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## **Taxable Retail Sales Decline 14 Percent during Second Quarter 2009**

**OLYMPIA** – Oct. 9, 2009 – Taxable retail sales declined 14 percent to \$25 billion during the second quarter of 2009 compared to the same period in 2008, the Washington State Department of Revenue reported today.

The April-through-June sales decline is the largest one on record. Sales dropped 12.8 percent during the first quarter of 2009, and 10.8 percent during the fourth quarter of 2008, the second- and third-largest declines since reliable records have been kept beginning in 1974.

Retail trade, a component of all taxable retail sales that includes retailers but excludes other industries such as services and construction, dropped 10.7 percent to \$11.1 billion.

Among the largest industries, retail sales from construction dropped 26 percent to \$4.3 billion; motor vehicle and parts dropped 21 percent to \$2.3 billion; accommodations and food services dropped 5.2 percent to \$2.7 billion; general merchandise stores declined 0.4 percent to \$1.6 billion, the retail component of wholesale trade declined 18.8 percent to \$1.9 billion, miscellaneous retailers dropped 17.3 percent to \$1.2 billion, information services dropped 4.1 percent to \$1.2 billion, and building materials, garden equipment and supplies dropped 11.5 percent to \$1.3 billion.

### **Results for the most populous counties:**

	<b>Taxable retail sales</b>	<b>% change</b>	<b>Retail trade</b>	<b>% change</b>
King	\$9.6 billion	-16.8%	\$3.8 billion	-14.0%
Pierce	\$2.6 billion	-14.1%	\$1.3 billion	-11.7%
Snohomish	\$2.4 billion	-14.8%	\$1.2 billion	-11.4%
Spokane	\$1.7 billion	-9.0%	\$839 million	-8.6%
Clark	\$966 million	-18.4%	\$456 million	-8.9%

**Results for cities with the most sales:**

	<b>Taxable retail sales</b>	<b>% change</b>	<b>Retail trade</b>	<b>% change</b>
Seattle	\$3.8 billion	-13.1%	\$1.2 billion	-11.2%
Bellevue	\$1.1 billion	-19.4%	\$512 million	-18.4%
Spokane	\$948 million	-5.5%	\$447 million	-6.3%
Tacoma	\$947 million	-13.3%	\$446 million	-13.1%
Vancouver	\$555 million	-18.2%	\$250 million	-9.3%

Taxable retail sales and retail trade by county and city, and a breakdown of sales statewide by industries are available at <http://dor.wa.gov/Content/AboutUs/newsroom/Temps.aspx>.

Results for all counties and selected cities, including breakdowns of sales by industry sector, are available at <http://dor.wa.gov/Content/AboutUs/StatisticsAndReports/2009/qbr209/default.aspx>.

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