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## **Second quarter taxable retail sales reach \$29 billion**

**OLYMPIA** – Dec. 11, 2013– Taxable retail sales statewide in the second quarter of 2013 jumped 8.3 percent over the same period in 2012, according to a report released by the Washington State Department of Revenue. Total taxable retail sales between April 1 and June 30, 2013 reached \$29 billion.

Retail trade during this year’s second quarter hit \$13.1 billion, a 7.3 percent increase from the second quarter of 2012. Retail trade is a subset of total taxable retail sales, which includes retailers but excludes industries such as manufacturing, agriculture and construction.

Taxable sales rose in most categories in the second quarter:

- Construction increased to \$4.7 billion (18.6 percent)
- New and used car sales hit \$2.5 billion (13.6 percent)
- E-commerce and mail order purchases rose to \$374.0 million (22.1 percent)
- Building materials, garden equipment and supplies grew to \$1.5 billion (12.2 percent)
- General merchandise stores tallied \$2.4 billion (2.9 percent)
- Accommodations and food services reached \$3.4 billion (6.1 percent)

Taxable retail sales have nearly recovered to second quarter 2008 levels, when they last topped \$29 billion dollars.

**- more -**

**Second quarter 2013 results for the most populous counties**

|           | Taxable retail sales | Percent change | Retail trade  | Percent change |
|-----------|----------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| King      | \$11.3 billion       | 7.1            | \$4.5 billion | 6.0            |
| Pierce    | \$3 billion          | 10.6           | \$1.6 billion | 9.6            |
| Snohomish | \$2.7 billion        | 8.3            | \$1.4 billion | 7.0            |
| Spokane   | \$1.9 billion        | 8.3            | \$962 million | 9.0            |
| Clark     | \$1.2 billion        | 9.7            | \$550 million | 8.8            |

**Second quarter 2013 results for cities with the most sales**

|           | Taxable retail sales | Percent change | Retail trade  | Percent change |
|-----------|----------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Seattle   | \$4.5 billion        | 6.2            | \$1.4 billion | 5.4            |
| Bellevue  | \$1.3 billion        | 1.5            | \$634 million | -0.2           |
| Tacoma    | \$1.1 billion        | 5.9            | \$517 million | 2.3            |
| Spokane   | \$1.0 billion        | 6.8            | \$480 million | 6.1            |
| Vancouver | \$682 million        | 9.6            | \$305 million | 11.6           |

More detailed information about taxable retail sales and retail trade by county and city, as well as a breakdown of sales statewide by major industry, are posted on Revenue’s Quarterly Business Review page: <http://dor.wa.gov/Content/AboutUs/StatisticsAndReports/2013/qbr213/default.aspx>.

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**About Revenue**

The Department of Revenue is Washington state’s primary tax administration agency, nationally recognized for innovation and service quality. In fiscal year 2013, Revenue collected more than \$18 billion in tax revenues that support public schools, social services, health care, corrections, public safety and natural resources conservation.

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