

Current Labor Force Survey  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
Second Quarter, 1999

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Department of Commerce  
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# Contents

Foreword .....	3
Introduction and Acknowledgement .....	4
Summary .....	5
Conclusion: Second Quarter vs First Quarter, 1999 .....	9
Table 1. Age by Usual Residence, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	10
Table 2. Ethnicity by Usual Residence, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	12
Table 3. Place of Birth by Usual Residence, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	14
Table 4. Citizenship and Year of Entry and Reason for Migration by Usual Residence, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	16
Table 4A. Female Citizenship and Year of Entry and Reason for Migration by Usual Residence, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	18
Table 5. School Enrollment and Educational Attainment by Usual Residence, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	20
Table 6. Labor Force Characteristics by Usual Residence, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	22
Table 7. Occupation, Industry, and Class of Worker by Usual Residence, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	24
Table 7A. Female Occupation, Industry, and Class of Worker by Usual Residence, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	26
Table 8. Work Status in Last Quarter by Usual Residence, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	28
Table 9. Income in Last Quarter by Usual Residence, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	30
Table 11. Age and Marital Status by Village of Residence, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	32
Table 12. Ethnicity by Village of Usual Residence, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	34
Table 13. Place of Birth by Village of Usual Residence, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	36
Table 14. Citizenship and Year of Entry by Village of Usual Residence, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	38
Table 14A. Female Citizenship and Year of Entry by Village of Usual Residence, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	40
Table 15. School Enrollment and Educational Attainment by Village of Usual Residence, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	42
Table 16. Labor Force Characteristics by Village of Usual Residence, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	44
Table 17. Occupation, Industry, and Class of Worker by Village, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	46
Table 17A. Female Occupation, Industry, and Class of Worker by Village, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	48
Table 18. Work Status in Last Quarter by Village of Usual Residence, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	50
Table 19. Income in Last Quarter by Village of Usual Residence, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	52
Table 21. Age and Marital Status by Birthplace and Island, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	54
Table 22. Ethnicity by Age, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	55
Table 23. Birthplace by Age, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	56
Table 24. Citizenship and Year of Entry and Reason for Migration by Age, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	57
Table 24A. Female Citizenship and Year of Entry and Reason for Migration by Age, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	58
Table 25. School Enrollment and Educational Attainment by Age: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	59
Table 26. Labor Force Characteristics by Age, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	60
Table 26A. Labor Force Characteristics by Educational Attainment, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	61
Table 26B. US Citizen Labor Force Characteristics by Age, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	62
Table 26C. Non-US Citizen Labor Force Characteristics by Age, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	63
Table 27. Occupation, Industry, and Class of Worker by Age, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	64
Table 27A. Female Occupation, Industry, and Class of Worker by Age, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	65
Table 28. Work Status in Last Quarter by Age, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	66
Table 29. Income in Last Quarter of Households and Families by Age of Householder, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	67
Table 31. Age and Marital Status by Place of Birth, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	68
Table 32. Ethnicity by Birthplace, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	69
Table 34. Citizenship and Year of Entry and Reason for Migration by Birthplace, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	70
Table 34A. Female Citizenship and Year of Entry and Reason for Migration by Birthplace, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	71
Table 35. School Enrollment and Educational Attainment by Birthplace, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	72
Table 35A. US Citizen School Enrollment and Educational Attainment by Birthplace, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	73

Table 35B.	Non-US Citizen School Enrollment and Educational Attainment by Birthplace, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	74
Table 36.	Labor Force Characteristics by Place of Birth, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	75
Table 36A.	US Citizen Labor Force Characteristics by Place of Birth, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	76
Table 36B.	Non-US Citizen Labor Force Characteristics by Place of Birth, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	77
Table 37.	Occupation, Industry, and Class of Worker by Birthplace, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	78
Table 37A.	Female Occupation, Industry, and Class of Worker by Birthplace, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	79
Table 37B.	US Citizen Occupation, Industry, and Class of Worker by Birthplace, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	80
Table 37C.	Non-US Citizen Occupation, Industry, and Class of Worker by Birthplace, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	81
Table 38.	Work Status in Last Quarter by Place of Birth, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	82
Table 39.	Income in Last Quarter by Birthplace of Householder, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	83
Table 41.	Age and Marital Status by Ethnicity, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	84
Table 44.	Citizenship and Year of Entry and Reason for Migration by Ethnicity, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	85
Table 44A.	Female Citizenship and Year of Entry and Reason for Migration by Ethnicity, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	86
Table 45.	School Enrollment and Educational Attainment by Ethnicity, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	87
Table 46.	Labor Force Characteristics by Ethnicity, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	88
Table 46A.	US Citizen Labor Force Characteristics by Ethnicity, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	89
Table 46B.	Non-US Citizen Labor Force Characteristics by Ethnicity, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	90
Table 47.	Occupation, Industry, and Class of Worker by Ethnicity, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	91
Table 47A.	Female Occupation, Industry, and Class of Worker by Ethnicity, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	92
Table 48.	Work Status in Last Quarter by Ethnicity, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	93
Table 49.	Income in Last Quarter of Households and Families by Ethnicity of Householder, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	94
Table 51.	Hourly Wages for Occupation, Industry, and Class of Worker by Ethnicity, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	95
Table 51A.	Female Hourly Wages for Occupation, Industry, and Class of Worker by Ethnicity, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	96
Table 52.	Hourly Wages for Occupation, Industry, and Class of Worker by Birthplace, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	97
Table 52A.	Female Hourly Wages for Occupation, Industry, and Class of Worker by Birthplace, CNMI: 2nd Quarter, 1999, Saipan with GQs .....	98
Appendix I	Background, Purpose, and Methodology of the CNMI Current Labor Force Survey .....	99
Appendix II	Variables and Definitions .....	106

## INTRODUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This report contains the results of the Current Labor Force Survey (CLFS), Second Quarter (April to June), 1999, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The report begins with a summary of results of the survey with comparison of the Second Quarter to the First Quarter, 1999. The detailed results of the survey are shown in the tables that make up the body of the report. Appendix I discuss the purpose and methodology of the Survey. And Appendix II describes variables used in the Survey.

This report was prepared by Mr. Wilhelm Maui and the staff of the Central Statistics Division (CSD), Department of Commerce, CNMI, led by Mr. Juan S. Borja, the former Director, and Mr. Isidro R. Ogarto, current Acting Director, under the general direction of Mr. Frank Villeneuve, Secretary of Commerce.

Mr. Justin Andrew, Mr. Paul Andrew, Ms. Bernie Dela Cruz, Mr. Ignacio Teregeyo, Mr. Andrew Salas, and Mr. John Blanco supervised data collection activities for the periodic Labor Force Surveys that started in June, 1996. Mr. Jesse R. Aguon of CSD and Mr. Michael Stroot and Mr. Michael Levin of the US Census Bureau's International Programs Center (IPC) prepared the tabulations. Mr. Diego Sasamoto assisted in final table presentation for the surveys. Ms. Tina Sakisat assisted in formatting tables from IMPS into PageMaker. Administrative Officer Ms. Bernadita Palacios, and staff of the Administrative Services Office, coordinated publication planning and procurement for publications.

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## SURVEY RESULTS SUMMARY

The following is a summary of the results of the CNMI Current Labor force Survey, Second Quarter (April to June), 1999, also referred to as round 7.

### GENERAL POPULATION

*Population.* The estimated population on Saipan Island in the Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands in the second quarter, 1999, was 70,672 (Table 1). About 63,000 persons lived in Census Bureau-defined “urban” areas – places of 2,500 or more – and about 8,000 lived in rural areas. Since Saipan was the only island included in Round 7 of the Current Labor Force Survey, no counts are provided for Rota or Tinian.

By Census-defined Districts within Saipan, District 11 had the highest estimated population (18,978) followed by District 10 (17,215), District 6 (13,119), District 8 (7,879). Although District 2, 3, 4, and 5 had relatively smaller populations as individual Districts, they are small contiguous densely populated Districts (Table 1).

The Census Districts are based on 1980 established boundaries where, Districts 1, 2, 3, 4 are Chalan Kanoa, District 5 is Susupe, District 6 is San Antonio-Afetna-Kobleville, District 7 is San Jose-Chalan Laulau, District 8 is Tanapag-Capitol Hill-As Teo-Kagman, District 9 is San Roque-As Matus-Marpi, and District 10 is Kagman-Papago-San Vicente-Dandan, and District 11 is Garapan-China Town-Navy Hill-Puerto Rico-Sadog Tasi.

*Median age.* The estimated median age of Saipan’s population in the Second Quarter, 1999, was 28.2 years – half the population was older than 28.2 years, and half was younger.

Median ages for Chamorros (21.8), Carolinians (21.8) and Micronesians were lower than the median age for Asians (30.5). The Asians were concentrated in the higher age groups compared to Chamorros, Carolonians, and Micronesians. The main reason for this was that most Asians were in ages between 20 and 54 who came into the CNMI for employment (Table 22).

*Sex ratio.* Saipan had more than 37,000 females and more than 33,000 males, a surplus of over 4,000 females. The sex ratio, the number of males for each 100 females, was 89.8. The median age for females at 27.4 years, was somewhat younger than the median for the whole population, so the median age for males was slightly higher.

*Ethnicity.* The largest ethnic group on Saipan in the second quarter, 1999, was Asians with almost 40,000 persons (56 percent of the total Saipan population) (Table 2). Among Asians, Filipinos were largest, at almost 21,000, followed by Chinese/Taiwanese with 12,500. The largest islander group was Chamorros (15,000, less than 1/4<sup>th</sup> of the total population.) More than 11,000 males were Filipino (about 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of all males) and 7,300 were Chamorros. Chinese/Taiwanese and Filipinos females had about equal numbers, about 10,000 each, followed by Chamorros (about 7,300). Asians clearly outnumbered Islanders between ages 20 to 54. However, Filipinos was the second largest ethnic group in age groups below 20 years of age, second to Chamorro (Table 22).

Chamorros were concentrated geographically in Districts 6, 8, 10, and 11. Carolinians were in Districts 6, 7, 8, and 10. Asians were concentrated in Districts 5, 6, 8, 10, and 11 (Table 2).

*Birthplace.* The Current Labor Force Survey collects birthplace data only for persons 15 years and over. In Second Quarter, 1999, about 12,000 persons had been born in the CNMI, about 22 percent of the adult population; hence, more than 3/4<sup>th</sup> of the adults were born outside the CNMI (Table 3). About 35,000 persons were born in Asia – 64 percent of the adult population – and 3,000 were born in the Freely Associated States (Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, and the Marshall Islands).

*Citizenship.* More than 30,000 (43 percent) of the estimated population on Saipan in the Second Quarter, 1999, were United States citizens (Table 4). Of the 40,000 non-US citizens, about 35,000 reported themselves as temporary residents (about half of all of Saipan's population). Of the US Citizens, 14,300 (47%) were Chamorros, followed by Filipinos 3,700 (12 percent), Carolinians 2,188 (7 percent). Of the non-US citizens, 42 percent were Filipinos, 30 percent were Chinese, 10 percent were Micronesians (Table 44).

Median age for US citizens (16.3) was lower than for Non-US citizens (31.4), that is, the US citizen population was relatively younger than the Non-US population. The main reason for the difference is that most Non-US citizens were in ages between 20 and 54 and came to the CNMI for employment. On the other hand, US citizens included children and persons below 20 years of age, bringing down the median age for US citizens (Table 24).

*Year of entry.* Year of entry was collected for persons 15 years and over. As noted above, 22 percent of the adults were born in the CNMI. Of the 42,000 adults born outside CNMI, almost half came to the CNMI between 1997 and 1999. Another 13,000 came earlier in the decade. As would be expected, 38,000 of the 42,000 (91 percent) were non-U.S. citizens (Table 4).

*Reason for migration.* About 34,000 (81 percent) of the 42,000 non-CNMI born adults immigrants came to the CNMI for "employment". Smaller numbers came for "business", as family members of an employed person, or as students (Table 4).

## **LABOR FORCE POPULATION**

*Labor Force participation.* An estimated 44,000 persons, about 84 percent of the persons 16 years and over were in the labor force in the Second Quarter, 1999. Over 42,000 were employed, while only 2,000 were unemployed (5 percent). For females, the percentage in the labor force was (81 percent), lower than males labor force participation of 87 percent.

*Labor Force Participation by Citizenship.* Labor force participation rate for non-US citizens (92 percent) was higher than US citizens rate (65 percent). Labor force participation rate for Non-US citizens was also higher than US citizens across all age groups (Table 26 & 36). This is mainly because Non-US citizens in the CNMI came for employment.

*Labor Force Participation by Ethnicity.* Chinese had the highest labor force participation rate (98 percent), followed by Filipinos (93 percent) and other Asians (79 percent). Micronesians (76

percent), Chamorros (63 percent), and Carolinians (50 percent) had comparatively lower labor force participation rates (Table 46).

*Labor Force Participation by Birthplace.* Persons born in Asian countries had higher labor force participation rates than those born in the FAS and the CNMI (Table 36).

*Employment.* An estimated 42,000 persons were employed in Saipan in the Second Quarter, 1999. Majority of employed persons were within ages 20 and 54 with age-group 25 to 29 being the largest (Table 27).

*Employment by Citizenship.* About 80 percent of all employed persons were non-US citizens while 20 percent were US citizens, a ratio of four to one (Table 26).

*Employment by Ethnicity.* About 36 percent of all persons employed were Filipinos, 28 percent were Chinese, 11 percent were Chamorros, less than 2 percent were Carolinians, about 6 percent were Micronesians (Table 46).

*Employment by Birthplace.* Over 75 percent of the 42,000 employed persons were born in Asia countries, 14 percent were born in the CNMI, and about 6 percent were born in the Micronesian islands (Table 36).

*Employment by Industry.* In terms of number of workers, the largest industry was “manufacturing” (35 percent) followed by “Services” industry (26 percent), “Retail trade” (16 percent), “Transportation, communication & other utility” (7 percent), “Construction” (7 percent), “Public Administration” (5 percent). The survey showed total females outnumber total males employed in Saipan in the Second Quarter, 1999. About half of the 21,900 employed females were in “manufacturing”, 23 percent were in “Services”, 15 percent were in “Retail Trade”. Twenty-nine percent of all employed males were in the “Services” industry, 17 percent were in “Manufacturing”, 16 percent were in “Retail Trade”, and 13 percent were in “Construction”.

In all major industries, except “Public Administration”, Non-US Citizens constituted the majority of total workers. Also, in all major industries, except “Public Administration”, persons born in Asia constituted the majority of total workers (Table 37).

Filipinos outnumbered all other ethnic groups across all industries except in “Manufacturing” and “Public administration”. Chinese constituted 75 percent of all persons in “Manufacturing” while Chamorros was the largest (56 percent) ethnic group in “Public administration” (Table 47).

*Employment by Occupation.* The largest number of workers (37 percent) were “operators, fabricators, and laborers”, followed by “managerial and professional specialties” (18 percent), “Service” occupations (17 percent), “Technical, sales, and administrative support” (16 percent), “precision production, craft and repair” (10 percent), and “Farming, forestry, and fishing” (2 percent).

Non-US Citizens constituted the majority of total workers in all major occupational groups. Also, in all major occupational groups, persons born in Asia constituted the majority of total workers (Table 37).

Filipinos outnumbered all other ethnic groups across all occupation groups except in “Operators, fabricator, and laborers” where Chinese constituted 66 percent (Table 47).

*Employment by Class of worker.* About 87 percent of all employed persons were in “private for wage and salary workers”, 10 percent were “government workers”, and over 2 percent were “self-employed”. Half of the 8,500 US citizens employed in Saipan were working for “private for wage and salary”, 44 percent were in “government”, about 5 percent were self-employed. Ninety-six percent of 33,600 employed Non-US citizens were in “private for wage and salary” and only 3 percent were in government or self-employed (Table 37).

*Unemployment.* An estimated 2,000 persons were unemployed in Saipan in the Second Quarter, 1999, or an unemployment rate of 4.8 percent. Unemployment was relatively higher in lower and higher age groups while relatively lower in middle age groups. Female unemployment rate of 4.9 percent is slightly higher than the male unemployment rate of 4.6 percent (Table 26).

*Unemployment by Citizenship.* The unemployment rate for non-US citizens (3 percent) was much lower than U.S citizens (13 percent). Unemployed US citizens were in younger age groups, with median age of 25.5 years old, compared to unemployed Non-US citizens whose median age was 30.7 years old. Unemployed US citizens were more likely to be young persons entering the labor force for the first time while unemployed non-US citizens were likely to be displaced or other migrant workers in relatively older age groups (Table 26).

*Unemployment by Ethnicity.* Filipinos (2 percent) and Chinese (less than 1 percent) had lower unemployment rates than Micronesians (20 percent), Chamorros (13 percent), and Carolinians (18 percent). Of the estimated 2,000 unemployed, 695 were Chamorros, 470 were Micronesians, 327 were Filipinos, and 143 were Carolinians (Table 46).

*Unemployment by Birthplace.* The unemployment rate of CNMI born was (15 percent), Palau (13), FSM (21 percent), were higher than persons born in Asia (less than 2 percent)--born in Philippines (2 percent), China (less than 1 percent), Guam/US (7 percent). Of the estimated 2,000 unemployed persons, about 1,000 were born in the CNMI, 400 were born in Asia, and 400 were born in FSM (Table 25).

## INCOME

*Household income.* The median household income for the quarter before the survey (First Quarter, January to March, 1999) was \$18,500 when annualized. To obtain the annualized income, the recorded quarterly income was multiplied by 4. The median income is midpoint for all households’ incomes – half of the CNMI households earned more than the median, and half earned less. The mean household income during the First Quarter, 1999, was \$27,000, considerably more than the median household income. The mean income was higher because means are the averages obtained by aggregating all income, and then dividing by the total number of households. Hence, the mean income is more affected by outliers, particularly those few households with very large incomes because of land rentals or large businesses.



*Family income.* Family incomes tend to be higher than household incomes because families must have related members. Hence, a single person could be a household, but not a family. The annualized median family income for the First Quarter, 1999, was \$21,000, about \$8,000 less than the mean family income of \$29,000.

*Individual income.* The more than 16,000 adult males with income in the CNMI in the First Quarter, 1999 had an annualized median income of about \$9,000 – about \$4.50 per hour. Of these, more than 82 percent worked year-round and full-time, and earned a median income of about \$9,300. The 13,000 adult females with income had a median income of about \$7,200, almost \$2,000 less than the males. About 80 percent worked year-round full-time, and they made a median annual income of about \$7,300.

*Per capita income.* Per capita income is obtained by aggregating all income for a group, and dividing by all the members (including children and aged) of the group. The annualized per capita income for the CNMI for the First Quarter, 1999, was \$7,000.

*Type of income.* As would be expected, most income in the CNMI is wage and salary income. More than 90 percent of the households had earnings. The mean earnings was about \$26,500, with self-employed having somewhat higher mean income (\$28,600) than wage and salary workers. Only 2,300 households reported “other” income, with an average mean earnings of less than \$14,000.

### **CONCLUSION: SECOND QUARTER vs FIRST QUARTER, 1999**

This conclusion compares the results of the Second Quarter Survey with the results of the First Quarter, 1999.

Saipan’s Second Quarter estimated population (70,700) was lower than the First Quarter, 1999 (71,800). Labor force participation rate in the Second (83.9 percent) was slightly lower than the First Quarter’s (84.7 percent) and unemployment rate in the Second (4.8 percent) was slightly lower than the First Quarter’s (5.1 percent). The total number of persons employed in the Second Quarter (about 42,000) was lower than the First Quarter’s (43,600). Industries that showed lower number of workers in the Second from the First Quarter include “Manufacturing”, “Services”, “Construction” and “Public administration”. Median and mean household and family incomes reported in the Second Quarter were lower than incomes reported in the First Quarter.

The decline in the estimated population and number of persons employed in Saipan was due to lower number of workers counted in Group Quarters: in the First quarter there were over 17,000 persons counted in Group Quarters, but only about 15,000 in the Second Quarter.