

# THE BUSINESS REVIEW

SERVING NEW YORK'S CAPITAL REGION

## Sales tax collections hit \$24.8B in New York, up 5.4%

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Sales tax collections increased 5.4 percent in New York last year to \$24.8 billion, a sign that consumer spending is up.

Sales tax collections have rebounded since the depth of the recession in 2009 when receipts totaled \$21.8 billion, but the rate of growth is expected to slow this year.

**“The current numbers and the most recent quarters have all been fairly good but the state itself is still not completely out of the hole,”** said [Robert Ward](#), deputy director of the [Rockefeller Institute of Government in Albany](#). **“The worst of the budget crisis is hitting local governments rather than the state. Most counties and cities are balancing budgets with one-time revenues, so the picture for the next year or two is not a very positive one.”**

New York charges 4 percent sales tax on clothes, cars and other merchandise. Counties and some cities collect a separate tax. The total

rate varies statewide from 7 percent to nearly 9 percent.

The state Budget Division estimates sales tax collections will increase 1.9 percent during the current fiscal year, Ward said, or less than half the pace of last year’s growth.

In the Albany region, sales tax collections, and the change from the previous year, were as follows:

- Albany County: \$230.6 million, up 3.82 percent
- Saratoga County: \$99.5 million, up 4.8 percent
- Schenectady County: \$88.9 million, up 7.89 percent
- Rensselaer County: \$75.1 million, up 11.3 percent

The growth in Rensselaer County was the sixth-highest percentage change in the state. Rural Schoharie County had the fifth-highest percentage increase, 11.4 percent.