



For more information, contact:

Kim Schmanke

Desk 360-534-1602 | Cell 360-688-6102

Follow us on Twitter: @WASStateDOR

Continued growth in state's taxable retail sales – 9.4 percent increase

OLYMPIA – Nov. 9, 2015 – The state's taxable retail sales made in the second quarter of 2015 (April 1 – June 30) reached \$33.9 billion, a 9.4 percent increase over the same quarter in 2014. Figures for the retail trade industry, which is a subset of all taxable retail sales made in the state, show an 8 percent increase over the same time period last year. The retail trade comprised \$15 billion of the state's total taxable retail sales.

These data come from reports released by the Washington State Department of Revenue each quarter. The reports compare the second quarter year-over-year to equalize any seasonal effects of consumer purchasing behavior.

Revenue categorizes the state's taxable retail sales using the North American Industry Classification System, the same method federal statistical agencies use to classify businesses for the purpose of analyzing data related to the economy.

Second Quarter 2015 snapshot

- Sales of vehicles and auto parts jumped 11.14 percent to \$3.85 billion.
- Purchases in building materials and gardening stores rose 11.38 percent to \$1.76 billion
- General merchandise stores reported \$2.62 billion in taxable sales, up 4.66 percent
- Figures from accommodations, restaurants and bars statewide increased 10.64 percent to \$4 billion

Counties: Second quarter 2015 results for most populous counties

	Taxable retail sales	Percent change	Retail trade	Percent change
King	\$13.59 billion	11.34	\$5.13 billion	7.37
Pierce	\$3.46 billion	8.85	\$1.77 billion	8.83
Snohomish	\$3.15 billion	9.35	\$1.67 billion	7.14
Spokane	\$2.15 billion	5.78	\$1.08 billion	8.11
Clark	\$1.49 billion	14.98	\$673 million	14.0

Thurston	\$1.15 billion	10.44	\$585 million	7.84
Kitsap	\$964 million	10.96	\$512 million	9.97
Yakima	\$924 million	2.72	\$427 million	7.0
Whatcom	\$922 million	5.45	\$432 million	2.16
Skagit	\$656 million	9.38	\$361 million	7.70

Cities: Second quarter 2015 results for cities with the most sales

	Taxable retail sales	Percent change	Retail trade	Percent change
Seattle	\$5.59 billion	13.81	\$1.63 billion	8.34
Bellevue	\$1.63 billion	13.74	\$702 million	7.29
Tacoma	\$1.14 billion	7.72	\$577 million	8.92
Spokane	\$1.14 billion	3.92	\$530 million	6.88
Vancouver	\$865 million	16.81	\$389 million	14.42

Revenue provides additional detail about taxable retail sales by city, county and industry. These reports for the second quarter of 2015 are posted here:

http://dor.wa.gov/Content/AboutUs/StatisticsAndReports/stats_lrs2015.aspx.

Third quarter 2015 data should be available in late January 2016.

###

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.