

TEXAS ECONOMIC INDICATORS

State Reports 5 Percent Decrease in Sales Tax Revenue in December

January 21, 2021, By Hill Country Community Journal

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar today said state sales tax revenue totaled \$2.86 billion in December, 5 percent less than in December 2019.

“December sales tax collections continued recent trends, with receipts from most major economic sectors significantly down from a year ago,” Hegar said. “Retail trade was the principal exception, with the strongest gains coming from online general merchandisers, building materials and home improvement stores, warehouse clubs and supercenters and sporting goods and hobby stores.”

[Hill Country Community Journal](#)

Unemployment Claims Dip in Texas

January 21, 2021, By Rebecca Carballo

First time unemployment claims fell nationally and in Texas last week after claims surged in the previous week.

In Texas, first-time claims dropped to 50,831, a decline of by 13,890 that essentially offset the previous week’s gain of about 14,000, making the decrease a wash.

Nationally, about 900,000 people filed first-time claims last week, down 26,000 from the previous week’s revised level.

[Houston Chronicle](#)

2020 Was a Year for the Books for the Central Texas’ Housing Market

January 21, 2021, By Shonda Novak

2020 was another banner year for the Austin-area housing market, the Austin Board of Realtors said Thursday.

For the 10th straight year, annual home sales in Central Texas and the median price of those sales surpassed the year-before totals, with 2020’s records coming despite the global coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Some monthly records for December also were set, the board said.

[Austin American-Statesman](#)

NATIONAL PENSION, INVESTMENTS & LEGAL

CalPERS records 12.4% return in 2020

January 19, 2021, By Arleen Jacobius

CalPERS earned a net return of 12.4% for the year, 8.4% for the three years, 9.7% for the five years and 8.4% for the 10 years ended Dec. 31, CEO Marcie Frost said Tuesday at a board meeting.

The \$444.5 billion California Public Employees' Retirement System, Sacramento, earned 6.3% for the 20-year period. Benchmark returns for the periods were not available.

[Pensions & Investments](#)

State Plan Funding Ratios Jump in Q4

January 20, 2021, By Rob Kozlowski

U.S. state pension plans' estimated aggregate funding ratio reached 78.6% as of Dec. 31, over 6 percentage points higher than a quarter earlier, according to a Wilshire Associates report.

The report attributed the estimated ratio's increase from 72.3% as of Sept. 30 to a 9.5% increase in asset values partially offset by a liability value increase of 0.8%.

[Pensions & Investments](#)

Setter: Alternative Secondary Deals Drop 27.7% in 2020

January 20, 2021, By Rob Kozlowski

Total secondary market volume for 2020 dropped to \$61.8 billion from a record-setting \$85.4 billion in 2019, according to the report.

Private equity transaction volume fell 27.8% to \$56.2 billion; real estate secondary transactions fell by 25.7% to \$2.7 billion; infrastructure funds fell 40.4% to \$2.1 billion; private debt fund secondaries dropped 79.7% to \$638 million; and energy funds fell 87.2% to \$226 million in the year ended Dec. 31 compared with the same period in 2019.

[Pensions & Investments](#)

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