



State Board of Equalization

# News Release

**George Runner, Member**

**2<sup>nd</sup> District – Lancaster**

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## **Taxable Sales in California Signal Strong Economic Growth First Quarter 2011 Increased 9.0%; First Quarter 2012 Estimate Up 9.3%**

**Sacramento** – In the first quarter of 2011 taxable sales in California rose 9.0 percent, signaling strong economic growth, said George Runner, Second District Member of the California State Board of Equalization (BOE). The recent figures are being compared to a similar period in 2010.

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 next year at this time.

“These latest numbers are encouraging,” said Senator Runner. “When the economy grows, workers get more jobs and the government gets more tax revenue. That’s something everyone can applaud.”

The first quarter 2011 taxable sales in the San Joaquin Valley region mostly in the rural counties rose sharply, by 15.3 percent. The Sacramento area grew by 5.9 percent over the first quarter a year ago, well behind the state as a whole, which grew by 9.0 percent in the [first quarter of 2011](#).

Soaring gasoline prices, which rose 20.0 percent, required consumers to pay more at the pump and likely prompted many households to begin replacing aging vehicles. As a result taxable sales made by gasoline stations increased 22.4 percent and those made by motor vehicle dealers increased 17.4 percent.

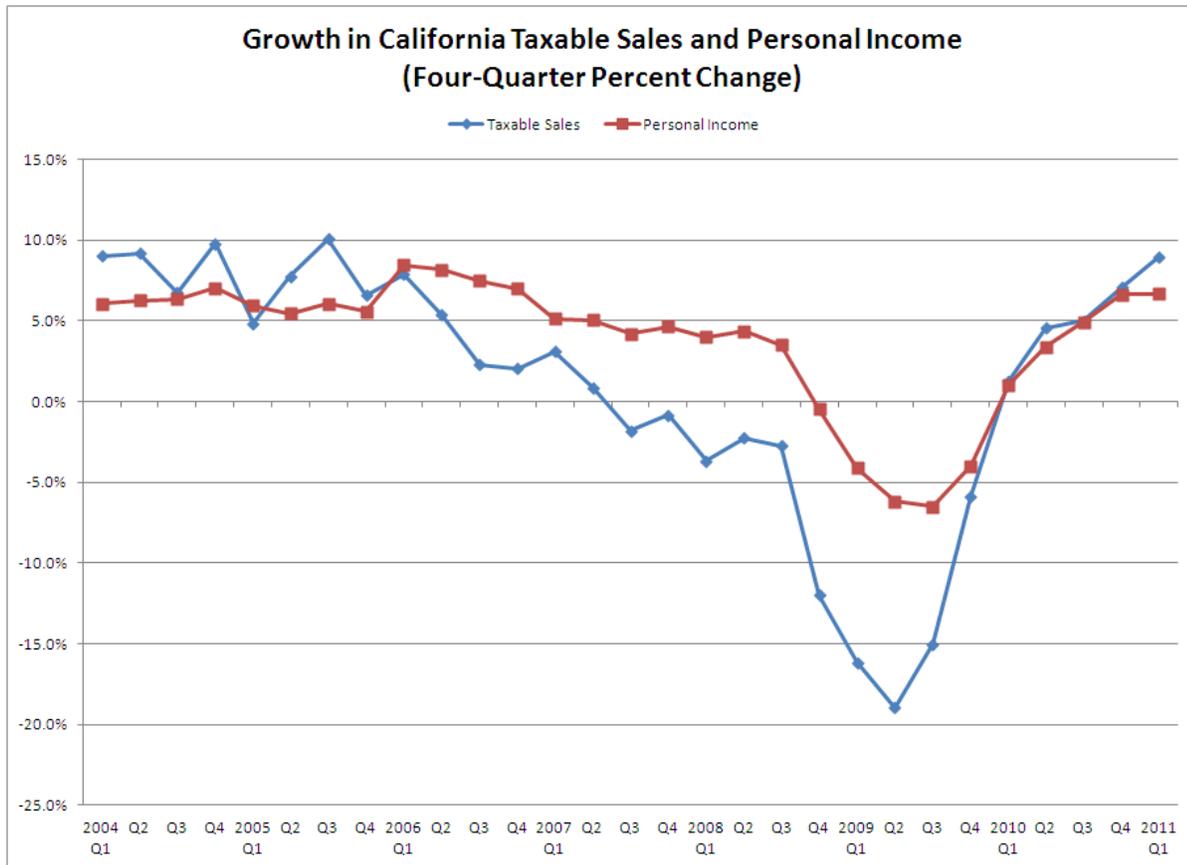
Taxable sales from total retail and food services stores rose 8.8 percent, somewhat lower than the increase by total nonretail outlets, which include business equipment and construction materials. Those outlets rose 9.5 percent, consistent with the national trend.

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.

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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).



[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](http://www.boe.ca.gov/news/tsalescont.htm)

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Elected in November 2010, George Runner represents the State Board of Equalization's Second District. He is a leading advocate for California taxpayers. Runner has worked to improve California's tax policies and practices and to create and retain more private sector jobs in our state. Prior to his election to the Board, Runner served twelve years in the State Legislature, authoring the well-known California Amber Alert and California's Blue Alert. As a thoughtful conservative, his legislative priorities included improving the economy, business growth, education excellence, and public safety for all Californians. As a member of the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee, Runner consistently led the fight against tax increases and supported tax relief for families and businesses.

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](http://www.taxes.ca.gov).

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