Some facts

Sales tax

Sales tax in New Hampshire: 0%
Sales tax in Vermont: 6%

Towns in Vermont that collect the local option sales tax

Out of the 251 towns in Vermont, 13 collect the local option sales tax: Brandon, Burlington, Colchester, Dover, Manchester, Middlebury, Rutland Town, St. Albans Town, South Burlington, Stratton, Williston, Wilmington, and Winhall. Not one of these towns is located on the Vermont-New Hampshire border.

Source: Vermont Department of Taxes

Common Misconceptions

The tax will only be paid by tourists or visitors to our town

No, the tax will be collected on purchases made by anyone – visitors and residents – who shop in Brattleboro.

The tax is just on goods sold downtown

No, the tax will be collected on items purchased on goods anywhere in Brattleboro.

It’s ridiculous to think that people will shop in New Hampshire because of the additional tax

Actually, data shows that taxes do have an impact on a person’s purchasing habits. A study, The Unintended Consequences of Public Choices: The Connecticut River Valley Economy as a Case Study, by UVM Economics Professor Art Woolf concluded:

“Vermont’s sales tax has dramatically changed the pattern of retailing and the location of retail activity in the counties that border the Connecticut River, leading to a significant loss of the retail market in the Vermont border counties . . . (page 3)

“Between 1958 and 1967, neither state had a sales tax. Retail sales on both sides of the river grew at similar rates: 23% in Vermont and 29% in New Hampshire. From 1972, just after Vermont implemented its sales tax, to 2007, retail sales grew by 48% on the Vermont side of the river and by more than twice that, 123%, on the New Hampshire side.” (page 17)

The full study can be found on the Chamber website: www.BrattleboroChamber.org.
Retails sales are booming in Brattleboro

Unfortunately, no. According to figures from the Vermont Department of Taxes, in 2006 retail sales in Brattleboro were $115 million in 2018 the number was $93 million.

Source: Vermont Department of Taxes

**Retail, Meals, Rooms, Alcohol Receipts - Brattleboro FY 2006-2018**

*Source: VT Department of Taxes*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Retail Sales</th>
<th>Meals</th>
<th>Rooms</th>
<th>Alcohol</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>$115,681,810.00</td>
<td>$27,547,621.00</td>
<td>$8,867,504.00</td>
<td>$3,747,900.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>$113,782,865.00</td>
<td>$29,713,006.00</td>
<td>$8,904,718.00</td>
<td>$4,187,632.00</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>$115,140,892.00</td>
<td>$29,709,622.00</td>
<td>$9,066,061.00</td>
<td>$4,110,890.00</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>$98,442,339.00</td>
<td>$30,230,176.00</td>
<td>$8,723,783.00</td>
<td>$3,944,898.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>$99,554,265.00</td>
<td>$31,412,567.00</td>
<td>$9,123,656.00</td>
<td>$4,099,883.00</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>$98,785,471.00</td>
<td>$30,614,120.00</td>
<td>$8,493,005.00</td>
<td>$3,879,607.00</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>$98,367,401.00</td>
<td>$31,246,036.00</td>
<td>$9,551,553.00</td>
<td>$4,407,518.00</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>$96,564,376.00</td>
<td>$33,294,665.00</td>
<td>$9,075,770.00</td>
<td>$4,762,638.00</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>$96,878,263.00</td>
<td>$35,177,651.00</td>
<td>$9,275,400.00</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>$98,350,281.00</td>
<td>$37,744,097.00</td>
<td>$9,188,751.00</td>
<td>$5,401,551.00</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>$100,835,604.00</td>
<td>$40,395,880.00</td>
<td>$8,665,221.00</td>
<td>$5,718,463.00</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>$94,723,188.00</td>
<td>$41,115,553.00</td>
<td>$9,456,168.00</td>
<td>$5,712,847.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>$93,652,580.00</td>
<td>$41,941,973.00</td>
<td>$9,821,571.00</td>
<td>$6,019,406.00</td>
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</table>
Brattleboro currenty collects the 1% local option tax on meals & rooms, but dining and lodging haven’t decreased

True, however the meals and rooms tax in Vermont and New Hampshire are nearly identical. Meals & rooms tax in New Hampshire: 9%. Meals & rooms tax in Vermont: 9%. Meals and rooms in Brattleboro: 10%.

Chamber Survey of Members

Between February 7 and February 22, 2019, the Chamber conducted a survey of our members to understand their position on the 1% local option sales tax. We posed the following question:

During town meeting on March 23rd Brattleboro’s town meeting representatives will be asked to impose a 1% local option sales tax on certain currently taxed retail items sold in Brattleboro, increasing the sales tax from 6% to 7%. In your opinion should the Brattleboro Area Chamber of Commerce support the 1% local option sales tax?

Additionally, we collected written comments. The results are below and the written comments can be found at www.BrattleboroChamber.org (click on the Issues tab at the top right corner of the website).

Yes, the Chamber should support the tax: 16.50%
No, the Chamber should not support the tax: 69.90%
Undecided: 13.59%

Additional Information

The following can be found on the Chamber website www.BrattleboroChamber.org (click on the Issues tab at the top right corner of the homepage):

- The full study, The Unintended Consequences of Public Choices: The Connecticut River Valley Economy as a Case Study, by UVM Economics Professor Art Woolf
- The Vermont State Statutes governing the sales tax
- A summary list of the taxable and exempt items (note that this list is not inclusive)

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