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For more information, contact:
 Mike Gowrylow
 (360) 570-6048

Taxable Retail Sales Decline 4.3 Percent in Calendar Year 2008

OLYMPIA, Wash., May 12, 2009 — Taxable retail sales declined 4.3 percent to \$113.2 billion during calendar year 2008, the Washington State Department of Revenue reported today.

Retail trade was down 6.1 percent to \$48.3 billion compared to calendar year 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, retail sales from construction dropped 3.8 percent to \$23.3 billion; motor vehicle and parts dropped 17.3 percent to \$10.5 billion; accommodations and food services rose 1.4 percent to \$11.1 billion; general merchandise stores declined 1.8 percent to \$9.8 billion, the retail component of wholesale trade slid 6.5 percent to \$8.7 billion, miscellaneous retailers dropped 2.9 percent to \$5.9 billion, information services rose 3.2 percent to \$4.9 billion, and building materials, garden equipment and supplies dropped 9.0 percent to \$4.9 billion.

Results for the most populous counties:

	Taxable retail sales	% change	Retail trade	% change
King	\$45.2 billion	-4.3%	\$17.0 billion	-7.0%
Pierce	\$11.7 billion	-6.6%	\$5.6 billion	-8.7%
Snohomish	\$10.8 billion	-7.9%	\$5.3 billion	-8.3%
Spokane	\$7.4 billion	-4.2%	\$3.6 billion	-4.8%
Clark	\$4.6 billion	-6.2%	\$2.0 billion	-7.8%

Results for cities with the most sales:

	Taxable retail sales	% change	Retail trade	% change
Seattle	\$17.1 billion	0.4%	\$5.3 billion	-3.8%
Bellevue	\$5.6 billion	-6.0%	\$2.4 billion	-10.6%
Tacoma	\$4.3 billion	-8.1%	\$2.0 million	-9.3%
Spokane	\$3.9 billion	-2.1%	\$1.9 billion	-1.3%
Everett	\$2.7 million	-8.6%	\$1.2 billion	-10.3%

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/html/TRS-RTL-CA2008.htm>

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/qbrcal08/default.aspx>.

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