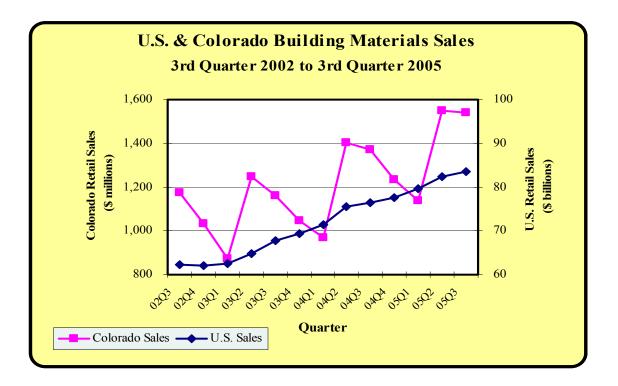


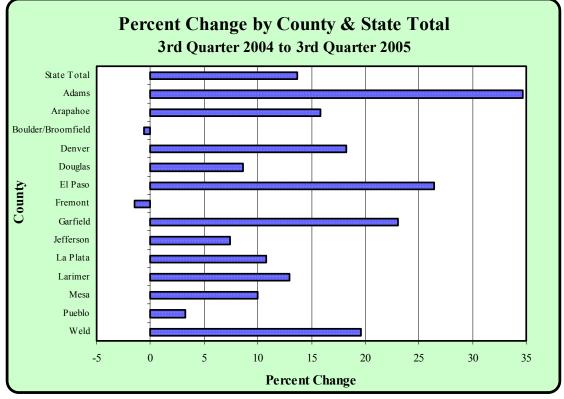
This issue presents data on retail sales by building materials stores in 15 of the largest Colorado counties. This report shows retail sales for each of the seven Denver metro area counties and for the counties of El Paso, Fremont, Garfield, La Plata, Larimer, Mesa, Pueblo, and Weld. Broomfield County's sales are combined with those in Boulder County. The types of retailers included in the chart on the next page are home centers, paint and wallcovering stores, hardware stores, and specialized building material dealers. The period shown in this report is the third quarter of 2005 compared to the third quarter of 2004.

The graph below shows national versus Colorado retail sales. It is important to note that both the national and Colorado data in this graph include sales by outdoor equipment stores and nurseries as well as the categories listed in the above paragraph. Nationally, sales of building materials increased 9.3 percent to \$83.6 billion in the third quarter 2005 over the third quarter 2004. Colorado's retail sales of \$1,538.9 million in third quarter 2005 were 12.2 percent above the same quarter from a year ago.

Twelve of the 14 counties studied showed increased sales from a year ago. The largest gain in the third quarter 2005 over the same quarter last year occurred in Adams County (+34.6 percent). Fremont County saw a small decrease of 1.5 percent.



| County                         | Retail Sales<br>2005Q3<br>\$000s | Retail Sales<br>2004Q3<br>\$000s | Percent<br>Change |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Adams                          | \$142,670                        | \$105,961                        | 34.6%             |
| Arapahoe                       | 128,900                          | 111,236                          | 15.9              |
| Boulder/Broomfield             | 89,151                           | 89,711                           | -0.6              |
| Denver                         | 208,540                          | 176,341                          | 18.3              |
| Douglas                        | 109,793                          | 101,065                          | 8.6               |
| El Paso                        | 155,890                          | 123,272                          | 26.5              |
| Fremont                        | 8,702                            | 8,832                            | -1.5              |
| Garfield                       | 15,624                           | 12,699                           | 23.0              |
| Jefferson                      | 113,318                          | 105,495                          | 7.4               |
| La Plata                       | 21,482                           | 19,396                           | 10.8              |
| Larimer                        | 96,933                           | 85,821                           | 12.9              |
| Mesa                           | 49,197                           | 44,723                           | 10.0              |
| Pueblo                         | 35,505                           | 34,386                           | 3.3               |
| Weld                           | 58,265                           | 48,701                           | 19.6              |
| <b>Selected Counties Total</b> | \$1,233,968                      | \$1,067,638                      | 15.6%             |
| State Total                    | \$1,466,232                      | \$1,290,234                      | 13.6%             |



This report is available electronically as a .pdf file on the Department of Revenue's website at <u>http://www.revenue.state.co.us/stats\_dir/wrap.asp?incl=retailsalesreport</u>. It is also available as a Word document. If you would like to receive the report in Word, please contact the Office of Research and Analysis at 303-866-5777 or send an e-mail to ora@spike.dor.state.co.us.