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Taxable Retail Sales Increase 1.5 Percent during First Quarter 2011

Olympia, Wash., July 8, 2011 — Taxable retail sales increased 1.5 percent to \$23 billion during the first quarter of 2011 over year-earlier results, the Department of Revenue reported today.

Retail trade increased 4.2 percent to \$10.7 billion compared to the first quarter of 2010. Retail trade is a subset of all taxable retail sales that includes retailers but excludes other industries such as services and construction.

Among major industries, the construction sector was down 9.8 percent to \$3.2 billion, but sales by new and used car dealers jumped 11.9 percent to \$1.9 billion. Accommodations and food services rose 4.6 percent to \$2.6 billion, while building materials, garden equipment and supplies sales dropped 8.6 percent to \$842 million. Despite positive numbers in most retail sectors, sales by general merchandise stores dropped 0.3 percent to \$2.2 billion.

Results for the most populous counties:

	Taxable retail sales	% change	Retail trade	% change
King	\$9.0 billion	2.2%	\$3.7 billion	5.5%
Pierce	\$2.4 billion	1.5%	\$1.3 billion	5.6%
Snohomish	\$2.2 billion	(1.7)%	\$1.1 billion	3.3%
Spokane	\$1.5 billion	(0.4)%	\$764 million	0.9%
Clark	\$928 million	1.3%	\$432 million	2.6%

Results for cities with the most sales:

	Taxable retail sales	% change	Retail trade	% change
Seattle	\$3.5 billion	3.2%	\$1.2 billion	6.0%
Bellevue	\$1.1 billion	(2.0)%	\$514 million	1.8%
Tacoma	\$910 million	5.7%	\$462 million	7.4%
Spokane	\$814 million	(1.9)%	\$400 million	(2.3)%
Vancouver	\$547 million	3.8%	\$244 million	4.2%

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/StatisticsAndReports/2011/qbr111/Default.aspx>

Results for all counties and selected cities, including breakdowns of sales by industry sector, are available at <http://dor.wa.gov/Content/AboutUs/newsroom/2011/trs-q12011.aspx>.

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