More Territorians are looking for work and the size of the NT workforce has grown, although the jobless rate has risen slightly, according to the ABS Labour Force figures for April.

Treasurer Syd Stirling said the increase in the jobless rate – up 0.2% to 6.4% in April – was disappointing, but still well below the September 2001 rate of 7.8%, when the Government took office.

"The jobless rate is underpinned by the fact that, while the number of people employed remains steady, more people are actually looking for work," Mr Stirling said.

"In fact, the NT participation rate has been steadily climbing and, at 74.5%, is the highest it’s been in 12 months.

"Meanwhile we had 98,900 people employed in April, compared to 97,100 in September 2001.

"This is a sign that the Territory labour force is strengthening in anticipation of more jobs coming on line with the development of the LNG plant at Wickham Point and other projects such as the Alcan expansion at Gove.

"It was always expected that there would be a drop off in jobs figures as the railway nears completion, but Wickham Point should lead to renewed jobs growth in the second half of the year.

"Government will continue to work towards creating more jobs for Territorians as its number one priority, as well as attracting more investment to the Territory."