

The above chart shows total taxable oil production in Montana by calendar quarter. Production has been generally declining since 2006 with a flattening trend for the first three quarters of 2011. The fourth quarter of 2011, however, showed a 7.4% increase from the previous quarter. Analysis of the production statistics from the Montana Department of Revenue and the Board of Oil and Gas shows this increase coming from horizontal production in the Bakken formation. The chart also shows total tax liability over the same time frame. Because of the 18 month tax holiday for new horizontal production, tax liability increased by 7% instead of the 7.4% from the third quarter to the fourth quarter of calendar 2011.