



Press Release
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Kentucky Tax and Budget Initiative Launches Kentucky Economic Watch September General Fund Revenue Down Significantly

Louisville, KY – Kentucky Youth Advocates' Tax and Budget Initiative introduces the Kentucky Economic Watch today, an effort which will provide consistent and comprehensive data analysis of Kentucky's most up-to-date economic trends. The three economic indicators analyzed each month will be general fund revenue receipts, the unemployment rate and food stamp participation rates.

Kentucky's Office of the State Budget Director reported on October 9, 2009, that September's General Fund revenue was down again for the 9th month in a row. The receipts totaled \$725.6 million, compared to \$804.6 million in September, 2008. This 9.8 percent decrease marks a significant downturn in state revenue receipts. In May when the Consensus Forecast Group revised the revenue forecast for fiscal year 2010 they expected revenues to be 1.5 percent lower than they were in fiscal year 2009 because of the impact of the national recession on Kentucky's economy. According to the Office of the State Budget Director, General Fund revenues can now only fall 0.2 percent for the remainder of the fiscal year and still meet revenue forecasts. Based on discussion at today's Consensus Forecast Group meeting, fiscal year 2010 revenues may be \$160 million lower than forecasted.

"These numbers are not surprising, considering the current economic state," said Terry Brooks, Executive Director of Kentucky Youth Advocates. "Our considered guess is that we will see further evidence of Kentucky's struggling economy with the upcoming analysis of the Commonwealth's unemployment rate and food stamp participation rates."

The Office of the State Budget Director will release future revenue receipts around the second week of every month, the Bureau of Labor and Statistics will release unemployment

data around the third Friday of every month, and the Cabinet for Health and Family Services will release food stamp data around the last week of every month. Following the release of each data point, the Kentucky Tax & Budget Initiative will in turn release a brief update and a short commentary on the meaning for Kentucky's economy.

“What you can come to expect from the Kentucky Tax and Budget Initiative is independent, regular and reliable information on the Commonwealth's economic trends. Kentucky Youth Advocates will analyze the most up-to-date data, and follow the trends to keep as many Kentuckians informed and involved in the discussion as possible,” said Brooks.

If you would like to continue to receive these accurate and timely economic briefs, please subscribe to the [Kentucky Tax and Budget Initiative Listserv](#) at:

http://www.kyyouth.org/Advocacy/Email_List.htm.

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Kentucky Youth Advocates is the home of Kentucky's Tax and Budget Initiative, a member of the nationwide State Fiscal Analysis Initiative.