



Sales and Use Tax – Counties and Transit Authorities

Counties and transit authorities are permitted to levy sales and use taxes that “piggyback” on the state-wide 5.75% sales and use tax, subject to repeal by a majority vote of the county electorate. The department collects the combined state and local tax, then distributes the local share of revenue directly to the counties and transit authorities. The same exemptions and exceptions, credits, and payment dates apply to the permissive taxes as to the state tax.

All of Ohio’s 88 county governments levied permissive sales and use taxes, as of Dec. 31, 2013, ranging from 0.50% to 1.5%. During calendar year 2013, the state distributed approximately \$1.64 billion for county governments from such levies.

In addition, eight transit authorities levied sales and use taxes of up to one percent (as of Dec. 31, 2013). They were:

- the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority,
- the Central Ohio Transit Authority,
- the Laketran Transit Authority (Lake County),
- the Western Reserve Transit Authority (Mahoning County),
- the Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority,
- the Portage Area Regional Transit Authority,
- the Stark Area Regional Transit Authority and
- the Metro Regional Transit Authority (Summit County).

In calendar year 2013, the state distributed about \$419.5 million for these transit authorities.

Taxpayer

(Ohio Revised Code 5739.01, 5739.03, 5739.031, 5739.17, 5741.01)

Any person, retailer, business, organization or provider of taxable services that makes retail sales or taxable purchases on which sales tax has not been paid is required to file a return and remit the sales or use tax due. (See section on **State Sales and Use Tax** for a list of specified services for a description of taxpayers and applicable vendor’s licenses).

Tax Base

(R.C. 5739.01 and 5741.01)

The state, county, and transit authority sales and use

taxes apply to all retail sales of tangible personal property that are not specifically exempt. The tax also applies to the rental of tangible personal property, the rental of hotel rooms by transient guests, and the sales of certain specified services.

The use tax base is identical to that of the sales tax. Use tax applies to purchases made outside of Ohio and to purchases made from Ohio vendors if the vendor did not charge sales tax. For additional information on use tax, see the discussion in Rates, below, under Sourcing.

See the section on **State Sales and Use Tax** for a list of specified services and for more information on sourcing for the use tax.

Rates

(R.C. 5739.02, 5739.021, 5739.023, 5739.025, 5739.026, 5741.02, 5741.021 -5741.023)

State rate

The state sales and use tax rate has been 5.75% since September 1, 2013.

Local rates

Current law gives counties the option of levying a sales tax of up to 1.0% for county general revenue, plus an additional tax of up to 0.5% for county general revenue or several specific purposes outlined in the Ohio Revised Code. These taxes, which must be in 0.25 increments, may be repealed by county voters.

Transit authorities are also authorized to levy additional permissive sales and use taxes at rates of 0.25% to 1.5%, also in 0.25 increments.

Table 1 shows the number of counties at each total combined state and local tax rate, as of April 2014.

Rates and Jurisdictions	
Rate	Number of Jurisdictions
6.50%	4
6.75%	18
7.00%	15
7.25%	49
7.50%	1
8.00%	1

As the table shows, over half of Ohio counties levy a total sales tax rate of 7.25% (the 5.75% state rate and a 1.50% local rate). The 8.00% rate is levied by Cuyahoga County and the 7.50% rate is levied by Franklin County. The lowest rate of 6.50% is levied by Butler, Lorain, Stark, and Wayne counties.

Four Ohio counties – Delaware, Fairfield, Licking and Union – have more than one combined sales and use tax rate in effect because a small part of their area lies within the territory of the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA). The table does not reflect the 0.5% COTA rate that applies in part of these four counties.

Exemptions, Deductions, Credits

Since local sales and use taxes “piggyback” on the state sales and use tax, exemptions are identical. For more information, see the Sales and Use Tax chapter in the State Taxes section of this book.

Filing and Payment Dates

Since local sales and use taxes “piggyback” on the state sales and use tax and are administered by the Department of Taxation, filing and payment dates are identical. For more information, see the Sales and Use Tax chapter in the State Taxes section of this book.

Disposition of Revenue

County permissive sales and use tax (R.C. 5739.21, 5741.03)

Ninety-nine percent of revenue is distributed to the special purpose fund of the county that levied the tax. Revenue can be used for the county general fund, the local transit authority, county permanent improvements, convention facility notes or bonds, implementation of a 9-1-1 system in the county, operation and maintenance of a detention facility, or conservation easements. One percent is credited to the Local Sales Tax Administrative Fund for the use of the Tax Commissioner in defraying administrative costs.

Transit authority sales and use tax (R.C. 306.31, 5739.21, 5741.03)

Ninety-nine percent of revenue is distributed to the general revenue fund of the transit authority that levied the tax for acquiring, constructing, operating, maintaining, replacing, improving and extending transit facilities. One percent is credited to the Local Sales Tax Administrative Fund for the use of the Tax Commissioner in defraying administrative costs.

Special Provisions

See the Sales and Use Tax chapter in the State Taxes section of this book.

Administration

The Tax Commissioner

Ohio Revised Code Citations

County Sales Tax: Sections 5739.021, 5739.022, 5739.025, 5739.21, 5739.211, 5741.021, 5741.023, 5741.03, and 5741.031.

Transit Authority Sales Tax: Sections 306.321, 306.70, 306.71, 5739.01, 5739.023, 5739.025, 5739.21, 5739.211, 5701.01, 5741.022, 5741.03, and 5741.031.

Recent Legislation

Am. Sub. H.B. 59, of the 130th General Assembly

Lake Facilities Authority – The bill establishes a Lake Facilities Authority (LFA) to rehabilitate, improve, or promote an impacted lake district in the state. Such a district includes municipalities and townships with territory within watersheds of an impacted lake (effectively, Grand Lake St. Marys). The bill authorizes a county to levy a “piggyback” sales and use tax of 0.25% or 0.50% to provide revenue to the LFA, as long as county has not already levied the maximum allowable 0.5% piggyback rate for other purposes allowed under continuing law.

History of Major Changes

1967	General Assembly grants counties the authority to levy a county sales tax at a rate of 0.5 percent.
1969	Lake County becomes the first county to levy a county sales tax, effective July 1.
1974	General Assembly authorizes transit authorities to levy a sales tax, subject to voter approval, at the following rates: 0.5 percent, 1 percent or 1.5 percent.
1975	The Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority becomes the first to adopt a sales tax. A 1 percent rate takes effect Oct. 1.
1982	General Assembly permits counties to levy the county sales tax at rates of either 0.5 percent or 1 percent.
1986	Legislature permits counties to levy an additional county sales tax at 0.5 percent for specified purposes, including the county general fund, subject to voter approval.
1987	General Assembly permits all local sales tax levies to be enacted in 0.25 percent increments.

History of Major Changes (continued)

1992	A county 9-1-1 system is added to the list of purposes for which a county may enact an additional county sales tax.
1999	Conservation easements are added to the list of purposes for which the additional county sales tax may be levied.

Comparisons with Other States

(As of Sept. 1, 2014)

This table shows state sales tax rates, the maximum combination of local sales tax rates currently in effect for each state, and the highest combined state and local sales tax rate currently in effect for each state.

Sales Tax Rate Comparison by State			
State	State Rate (%)	Max. Local Rate (%)	Max. Total Rate (%)
Georgia	4.0	4.0	8.0
Indiana	7.0	----	7.0
Kentucky	6.0	----	6.0
Michigan	6.0	----	6.0
North Carolina	4.75	2.75	7.5
Ohio	5.75	2.25	8.0
Pennsylvania	6.0	2.0	8.0
Tennessee	7.0	2.75	9.75
Texas	6.25	2.0	8.25
West Virginia	6.0	1.0	7.0

Table 3

Transit Authority Permissive Sales Tax Collections									
Calendar Years 2008 - 2013									
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Initial Enactment	Tax Rate 12/31/2013	Effective Date of Current Rate
Cleveland RTA (Cuyahoga Co.)	\$170,707,698	\$155,282,828	\$164,069,879	\$174,934,574	\$181,914,698	\$195,202,033	Oct. 1, 1975	1.00	Oct 1, 1975
Central Ohio TA (Franklin Co.)	88,246,021	87,819,553	93,011,284	98,049,602	105,869,439	113,250,101	Sept. 1, 1980	0.50	Jan 1, 2008
LakeTran TA (Lake Co.)	7,744,815	7,157,306	7,294,636	7,759,654	7,869,357	8,243,259	Aug. 1, 1988	0.25	Aug 1, 1988
Western Reserve TA (Mahoning Co.)	n/a	4,167,214	6,834,623	7,415,654	7,629,416	8,128,517	April 1, 2009	0.25	Apr 1, 2009
Greater Dayton RTA (Montgomery Co.)	32,149,806	29,341,697	30,373,587	33,285,528	34,356,160	36,282,503	July 1, 1980	0.50	Jul 1, 1980
Portage Area RTA (Portage Co.)	3,775,726	3,608,868	3,976,097	4,115,662	4,335,903	4,612,295	Feb. 1, 2002	0.25	Feb 1, 2002
Stark Area RTA (Stark Co.)	11,696,465	10,410,581	11,148,815	11,793,115	12,544,581	13,216,571	July 1, 1997	0.25	Jul 1, 1997
Metro TA (Summit Co.)	24,848,457	32,829,001	34,385,448	36,110,561	38,121,576	40,528,840	Feb. 1, 1991	0.50	Jul 1, 2008
Transit Authority Total	\$339,168,988	\$330,617,048	\$351,094,368	\$373,464,350	\$392,641,130	\$419,464,120			

Source: Ohio Department of Taxation

Table 4									
County Permissive Sales Tax Collections, Calendar Years 2008 - 2013									
County	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Initial Enactment	Tax Rate 12/31/13	Effective Date of Current Rate 12/31/13
Adams	\$3,118,975	\$2,962,554	\$3,244,305	\$3,290,325	\$3,453,477	\$3,628,807	June 1, 1991	1.50 ¹	April 1, 2006
Allen	13,972,200	13,165,331	14,246,583	14,476,312	15,362,470	15,286,309	May 1, 1970	1.00	June 1, 1987
Ashland	6,317,590	5,767,699	6,014,104	6,359,262	6,493,655	6,897,050	March 1, 1971	1.25 ²	Jan. 1, 1998
Ashtabula	8,570,060	7,938,933	8,570,869	8,956,657	9,187,656	9,817,837	April 1, 1977	1.00	July 1, 1985
Athens	6,358,789	6,413,526	6,735,970	6,810,061	7,276,471	7,437,472	Feb. 1, 1982	1.25 ²	Jan. 1, 1994
Auglaize	7,035,131	6,230,098	6,615,638	7,205,687	7,626,983	8,154,252	Nov. 1, 1973	1.50 ¹	June 1, 1996
Belmont	10,848,695	10,780,315	11,278,396	11,904,166	13,320,872	14,792,944	May 1, 1985	1.50 ¹	Jan. 1, 1995
Brown	3,079,320	2,962,698	3,428,393	4,184,628	4,567,733	4,642,017	Aug. 1, 1979	1.50 ²	Oct. 1, 2010
Butler	33,112,821	29,766,768	29,589,370	30,745,215	32,587,055	35,175,478	June 1, 1985	0.75	Jan. 1, 2008
Carroll	1,890,307	1,655,211	1,808,510	2,009,558	2,627,854	3,381,433	Sept. 1, 1985	1.00	July 1, 2006
Champaign	4,625,788	4,034,562	4,054,478	4,451,343	4,941,288	5,267,307	Jan. 1, 1986	1.50 ¹	July 1, 2003
Clark	18,791,959	18,679,244	19,451,080	20,374,884	21,688,732	22,645,622	Nov. 1, 1972	1.50 ¹	Jan. 1, 2008
Clermont	20,378,457	19,140,719	20,136,697	20,991,145	21,944,859	22,891,441	Aug. 1, 1979	1.00	Oct. 1, 1983
Clinton	7,128,412	6,931,659	6,136,736	6,589,778	6,711,477	7,204,978	May 1, 1972	1.50 ¹	Oct. 1, 2005
Columbiana	12,603,339	11,690,608	12,501,158	13,359,749	14,680,444	15,660,509	Aug. 1, 1985	1.50 ¹	April 1, 2007
Coshocton	4,451,826	4,080,863	4,320,072	4,460,460	4,809,662	5,420,842	June 1, 1971	1.50 ¹	Jan. 1, 2006
Crawford	5,036,568	4,405,433	4,511,097	4,824,614	5,357,443	5,200,239	May 1, 1978	1.50 ¹	July 1, 1994
Cuyahoga	212,711,596	194,026,358	205,211,697	218,737,889	237,219,044	237,219,044	Sept. 1, 1969	1.25 ²	Oct. 1, 2007
Darke	7,141,728	6,373,738	6,319,928	6,733,248	7,275,748	7,616,366	July 1, 1975	1.50 ¹	Oct. 1, 2005
Defiance	4,647,121	4,311,802	4,426,385	4,931,361	5,058,795	5,270,011	Feb. 1, 1987	1.00	Feb. 1, 1987
Delaware	35,941,918	35,899,776	38,088,578	41,361,429	44,263,579	46,569,242	Jan. 1, 1972	1.25 ²	Oct. 1, 1996
Erie	12,749,346	11,766,426	12,754,912	13,370,369	13,709,346	14,986,175	March 1, 1977	1.50 ¹	Oct. 1, 2013
Fairfield	11,564,477	11,668,564	15,769,483	16,656,582	17,577,486	18,438,658	Sept. 1, 1981	1.00	Jan. 1, 2010
Fayette	6,626,664	6,675,310	6,590,732	6,910,207	7,176,324	7,551,377	March 1, 1983	1.50 ¹	Jan. 1, 2008
Franklin	136,336,222	122,649,116	129,329,538	135,742,789	146,924,300	152,724,462	Sept. 1, 1985	0.75	Jan. 1, 2008
Fulton	4,147,325	3,728,875	5,598,907	6,142,580	6,524,783	6,489,522	May 1, 1972	1.50 ¹	Jan. 1, 2010
Gallia	4,240,343	4,025,647	4,072,767	4,251,704	4,452,280	4,467,273	Dec. 1, 1981	1.25 ¹	Feb. 1, 1995
Geauga	11,453,277	10,409,829	10,533,228	11,183,037	11,744,574	12,477,147	Aug. 1, 1987	1.00 ²	Feb. 1, 2004
Greene	20,903,959	20,558,891	21,130,730	21,965,538	22,576,311	22,816,166	March 1, 1971	1.00	Feb. 1, 1987
Guernsey	5,849,364	6,131,011	6,094,236	6,185,035	6,991,330	8,397,525	Feb. 1, 1971	1.50 ¹	Aug. 1, 1993
Hamilton	129,798,378	120,408,014	125,730,107	130,231,179	134,095,877	138,870,148	June 1, 1970	1.00 ¹	June 1, 1996
Hancock	5,365,589	11,218,865	11,033,039	11,623,579	12,134,502	12,475,395	Feb. 1, 1979	1.00 ²	Jan. 1, 2010
Hardin	3,188,497	3,166,318	3,413,571	3,553,743	3,858,197	3,940,734	Oct. 1, 1985	1.50 ¹	Jan. 1, 2005
Harrison	1,287,617	1,254,949	1,377,080	1,496,851	1,988,873	5,351,723	Dec. 1, 1985	1.50 ¹	June 1, 1994
Henry	3,678,937	3,428,056	3,666,295	3,652,943	3,745,332	3,780,999	March 1, 1972	1.50 ¹	April 1, 2007
Highland	4,952,521	4,874,812	5,208,362	5,333,384	5,748,286	5,885,087	May 1, 1979	1.50 ¹	July 1, 2005
Hocking	2,847,045	2,727,787	2,909,631	3,066,854	3,242,670	3,366,729	April 1, 1979	1.25 ²	Jan. 1, 1998
Holmes	4,577,731	4,249,652	4,154,354	4,943,420	5,669,594	5,992,424	July 1, 1977	1.00	Jan. 1, 1998
Huron	7,593,299	6,926,248	7,598,363	8,225,716	8,341,836	8,733,766	Feb. 1, 1978	1.50 ¹	Jan. 1, 1996
Jackson	4,356,868	4,173,994	4,487,441	4,555,733	4,820,060	4,903,231	April 1, 1982	1.50 ¹	Jan. 1, 1998
Jefferson	10,445,767	9,437,739	9,866,645	10,069,882	10,837,108	11,406,048	June 1, 1973	1.50 ¹	Nov. 1, 1994
Knox	5,439,283	4,951,627	5,206,251	5,437,944	5,878,455	6,143,947	May 1, 1971	1.00 ²	Feb. 1, 1994

Source: Department of Taxation

¹ Includes a 0.50% tax authorized for one or more specific purposes under Sections 5739.026 and 5741.023 of the Ohio Revised Code.² Includes a 0.25% tax authorized for one or more specific purposes under Sections 5739.026 and 5741.023 of the Ohio Revised Code.

County Permissive Sales Tax Collections Calendar Years 2008 - 2013 - continued									
County	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Initial Enactment	Tax Rate 12/31/13	Effective Date of Current Rate 12/31/13
Lake	15,529,714	14,353,531	14,629,554	15,546,168	26,101,830	32,407,105	July 1, 1969	1.00	April 1, 2012
Lawrence	6,808,072	6,587,932	7,260,402	7,500,362	8,014,074	8,063,278	June 1, 1986	1.50 ¹	June 1, 1998
Licking	24,283,013	23,055,893	23,619,086	24,804,013	26,568,612	28,101,247	Feb. 1, 1971	1.50 ¹	Jan. 1, 2006
Logan	7,706,490	6,796,016	6,888,277	7,197,092	8,263,153	8,979,716	Jan. 1, 1974	1.50 ¹	July 1, 1997
Lorain	22,873,860	30,262,475	26,902,971	23,604,816	24,629,683	25,667,985	July 1, 1985	0.75 ²	April 1, 2010
Lucas	70,363,214	64,340,305	68,074,916	72,035,425	75,190,408	76,172,350	Feb. 1, 1971	1.25 ²	Jan. 1, 1993
Madison	4,580,027	3,828,322	3,997,908	4,360,382	4,950,404	5,475,701	March 1, 1983	1.25 ²	July 1, 1999
Mahoning	27,981,245	25,971,965	27,477,879	29,699,553	30,560,903	31,608,412	April 1, 1980	1.00 ¹	Oct. 1, 2005
Marion	6,884,440	6,255,481	6,509,927	7,370,344	8,822,125	7,496,323	Sept. 1, 1985	1.00	April 1, 2012
Medina	19,162,818	18,058,064	18,677,184	19,860,141	20,967,352	21,509,767	April 1, 1971	1.00 ¹	Oct. 1, 2007
Meigs	1,225,559	1,214,295	1,265,083	1,374,024	1,548,358	2,280,260	Feb. 1, 1987	1.50 ¹	Oct. 1, 2012
Mercer	5,350,703	5,478,648	5,800,489	6,187,061	6,558,156	6,972,212	Nov. 1, 1971	1.50 ¹	April 1, 2008
Miami	10,902,816	10,212,564	13,068,299	13,898,864	14,992,069	15,628,405	Dec. 1, 1969	1.25 ²	Oct. 1, 2009
Monroe	1,511,174	1,437,392	1,456,441	1,683,852	1,979,919	2,115,258	Oct. 1, 1986	1.50 ¹	Jan. 1, 2010
Montgomery	64,340,511	58,729,714	60,821,918	66,650,957	68,802,117	70,802,035	Jan. 1, 1971	1.00	July 1, 1989
Morgan	1,168,308	1,135,842	1,188,810	1,226,386	1,327,625	1,446,897	Feb. 1, 1972	1.50 ¹	April 1, 1990
Morrow	2,732,270	2,418,133	2,615,260	2,781,257	3,101,111	3,239,511	July 1, 1971	1.50 ¹	July 1, 1995
Muskingum	14,690,306	14,997,407	14,892,841	14,992,113	16,025,390	17,094,175	May 1, 1971	1.50 ¹	April 1, 1993
Noble	1,047,565	1,093,626	1,090,451	1,098,781	1,324,419	2,063,806	Jan. 1, 1971	1.50 ¹	Feb. 1, 1995
Ottawa	5,198,860	4,813,331	5,516,198	6,373,589	6,656,096	7,030,771	Oct. 1, 1973	1.25 ²	July 1, 2010
Paulding	1,563,396	1,352,623	1,515,998	1,674,064	1,805,275	1,805,114	April 1, 1984	1.50 ¹	Nov. 1, 1991
Perry	1,799,201	1,854,544	2,524,910	3,079,116	3,345,027	3,512,447	March 1, 1971	1.50 ¹	April 1, 2010
Pickaway	5,952,481	6,335,068	5,910,137	6,304,828	6,581,369	7,304,802	Oct. 1, 1983	1.50 ¹	Dec. 1, 2001
Pike	3,649,439	3,444,775	3,691,117	3,840,756	4,807,275	4,193,556	May 1, 1988	1.50 ¹	Jan. 1, 2006
Portage	15,133,049	14,468,521	15,924,811	16,484,674	17,356,453	18,143,786	April 1, 1971	1.00	Dec. 1, 1999
Preble	4,340,758	3,978,709	4,444,872	5,027,910	4,729,872	4,844,309	Nov. 1, 1979	1.50 ¹	May 1, 1994
Putnam	3,378,346	3,810,132	4,078,573	4,770,923	4,967,257	4,996,974	Jan. 1, 1974	1.50 ¹	Jan. 1, 2009
Richland	18,463,217	16,998,124	18,121,298	18,750,452	20,937,410	20,407,296	June 1, 1979	1.25 ¹	Jan 1, 2013
Ross	10,999,022	11,254,090	11,951,369	12,341,994	13,392,672	13,826,553	Jan. 1, 1980	1.50 ¹	Oct. 1, 1993
Sandusky	7,350,669	6,981,002	8,008,419	9,632,765	9,860,147	10,159,036	Aug. 1, 1979	1.50 ¹	Oct. 1, 2010
Scioto	9,227,388	9,176,979	10,048,182	10,385,019	10,911,682	11,097,003	May 1, 1979	1.50 ¹	May 1, 2001
Seneca	7,088,480	6,380,064	6,800,668	6,962,100	7,486,824	7,795,810	Oct. 1, 1983	1.50 ¹	Aug. 1, 2003
Shelby	7,490,908	6,539,566	6,816,661	7,450,890	8,186,678	8,663,656	March 1, 1971	1.50 ¹	April 1, 2008
Stark	11,669,979	24,059,403	18,532,610	6,978,106	16,488,040	25,690,061	Jan. 1, 1987	0.50	April 1, 2012
Summit	35,672,063	33,085,279	34,576,726	36,191,562	38,174,038	39,627,439	March 1, 1973	0.50	Nov. 1, 1995
Trumbull	21,118,330	19,420,353	20,753,184	22,517,348	23,090,076	23,521,304	June 1, 1985	1.00	July 1, 2005
Tuscarawas	9,410,168	8,662,339	9,143,507	9,709,327	10,666,204	11,470,820	April 1, 1971	1.00	July 1, 1998
Union	9,630,696	8,956,881	9,294,054	9,487,591	12,045,553	12,896,477	April 1, 1989	1.25 ²	July 1, 2008
Van Wert	3,542,444	3,268,999	3,773,437	3,904,204	4,073,386	4,032,898	March 1, 1972	1.50 ¹	March 1, 1991
Vinton	829,382	794,454	895,288	970,795	1,079,822	1,137,027	May 1, 1985	1.50 ¹	March 1, 1992
Warren	26,612,718	26,201,291	27,206,741	28,359,839	30,624,217	32,408,064	Jan. 1, 1972	1.00 ¹	Jan. 1, 1992
Washington	9,662,989	9,027,451	9,811,462	10,385,166	11,148,789	11,611,572	Oct. 1, 1983	1.50 ¹	Jan. 1, 1990
Wayne	8,486,153	7,722,607	8,106,668	8,787,045	9,358,877	9,550,108	March 1, 1971	0.75	Jan. 1, 1992
Williams	4,942,414	4,351,902	4,573,015	4,800,583	5,097,082	5,136,669	Dec. 1, 1977	1.50 ¹	Oct. 1, 2003
Wood	15,949,426	15,091,591	15,579,034	16,623,884	17,164,132	17,641,379	June 1, 1971	1.00	Nov. 1, 1987
Wyandot	2,691,934	2,507,231	2,637,310	2,975,397	3,382,629	3,674,673	Feb. 1, 1985	1.50 ¹	Oct. 1, 2005
County Total	\$1,396,160,722	\$1,328,414,534	\$1,390,049,665	\$1,453,998,354	\$1,558,170,937	\$1,638,681,778			