

Retail sales up slightly in SS; mixed results elsewhere in NET

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Although retail sales, reflected by sales tax dollars, were up almost 6 percent across the state, the figures for Northeast Texas were a bit less optimistic.

For the city of Sulphur Springs, retail sales in January showed a slight improvement over the same month in 2013, according to the monthly report from the Texas Comptroller's office.

Sulphur Springs sales tax revenue was up 2.8 percent over last year, resulting in a payment of \$340,873.

Como posted a dramatic 81.5 percent jump over a year ago and received a check for more than \$4,400.

The downturn in retail sales in Cumby continued a downward spiral with a drop of almost 8 percent from the same period last year. Cumby's sales tax check was \$7,974.

Elsewhere around the region, the report showed mixed retail sales trends.

In Hunt County, Greenville was up 4.8 percent and Commerce was up 2.23 percent.

January retail sales in Paris showed the biggest drop in the area, down 4.8 percent when compared with the same month last year.

Cooper's numbers indicated an appreciable jump, just less than 10 percent, for January sales.

Yantis' retail growth was up 9.11 percent and Mount Vernon followed closely with an increase of almost 7.5 percent.

Mount Pleasant, experiencing a recent revitalization in retail activity, posted an increase of just more than 3 percent over the previous year.

In Wood County, Winnsboro's increase was very slight, just less than 1 percent, and Quitman was down 5.28 percent.

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs said the overall state sales tax revenue in January was \$2.2 billion, up 5.8 percent compared to January 2013.

"Sales tax revenue continues its growth streak and has now increased for 47 consecutive months," Combs said. "Growth in tax collections was seen across all major economic sectors including oil and gas, wholesale trade and the services sector."

The sales tax revenue figures reported were for retail sales in January and reported in February.