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Jennifer Westhoven reporting live from the NYSE:

Now, speaking of taxes and how they work and what the governments are spending, let's talk about something that affects everyone as long as you're buying something, and that is the sales tax. There's a new study out by a company called Vertex; they do software consulting. But it said that sales tax has now hit an all-time high nationally. And it says the combined take of the federal government, state governments and municipalities for everything you buy--about eight and a half cents on every dollar spent. That is well up from 1981, when it was only about six and a half cents. Part of this, of course, sometimes we hear that that's because states and municipalities have to make up for what they're not getting from the federal government.

By the way, areas where sales tax got bigger lately: Idaho, New York, Vermont and Ohio. Alaska, however, and some other states, have no sales tax. I think we've got to look at some of those there. Overall though, market slightly higher; Dow up nearly 35. Back to you.

Chuck Roberts, co-anchor:

Some states have high sales tax because they have no income tax, of course. A lot of variables there. Thanks very much, Jennifer.

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