Australian Bureau of Statistics figures released today show continued employment growth in the Territory, with the third lowest unemployment rate in Australia at 4.3%

Treasurer, Delia Lawrie, said the figures were further evidence of the strength of the Territory economy.

“The Territory continues to excel in job creation, with an unemployment rate of 4.3% significantly below the national rate of 5.2%,” Ms Lawrie said.

“Against a background of depressed global conditions and flat national consumption, our economy continues to perform, keeping Territorians in jobs with resident employment in the Territory increasing by 1.4 per cent in the past year, driven by a 2.9 per cent increase in full time employment.

“Today’s result confirms data released on Monday by the ANZ bank showing job ads in the Territory increased 21.8% in the past year, the only jurisdiction to record a positive increase.

“The healthy state of our job market vindicates the Territory Government’s decision to go into deficit and support jobs as private investment dried up during the Global Financial Crisis.

“By increasing our public spend to record levels we have supported jobs and kept families in the Territory while building the key infrastructure necessary for growth.

“With major projects now commencing, signs point to private investment surging back, with State Final Demand (SFD) increasing 5.9% in the last quarter against just 0.2% nationally.

“This means the Territorians we kept working are now well placed to will reap the benefits of our bright economic future.

“The CLP opposed this spending every step of the way; on their watch we’d have skyrocketing unemployment, our workforce long since deserted us and a stagnant economy.”

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