208.51 Sales factor.

Sec. 51. (1) The sales factor is a fraction, the numerator of which is the total sales of the taxpayer in this state during the tax year, and the denominator of which is the total sales of the taxpayer everywhere during the tax year.

(2) For a foreign person, the sales factor is a fraction, the numerator of which is the total sales of the taxpayer in this state during the tax year, and the denominator of which is the total sales of the taxpayer in the United States during the tax year.


Constitutionality: In Trinova Corp. v. Michigan Department of Treasury, 111 S.Ct. 818 (1991), the United States Supreme Court held that Michigan's single business tax is not violative of the Commerce Clause or Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution. The Court stated that the single business tax meets the Court's test for sustaining a Commerce Clause challenge, by being a tax that: (1) Is applied to an activity with a substantial nexus with the taxing state; (2) Is fairly apportioned; (3) Does not discriminate against interstate commerce; and (4) Is fairly related to the services provided by the state. Neither does the tax violate due process requirements because there is a “minimal connection between the interstate activities and the taxing State, and a rational relationship between the income attributed to the State and the intrastate values of the enterprise.”