

How Construction and RE Development Help Expand the Tax Base for Local, State and Federal Governments

Construction and real estate development play a significant role in expanding the tax base for local, state, and federal governments by increasing property taxes, generating sales tax from materials and consumer spending, creating jobs, attracting businesses and fostering long-term economic growth. This influx of tax revenue allows governments to fund public services and infrastructure improvements, creating a positive cycle of development and prosperity.

Increased Property Taxes

- **New Developments:** When new residential, commercial or industrial properties are developed, they are assessed for property taxes. These developments increase the overall property value in the area, which leads to higher property tax revenues for local governments.
- **Renovations and Improvements:** Upgrading or redeveloping existing properties can increase their assessed value, which also boosts property tax revenues.

Sales Tax Revenue from Construction Materials

- **Purchase of Materials:** Construction projects require large amounts of materials, such as lumber, steel, concrete and appliances. The sale of these materials generates significant sales tax revenue, particularly in areas that tax construction supplies.

Job Creation and Income Tax

- **Direct Jobs:** Construction projects create jobs for a wide range of professionals, including architects, engineers, laborers, and construction managers. These jobs generate income, which is taxed through income tax.
- **Indirect Jobs:** Real estate development supports jobs in related industries, such as manufacturing, retail and professional services. The ripple effect of these new jobs expands the tax base further.

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Business Taxes from New Commercial Developments

- **Commercial Real Estate:** When new commercial developments (e.g., office buildings, retail spaces and hotels) are constructed, they attract businesses that generate revenue. These businesses contribute to the tax base through corporate taxes, licensing fees and sales taxes on the goods and services they provide.
- **Industrial Development:** New industrial developments, such as warehouses, factories, and logistics centers, can increase corporate tax revenue from the businesses operating within these properties.

Increased Sales Taxes from Residents and Consumers

- **Residential Development:** New housing developments bring more residents into an area. These residents spend money locally on goods and services, generating sales tax revenue. As the population grows because of real estate development, so do consumer spending and sales tax revenue.
- **Tourism and Retail:** New commercial developments, such as malls, entertainment districts or resorts, can attract visitors and tourists, increasing sales tax revenue through tourism-related activities.

Development Fees and Permits

- **Permit Fees:** Governments charge fees for building permits, zoning changes, inspections and environmental reviews. The more development that takes place, the more revenue is generated from these fees.
- **Impact Fees:** Some local governments charge developers impact fees, which are used to offset the cost of providing public services (e.g., roads, schools and utilities) to new developments.

Long-Term Economic Growth

- **Attracting Investment:** Construction and real estate development stimulate economic growth by attracting new businesses, residents and investors. This growth leads to increased tax revenue over time as new residents and businesses contribute to the local economy and tax base.
- **Property Appreciation:** Over time, well-planned developments often lead to property value appreciation in surrounding areas. This appreciation increases property tax revenue as properties are reassessed at higher values.

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Special District Taxes

- **Tax Increment Financing (TIF):** In some areas, real estate developments are supported by TIF districts, where increased property tax revenue generated by new developments is used to finance public infrastructure improvements. While TIFs divert tax revenue in the short term, they lead to long-term growth and expansion of the tax base.

Reduction of Vacancy Rates

- **Utilization of Idle Land:** Real estate development can turn vacant or underutilized land into productive properties, thereby generating new tax revenue from land that was previously generating little or none.

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