

## City of Los Altos Sales Tax Update

Second Quarter Receipts for First Quarter Sales (January - March 2013)

## Los Altos In Brief

The allocation for Los Altos' first quarter sales was $2.5 \%$ higher than the same period one year ago. Actual sales activity increased $6.0 \%$ when accounting anomalies were factored out.
Recent additions contributed to gains from several categories of general consumer goods. Postings were up from grocery-liquor, business services and the automotive group. Accounting events inflated comparisons for medicalbiotech, family apparel and quick service restaurants.
Gains were partially offset by declines from service stations and prior closeouts in jewely stores and the business and industry group. Payment anomalies depressed results from eateries serving beer and wine and exaggerated the impact of the closure of a restaurant with full liquor service.
Adjusted for reporting aberrations, sales and use tax receipts for all of Santa Clara County rose $5.4 \%$ over the same time period; Bay area totals increased 6.6\%.

Sales Tax by Major Business Group


Top 25 Producers
In Alphabetical Order
Andronicos Market
Armadillo Willys BBQ \& Cafe Boardwalk Branders Com Chef Chus Chicos
Draegers Super Market
El Camino 76
Footwear Etc
Grand Petroleum
Los Altos Chevron
Los Altos Grill
Lucky Supermarket
OPA Authenic Greek Cuisine

Pho Vi Hoa Restaurant
Rite Aid
Safeway
Spectrum Interior Design
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 |  |  |
|  | 2011-12 | 2012-13 |
| Point-of-Sale | \$2,083,565 | \$2,122,595 |
| County Pool | 318,151 | 326,738 |
| State Pool | 775 | 1,137 |
| Gross Receipts | \$2,402,490 | \$2,450,470 |
| Less Triple Flip* | \$(600,623) | \$(612,617) |
| *Reimbursed from county compensation fund |  |  |

## California Overall

After adjusting for payment aberrations, statewide sales tax receipts for January through March sales were $6.5 \%$ higher than the same period in 2012.

Strong sales for apparel, department stores and big box discounters lifted general consumer goods and accounted for $23 \%$ of the statewide increase. Improvements in the housing sector pushed building and construction sales up $8.6 \%$. Continued robust sales of new automobiles led to a $9.3 \%$ increase over the comparable quarter. Reduced consumption combined with lower gasoline prices cut fuel and service station returns in the first quarter by $2.7 \%$.

## Energy Projects Boost Business and Industry Gains

Taxes from construction of solar, wind, biomass and geothermal power projects accounted for $39 \%$ of California's business-to-business sales this quarter and produced significant windfalls for a handful of local agencies.
This temporary boost in revenues came from the federal government's goal of doubling the nation's renewable energy production in three years and from California's SB 2X which was signed in April of 2011 and calls for $33 \%$ of all retail electricity sales to be from renewable energy sources by 2020 . Joint federal and state funding efforts to meet these goals have resulted in the initiation of more than a dozen utility-scale solar energy projects and over 130 renewable power plant projects in California.
Intermittent quarterly spikes in sales and use tax receipts from projects under construction or in the pipeline are expected for another two years.

## Decline in Fuel Consumption Continues

According to the most recent data from the State Board of Equalization, California's gasoline usage fell $1.7 \%$ while diesel consumption eased $0.4 \%$ in the fourth quarter of 2012 from 2011 levels. This continues a decline that began in 2005 and which is almost twice the nationwide drop.

Historically, economic conditions have been the primary driver in fuel usage, however other factors are becoming increasingly prevalent. Nationally, total vehicle miles traveled have dropped eight years in a row as aging drivers travel fewer miles and the millennial generation, focused on social networking technology, is driving less than previous generations. Increased fuel efficiency is also at play with the average new car achieving $16 \%$ more miles per gallon than just five years ago and some
commercial trucking fleets shifting to natural gas.
Until recently, price increases have offset consumption declines. The price gains were partly the result of California refineries exporting their finished product to emerging economies with higher demand and also by periodic refinery and transmission interruptions in the state's limited production infrastructure.

## Sales Per Capita



## Los Altos Top 15 Business Types

|  | Los Altos |  | County | HdL State |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  | Q1'13 |  | Change | Change | Change

