



Economic and Revenue Forecast Council

EMBARGOED until September 25, 2019, 10:00 am PDT when it will be released at www.ercf.wa.gov

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September forecast balances higher collections, maturing expansion

OLYMPIA, September 25, 2019 –The Near General Fund-State (Near GF-S) revenue forecast for the 2017-19 biennium is now \$46.086 billion, an increase of \$27 million and 18.0% more than that of the 2015-17 biennium. The Near GF-S includes the General Fund-State, Education Legacy Trust Account and Washington Opportunity Pathways Account and provides the fullest picture of resources available for budget purposes. Forecasted Near GF-S revenue for 2019-21 biennium has been increased by \$447 million to \$51.435 billion, and 2021-23 biennium is forecasted at \$54.973 billion, a decrease of \$63 million.

The U.S. and Washington economic forecasts are similar to the June forecast with Washington personal income slightly higher. The baseline forecast has slowing growth but no recession. Forecast risks include the impact of trade disputes, a slowing global economy and concerns over the 737 Max.

The level of uncertainty in the baseline remains elevated, with downside risks outweighing upside risks.

General Fund-State Forecasts (probabilities in parenthesis): 2019-21

Baseline (50%): \$50.030 billion; \$226 million higher than the previous forecast.

Optimistic (15%): \$51.708 billion; \$1.68 billion more than the baseline forecast.

Pessimistic (35%): \$49.584 billion; \$1.99 billion less than the baseline forecast.

Governor's Council of Economic Advisors: \$50.063 billion; \$32 million more than the baseline forecast.

The economic and revenue forecasts are updated quarterly. The next update to the revenue forecast will be on Wednesday, November 20, 2019.

Please see our full report for more information. You can access this report at <http://ercf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/public/documents/forecasts/rev20190925.pdf>

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About the ERFC:

The ERFC was established under RCW 82.33 to provide the Governor and the Legislature with official independent and professional forecasts of the state economy and revenues.