Territory businesses enjoy the second-highest confidence levels in the country, according to the latest Sensis survey results released today.

The March Sensis Business Index showed Territory small businesses confidence at 66 per cent, compared with the national average of 49 per cent.

“It’s great to see Territory businesses are maintaining such high confidence levels despite the challenges of the wet season, labor supply and the effects of the global economic downturn which has limited access to credit,” Mr Knight said.

“In fact, business confidence is stronger in the Territory this quarter than in the same quarter last year.

“While confidence remains strong businesses identify recruiting and retaining skilled staff as their biggest challenge.

“That’s why the Henderson Government continues to work with business to help them find skilled labor through local, national and international recruitment initiatives.

“In spite of these challenges Territory small business are expecting much stronger profits and sales and an increase in employment for the coming quarter.

“The Territory Government has also worked to support local business through the ‘Buy Territory’ campaign, cutting red tape for procurement and ensuring we remain one of the lowest taxing jurisdictions for small business.

“Our record $1.3 billion investment in infrastructure projects is building the Territory and protecting local jobs, with 6 000 new jobs created last year.
“An extensive range of assistance and support to help grow and develop business is available through the Department of Business and Employment and I encourage people to access these services.”

For more information about programs available though the Department of Business and Employment, visit www.nt.gov.au/business or call 1800 193 111

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