

**TABLE 32. STATE SALES AND USE TAX: GROSS COLLECTIONS BY BUSINESS GROUPS AND UNITS**  
**[G.S. 105 ARTICLE 5]**

Business groups	Fiscal year									
	1991-1992		1992-1993		1993-1994		1994-1995		1995-1996	
	Amount [\$]	% of total	Amount [\$]	% of total	Amount [\$]	% of total	Amount [\$]	% of total	Amount [\$]	% of total
<b>Retail:</b>										
Apparel.....	75,404,501	3.3%	81,978,961	3.3%	86,570,012	3.2%	92,768,198	3.2%	95,450,439	3.1%
<b>Automotive:</b>	136,953,451	6.1%	140,374,492	5.7%	151,491,739	5.6%	161,916,368	5.5%	175,564,895	5.6%
Motor vehicle dealers.....	19,834,347	0.9%	20,330,625	0.8%	22,458,124	0.8%	24,794,511	0.8%	26,571,412	0.9%
Airplanes, boats - (3%) rate.....	23,487,492	1.0%	20,786,371	0.8%	7,406,254	0.3%	9,657,427	0.3%	11,112,787	0.4%
Manufactured home (mobile home) dealers.....	532,373	0.0%	507,674	0.0%	730,017	0.0%	915,889	0.0%	942,307	0.0%
Manufactured home (mobile home)-(2%) rate..... [see notes for applicable rates]	[included in airplanes and boats group]		[included in airplanes and boats group]		14,384,749	0.5%	15,483,706	0.5%	16,748,017	0.5%
Modular home-(2% rate; 2.5% eff 1-1-04) .....					[included in mfd home group]		[included in mfd home group]		[included in mfd home group]	
Other automotive.....	93,099,239	4.1%	98,749,822	4.0%	106,512,595	3.9%	111,064,835	3.8%	120,190,372	3.9%
Food.....	556,169,462	24.6%	593,886,077	24.1%	629,357,489	23.2%	662,838,679	22.7%	701,781,868	22.6%
Furniture.....	88,455,439	3.9%	100,672,961	4.1%	113,779,238	4.2%	120,967,820	4.1%	125,592,766	4.0%
General merchandise.....	394,452,528	17.5%	436,756,541	17.7%	477,256,954	17.6%	521,898,188	17.8%	578,134,287	18.6%
Lumber and building material.....	173,406,173	7.7%	205,242,906	8.3%	246,361,024	9.1%	283,387,255	9.7%	295,341,240	9.5%
Utility services..... [includes liquor and satellite effective 2001-02]	274,291,101	12.1%	279,161,417	11.3%	312,209,380	11.5%	307,728,433	10.5%	329,155,356	10.6%
Unclassified.....	300,069,424	13.3%	337,526,708	13.7%	364,945,222	13.4%	402,090,764	13.7%	501,794,371	16.1%
Farm, mill, laundry machinery; fuel to farmers, manufacturers, laundries; other - 1%..... [see notes for changes in 2005-06]	37,375,994	1.7%	39,798,801	1.6%	41,471,029	1.5%	44,376,737	1.5%	46,341,333	1.5%
<b>Total retail.....</b>	<b>2,036,578,073</b>	<b>90.1%</b>	<b>2,215,398,864</b>	<b>89.8%</b>	<b>2,423,442,087</b>	<b>89.3%</b>	<b>2,597,972,442</b>	<b>88.8%</b>	<b>2,849,156,555</b>	<b>91.6%</b>
8% Highway use tax - motor vehicle leasing.....	17,813,886	0.8%	20,189,023	0.8%	22,070,026	0.8%	25,272,634	0.9%	29,737,767	1.0%
Wholesale licenses..... [Repealed for taxes paid on or after July 1, 1998.]	810,346	0.0%	1,191,022	0.0%	1,056,984	0.0%	1,120,985	0.0%	425,522	0.0%
Use tax (see note).....	204,790,362	9.1%	231,558,987	9.4%	267,421,582	9.9%	300,062,300	10.3%	232,305,760	7.5%
<b>Total retail and use tax (licenses when applicable)</b>	<b>2,259,992,667</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>2,468,337,897</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>2,713,990,677</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>2,924,428,360</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>3,111,625,603</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

TABLE 32. - Continued

Business groups	Fiscal year									
	1996-1997		1997-1998		1998-1999		1999-2000		2000-2001	
	Amount [\$]	% of total	Amount [\$]	% of total	Amount [\$]	% of total	Amount [\$]	% of total	Amount [\$]	% of total
<b>Retail:</b>										
Apparel.....	96,246,850	2.9%	100,886,318	2.9%	97,797,118	2.7%	101,312,348	2.8%	103,360,801	2.8%
<b>Automotive:</b>	179,432,550	5.4%	182,729,329	5.3%	194,445,894	5.4%	199,762,787	5.5%	200,666,251	5.4%
Motor vehicle dealers.....	27,656,981	0.8%	28,890,773	0.8%	30,580,041	0.9%	30,114,110	0.8%	29,838,988	0.8%
Airplanes, boats - (3%) rate.....	9,246,368	0.3%	11,130,350	0.3%	10,757,869	0.3%	10,803,837	0.3%	10,816,022	0.3%
Manufactured home (mobile home) dealers.....	872,889	0.0%	1,182,115	0.0%	1,433,685	0.0%	1,583,215	0.0%	1,794,168	0.0%
Manufactured home (mobile home)-(2%) rate.....	17,075,679	0.5%	17,368,139	0.5%	20,152,619	0.6%	19,389,423	0.5%	15,764,953	0.4%
[see notes for applicable rates]										
Modular home-(2% rate; 2.5% eff 1-1-04) .....	[included in mfd home group]		[included in mfd home group]		[included in mfd home group]		[included in mfd home group]		[included in mfd home group]	
Other automotive.....	124,580,633	3.8%	124,157,952	3.6%	131,521,680	3.7%	137,872,202	3.8%	142,452,120	3.9%
Food.....	715,500,403	21.7%	740,721,893	21.5%	672,949,487	18.7%	524,284,128	14.5%	544,829,232	14.8%
Furniture.....	134,629,117	4.1%	142,354,550	4.1%	152,953,893	4.3%	154,258,498	4.3%	147,154,473	4.0%
General merchandise.....	616,428,509	18.7%	625,352,352	18.2%	684,542,657	19.0%	715,701,673	19.8%	739,689,728	20.0%
Lumber and building material.....	329,716,424	10.0%	342,385,447	9.9%	379,355,975	10.5%	402,377,626	11.1%	398,824,508	10.8%
Utility services.....	338,718,853	10.3%	351,593,637	10.2%	366,961,469	10.2%	375,669,973	10.4%	382,383,571	10.4%
[includes liquor and satellite effective 2001-02]										
Unclassified.....	630,798,541	19.1%	693,807,982	20.1%	771,872,702	21.5%	840,673,522	23.3%	879,966,505	23.8%
Farm, mill, laundry machinery; fuel to farmers, manufacturers, laundries; other - 1%.....	50,320,348	1.5%	54,697,552	1.6%	52,009,309	1.4%	54,188,149	1.5%	54,284,377	1.5%
[see notes for changes in 2005-06]										
Total retail.....	3,091,791,595	93.7%	3,234,529,060	93.9%	3,372,888,504	93.8%	3,368,228,704	93.3%	3,451,159,446	93.5%
8% Highway use tax - motor vehicle leasing.....	32,388,443	1.0%	31,112,642	0.9%	35,398,039	1.0%	31,320,520	0.9%	25,710,847	0.7%
Wholesale licenses.....	1,025,185	0.0%	1,103,852	0.0%	20,557	0.0%	-	-	-	-
[Repealed for taxes paid on or after July 1, 1998.]										
Use tax (see note).....	173,143,800	5.2%	178,177,998	5.2%	187,927,990	5.2%	209,335,666	5.8%	213,868,145	5.8%
<b>Total retail and use tax (licenses when applicable)</b>	<b>3,298,349,023</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>3,444,923,553</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>3,596,235,091</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>3,608,884,890</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>3,690,738,438</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

TABLE 32. - Continued

Business groups	Fiscal year									
	2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004		2004-2005		2005-2006	
	Amount [\$]	% of total	Amount [\$]	% of total	Amount [\$]	% of total	Amount [\$]	% of total	Amount [\$]	% of total
<b>Retail:</b>										
Apparel.....	111,403,687	2.8%	117,690,127	2.7%	127,897,863	2.8%	142,766,762	2.9%	157,105,070	2.9%
<b>Automotive:</b>	208,599,593	5.2%	227,265,003	5.3%	245,227,323	5.3%	254,507,573	5.2%	268,416,687	5.0%
Motor vehicle dealers.....	32,029,558	0.8%	37,646,002	0.9%	39,596,595	0.9%	40,597,056	0.8%	42,583,989	0.8%
Airplanes, boats - (3%) rate.....	9,371,592	0.2%	9,659,261	0.2%	12,569,582	0.3%	11,395,303	0.2%	11,335,806	0.2%
Manufactured home (mobile home) dealers.....	2,703,611	0.1%	4,300,358	0.1%	3,705,412	0.1%	2,396,813	0.0%	2,626,920	0.0%
Manufactured home (mobile home)-(2%) rate.....	13,938,318	0.3%	10,035,961	0.2%	9,055,266	0.2%	5,607,207	0.1%	5,572,123	0.1%
[see notes for applicable rates]										
Modular home-(2% rate; 2.5% eff 1-1-04) .....	[included in mfd home group]		[included in mfd home group]		2,385,872	0.1%	7,032,204	0.1%	6,203,637	0.1%
Other automotive.....	150,556,514	3.8%	165,623,421	3.9%	177,914,596	3.8%	187,478,990	3.8%	200,094,212	3.7%
Food.....	592,373,707	14.8%	647,561,215	15.1%	698,906,710	15.1%	725,611,884	14.8%	783,417,598	14.6%
Furniture.....	152,256,737	3.8%	163,022,146	3.8%	168,784,595	3.7%	181,087,138	3.7%	198,490,297	3.7%
General merchandise.....	779,544,745	19.5%	836,211,296	19.5%	905,225,841	19.6%	987,088,322	20.2%	1,089,864,576	20.3%
Lumber and building material.....	417,621,545	10.5%	442,421,857	10.3%	509,484,600	11.0%	594,458,884	12.1%	665,026,475	12.4%
Utility services.....	502,420,816	12.6%	638,345,779	14.9%	645,652,114	14.0%	669,470,423	13.7%	763,745,628	14.2%
[includes liquor and satellite effective 2001-02]										
Unclassified.....	1,159,122,440	29.0%	1,145,217,411	26.7%	1,237,648,867	26.8%	1,249,760,813	25.5%	1,362,051,125	25.3%
Farm, mill, laundry machinery; fuel to farmers, manufacturers, laundries; other - 1%.....	44,467,748	1.1%	43,686,015	1.0%	43,196,807	0.9%	46,272,351	0.9%	36,214,021	0.7%
[see notes for changes in 2005-06]										
Total retail.....	3,967,811,018	99.3%	4,261,420,849	99.3%	4,582,024,720	99.1%	4,851,024,149	99.1%	5,324,331,477	99.1%
8% Highway use tax - motor vehicle leasing.....	26,196,182	0.7%	29,768,723	0.7%	40,780,642	0.9%	43,909,573	0.9%	49,821,633	0.9%
Wholesale licenses.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
[Repealed for taxes paid on or after July 1, 1998.]										
Use tax (see note).....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total retail and use tax (licenses when applicable)</b>	<b>3,994,007,200</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>4,291,189,572</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>4,622,805,361</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>4,894,933,722</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>5,374,153,110</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Detail may not add to totals due to rounding.

**Business classifications**

Business classifications are not indicative of sales of specific items (merchandising lines), but are, instead, reflective of all transactions reported by a business coded under a particular classification. For instance, the food category includes sales of all items sold by bakeries, candy and confectionery stores, dairies and dairy bars, vending machine operators, drink stands, restaurants, cafeterias, grills, snack bars, taverns, nightclubs, and grocers (taxable food, cleaning products, toiletries, hardware, floral sales, taxable pharmaceutical items, gifts, toys, office supplies, and miscellany). Sales of taxable food items sold by discount stores, wholesale buying clubs, and convenience stores are included in the general merchandise group - not the food group.

TABLE 32. - Continued

The apparel category includes all transactions (including accessories) by merchants coded as apparel businesses; apparel transactions of department stores, discount stores, wholesale buying clubs, etc. are included in the general merchandise group - not the apparel group.

The furniture category includes all transactions (including accessories) by merchants coded as furniture dealers; furniture items sold by department stores, discount stores, flea markets, etc. included in the general merchandise group - not the furniture group.

Data are by-product data compiled during the processing of reports and remittances filed by taxpayers required to register for, collect, and remit sales and use taxes, and are classified according to sales and use tax registration numbers.

**Changes in general sales tax rate:**

Effective July 16, 1991, the rate increased from 3% to 4%.

Effective October 16, 2001, the rate increased from 4% to 4.5%. [The rate was reduced to 4.25% effective December 1, 2006; the sunset of the remaining 0.25% (reducing the rate from 4.25% to 4.0%) is scheduled for July 1, 2007.]

**Use tax category:**

Amounts shown for 1991-92 through 2000-01 reflect use tax generated from the general State rate. Effective for 2001-02, use tax amounts generated from the general State rate are no longer shown separately, but are, instead, included within the attributable business group.

**1%, 2%, 2.5%, and 3% tax group:**

2001-02 Effective October 1, 2001, the \$1,500 tax limit applicable to the sale or continuous lease or rental of noncommercial vehicles was repealed.

2003-04 Effective for sales made on or after January 1, 2004, modular homes are subject to a 2.5% State sales and use tax rate under G.S. 105-164.4(a)(8).

Twenty percent (20%) of the taxes collected under this statute is distributed to counties and municipalities. G.S. 105-164.44G

[Prior to the law change, modular homes were taxed at the 2% State sales and use tax rate under G.S. 105-164.4(a)(1a).]

2005-06 Effective January 1, 2006, sales of railway cars, locomotives, and mobile classrooms and offices became taxable at the general State rate and applicable local rates (previously taxed at the State 3% rate with a \$1,500 maximum tax per article). Various farm items and fuel used for farming and commercial laundry operations were exempted from taxation (previously taxed at the 1% State sales tax rate). Additionally, various types of machinery (farm, telephone company property, laundry, freezer plant, and broadcasting) and various types of equipment (tobacco, air courier, and flight training) along with farm storage facilities and farm containers were exempted from the 1% State rate with an \$80 maximum tax per article. Concurrently, manufacturing machinery and fuel and qualifying recycling facility equipment were exempted from the State sales tax and made subject to the new privilege tax levied under Article 5F (refer to *Table 45*).

**Food group:**

1996-97 Effective January 1, 1997, the State rate applicable to food purchased for home consumption was reduced from 4% to 3%.

1998-99 Effective July 1, 1998, the State rate applicable to food purchased for home consumption was reduced from 3% to 2%.

Effective May 1, 1999, the 2% State rate applicable to food purchased for home consumption was repealed.

2003-04 Effective July 1, 2003, all sales of soft drinks (fountain, those sold for home consumption, and vending) were made subject to both the State and local rates. [Prior to this date, soft drinks sold for home consumption were not taxable at the State level.] [Effective January 1, 2004, sales of closed container soft drinks sold through vending machines were made subject to a partial exemption; only fifty percent (50%) of the sales price of closed container soft drinks sold through vending machines is taxable and subject to both the State and local rates under G.S. 105-164.13(50).]

Effective January 1, 2004, candy was exempted from the State tax and subject to only the 2% local tax. [Candy sold through vending machines is taxed at fifty percent (50%) of the sales price and is subject to both the State and local rates under G.S. 105-164.13(50).]

2005-06 Effective October 1, 2005, all sales of candy are subject to the combined general State and county tax rate; taxation of candy sold through vending machines remains unchanged.

**Utility services group:**

1996-97 Effective August 1, 1996, sales of electricity and piped natural gas to farmers, manufacturers, and commercial laundries and dry cleaners for prescribed purposes were made subject to a 2.83% rate rather than 3%.

1999-00 Effective July 1, 1999, sales of piped natural gas became exempt from sales tax and, instead, became subject to the piped natural gas excise tax.

2001-02 Effective December 1, 2001, sales of spirituous liquor, other than mixed beverages, became subject to a 6% State sales and use tax. Mixed

beverages were already subject to State and local sales and use taxes and were unaffected by the law change.

Effective January 1, 2002, gross receipts of direct-to-home satellite service to subscribers in this State became subject to a 5% State sales tax.

Effective January 1, 2002, gross receipts derived from providing telecommunications services became subject to a 6% State sales and use tax.

Prior to the law change, local telecommunications services were subject to a 3% State sales tax rate and a 3.22% utility franchise tax rate; intrastate long distance calls were taxed at 6.5% and interstate long distance calls were exempt. Telecommunications services include local, interstate, intrastate, toll, private telecommunications, and mobile telecommunications services.

2005-06 Effective October 1, 2005, the sales and use tax imposed on the gross receipts of providing telecommunications and direct-to-home satellite services and on the sales of spirituous liquor, other than mixed beverages, increased to the combined general rate of 7%; voice mail services became taxable as part of telecommunications services. Effective January 1, 2006, the combined general rate of 7% sales and use tax is imposed on the gross receipts of providing cable services; gross receipts derived from providing satellite digital audio radio service is taxable being subject to both the State general rate of tax and local rates.

**Unclassified group:**

2001-02 The *unclassified* category includes \$74,989,019 in payments that were unassignable to specific business classifications due to legislative changes in payment and return due dates.