

FAQs for Municipal Statistics

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Q: Why isn't the help function or the map search working for me?

A: Be sure your browser is set to allow pop-ups. Some of the features on our website open in new browser windows and could be blocked by your browser if pop-ups are disallowed.

Q: How do I read these reports?

A: On each report selection page, there is a link called "view sample report." By clicking this link, a sample report will open in a new browser window. Most of the report components are explained in the sample report view.

Q: What is the effective date?

A: The effective date is the first day a taxpayer is liable to pay the tax. It is not the day the law was enacted or the day the rate was entered on our website.

Q: How do I download a report?

A: In the upper right-hand corner of the report page, there is a dropdown box which says "select a format to download." The available formats for downloading are PDF, Excel, and CSV. Once a format is selected, the download process will begin automatically.

Q: Can I view the tax information for all municipalities in a county?

A: Click the "map search" button on the report selection page. A window with a map of Pennsylvania will open. On the map, click the county you are interested in. After clicking on a county, the county related dropdown box below the map should contain the name of the county you clicked. Also, there should now be a municipality related dropdown box which defaults to "all municipalities in XYZ County." At this point, click the "select" button and you will receive a report with the data for all municipalities in the county.

Q: Why didn't I get all the information I requested?

A: Many times the information requested does not fit on a single page. Use the left and right arrow buttons in the upper left corner to move through the pages of the report.

Q: How do I know my employer is withholding the right amount of taxes from my paycheck?

A: Use the "find your local tax rates" option on the left-hand navigation. Entering your home and work address in the space provided will generate a report showing which taxes should be withheld from your check and at what amounts as well as what you owe in your home taxing jurisdictions.

Q: How do I find contact information for my local tax collector?

A: Select "EIT/EMST Tax Register" from the yellow left-hand menu bar. If you need to contact the EIT tax collector, select the first report option (Earned Income Tax). If you need to contact the EMST tax collector, select the second report option on this page (Emergency and Municipal Services Tax).

Q: Why is the tax collector name the only tax collector information available on the reports?

A: Clicking the yellow (+) next to the tax collector's name will reveal the tax collector's information we have on file such as address, phone number, email, etc.

Q: Is there a low-income exemption in my work taxing jurisdictions for EMST or my home taxing jurisdictions for EIT?

A: Select "Municipal Tax Information" from the yellow left-hand menu bar. If you need EIT low-income exemption information, search on your home municipality. If you need EMST low-income exemption information, search on your work municipality.

Q: What is the difference between the Official Register and the Real Time Register?

A: Act 1 of 1st Special Session 2006 statutorily created two Tax Registers, the Official Register and the Real-time Register. The Official Register is compiled twice per year and released on December 15 for taxes which must be withheld on and after January 1, and on June 15 for taxes which must be withheld on and after July 1 of each year. By law, the rates in this report are the rates employers must withhold from employee paychecks for the time period in question. The Real-time Register includes any updates to the

Official Register that are provided by school districts and municipalities throughout the year. Employers are not obligated to withhold at the rates noted in this report. Employers are only required to withhold taxes that are released on the Official Register on December 15 or June 15.

Q: I used to be able to download the reports by municipal classification (i.e., boroughs, townships, etc.) so that I could compare apples-to-apples, can I still do this?

A: Click on the "Advanced Search" link on the report selection pages to restrict reports by municipal classification.

Q: When I downloaded the non-pdf formatted reports I noticed the structure of the data is not the same as in previous years. The data used to have the Real Estate tax first now the EIT data is listed first; also the data used to post in columns but now the data is structured in rows. How can I access the data in the structure that it used to download in without having to reformat all of my previous downloaded data and without having to re-download the data I already have?

A: Currently, you will need to reformat the data in Excel.

Q: I want to compare the data of municipalities of similar size (i.e., by population), can I download the data in this manner?

A: Currently, you will not be able to download the information by size of population.

Q: Some of the tax rates I am trying to access are reported as "Not Available," what does this mean?

A: The "Not Available" message indicates that either the data was not provided to our department or may not have been collected by our department for the year being reported (i.e., 2006 is the first year that the Effective date of Tax was collected).

Q: I want to compare the tax rates for an area for the past several years, how can I get a single report that details this information?

A: Click on the "Advanced Search" link on the report selection pages to select more than one year.

Q: Why do I get an error when I try to download a state-wide report?

A: Unlike smaller reports that are generated at the time of the request, state-wide reports are generated each night and stored on an FTP site. Some companies block downloads from FTP sites for security reasons. Please ask your IT department to relax the security and allow downloads from <ftp://ftp.state.pa.us/pub/dced/DCED-Munstats> or download the report you need on your behalf.