

Colorado Retail Building Material Sales

Selected Counties

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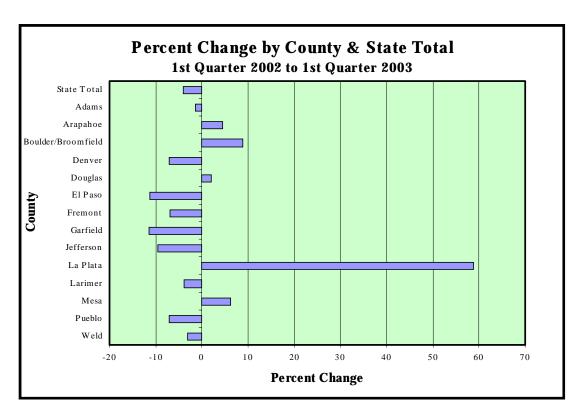
This is the first issue of a new quarterly report on retail sales by building materials stores in 15 of the largest Colorado counties. This report shows retail sales for each of the seven Denver metro area counties and for the counties of El Paso, Fremont, Garfield, La Plata, Larimer, Mesa, Pueblo, and Weld. Broomfield County's sales are combined with those in Boulder County. The types of retailers included are home centers, paint and wallcovering stores, hardware stores, and specialized building material dealers. The period shown in this report is the first quarter of 2003 compared to the first quarter of 2002.

The graph below shows national versus Colorado retail sales. It is important to note that this graph includes sales by outdoor equipment stores and nurseries as well as the categories listed in the above paragraph. Nationally, sales of building materials increased 3.5 percent to \$304 billion in the first quarter 2003 over the first quarter 2002. Colorado's retail sales for the same period dropped 5.7 percent to about \$871 million.

The county data show a variation of retail outcomes. In 10 of the counties reviewed, the trend was negative, while five counties saw increased sales. The largest gain in the first quarter 2003 over the same quarter last year occurred in LaPlata County (+58.8 percent), while El Paso County sustained the largest decrease at -11.5 percent.



	RETAIL SALES 2003Q1	RETAIL SALES 2002Q1	PERCENT
COUNTY	\$000s	\$000s	CHANGE
Adams	\$95,121	\$96,531	-1.5%
Arapahoe	78,309	74,924	4.5
Boulder/Broomfield	57,142	52,522	8.8
Denver	140,859	151,575	-7.1
Douglas	50,433	49,447	2.0
El Paso	89,849	101,323	-11.3
Fremont	5,738	6,167	-7.0
Garfield	9,362	10,583	-11.5
Jefferson	69,268	76,539	-9.5
La Plata	11,169	7,034	58.8
Larimer	56,918	59,209	-3.9
Mesa	31,849	30,014	6.1
Pueblo	24,123	25,961	-7.1
Weld	21,697	22,376	-3.0
Selected Counties Total	\$741,838	\$764,206	-2.9%
STATE TOTAL	\$779,860	\$813,194	-4.1%



This report is available electronically as a Word document. If you would like to receive the report in electronic format, please contact the Office of Tax Analysis at 303-866-3089 or send an e-mail to ota@spike.dor.state.co.us.