



STATE OF ARKANSAS
**Department of Finance
and Administration**

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May 20, 2026

The Honorable Ben Gilmore, Co-Chair
The Honorable Les Eaves, Co-Chair
Arkansas Legislative Council
State Capitol
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Dear Senator Gilmore and Representative Eaves:

In accordance with Arkansas Code Annotated §10-3-1404(a)(1), I am attaching tables summarizing the May 20, 2026, revision to the Official General Revenue Forecast for Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027.

Summary of Net Available Revenues:

FY 2025 net available revenues totaled \$6,679.4 million, a decrease of \$221.1 million or 3.2 percent from FY 2024. A surplus of \$367.9 million resulted from exceeding the full amount of the allocations in the Revenue Stabilization Law.

After ten months into FY 2026, year-to-date net available revenues have risen by \$404.7 million, or 7.4 percent, from year earlier levels, resulting in collections that are \$226.1 million above forecast at that point. Individual and Corporate Income along with Sales and use tax collections have been above forecast.

FY 2026 net available revenues are now expected to reach \$7,079.8 million, an increase of \$400.5 million, or 6.0 percent from FY 2025 results. This is an increase of \$251.4 million over the January 30, 2026 forecast. The FY 2026 forecast is expected to fully fund the Revenue Stabilization Law and provide a surplus of \$585.8 million.

A notable amount of FY 2026 revenue is due to one-time factors. An estimated \$41 million was shifted from FY 2025 into FY 2026 due to the extension of the filing deadline to July 31 for individual and corporate income tax payments resulting from Executive Orders 25-08 and 25-09 issued by Governor Sanders to provide relief to Arkansans affected by severe weather. The extended deadlines were later revised to December 3,

2025. Additionally, income tax withheld from December 2025 and March 2026 Powerball jackpot winnings contributed another \$37.2 million. The combined total of \$78.2 million is accounted for in individual income tax collections. The Department of Finance and Administration adjusted out these one-time revenues in developing its forecast for FY 2027.

FY 2027 net available revenues are expected to reach \$7,094.8 million, an increase of \$15.0 million or 0.2 percent above FY 2026. A surplus of \$389.6 million results from exceeding the full amount of the allocations in the Revenue Stabilization Law.

The adjustments in forecasted FY 2026 and FY 2027 net available revenues relative to the May 20, 2026 Official General Revenue Forecast are attributable to the year-to-date realized collections, the tax cut provided during the 2026 First Extraordinary Legislative Session, and changes in economic conditions that are discussed in more detail below.

Economic Forecast Assumptions

Economic forecasts employed by the Department of Finance and Administration indicate slower growth, resulting partially from the impact of energy prices, among other factors.

Growth in U.S. real GDP is projected at 2.3 percent in FY 2026, and 1.7 percent in FY 2027. In Arkansas real GDP growth is projected to be slightly stronger at 2.6 percent in FY 2026, and 1.8 percent in FY 2027. Inflation, as measured broadly across consumers, businesses, and government by the GDP deflator and at the consumer level by CPI, ticked up in FY 2026 but is expected to ease marginally in FY 2027.

Arkansas payroll employment will enter a period of low to near-zero net job growth. Unemployment rates in the U.S. and Arkansas are expected to continue the recent trend of slowly rising over the next year. Arkansas wage and salary disbursements are expected to grow 5.1 percent in FY 2027 after growth of 5.8 percent in FY2026.

The revenue forecast is based on S&P Global Market Intelligence's baseline economic forecast which is assigned a 50 percent probability and includes slower growth but no recession. The economic risks around the baseline are balanced. An alternative pessimistic scenario is characterized by a tighter energy market and a disruption in global supply of oil and other commodities. The pessimistic scenario is assigned a 25% probability. The optimistic scenario, with a 25% probability, is characterized by an improved energy market due to a resumption of well-functioning global supply of oil and other commodities. Modestly strong consumer demand and improved financial conditions lead businesses to expand investment plans. Previously, the risks to the economic forecast were tilted 20% pessimistic and 30% optimistic.

The Department will act expeditiously to adjust the forecast and budgets if conditions warrant. The department utilizes more stable and conservative forecast sources and models among national forecast contractors to maintain a conservative input process.

Revenue sources are evaluated separately to capture collection issues for each contributing revenue line. We have provided a conservative revenue forecast recognizing the growth opportunities and the risk profile.

Finally, all forecasted revenue amounts have factored in the recent tax relief provided during the 2026 First Extraordinary Legislative Session and assumes no future changes in state law concerning tax policy. In the event changes are enacted, the Department will revise its forecast accordingly.

I have attempted to provide this information in a format that facilitates your work. A narrative summary of the revenue forecasts and tables for quick reference are included with this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'JLH', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

James L. Hudson
Cabinet Secretary

JLH/wlm
Attachments (3)

cc: Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders
Rep. Brian Evans, Speaker of the House
Sen. Bart Hester, President Pro Tempore

STATE AND NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND REVENUE FORECASTS

The following sections summarize the economic outlook for the nation and Arkansas for the next year with comments updating current year (FY 2026) conditions. The Official Revenue Forecast for fiscal years 2026 and 2027 is included.

The revenue forecasts are conditionally based on the expected economic conditions in the state and nation as of April 2026. The U.S. and state economic forecasts were compiled from simulations representing structural economic modeling systems at S&P Global Market Intelligence. The Office of Economic Analysis and Tax Research, DFA, prepared the general revenue forecast.

Economic and Revenue Estimates for Fiscal Year 2026

- **FY 2026 U.S. Gross Domestic Product (Real Output).** This summary is based on the April 2026 baseline forecast of S&P Global Market Intelligence. During FY 2026, the United States economy is expected to produce final goods and services valued in inflation-adjusted dollars at \$24,146.5 billion, an increase of \$550.4 billion or 2.3 percent. Two general measures of inflation indicate moderate price pressures during the year. The Consumer Price Index is expected to increase 3.1 percent and inflation as measured by the GDP price deflator is expected to be 3.2 percent.
- **U.S. Gross Domestic Product in current dollars** is estimated at \$31,660.4 billion, an increase of \$1,694.2 billion or 5.7 percent over FY 2025.
- **Average annual U.S. oil prices** are estimated at \$79.54 per barrel (domestic crude price to refineries) in FY 2026. Weekly and monthly price swings could vary widely around the annual average.
- **FY 2026 Arkansas total personal income** is estimated at \$196.7 billion (current dollars), an increase of \$7.7 billion or 4.1 percent over FY 2025. Growth in all components except farm income is expected, led by strong growth in wages and transfer payments.
- **FY 2026 Arkansas wage and salary disbursements** are estimated at \$89.1 billion, an increase of \$4.9 billion or 5.8 percent. Following growth of 6.7 percent in FY 2025, wage growth moderates as employment growth slows. Total disbursements reflect the combined effects of net job growth, longer average work weeks, and gains in wage rates, bonuses, or level of overtime pay rates.
- **FY 2026 Arkansas payroll employment** is expected to reach a level of 1.391 million jobs, an increase of 15,700 jobs or 1.1 percent.

FY 2026 Gross General Revenues

Gross general revenues are estimated at \$8,638.4 million, an increase from FY 2025 of \$278.7 million, or 3.3 percent.

The total fee deducted from general revenue for funding of the State Central Services Fund and Constitutional Officers Fund for FY 2026 is assumed to remain at 3.0 percent.

In addition to the usual deductions from gross general revenues, such as the Constitutional Officers Fund, the State Central Services Fund, and refunds of individual and corporate income taxes, the following trust fund is noted:

- **Act 1315 (1999) Educational Excellence Trust Fund.** Act 1315 (1999) established a benchmark of 14.14 percent which is applied against actual sales and use tax collections of the previous fiscal year. Under this formula, \$483.9 million has been determined to be distributed (net) in FY 2026.

FY 2026 Net Available General Revenues

Net available revenues are estimated at \$7,079.8 million, an increase of \$400.5 million or 6.0 percent compared to FY 2025.

FY 2026 revenues are expected to fully fund the approved Revenue Stabilization Law and a surplus of \$585.8 million is indicated.

FY 2026 Selected Special Revenues:

- **FY 2026 Educational Adequacy Fund:** Act 107 of the Second Extraordinary Session of 2003 increased the state sales and use tax rate from 5.125% to 6.0%, effective March 1, 2004. Effective July 1, 2004, a new sales tax on selected services went into effect in addition to an increase in vending machine decal fees. Act 94 increased the minimum corporate franchise tax and the tax rate, effective for calendar years beginning January 1, 2004. Effective with FY 2008, a portion of the six-cent per gallon dyed diesel tax is also deposited to the Educational Adequacy Fund to partially offset the revenue loss from exempting dyed diesel from sales tax.

The additional revenues are deposited as special revenues to the Educational Adequacy Fund to be used to fulfill the financial obligations of the state to provide an adequate educational system. Estimate for FY 2026: \$765.3 million or a 3.0 percent increase over FY 2025.

- **FY 2026 WorkForce 2000 (Special Corporate Income Taxes).** Act 1315 (1999) established a benchmark of 6.78 percent which will be applied against net corporate income tax collections in the previous fiscal year. Under this formula, \$29.0 million has been determined to be distributed in FY 2026.

Economic and Revenue Estimates for Fiscal Year 2027

- **FY 2027 U.S. Gross Domestic Product (Real Output).** During FY 2027, the United States economy is expected to produce final goods and services valued in inflation-adjusted dollars at \$24,568.8 billion, an increase of \$422.3 billion or 1.7 percent. Two general measures of inflation indicate moderate price pressures during the year. The Consumer Price Index is expected to increase 3.0 percent and inflation as measured by the GDP price deflator is expected to be 2.9 percent.
- **U.S. Gross Domestic Product in current dollars** is estimated at \$33,142.2 billion, an increase of \$1,481.8 billion or 4.7 percent over FY 2026.
- **Average annual U.S. oil prices** are estimated at \$105.45 per barrel (domestic crude price to refineries) in FY 2027, an increase of 32.6 percent. Weekly and monthly price swings could vary widely around the annual averages.
- **FY 2027 Arkansas total personal income** is estimated at \$207.4 billion (current dollars), an increase of \$10.7 billion or 5.4 percent over FY 2026. All components of personal income are projected to grow apart from farm income which at a 4.4 percent decline provides a small drag on total income.
- **FY 2027 Arkansas wage and salary disbursements**, the largest component of personal income, are estimated at \$93.7 billion, an increase of \$4.6 billion or 5.1 percent. Growth in all major employment sectors, except agricultural, is projected.
- **FY 2027 Arkansas payroll employment** is expected to be flat, remaining at 1.391 million jobs.

FY 2027 Gross General Revenues

Gross general revenues are estimated at \$8,723.0 million, an increase from FY 2026 of \$84.6 million, or 1.0 percent.

The total fee deducted from general revenue for funding of the State Central Services Fund and Constitutional Officers Fund for FY 2027 is assumed to remain at 3.0 percent.

In addition to the usual deductions from gross general revenues, such as the Constitutional Officers Fund, the State Central Services Fund, and refunds of

individual and corporate income taxes, the following trust fund is noted:

- **Act 1315 (1999) Educational Excellence Trust Fund.** Act 1315 (1999) established a benchmark of 14.14 percent which is applied against actual sales and use tax collections of the previous fiscal year. \$500.4 million is estimated to be distributed (net) in FY 2027.

FY 2027 Net Available General Revenues

Net available revenues are estimated at \$7,094.8 million, an increase of \$15.0 million or 0.2 percent compared to FY 2026 and include impacts from the individual and corporate income tax cut of the First Extraordinary Session in May 2026.

FY 2027 revenues are expected to fully fund the approved Revenue Stabilization Law and a surplus of \$389.6 million is indicated.

FY 2027 Selected Special Revenues:

- **FY 2027 Educational Adequacy Fund:** Act 107 of the Second Extraordinary Session of 2003 increased the state sales and use tax rate from 5.125% to 6.0%, effective March 1, 2004. Effective July 1, 2004, a new sales tax on selected services went into effect in addition to an increase in vending machine decal fees. Act 94 increased the minimum corporate franchise tax and the tax rate, effective for calendar years beginning January 1, 2004. Effective with FY 2008, a portion of the six-cent per gallon dyed diesel tax is also deposited to the Educational Adequacy Fund to partially offset the revenue loss from exempting dyed diesel from sales tax.

The additional revenues are deposited as special revenues to the Educational Adequacy Fund to be used to fulfill the financial obligations of the state to provide an adequate educational system. Estimate for FY 2027: \$784.1 million or 2.5 percent increase over FY 2026.

- **FY 2027 WorkForce 2000 (Special Corporate Income Taxes).** Act 1315 (1999) established a benchmark of 6.78 percent which will be applied against net corporate income tax collections in the previous fiscal year. \$30.4 million is estimated to be distributed in FY 2027.

**Office of the Secretary and
Economic Analysis and Tax Research,
Department of Finance and Administration
May 20, 2026**

General Revenue Forecast FY 2026 - 2027

Economic Analysis and Tax Research, DFA

Millions of Dollars

	FY 25 Actual	05/20/26 Estimate	FY 26 Increase	Yr/Yr % CH	05/20/26 Estimate	FY 27 Increase	Yr/Yr % CH
Individual Income	3,594.3	3,846.9	252.6	7.0	3,755.8	-91.1	-2.4
Corporate Income	533.1	507.8	-25.3	-4.7	513.2	5.4	1.1
Sales and Use Tax	3,527.9	3,648.7	120.8	3.4	3,750.4	101.7	2.8
Alcohol	78.1	76.6	-1.5	-1.9	76.6	0.0	0.0
Tobacco	182.9	178.8	-4.1	-2.3	166.7	-12.1	-6.8
Insurance	281.8	217.1	-64.7	-23.0	281.7	64.6	29.8
Racing	1.4	1.3	-0.1	-3.9	1.3	0.0	0.0
Gaming	62.0	64.6	2.6	4.2	64.5	-0.1	-0.2
Severance	10.6	9.6	-1.0	-9.3	13.5	3.9	40.6
Franchise	8.0	8.0	0.0	0.0	8.0	0.0	0.0
Real Estate Transfer	2.6	2.6	0.0	-0.3	2.6	0.0	0.0
Miscellaneous	77.0	76.4	-0.6	-0.7	88.7	12.3	16.1
Gross General Revenues	8,359.7	8,638.4	278.7	3.3	8,723.0	84.6	1.0
PLUS: Historic Rehab Credit	0.0	0.0	0.0	N/A	14.2	14.2	N/A
LESS: SCS / COF	250.5	259.2	8.7	3.5	261.7	2.5	1.0
Individual Refunds	655.0	553.1	-101.9	-15.6	609.9	56.8	10.3
Corporate Refunds	137.3	74.7	-62.6	-45.6	77.4	2.7	3.6
Claims Reserve	0.0	10.0	10.0	0.0	10.0	0.0	0.0
Econ Develop Incentive	20.0	20.4	0.4	2.0	20.4	0.0	0.0
Recycling Tax Credit	24.8	38.8	14.0	56.5	38.8	0.0	0.0
Wood Products Credit	0.0	0.0	0.0	N/A	4.0	4.0	N/A
Amendment 82 Bonds	5.3	5.3	0.0	0.3	5.3	0.0	0.0
Water / Sewer Bonds	14.8	14.8	0.0	0.0	14.8	0.0	0.0
College Savings Bonds	23.3	23.3	0.0	0.0	23.3	0.0	0.0
City / County Tourist	0.9	0.9	0.0	1.4	0.9	0.0	0.0
Educational Excellence	477.4	483.9	6.5	1.4	500.4	16.5	3.4
Educational Adequacy	42.2	42.8	0.6	1.4	44.2	1.4	3.3
Highway Casino Transfer	28.9	31.4	2.5	8.7	31.3	-0.1	-0.3
Net Available	6,679.4	7,079.8	400.5	6.0	7,094.8	15.0	0.2
LESS: Surplus	367.9	585.8			389.6		
Net Available Distribution	6,311.5	6,494.0	182.5	2.9	6,705.2	211.2	3.3

**Economic Assumptions and the
General Revenue Forecast FY 2026 - 2027
Economic Analysis and Tax Research, DFA**

Millions of Dollars	FY 25	05/20/26	FY 26	Yr/Yr	05/20/26	FY 27	Yr/Yr
	Actual	Estimate	Increase	% CH	Estimate	Increase	% CH
Individual Income Tax	3,594.3	3,846.9	252.6	7.0	3,755.8	-91.1	-2.4
<u>Individual Refunds</u>	<u>655.0</u>	<u>553.1</u>	<u>-101.9</u>	<u>-15.6</u>	<u>609.9</u>	<u>56.8</u>	<u>10.3</u>
Net Individual Income	2,939.3	3,293.8	354.5	12.1	3,145.9	-147.9	-4.5
Corporate Income Tax	533.1	507.8	-25.3	-4.7	513.2	5.4	1.1
<u>Corporate Refunds</u>	<u>137.3</u>	<u>74.7</u>	<u>-62.6</u>	<u>-45.6</u>	<u>77.4</u>	<u>2.7</u>	<u>3.6</u>
Net Corporate Income	395.8	433.1	37.3	9.4	435.8	2.7	0.6
Sales and Use Tax	3,527.9	3,648.7	120.8	3.4	3,750.4	101.7	2.8
Net Economic Tax Revenue	6,863.0	7,375.6	512.6	7.5	7,332.1	-43.5	-0.6
Other Tax Revenue ¹	704.4	635.0	-69.4	-9.8	703.6	68.6	10.8
Gross General Revenues	8,359.7	8,638.4	278.7	3.3	8,723.0	84.6	1.0
PLUS: Historic Rehab Credit	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.2	14.2	0.0
LESS: SCS / COF	250.5	259.2	8.7	3.5	261.7	2.5	1.0
Individual Refunds	655.0	553.1	-101.9	-15.6	609.9	56.8	10.3
Corporate Refunds	137.3	74.7	-62.6	-45.6	77.4	2.7	3.6
Claims Reserve	0.0	10.0	10.0	0.0	10.0	0.0	0.0
Econ Develop Incentive	20.0	20.4	0.4	2.0	20.4	0.0	0.0
Recycling Tax Credit	24.8	38.8	14.0	56.5	38.8	0.0	0.0
Wood Energy Products Credit	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	0.0
Amendment 82 Bonds	5.3	5.3	0.0	0.3	5.3	0.0	0.0
Water / Sewer Bonds	14.8	14.8	0.0	0.0	14.8	0.0	0.0
College Savings Bonds	23.3	23.3	0.0	0.0	23.3	0.0	0.0
City / County Tourist	0.9	0.9	0.0	1.4	0.9	0.0	0.0
Educational Excellence	477.4	483.9	6.5	1.4	500.4	16.5	3.4
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Highway Casino Transfer	28.9	31.4	2.5	8.7	31.3	-0.1	-0.3
Net Available	6,679.4	7,079.8	400.5	6.0	7,094.8	15.0	0.2
LESS: Surplus	367.9	585.8			389.6		
Net Available Distribution	6,311.5	6,494.0	182.5	2.9	6,705.2	211.2	3.3
ECONOMIC ASSUMPTIONS	FY2025	FY2026			FY2027		
U.S. GDP Nominal (Billion \$)	29,966.2	31,660.4	1,694.2	5.7%	33,142.2	1,481.8	4.7%
U.S. GDP Real (Billions 2017\$ Chain-Weight)	23,596.1	24,146.5	550.4	2.3%	24,568.8	422.3	1.7%
U.S. GDP Deflator (Chain-Wt, 2017=100)	127.0	131.1	4.1	3.2%	134.9	3.8	2.9%
U.S. CPI Price Index (1982-84=100)	317.7	327.6	9.8	3.1%	337.3	9.7	3.0%
OIL - Avg. Dom. Crude to Refinery (\$ per bbl.)	72.78	79.54	6.8	9.3%	105.45	25.9	32.6%
AR. Net General Revenue (Million \$)	7,567.4	8,010.6	443.2	5.9%	8,035.7	25.1	0.3%
AR. Net GR % of Total Personal Income	4.0%	4.1%	0.1%	1.7%	3.9%	-0.2%	-4.8%
AR. Total Personal Income (Million \$)	188,998.2	196,736.3	7,738.1	4.1%	207,403.0	10,666.7	5.4%
AR. Wage & Salary Disbursements (Million \$)	84,201.4	89,102.7	4,901.4	5.8%	93,672.4	4,569.6	5.1%
AR. Personal Transfer Payments (Million \$)	44,210.7	47,661.2	3,450.6	7.8%	50,345.6	2,684.4	5.6%
AR. Per Capita Income (\$)	60,805.5	62,985.6	2,180.1	3.6%	66,149.8	3,164.2	5.0%
AR. GDP Nominal (Million \$)	193,378.9	204,915.4	11,536.5	6.0%	214,555.0	9,639.6	4.7%
AR. GDP Real (Million \$)	149,260.4	153,139.9	3,879.5	2.6%	155,940.8	2,800.9	1.8%
AR. Employment Total Payroll (Thousands)	1,375.4	1,391.1	15.7	1.1%	1,391.0	-0.1	0.0%
AR. Employment Private Sector (Thousands)	1,163.1	1,179.1	16.0	1.4%	1,178.5	-0.6	0.0%
AR. Employment Manufacturing (Thousands)	163.2	165.2	2.0	1.2%	164.5	-0.7	-0.4%
AR. Retail Sales (Million \$)	54,822.6	57,617.2	2,794.6	5.1%	59,504.5	1,887.3	3.3%

¹ Other Tax Revenue includes the Biennial Insurance Transfers in FY25 and FY27