

OVERVIEW OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY

**2nd Quarter, 2012
(April, May, June 2012)**

State gross business income grew \$6.5 billion to \$156.7 billion in the second quarter of 2012, a 4.3 percent increase over the second quarter of 2011.

Gross income increased in most industry groups. Wholesale Trade increased 6.5 percent to \$32.7 billion. Construction was up 6.3 percent to \$8.6 billion. Finance, Insurance and Real Estate were up 6.1 percent to \$7.9 billion over second quarter 2012. New and Used Auto Dealers were at \$3.9 billion, a 13.2 percent increase over second quarter of 2011. Grocery and Convenience Stores increased 3.3 percent to \$3.5 billion. General Merchandise Stores increased to \$4.3 billion, up 4.7 percent and Gas Stations increased 35 percent to \$4.4 billion. Some industry groups continue to experience declines. Transportation, as an industry, was down 7.4 percent to \$2.5 billion and Information was at \$4.1 billion, a 3.3 percent decrease. Securities & Other Financial Investment were down 19.3 percent to 1.1 billion.

Statewide, taxable retail sales were up 4.7 percent compared to the second quarter of 2011. Most counties showed increases in taxable retail sales. King County was up 6.4 percent, Snohomish County was up 4.9 percent, Spokane County was up 2.0 percent, and Clark County showed an increase of 5.7 percent over second quarter of 2011. Yakima County was up 9.0 percent, and Whatcom County was up 6.6 percent. Pierce County increased 4.4 percent, and Kitsap County showed a 3.8 percent increase year over year. However, some counties showed a decline in taxable retail sales; Clallam County was down 5.1 percent compared to second quarter of 2011, Benton County was down 4.4 percent, and Grays Harbor County showed a 16.7 percent decrease year over year.

The incorporated area of Seattle had a taxable retail sales increase of 10.3 percent. Tacoma was up, at \$996 million, a 5.1 percent increase. Spokane was up 6.5 percent to \$962 million, Vancouver was up 5.8 percent, Yakima was up 11.7 percent to 387 million, Bellingham was up 5.4 percent, and Bellevue was up 7.2 percent to \$1.3 billion. Everett was down 0.4 percent to 576 million, Richland dropped 12.7 percent to \$227 million and Tukwila dropped 2.6 percent compared to second quarter of 2011.