

**BLS**

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
GOVERNMENT OF GUAM

**NEWS**



GEORGE A. SANTOS, *Director*  
Gary A. Hiles, *Chief Economist*

P.O. Box 9970, Tamuning, GU 96931  
Tel. No: (671) 475-7054

Release No.: 2012-007  
For Release: December 21, 2012

## **The Unemployment Situation on Guam: September 2012**

The Unemployment rate in Guam for September 2012 was 10.9 percent, a decrease of 3.1 percentage points from the June 2012 figure of 14.0 percent and a decrease of 0.9 percentage points from the March 2012 figure of 11.8 percent. Unemployment figures appear to have increased in June due to seasonal factors and decreased in September back to a level just below that recorded six months earlier.

The total number of persons unemployed in September 2012 was 7,970, a decrease of 2,220 from the previous survey of June 2012, in which 10,190 were unemployed. The decrease in unemployment is shown in most categories.

While the unemployment rate went down reflecting a decreased number of persons unemployed, the number of persons employed during the latest period shows an increase. Guam's population covered by the survey, 16 years of age and over, has also continued to show an increase from an estimated 120,910 in June 2012 to 121,140 in September 2012.

The number of persons not in the labor force increased by 140 from 48,020 in June 2012 to 48,160 in September 2012. For the September 2012 survey period, 8,190 persons in the Not in the Labor Force category indicated that they wanted a job but did not look for work for a variety of reasons.

## 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.

**Acknowledgement** is due to Nellie N. Asanuma, Research & Statistics Analyst I; Mary Ann Roman, Data Control Clerk; and to the temporary survey workers. Acknowledgment is also due to those whose cooperation and participation made this survey possible.