

## **Minnesota Sales and Use Tax 2006 Statistics**

### **Explanation of Change in Methodology**

The Sales and Use Tax Statistics report for 2006 uses a slightly different methodology than in previous years. Rather than basing the report on the year in which sales were made (as was true in earlier reports), the 2006 report is based on when returns were processed. To best approximate the economic activity for calendar year 2006, this report includes all returns processed from February 2006 through January 2007. Returns are included in the report regardless of the date of sale. Some late-filed returns for earlier years are included while some late-filed returns for 2006 are excluded from this report but will appear in later reports. Late-filed returns for earlier years that are included in this report should approximately offset late-filed 2006 returns that are excluded. Nevertheless, users should consider the potential impact of this methodological change when comparing data across years.

By basing this and future reports on processing date, we should be able to release future reports at an earlier date. In addition, all processed returns should eventually be included in an annual sales tax report, even if they are filed and processed several years after they were due.