



For Immediate Release
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MICHELLE STEEL RELEASES 2ND QUARTER 2006 TAXABLE SALES

(Rolling Hills Estates) – Michelle Steel, Third District Member of the Board of Equalization, today released figures indicating taxable sales were up in the second quarter of 2006.

Taxable sales totaled \$142 billion during this three-month period, \$7.2 billion (or 5.4 percent) above the same quarter of 2005.

Taxable sales in the Inland Empire saw above-average growth, with sales increasing by \$579 million in San Bernardino County and \$539 million in Riverside County.

Both income and taxable sales growth slowed in the second quarter of 2006 (*editor's note – see chart on 2nd page*), unlike the prior year which saw taxable sales growth dramatically outpace income. This may be related to slower growth in home values that reduced the purchasing power of many homeowners who had relied on equities to make large purchases.

Retail Stores: Statewide sales totaled \$98.4 billion, a 5.2 percent increase over the same period of 2005. Retailers of nondurable goods rose 10.0 percent, while durable goods were up just 0.7 percent.

New Car Dealers: Sales totaled \$15.3 billion, down 5.1 percent following a national pattern, as U.S. sales of new motor vehicles overall declined 6.1 percent. New vehicle registrations in California were down 2.4 percent during this period.

Service Stations: Gasoline prices jumped 26.6 percent during this period, giving service station sales overall a 24 percent boost, and totaling \$12.1 billion. The average price of gasoline was \$2.942 per gallon, a 26.6 percent jump from the same period of 2005. During these three months, gasoline consumption declined by 1.9 percent.

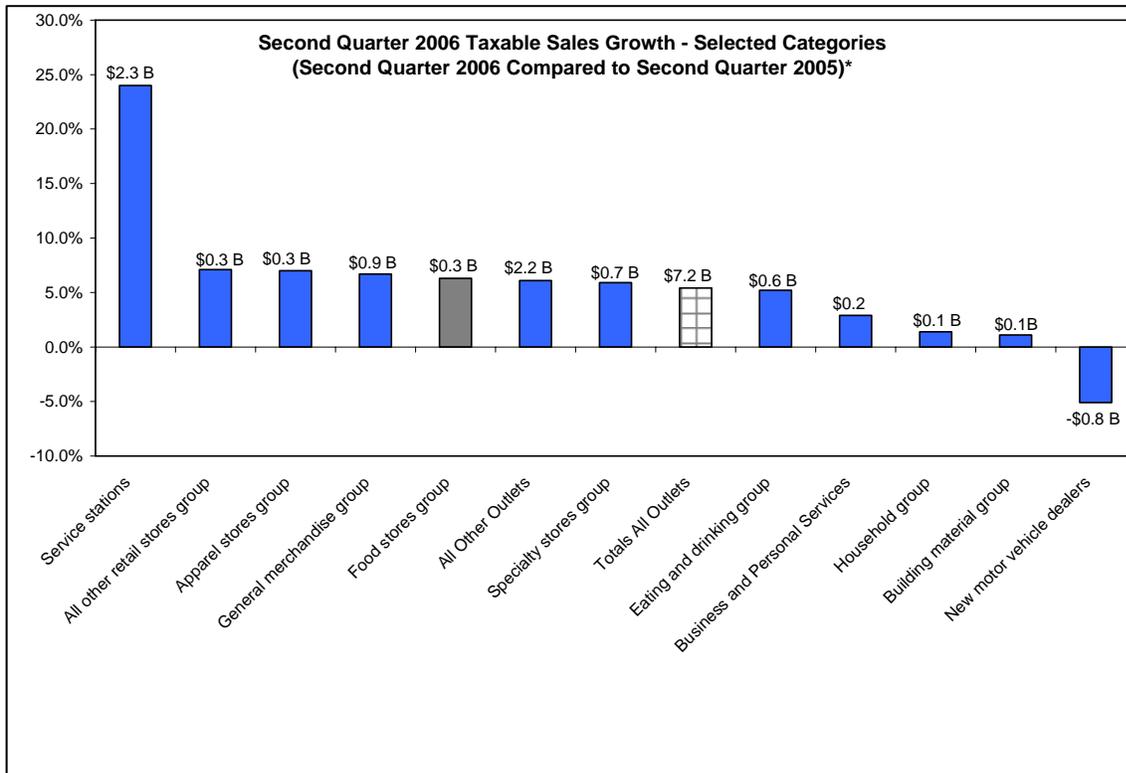
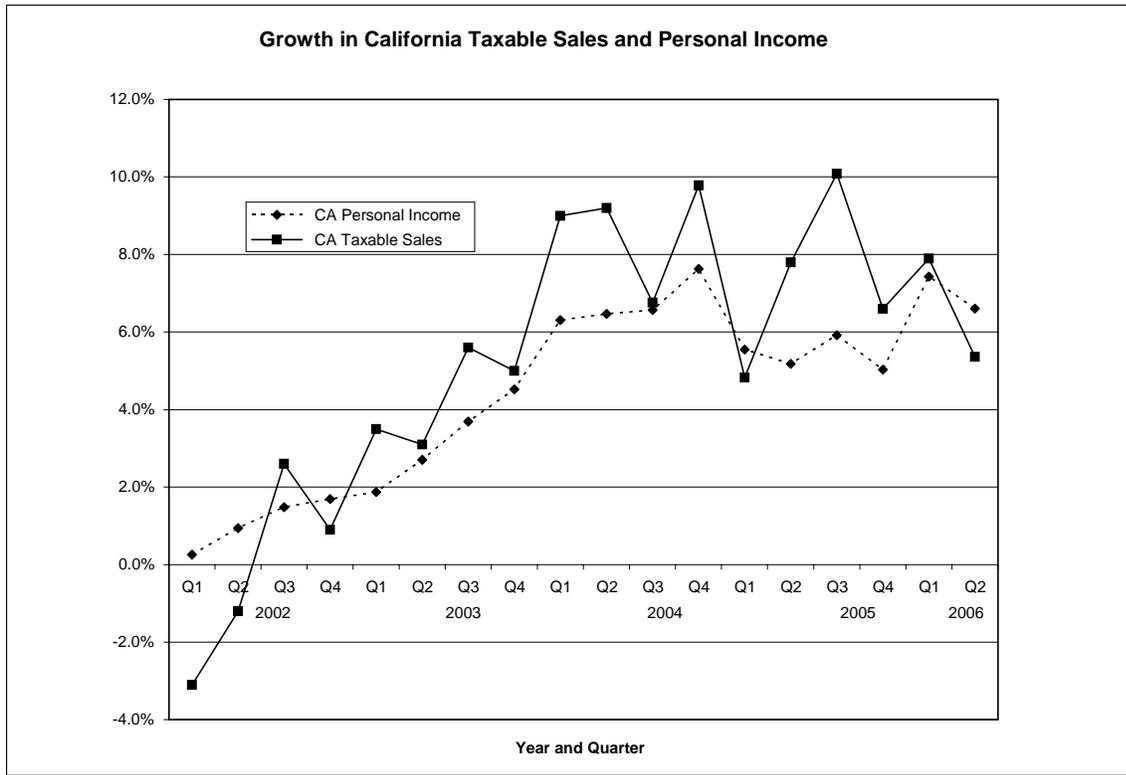
Building Materials Dealers: Sales rose by 1.1 percent, totaling \$9.4 billion.

Contractors: Sales increased by 9.6 percent to reach a total of \$6.4 billion. As measured by the U.S. implicit price deflator, material prices increased 7.5 during this period. While prices of lumber and wood products decreased, prices of cement and concrete products increased at double-digit rates.

General Merchandise: Sales grew by 6.7 percent, posting a total of \$14.1 billion.

Elected to the Board of Equalization in 2006, Michelle Steel serves as the country's highest ranking Korean-American elected official. She represents the over 8.5 million taxpayers of the Third Board of Equalization District, including the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, Riverside, Imperial and San Bernardino.

The five-member Board of Equalization is a publicly elected tax board. The Board collects nearly \$53 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 plays a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes.



This chart highlights specific categories, but is not all inclusive. Please see links above for other figures.

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View 2nd Quarter 2006 Taxable Sales ([entirely](#)), by [Type of Business](#), by [County](#), or by [City](#).