The Territory has scored a hat trick of good news on the jobs front this week, Treasurer Syd Striling said today.

Today’s Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Labor Force Data for the Territory provided the third part of the jobs hat trick, following positive news earlier this week from Drake International’s Quarterly Employment Forecast and the latest ANZ newspaper job advertisement figures.

ABS Labor Force Data shows that the Territory’s jobless rate has fallen for the 10th consecutive month.

In March the number of jobs in the Territory increased by 400, bringing the size of the Territory workforce to 98,400.

Mr Stirling said the ABS figures show a 4.4 per cent trend unemployment rate for the Territory in March, which is down from 4.5 per cent in February.

“The encouraging factor with the ABS figures is that the Territory’s trend unemployment figure of 4.4 per cent compares more than favourably with the national trend rate of 5.7 per cent for March,” Mr Stirling said.

“While we continue to maintain a cautious and balanced perspective on all economic data I think that three sets of figures like those we have received this week can fairly be described as positive news for the Territory.”

Earlier in the week Drake International’s Employment Forecast showed the Territory would lead Australia in job creation over the quarter with a projected increase of 3.5 per cent in new jobs between April and June. Drake says this will include a 25.4 per cent hike in new jobs in the hospitality and tourism sector.

ANZ newspaper jobs advertisement figures released this week showed a 4.5 per cent increase in the number of job ads in the Territory last month.

“We are now seeing firm evidence of a turnaround on the economic front,” Mr Stirling said.