

OVERVIEW OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY

**3rd Quarter, 2013
(July, August, September 2013)**

State gross business income¹ grew \$8.7 billion to \$173 billion in the third quarter of 2013, a 5.3 percent increase over the third quarter of 2012.

Gross income increased in most industry groups. Wholesale Trade increased 8.2 percent to \$35.8 billion. Construction was up 11.2 percent to \$11 billion, and Retail Trade saw a 3.8 percent increase to \$31 billion. Finance, Insurance and Real Estate at \$8.8 billion, a 3.5 percent increase over third quarter 2012. Real Estate Agents & Brokers at \$1.1 billion increased 18.4 percent. Residential Building & Remodeling increased 23.6 percent to \$1.7 billion. Business, Personal and Other Services saw an increase to \$31.9 billion, a 2 percent increase. Industry groups that experienced declines include: manufacturing of Telephone & Communications Equipment at \$89 million, a 21.4 percent decrease, and Consulting Services down 9.4 percent to \$1.7 billion.

Statewide, taxable retail sales² were up 7.6 percent compared to the third quarter of 2012. King County was up 7.4 percent, Snohomish County was up 7.9 percent, Spokane County was up 4.6 percent, and Clark County showed an increase of 8.8 percent over third quarter 2012. Pierce County was up 10.8 percent, and Jefferson County was up 7.9 percent. Chelan County increased 12.8 percent, and Yakima County showed a 7.8 percent increase. However, some counties showed a decline in taxable retail sales; Skamania County was down 14.9 percent compared to third quarter 2012 and Whitman County was down 15.7 percent.

The city of Seattle had a taxable retail sales³ increase of 6.3 percent to \$4.8 billion. Tacoma had a 7 percent increase to \$1.1 billion. Spokane was up 4.6 percent to \$1.1 billion. Bellevue was up 8.3 percent, Vancouver was up 8.2 percent, Bellingham was up 4.3 percent, and Kennewick was up 8.8 percent over third quarter of 2012. Several cities also experienced a decrease in taxable retail sales; Shelton dropped 6.7 percent, Pullman declined 3.8 percent and Camas was down 2.9 percent compared to third quarter 2012.

¹Source: Table 1-Washington Gross Business Income.

²Source: Table 3A-County Taxable Retail Sales.

³Source: Table 4A-City Taxable Retail Sales.