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Territory unemployment rate continues to fall

Unemployment in the Territory has continued to fall, reaching 4.8% in June – the lowest rate since August 2000 and 1.5% below the national figure, Minister for Employment, Education and Training Syd Stirling said today.

Mr Stirling said ABS Labour Force figures released today also showed that Territory employment continued to grow – recording the highest trend employment growth of any jurisdiction – with a further 200 people joining the workforce in the month of June.

The job participation rate dropped slightly – by 0.1 per cent – but remains historically high, at around 11 per cent above the national participation rate.

"Around 4000 new jobs have been created since this Government came to power in August last year – that’s 100 new jobs a week," Mr Stirling said.

"Contrary to Opposition claims that employment growth is all railway-related, construction of the railway has accounted for 850 jobs since construction began. These figures show that it is not the only area of jobs growth in the Territory.

"Territory job rates compare extremely favourably to national figures, showing that the NT is clearly leaving the rest of the country behind.

"These positive trends have continued since November 2001 – they are further proof that the Territory economy is going from strength to strength.

"However, these positive signs do not mean that we can afford to be complacent.

"Railway construction is well under way and there are positive signs that gas will come on shore, but we still have a lot more work to do in terms of growing the economy."

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