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**Residential Building Approvals and Retail Sales Lead the Nation**

Data released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) today is further evidence the Territory has the strongest economy in the nation.

In 2009, the Territory experienced the highest growth in the nation for residential building approvals and retail trade.

Treasurer Delia Lawrie said this is no surprise because the Territory Government has protected jobs in 2009, delivering the lowest unemployment rate and strongest growth in jobs in the country.

“In 2009, there were 6,000 new jobs created in the Territory so people have confidence in the economy, are building new homes and are happy to go shopping,” Ms Lawrie said.

“The Territory had the strongest economic growth in 2008-09 and currently has the highest business confidence in the nation.

“In 2009, there was a 43 per cent increase in residential building approval from 2008, compared to a national decline of 2.1 per cent.”

The Territory led the nation in growth in retail trade turnover for 2009 demonstrating confidence in the local economy.

“In 2009, the Territory’s retail trade turnover increased by 9.3 per cent compared to 5.6 per cent nationally,” Ms Lawrie said.

“This equates to $2.6 billion spent in our economy helping create and support jobs for Territorians.

“A key priority of the Henderson Government in 2009 was protecting Territory jobs in the face of the global economic downturn.

“By delivering a responsible budget and focusing our efforts on supporting local businesses, the Territory economy has performed well in 2009.

“The Territory still faces challenges and the Henderson Government will continue to work hard in 2010 to protect jobs and grow the economy,” Ms Lawrie said.
Residential Building Approvals Year on Year percentage change

No. of Residential Building Approvals
(Year on year percentage change)

Retail Turnover Year on Year Approval percentage change

Retail Turnover
(Year on year percentage change, current prices)

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