

Use Tax

RCW Chapter 82.12

Tax Base The value of tangible personal property, prewritten computer software, services defined as a retail sale, extended warranties, digital goods, digital codes, or digital automated services used by the taxpayer, acquired in any manner, when retail sales tax has not been paid. The use tax complements, and in most instances mirrors, the retail sales tax.

Some examples of when use tax may be due include:

- A purchase of tangible personal property:
 - When the seller did not collect retail sales tax.
 - As a casual or isolated and the seller did not collect retail sales tax.
- When a manufacturer uses a product, it produces.
- Gifts and prizes.

Tax exemptions may reduce these taxes.
 For more information, refer to the [Tax Exemption Study](#).

Tax Rate 6.5%

An additional 0.3% state tax applies to sale or lease of new motor vehicles and the sale used motor vehicles.

Recent Collections (\$000)

Fiscal Year	Collections	% Change	% of All State Taxes
2021	\$847,853	16.4%	3.1%
2020	\$728,483	-4.8%	3.0%
2019	\$765,206	8.9%	3.3%
2018	\$702,756	2.9%	3.3%
2017	\$682,737	6.0%	3.5%
2016	\$643,880	8.6%	3.6%
2015	\$592,857	4.9%	3.5%
2014	\$564,996	7.8%	3.5%
2013	\$524,101	7.8%	3.4%
2012	\$486,305	-9.9%	3.4%

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- Distribution of Receipts** The General Fund receives these taxes, except as follows:
- The Multimodal Transportation Account receives the 0.3% additional tax on motor vehicle sales or leases.
 - The Advanced Environmental Mitigation Account receives the tax from sales of leaded racing fuel.
 - The Statewide Tourism Marketing Account receives 0.2% of the tax from lodging, car rentals, and restaurants, not exceeding \$3 million per biennium.
 - The Office of the Washington State Auditor receives 0.16% of these taxes to fund comprehensive performance audits.
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Levied by State

For information about local use taxes refer to the [Local Tax Reference Guide](#) or the [Association of Washington Cities \(AWC\)](#).

Administration Department of Revenue

Registered businesses report and pay use tax on the combined excise tax return. Persons not registered with the Department of Revenue report and pay tax on the consumer use tax return.

History The use tax is a "compensating" tax related to the retail sales tax adopted in 1935. Subsequent rate changes and most other revisions applied to both the retail sales and use taxes.

For a comprehensive use tax history, refer to the dor.wa.gov webpage [History of Major Washington Taxes](#).
