

# Local retail sales booming —auto sales lead the way

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SANTA CRUZ — Led by a 49 percent increase in the dollar volume of car sales, the city said today its first quarter 1983 taxable sales are up 22 percent over last year's first quarter.

Finance Director Robert Shepherd is predicting the second quarter will be at about 16 percent.

"We were really surprised," herd said this morning in releasing the statistics.

"I think it shows the economy is definitely recovering and that we're really leading the group."

The city was the leader in a countywide economic upturn of 6.8 percent for the first quarter.

The Monterey Bay Area easily outstripped the statewide increase of 1.8 percent the first three months.

It takes six months to get the sales tax revenues sent back in the shares that are allocated to city and county governments.

Total county sales were \$227.3 million, and Santa had \$79.6 million.

Capitola had \$29.1 million, up 3.6 percent; Scotts Valley had \$13 million, up 3.4 percent and Watsonville had \$36.2 million, up 6.5 percent.

Auto dealers and vehicle supplies, along with service stations, reported the substantial increase of 49.3 percent.

Throughout last year, they had dropped a severe 14.5 percent from the prior year's sales.

Also in 1982, general retail sales decreased one percent.

The only categories showing an increase were eating and drinking places, which had a 3.4 percent increase overall.

The largest decrease came in home