



State Board of Equalization

News Release

Vice Chair Michelle Steel

3rd District – Rolling Hills Estates

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Executive Director
www.boe.ca.gov

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Statewide Taxable Sales Up 9.0% in First Quarter 2011 **First Quarter 2012 Estimate Up 9.3%**

Sacramento – In the first quarter of 2011, taxable sales in California rose 9.0 percent from a year earlier, continuing an upward trend that began in the first quarter of 2010, said Michelle Steel, Vice Chair of the California State Board of Equalization (BOE).

A preliminary statewide estimate for the first quarter of 2012 projects taxable sales rising 9.3 percent compared to the first quarter of 2011. The projection is subject to revisions and will not be final until this time next year.

The Southern California region's taxable sales grew by 8.7 percent over the [first quarter of 2011](#), slightly behind the State as a whole. Orange County taxable sales were also slightly behind the statewide total at [8.9 percent](#).

As a result of soaring gas prices, which rose 20.0 percent, taxable sales made by gasoline stations increased 22.4 percent. Taxable sales by vehicle dealers also increased 17.4 percent.

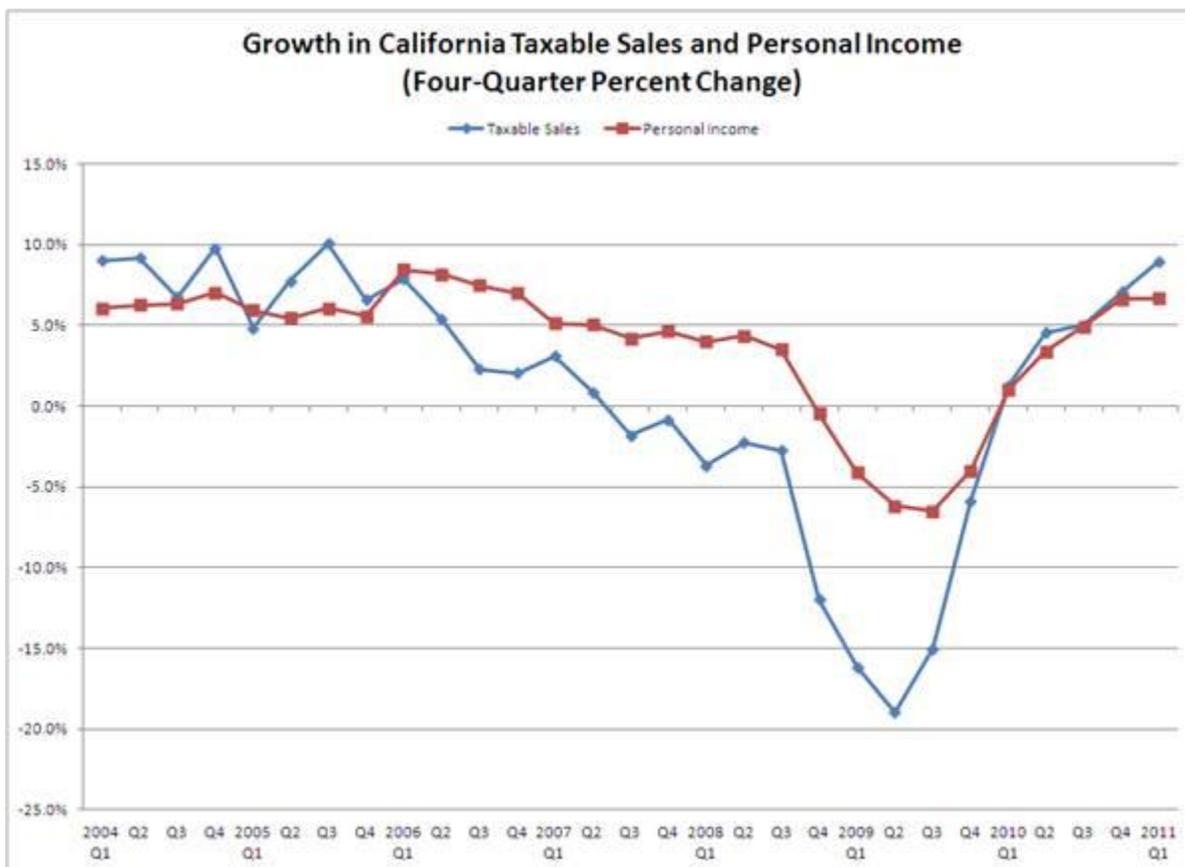
Taxable sales from total retail and food services stores rose 8.8 percent, somewhat lower than the increase by total nonretail outlets, which include business equipment and construction materials. Those outlets rose 9.5 percent, consistent with the national trend.

The rest of the major retail sectors (those shown in boldface type in [Table 1](#)) had taxable sales growth less than the overall average of 9.0 percent. Increases in these other retail sectors ranged from a low of 2.8 percent for sporting goods to a high of 7.1 percent for nonstore retailers.

California Taxable Sales increased at a growth rate 2.3 percent faster than California Personal Income in the first quarter of 2011, the largest positive gap since 2005 (see chart).

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[Taxable Sales in California](#) is a quarterly report on retail sales activity in California, as measured by transactions subject to sales and use tax. It includes data about statewide taxable sales by type of business, as well as data about taxable sales in all California cities and counties.

Taxable Sales in California see: www.boe.ca.gov/news/tsalescont.htm

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Elected to the Board of Equalization in 2006 and re-elected in 2010, Michelle Steel serves as *Southern California's elected taxpayer advocate*. In December 2007, Steel discovered the Board of Equalization had delayed the return of millions of dollars in security deposits owed to California businesses. Procedures were changed due to Steel's decisive leadership. Following her investigation, the tax agency refunded tax security deposits to over 5,500 small businesses. To date, over \$100 million in security deposits have been returned to taxpayers.

The five-member California State Board of Equalization (BOE) is a publicly elected tax board. The BOE collects more than \$50 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It hears business tax appeals, acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and serves a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes. For more information on other taxes and fees in California, visit www.taxes.ca.gov.

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