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THE UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION ON GUAM: MARCH 2002

Guam's unemployment rate for March 2002 was 11.4 percent, a decrease of 2.1 percentage points from the 13.5 percent reported in September 2001. Compared to a year ago at 13.0, Guam's unemployment rate decreased by 1.6 percentage point. While the number of persons employed declined, the decrease in the unemployment rate was attributed to a declining population size and labor force as people shifted into the "out of the labor force category." Compared to the September 2001 report, part-time workers showed a 31.0 percent increase from 5,490 part-time workers to 7,190 this March 2002. The reduction in full-time employment is due to reduced business activity.

Total employment declined from the 56,040 persons that were reported in September 2001 to 54,980 in March 2002. This drop in employment figures can be attributed to the categories of adult men declining by 1,060 (3.6 percent) and teenagers by 490 workers (25.1 percent).

The total number unemployed in March 2002 was 7,070, a decrease of 1,690 job seekers from the previous survey of 8,760 job seekers. Despite fewer jobs available, the number unemployed also declined due to population reduction and persons leaving the labor force.

Those persons not in the labor force, who were persons not employed and not actively looking for work numbered 37,450. Of this figure, 7,290 desired to work but did not search for employment during the reference period. Reasons for those not seeking employment are presented in Table 2.

The unemployment rate for March 2002 in the State of Hawaii was 4.3 percent and the U.S. national unemployment rate was 6.1 percent.¹

¹ Source: State of Hawaii, Labor Area News, April 2002.