

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Taxable Retail Sales Decline 10.8 Percent in Fourth Quarter 2008**

**OLYMPIA, Wash.**, April 8, 2009 — Taxable retail sales declined 10.8 percent to \$27.7 billion during the fourth quarter of 2008, the Washington State Department of Revenue reported today.

Retail trade was down 11.9 percent to \$12.1 billion when compared to the fourth quarter of 2007. 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 12.1 percent to \$5.6 billion. Motor vehicle and parts dropped 27.1 percent to \$2.1 billion. Accommodations and food services declined 5.0 percent to \$2.5 billion, while building materials, garden equipment and supplies dropped 14.0 percent to \$1.0 billion.

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

	Taxable retail sales	% change	Retail trade	% change
King	\$10.93 billion	-12.9%	\$4.26 billion	-14.0%
Pierce	\$2.84 billion	-12.4%	\$1.37 billion	-14.2%
Snohomish	\$2.62 billion	-15.5%	\$1.33 billion	-14.1%
Spokane	\$1.86 billion	-7.47%	\$925.6 million	-9.3%
Clark	\$1.10 billion	-13.6%	\$497.3 million	-11.5%

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

	Taxable retail sales	% change	Retail trade	% change
Seattle	\$4.20 billion	-7.45%	\$1.33 billion	-10.3%
Bellevue	\$1.42 billion	-14.1%	\$608.6 million	-18.0%
Tacoma	\$1.05 billion	-13.1%	\$493.9 million	-15.6%

Spokane	\$1.02 billion	-3.4%	\$501.7 million	-4.7%
Everett	\$639.9 million	-16.4%	\$295.6 million	-16.0%

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/qbr408/default.aspx>.

Breakdowns of taxable retail sales and retail trade by counties and cities, and a breakdown of sales statewide by industries are available at

<http://dordemoweb/Content/AboutUs/newsroom/html/TRS-RTL-QT42008.htm>.