

## City of Los Altos Sales Tax Update

Second Quarter Reccipts for First Quarter Sales (January - March 2012)

## Los Altos In Brief

Gross receipts for Los Altos' first quarter sales were $3.5 \%$ higher than the comparable period one year ago. Actual sales increased $6.3 \%$ when accounting anomalies were excluded.
Recent additions contributed to increases from contractor supplies, restaurants with full liquor service and multiple categories of general consumer goods. Higher fuel prices lifted service station returns.
Gains were partially offiset by the smaller allocation from the county use tax pool and payment aberrations that pared results from family apparel and artgift/novelty stores and overstated losses from the autos/transportation and business/industry groups.
Adjusted for onetime reporting events, sales and use tax receipts for all of Santa Clara County rose 9.4\% over the same time period; Bay Area regional totals were up 8.9\%.

Sales Tax by Major Business Group


## Top 25 Producers

In Alphabetical Order
Andronicos Market
Armadillo Willys BBQ \& Cafe
Chef Chus
Design \& Interiors
Draegers Super Market
El Camino 76
First \& Main Sports Lounge
Footwear Etc
Garvani \& Company
Grand Petroleum
Los Altos Chevron
Los Altos Grill
Los Altos Supply \& Garden

Lucky Supermarket
Opa Authenic Greek Cuisine
Pho Vi Hoa Restaurant
Rite Aid
Safeway
Tesoro West Coast Valero
Trader Joes
True Value Hardware
Village Chevron
Vitamin Shoppe
Walgreens
Whole Foods Market

| REVENUE COMPARISON |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Four Quarters - Fiscal Year To Date |  |  |
|  | 2010-11 | 2011-12 |
| Point-of-Sale | \$2,002,341 | \$2,083,565 |
| County Pool | 309,337 | 318,151 |
| State Pool | 929 | 775 |
| Gross Receipts | \$2,312,607 | \$2,402,490 |
| Less Triple Flip* | \$ $(578,152)$ | \$(600,623) |
| *Reimbursed from county compensation fund |  |  |

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## Statewide Results

Adjusted for accounting aberrations, California's local sales and use tax revenues for January through March transactions increased $8.4 \%$ over last year's comparison quarter. Most areas of the state realized gains from service stations and auto sales; whereas some counties received added benefits in use taxes from alternative energy plant projects. Overall, the San Joaquin Valley, with strong ag-riculture-related purchases, led all other regions of the state.

## The Year Ahead

Having bottomed out in 200910, California made solid progress toward economic recovery in 2011-12. Job gains, easier credit, pent-up demand for autos and goods, higher fuel prices, continued investment in technology and increased tourism and business travel all contributed to rising sales tax revenues.
Most analysts believe that the recovery will continue in 2012-13 although at a slower pace. How much slower is uncertain due to a number of major unresolved issues and the extent to which they can be avoided or mitigated.
One issue is the state's $\$ 16$ billion budget deficit. Government has traditionally accounted for $18 \%$ of California's jobs and the full effect of looming job losses will not be fully known until after the November election.
The European financial crisis is a problem of particular importance to California which ships high tech equipment, tools and software along with a variety of agricultural and other products to 226 countries. Exports account for roughly $25 \%$ of the state's economy.
Additionally, California manufacturers that rely on foreign parts
could face a shortage if European bank credit lines contract due to ongoing European financial problems.
The final issue involves the Federal Budget Control Act of 2011 which was adopted to resolve last year's debt-ceiling crisis. On January 1, existing temporary tax cuts on income, payroll, capital gains and estates expire. If Congress cannot overcome its ideological differences and agree on a budget package, $\$ 400$ billion in automatic spending cuts will be activated.
There is general optimism that another recession can be avoided because it is unlikely that all these issues will devolve to their worst possible case. However, uncertainty about eventual outcomes will impact spending, investment and hiring plans and slow the recovery in 2012's second half. Even so, HdL's current consensus forecast is for a $4.5 \%$ to $5.0 \%$ increase in statewide local sales tax revenues in 2012-13.

SALES PER CAPITA


Revenue by Business Group Los Altos This Quarter


Los Altos Top 15 Business Types

| Business Type | Los Altos |  | County | HdL State |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Q1 '12 | Change | Change | Change |
| Art/Gift/Novelty Stores | 5,573 | -20.4\% | 4.6\% | 8.2\% |
| Contractors | 6,253 | 166.7\% | 32.9\% | 22.6\% |
| Drug Stores | - CONF | ENTIAL - | -0.4\% | 2.9\% |
| Family Apparel | 5,900 | -5.3\% | 17.4\% | 11.9\% |
| Garden/Agricultural Supplies | - CONF | ENTIAL - | 20.1\% | 8.8\% |
| Grocery Stores Liquor | 71,304 | -2.9\% | 0.5\% | 5.6\% |
| Home Furnishings | 18,360 | 27.4\% | 5.5\% | 6.7\% |
| Jewelry Stores | 9,048 | 82.8\% | 15.8\% | 8.2\% |
| Restaurants Beer And Wine | 48,100 | -1.2\% | 3.6\% | 3.9\% |
| Restaurants Liquor | 51,016 | 16.2\% | 14.4\% | 13.1\% |
| Restaurants No Alcohol | 27,706 | 30.1\% | 12.0\% | 9.5\% |
| Service Stations | 121,886 | 8.5\% | 33.7\% | 13.3\% |
| Specialty Stores | 17,339 | 24.3\% | -14.4\% | 6.4\% |
| Sporting Goods/Bike Stores | 8,316 | 47.3\% | 7.6\% | 6.2\% |
| Women's Apparel | 13,660 | 12.6\% | 3.4\% | 4.2\% |
| Total All Accounts | \$494,774 | 4.3\% | 13.9\% | 9.9\% |
| County \& State Pool Allocation | 73,608 | -1.6\% |  |  |
| Gross Receipts | \$568,383 | 3.5\% |  |  |

