## Fullerton

## In Brief

Fullerton's receipts from October through December were 2.1\% above the fourth sales period in 2018.

The largest factor in the improvement was a $33 \%$ surge in allocations from the countywide use tax pool, which was boosted by a recent legislative change that allows the State to collect tax revenue from small, third-party sellers on inter-net-based marketplace platforms.
Sales at general consumer goods retailers were up $5 \%$, outpacing the $1 \%$ statewide trend, as the City's mix of retailers appears to be better suited to today's environment than the tradilional department store model.
A suspected taxpayer misallocation to another agency may have artificially deflated building-construction proceeds. The State is working directly with this company to determine correct tax reporting.
Auto-transportation sales posted an off-quarter, though the decline was magnified by payment anomalies.
Net of aberrations, taxable sales for all of Orange County grew 5.3\% over the comparable time period; the Southern California region was up 4.4\%.

## Sales Tax by Major Business Group


*Allocation aberrations have been adjusted to reflect sales activity

## Top 25 Producers <br> In Alphabetical Order

| Albertsons | Home Depot |
| :--- | :--- |
| Anderco | Marshalls |
| Arco | McCoy \& Mills Ford |
| Arco AM PM | OC Auto Exchange |
| Auto Republic | Ocean Subaru of |
| Best Buy | Fullerton |
| Burlington | Opus Inspection |
| Chevron | Ralphs |
| Costco | Rexel |
| Engineered Floors | Sam's Club w/ Fuel |
| Floor \& Decor | Shell |
| Golden West Towing | Target |
| Equipment | Wine Country Gift |
| Happy Jewelry | Baskets |
|  |  |

REVENUE COMPARISON
Two Quarters - Fiscal Year To Date (Q3 to Q4)

2018-19
2019-20

| Point-of-Sale | $\$ 11,277,504$ | $\$ 10,650,894$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| County Pool | $1,533,202$ | $1,821,149$ |
| State Pool | 5,618 | 4,750 |
| Gross Receipts | $\$ \mathbf{1 2 , 8 1 6 , 3 2 4}$ | $\mathbf{\$ 1 2 , 4 7 6 , 7 9 4}$ |
|  |  |  |

## California Overall

Statewide sales and use tax receipts from 2019's fourth quarter were $4.2 \%$ higher than last year's holiday quarter after factoring for accounting anomalies.

The increase came from the acceleration in online shopping which generated huge gains in the countywide use tax pools for merchandise shipped from out-of-state and from California based fulfillment warehouses in those cases where the warehouse is also point-ofsale. This segment was further boosted by the first full quarter of California's implementation of the Wayfair vs South Dakota ruling that requires out-of-state retailers to collect and remit sales tax on merchandise sold to California customers. The ruling has led to an increase in sales tax receipts of roughly $\$ 2.95$ per capita while also producing double digit gains for in-state online fulfillment centers.

In contrast, soft sales and closeouts resulted in a decline in almost every category of brick-and-mortar spending during the holiday season while new cannabis retailers helped boost what would have been a soft quarter for the food-drug group. Most other sales categories including new cars and business-industrial purchases were also down. Restaurant group gains were modest compared to previous quarters.
Overall, the rise in county pool receipts offset what would have been otherwise, a flat or depressed quarter for most jurisdictions.

## Covid-19

The coronavirus impact will first be seen in next quarter's data reflecting January through March sales. Based on recovery rates being reported in some Asian countries, the virus's disruption of supply chains will be deepest in the first and second quarter and largely resolved by mid-summer. However, recovery from social distancing and home confinements could take longer
with the deepest tax declines expected in the restaurant/hospitality, travel/transportation and brick-and-mortar retail segments. Layoffs and furloughs are also expected to reduce purchases of new cars and other high cost durable goods. The losses from the state's high-tech innovation industries may be more modest while the food-drug and online retail groups could exhibit increases.

Assuming that the virus is largest contained by the end of September, HdL's economic scenario projects that tax declines will bottom out in the first quarter of 2021 but with only moderate gains for several quarters after. Data from previous downturns suggests that the return to previous spending is not immediate and often evolves. Businesses emerge with ways to operate with fewer employees and more moderate capital investment. Consumers take time to fully get back to previous levels of leisure travel, dining and spending and may permanently transfer to newly discovered services, activities and/or online retail options.

Sales Per Capita*

*Allocation aberrations have been adjusted to reflect sales activity
Revenue By Business Group Fullerton This Quarter*


Allocation aberrations have been adjusted to reflect sales activity
Fullerton Top 15 Business Types**

| */n thousands of dollars | Fullerton |  | County | HdL State |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Business Type | Q4 '19* | Change | Change | Change |
| Building Materials | 172.4 | 2.4\% | -6.0\% | 1.4\% |
| Casual Dining | 397.0 | 0.1\% | 2.4\% | 3.8\% |
| Contractors | 110.1 | 4.4\% | -18.3\% | -4.4\% |
| Discount Dept Stores | - CONF | ENTIAL - | 3.6\% | 3.6\% |
| Electronics/Appliance Stores | 298.0 | 7.6\% | -2.6\% | -6.6\% |
| Family Apparel | 126.1 | -0.2\% | 1.8\% | 1.3\% |
| Grocery Stores | 180.7 | -2.1\% | 3.0\% | 1.3\% |
| Jewelry Stores | 97.2 | 38.1\% | 0.5\% | 7.7\% |
| Light Industrial/Printers | 199.9 | -5.9\% | -6.7\% | -7.4\% |
| New Motor Vehicle Dealers | - CONF | ENTIAL - | -2.2\% | -3.4\% |
| Quick-Service Restaurants | 362.9 | 2.8\% | 2.7\% | 1.9\% |
| Service Stations | 555.9 | 6.4\% | 0.8\% | 0.2\% |
| Specialty Stores | 141.0 | -0.1\% | -6.0\% | -3.8\% |
| Textiles/Furnishings | 96.9 | 37.2\% | 2.1\% | -8.8\% |
| Used Automotive Dealers | 167.6 | -6.6\% | 4.5\% | 4.6\% |
| Total All Accounts | 5,380.2 | -1.7\% | 0.0\% | 0.2\% |
| County \& State Pool Allocation | 1,005.7 | 28.9\% | 30.3\% | 26.7\% |
| Gross Receipts | 6,385.9 | 2.1\% | 5.3\% | 4.2\% |

