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Taxable Retail Sales Decline 4.2 Percent in Third Quarter 2008

OLYMPIA, Wash., Jan. 13, 2009 — Taxable retail sales declined 4.2 percent to \$29.8 billion during the third quarter of 2008, the Washington State Department of Revenue reported today.

Retail trade was down 6.2 percent to \$12.4 billion. Retail trade is a subset of all taxable retail sales that excludes construction, services and other non-retail businesses. Retail trade is a better measure of consumer purchases.

Among major industries, construction dropped 4.9 percent to \$6.4 billion. Motor vehicle and parts dropped 19.6 percent to \$2.7 billion. Accommodations and food services increased 1.8 percent to \$3 billion, but building materials, garden equipment and supplies dropped 9.6 percent to \$1.3 billion.

Results for the most populous counties:

	Taxable retail sales	% change	Retail trade	% change
King	\$11.74 billion	-4.41%	\$4.32 billion	-7.21%
Pierce	\$3.05 billion	-6.14%	\$1.41 billion	-9.18%
Snohomish	\$2.79 billion	-8.17%	\$1.35 billion	-8.75%
Spokane	\$1.94 billion	-4.19%	\$916.8 million	-5.33%
Clark	\$1.18 billion	-7.38%	\$499.9 million	-7.88%

Results for cities with the most sales:

	Taxable retail sales	% change	Retail trade	% change
Seattle	\$4.49 billion	-4.23%	\$1.34 billion	-3.24%
Bellevue	\$1.45 billion	-4.75%	\$593.4 million	-12.23%
Tacoma	\$1.09 billion	-7.53%	\$503.0 million	-9.90%
Spokane	\$1.03 billion	0.15%	\$488.1 million	1.12%

Everett	\$681.2 million	-7.90%	\$299.8 million	-11.33%
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Results for all counties and selected cities, including breakdowns of sales by industry sector, are available at: <http://dor.wa.gov/Content/AboutUs/StatisticsAndReports/2008/qbr308/default.aspx>.

Breakdowns of taxable retail sales and retail trade by counties and cities are available at: <http://dor.wa.gov/docs/pubs/news/2009/CountyTRSandRTQT32008.xls> and <http://dor.wa.gov/docs/pubs/news/2009/cityTRSandRTq308.xls>.

Statewide results by industry are available at: <http://dor.wa.gov/docs/pubs/news/2009/TRSbyindustryQT32008.xls>.

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