New Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) figures out today show the Territory has had the nation’s lowest unemployment rate for the past six months.

ABS Labour Force figures show in trend terms the Territory’s unemployment rate continued to drop by 0.1 of a percentage point to 3.2 per cent in March – once again the lowest rate in Australia.

Business and Employment Minister, Rob Knight, welcomed today’s statistics and said they were further proof of the Territory’s strong business confidence.

“Posting the lowest unemployment rate in the nation for six straight months is a terrific achievement,” Mr Knight said.

“Today’s figures are a further indication that businesses have confidence in the Territory’s economy and they are continuing to hire staff.

“In the year to March, the number of people employed increased by 4.4 per cent which shows we are open for business.

“This is further evidenced by the increase in newspaper jobs with ANZ data released with week showing the job ads increased by 46.7 per cent in March 2010 compared to the same month last year.”

Mr Knight said today’s figures showed the Henderson Government’s 2009-10 Budget – including the record $1.3 billion investment in infrastructure – was protecting Territory jobs.

“This Government’s investment in important infrastructure such as schools, Tiger Brennan Drive, police stations and health facilities is securing Territory jobs as well as keeping our economy strong,” he said.

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