Total taxable retail sales in October 2011 grew 4.2% from October 2010 (not adjusted for inflation). Building supply sales grew 10.5% year-over-year in October, which marked the fifth consecutive month of month of strong retail sales growth in building supply stores. Two other categories also saw strong sales growth in the latest data. The "Auto and Transportation" category (go <a href="here">here</a> for category definitions) grew 9.8% year-over-year in October, and business operating sales, which mostly consist of out-of-state purchases by Maine businesses, grew 6.5% over the same period. Restaurants and lodging both saw year-over-year declines in sales, in part due to weather-related fluctuations in tourism. Total taxable retail sales for the last three months, August through October, were 4.1% higher than the same three-month period a year ago.

Maine Retail Sales	% Change from October 2010 to October 2011	% Change last three months / same 3 month period in 2010
Building Supply	10.5%	9.9%
Food Store	1.9%	2.2%
General Merchandise	0.1%	0.8%
Other Retail	1.6%	3.0%
Restaurant	-0.1%	2.1%
Lodging	-5.8%	0.8%
Auto Transportation	9.8%	6.0%
Total	4.2%	4.1%
Business Operating	6.5%	7.4%
Personal Consumption	3.9%	3.8%

Source: Maine Revenue Services

12/13/2011

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