

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, nearly half of Washington state's revenue is derived from sales tax collected by retailers; and

WHEREAS, Washington state's retail industry accounted for \$210 billion in taxable retail sales in 2022; and

WHEREAS, the industry is the second-largest private sector employer providing jobs to nearly 400,000 people across the state; and

WHEREAS, the retail industry has demonstrated resilience and adaptability in the face of global challenges and continues to serve families across the state; and

WHEREAS, corporate social responsibility in retail has become a top priority; to enhance environmental sustainability, improve employee satisfaction and increase charitable donations; and

WHEREAS, the retail industry has been at the forefront of innovation and creativity, driving the state's economic competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, 87 percent of retail sales still occur in physical stores; and

WHEREAS, the safety of employees and customers being a top priority, the Washington legislature funded an Organized Retail Crime unit in the Office of the Attorney General to increase coordination efforts and resources; and

WHEREAS, the retail industry has been recognized for rapid inter-career advancement leading to better opportunities, and is a significant employer of diverse populations, including various communities of color and immigrant communities throughout the state;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim September 2023 as

Careers in Retail Month

in Washington, and I urge all people in our state to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 11th day of August, 2023

Governor Jay Inslee

