

Statistics Canada produces two sets of data on government finance: *estimates data* derived from the budgets and financial estimates of the various levels of government, and *actual data* derived from audited public accounts after they are published.

The estimates data are less detailed but apply to the current fiscal year and are available on CANSIM (Canadian Socio-economic Information Management System), Statistics Canada's machine-readable data base. In this electronic form they can be readily revised and are updated as soon as information becomes available. In a fiscal year, which in the federal, provincial and territorial governments runs from April 1 to March 31 of the following calendar year, the current information is available by July. Data on local governments are compiled for the calendar year from budgets and other sources and are also released through CANSIM. Since 1985-86, the information available includes revenue and expenditure forecasts for federal, provincial and territorial, and local governments plus a consolidation of all three levels.

The actual data are extracted from audited public accounts of the various jurisdictions and are issued in printed reports. The preparation and release dates of these publications depend on the availability of public accounts information from each level of government.

Both of these sets of data are produced in accord with the financial management system (FMS) of government statistics. Only through use of FMS-based data can accurate comparisons be made between governments or between levels of government. FMS data are also used to calculate equalization payments and other federal-provincial financial arrangements.

The system of government financial management statistics (Statistics Canada 68-507) reflects changes in government operations and changes in statistical formats implemented since the system was last updated in 1972. For example, a number of new taxes are now identified particularly in the area of natural resources.

The FMS conceptual framework is the basis employed in preparing statistical information for the annual consultation between federal and provincial Ministers of Finance, pertaining to the co-ordination of budgetary policies.

Statistics Canada has been publishing financial data for the three levels of government according to the concepts and classifications of the FMS for over 60 years. Efforts are currently under way to expand the scope of the financial management system to include non-government institutions such as universities, hospitals and cultural agencies, which constitute a major portion of the public sector.

This chapter is based on the actual data as published. Users wanting more current information should access the CANSIM data.

22.1 Review of revenue and expenditure

The federal government, on a financial management basis, incurred a deficit of \$30,234 million for the fiscal year 1984-85, compared to \$25,253 million for the previous year. Gross general revenue during 1984-85 amounted to \$83,740 million while gross general expenditure totalled \$113,974 million. For 1983-84 gross general revenue was \$76,715 million and gross general expenditure was \$101,968 million.

22.1.1 Gross general revenue

Gross general revenue (Table 22.2), for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1985, increased by \$7,025 million (9.2%), compared to the \$3,985 million (5.5%) rise in 1984.

The most significant sources of this growth were: corporation income taxes, personal income taxes, general sales taxes, customs duties and unemployment insurance contributions. The growth was offset somewhat by the elimination of the natural gas and gas liquids tax in February 1984.

The yield from corporation income taxes increased by \$2,094 million (28.7%), compared to an increase of \$147 million (2.1%) in 1983-84. This substantial increase was due to a strong growth in corporation profits of just over 21% in 1985.