Community Needs and Resources
Numbers 29 - 36
FY 1994 - FY 2003

Changes in economic and demographic characteristics are most useful for long-run analysis and can best be monitored by the use of:

- Population
- Median Age
- Personal Income
- Public Assistance Recipients
- Property Value
- Residential Development
- Employment Base
- Business Activity
Community needs and resources encompass economic and demographic characteristics such as population, employment, personal income, property value and business activity. This category treats a city's financial condition and community needs and resources as different sides of the same coin. On one side, they describe the community's wealth and its ability to generate revenues; on the other side, they describe demands which the community will make on local government, i.e. public safety, capital improvements and additions, and social services.

The needs and resources of a community are closely interrelated to one another; changes in one trend affect the other, and the changes are often cumulative. An example of this is the interrelationship and cumulative affects which changes in population can have on the community's needs and resources.

A community which is experiencing a gradual population growth could expect accompanying increases in its business activity. This increase could then create additional jobs which would stimulate retail sales and housing demand. A cycle of events such as this would act to place the finances of the city on solid ground. On the other hand, a declining population accompanied by a decrease in jobs would tend to cause people to look elsewhere for employment, causing further decline in population. As a result, retail sales and housing demand would be expected to suffer a similar decline, further depressing the local economy.

If a city were to experience a decrease in population, it could not balance the loss of revenue by decreasing expenditures by a corresponding reduction. The City must maintain certain levels of service (lighting, streets, police and fire services). Many of these expenditures remain regardless of population decline.

In fact, a city may be forced to raise taxes and rates to make up for lost revenues, placing a larger burden on the remaining population. As economic conditions decline and taxes rise, the city could become a less desirable place to live if the declining cycle continued.

A community's economic and demographic characteristics are sensitive to decisions regarding long-range planning and development. Therefore, this group of indicators should prove valuable by providing information for financial forecasting. In addition, they should also identify policies or practices which need review in order that potential negative trends may be averted before they develop or become serious.
Indicator 29

POPULATION

Warning Trend:
A Decreasing Rate of Growth or a Sudden Increase in Population

Formulation:
Population
Number of Households

Census population numbers for 1994, and 1996. All other years reflect 1% growth/year.
Consolidated Plan household number for 1999. For the other years, we took the total increase from 1990 to 1999 and divided it up equally among the remaining years.
Census numbers were used for the 1994, 1996 and 2000. All other years reflect 1% growth except 1997-99 which reflect a 2.5% growth rate. FY 2001 reflects a 2.2% growth due to new census numbers released in 2000.

Description:
The exact relationship between population changes and other economic and demographic factors has not yet been made clear. However, the evidence seems to indicate that changes in population can have a direct effect on city revenues because population levels appear to be at least indirectly related to such issues as employment, income, and property value. Sudden and substantial increases in population can create immediate pressures for new capital outlays on infrastructure, and for higher levels of service. In the case of annexations, where much of the capital infrastructure is already in place, the pressure may not be as great. However, there still may need to be an expansion of operating programs.
A decline in population would, at first glance, appear to relieve the pressure for expenditures because there would be less population to service. In reality, however, a city is rarely able to reduce expenditures in the same proportion as it is losing population -- at least not in the short run. First, many of a city's costs, such as debt service, pension and governmental mandates, are fixed and cannot be reduced in the short run.

Second, if the out migration is composed of middle- and upper-income households, then the city is left with a more expensive type of population to service -- the poor and the aged, who characteristically rely most heavily on government services. Finally, because of the interrelationship between population levels and other economic and demographic factors, a decline in population tends to have a cumulative negative affect on city revenues -- the further the decline, the more adverse the affects on employment, income, housing and business activity.

**Analysis:**

For the period shown, estimated population has increased 20.39% and the number of estimated households has increased by 36.15%. As has been suggested in other indicators, a study of the number of households may reveal a more accurate reading on certain pressures for City services since service costs to households may be basically the same, regardless of the number of inhabitants. Neither the population nor household growth rates are a cause for concern because neither of them are declining, nor are they increasing substantially. The City uses U.S. Census Bureau counts for the years in which the census is tabulated and estimates the population and number of households in the years between the census.

**Sources:**

--City of Columbia Planning Department
--http://quickfacts.census.gov/hunits/states/29pl.html

**Notes:**
Indicator 30
MEDIAN AGE

Warning Trend:
Increasing Median Age of Population

Formulation:
Median Age of Population

Description:

As the population changes, the relationships between median age and the other economic and demographic factors are not clear. However, the evidence does indicate that an aging population and a rise in the number of senior citizens can hurt both revenues and expenditures profiles of a city.

Revenues may be affected for two reasons. First, the income of senior citizens is often in the form of Social Security benefits, which are not subject to taxes and therefore could reduce the amount paid to the state, reducing the amount paid by the state to the City in the form of grants etc. Secondly, senior citizens tend to spend less than younger persons.
As the younger age groups leave a community or decrease as a percentage of population, business activity can decrease to a greater proportion. This is especially true if most of the people leaving are between twenty-five and forty years old, since these people usually buy more than those in any other age group. If this age group leaves, it also means the community loses a significant portion of its labor force, and this can create an additional negative effect on the local economy. If the increase in median age is caused by a decrease in families with young children, this can have a favorable affect on city revenues because of reduced need for schools, recreational facilities, and related programs.

**Analysis:**

For the period shown, the median age has ranged from a low of 26.2 years to a high of 30.8 years, with the current median age at just 29.5 years. A substantial increase in FY 1996 is primarily due to Sales & Marketing Management merging the Survey of Buying Power with their Survey of Media Markets which caused the median age to show a 10.11% increase over FY 1995, thus making comparisons between years difficult.

According to "Sales and Marketing Management," the percent of population in Boone County is broken down by age groups as follows: 18-24 years 18.7%; 25-34 years 15.3%; 35-49 years 21.0%, and 50 and over 22.5%. The trend should be monitored in the future to determine if the trend increase is becoming a matter that warrants concern. However, in Columbia the breakdown is as follows: 18-24 years 24.6%; 25-34 years 16.5%; 35-49 years 18.6%, and 50 and over 20.8%. Since Columbia is home of the University of Missouri, Columbia College, and Stephens College it is apparent that the age group of 18-24 years will continue to remain one of the high age groups in Columbia.

* Census data listed Columbia's average population at 26.8 - For FY 2002 we utilized the results from the "Sales and Marketing Management" magazine.

**Sources:**

--“Sales and Marketing Management,” July or August issues of the Current Fiscal Year - Economic Development

**Notes:**
Indicator 31

HOUSEHOLD EFFECTIVE BUYING INCOME

Warning Trend:
Decline in the Level of Household Income

Formulation:
Median Household Effective Buying Income

Description:
Household income is one measure of a community's ability to pay taxes -- the higher the income, the more property taxes, sales taxes, and business taxes the city can generate. If income is distributed evenly, higher per capita income will usually mean a lower dependency on governmental services such as transportation, health, recreation, and welfare. Credit rating firms use per capita income as an important measure of a city's ability to repay debt.

A decline in per capita income results in loss of consumer purchasing power and can provide advance notice that businesses, especially in the retail sector, will suffer a decline that can ripple through the rest of the city's economy.
**Analysis:**

Effective household buying income has increased by 12.83% for the period listed from a low of $25,488 to $36,650. When examining the data for effective household buying income, it is apparent that this indicator will fluctuate from year-to-year depending upon the percentage of households by effective buying incomes.

There was a substantial decrease in household buying income in FY 1996. This is mainly the result of "Sales & Marketing Management" reformatting its' structure by combining the Survey of Buying Power and the Survey of Media Markets. This makes comparisons with previous years difficult. The increase since the change over in FY 1996 has been 23.14%, thus there is no concern for this indicator. Obviously, if this indicator declined over the next few years, then ramifications could occur for the community, including a decline in property taxes and sales taxes.

**Source:**

---"Sales and Marketing Management," July or August issues of the Current Fiscal Year - Economic Development

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**Notes:**
Indicator 32

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS

Warning Trend:
Increasing Percent of Population Receiving Public Assistance

Formulation:

Public Assistance Recipients
Total Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Number of Public Assistance Recipients *</th>
<th>Estimated Boone County Population</th>
<th>Percent of Population Receiving Public Assistance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>7,343</td>
<td>121,477</td>
<td>6.04%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>10,315</td>
<td>122,600</td>
<td>8.41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>9,738</td>
<td>123,920</td>
<td>7.86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>7,086</td>
<td>125,159</td>
<td>5.66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>8,179</td>
<td>126,411</td>
<td>6.47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>9,263</td>
<td>127,675</td>
<td>7.26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>10,115</td>
<td>128,951</td>
<td>7.84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>11,298</td>
<td>135,454</td>
<td>8.34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>12,109</td>
<td>138,163</td>
<td>8.76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>13,527</td>
<td>139,545</td>
<td>9.69%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Total number of people in Boone County receiving assistance. This does NOT include all food stamp recipients.

Description:

An increase in this trend for several consecutive years might be closely associated with a decline in average personal income. The indicator may be used to focus on specific problems associated with growth of low-income families. As with measures of personal income, an increase in the number of public assistance recipients can signal a future increase in the level and unit cost of services because of the relatively higher levels of needs of low-income people, combined with their relative lack of wealth.
Analysis:
During the period shown, the number of people requesting public assistance has fluctuated greatly. During FY 1996 and FY 1997 slight decreases were recognized perhaps due to a greater focus on reducing the need for assistance. The percentage of the population receiving public assistance ranged from a low of 5.66% to a high of 9.69% during this period. The public assistance recipients will fluctuate slightly on a yearly basis depending on the number of applications pending.

Food Stamps furnished to households totaled 4,758 in FY 2003 up from 4,146 last year. The food stamp cases in FY 2003 provided food stamps to 10,457 recipients. A portion of the food stamp recipients also receive other public assistance as indicated in the total number of public assistance recipients. Those years that experienced increases in the number of public assistance recipients could have been due to an increase in the number of pregnant women recipients and elderly living longer. Also, Medicaid guidelines were changed whereby more children can be covered.

Sources:
--Planning Department, City of Columbia
--http://www.dss.state.mo.us/re/pdf/dfsly02.pdf
--http://www.dss.state.mo.us/re/dtsar.htm

Notes:
## Indicator 33

### PROPERTY VALUE

#### Warning Trend:
Declining or Negative Growth in Market Value of Residential, Commercial and Industrial Property

#### Formulation:
Change in Property Value (constant dollars)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Market Value Of Property</th>
<th>Consumer Price Index</th>
<th>Property Value In Constant Dollars</th>
<th>Percentage Change In Property Value (Constant Dollars)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>$2,410,081,958</td>
<td>447.5</td>
<td>$538,565,801</td>
<td>7.72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>$2,541,838,871</td>
<td>459.0</td>
<td>$553,777,532</td>
<td>2.82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>$2,680,063,838</td>
<td>472.7</td>
<td>$566,969,291</td>
<td>2.38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>$2,904,545,971</td>
<td>483.0</td>
<td>$601,355,273</td>
<td>6.06%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>$3,448,629,246</td>
<td>491.3</td>
<td>$701,939,598</td>
<td>16.73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>$3,625,640,713</td>
<td>503.9</td>
<td>$719,515,918</td>
<td>2.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>$3,794,813,029</td>
<td>521.2</td>
<td>$728,091,525</td>
<td>1.19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>$3,952,633,338</td>
<td>529.2</td>
<td>$746,907,282</td>
<td>2.58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>$4,247,016,525</td>
<td>543.2</td>
<td>$781,851,348</td>
<td>4.68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>$4,648,539,063</td>
<td>554.3</td>
<td>$838,632,340</td>
<td>7.26%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Description:
Property value is important to cities who rely heavily on the property tax as a substantial portion of their revenue. If a city does not lower or increase its tax rate, then the higher the aggregate property value, the greater the revenues produced. Cities experiencing population and economic growth will likely see a growth in property values -- at least in the short run. This is because in the short run the supply of housing is fixed, and the increase in demand due to growth will force prices up. The reverse tends to be true for declining areas.

The extent to which declining property value (constant dollars) affects city revenues depends on the city's reliance on the property tax.
Analysis:

In FY 1993 and FY 1998 there were general reassessments of all properties. Since a major reassessment was done in FY 1998, the growth in subsequent years has been much smaller. The City continues to experience growth in both commercial and residential areas.

Although the growth fluctuates significantly over time, it is little consequence to the City since it does not rely on property tax revenues as a major source for financing its general government operations.

Sources:

--City of Columbia Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports, Table 5
--"Monthly Labor Review" CPI
--http://stats.bls.gov/news.release/cpi.t01.htm

Notes:
**Indicator 34**

**RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT**

**Warning Trend:**
Increasing Market Value of Residential Property as a Percent Of Total Property Value

**Formulation:**

\[
\begin{array}{l}
\text{Market Value of Residential Property} \\
\hline
\text{Market Value of Total Property}
\end{array}
\]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Market Value--Residential Property</th>
<th>Market Value--Total Property</th>
<th>Residential Property As a Percent Of Total Property</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>$1,382,642,000</td>
<td>$2,201,845,358</td>
<td>62.79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>$1,461,354,537</td>
<td>$2,410,081,958</td>
<td>60.64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>$1,623,920,026</td>
<td>$2,541,838,871</td>
<td>63.89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>$1,709,201,716</td>
<td>$2,680,063,838</td>
<td>63.77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>$2,291,862,463</td>
<td>$2,904,545,971</td>
<td>78.91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>$2,382,605,395</td>
<td>$3,448,629,246</td>
<td>69.09%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>$2,498,095,647</td>
<td>$3,625,640,713</td>
<td>68.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>$2,795,469,711</td>
<td>$3,794,813,029</td>
<td>73.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>$2,900,971,689</td>
<td>$3,952,633,338</td>
<td>73.39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>$3,028,953,300</td>
<td>$4,652,886,154</td>
<td>65.10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Description:**

Generally speaking, the net cost of servicing residential development is greater than the cost of servicing commercial or industrial development. This is because residential development usually creates more expenditure demands than revenue receipts. The old planning adage is that residential development creates expenditure drains, commercial development pays for itself, and industrial development creates revenue surpluses. Under such a set of circumstances, the ideal condition would be to have sufficient industrial development to offset the costs of residential development.

There are, however, many exceptions. For example, a high-density residential area occupied by middle-aged, wealthy residents, who are heavy consumers, and who look to government for fewer General Fund services can generate more revenue than service costs. In addition, if in new subdivisions, the developer is required to construct the basic infrastructure, the expenditure drain may not occur -- at least in the short run.
Analysis:

Although industrial development may not cause a drain on service-oriented expenditures, it may tie the community more to national economic trends than is desirable. The City of Columbia, to a certain extent, is insulated from national economic pressures. Although unemployment is less than one third the national average, a significant portion of it is keyed to manufacturing firms who are responding to national economic pressures.

Residential property as a percentage of total property has increased from 62.79% to 65.10% for the period shown as a result of increased commercial development and assessed values. A large portion of the increase in commercial property is from the northwest section of the City including Columbia Mall, Bernadette Square and complex development, State Farm and Shelter Insurance expansion of facilities, and Holiday Inn expansion of facilities. In the northeast, the following business have been constructed since 1990: Sams Wholesale, Home Depot, Lowe's, and Walmart Super Center. In October 2003 Famous Barr opened in the Northwest part of Columbia. Columbia continues to experience considerable residential development in several sections of the City. The net cost of servicing residences is higher than that of commercial property.

Sources:

--Prior to FY 2002 City of Columbia Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports, Table 5
--FY 2002 to present City of Columbia Financial Management Information Supplement, Table 5
--Boone County Assessor's Office

Notes:
Indicator 35

EMPLOYMENT BASE

Warning Trend:
Increasing Rate of Unemployment or a Decline in Number of Jobs Provided Within the Community

Formulation:
Unemployment Rate and Number of Jobs in the Community

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Unemployment Rate Local</th>
<th>Unemployment Rate National</th>
<th>Jobs in Community - Civilian Labor Force</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>72,470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>75,684</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>78,470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
<td>73,726</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>78,108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
<td>83,257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>81,453</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
<td>83,744</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td>85,452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>89,315</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Description:

Unemployment and jobs in the community are considered together because they are closely related; and for purposes of this discussion are referred to as "employment base." In addition, for comparative purposes, the national unemployment rate is included. Employment base is important because it is directly related to the levels of the business activity and personal income. Changes in the number of jobs provided by the community are a measure of and an influence on business activity. Changes in rate of employment of the community's citizens are related to changes in personal income and thus, are a measure of and an influence on the community's ability to support its local business sector.
If the employment base is growing, if it is sufficiently diverse to provide against short-run economic fluctuation, or downturn in one sector, and if it provides sufficient income to support the local business community, then it will have a positive influence on the city's financial condition. A decline in employment base as measured by the number of jobs, or the lack of employment, can be an early warning sign that overall economic activity will decline and thus, that governmental revenues may decline (or at least not increase at the expected rate), particularly sales tax revenues.

Analysis:
The unemployment rate for Columbia has varied significantly from a high of 2.8% to a low of 0.7% while the number of jobs have increased 23.24% for the period shown. This compares to a national unemployment rate in the same period ranging from a high of 5.9% to a low of 3.9%. The City of Columbia's unemployment rate is less than one-third of the national unemployment rate.

Although the unemployment base has been sufficiently diverse to cushion against temporary economic downfalls in any particular sector, most employment fluctuations have been associated with national manufacturing firms located in Columbia. Such jobs comprise slightly less than 10% of the City's total work force. However, in future years the City should pay particular attention to its increases in the services industry as any economic downturn could affect that area.

Sources:
--Missouri Division of Employment Security (November Preliminary Report)
--http://stats.bls.gov/news.release/metro.t01.htm
--http://www.works.state.mo.us/lmi/laus/laus9907.txt

Notes:
Indicator 36-A

BUSINESS ACTIVITY: Business License Accounts on File with the City of Columbia

Warning Trend: Decline in Business License Accounts Over a Two-Year Period

Description:

The number of business license accounts can affect the City's financial condition in two ways. First, it can assist prediction of sales tax revenue yields and, second, it is an indication of business activity that could affect other demographic and economic areas, including the employment base, personal income levels and property values. Changes in business license activity tend to be cumulative.

A decline in accounts will tend to have a negative impact on employment base, income and property values. This in turn can create further declines in business activity as allied industries and services are impacted from the loss of business.
Analysis:

The number of business license accounts has increased by 21.62% for the period shown. This increase is the result of additional light manufacturing facilities locating in Columbia as well as a large increase in the facilities for retail shopping centers. The City Code relating to home occupations was revised August 19, 1996. This contributed to an increase in the number of home occupations licensed which now total 4,489. Business License now has a program in place to maintain a more accurate tracking of the number of business licenses, home occupations, liquor licenses etc.

Source:

--City of Columbia Finance Department, Business License Division

Notes:
Indicator 36-B

BUSINESS ACTIVITY:
Retail Sales

Warning Trend:
Decline in Business Activity as measured by Retail Sales (constant dollars)

Formulation:
Retail Sales (constant dollars)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Estimated Retail Sales</th>
<th>Retail Sales Growth</th>
<th>Consumer Price Index</th>
<th>Retail Sales in Constant Dollars</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>$1,056,384,400</td>
<td>8.71%</td>
<td>447.5</td>
<td>$236,063,553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>$1,133,710,600</td>
<td>7.32%</td>
<td>459.0</td>
<td>$246,995,773</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>$1,207,907,000</td>
<td>6.54%</td>
<td>472.7</td>
<td>$255,533,531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>$1,269,536,600</td>
<td>5.10%</td>
<td>483.0</td>
<td>$262,844,017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>$1,339,671,700</td>
<td>5.52%</td>
<td>491.3</td>
<td>$272,678,954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>$1,402,218,550</td>
<td>4.67%</td>
<td>503.9</td>
<td>$278,273,179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>$1,457,129,000</td>
<td>3.92%</td>
<td>521.2</td>
<td>$279,571,949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>$1,505,913,800</td>
<td>3.35%</td>
<td>529.2</td>
<td>$284,564,210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>$1,558,620,000</td>
<td>3.50%</td>
<td>543.2</td>
<td>$286,932,990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>$1,608,167,400</td>
<td>3.18%</td>
<td>554.3</td>
<td>$290,125,816</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Description:
The level of retail sales can affect the City's financial condition in two ways. First, it directly affects revenue yields to the extent that they are reliant on sales tax receipts. And second, the affect is indirect to the extent that changes in retail sales affect other demographic and economic areas such as employment base, personal income, etc. This in turn can create further declines in such business activity.


**Analysis:**

Constant dollar retail sales increased 22.90% for the period shown. This reflects on the ability of the business sector to maintain and increase future retail sales growth. The growth in sales tax has ranged from approximately 3% to 9% for the period shown, however, the yearly increase in sales growth has been getting smaller over time. Some speculate that the growing popularity of internet sales has been hurting local retailers. Therefore, monthly sales tax figures are monitored very closely on a monthly basis.

**Sources:**

--Prior to FY 2002 City of Columbia Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports
  Exhibit B-2: General Fund Sales Tax Revenue
  Exhibit C-3: Public Improvement Sales Tax Revenue
--FY 2002 to present City of Columbia Financial Management Information Supplement
  Exhibit B-2: General Fund Sales Tax Revenue
  Exhibit C-3: Public Improvement Sales Tax Revenue
--"Monthly Labor Review" (CPI)

**Notes:**