

OVERVIEW OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY

**4th Quarter, 2010
(October, November, December 2010)**

State gross business income grew \$1.6 billion to \$164.8 billion in the fourth quarter of 2010, a 1.0 percent increase over the fourth quarter of 2009.

Some industry groups continue to experience declines. Wholesale Trade was down 6.6 percent. Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate was also down, dropping 12.9 percent to \$9 billion.

Gross income increased in most industry groups. Construction was up for the first time in over two years, increasing 0.4 percent to \$9.1 billion. Manufacturing was up 2.2 percent to \$31.8 billion, and Transportation increased 7.5 percent to \$3.3 billion. Retail trade, as an industry, was also up, increasing 10.7 percent to \$33.7 billion. New and Used Auto Dealers were at \$3.3 billion, an 18.6 percent increase over fourth quarter of 2009. Gas Stations were at \$2.6 billion, a 14.7 percent increase over fourth quarter 2009. E-commerce and Mail Order increased again to \$6.5 billion, up 40.5 percent.

Statewide, taxable retail sales were up 2.9 percent compared to the fourth quarter of 2009. However, some counties showed a decline in taxable retail sales; Lewis County was down 6.8 percent compared to fourth quarter of 2009, and Walla Walla County showed a 2.7 percent decrease year over year. Many counties showed increases in taxable retail sales. King County was up 2.4 percent, Pierce County was up 5 percent, and Snohomish County showed an increase of 2 percent over fourth quarter of 2009. Thurston County was up 5.3 percent, and Clark County was up 6.2 percent. Spokane County increased 0.6 percent, and Yakima County showed a 1.6 percent increase year over year.

The incorporated area of Seattle had a taxable retail sales increase of 2.6 percent. Tacoma was also up, at \$1 billion, an 8.5 percent increase. Olympia was up 5.6 percent, Vancouver was up 4.4 percent, and Yakima was up 0.9 percent. Kent was up 2.4 percent, and Everett was up 3.3 percent compared to fourth quarter of 2009. Bellingham was up 6.1 percent, and Bellevue dropped 2.2 percent to \$1.3 billion compared to fourth quarter of 2009.