

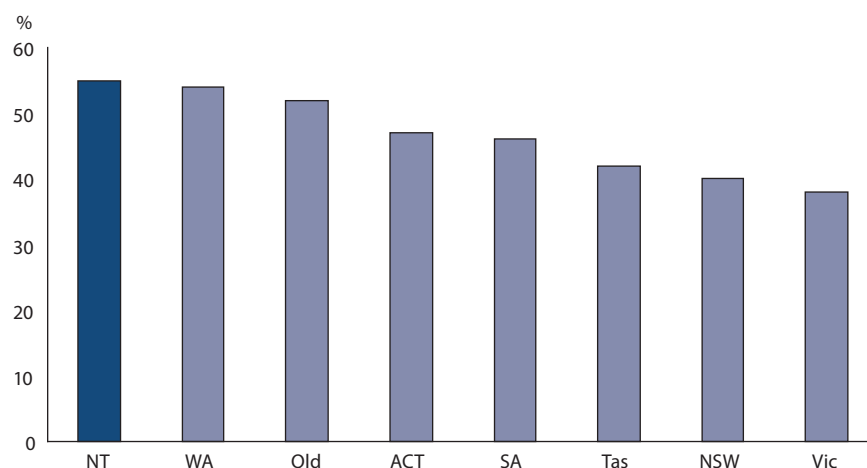
## Manufacturing

- The Territory has a small and narrowly based manufacturing sector, dominated by alumina production at Alcan’s Gove refinery. In 2004-05 manufacturing accounted for 7 per cent of gross state product and about 3 per cent of total employment.
- Manufacturing production will be increased significantly in 2006-07 with increased alumina production from the expanded Alcan refinery and liquefied natural gas production from the new Wickham Point facility.
- A further increase is expected in 2007-08 with completion of the condensate processing facility at East Arm, the helium plant at Wickham Point, and a full year of production from the new renewable fuels (biodiesel) facility.
- In the medium to long term, natural gas from the Timor Sea could be used as an input for gas-related manufacturing industries and as a cheaper energy source for mining-related value adding.

## Retail and Wholesale

- Retail and wholesale trade accounted for 6.6 per cent of Northern Territory gross state product (GSP) and 16 per cent of resident employment in 2004-05.
- Following solid growth of 5.3 per cent in 2004-05, Territory real retail turnover growth is expected to moderate to 2.5 per cent in 2005-06. Major contributors to growth in 2005-06 were household goods, hospitality and services.
- Territory retail turnover is forecast to increase by 4.5 per cent in 2006-07, supported by strong employment, a positive outlook for the housing market and stable interest rates.
- Territory consumers are more confident than consumers in any other state or territory.

Consumer Sentiment, December Quarter 2005



Source: Sensis Consumer Report