



United Retail Federation

Serving Members Australia Wide™

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Latest ABS Retail Figures Up 0.7%

Driscoll – “Small reprieve as retailers contend with continued uncertainty” ”

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Scott Driscoll, National President of the **United Retail Federation**, a peak national industry body representing the retail sector has said the latest ABS Retail Trade Figures, showing that retail sales were up 0.7%, was a “small reprieve” as retailers are forced to contend with continued uncertainty.

The latest Retail Trade figures, a Main Economic Indicator (MEI), comes at a time of great uncertainty for retailers as negotiations over who will form the next Commonwealth Government continue amidst warnings of global recession from the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA).

“Retailers are hoping that some stability will return to the governance of the country after a period of great uncertainty through irresponsible Government spending that put pressure on rates and caused business confidence to plummet,” Mr Driscoll said.

“Despite today’s small rise and the patchy retail trends we have seen over 2010 there is still a flat retail outlook and this is primarily due to uncertainty that has been amplified by irresponsible government programs and reckless spending.

“The Rudd-Gillard Government was a period of great instability for retailers and small business. At the top of this list were the Grocery Watch websites which failed and amounted to nothing more than misinformation. Also the inaction on competition laws that favour the big end of town was a monumental failure on behalf of the Rudd-Gillard Government.

“Small business has had to contend with policies that have driven up the costs of electricity and laws that have added to the cost of food and retail at every point of the supply chain so a brief reprieve would be welcomed.

“Small business is collectively the largest employer of Australians in the country and we can’t actually afford another period of irresponsible spending and the uncertainty that we have had to contend with over the last three years,” Mr Driscoll said.

For further comment contact Scott Driscoll on 0413 831 045.