The Territory’s trend employment has grown more than anywhere else in Australia over the year to March 2006, according to the latest Australian Bureau of Statistics figures released today.

Treasurer, Syd Stirling, welcomed the statistics and says they are evidence of a growing workforce within a growing economy.

“In annual terms, trend employment in the Territory has increased by 3.7% to March 2006, the highest growth rate of any jurisdiction.

In the year to March 2006, growth in trend employment has strengthened, and that is consistent with job ads, business surveys and employment agency forecasts.”

But the Treasurer urged caution in relation to monthly ABS Labour Force figures due to their volatility.

“Territory trend employment in March 2006 decreased by 0.1 per cent to 97 400, down from a revised 97 500 in February 2006.

“For the month of March, the trend unemployment rate was reported as 6.8% up from a revised 6.7% in February.”

Meanwhile, ANZ job ads increased by 8.7% in the Territory compared to a decrease of 4.9% nationally in the year to March 2006.

“These figures shows there are still plenty of jobs for Territorians. This Government is working hard to build a home grown skilled workforce, and we will continue to work closely with industry and other stakeholders to provide more training and up-skilling opportunities.

Monthly figures show ANZ job ads decreased by 10.9% in the month compared to a 4.7% fall nationally.

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