



SALES TAX REPORT
FEBRUARY 2022
Office of Management
and Budget
Waco, Texas



Waco February 2022 Sales Tax Report

Background

The sales tax information is provided monthly by the Texas Comptroller. The sales tax information is reported 2 months in arrears; therefore, the February report reflects December actual sales tax figures.

The city collected \$5,365,589.03 for December 2021. This amount is significantly above average collections for the month. This is the fifth collection of the fiscal year. This amount is \$644k over the budgeted amount for the month, and YTD collections are \$3.8M or 20% higher than the budgeted amount.

	FY 22 Budget	FY 22 Actuals	Variance to Budget	FY 21 Actuals	FY 20 Actuals
FY 22					
Oct	3,527,248	3,987,666	460,419	3,358,924	3,328,242
Nov	4,024,289	5,022,083	997,794	4,084,701	3,915,536
Dec	3,426,967	3,975,154	548,187	3,450,354	3,343,871
Jan	3,357,207	4,520,451	1,163,243	3,329,482	3,157,356
Feb	4,721,890	5,365,589	643,699	4,652,710	4,704,468
Mar	3,191,527		-	3,297,481	2,997,631
Apr	3,165,367		-	2,870,347	2,932,647
May	3,980,689		-	5,370,413	3,459,183
Jun	3,195,887		-	4,236,094	2,628,993
Jul	3,422,607		-	4,031,318	3,135,039
Aug	4,059,169		-	4,531,386	4,059,669
Sep	3,527,248		-	3,941,023	3,170,619
Grand Total	43,600,094	22,870,943	3,813,342	47,154,233	40,833,255



Sales Tax Forecast

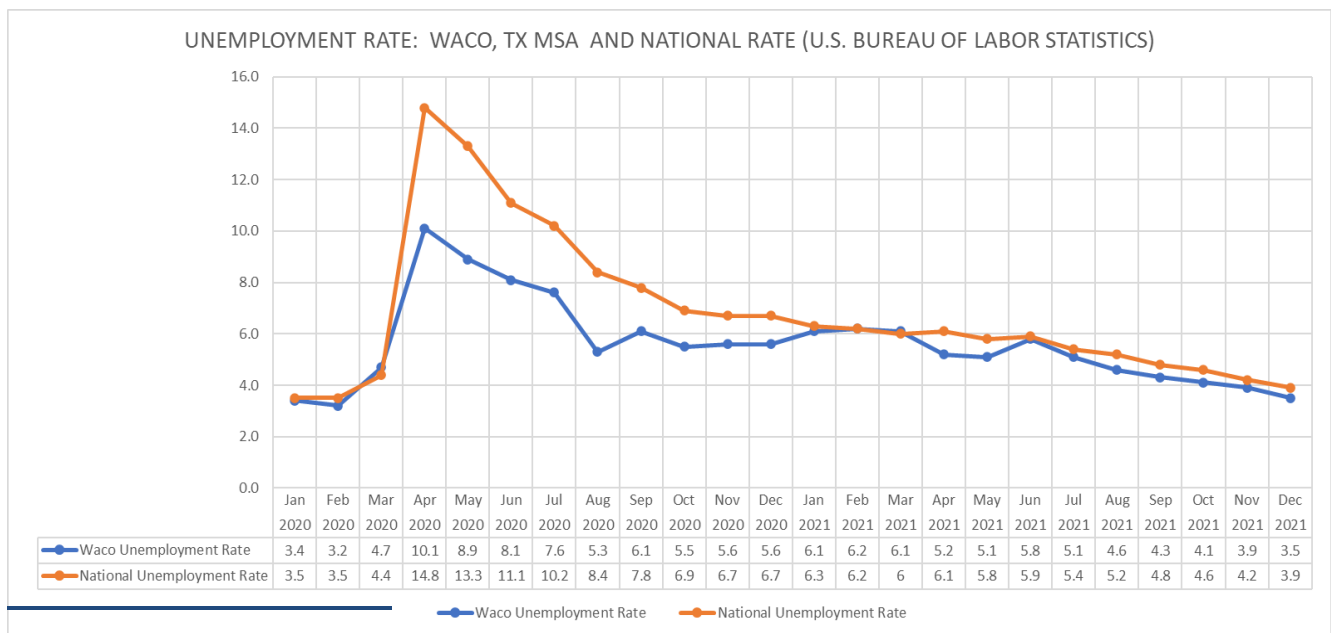
The February sales tax report is the fifth report of the 2022 fiscal year. The budget staff expects sales tax collections in the city to return to pre-pandemic levels, increasing 3 to 6 percent year over year as the population and number of businesses increase. As a result, the budget staff has budgeted \$43,600,094 for the 2022 fiscal year. However, the budget staff monitors sales tax collections monthly, to make any adjustments. The forecast is based on historical actuals and the current month collections. Therefore, if a month is above average the forecast will show a higher year end forecast. If a month's collection is below average, then the forecast will decrease.

The city is collecting more funds than expected, which is positive; however, the budget staff remains cautious as some of the increase in sales tax revenue is aided by other major factors occurring in the overall economy.

1. Decrease in Unemployment

The national unemployment rate decreased from 6.7% to 3.9%, from December 2020 to December 2021. This is the lowest unemployment rate since Covid shutdowns started in March 2020 and when unemployment peaked at 14.8%.

The Waco Metro area's unemployment rate is mirroring the national trend. The local unemployment rate decreased from 5.6% to 3.5% from December 2020 to December 2021 and peaked in April 2020 at 10.1% (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics).¹



¹ Source: <https://beta.bls.gov/dataViewer/view/timeseries/LNS14000000>
https://www.bls.gov/eag/eag.tx_waco_msa.htm

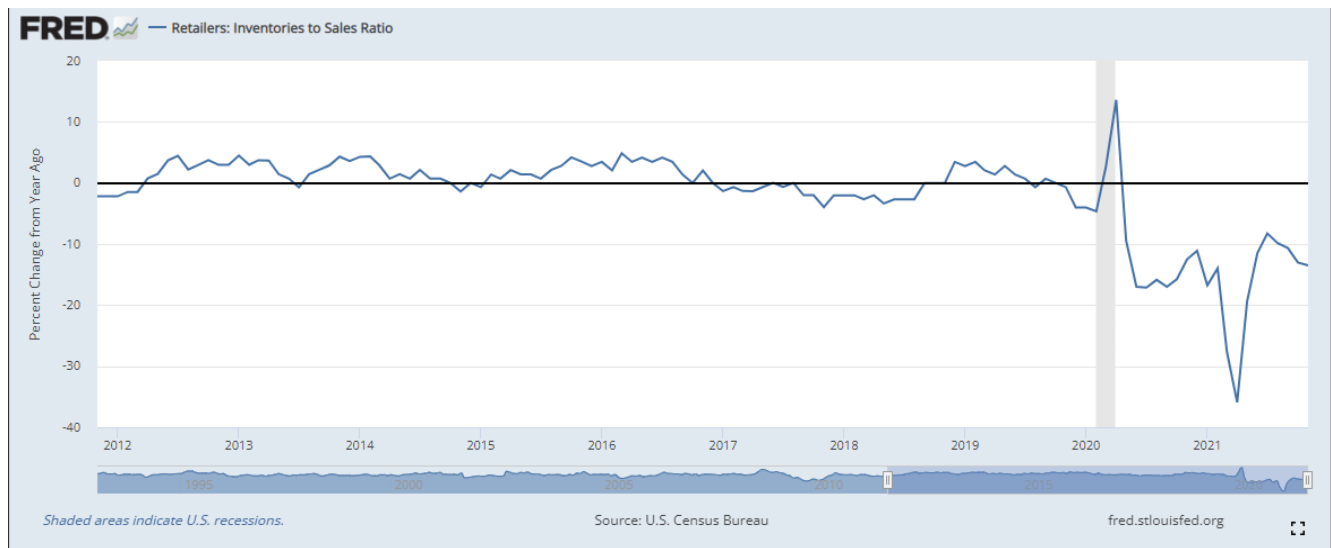
2. Child Tax Credit Program

As part of the American Rescue Plan Act, families were able to receive a portion of their child tax credit throughout the year, rather than as a part of their income tax return. This policy reached nearly 60 million children and pumped \$15 billion dollars into the US economy every month. On average, a family with eligible dependents received an additional \$423 per month (US Treasury and Internal Revenue Service)².

At the start of 2022, the United States Congress has not renewed the advance child tax credit program. The State of Texas has 6.3 million qualifying children. The program has paid out \$1.6 billion to Texans, with an average family receiving \$449 per month³. The termination of the program will impact sales tax in future months. The result of the program ending will be seen in the March report, if the program is not continued before that time.

3. Supply Chain issues

There is still a shortage of supplies and employees to manufacture and transport them to consumers. The chart below shows the major decline in inventory year over year. There has been very little variance in inventory over the last ten years. However, the pandemic shutdowns have led to supply chain issues⁴. This has created a limited supply of products across the board, which has once again started to manifest itself in grocery stores and supermarkets across the country with empty shelves for items that consumers want.



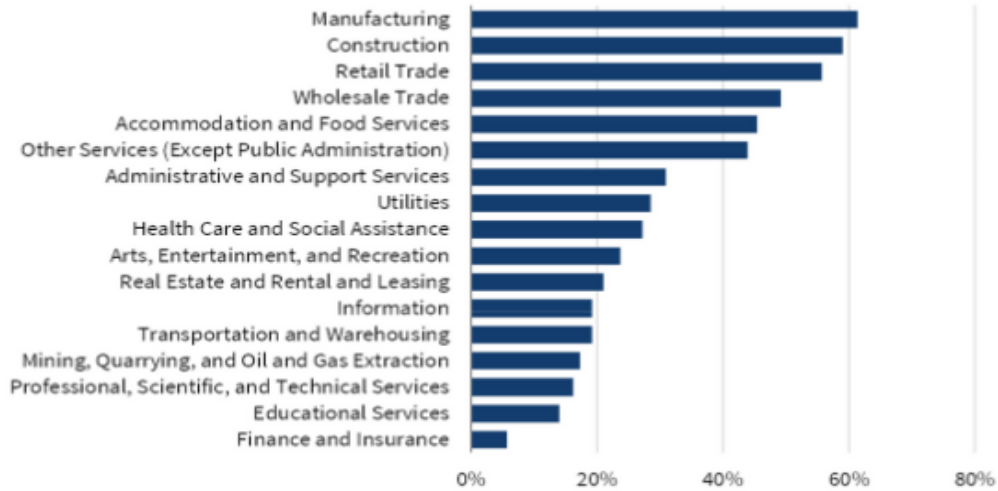
²Source: <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/Treasury-and-IRS-Announce-Families-of-Nearly-60-Million-Children-Receive-%2415-Billion-Dollars-in-First-Payments-of-Expanded-and-Newly-Advanceable-Child-Tax-Credit>

³ <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/131/Advance-CTC-Payments-Disbursed-November-2021-by-State-11162021.pdf>

⁴ Source: <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/RETAILIRSA#0>

Figure 2. Supply-Chain Disruptions By Sector

In the last week, did this business have domestic supplier delays? (percentage saying yes)



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau; CEA Calculations.

4. Consumer Price Index (CPI)

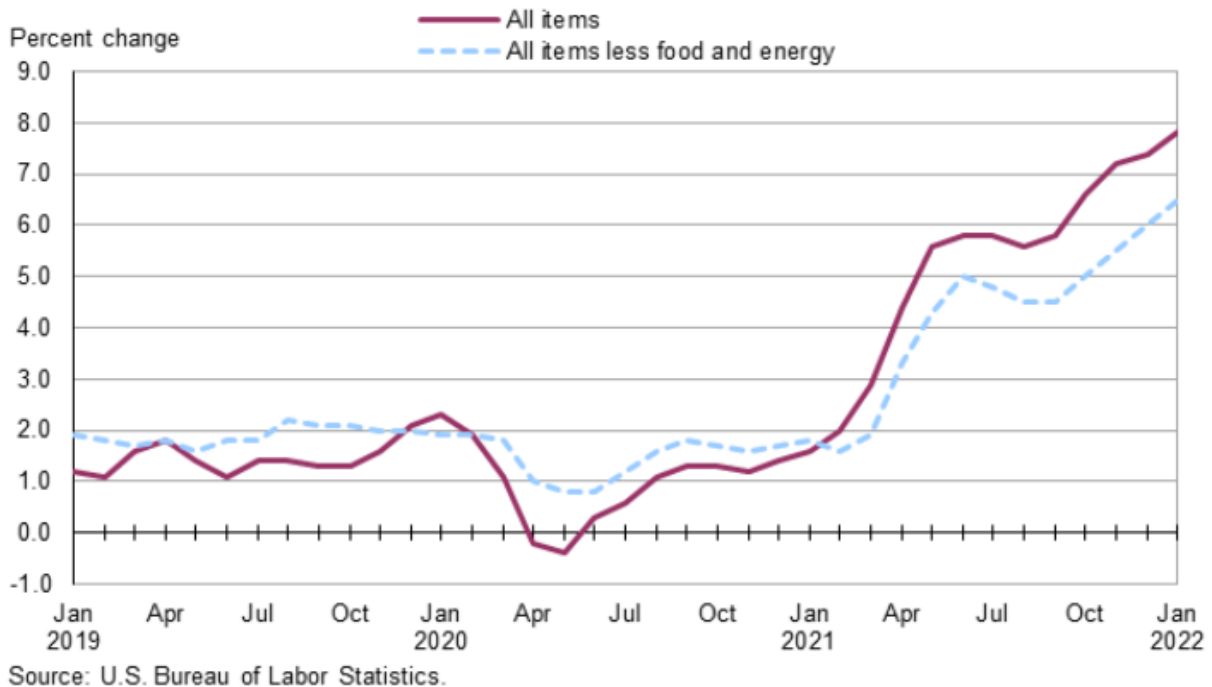
The recent data shows an increase in demand as people return to work and see their wages and income increase; however, the supply chain issues have created a shortage of supplies for consumers. The combination of higher demand and limited supply has resulted in record inflation in the economy. This can be seen in the record increase of 7.8% in the Consumer Price index from January 2021, for the South region of the United States. The CPI is a measure of the average change over time in the prices paid by urban consumers for a market basket of consumer goods and services (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)⁶.

The CPI increase of 7.8% accounts for food and energy. Food overall has increased 6.6% from January 2021. Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs has increased 12.6% for the same period. The energy index has increased 25.3% and energy commodities (crude oil, heating oil, natural gas, and gasoline) has increased 39.9% from January 2021. Both food and energy prices are somewhat correlated to each other, as an increase in fuel cost will generally lead to an increase in food costs. This is the highest year to year increase since 1982.

⁵ Source: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/cea/blog/2021/06/17/why-the-pandemic-has-disrupted-supply-chains/>

⁶ Source: https://www.bls.gov/regions/southeast/news-release/pdf/consumerpriceindex_south.pdf

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, South region, January 2019–January 2022



Forecast

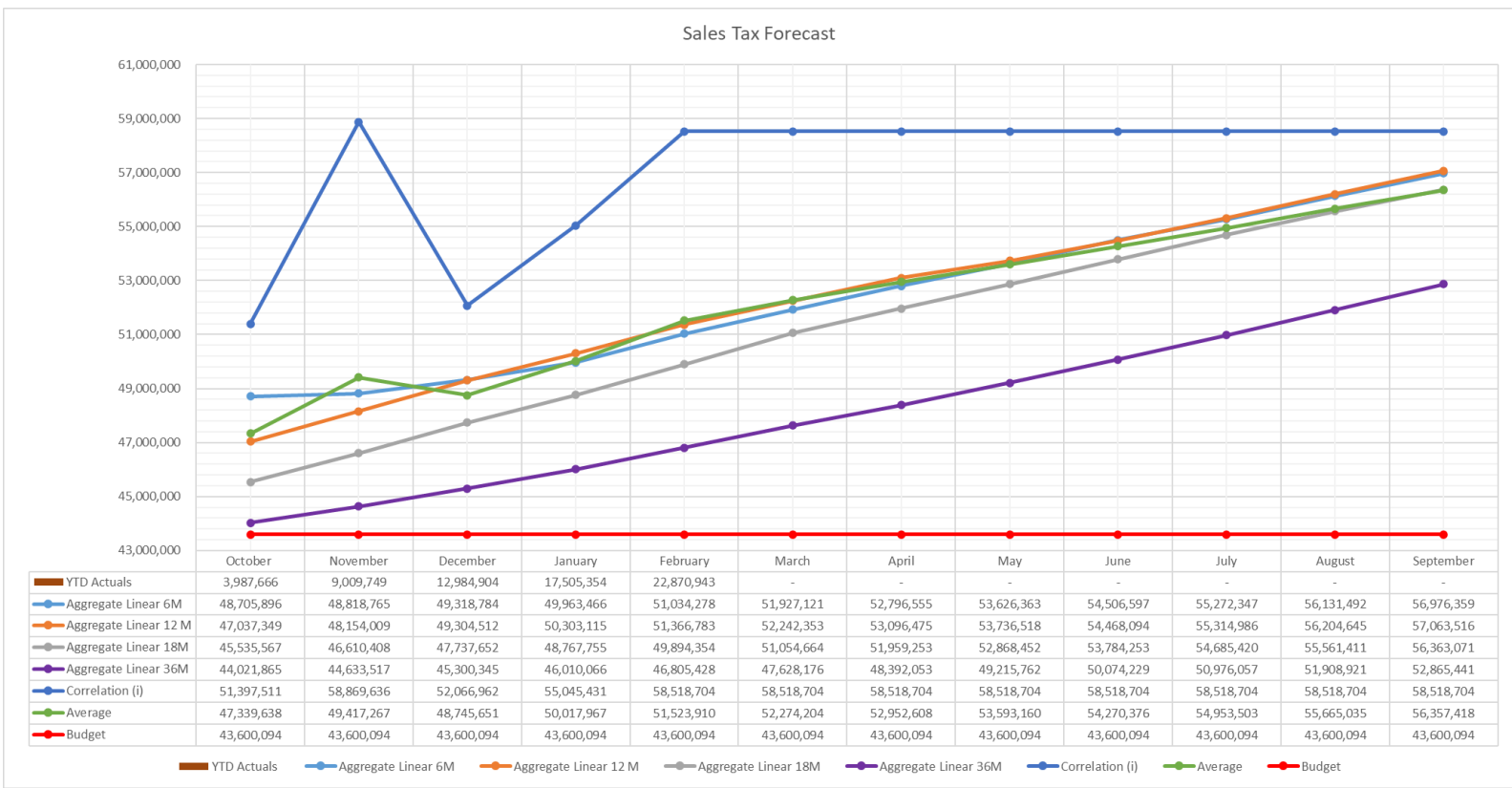
The reported amount for February was significantly higher than budgeted. The significant variance demonstrates the effects of the factors noted above as well as the resiliency of consumers within Waco. The budget staff is cautious as to whether this increase will continue to benefit the city long-term. The higher sales tax revenue does not necessarily mean a higher economic output by consumers. It could mean that consumers are paying higher prices for the same goods.

Additionally, if inflation in the overall economy continues to increase but wages do not, then spending on discretionary goods or non-essential products will decline. This effects the city because the city does not collect sales tax on most food and energy commodities, which are considered necessities.

As a result of this and the most recent data, the forecast model is showing a significantly higher amount compared to the budget. However, the budget staff expects sale tax revenues to return to pre-pandemic levels of growth in 2022. The budget staff does not see a need to make any adjustments to the original budget of \$43.6 million at the current time. The budget staff does expect the following moving forward:

- March report (January sales): The budget staff expects sales tax revenue to return to its new normal as families adjust to the termination of the child tax credit program.
- May report (March sales): The budget staff expects the collection for the month of March will see a decrease from 2021, mostly due to the lack of a stimulus payments (March 2021 was when the American Rescue Plan Act was signed into law and contained the \$1,400 stimulus checks) and the reduction in income tax returns due to the current child tax credit program.
- Lastly, if inflation continues at higher-than-expected rates, and wage rates don't increase correspondingly, consumers will reduce spending on taxable (discretionary) items which will lead to lower revenues collected by the city.

As we progress through the fiscal year and collect more data, the budget staff expects the plotted lines to come closer together to have a more accurate forecast.



Texas at a Glance



- The State of Texas total net payments for this Period: \$ 789,373,256.49 comparable Payment Prior Year: \$ 684,062,854.95; Percent Change: 15.39%.

With the exception of Odessa, the top 31 cities saw an increase in the period.

The City of Waco ranked 31st in the state for the February net sales tax payment report.

Rank	City	Net Payment This Period	Comparable Payment Prior Year	% Change
1	Houston	\$79,932,375.73	\$71,269,408.47	12.15%
2	San Antonio	\$46,283,925.58	\$39,376,677.72	17.54%
3	Dallas	\$39,666,289.28	\$35,838,063.28	10.68%
4	Austin	\$30,320,572.46	\$24,935,321.03	21.59%
5	Fort Worth	\$21,386,153.97	\$18,099,220.59	18.16%
6	Arlington	\$18,486,069.73	\$13,517,006.02	36.76%
7	El Paso	\$12,918,762.55	\$10,970,053.83	17.76%
8	Frisco	\$12,301,140.00	\$10,905,133.48	12.80%
9	Plano	\$10,868,055.88	\$9,958,094.14	9.13%
10	Round Rock	\$10,680,888.72	\$8,493,962.80	25.74%
11	McAllen	\$9,835,015.44	\$8,493,073.15	15.80%
12	Amarillo	\$9,751,254.92	\$8,988,130.53	8.49%
13	Lubbock	\$9,494,887.42	\$8,588,370.57	10.55%
14	Corpus Christi	\$9,077,500.41	\$8,117,916.71	11.82%
15	Irving	\$8,946,153.78	\$8,301,142.84	7.77%
16	McKinney	\$8,148,520.11	\$7,226,144.51	12.76%
17	Grand Prairie	\$7,619,238.15	\$6,680,640.26	14.04%
18	Midland	\$7,172,610.22	\$6,121,574.97	17.16%
19	Sugar Land	\$6,971,294.77	\$5,908,314.68	17.99%
20	Conroe	\$6,773,908.56	\$5,636,801.41	20.17%
21	Mesquite	\$6,251,209.28	\$5,271,945.21	18.57%
22	Tyler	\$6,063,419.89	\$5,141,962.05	17.92%
23	Abilene	\$5,967,789.26	\$5,115,241.85	16.66%
24	Laredo	\$5,817,097.25	\$4,725,846.63	23.09%
25	Odessa	\$5,765,244.38	\$5,910,479.99	-2.45%
26	Brownsville	\$5,650,118.65	\$4,684,662.78	20.60%
27	Richardson	\$5,629,303.02	\$4,599,661.55	22.38%
28	Beaumont	\$5,600,002.89	\$4,236,906.04	32.17%
29	Grapevine	\$5,529,700.46	\$4,218,687.88	31.07%
30	The Colony	\$5,520,329.05	\$4,033,708.92	36.85%
31	Waco	\$5,365,589.03	\$4,652,710.26	15.32%