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The Unemployment Situation on Guam: September 2016

The Unemployment rate in Guam for September 2016 was 5.4 percent, an increase of 0.9 percentage points from the comparable period a year ago in September 2015, but a reduction of 2.2 percentage points from the 7.6 percent rate of two years ago in September 2014 and a decrease of 4.6 percent from the 10.0 percent rate in September 2013. The total number of persons reported as unemployed in September 2016 was 3,910, a decrease of 1,480 from the September 2014 estimates.

An increase in the number of jobs and persons employed and more moderate population growth rates contributed to a general trend of declining unemployment rates and numbers in recent years. Variation in the quarterly figures can be to some extent attributed to sample survey margins of error and some seasonal variability as well as underlying economic and demographic changes.

In September 2016 the number of persons reported in the Not in the Labor Force category was 50,210; there was a slight decrease in the category in comparison to the prior year's figure of September 2015. For the September 2016 survey period, 7.5 percent or 3,760 persons indicated that they wanted a job but did not look for work for a variety reasons. Whereas, 92.5 percent in the Not in the Labor Force category indicated that they did not want a job during the survey period. The labor force participation rate was 58.9 percent.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Data on labor force, employment, and unemployment are derived from the sample survey of households conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in its Current Labor Force Statistics program. These periodic surveys of the population are conducted with a scientifically selected sample of households designed to represent the civilian non-institutional population. Respondents are interviewed to obtain information about the employment status of each member of the household 16 years of age and over. The inquiry relates to activity or status during the calendar week, Sunday through Saturday, which includes the 12th of the month. This is known as the survey week. Actual field interviewing is conducted in the following weeks.

Inmates of institutions, members of the Armed Forces, civilian living in military installations and housings, persons under 16 years of age, and nonimmigrant aliens are not covered in the periodic enumerations and are excluded from this report. Included in this report are citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Marshall Islands, who are authorized by the Compact of Free Association to accept employment in the United States and also, citizens of the Republic of Palau which are authorized to accept employment through the Covenant with the U.S. in October 1994.

Employed persons comprise (a) all those within the scope of the survey who, during the survey week did any work at all as paid employees, in their own business, profession, or farm or who worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers in an enterprise operated by a member of the family, and (b) all those were not working but who had jobs or business from which they were absent because of illness, bad weather, vacation, labor-management dispute, or personal reasons, whether or not they were paid by their employers for the time off, and whether or not they were seeking other jobs.

Each employed person is counted only once. For those who hold more than one job, the job which they worked the greatest number of hours during the reference period is the one counted.

Excluded are persons whose only activity consisted of work around the house (such as, own home housework, and painting or repairing own home) or volunteer work for religious, charitable, and similar organizations.

Unemployed persons comprise of all persons within the scope of the survey, who did not work during the survey week, who made specific efforts to find a job within the past 4 weeks, and who were available for work during the survey week (except for temporary illness). Also included as unemployed are those who did not work at all, were available for work, and (a) were waiting to be called back to a job from which they were laid off; or (b) were waiting to report to a new wage or salary job within 30 days.

The **civilian labor force** comprises the total of all civilians as employed or unemployed in accordance with the criteria described above.

Not in the labor force includes all civilians within the scope of the survey 16 years and over who are not classified as employed or unemployed. Persons doing only incidental unpaid family work (less than 15 hours) are also classified as not in the labor force.

Reliability of the estimates Statistics based on the household and establishment surveys are subject to both sampling and nonsampling error. When a sample, rather than the entire population, is surveyed, there is a chance that the sample estimates may differ from the true population values they represent.

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TABLE 1. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION ON GUAM: SEPTEMBER 2016

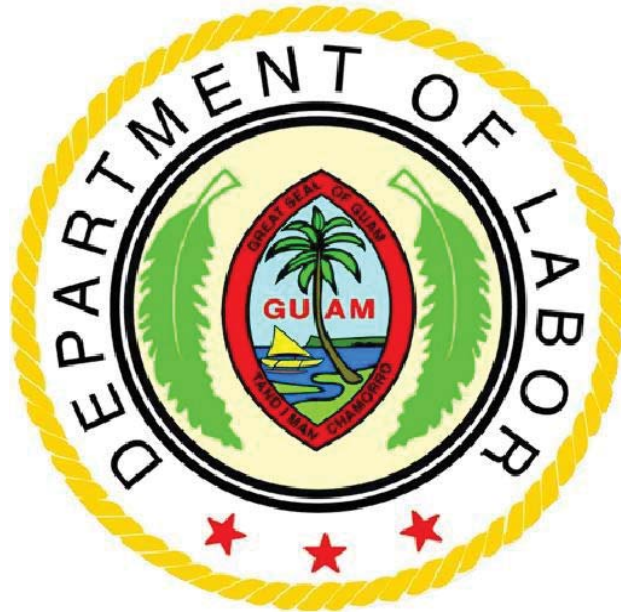
SELECTED CATEGORIES	Jun 2015	Sep 2015	Dec 2015	Mar 2016	Jun 2016	Sep 2016
Total Civilian Population						
16 years of age and over	121,270	121,480	121,600	121,770	121,970	122,170
Civilian Labor Force	70,790	69,800	73,210	69,400	71,420	71,960
Total Employed	64,670	66,670	69,660	66,600	68,650	68,050
Adult women	30,660	29,830	35,250	29,490	32,270	29,280
Adult men	32,480	34,400	33,370	35,080	34,190	37,140
Teenagers	1,530	2,440	1,040	2,030	2,190	1,630
Household Heads	24,400	25,270	28,570	25,800	24,610	24,670
Full-time workers	51,250	55,100	57,770	54,780	59,080	53,950
Part-time workers	13,420	11,570	11,890	11,820	9,570	14,100
U.S. Citizens	51,400	56,470	54,020	52,110	55,250	56,930
Immigrant aliens	13,270	10,200	15,640	14,490	13,400	11,120
Veterans	3,660	3,960	4,800	4,070	5,200	3,800
Total Unemployed	6,120	3,130	3,550	2,800	2,770	3,910
Not in the Labor Force	50,480	51,680	48,390	52,370	50,550	50,210

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES%						
All Workers	8.7	4.5	4.8	4.0	3.9	5.4
Adult women	8.2	1.7	2.9	2.1	3.7	2.3
Adult men	5.4	5.7	5.3	5.2	3.4	5.8
Teenagers	52.6	17.1	37.5	11.1	12.3	34.3
Household Heads	5.3	51.4	2.1	1.9	2.4	2.7
Full-time workers	9.9	4.9	4.2	4.4	4.0	6.8
Part-time workers	3.7	2.2	8.1	2.1	3.1	-
U.S. Citizens	8.5	3.9	3.7	4.0	4.2	5.4
Immigrants Aliens	9.3	7.0	8.5	4.2	2.2	5.8

TABLE 2. EMPLOYMENT SITUATION AND JOB DESIRE OF PERSONS OUTSIDE THE CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE AND REASON NOT SEEKING WORK: SEPTEMBER 2016

CATEGORIES	Jun 2015	Sep 2015	Dec 2015	Mar 2016	Jun 2016	Sep 2016
Not in the Labor Force	50,480	51,680	48,390	52,370	50,550	50,210
Did not want a job during survey period	39,860	46,690	43,590	48,430	45,880	46,450
Want job during survey period but did not look for work	10,620	4,990	4,800	3,940	4,670	3,760
Reasons for not looking for work:						
Believe no job available	460	300	210	250	-	-
Cannot find work	610	760	830	510	280	270
School attendance	3,390	1,810	1,460	1,270	280	1,070
Family Responsibility	2,920	2,570	2,090	640	1,920	1,610
Cannot arrange child care	2,160	150	420	250	-	-
Others	3,390	450	210	1,400	2,470	1,340

NOTES: Sum of details may not equal totals due to rounding. Respondents may list more than one reason for not looking for work. For coverage of survey and definitions, refer to EXPLANATORY NOTE.



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