



# MONTANA LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

## Legislative Fiscal Division

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**Director**  
AMY CARLSON

DATE: Sept. 14, 2020  
TO: MARA Study Committee  
FROM: Nick VanBrown  
RE: Question on Sales Tax Model follow-up

The question of whether the Department of Revenue (DOR) sales tax model included online sales was asked at the June MARA meeting. The DOR model does include online transactions, however, this segment of the total sales is very likely under-represented in the presented model.

The underlying data used comes from the Economic Census and Agricultural Census. These are done every five years, but take some time to complete and compile, so the most current data is from 2012. The 2017 data is expected by years-end, at which point DOR will update the sales tax model. It is anticipated that the new data will reflect greater online sales throughout the economy.