

James H. Underwood
Acting Director

Prepared by: Araceli S. Cruz
Administrative Assistant

Kenneth M.R. Cruz
Deputy Director

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Alan T.K. Wang
Administrator, BLS

Address: POB 9970 Tam. 96931
Phone: (671) 647-6513

THE UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION ON GUAM: MARCH 2004

The Guam Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics announced that the March 2004 unemployment rate was 7.7 percent, a decrease of 3.7 percentage points from the 11.4 percent reported in March 2002. In March 2004, the number of people employed reached 56,810, an increase of 1,830 from two years ago. Of the total employed, the immigrant aliens (PRA) category showed an increase of 3,660 people from the March 2002 report of 9,620 to 13,280 in March 2004. As reported previously, recent gains in employment are largely due to typhoon recovery construction projects and recovery from previously depressed levels.

The total number of people unemployed in March 2004 was 4,710, a decrease of 2,360 from the previous survey in March 2002 of 7,070 unemployed. The unemployment rate for all the reported categories in Table 1 declined.

Those persons not in the labor force, who were persons not employed and not actively looking for work numbered 38,260, an increase of 810 from the prior survey. Of the person not in the labor force, 5,720 desired to work but did not search for employment during the reference period for the reasons presented in Table 2.

The comparable seasonally unadjusted unemployment rate for March 2004 in the State of Hawaii was 3.5 percent and the U.S. national unemployment rate was 6.0 percent.¹

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¹ Source: State of Hawaii, Labor Area News, April 2004.

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 noninstitutional 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 week.

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 Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia, 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 who were not working but who had jobs or business from which they were temporarily 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.

TABLE 1. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION ON GUAM: MARCH 2004

SELECTED CATEGORIES	Sep 2001	Mar 2002	Mar 2004
Total Civilian Population			
16 years of age and over.....	100,470	99,500	99,780
Civilian Labor Force.....	64,800	62,050	61,520
Total Employed.....	56,040	54,980	56,810
Adult women.....	24,410	24,910	23,450
Adult men.....	29,670	28,610	31,120
Teenagers.....	1,950	1,460	2,250
Household Heads.....	23,670	24,070	23,970
Full-time workers.....	50,560	47,790	50,150
Part-time workers.....	5,490	7,190	6,660
U.S. Citizens.....	45,720	45,360	43,530
Immigrant aliens.....	10,320	9,620	13,280
Veterans.....	3,360	3,760	4,040
Total Unemployed.....	8,760	7,070	4,710
Not in the Labor Force.....	35,670	37,450	38,260
 UNEMPLOYMENT RATES:			
All Workers	13.5	11.4	7.7
Adult women.....	12.6	8.9	7.1
Adult men.....	12.6	11.9	7.1
Teenagers.....	33.9	34.8	18.9
Household Heads.....	11.5	8.8	7.1
Full-time workers.....	13.2	11.8	8.0
Part-time workers.....	15.8	8.6	5.3
U.S. Citizens.....	13.2	11.1	7.5
Immigrant Aliens.....	14.7	12.9	8.3
Veterans.....	7.5	7.9	1.8

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

TABLE 2. EMPLOYMENT SITUATION AND JOB DESIRE OF PERSONS OUTSIDE THE CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE AND REASON NOT SEEKING WORK: MARCH 2004

	SEPT 2001	MAR 2002	MAR 2004
Not in Labor Force.....	35,670	37,450	38,260
Did not want a job during survey period	28,200	30,160	32,540
Want job during survey period but did not look for work	7,470	7,290	5,720
Reasons for not looking for work:			
Believe no job available....	410	390	220
Cannot find work.....	2,680	3,140	1,650
School attendance.....	2,130	2,460	1,870
Family responsibility.....	1,440	1,260	1,230
Cannot arrange child care.....	790	450	520
Others.....	1,990	1,000	1,380

**TABLE 3. EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF CIVILIAN NONINSTITUTIONAL
POPULATION 16 YEARS & OVER BY AGE AND SEX: MARCH 2004**

	TOTAL CIVILIAN POPULATION	TOTAL		CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			NOT IN THE LABOR FORCE		
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
BOTH SEXES									
Total 16 years & above	99,780	61,520	61.7%	56,810	92.3%	4,710	7.7%	38,260	38.3%
16-17 years	5,310	560	10.5%	490	87.5%	70	12.5%	4,750	89.5%
18-19 years	4,150	2,210	53.3%	1,760	79.6%	450	20.4%	1,940	46.7%
20-24 years	10,140	6,470	63.8%	5,840	90.3%	630	9.7%	3,670	36.2%
25-34 years	17,470	13,690	78.4%	12,040	87.9%	1,650	12.1%	3,780	21.6%
35-44 years	19,970	16,190	81.1%	14,920	92.2%	1,270	7.8%	3,780	18.9%
45-59 years	25,090	17,540	69.9%	17,050	97.2%	490	2.8%	7,550	30.1%
60 years & above	17,650	4,860	27.5%	4,710	96.9%	150	3.1%	12,790	72.5%
FEMALES									
Total 16 years & above	50,450	26,630	52.8%	24,570	92.3%	2,060	7.7%	23,820	47.2%
16-17 years	2,280	340	14.9%	260	76.5%	80	23.5%	1,940	85.1%
18-19 years	2,280	1,050	46.1%	860	81.9%	190	18.1%	1,230	53.9%
20-24 years	5,460	2,770	50.7%	2,500	90.3%	270	9.7%	2,690	49.3%
25-34 years	8,760	5,820	66.4%	5,050	86.8%	770	13.2%	2,940	33.6%
35-44 years	10,170	7,110	69.9%	6,550	92.1%	560	7.9%	3,060	30.1%
45-59 years	12,300	7,630	62.0%	7,520	98.6%	110	1.4%	4,670	38.0%
60 years & above	9,200	1,910	20.8%	1,830	95.8%	80	4.2%	7,290	79.2%
MALES									
Total 16 years & above	49,330	34,890	70.7%	32,240	92.4%	2,650	7.6%	14,440	29.3%
16-17 years	3,030	220	7.3%	220	100.0%	0	0.0%	2,810	92.7%
18-19 years	1,870	1,160	62.0%	900	77.6%	260	22.4%	710	38.0%
20-24 years	4,680	3,700	79.1%	3,330	90.0%	370	10.0%	980	20.9%
25-34 years	8,710	7,850	90.1%	6,990	89.0%	860	11.0%	860	9.9%
35-44 years	9,800	9,090	92.8%	8,380	92.2%	710	7.8%	710	7.2%
45-59 years	12,790	9,910	77.5%	9,540	96.3%	370	3.7%	2,880	22.5%
60 years & above	8,450	2,960	35.0%	2,880	97.3%	80	2.7%	5,490	65.0%