

# Sales Tax Report

May 2022

Office of Management and Budget



CITY OF WACO



# Waco May 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 May report reflects March actual sales tax figures.

The city collected \$5,059,187 for March 2022. This amount continues the trend of above average collections. This amount is \$1.1M over the budgeted amount for the month, and YTD collections are \$6.1M or 20.72% higher than the budgeted amount.

	FY 22 Budget	FY 22 Actuals	Variance to Budget	FY 21 Actuals	FY 20 Actuals
<b>FY 22</b>					
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	3,889,036	697,509	3,297,481	2,997,631
Apr	3,165,367	3,666,717	501,350	2,870,347	2,932,647
May	3,980,689	5,059,187	1,078,498	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
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>43,600,094</b>	<b>35,485,883</b>	<b>6,090,700</b>	<b>47,154,233</b>	<b>40,833,255</b>



# Sales Tax Forecast

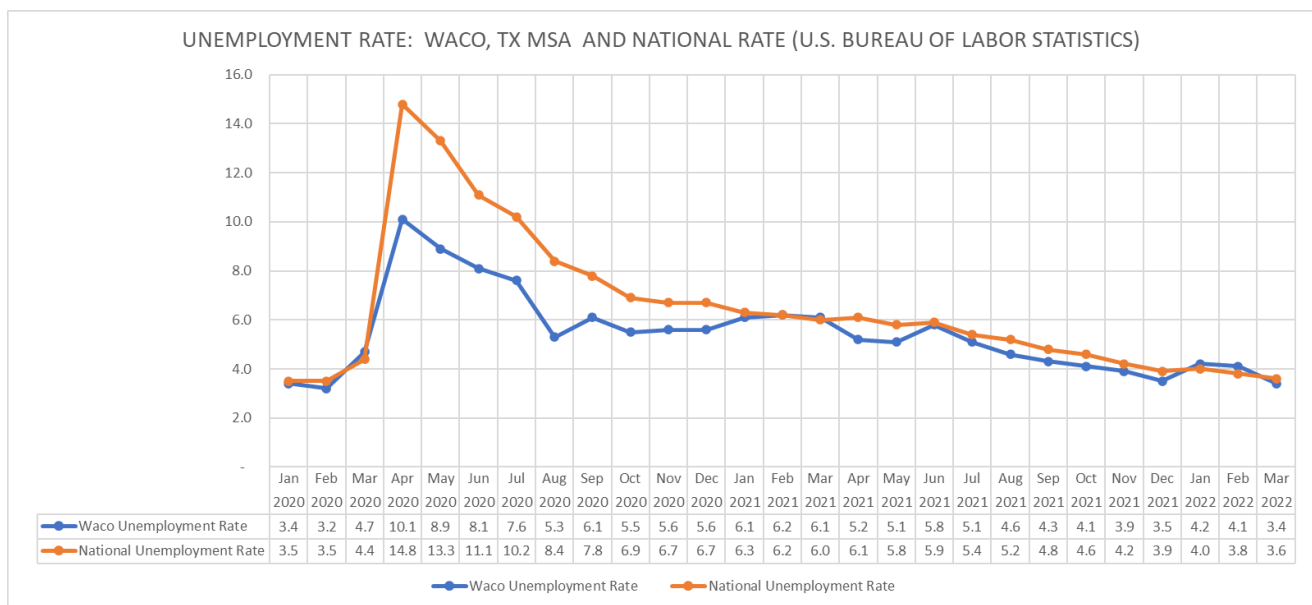
The May sales tax report is the eighth report of the 2022 fiscal year. The budget staff expects sales tax collections in the city to return to pre-pandemic levels, increasing 3 to 6 percent year over year as the population and number of businesses increase. As a result, the budget staff has budgeted \$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 and there is a strong level of uncertainty in the overall economy right now.

## 1. Decrease in Unemployment

The national unemployment rate decreased from 6.0% to 3.6%, from March 2021 to March 2022. This is the lowest unemployment rate since Covid shutdowns started in March 2020 and when unemployment peaked at 14.8%.<sup>1</sup> The national unemployment rate is also returning to pre-pandemic levels.

The Waco Metro area's unemployment rate is mirroring the national trend. The local unemployment rate decreased from 6.1% to 3.4% from March 2021 to March 2022 and peaked in April 2020 at 10.1% (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics).<sup>2</sup>



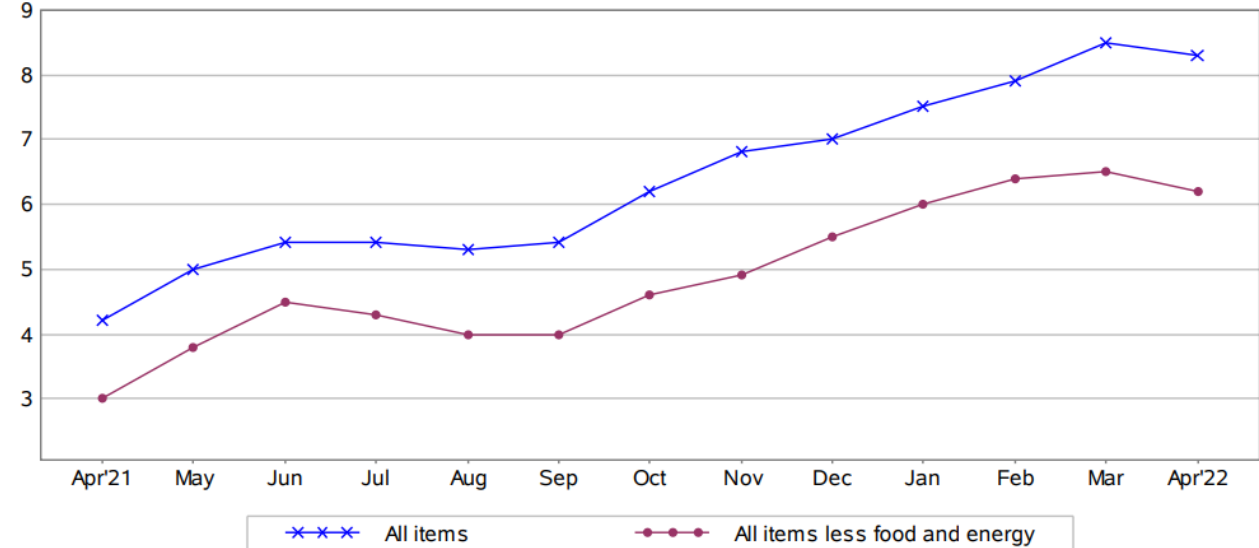
<sup>1</sup> <https://beta.bls.gov/dataViewer/view/timeseries/LNS14000000>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.bls.gov/eag/eag.tx\\_waco\\_msa.htm](https://www.bls.gov/eag/eag.tx_waco_msa.htm)

## 2. Inflation

The all-items consumer price index (CPI) rose 8.3 percent for the 12 months ending April. The 12-month increase has been steadily rising. However, this month the rate was lower than last month. The all items less food and energy index rose 6.2 percent.<sup>3</sup>

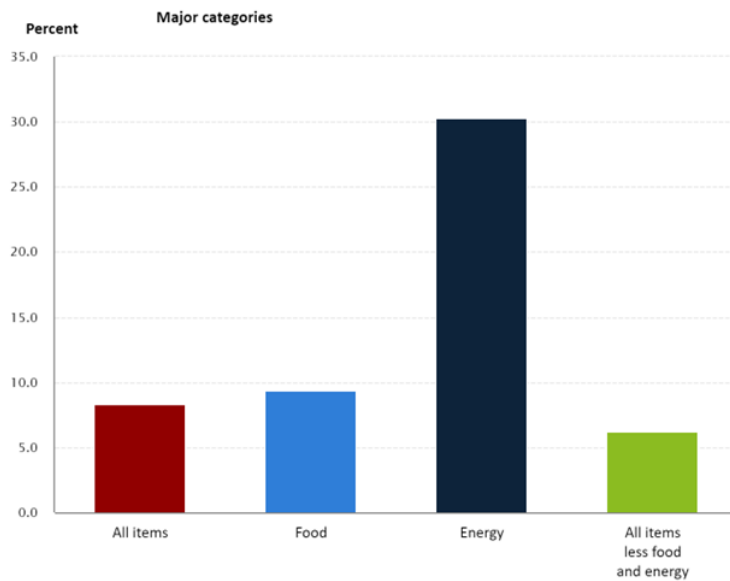
**Chart 2. 12-month percent change in CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), not seasonally adjusted, Apr. 2021 - Apr. 2022**



## 3. Oil Market

On February 24, 2022, Russia launched an invasion against Ukraine. While the United States and other countries have not entered the conflict directly, they have imposed international sanctions on Russian imports. The United States further expanded sanctions to ban Russian oil. While Russian oil accounts for less than 10% of supply in the United States the ban will result in lower supply. This coupled with the increase in demand from the return to pre-pandemic activities will result in higher gasoline prices and other byproducts. The energy index rose

**12-month percentage change, Consumer Price Index, selected categories, April 2022, not seasonally adjusted**



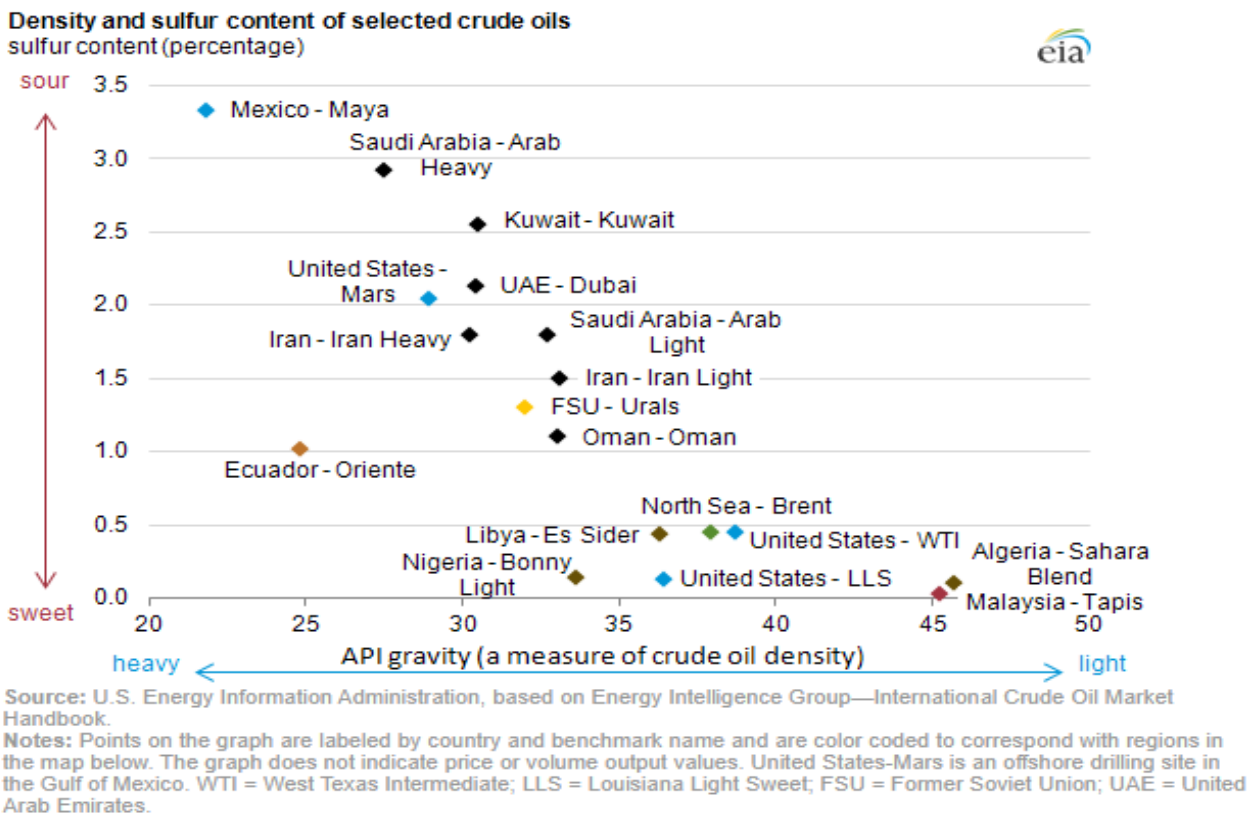
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/cpi.pdf>

30.3 percent over the last year. Gasoline (all types) has increased 43.6%.

The United States’ oil production has different characteristics from those used in most refineries. The oil produced in the United States, mostly in Texas, is considered “light and sweet” crude oil. While conversion to gasoline is possible, the national infrastructure is overwhelmingly set up to refine “heavy and sour” crude oil. An increase in domestic oil production will not have an immediate effect on gas prices as most of the oil production will be exported. <sup>4</sup>

## Crude oils have different quality characteristics

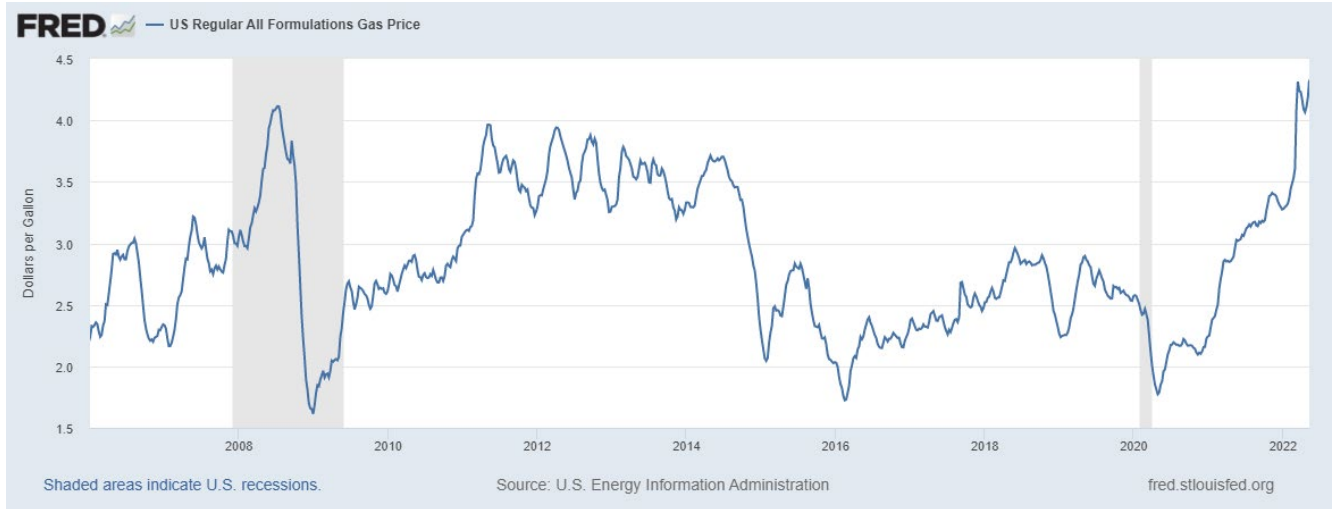


The largest variable to oil prices will be if the European Union (“EU”) imposes a ban on Russian oil like the United States. The EU heavily depends on Russian oil. The EU imports 41.1% of natural gas, 26.9% of crude oil and 46.7% of solid fuel from Russia. <sup>5</sup> A ban by the EU will drastically increase demand in the global markets and will lead to significantly higher gas prices. The instability in the oil market will continue so long as the conflict does. As of May 9, 2022, the average price for gas is \$4.33 per gallon and is expected to stay at those levels. <sup>6</sup>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=7110>

<sup>5</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/infographs/energy/bloc-2c.html#carouselControls?lang=en>

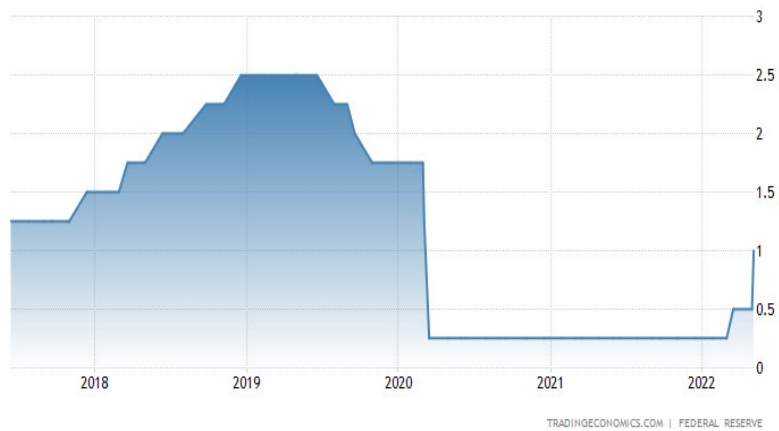
<sup>6</sup> <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/GASREGW>



Although gas prices are expected to rise there are opportunities that exist that could fill in the void but are dependent on political discussions and decisions that are yet to be made. This is an area that the Budget Team will continue to track and monitor as it has a potentially significant impact on the prices of goods and services the city purchases and receives as well as the fuel that the city uses in its operations. Further, as consumers spend more on fuel it leaves less funds available for discretionary purposes if wages don't increase at corresponding rate.

4. Monetary Policy

At the start of the pandemic the Federal Reserve lowered the interest rate banks pay to between 0.0% and 0.25%. This was done to make it easier and cheaper for banks to loan money out to the public and to avoid an economic recession or depression. However, as the country returns to pre pandemic activities the Federal Reserve increased interest rates by 0.25% in March and by 0.50% at the start of May to help lower the soaring inflation. This will increase interest rates consumers pay on loans, which should in theory reduce the supply of money available in the economy and lower inflation. If inflation continues to increase the federal reserve can continue to increase the rate. <sup>7</sup>



<sup>7</sup> <https://tradingeconomics.com/united-states/interest-rate#:~:text=Interest%20Rate%20in%20the%20United,percent%20in%20December%20of%202008.>

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## Forecast

The reported amount for May was higher than budgeted. The significant variance demonstrates the effects of the factors noted above as well as the resiliency of Wacoans. 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 simply could be that consumers are paying higher prices for the same goods.

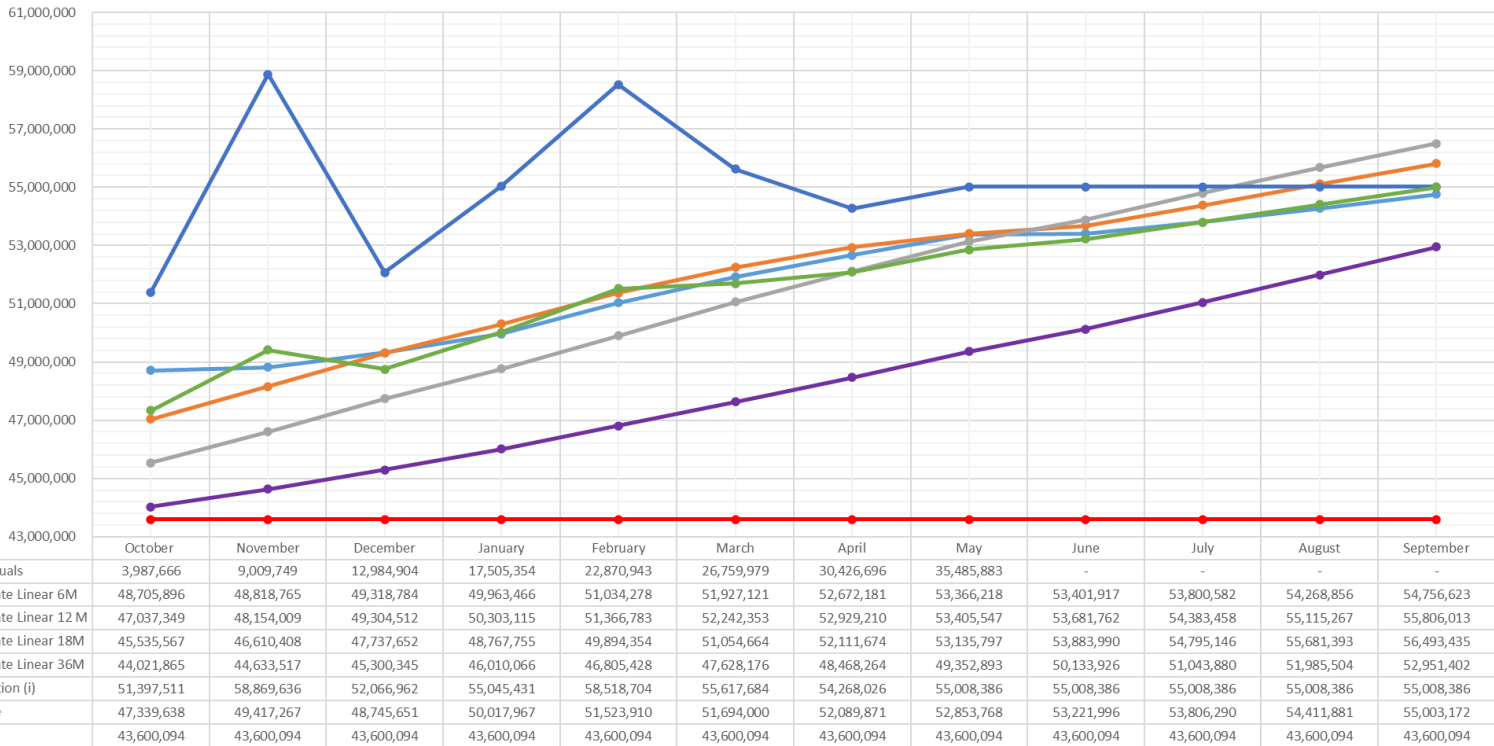
If the conflict continues with Russia and Ukraine, gas prices may continue to remain high when added to the normal peak in prices typically experienced during the summer. This could have an impact on tourism with lower revenues for enterprise funds as well as sales tax revenues.

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

Lastly, if the Federal Reserve increases rates again the amount of money available to spend on discretionary items will also be reduced as consumers will pay more in interest payments. An increase in rates has a direct impact on economic output, as increasing rates are meant to limit the amount of available money in the economy. Further, increases in rates causes businesses to reconsider capital investments and growth as borrowing costs rise.

As a result of this and the most recent data, the forecast model is showing a significantly higher amount compared to the budget. However, given the economic and geopolitical situation the budget staff does not see a need to make any adjustments to the original budget of \$43.6 million at the current time.

### Sales Tax Forecast



■ YTD Actuals   
 ■ Aggregate Linear 6M   
 ■ Aggregate Linear 12 M   
 ■ Aggregate Linear 18M   
 ■ Aggregate Linear 36M   
 ■ Correlation (i)   
 ■ Average   
 ■ Budget



# Texas at a Glance

- The State of Texas total net payments for this Period: \$ 761,148,697.94  
comparable Payment Prior Year: \$ 692,317,081.06; Percent Change: 9.94%.



Most of the top 30 cities saw an increase in the period.

The City of Waco ranked 29<sup>th</sup> in the state for the May net sales tax payment report.

Rank	City	Net Payment This Period	Comparable Payment Prior Year	% Change
1	Houston	\$78,685,310.72	\$70,600,841.29	11.45%
2	San Antonio	\$45,057,714.85	\$40,988,162.89	9.92%
3	Dallas	\$39,696,013.80	\$33,557,742.82	18.29%
4	Austin	\$30,320,652.40	\$25,443,962.72	19.16%
5	Fort Worth	\$20,415,932.45	\$18,615,313.33	9.67%
6	Arlington	\$17,880,673.22	\$14,082,359.04	26.97%
7	Frisco	\$12,705,948.51	\$10,256,756.41	23.87%
8	El Paso	\$11,589,220.10	\$10,975,509.18	5.59%
9	Plano	\$10,008,211.01	\$7,578,151.76	32.06%
10	Lubbock	\$9,707,021.31	\$9,216,557.43	5.32%
11	Amarillo	\$9,565,157.54	\$9,200,441.08	3.96%
12	Corpus Christi	\$8,658,293.24	\$8,828,880.28	-1.93%
13	McAllen	\$8,537,246.86	\$7,957,275.70	7.28%
14	McKinney	\$8,425,840.20	\$7,306,027.00	15.32%
15	Round Rock	\$8,407,730.36	\$8,580,257.63	-2.01%
16	Irving	\$8,284,859.71	\$7,563,833.77	9.53%
17	Grand Prairie	\$7,876,302.47	\$6,938,955.98	13.50%
18	Midland	\$7,437,337.21	\$5,991,683.97	24.12%
19	Conroe	\$6,191,109.36	\$5,577,240.39	11.00%
20	Sugar Land	\$6,013,813.10	\$5,163,052.06	16.47%
21	Odessa	\$5,933,286.23	\$4,930,789.27	20.33%
22	Mesquite	\$5,644,052.93	\$5,499,030.41	2.63%
23	Abilene	\$5,524,304.20	\$5,647,298.27	-2.17%
24	Tyler	\$5,433,751.90	\$5,332,564.37	1.89%
25	Richardson	\$5,310,046.16	\$4,667,035.00	13.77%
26	Laredo	\$5,242,317.12	\$5,019,241.42	4.44%
27	Brownsville	\$5,196,915.70	\$4,985,279.43	4.24%
28	The Colony	\$5,071,764.62	\$3,870,194.55	31.04%
29	Waco	\$5,059,186.80	\$5,370,413.44	-5.79%
30	Allen	\$5,015,994.33	\$5,160,603.09	-2.80%