

OVERVIEW OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY

**4th Quarter, 2011
(October, November, December 2011)**

State gross business income grew \$1.3 billion to \$167.9 billion in the fourth quarter of 2011, a 0.8 percent increase over the fourth quarter of 2010.

Gross income increased in most industry groups. Manufacturing was up 16.0 percent to \$36.9 billion, and Wholesale Trade increased 2.3 percent to \$35.6 billion. Construction was up 3.8 percent to \$9.5 billion. Finance, Insurance and Real Estate were up 1.6 percent to \$9.1 billion. New and Used Auto Dealers were at \$4.7 billion, a 10.2 percent increase over fourth quarter of 2010. Grocery and Convenience Stores increased 4.8 percent to \$3.4 billion. General Merchandise Stores increased to \$5.1 billion, up 6.7 percent. Some industry groups continue to experience declines. Retail Trade, as an industry, was down, decreasing 10.5 percent to \$30.1 billion and Health Services was at \$9.3 billion, a 13.7 percent decrease.

Statewide, taxable retail sales were up 4.2 percent compared to the fourth quarter of 2010. Most counties showed increases in taxable retail sales. King County was up 5.3 percent, Snohomish County was up 2.2 percent, Spokane County was up 4.1 percent, and Clark County showed an increase of 5.6 percent over fourth quarter of 2010. Yakima County was up 4.3 percent, and Whatcom County was up 4.9 percent. Skagit County increased 5.8 percent, and Benton County showed a 6.3 percent increase year over year. However, some counties showed a decline in taxable retail sales; Pierce County was down 1.4 percent compared to fourth quarter of 2010, Thurston County was down 2.5 percent, and Kitsap County showed a 0.8 percent decrease year over year.

The incorporated area of Seattle had a taxable retail sales increase of 9.6 percent. Spokane was also up, at \$978 million, a 0.1 percent increase. Bellevue was up 5.0 percent to \$1.4 billion, Vancouver was up 6.0 percent, Kent was up 4.0 percent, Bellingham was up 4.4 percent, and Lynnwood was up 5.4 percent. Tacoma was down 3.2 percent and Everett was down 1.3 percent to \$613 million. Puyallup dropped 6.4 percent to \$408 million compared to fourth quarter of 2010. Olympia dropped 3.1 percent compared to fourth quarter of 2010.