

## (: C CITY OF BRAWLEY HIGHLIGHTS

Brawley's receipts from July through September were 12.6\% above the third sales period in 2019. However, deferred tax payments from last quarter temporarily exaggerated the cash results. Once these and other reporting aberrations are excluded, actual sales were up 6.4\%.

Although this was the second quarter the greater economy has been impacted by the pandemic, surprisingly the City experienced strong growth from general consumer retailers. Also, while casual dining establishments were impacted with limited indoor options, quick service eateries helped lift the overall restaurant group.

Further contributing to the overall gain was continued new tax revenue from out-of-state online retailers due to the enactment of AB147 combined
with increased online sales due to the pandemic, which boosted countywide use tax pool allocations to the City by 55\%.

As expected, lower gas prices and reduced commuter frequency held fuel and service station receipts down, while business-industrial merchant activity was only slightly lower than the prior year.

Net of aberrations, taxable sales for all of Imperial County declined $5.4 \%$ over the comparable time period; the Southern California region was down $1.6 \%$.

Arco AM PM
AutoZone
Brawley Ace Hardware
Brawley Tractor Parts
Circle K
Circle K 76
Daniels Tire Service
Elms Equipment Rental
Fillco
HD Supply Waterworks
Jack in the Box
Johnnys Burritos
Jordan Implement
Lidco Imperial Valley
McDonalds
McNeece Bros Oil
O'Reilly Auto Parts
Pacific Ag Rentals
Pilot Travel Center

RDO Water
Rite Aid
Shell
USA Gasoline
Vons
Walmart Supercenter

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## STATEWIDE RESULTS

The local one-cent sales and use tax from sales occurring July through September was $0.9 \%$ lower than the same quarter one year ago after factoring for accounting anomalies. The losses were primarily concentrated in coastal regions and communities popular with tourists while much of inland California including the San Joaquin Valley, Sacramento region and Inland Empire exhibited gains.

Generally, declining receipts from fuel sales, brick and mortar retail and restaurants were the primary factors leading to this quarter's overall decrease. The losses were largely offset by a continuing acceleration in online shopping that produced huge gains in the county use tax pools where tax revenues from purchases shipped from out-ofstate are allocated and in revenues allocated to jurisdictions with in-state fulfillment centers and order desks.

Additional gains came from a generally solid quarter for autos, RV's, food-drugs, sporting goods, discount warehouses, building material suppliers and home improvement purchases. Some categories of agricultural and medical supplies/ equipment also did well.

Although the slight decline in comparable third quarter receipts reflected a significant recovery from the immediate previous period's deep decline, new coronavirus surges and reinstated restrictions from 2020's Thanksgiving and Christmas gatherings compounded by smaller federal stimulus programs suggest more significant drops in forthcoming revenues from December through March sales.

Additionally, the past few quarter's gains in county pool receipts that were generated by the shift to online shopping plus last
year's implementation of the Wayfair $v$. South Dakota Supreme Court decision will level out after the first quarter of 2021.

Much of the initial demand for computers and equipment to accommodate home schooling and remote workplaces has been satisfied. Manufacturers are also reporting that absenteeism, sanitation protocols, inventory and imported parts shortages have reduced production capacity that will not be regained until mass vaccines have been completed, probably by the fall of 2021.

Significant recovery is not anticipated until 2021-22 with full recovery dependent on the specific character and make up
of each jurisdiction's tax base. Part of the recovery will be a shift back to nontaxable services and activities. Limited to access because of pandemic restrictions, consumers spent $72 \%$ less on services during the third quarter and used the savings to buy taxable goods.

Full recovery may also look different than before the pandemic. Recent surveys find that 3 out of 4 consumers have discovered new online alternatives and half expect to continue these habits which suggests that the part of the recent shift of revenues allocated through countywide use tax pools and industrial distribution centers rather than stores will become permanent.

## REVENUE BY BUSINESS GROUP

Brawley This Quarter*


## TOP NON-CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS TYPES

Brawley
Business Type
Service Stations
Quick-Service Restaurants
Warehse/Farm/Const. Equip.
Repair Shop/Equip. Rentals
Automotive Supply Stores
Convenience Stores/Liquor
Auto Repair Shops
Casual Dining
Electronics/Appliance Stores
Heavy Industrial
Q3 '20
99,779
64,570
59,002
30,954
28,637
10,263
7,047
6,785
6,280
3,972

*Allocation aberrations have been adjusted to reflect sales activity

