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Retail sales rise 6.6 percent for all of 2014

OLYMPIA – May 26, 2015 – Taxable retail sales increased 6.6 percent to \$124.85 billion during calendar year 2014 compared to 2013, the Washington State Department of Revenue reported today.

Retail trade, a subset of all sales that excludes nonretail sectors such as construction and services, rose 4.8 percent to \$56.31 billion.

Within the retail sector:

- New and used car sales rose 7.9 percent to \$10.76 billion.
- Building materials, garden equipment and supplies increased 7.5 percent to \$5.35 billion
- E-commerce and mail order went up 19.8 percent to \$2.09 billion
- Drug and health stores rose by 8.3 percent to \$1.81 billion

The construction industry saw large gains, with an overall increase of 9.6 percent to \$21.14 billion. Building construction drove most of those gains, rising 9.7 percent to \$11.57 billion.

While many industries saw gains in 2014, some showed slight declines. Department stores dropped 2.2 percent to \$2.96 billion, and book stores and news dealers also dropped by 1.5 percent to \$295 million.

Results for the most populous counties:

	Taxable retail sales	Percent change	Retail trade	Percent change
King	\$49.64 billion	7.7	\$19.54 billion	5.0
Pierce	\$12.74 billion	4.5	\$6.57 billion	4.0
Snohomish	\$11.70 billion	4.7	\$6.39 billion	6.2
Spokane	\$8.08 billion	6.8	\$3.99 billion	4.1
Clark	\$5.29 billion	8.5	\$2.42 billion	8.1

Results for cities with the most sales:

	Taxable retail sales	% change	Retail trade	% change
Seattle	\$19.96 billion	9.5	\$6.24 billion	5.8
Bellevue	\$6.0 billion	10.4	\$2.76 billion	4.4
Tacoma	\$4.32 billion	0.9	\$2.21 billion	1.9
Spokane	\$4.38 billion	6.7	\$2.07 billion	3.8
Vancouver	\$3.01 billion	8.8	\$1.42 billion	11.5

Revenue provides detailed reports of taxable retail sales and retail trade figures by county and city, as well as a breakdown of sales statewide by industry. These files can be found at http://dor.wa.gov/Content/AboutUs/StatisticsAndReports/stats_lrs2014.aspx.

Results for all counties and selected cities, including breakdowns of sales by industry sector, are available at <http://dor.wa.gov/Content/AboutUs/StatisticsAndReports/2014/qbrcal14/default.aspx>.

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About Revenue

The Department of Revenue is Washington state’s primary tax administration agency, nationally recognized for innovation and service quality. In fiscal year 2014, Revenue collected more than \$19.6 billion in tax revenues that support public schools, social services, health care, corrections, public safety and natural resources conservation.