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Burlington, Skagit County lead state in per capita retail sales

OLYMPIA – Oct. 29, 2012 – The city of Burlington has the highest retail sales per capita for cities in the state of Washington, and Skagit County has the highest county figure, the Washington State Department of Revenue reported today.

Retailers in Burlington, with its relatively small population but large number of retail stores lining I-5, reported \$564.8 million in retail sales in 2011, or \$67,074 per resident. Skagit County and its cities, including Burlington, had \$1.1 billion in total retail trade, or \$9,519 per capita.

Many of those shoppers of course do not live in either Burlington or the county, but instead are drawn there from British Columbia and other Puget Sound cities, according to local sources.

Tukwila came in second with \$1 billion in total retail sales, or \$53,148 per capita. It's followed by Union Gap at \$299.6 million and \$49,488 per capita, Gig Harbor at \$293.4 million and \$40,753, and auto mall-rich Fife at \$331.4 million and \$35,946.

The rankings count retail trade only (NAICS 44-45), and exclude taxable sales from construction, services, manufacturers, wholesalers and other industries that don't represent retail stores.

King County is second among counties with \$17 billion in retail trade or \$8,643 per capita, following by Benton County with \$1.5 billion and \$8,480, Chelan with \$574.5 million and \$7,903, and Thurston at \$1.9 billion and \$7,651.

While Seattle ranks 71st with \$8,875 per capita retail sales, its total retail trade sales topped all other cities at \$5.4 billion. Bellevue was second at \$2.4 billion, Tacoma third at \$2 billion, Spokane fourth at \$1.8 billion and Lynnwood fifth at \$1.3 billion.

King County had the most retail sales at \$17 billion, followed by Pierce at \$5.5 billion, Snohomish at \$5.1 billion, Spokane at \$3.5 billion and Clark at nearly \$2 billion.

Complete rankings for all cities and counties are available at

<http://dor.wa.gov/docs/pubs/news/2012/RetailTradeRanking2011.xls>

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