

OVERVIEW OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY

**4th Quarter, 2013
(October, November, December 2013)**

State gross business income¹ grew \$10 billion to \$187 billion in the fourth quarter of 2013, a 5.6 percent increase over quarter four 2012.

Gross income increased in most industry groups. Wholesale Trade increased 4.7 percent to \$39.1 billion. Construction was up 11.8 percent to \$11.3 billion, and Retail Trade saw a 3.7 percent increase to \$32.5 billion. Finance, Insurance and Real Estate were at \$9.8 billion, a 4.2 percent increase over fourth quarter 2012, and Manufacturing was up 7.9 percent to \$43.3 billion. New and Used Auto Dealers were at \$4.2 billion, a 6.5 percent increase over fourth quarter 2012. Residential Building & Remodeling increased 17.7 percent to \$1.85 billion, and Nonresidential Building was up 9.4 percent to \$2.5 billion. Industry groups that experienced declines include: Household Appliances at \$604 million a 39.8 percent decrease, Beverages at \$604 million, a 5.2 percent decrease, Engineering Services decreased 10.7 percent to 1.4 billion, and Advertising & Public Relations went down 16.5 percent to \$376 million.

Statewide, taxable retail sales² increased 5.8 percent compared to the fourth quarter of 2012. King County was up 6.4 percent, Snohomish County was up 6.2 percent, Spokane County was up 5.4 percent, and Clark County showed an increase of 10.7 percent over fourth quarter 2012. Pierce County was up 7.8 percent, and Jefferson County was up 1.8 percent. Cowlitz County showed a 16.2 percent increase over quarter four of last year. However, some counties showed a decline in taxable retail sales. Ferry County was down 36.2 percent compared to fourth quarter 2012, Whitman County was also down 21.1 percent, and Skamania County showed a 12.6 percent decrease from last year fourth quarter taxable retail sale.

The city of Seattle had a taxable retail sales³ increase of 6 percent to \$4.8 billion. Tacoma had a 4.1 percent increase to \$1.1 billion. Spokane was up 4.6 percent to \$1.1 billion. Auburn was up 14 percent, Pullman was up 21.1 percent, Fife was up 20 percent, and Bellevue up 8 percent over fourth quarter of 2012. A few cities experienced a decrease in taxable retail sales. Shelton was down 5.3 percent, Everett dropped 2 percent and Port Angeles was down 3.2 percent compared to fourth quarter 2012.

¹ Source: Table 1-Washington Gross Business Income.

² Source: Table 3A-County Taxable Retail Sales.

³ Source: Table 4A-City Taxable Retail Sales.