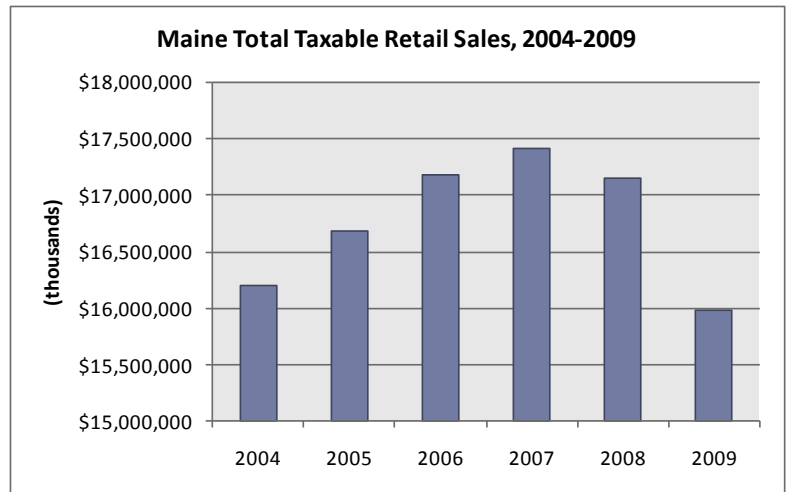


2009 Annual Taxable Retail Sales Summary

The Economics & Demographics team reports taxable retail sales information from Maine Revenue Services monthly, quarterly, and annually. This report summarizes the 2009 sales which can be found in greater detail at the State Planning Office website, here: <http://www.maine.gov/spo/economics/economic/retailsales.htm>.

Maine taxable retail sales in 2009 were just below the \$16 billion mark. Of this, \$14.1 billion was attributable to consumer consumption while less than \$2 billion in sales qualified as business operating. 23% of consumer sales were reported from automobile- and transportation-related stores. Lodging accounted for 4% of consumer sales in 2009, and restaurant sales accounted for 14%. General merchandise stores, building supply stores, and food stores contributed 21%, 14%, and 11%, respectively, to 2009 consumer sales. Total retail sales rose each year from 2004 to 2007, declined slightly for 2008 showing early signs of the global economic recession, and fell to a level below the 2004 annual sales for 2009. (These numbers are not adjusted for inflation.)



Percent Contribution to Change Year/Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Business Exp.	0.6%	0.8%	0.6%	0.1%	-2.2%
Auto / Trans	0.0%	-0.6%	0.2%	-1.3%	-1.4%
Building Supplies	0.7%	0.4%	-0.6%	-0.6%	-2.2%
Food Stores	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%
General	-0.1%	0.6%	0.3%	-0.4%	-0.7%
Lodging	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	0.0%	-0.3%
Restaurant	0.3%	0.6%	0.4%	0.2%	-0.1%
Other	0.7%	0.7%	0.0%	0.3%	-0.3%
Total Sales	3.0%	3.0%	1.4%	-1.5%	-6.8%

Total sales in 2009 were 6.8% lower than total sales in 2008. The decline in business operating retail sales contributed to 2.2% of total decline, and sales from building supply stores subtracted another 2.2% in the year-over-year measurement. The table on the left shows that sales from building supply stores have been in decline since 2007, and 2009 was the first year in the series for business expenditure sales to have been lower than the preceding year. Food stores represented the only continuous annual increase in taxable retail sales for all years 2004-2009. Restaurant and lodging sales, although turning negative for 2009, have both been relatively stable since 2004.

Broken out by economic summary district, the decline in retail sales from 2008-2009 was fairly consistent across the regions of the state, ranging from -5.2% in Southern Maine to -8.5% in the Androscoggin District. In the 2004-2009 period, Northern Maine was the outlier with a 5-year annualized increase in total retail sales of 1.8% while Southern Maine trailed with an annualized 0.3% increase. This same time period yielded a 3.3% annualized increase in out-of-state sales, that is, the total amount of taxable retail sales from stores which have no in-state locations.

