



**COUNTY OF ERIE**  
**STEFAN I. MYCHAJLIW**  
**COMPTROLLER**

July 12, 2013

The Honorable Erie County Legislature  
92 Franklin Street  
Buffalo, New York 14202

Re: May 2013 Sales Tax

Dear Honorable Legislators:

The State has notified the County of the amount of sales tax revenue for January-May 2013. Subject to small adjustments for interest, January-May 2013 sales tax was \$170,007,215.96. This compares to the total January-May of 2012 sales tax revenue to \$166,221,350.66 an increase of \$3,785,865.30 or 2.28% growth. This differs from the amount reported in the May Budget Monitoring Report and this Office's Mid-Year Budget Review as this information was received after both those reports were filed.

While it is still too early to draw any conclusions on how 2013 sales tax will end this reinforces this office's warnings and the administration's multiple public warnings about their own overly optimistic sales tax projections contained in the Poloncarz administration's 2013 budget, an increase of 3.73% over 2012 actual.

If this trend of 2.28% growth continues for the remainder of 2013, then sales tax would end below budget by \$5,958,770

This office will continue to monitor this account, the largest revenue in the budget at \$426,033,687, closely throughout the year and will report to your Honorable Body as we receive monthly updates from the State.

**Potential Budget Gaps Based on 2013 Sales Tax Growth**

Actual 2013 Year-to-Date 2.28%: - \$5,958,770  
1%: - \$11,206,151  
2%: - \$ 7,098,948  
3%: - \$ 2,991,745  
3.73%: \$0



January-May 2012 Sales Tax Revenue: \$166,221,351  
January-May 2013 Sales Tax Revenue: \$170,007,216  
Year-to-Date Difference: + \$3,785,865 or + 2.28%

May 2012 Sales Tax Revenue: \$40,757,381  
May 2013 Sales Tax Revenue: \$41,633,799  
Difference: + \$876,418 or + 2.15%

2011 Sales Tax Revenue: \$400,993,639  
2012 Sales Tax Revenue: \$410,720,332  
2013 Projected Sales Tax Revenue: \$426,033,687

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate contacting this office.

Sincerely yours,

Gregory Gach  
Deputy Comptroller

cc: Mark C. Poloncarz, County Executive  
Erie County Fiscal Stability Authority