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State's retail sales up 8.9 percent in first quarter

OLYMPIA – July 28, 2016 - Washington state's taxable retail sales grew 8.9 percent in the first three months of 2016, topping \$32 billion. Retail trade, which is a subset of all taxable retail sales, rose 5.1 percent to total \$13.9 billion.

These figures are part of a quarterly report released today by the Washington State Department of Revenue. The Quarterly Business Review compares the same quarter year-over-year to equalize any seasonal effects that would influence consumer and business spending decisions.

Statewide snapshot of taxable retail sales activity

- Sales reported by **new and used auto dealers** increased 9.7 percent, reaching \$3 billion.
- Sales of **apparel and accessories** dropped 1 percent, marking \$851.7 million for the quarter.
- **Drug and health stores'** sales rose 18.4 percent, reaching \$586.9 million.
- Taxable **e-commerce and mail order** sales increased 16.7 percent to \$606.5 million.*

Highest taxable retail sales – top 10 counties

County	Taxable retail sales	Percent change	Retail trade	Percent change
King	\$13.38 billion	10.7	\$4.75 billion	3.8
Pierce	\$3.36 billion	8.7	\$1.70 billion	5.8
Snohomish	\$3.03 billion	9.4	\$1.58 billion	6.2
Spokane	\$2.00 billion	7.5	\$999 million	5.9
Clark	\$1.44 billion	9.7	\$639 million	8.1
Thurston	\$1.10 billion	8.6	\$537 million	3.9
Kitsap	\$914 million	9.7	\$482 million	6.7
Whatcom	\$839 million	5.6	\$367 million	-2.7
Yakima	\$850 million	2.5	\$406 million	6.3
Skagit	\$593 million	6.9	\$321 million	6.1

Highest taxable retail sales – top 10 cities

City	Taxable retail sales	Percent change	Retail trade	Percent change
Seattle	\$5.48 billion	9.4	\$1.54 billion	5.0
Bellevue	\$1.62 billion	9.7	\$656 million	4.9
Tacoma	\$1.14 billion	8.2	\$565million	4.1
Spokane	\$1.07 billion	3.9	\$492 million	1.7
Vancouver	\$826 million	7.8	\$372 million	7.1
Lynnwood	\$569 million	14.4	\$362 million	9.7
Puyallup	\$519 million	8.4	\$351 million	8.1
Renton	\$657 million	15.1	\$330 million	5.4
Everett	\$656 million	7.7	\$322 million	6.5
Spokane Valley	\$491 million	11.6	\$305 million	9.9

Accessing more results by city or county

Check Revenue’s Statistics and Reports page for additional detail about taxable retail sales by city, county and industry: http://dor.wa.gov/Content/AboutUs/StatisticsAndReports/stats_qbr2016.aspx

Understanding how businesses are classified

Revenue uses business tax return data to create this quarterly report. Businesses are categorized under the U.S. Census Bureau’s classification system based on their primary taxable activity. The North American Industry Classification System – or NAICS – is the same method federal statistical agencies use for the purpose of analyzing economic data.

*The taxable retail sales reported in the e-commerce and mail order category do not necessarily include online sales made by businesses with a bricks-and-mortar presence. Businesses categorized by this NAICS code identify their primary activity as online or mail order sales.

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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 \$20.8 billion in tax revenues in Fiscal Year 2015. These funds support education, social services, health care, corrections, public safety, natural resources conservation and other public services.

For tax assistance or to request this document in an alternate format, visit <http://dor.wa.gov> or call 1-800-647-7706. Teletype (TTY) users may call (360) 705-6718.