



## TAIWAN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DECREASES

The unemployment rate in Taiwan fell for the sixth consecutive month as exporters hired more people to meet increased international demand for the nation's products.

Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co, the nation's biggest company by market value, said that it would hire 2,400 full-time employees to replace contract workers, in addition to the 3,000 engineers it plans to take on this year. AU Optronics Corp., the second largest maker of liquid-crystal displays also announced its plans to build two plants in Central Taiwan to make television panels in addition to hiring 2,500 new employees this year.

Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou is presently negotiating a trade accord with China that will cut import duties on Taiwanese goods in the world's fastest growing major economy. This proposed agreement is expected to attract foreign investments and create jobs.

The Ministry of Economic Affairs also announced that Taiwan's export orders rose 36.25% in February. This is the fifth consecutive monthly increase as the global recovery fuels demand for computers, mobile phones and television screens.

The number of unemployed in Taiwan has decreased from 631,000 in January to 623,000 in March 2010.