



# Economic Brief

State Representative Paul Schemel

March 2017

## Pennsylvania Brings in \$4.42 Billion in Revenue Collections

General Fund revenue collections for the month of March were \$4.42 billion, which was \$230 million less than expected.

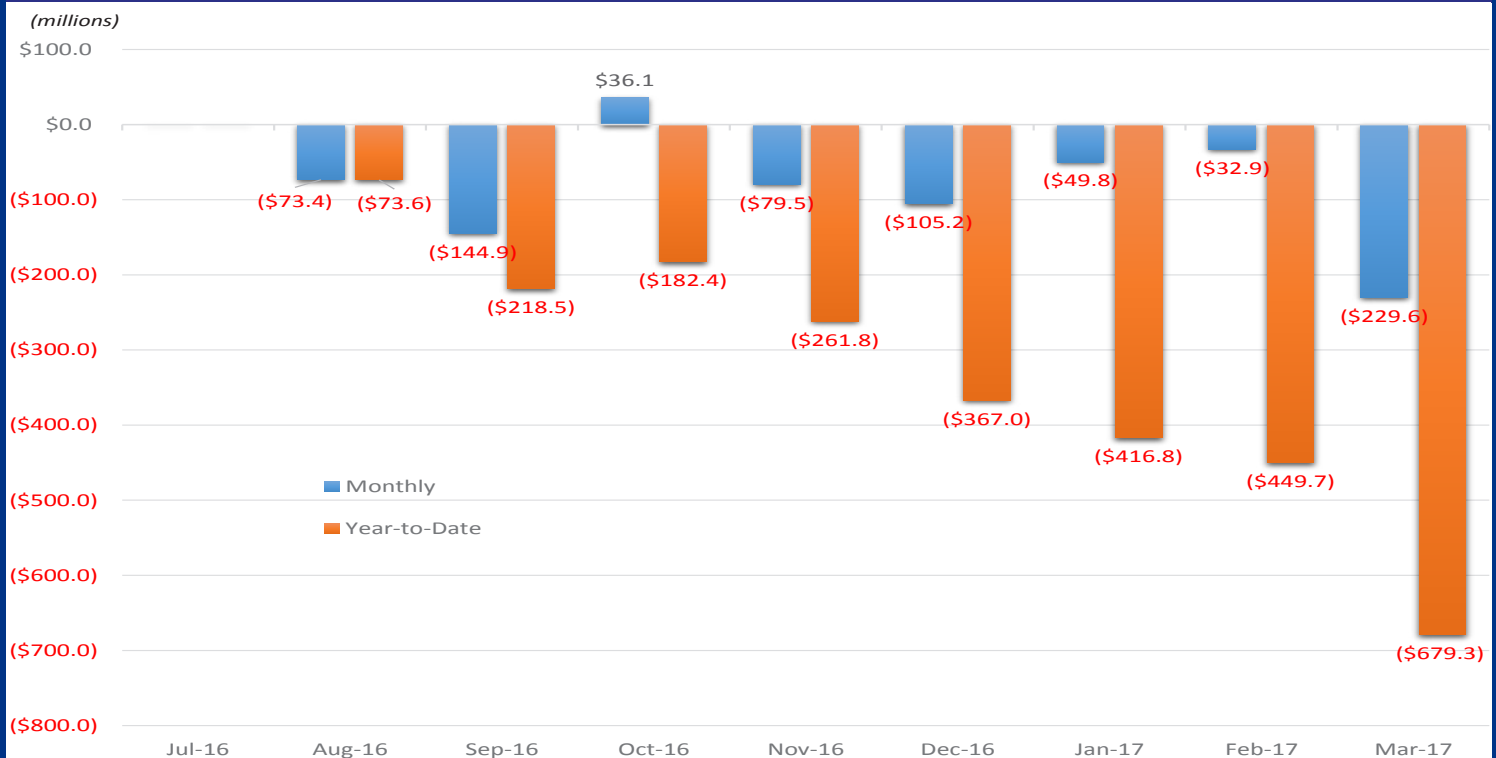
Collections of \$2.24 billion for corporation taxes came in below Department of Revenue projections by \$179 million. Sales tax collections of \$761 million were lower than expected, coming in \$5 million below the official estimate. The Personal Income Taxes collected were \$1.16 billion, which was below estimate by \$15 million.

For the 2016-17 Fiscal Year, General Fund collections of \$22.39 billion are below the official estimate by \$679 million.

### March Revenue Collections

Estimate	Actual
<b>Total General Fund</b>	<b>Total General Fund</b> ↓
\$4.65 Billion	\$4.42 Billion
<b>Corporation Taxes</b>	<b>Corporation Taxes</b> ↓
\$2.42 Billion	\$2.24 Billion
<b>Sales Taxes</b>	<b>Sales Taxes</b> ↓
\$766 Million	\$761 Million
<b>Personal Income Taxes</b>	<b>Personal Income Taxes</b> ↓
\$1.18 Billion	\$1.16 Billion
<b>All Other Taxes</b>	<b>All Other Taxes</b> ↑
\$194 Million	\$210 Million
<b>Non-Tax Revenue</b>	<b>Non-Tax Revenue</b> ↓
\$92 Million	\$46 Million

### Difference From the Official General Fund Revenue Estimate





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## Chairman's Budget News

Going into the upcoming fiscal year, the Commonwealth is facing significant fiscal challenges as a result of mandated cost drivers such as pensions, human service costs and under-performing tax collections. These challenges require innovation and new thinking from the Legislature. We in Harrisburg cannot continually go back to hard-working Pennsylvania families and ask for more money. That is why House Bill 218 represents a new way of approaching the Commonwealth's budget.

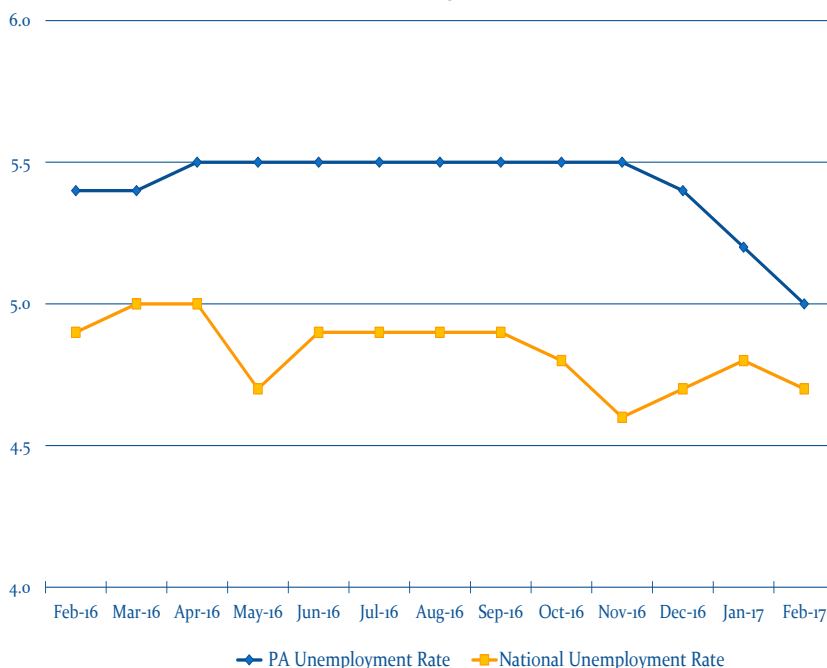
House Bill 218 has a total General Fund spend of \$31.52 billion for 2017-18, which is a decrease of \$246 million from the current fiscal year. This budget does not include any tax increases. The budget will invest more money in our schools with \$362 million more going to PreK-12 education. The enactment of House Bill 218 would mean over a \$1 billion investment in public education in two years.

Realizing the need for more resources to combat opioid addiction, this budget creates a new \$5 million line-item to treat those dealing with this deadly disease. There is also \$1 million more to provide naloxone to our local emergency service providers and a new \$3 million line-item to provide for more drug courts. This budget will provide services to 3,910 more individuals with autism or intellectual disabilities and 4,428 more people with physical disabilities.

To pay for this budget, HB 218 accepts many of the proposals in Governor Wolf's February budget. Roughly sixty percent of the cuts in this budget came from the governor's proposal. The budget also makes targeted cuts including the elimination of many grant line-items and reduction of many administrative line-items. This budget will begin the process of stopping corporate welfare by reducing tax credits. The budget will also rely on revenue from expanded gaming and liquor reforms which the House has passed multiple times and we believe are strong alternatives to raising taxes and borrowing more.

For more details about House Bill 218 please visit [www.pabudget.com](http://www.pabudget.com).

12-Month Unemployment Rates



## PA EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

	February 2017	Monthly Change	
Labor Force	6.43 Million	-6,000	↓
Unemployment Rate	5.0%	-0.2%	
Total Employment	6.11 Million	+7,000	↑
<b>12-Month Change</b>			
Total Employment	+22,000		
Unemployment Rate	-0.4%		

## Surrounding States Unemployment Rates

DE	4.5%	NY	4.4%
MD	4.2%	OH	5.1%
NJ	4.4%	WV	5.2%