

City Revenue and Spending Since 1980

INTRODUCTORY NOTES

The following tables provide historical data on city revenue and spending from 1980 to the most recently completed fiscal year available. The data is drawn from the City Comptroller's *Comprehensive Annual Financial Report*, which is released each October and reports on the fiscal year that ended June 30th.

The city's finances are complex, and these tables should be used with care. It is impossible to separately take note of every transaction or event that might seem to justify some explanation, from extraordinary events such as the 2001 World Trade Center terrorist attack, to changes in tax rates, to the merger of two previously separate agencies into one. The user should consult other sources, including the *Comprehensive Annual Financial Report* and the annual *Message of the Mayor* accompanying the Executive Budget to gain a fuller understanding of the context in which to use and interpret these figures.

Table 1, Revenue and Expenditures Summary, provides an overview of major revenue sources and expenditure areas.

Table 2, Agency Expenditures, provides annual spending for each city agency on an all-funds basis (that is, including both city funds and state and federal aid). The table does this for both Personal Services (wages and salaries of agency employees) and Other than Personal Services (all other expenditures for non-labor items such as rent, supplies, materials, and the like, as well as contractual labor, in which the city purchases personal services from a nonprofit organization or for-profit firm).

The agency totals are reported after netting out *intra-city funds* and adjustments for prior-year expenses. Intra-city funds account for transactions between city agencies for the provision of goods or services. For example, the Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications contracts for most city telephone services and agencies reimburse the department for their telephone usage. Prior-year adjustments are made to agency budgets to recognize obligations that are contracted in a previous year but are no longer a liability of the city—for example, if merchandise purchased under contract was returned.

Table 3, Actual Full-Time Positions, shows agency full-time staffing at the end of each fiscal year. Note that part-time and seasonal workers are not shown. When using Tables 2 and 3 together, the user should bear in mind that agency Personal Service expenditures include part-time or seasonal workers employed by that agency.

Table 4, Tax Revenue, shows revenues from major city tax sources. The user should note that the city's tax collections are affected by economic fluctuations as well as changes in rates, bases, and other factors. The annual *Message of the Mayor*

accompanying the Executive Budget provides a detailed history of each individual tax source.

Table 5, Non-Tax Revenues, details collections of charges for city services, fine revenues, sales of licenses, permits and franchises, interest income, and other non-tax sources of city revenue.

Table 6, State and Federal Categorical Aid, reports expense budget receipts of state and federal grants provided to fund specific programs. Note that “General Government” refers not to unrestricted grants for general government operations, but to categorical grants to government agencies not included in other lines, such as elected officials and city administrative agencies.

Table 7, Adjusted Debt Service, shows principal and interest payments on long-term city debt, including general obligation and Municipal Assistance Corporation bonds (shown separately) but excluding Transitional Finance Authority debt service. Amounts are shown as reported in the city’s financial statements, and adjusted to reflect the city’s practice of using budget surpluses earned in one year to pre-pay certain expenditures due in the next—the largest of which is usually debt service. The reader will note that the “Prior Year Prepayment” line for a given year is equal to the “Subsequent Year Prepayment” line from the previous year.