



State Board of Equalization

# News Release

## Vice Chair Michelle Steel

3<sup>rd</sup> District – Orange County

Cynthia Bridges  
Executive Director  
[www.boe.ca.gov](http://www.boe.ca.gov)

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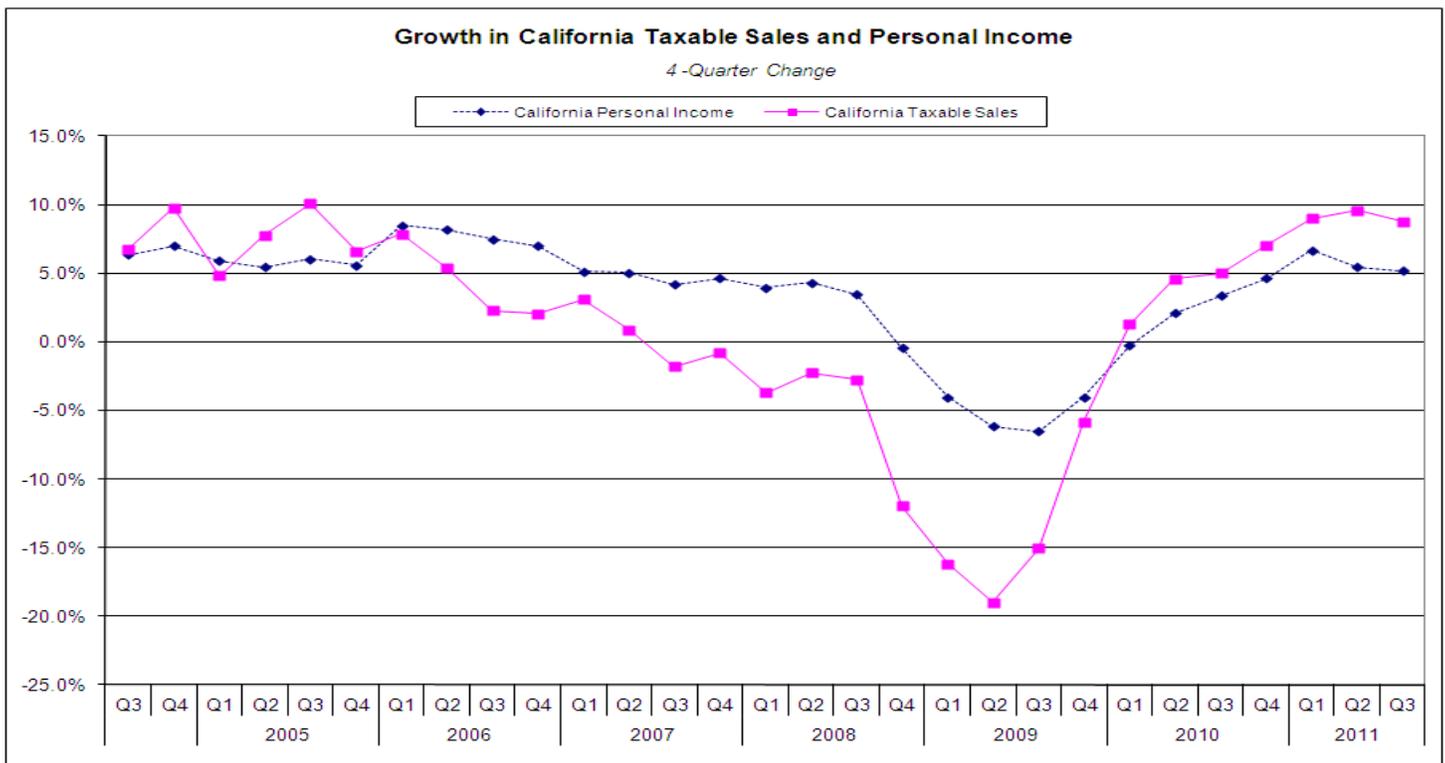
### Taxable Sales up 8.3 Percent in Southern California Statewide Taxable Sales Grow Nearly 9 Percent in Third Quarter 2011

**Sacramento** – Sales of taxable items in Southern California grew 8.3% during the third quarter of 2011 over the same period in 2010 according to Board of Equalization (BOE) data, announced Michelle Steel, Vice Chair of the BOE.

“This is great news for Southern California and a hopeful sign that our region’s and state’s economies will improve,” said Ms. Steel.

Based on cash receipts, BOE estimates the statewide taxable sales for the third quarter of 2012 are 6.2 percent higher than in the third quarter of 2011.

Statewide BOE data from actual third quarter 2011 and 2010 receipts shows 8.8 percent growth (\$10.6 billion). Sales for this time period grew 3.6 percent faster than personal income (see chart below).



Retail outlets accounted for 67.6 percent of the total sales in the third quarter of 2011, with nonretail outlets making up the remaining 32.4 percent. Clothing and accessory store sales grew 10.1 percent, with mail-order and Internet purchases growing 12.1%. Motor vehicle dealer sales increased 11.1 percent. A 23.5 percent spike in gasoline prices was responsible for taxable sales rising 20.1 percent at gas stations. Gasoline consumption during the third quarter of 2011 dropped 2.0 percent.

*Taxable Sales in California* is a quarterly data report by the BOE on retail sales activity in California, as measured by transactions subject to sales and use tax. The report includes figures about statewide [taxable sales by type of business](#), as well as statistics about taxable sales in all California [cities](#) and [counties](#).

\* \* \* \* \*

Elected to the Board of Equalization in 2006 and re-elected in 2010, Michelle Steel serves as *Southern California's elected taxpayer advocate*. In December 2007, Steel discovered the Board of Equalization had delayed the return of millions of dollars in security deposits owed to California businesses. Procedures were changed due to Steel's decisive leadership. Following her investigation, the tax agency refunded tax security deposits to over 5,500 small businesses. To date, over \$100 million in security deposits have been returned to taxpayers.

The five-member California State Board of Equalization (BOE) is a publicly elected tax board. The BOE collects more than \$53.7 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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