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NEWS



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The Unemployment Situation on Guam: March 2012

The Unemployment rate in Guam for March 2012 was 11.8 percent, a decrease of 1.5 percentage points from the March 2011 figure of 13.3 percent and an increase of 2.5 percentage points from the September 2009 figure of 9.3 percent.

The total number of persons unemployed in March 2012 was 8,060, a decrease of 1,910 from the previous survey of March 2011, in which 9,970 were unemployed. The drop in unemployment was primarily due to persons previously reported as unemployed leaving the labor force as they were no longer looking for work.

The number of persons not in the labor force increased by 7,640 from 44,770 in March 2011 to 52,410 in March 2012. For the March 2012 survey period, 10,550 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.

While the unemployment rate went down reflecting a decreased number of persons unemployed, the number of persons employed during the latest period also shows a decrease. Guam's population covered by the survey, 16 years of age and over, has continued to grow. It increased from an estimated 119,720 in March 2011 to 120,810 in March 2012.

Comparisons of the March 2011 and March 2012 periods show that the unemployment rate generally decreased for nearly all categories. The unemployment rate for Adult Men and Veterans increased slightly from 10.0 percent to 10.5 percent and 7.3 percent to 8.0 percent respectively.

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.

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TABLE 1. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION ON GUAM: MARCH 2012

SELECTED CATEGORIES	Sep 2007	Sep 2009	Mar 2011	Mar 2012
Total Civilian Population				
16 years of age and over	110,090	114,000	119,720	120,810
Civilian Labor Force	63,600	70,310	74,950	68,400
Total Employed	58,290	63,800	64,970	60,340
Adult women	24,240	27,530	29,010	28,320
Adult men	31,760	34,220	34,110	30,790
Teenagers	2,300	2,060	1,860	1,440
Household Heads	25,030	28,870	26,860	25,320
Full-time workers	51,400	55,280	54,450	50,920
Part-time workers	6,890	8,530	10,520	9,460
U.S. Citizens	43,960	48,960	51,470	47,070
Immigrant aliens	14,340	14,850	13,500	13,230
Veterans	4,200	4,150	4,150	4,350
Total Unemployed	5,310	6,510	9,970	8,060
Not in the Labor Force	46,490	43,680	44,770	52,410

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES%

All Workers	8.3	9.3	13.3	11.8
Adult women	7.8	9.1	14.8	12.0
Adult men	6.3	7.9	10.0	10.5
Teenagers	32.6	28.6	38.6	34.5
Household Heads	5.1	5.7	8.7	7.2
Full-time workers	8.1	9.2	13.4	11.9
Part-time workers	10.3	9.5	12.9	11.5
U.S. Citizens	8.0	8.1	12.4	11.0
Immigrants Aliens	9.5	12.7	16.4	14.8
Veterans	3.6	9.0	7.3	8.0

TABLE 2. EMPLOYMENT SITUATION AND JOB DESIRE OF PERSONS OUTSIDE THE CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE AND REASON NOT SEEKING WORK: MARCH 2012

CATEGORIES	Sep 2007	Sep 2009	Mar 2011	Mar 2012
Not in the Labor Force	46,490	43,680	44,770	52,410
Did not want a job during survey period	37,620	37,000	35,450	41,960
Want job during survey period but did not look for work	8,870	3,220	9,320	10,450
Reasons for not looking for work:				
Believe no job available	240	150	550	670
Cannot find work	2,850	960	1,380	1,110
School attendance	3,490	2,260	2,620	5,200
Family Responsibility	1,660	960	2,080	3,100
Cannot arrange child care	1,430	480	1,060	530
Others	1,270	1,890	2,840	1,930

NOTES: Sum of details may not equal totals due to rounding. For coverage of survey and definitions, refer to EXPLANATORY NOTE.