Dollars in Millions)

| Revenue Source | FEBRUARY 2024 |  |  |  | 2023-24 YEAR-TO-DATE |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Forecast | Actual | Difference | Percent Difference | Forecast | Actual | Difference | Percent Difference |
| Personal Income | \$4,597 | \$5,177 | \$579 | 12.6\% | \$80,773 | \$76,670 | -\$4,103 | -5.1\% |
| Withholding | 7,251 | 8,414 | 1,164 | 16.0\% | 61,155 | 61,825 | 670 | 1.1\% |
| Estimated Payments | 249 | 184 | -65 | -26.1\% | 20,285 | 15,603 | -4,683 | -23.1\% |
| Final Payments | 170 | 249 | 79 | 46.2\% | 8,746 | 9,193 | 447 | 5.1\% |
| Other Payments | 314 | 433 | 119 | 37.8\% | 4,259 | 4,162 | -97 | -2.3\% |
| Refunds | -3,299 | -4,006 | -706 | 21.4\% | -12,098 | -12,613 | -515 | 4.3\% |
| MHSF Transfer | -82 | -93 | -10 | 12.6\% | -1,447 | -1,374 | 74 | -5.1\% |
| Corporation | \$269 | \$104 | -\$165 | -61.4\% | \$21,775 | \$20,631 | -\$1,144 | -5.3\% |
| Estimated Payments | 234 | 255 | 21 | 9.2\% | 7,256 | 7,054 | -202 | -2.8\% |
| PTE Payments | 73 | 129 | 56 | 77.3\% | 13,887 | 13,890 | 3 | 0.0\% |
| Other Payments | 219 | 395 | 175 | 79.9\% | 3,533 | 3,558 | 25 | 0.7\% |
| Refunds | -258 | -675 | -418 | 162.3\% | -2,901 | -3,871 | -970 | 33.4\% |
| Sales \& Use | \$4,420 | \$4,272 | -\$148 | -3.3\% | \$23,176 | \$22,829 | -\$347 | -1.5\% |
| Insurance | \$59 | \$66 | \$7 | 11.6\% | \$1,971 | \$1,997 | \$26 | 1.3\% |
| Pooled Money Interest | \$170 | \$182 | \$12 | 7.3\% | \$1,875 | \$1,723 | -\$152 | -8.1\% |
| Alcohol | \$27 | \$27 | -\$0.4 | -1.4\% | \$294 | \$287 | -\$7 | -2.4\% |
| Tobacco | \$2 | \$3 | \$0.2 | 7.4\% | \$31 | \$35 | \$3 | 10.5\% |
| Other | \$125 | \$127 | \$2 | 1.4\% | \$1,241 | \$1,374 | \$133 | 10.7\% |
| Total | \$9,669 | \$9,956 | \$288 | 3.0\% | \$131,136 | \$125,545 | -\$5,591 | -4.3\% |

This is an agency cash report and the data may differ from the Controller's report to the extent that cash received by agencies has not yet been reported to the Controller. The personal income total includes Individual Shared Responsibility Penalty transfers. The forecast is from the 2024-25 Governor's Budget.

Figure 1
Quarterly GDP Growth
Seasonally Adjusted Annualized Rate (\%)


Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)

Figure 2
Personal Income Growth Rates
Seasonally Adjusted Annualized Rate (SAAR)


Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)

Figure 3
U.S. and California Consumer Price Index (CPI) Rates


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U.S. and California Unemployment Rate


Source: California Employment Development Department (EDD), Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)

Figure 5
California Home Sales and Median Home Sales Price of Existing Single-Family Homes

jource: California Association of Realtors (CAR)

Figure 6
Comparison of Actual and 2024-25 Governor's Budget Forecast: Agency General Fund Cash Receipts


Figure 7
Comparison of Actual and 2024-25 Governor's Budget Forecast: Personal Income Tax


Figure 8
Comparison of Actual and 2024-25 Governor's Budget Forecast:
Corporation Tax


Figure 9
Comparison of Actual and 2024-25 Governor's Budget Forecast: Sales \& Use Tax


Figure 10
Comparison of Actual and 2024-25 Governor's Budget Forecast: All Other Taxes


Figure 11
Difference between Actual and 2024-25 Governor's Budget Forecast: Agency General Fund Cash Receipts


Figure 12
Difference between Actual and 2024-25 Governor's Budget Forecast: Personal Income Tax


Figure 13
Difference between Actual and 2024-25 Governor's Budget Forecast: Corporation Tax


Figure 14
Difference between Actual and 2024-25 Governor's Budget Forecast: Sales \& Use Tax


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Difference between Actual and 2024-25 Governor's Budget Forecast: All Other Taxes


Figure 16
Cumulative Difference between Actual and 2024-25 Governor's Budget Forecast: Agency General Fund Cash Receipts


Figure 17
Cumulative Difference between Actual and 2024-25 Governor's Budget Forecast: Personal Income Tax


Figure 18
Cumulative Difference between Actual and 2024-25 Governor's Budget Forecast: Corporation Tax


Figure 19
Cumulative Difference between Actual and 2024-25 Governor's


Figure 20
Cumulative Difference between Actual and 2024-25 Governor's Budget Forecast: All Other Taxes


Figure 21
Year-Over-Year Change - Actual and 2024-25 Governor's Budget Forecast - Agency General Fund Cash Receipts


Figure 22
Year-Over-Year Change - Actual and 2024-25 Governor's Budget Forecast PIT-Personal Income


Figure 23
Year-Over-Year Change - Actual and 2024-25 Governor's Budget Forecast Corp-Corporation


Figure 24
Year-Over-Year Change - Actual and 2024-25 Governor's Budget Forecast SUT-Sales \& Use


Figure 25
Year-Over-Year Change - Actual and 2024-25 Governor's Budget Forecast All Other-All Other Revenue


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Figure 27
Agency General Fund Revenues - Forecast


Figure 28
Agency General Fund Revenues - Difference


Figure 29

Agency General Fund Revenues - Cumulative Difference


Figure 30
Agency General Fund Cash Receipts - Actual


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Agency General Fund Cash Receipts - Forecast


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Figure 34
Year-Over-Year Change - Actual and 2024-25 Governor's Budget Forecast PIT-Personal Income


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Agency General Fund Cash Receipts - Actual


Figure 36
Agency General Fund Cash Receipts - Forecast


Figure 37
Agency General Fund Cash Receipts - Difference


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Agency General Fund Cash Receipts - Cumulative Difference


Figure 39
Year-Over-Year Change - Actual and 2024-25 Governor's Budget Forecast Corp-Corporation


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Figure 41
Agency General Fund Cash Receipts - Forecast


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Agency General Fund Cash Receipts - Difference


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Year-Over-Year Change - Actual and 2024-25 Governor's Budget Forecast SUT-Sales \& Use


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Agency General Fund Cash Receipts - Actual


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Agency General Fund Cash Receipts - Difference


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Agency General Fund Cash Receipts - Cumulative Difference


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Year-Over-Year Change - Actual and 2024-25 Governor's Budget Forecast All Other-All Other Revenue


Figure 50

Personal Income Tax - Agency General Fund Revenues (Actual)


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Figure 53
Personal Income Tax - Agency General Fund Revenues
(Cumulative Difference)


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Agency General Fund Cash Receipts - Actual


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Agency General Fund Cash Receipts - Forecast


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Agency General Fund Cash Receipts - Difference


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Agency General Fund Cash Receipts - Cumulative Difference


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Year-Over-Year Change - Actual and 2024-25 Governor's Budget Forecast PIT-Withholding


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Agency General Fund Cash Receipts - Actual


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Year-Over-Year Change - Actual and 2024-25 Governor's Budget Forecast PIT-Estimated Payments


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Agency General Fund Cash Receipts - Difference


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Year-Over-Year Change - Actual and 2024-25 Governor's Budget Forecast PIT-Final Payments


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Agency General Fund Cash Receipts - Forecast


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Year-Over-Year Change - Actual and 2024-25 Governor's Budget Forecast PIT-Other Payments


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Agency General Fund Cash Receipts - Difference


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Agency General Fund Cash Receipts - Cumulative Difference


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Year-Over-Year Change - Actual and 2024-25 Governor's Budget Forecast PIT-Refunds


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Agency General Fund Cash Receipts - Cumulative Difference


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Year-Over-Year Change - Actual and 2024-25 Governor's Budget Forecast PIT-MHSF Transfer


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Agency General Fund Cash Receipts - Difference


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Year-Over-Year Change - Actual and 2024-25 Governor's Budget Forecast PIT-ISRP Penalty


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Figure 91
Corporation Tax - Agency General Fund Revenues (Difference)


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Corporation Tax - Agency General Fund Revenues (Cumulative Difference)


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Agency General Fund Cash Receipts - Forecast


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Agency General Fund Cash Receipts - Difference


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Agency General Fund Cash Receipts - Cumulative Difference


Figure 97
Year-Over-Year Change - Actual and 2024-25 Governor's Budget Forecast Corp-Estimated Payments


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Agency General Fund Cash Receipts - Actual


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Agency General Fund Cash Receipts - Forecast


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Figure 101
Agency General Fund Cash Receipts - Cumulative Difference


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Year-Over-Year Change - Actual and 2024-25 Governor's Budget Forecast Corp-PTET Payments


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Figure 104
Agency General Fund Cash Receipts - Forecast


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Agency General Fund Cash Receipts - Cumulative Difference


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Year-Over-Year Change - Actual and 2024-25 Governor's Budget Forecast Corp-Other Payments


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Figure 110
Agency General Fund Cash Receipts - Difference


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Agency General Fund Cash Receipts - Cumulative Difference


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Year-Over-Year Change - Actual and 2024-25 Governor's Budget Forecast Corp-Refunds


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Agency General Fund Cash Receipts - Forecast


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Agency General Fund Cash Receipts - Difference


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Year-Over-Year Change - Actual and 2024-25 Governor's Budget Forecast SUT-Sales \& Use


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Other Tax - Agency General Fund Revenues (Actual)


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Figure 120

## Other Tax - Agency General Fund Revenues (Difference)



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## Other Tax - Agency General Fund Revenues (Cumulative Difference)



Figure 122
Agency General Fund Cash Receipts - Actual


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Agency General Fund Cash Receipts - Forecast


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Figure 125
Agency General Fund Cash Receipts - Cumulative Difference


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Year-Over-Year Change - Actual and 2024-25 Governor's Budget Forecast All Other-Insurance


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Agency General Fund Cash Receipts - Actual


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Figure 131
Year-Over-Year Change - Actual and 2024-25 Governor's Budget Forecast All Other-Pooled Money Interest


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Agency General Fund Cash Receipts - Actual


Figure 133
Agency General Fund Cash Receipts - Forecast


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Agency General Fund Cash Receipts - Difference


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Year-Over-Year Change - Actual and 2024-25 Governor's Budget Forecast All Other-Alcohol


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Agency General Fund Cash Receipts - Forecast


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Agency General Fund Cash Receipts - Difference


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Agency General Fund Cash Receipts - Cumulative Difference


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Year-Over-Year Change - Actual and 2024-25 Governor's Budget Forecast All Other-Tobacco


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Year-Over-Year Change - Actual and 2024-25 Governor's Budget Forecast All Other-Other


Figure 147
Personal Income Tax - Historical Agency General Fund Revenues by Sub-Category (Calendar Year)


Figure 148
Personal Income Tax - Historical Agency General Fund Revenues by Sub-Category (Fiscal Year)


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Historical Agency General Fund Cash Receipts


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Historical Agency General Fund Cash Receipts


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Historical Agency General Fund Cash Receipts


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Historical Agency General Fund Cash Receipts


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Historical Agency General Fund Cash Receipts


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Historical Agency General Fund Cash Receipts


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Historical Agency General Fund Cash Receipts


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Historical Agency General Fund Cash Receipts


Fiscal Year


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Figure 165
Corporation Tax - Historical Agency General Fund Revenues by Sub-Category (Calendar Year)


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Corporation Tax - Historical Agency General Fund Revenues by Sub-Category (Fiscal Year)


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Historical Agency General Fund Cash Receipts


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Historical Agency General Fund Cash Receipts


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Historical Agency General Fund Cash Receipts


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Historical Agency General Fund Cash Receipts


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Historical Agency General Fund Cash Receipts


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Historical Agency General Fund Cash Receipts


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Historical Agency General Fund Cash Receipts


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Historical Agency General Fund Cash Receipts


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Historical Agency General Fund Cash Receipts


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Other Tax - Historical Agency General Fund Revenues by Sub-Category (Calendar Year)


Figure 180
Other Tax - Historical Agency General Fund Revenues by Sub-Category (Fiscal Year)


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Historical Agency General Fund Cash Receipts


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Historical Agency General Fund Cash Receipts


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Historical Agency General Fund Cash Receipts


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Historical Agency General Fund Cash Receipts


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Historical Agency General Fund Cash Receipts


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Historical Agency General Fund Cash Receipts


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Historical Agency General Fund Cash Receipts


Figure 188
Historical Agency General Fund Cash Receipts


Figure 189
Historical Agency General Fund Cash Receipts


Figure 190

Historical Agency General Fund Cash Receipts



[^0]:    Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and California Department of Industrial Relations (DIR)

