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Taxable sales up 5.5 percent in Clark County in July

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CARSON CITY – Spurred by robust business in cars and clothing, taxable sales in Clark County jumped 5.5 percent in July.

It was only the second time in the past 23 months that taxable sales have increased in Southern Nevada.

The Nevada Taxation Department reported that statewide, taxable sales rose 5.3 percent to \$3.2 billion. It said the sales and use tax collections for the first month of this fiscal year were 9.1 percent, or \$5.4 million, above the forecast of the state's Economic Forum.

The forum predicts the amount of tax to be collected on which the state builds its budget.

The department said taxable sales, one indicator of the economy, reached \$2.3 billion for the month in Clark County.

Business in the bar and restaurant business and in the sale of building materials were still sluggish during the month. Food and liquor sales rose 1.6 percent.

After 21 months of declining sales, building materials recorded a 0.3 percent gain.

The department said apparel sales rose 14.1 percent, the 10th consecutive month of gains. After two months of lower sales, the auto business posted an 8.1 percent increase in July.

Furniture sales increased 12.2 percent and the general merchandise business inched up 0.5 percent in Clark County.

Statewide, 11 of the 17 counties registered increases in taxable sales. Washoe County was up 2.9 percent and Carson City rose 0.1 percent.

The department said the bar and restaurant business statewide dropped 3.9 percent and sales in the construction industry fell by 29.4 percent. Motor vehicle sales posted a 4.4 percent increase statewide.

Sale of clothing rose 12.4 percent and the furniture business shot up 10.9 percent.

The department said the cigarette tax collected fell 0.39 percent statewide in July compared to the Economic Forum's predictions. But the liquor tax inched up 0.36 percent and the live entertainment tax increased 1.4 percent above projections.

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