

MEDIA RELEASE



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2 July 2007

RETAIL STATISTICS GIVE WARNING SIGNAL TO FAIRPAY COMMISSION

Today's announcement of ABS retail trade data shows a reduction in turnover in seasonally adjusted terms for May. This is the second consecutive month that there has been a decline. The uncertain retail environment should signal a cautionary red light to the Fairpay Commission when it reports its latest decision on minimum wage rates later this week. The ARA has called on the Fairpay Commission to delay its decision as it is only 6 months since it brought down its last decision, which increased minimum rates by a record amount. The ARA has stated that there has been insufficient time to assess the impact of the last wage increase on businesses and employment and there should be at least 12 months between rate increases.

Media Enquiries: Contact Name, Position, Phone Number

The Australian Retailers' Association (ARA) is the peak employer association representing the interests of the largest employing industry in Australia. We provide leadership and solutions to improve the long-term viability, productivity and visibility of the retail industry by proactively dealing with government, media and other regulatory bodies. We also manage issues that impact members by lobbying Federal, State, Territory and Local governments to ensure members' business concerns are given an effective voice.

AUSTRALIAN RETAILERS' ASSOCIATION

Level 11, 45 Market Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

104 Franklin Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000