Taxable Retail Sales Decline 4.3 Percent in Calendar Year 2008

Local News

Posted by: David Haviland

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OLYMPIA, Wash., May 12, 2009 — Taxable retail sales declined 4.3 percent to $113.2 billion during calendar year 2008, the Washington State Department of Revenue reported today.Retail trade was down 6.1 percent to $48.3 billion compared to calendar year 2007. Retail trade is a subset of all taxable retail sales that excludes construction, services and other non-retail businesses. Retail trade is a better measure of consumer purchases. Among major industries, retail sales from construction dropped 3.8 percent to $23.3 billion; motor vehicle and parts dropped 17.3 percent to $10.5 billion; accommodations and food services rose 1.4 percent to $11.1 billion; general merchandise stores declined 1.8 percent to $9.8 billion, the retail component of wholesale trade slid 6.5 percent to $8.7 billion, miscellaneous retailers dropped 2.9 percent to $5.9 billion, information services rose 3.2 percent to $4.9 billion, and building materials, garden equipment and supplies dropped 9.0 percent to $4.9 billion.

Results for the most populous counties:
Taxable retail sales% changeRetail trade% change
King$45.2 billion-4.3%$17.0 billion-7.0%
Pierce $11.7 billion-6.6%$5.6 billion-8.7%
Snohomish$10.8 billion-7.9%$5.3 billion-8.3%
Spokane$7.4 billion-4.2%$3.6 billion-4.8%
Clark$4.6 billion-6.2%$2.0 billion-7.8%Results for cities with the most sales:
Taxable retail sales% changeRetail trade% change
Seattle$17.1 billion 0.4%$5.3 billion-3.8%
Bellevue$5.6 billion-6.0%$2.4 billion-10.6%
Tacoma$4.3 billion-8.1%$2.0 million-9.3%
Spokane$3.9 billion-2.1%$1.9 billion-1.3%
Everett$2.7 million-8.6%$1.2 billion-10.3%Taxable retail sales and retail trade by county and city, and a breakdown of sales statewide by industries are available at http://dor.wa.gov/Content/AboutUs/newsroom/html/TRS-RTL-CA2008.htm. Results for all counties and selected cities, including breakdowns of sales by industry sector, are available at http://dor.wa.gov/Content/AboutUs/Sta ... 008/qbrcal08/default.aspx .