



For more information, contact:
 Kim Schmanke
 Desk 360-534-1602 | Cell 360-688-6102
 Follow us on Twitter: @WASStateDOR

State’s taxable retail sales up 7.1 percent in fourth quarter

OLYMPIA – May 11, 2015 – Washington state’s taxable retail sales grew in the fourth quarter of 2014, rising 7.1 percent over the prior year. Taxable retail transactions between Oct. 1, and Dec. 31, 2014, increased to \$33.4 billion. Retail trade, which is a portion of all taxable retail sales, jumped 5.4 percent to a total of \$15.5 billion.

A roll-up of all taxable retail sales for 2014 is expected to be available mid May.

The figures are from a quarterly report prepared by the Washington State Department of Revenue. The Quarterly Business Review details the fourth quarter 2014 taxable sales by industry, as collected from tax returns. The report compares the fourth quarter of 2014 to 2013, equalizing any seasonal effects that would influence spending decisions.

Among the statewide trends in retail trade, which indicate consumer spending patterns:

- E-commerce and mail order sales rose 18.9 percent
- New and used car sales increased 9.4 percent
- Building materials and gardening equipment and supplies up 9.2 percent
- Department store sales dropped by 0.6 percent

Fourth quarter 2014 figures | Sales in the five most populous counties

	Taxable retail sales	Percent change	Retail trade	Percent change
King	\$13.4 billion	8.2	\$5.5 billion	5
Pierce	\$3.3 billion	3.9	\$1.8 billion	4.8
Snohomish	\$3.2 billion	5.4	\$1.8 billion	6.1
Spokane	\$2.1 billion	5.8	\$1.1 billion	5.7
Clark	\$1.4 billion	7.4	\$676 million	10.4

Fourth quarter 2014 figures | Cities with the most sales

	Taxable retail sales	Percent change	Retail trade	Percent change
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Seattle	\$5.4 billion	11	\$1.8 billion	7.1
Bellevue	\$1.7 billion	9.5	\$812 million	7.3
Tacoma	\$1.1 billion	1.4	\$612 million	4.6
Spokane	\$1.2 billion	8.2	\$567 million	7
Vancouver	\$816 million	7.4	\$405 million	12.2

Revenue produces detailed reports on each city and county’s taxable retail sales and retail trade. These reports are posted on Revenue’s Local Retail Sales 2014 page:

http://dor.wa.gov/Content/AboutUs/StatisticsAndReports/stats_lrs2014.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. Revenue collected more than \$19.6 billion in tax revenues in fiscal year 2014. These funds go to support public schools, social services, health care, corrections, public safety and natural resources conservation.