



NEWS RELEASE

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County Sales Tax Revenues Up in 2011

Officials are cautiously optimistic that the increase is a good sign for the local economy.

The latest sales tax numbers for Mesa County are in, and they show economic improvement in 2011. Sales tax dollars collected in Mesa County increased by almost 7 percent over the course of 2011, when compared to 2010.

“During the national recession, we saw those numbers decrease very significantly,” said Craig Meis, Chair of the Board of County Commissioners. “Now we’ve seen increases for all but one of the last 16 months. We hope this is a good sign that things are starting to look up for our local economy.”

December 2011 sales tax collections increased 6.6 percent over December of 2010. Overall for the year, collections were up almost 7 percent from 2010.

From September of 2010 through December of 2011, Mesa County’s sales tax revenues experienced an increase almost every month (when compared to the same month in the previous year). The only exception during that time period was November of 2011, which saw a decrease over November of 2010.

“For the full year in 2011, local sales tax revenues are up 6.98% when compared to 2010,” said Marcia Arnhold, Finance Director for Mesa County. “We ended the year well within our budget projections, which is important. We certainly hope to see the numbers continue to be stronger throughout 2012.”

Sales tax is just one of many revenue sources that help fund the services Mesa County provides to local residents, but it is a significant one. Local retail sales rise and fall with economic changes, making sales tax the county’s most elastic revenue source. This also makes sales tax one useful indicator of the health of the local economy.

Month	Amount	Percent Change (Compared to the Same Month of the Previous Year)
January 2011	\$2.47 million	+0.51%
February 2011	\$1.75 million	+6.46%
March 2011	\$1.87 million	+8.99%
April 2011	\$2.14 million	+5.92%
May 2011	\$2.07 million	+7.48%
June 2011	\$2.22 million	+4.07%
July 2011	\$2.36 million	+36.55%
August 2011	\$2.22 million	+6.39%
September 2011	\$2.41 million	+9.78%
October 2011	\$2.25 million	+4.69%
November 2011	\$1.95 million	-7.16%
December 2011	\$2.23 million	+6.59%
TOTAL:	\$25.95 million	+6.98%

“Mesa County—Creating a community of opportunities for all residents with a focus on the future.”