

OVERVIEW OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY

**3rd Quarter, 2011
(July, August, September 2011)**

State gross business income grew \$8.2 billion to \$154.1 billion in the third quarter of 2011, a 5.6 percent increase over the third quarter of 2010.

Gross income increased in most industry groups. Manufacturing was up 15.9 percent to \$37 billion, and Wholesale Trade increased 9.4 percent to \$32 billion. Construction was up 4.3 percent to \$9.5 billion. Business, Personal and Other Services increased 5.5 percent to \$31.9 billion. New and Used Auto Dealers were at \$4.6 billion, a 5.8 percent increase over third quarter of 2010. Gas Stations were at \$3.4 billion, a 24.0 percent increase over third quarter 2010. General Merchandise Stores increased to \$4.7 billion, up 8.9 percent. Some industry groups continue to experience declines. Retail trade, as an industry, was down, decreasing 4.3 percent to \$28 billion.

Statewide, taxable retail sales were up 3.2 percent compared to the third quarter of 2010. However, some counties showed a decline in taxable retail sales; Pierce County was down 3.3 percent compared to third quarter of 2010, Thurston County was down 5.1 percent, and Kitsap County showed a 0.3 percent decrease year over year. Many counties showed increases in taxable retail sales. King County was up 4.8 percent, Snohomish County was up 0.3 percent, Spokane County was up 2.2 percent, and Clark County showed an increase of 4.6 percent over third quarter of 2010. Yakima County was up 3.2 percent, and Whatcom County was up 4.1 percent. Whatcom County increased 3.7 percent, and Benton County showed a 7.1 percent increase year over year.

The incorporated area of Seattle had a taxable retail sales increase of 7.4 percent. Vancouver was also up, at \$620 million, a 6.6 percent increase. Bellevue was up 2.2 percent to \$1.2 billion, Kent was up 2.0 percent, Bellingham was up 5.1 percent, and Redmond was up 14.2 percent. Tacoma was down 4.8 percent, Spokane dropped 1.5 percent to \$934 million compared to third quarter of 2010. Everett was down 0.9 percent to \$586 million and Olympia dropped 7.6 percent compared to third quarter of 2010.