

Westchester leaders cheer \$1.9 million rise in sales-tax revenue

Written by

[Jorge Fitz-Gibbon](#)

12:25 AM, Jul. 6, 2011|

Westchester County sales tax revenue jumped \$1.9 million in May over the prior year, a 5.9 percent increase that keeps the county ahead of its **budget** projections, county lawmakers announced Tuesday.

The total of \$34 million in county sales **taxes** collected in May also marks a 7.2 percent increase from May 2009, prompting legislative leaders to contend that Westchester is on the rebound.

"This increase in sales tax revenue is further proof that we're continuing to reinvigorate the economy here in Westchester," said county Board of Legislators Chairman Ken Jenkins, D-Yonkers. "The board, in working together with the county executive, has found the right balance of careful spending and supporting revenues to

keep us in great **financial** shape."

Officials in County Executive Rob Astorino's office agreed that the numbers were a positive sign. But they were more reserved and maintained that the more important number was the 3.5 percent jump in sales tax **income** since January — the anticipated rate for the year in the county budget.

"It's always dangerous to take sort of one month and put too much on it, either up or down," said Ned McCormack, Astorino's senior adviser and communications director. "You have to kind of look at the trend. What we're looking at is the year-to-date number of 3.5 percent, which tells us we're right on target, which is good. But we're cautiously optimistic."

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