









TABLE 37. - Continued

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%, and is scheduled to revert to the 4% rate effective July 1, 2005.

Other use tax category: Amounts shown for 1989-90 through 2000-01 reflect use taxes generated from sales of manufactured homes; airplanes and boats are included in this category for 1989-90 through 1994-95. Effective for 1995-96, use taxes collected on airplane and boat transactions are no longer shown separately, but are, instead, included within the attributable county of collection. Effective for 2001-02, use taxes generated from manufactured home transactions are included within the attributable county of collection.

8% highway use tax - motor vehicle leasing:

1989-90 Effective October 1, 1989, retail sales of motor vehicles became exempt from sales tax and, instead, became subject to the 3% rate of highway use tax under Article 5A of G.S. Chapter 105, with a minimum tax of \$40, with certain exceptions, and a maximum tax of \$1,000 on any one motor vehicle. Beginning with 1989-90, collections from retail sales of motor vehicles are not included in the table. Concurrently, lessors of motor vehicles were given the option of either paying the highway use tax on the purchase price of the vehicles to be leased or collecting and remitting sales tax on the lease receipts at a rate of 8% for the first 90 continuous days of vehicle rental to the same person; after 90 days the rate would revert to 3%. [See 8% highway use tax-motor vehicle leasing classification for tax collections of the 8% rate.]

Changes in sales tax rate applicable to purchases of food for home consumption:

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Effective May 1, 1999, the 2% State rate applicable to food purchased for home consumption was repealed.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 are taxable and subject to both the State and local rates under G.S. 105-164.13(50).]

Effective January 1, 2004, candy is exempt 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).]

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.

Unallocated:

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

