

Hub City To Get \$4.1 Million Sales Tax Payout

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The Lubbock city treasury will start off the new year Friday with a \$4.1 million sales tax distribution payment from Comptroller of Public Accounts Susan Combs' office.

That figure is 6.2 percent higher than the \$3.8 million the city received in January 2010.

The tax payment is based on November business activity.

"That points to the continued rebound of the local economy," said James Arnold, executive vice president of Lubbock National Bank.

The bank sponsors the monthly Lubbock Economic Index.

"We anticipate strong December numbers as well," Arnold said. "Hopefully, we're reaching the new normal."

Beth Bridges, senior marketing manager of South Plains Mall, said the increase parallels increased traffic and sales for stores in the regional retail hub.

"Based on traffic and overall observations, we believed the numbers would be strong. I think the year will end up very positive," Bridges said.

Sales tax collections statewide totaled \$1.98 billion last month and marked the 21st consecutive month of year-over-year increases, according to the announcement from Combs' office.

"Sales taxes from retail trade and restaurant activity continue to improve, with tax revenue from the oil and natural gas sector also providing a lift to overall collections," Combs said.

Lubbock County will receive a payment of nearly \$1.4 million Friday, an increase of 4.38 percent from January 2010's distribution of \$1.33 million