



For more information, contact:  
Beverly Crichfield  
Desk 360-534-1617  
Follow us on Twitter: @WASStateDOR

### **Taxable retail sales up 5.8 percent in fourth quarter**

**OLYMPIA** – April 29, 2014 – In a sign that the state’s economy continues to improve, taxable retail sales were up in the fourth quarter of 2013 by 5.8 percent. Taxable retail sales between Oct. 1 and Dec. 31, 2013 reached \$31.1 billion – a \$1.7 billion increase over the same period in 2012, according to the Washington State Department of Revenue’s (Revenue) quarterly analysis.

Fourth quarter retail trade purchases increased by 4.9 percent over the same time the previous year, to \$14.7 billion.

Retail trade is a subset of total taxable retail sales and includes purchases of clothes, home furnishings, books, cars and general merchandise but excludes sales in industries such as manufacturing and construction.

### **Largest gains in taxable sales**

Most categories saw increases in fourth quarter taxable sales:

- E-commerce grew by 19.7 percent, to \$599 million
- New and used car sales up by 11.4 percent, to \$2.5 billion
- Lawn care supplies increased by 11.4 percent, to \$119 million
- Manufacturing was up 10.6 percent, to \$611 million
- Health and drug stores rose 8.1 percent, to \$461 million
- Home furnishings were up 7.4 percent, to \$551 million

**- more -**

**Fourth quarter 2013 figures | Sales in the five most populous counties**

	Taxable retail sales	Percent change	Retail trade	Percent change
King	\$12.4 billion	6.3	\$5.2 billion	5.7
Pierce	\$3.2 billion	7.8	\$1.7 billion	6.7
Snohomish	\$3 billion	6.2	\$1.67 billion	6.5
Spokane	\$2 billion	5.4	\$1 billion	3.3
Clark	\$1.3 billion	10.7	\$613 million	8.7

**Fourth quarter 2013 figures | Cities with the most sales**

	Taxable retail sales	Percent change	Retail trade	Percent change
Seattle	\$4.9 billion	6.0	\$1.6 billion	5.7
Bellevue	\$1.55 billion	8.0	\$757 million	1.3
Tacoma	\$1.1 billion	4.1	\$584 million	3.5
Spokane	\$1.1 billion	4.6	\$530 million	1.5
Vancouver	\$760 million	12	\$361 million	14

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.