OVERVIEW OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY

3rd Quarter, 2010
(July, August, September 2010)

State gross business income grew $6.7 billion to $145.9 billion in the third quarter of 2010, a 4.8 percent increase over the third quarter of 2009.

Some industry groups continue to experience declines. Construction was down 5.6 percent. Travel services were also down, dropping 35.8 percent to $163 million.

Gross income increased in most industry groups. Manufacturing was up 10.4 percent to $31.9 billion and Wholesale increased 4.9 percent to $29.3 billion. Retail trade, as an industry, was also up, increasing 7 percent to $29.3 billion. Health Services increased 9.9 percent to $10 billion. New and Used Auto Dealers were at $3.3 billion, a 7.7 percent increase over third quarter of 2009. General Merchandise was at $4.3 billion, a 4.3 percent increase over third quarter 2009. E-commerce and Mail Order increased again to $3.7 billion, up 29.5 percent.

Statewide, taxable retail sales were up 0.2 percent compared to the third quarter of 2009. However, some counties showed a decline in taxable retail sales; King County was down 1.2 percent compared to third quarter of 2009, Spokane County showed a 1.1 percent decrease year over year, and Skagit County was down 2.8 percent. Many counties showed an increase in taxable retail sales. Thurston County showed an increase of 3.4 percent over third quarter of 2009. Clark County was up 6 percent, Pierce County was up 3.3 percent compared to third quarter of 2009, and Yakima County had a 1.8 percent increase year over year.

The incorporated area of Everett had a taxable retail sales increase of 3.1 percent. Vancouver was also up, at $581 million, a 2.2 percent increase. Olympia was up 4.6 percent, Tacoma was up 4.4 percent, and Yakima was up 1.7 percent. Kent was up 1.6 percent and Seattle was down 1.5 percent compared to third quarter of 2009. Bellevue was down 5.1 percent and Spokane dropped 1.3 percent to $948 million as compared to third quarter of 2009.