



The University of Texas - Pan American

NEWS & VIEWS



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Member of the Texas Centers for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

Retail Sales Tax Reports for the Rio Grande Valley of Texas

The Office of the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts in Austin keeps track of sales for all industry sectors and also for the retail sector alone. These reports show:

- gross sales
- amount subject to state sales tax
- and the number of reporting outlets

by quarter in the selected city, county, or MSA, as reported by taxpayers.

About the data on the Reports:

The reports include data only from holders of sales tax permits. Businesses that sell only goods that are outside the sales tax base are not covered by these reports. A business that files yearly reports will show up only in a single quarter.

If fewer than four outlets reported in a quarter, the data is omitted as required by state disclosure laws. The figures given in the "amount subject to state sales tax" column cannot be used to calculate city or county sales and use tax collections and allocations.

The table on page 2 presents the 1998 retail sales tax report for Rio Grande Valley counties and cities. In this table the quarterly data has been added up to reflect total gross sales and amount subject to state tax.

For data on other Texas counties and cities, visit the Texas Comptroller's website at <http://www.window.state.tx.us>. This site allows you to print or download quarterly sales tax reports.

Retail Sales Tax Report 1998 Rio Grande Valley Counties

County City	Gross Sales	Amount Subject to State Tax
CAMERON COUNTY	2,270,390,442	1,203,547,499
Brownsville	1,085,029,285	554,091,954
Combes	2,378,717	1,041,960
Harlingen	749,483,839	432,062,938
La Feria	22,955,050	8,291,844
Los Fresnos	16,428,184	9,562,427
Palm Valley	480,194	155,916
Port Isabel	76,772,696	42,409,460
Primera	1,748,174	942,587
Rancho Viejo	4,587,640	3,090,118
Rio Hondo	4,247,791	1,652,936
San Benito	151,736,300	75,137,189
Santa Rosa	2,203,366	1,107,425
South Padre Island	64,992,955	51,086,806
HIDALGO COUNTY	3,951,358,611	2,001,469,393
Alamo	66,018,680	29,779,403
Alton	10,629,697	2,862,474
Donna	56,891,547	22,160,838
Edcouch	1,246,721	831,618
Edinburg	367,305,943	165,065,143
Elsa	35,519,024	14,778,159
Hidalgo	79,042,969	15,766,318
La Joya	6,095,366	3,351,798
La Villa	646,676	377,543
McAllen	1,969,431,850	1,129,913,029
Mercedes	68,146,313	22,237,069
Mission	362,574,637	171,841,455
Palmview	39,597,512	16,966,418
Pharr	345,730,770	153,156,431
Progreso CDP	4,186,738	1,188,564
Progreso Lakes	498,190	132,714
Weslaco	361,495,339	181,345,652
STARR COUNTY	240,200,478	110,430,161
Rio Grande City	163,147,066	76,655,757
Roma	51,970,653	23,450,998
WILLACY COUNTY	65,168,682	31,852,788
Lyford	3,010,501	1,051,760
Raymondville	55,185,625	27,658,702

Source: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

Prepared by: UTPA Data & Information Systems Center (DISC)

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<http://coserve1.panam.edu/disc/>

The logo for the 2000 Census, featuring the word "CENSUS" in a stylized, bubbly font followed by "2000" in a similar font, all in white on a black background.

Census for the 21st Century

Continuing our series on the 2000 census, this quarter's topic:

Good News for College Students

No need to panic . . . this is not a test! You don't have to study, but your answers could affect the next 10 years of your life. Beginning in March of 2000, a Census 2000 questionnaire will be delivered to your dorm, residence hall, sorority or fraternity house or off-campus home. All you have to do is answer a few confidential questions and mail the form back to the Census Bureau. What does all of this mean to you? When your answers are summarized with others, it could mean dollars for your community and data for your next research paper.

As a college student, you probably want to know more about how the census benefits you. While you're still in school, you may be interested in using census information for school projects and scientific research. Sociology reports, medical studies, statistical profiles and your own research papers can benefit from census data.

And for those of you looking for jobs, the census helps employers understand where the next generation of workers is coming from. If they know that people like you are preparing to enter the work force, it could influence their recruitment efforts. Businesses use the numbers to decide where to locate factories, shopping centers, movie theaters, banks and offices. In your area, this may lead to the creation of new jobs. Job centers and public transportation services also may be developed in eligible areas of your community.

On a more entertaining note, the numbers provided by the census help develop recreational programs for people of all ages. Children need playgrounds, the elderly may want parks and you may want a bike path. Other reasons to answer the census include decisions involving land use, voting rights and equal employment opportunities, investment planning and assessments of financial risk. Census information is also important when planning health and educational services for people with disabilities and identifying areas for housing assistance and rehabilitation loans.

Just as a test determines your academic future, the census will determine the future of the community where you live. Don't leave it blank!



Data & Information Systems Center (DISC)

DISC, at The University of Texas - Pan American, is a State Data Center Affiliate and a Member of the Texas Centers for Border Economic and Enterprise Development

Service Area

Southernmost 19 counties of Texas: Aransas, Bee, Brooks, Cameron, Duval, Hidalgo, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Live Oak, McMullen, Nueces, Refugio, San Patricio, Starr, Webb, Willacy, and Zapata.

Products & Services

- Census of Population and Housing
- Census Maps & Data for Counties, Cities, Census Tracts, Block Groups, Blocks, and Zip Codes
- Population Estimates and Projections for Counties
- Economic Census (Agriculture, Construction, Government, Manufacturing, Retail Trade, Services, and Wholesale Trade)
- County Business Patterns
- Employment and Unemployment Data by County
- Census Tract Factbook for the Rio Grande Valley
- Street Index by Census Tract for Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, and Willacy Counties
- Geographic Information System (GIS) Services
- U.S. Statistical Abstracts
- Customized Consultation Services



CoSERVE (Office of Center Operations and Community Services) is the community outreach component of UT-Pan American.

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