Territorians continue to invest in homes at a greater rate than other Australians, Treasurer Syd Stirling said today.

Mr Stirling said, according to ABS data, the number of owner-occupied Territory housing finance commitments rose by 22% in the year to September 2004, going from 4402 to 5369.

“The corresponding value of these commitments increased by 47.3%, from $593.5 million to $874 million,” Mr Stirling said.

“Nationally, the number of housing finance commitments fell by 0.6% in the year to September.

“Every other jurisdiction except Western Australia recorded a fall in the number of housing finance commitments over that period.

“The figures show that the Territory real estate market is continuing to perform solidly in line with our strengthening economy.

“This growth is good news for Territory business, good news for the construction industry and means more jobs for Territorians.”

Owner-occupied finance includes the purchase of established dwellings, as well as the purchase and construction of new dwellings and refinancing.