Retail trade figures released today by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) show retail trade in the Territory increased moderately in December.

Treasurer, Delia Lawrie, welcomed the figures which showed Territorians spent $216 million in December – a 0.3 per cent increase on the previous month.

“The Territory’s retail trade growth was marginally above national growth which recorded a 0.2 per cent increase for December,” Ms Lawrie said.

“Last month’s spending increase in the Territory was largely driven by a 7.5 per cent increase in spending on pharmaceuticals, cosmetics and toiletries and a 5.8 per cent increase in clothing, footwear and personal accessories.

“Today’s figures also show that last year Territorians spent $2.7 billion in Territory businesses and shops – 2 per cent more than the previous year.

“This is good news for Territory businesses with today’s figures showing that Territory consumers continue to have confidence in our economy and spend locally.”

Ms Lawrie said Access Economics forecast the Territory to have economic, population and employment growth above the national average over the next five years.

“Territorians can continue to have confidence in our economy in the short term, which is set to further strengthen with major projects on the horizon. ” she said.

“The Territory continues to record the lowest unemployment rate in Australia.

“The Northern Territory Government is continuing to provide strong economic management to ensure ongoing opportunities for Territorians now and into the future.”

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