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Taxable Retail Sales Increase 3.2% in Third Quarter 2011

OLYMPIA – Jan. 6, 2012 – Taxable retail sales increased 3.2 percent to \$27.3 billion during the third quarter of 2011 compared to year-earlier results, the Washington State Department of Revenue reported today.

Retail trade, a subset of all sales that counts only retail store sales and excludes other sectors such as construction and services, was up 2.4 percent to \$12.2 billion.

Among major industries, construction rose 1.4 percent to \$4.4 billion, the first gain for this sector since the first quarter of 2008. Accommodations and food services rose 5.3 percent to \$3.5 billion; motor vehicles and parts rose 4.5 percent to \$2.6 billion; general merchandise stores dropped 1.2 percent to \$1.8 billion, and miscellaneous retailers were up 1 percent to \$1.3 billion.

Results for the most populous counties:

	Taxable retail sales	% change	Retail trade	% change
King	\$10.5 billion	4.8%	\$4.3 billion	4.0%
Pierce	\$2.7 billion	(-3.3%)	\$1.4 billion	(-.1)%
Snohomish	\$2.5 billion	0.3%	\$1.3 billion	3.0%
Spokane	\$1.8 billion	2.2%	\$869 million	0.9%
Clark	\$1.1 billion	4.6%	\$500 million	3.6%

Results for cities with the most sales:

	Taxable retail sales	% change	Retail trade	% change
Seattle	\$4.1 billion	7.4%	\$1.4 billion	6.1%
Bellevue	\$1.2 billion	2.2%	\$583 million	3.1%
Tacoma	\$961 million	(-4.8%)	\$496 million	(-0.7%)
Spokane	\$934 million	(-1.5%)	\$440 million	(-3.4%)
Vancouver	\$620 million	6.6%	\$272 million	5.0%

Results for all counties and selected cities are available at

<http://dor.wa.gov/Content/AboutUs/StatisticsAndReports/2011/qbr311/Default.aspx>.

Additional comparisons of taxable retail sales and retail trade by county and all cities, and a breakdown of the change in sales statewide by industry are available at

<http://dor.wa.gov/Content/AboutUs/newsroom/2012/trs-q32011.aspx>.

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