The Territory’s growing population reflects our strengthening economy and increased job opportunities, Treasurer Syd Stirling said today.

Mr Stirling said the population grew by 713 people in the June quarter 2004 – the fifth consecutive quarter of population growth in the Territory, according to just-released ABS data.

Over the past four quarters (June 2003 to June 2004), the Territory has recorded an annual population increase of 0.7%.

The June quarter 2004 increase of 713 people, or 0.4%, consists of a natural increase (births minus deaths) of 707; net overseas migration of 101; and net interstate migration of -95.

The increase takes the Territory’s total population to 199,913.

“While the net interstate migration figure remains in the negative, it is still the best result for interstate migration the Territory has seen since December 1999,” Mr Stirling said.

“It means that, despite solid economic prospects in southern states, more people are opting to stay in the Territory or move here.

“While we continue to have some doubts about the accuracy of the interstate migration model used by ABS, these figures are a good sign that our economy is moving ahead and that people are confident about their futures here.

“The positive population trend is in line with the Territory’s strengthening economy, reviving tourism industry, strong construction activity, and growing job opportunities.

“The Territory Government will continue to work hard to attract people to the Territory from interstate and overseas, particularly skilled workers.”