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## Taxable sales increase 4.9 percent for first quarter of 2014

**OLYMPIA** – Aug. 11, 2014 – The state’s taxable retail sales totals grew to \$27.3 billion in the first quarter of 2014 (January 1-March 31), recording a 4.9 percent increase over the same period in 2013. Retail trade, a subset of total taxable retail sales, rose 2.4 percent to \$12.3 billion.

The results come from a quarterly report released by the Washington State Department of Revenue of taxable retail sales by industry. The report compares the first quarters of 2014 to 2013, which equalizes any seasonal effects of consumer purchasing habits.

Taxable sales were up in many sectors:

- Construction of buildings – 6.1 percent
- Furniture and home furnishings – 6.4 percent
- New and used auto sales – 6.9 percent
- E-commerce and mail order sales – 18.9 percent

Some sectors saw a small decline, including department store purchases, which dropped -9.5 percent over the first three months of 2013.

### First quarter 2014 results for the most populous counties:

	Taxable retail sales	Percent change	Retail trade	Percent change
King	\$10.9 billion	6.6	\$4.3 billion	3.1
Pierce	\$2.9 billion	3.9	\$1.5 billion	2.7
Snohomish	\$2.6 billion	3.2	\$1.4 billion	4.5
Spokane	\$1.7 billion	5.3	\$863 million	1.1
Clark	\$1.2 billion	7.8	\$520 million	4.1

### First quarter 2014 results for cities with the most sales

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	Taxable retail sales	Percent change	Retail trade	Percent change
Seattle	\$4.4 billion	7.8	\$1.4 billion	3.3
Bellevue	\$1.3 billion	10.1	\$588 million	2.0
Tacoma	\$997 million	1.0	\$514 million	1.0
Spokane	\$958 million	4.5	\$441 million	0.15
Vancouver	\$666 million	9.7	\$305 million	12.8

Taxable retail sales and retail trade by county and city, and a breakdown of sales statewide by industries are [available here](#). Results for all counties and selected cities, including breakdowns of sales by industry sector, are available [here](#).

**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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