

Sales tax returns for the City of Hawkins in October 2010 saw an increase of 74.99 percent for the month compared with October 2009. Reflecting a general upturn for the month, only Mineola of the county's six municipalities failed to have positive returns in October compared with the same month last year. Collections from businesses in the unincorporated areas of the county also showed improvement.

As a result of five straight months of increase this year, year-to-date sales tax return figures for Hawkins are 7.27 percent ahead of last year. The city has received sales tax returns of \$201,894.95 compared with \$188,195.52, through the first ten months of 2009.

The sales tax funds are collected by local merchants, sent to the Texas Comptroller along with the state's six and-a-quarter cents tax on each dollar of retail purchase. Hawkins' local portion-one-and-one-half cents/dollar-is then returned two months later (August retailer collections returned in October). Merchants in the unincorporated county areas collect a half-cent sales tax on each dollar sale with the local portion going into the county's general fund. September's receipts of \$24,266.11 for the City of Hawkins are distributed to the two budgets supported by the sales tax, with approximately \$16,177.91 deposited into the city's general fund and the remaining \$8,088.70, representing a half-cent sales tax, into the Hawkins Community Development Corporation budget.

Comparative figures for sales tax returns for the month of October (as collected in August) for each city and the county follow with commentary furnished by Gary McKinley, executive director of the Wood County Industrial Commission: (See table above)