August 2011 Retail Sales Up 3.9% from August 2010

Total taxable retail sales in August 2011 grew 3.9% from August 2010 (not adjusted for inflation). Building Supply Sales led the way by growing 12.1% year-over-year. August was the third straight month of strong retail sales growth in building supply stores, as building supply sales for June, July, and August 2011 were 11% higher than in the same period in 2010. This is likely due in part to the expiration of the first-time homebuyer tax credit on April 30, 2010, which pulled home sales and related retail sales forward, causing a drop in sales in the months immediately following expiration of the credit. Automobile and transportation-related sales grew 6% over the twelve months ending in August 2011. This category includes sales at all transportation-related retail outlets: auto dealers, auto parts, aircraft dealers, motorboat dealers, automobile rental, etc. Total taxable retail sales for the last three months, June through August, are 4% higher than the same three month period a year ago.

Maine Retail Sales	% Change August 2011 from August 2010	% Change last three months / 3 months year ago
Building Supply	12.1%	11.0%
Food Store	4.5%	2.4%
General Merchandise	0.0%	-0.4%
Other Retail	3.9%	3.8%
Restaurant	1.4%	3.3%
Lodging	0.3%	3.4%
Auto Transportation	6.0%	3.2%
Total	3.9%	4.0%
Business Operating	5.2%	7.9%
Personal Consumption	3.8%	3.5%

Source: Maine Revenue Services

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Taxable retail sales information is available on the State Planning Office website at http://www.maine.gov/spo/economics/retail and data is available at econ.maine.gov Contact: joel.d.johnson@maine.gov.