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Taxable retail sales reach \$26 billion in first quarter of 2013

OLYMPIA – July 19, 2013 – The statewide taxable retail sales for the first quarter of 2013 (January 1 – March 31) were up 8.0 percent to \$26 billion as compared to the same time period a year ago, according to a report released today by the Washington State Department of Revenue.

Retail trade reached \$12 billion, an 8.2 percent increase from the first quarter of 2012. Retail trade is a subset of total taxable retail sales, which includes retailers but excludes industries such as services and construction.

Taxable sales rose in many of the state’s major industries:

- Construction increased to \$4 billion (16.9 percent)
- Building materials, garden equipment and supplies grew to \$1 billion (14.2 percent)
- New and used car sales hit \$2.3 billion (11.6 percent)
- General merchandise stores tallied \$2.3 billion (7.1 percent)
- Accommodations and food services reached \$2.9 billion (4.7 percent)

Taxable retail sales have nearly recovered to first quarter 2008 levels, when they last topped \$26 billion dollars.

First quarter 2013 results for the most populous counties

	Taxable retail sales	Percent change	Retail trade	Percent change
King	\$10.3 billion	7.6	\$4.2 billion	6.5
Pierce	\$2.8 billion	11.0	\$1.5 billion	10.3
Snohomish	\$2.5 billion	10.2	\$1.3 billion	10.7
Spokane	\$1.7 billion	6.6	\$854 million	8.4
Clark	\$1.1 billion	7.8	\$500 million	9.1

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First quarter 2013 results for cities with the most sales

	Taxable retail sales	Percent change	Retail trade	Percent change
Seattle	\$4.1 billion	7.2	\$1.3 billion	5.8
Bellevue	\$1.2 billion	11.4	\$577 million	5.8
Tacoma	\$989 million	6.2	\$510 million	5.7
Spokane	\$917 million	7.4	\$440 million	7.3
Vancouver	\$606 million	4.4	\$270 million	4.8

Complete tax statistics for 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 website:

<http://dor.wa.gov/Content/AboutUs/newsroom/2013/trs-q12013.aspx>.

Results for all counties and selected cities, including sales breakdowns by industry sector are also online on the [Quarterly Business Review](#) page.

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