

## City of Los Altos Sales Tax Update

## Los Altos In Brief

Los Altos' receipts from April through June were $38.7 \%$ above the second sales period in 2018. However, this comparison is inflated due to CDTFA's transition to a new reporting system in the prior year which temporarily delayed distributions to the City. As a result, all major industry groups were higher than a year ago.
Excluding reporting aberrations, actual sales were up $4.1 \%$. The gain in the City's share of the countywide use tax allocation pool accounted for the lion's share of the increase.
Nonetheless, on an adjusted basis grocery stores and building-related sectors posted outstanding results. Conversely, general retail was depressed by a store closeout while hospitality performance trailed regional trends.
Net of aberrations, taxable receipts for all of Santa Clara County grew $1.8 \%$ over the comparable time period; the Bay Area was up 2.0\%.

## Sales Tax by Major Business Group



Top 25 Producers

In Alphabetical Order

Amber India Restaurant
Armadillo Willys BBQ \& Cafe
BevMo
Cerebras Systems
Chef Chus
Draegers Super Market
El Camino 76
Footwear Etc
Los Altos 76
Los Altos Chevron
Los Altos Grill
Lucky Supermarket

Main Street Chevron
Noodle Talk
Restaurant
Rancho 76
Restaurant ASA
Rite Aid
Rustic House
Safeway
Shell
Steinway
Trader Joes
True Value Hardware
Walgreens
Whole Foods Market

## Revenue Comparison

Four Quarters - Fiscal Year To Date (Q3 to Q2)

|  | 2017-18 | 2018-19 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Point-of-Sale | $\$ 2,346,556$ | $\$ 2,675,704$ |
| County Pool | 443,892 | 568,427 |
| State Pool | 1,417 | 1,415 |
| Gross Receipts | $\$ 2,791,865$ | $\$ 3,245,546$ |
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## California Overall

The local one percent share of California's sales and use tax from April through June sales was $20.4 \%$ higher than the same quarter of 2018. However, the actual gain came to $2.9 \%$ after factoring for online filing issues and accounting anomalies. Fiscal year 2018-19 ended with an increase of $3.6 \%$ over the previous year after similarly adjusting for reporting aberrations.
The quarter exhibited continuation of a recent softening for most taxable categories. Rising used car sales and rentals helped offset what was otherwise, a generally flat quarter for the auto-transportation group. An acceleration in online shopping boosted receipts from county wide pools while gains for brick and mortar stores were limited to value priced apparel, discount department stores and jewelry.
Restaurant patronage appears to be leveling with a shift toward lower cost dining options that produced relatively modest gains for the group when compared to previous quarters. New cannabis operations resulted in a small rise in food and drug receipts.
A $2.5 \%$ gain in business-industrial sales and use tax revenues came primarily from online fulfillment centers, logistics and utility company purchases and ongoing investment in automation and information technology. A similar rise in receipts from the building-construction group was due to a variety of infrastructure and onetime special projects that offset declines in material purchases for new home construction.

## Marketplace Facilitator Act

Effective Oct. 1, 2019, companies such as Amazon, eBay and Google who provide sales tax related services to other retailers are required to assume the obligation for collecting and remitting their client's sales and use tax. The definition of sales-related services includes payment processing, inventory and shipping of merchandise, order taking, providing customer service, or assisting with re-
turns and exchanges.
The Marketplace provision was part of AB 147 which was adopted to implement California's approach to the U.S. Supreme Court decision in South Dakota v . Wayfair Inc.
AB 147 requires out-of-state retailers with annual combined sales of $\$ 500,000$ or more to now collect and remit this state's sales and use tax from its customers. Applying the $\$ 500,000$ threshold to the sum total of all the third-party transactions that facilitators process for their clients, is hoped to produce moderate gains in previously uncollected revenues for the state, cities, counties and local transaction tax districts.

Facilitator tax remittances from merchandise inventoried in California will be allocated to specific jurisdictions while receipts from deliveries outside of the state will be distributed via the pools. Some facilitators have begun to collect and remit taxes ahead of this deadline. This is evidenced by new pool allocations and increases in direct allocations to certain jurisdictions.

SALES PER CAPITA


## Revenue By Business Group Los Altos This Quarter



## Los Altos Top 15 Business Types

| Business Type | Los Altos |  | County | HdL State |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Q2 '19 | Change | Change | Change |
| Building Materials | - CONF | ENTIAL - | 26.5\% | 34.1\% |
| Casual Dining | 134,836 | 9.1\% | 23.5\% | 24.5\% |
| Convenience Stores/Liquor | - CONF | ENTIAL - | 22.8\% | 14.9\% |
| Drug Stores | - CONF | ENTIAL - | -2.1\% | -0.3\% |
| Electrical Equipment | - CONF | ENTIAL - | 23.7\% | 41.4\% |
| Fast-Casual Restaurants | 13,028 | -12.2\% | 24.0\% | 18.9\% |
| Fine Dining | 30,600 | 21.0\% | 13.2\% | 16.3\% |
| Grocery Stores | 93,868 | 65.1\% | 26.2\% | 9.6\% |
| Home Furnishings | 17,460 | -35.9\% | -1.6\% | 15.8\% |
| Music Stores | - CONF | ENTIAL - | 8.9\% | -16.4\% |
| Quick-Service Restaurants | 17,450 | 3.9\% | 16.1\% | 15.9\% |
| Service Stations | - CONF | ENTIAL - | 46.3\% | 51.4\% |
| Shoe Stores | - CONF | ENTIAL - | -2.1\% | 9.2\% |
| Specialty Stores | 15,105 | 12.7\% | 13.1\% | -8.5\% |
| Women's Apparel | 15,456 | 24.6\% | 5.9\% | 5.7\% |
| Total All Accounts | 624,550 | 34.3\% | 15.5\% | 20.1\% |
| County \& State Pool Allocation | 146,749 | 61.3\% | 38.6\% | 22.4\% |
| Gross Receipts | 771,299 | 38.7\% | 19.2\% | 20.4\% |

