



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

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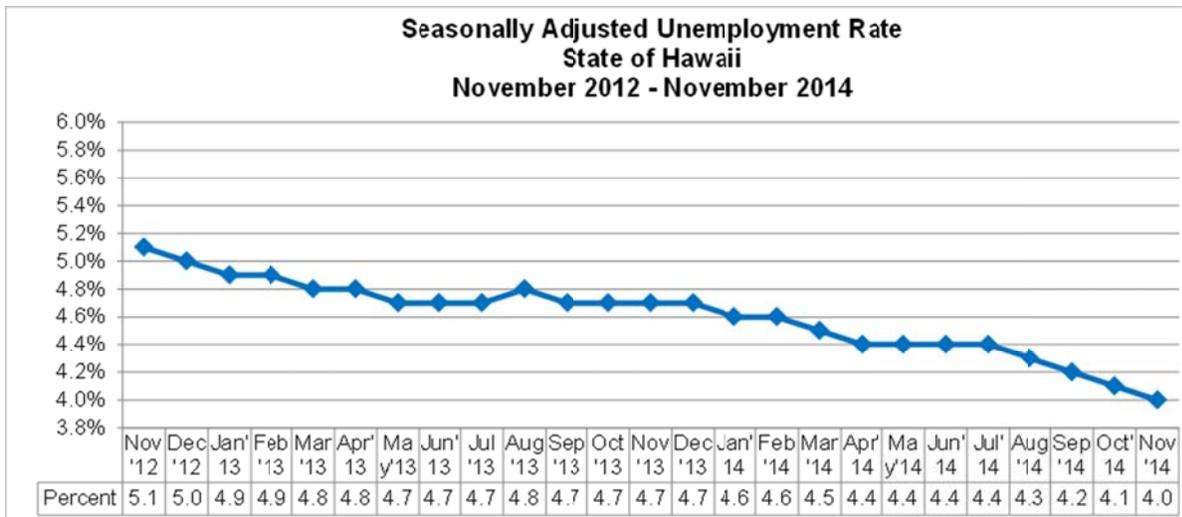
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dec. 18, 2014

HAWAII'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DROPS TO 4.0 PERCENT IN NOVEMBER

Jobs Increase 5,400 in November over October

HONOLULU — the Hawaii State Department of Labor & Industrial Relations (DLIR) today announced that the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for November was 4.0 percent, down from 4.1 percent in October. Statewide, 642,850 were employed and 27,000 unemployed in November for a total seasonally adjusted labor force of 669,850. The labor force has grown by 17,000 during the past year. Nationally, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.8 percent in November.



Both initial claims and weeks claimed decreased by 226 or -14.0% and 2,215 or -19.8% respectively for unemployment benefits compared to one year ago. Over-the-month, both initial claims and weeks claimed also decreased by -8.6% and -1.0% from October 2014.

The unemployment rate figures for the State of Hawaii and the U.S. in this release are seasonally adjusted, in accordance with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) methodology. The not seasonally adjusted rate for the State was 4.0 percent in November, down from 4.2 percent in October.

State of Hawaii Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Data**			
	Nov 2014	Oct 2014	Nov 2013*
Labor Force	669,850	667,750	652,400
Employment	642,850	640,150	621,750
Unemployment	27,000	27,600	30,700

* benchmarked data

**totals may not add due to rounding

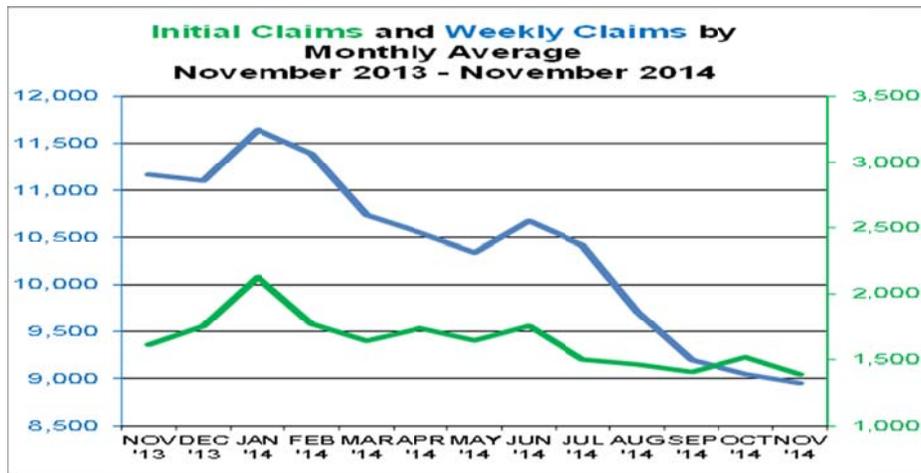
	NOV 2014	OCT 2014	NOV* 2013
<u>Seasonally Adjusted</u>			
STATE	4.0	4.1	4.7
U. S.	5.8	5.8	7.0
<u>Not Seasonally Adjusted</u>			
STATE	4.0	4.2	4.7
HONOLULU	3.8	3.9	4.3
HAWAII COUNTY	5.1	5.2	6.3
KAUAI	4.6	4.7	5.7
MAUI COUNTY	4.2	4.3	5.1
Maui Island	3.9	4.0	5.0
Molokai	14.2	13.8	7.7
Lanai	1.9	2.9	4.5
U. S.	5.5	5.5	6.6

county & island rates are not seasonally adjusted

* benchmarked data

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey)

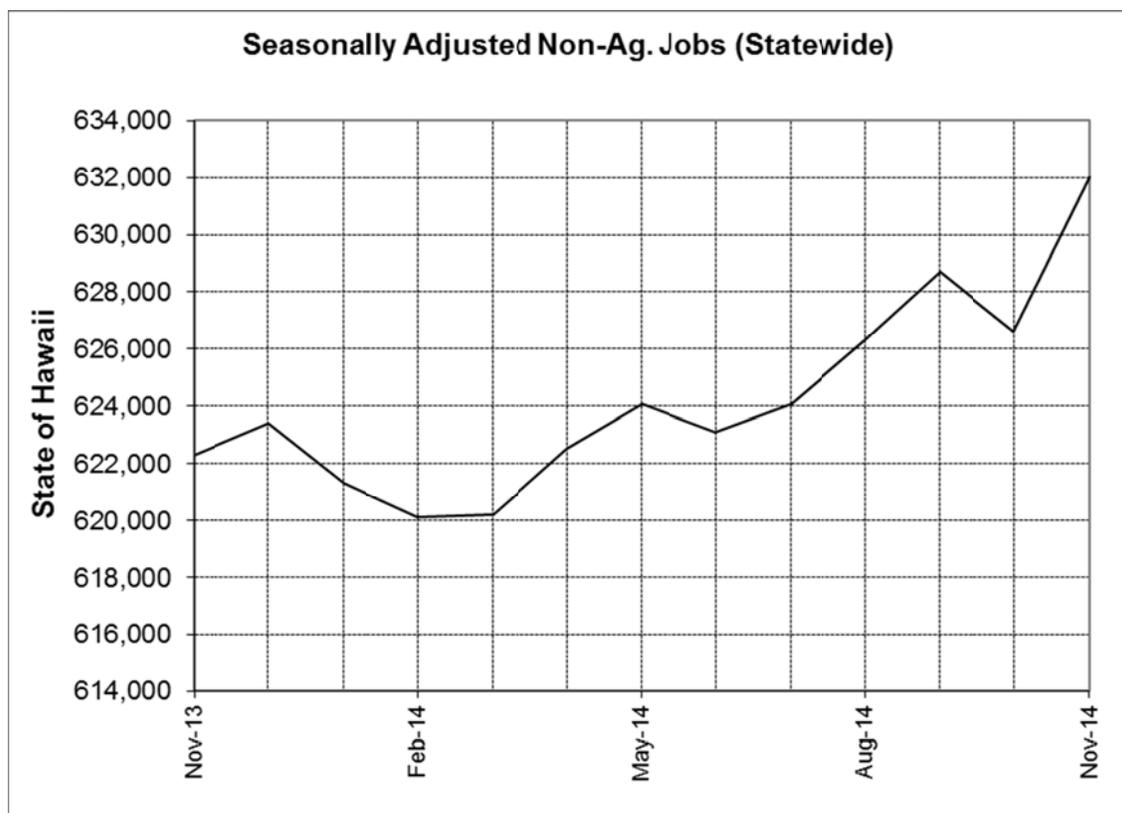
In another measure of employment, total seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs increased by 5,400 in November over October. Within the major industry sectors, there were employment gains in Professional & Business Services (+1,600), Financial Activities (+700), Educational & Health Services (+400), Other Services (+300), and Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (+100). Within Professional & Business Services, most of the job addition was in Administrative & Waste Services. Over-the-month job losses occurred in Manufacturing (-100), Leisure & Hospitality (-400), and Construction (-700). Hiring of temporary workers for the general election was the principal reason for a rise of 3,300 jobs in Government. Compared with one year ago, there has been an expansion of 9,700 nonagricultural jobs.



Seasonally Adjusted Non-Ag. Jobs (Statewide)

SELECTED SERIES:	Nov-14	Oct-14	Nov-13*
MINING, LOGGING & CONSTRUCTION	30,000	30,700	30,700
MANUFACTURING	13,600	13,700	13,700
Non-Durable Goods	9,500	9,600	10,000
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES	118,000	117,900	118,600
Wholesale Trade	18,400	18,300	18,000
Retail Trade	69,400	68,700	71,000
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	28,200	27,500	27,300
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	12,400	12,000	12,000
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	84,200	82,600	80,000
Professional, Scientific, Tech Svcs	25,000	24,700	24,000
Mgmt of Companies & Enterprises	8,800	8,600	8,400
Administrative & Support & Waste Mgmt	50,400	49,300	47,600
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	81,000	80,600	79,200
Educational Services	15,400	15,500	15,400
Health Care & Social Assistance	65,600	65,100	63,800
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	114,600	115,000	111,400
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	12,200	12,100	11,700
Accommodation & Food Services	102,400	102,900	99,700
OTHER SERVICES	26,200	25,900	26,800
GOVERNMENT	127,900	124,600	125,800
Federal Government	33,300	33,100	33,600
State Government	75,900	72,800	73,400
Local Government	18,700	18,700	18,800
TOTAL: STATEWIDE	632,000	626,600	622,300

*Benchmarked Data



Technical Notes

Seasonal Adjustment

The seasonal fluctuations in the number of employed and unemployed persons reflect hiring and layoff patterns that accompany regular events such as the winter holiday season and the summer vacation season. These variations make it difficult to tell whether month-to-month changes in employment and unemployment are due to normal seasonal patterns or to changing economic conditions. Therefore, the BLS uses a statistical technique called seasonal adjustment to address these issues. This technique uses the history of the labor force data and the job count data to identify the seasonal movements and to calculate the size and direction of these movements. A seasonal adjustment factor is then developed and applied to the estimates to eliminate the effects of regular seasonal fluctuations on the data. Seasonally adjusted statistical series enable more meaningful data comparisons between months or with an annual average.

Current Population (Household) Survey (CPS)

A survey conducted for employment status in the week that includes the 12th day of each month generates the unemployment rate statistics, which is a separate survey from the Establishment Survey that yields the industry job counts. The CPS survey contacts approximately 1,000 households in Hawaii to determine an individual's current employment status. Employed persons consist of: 1) all persons who did any work for pay or profit during the survey reference week, 2) all persons who did at least 15 hours of unpaid work in a family-owned enterprise operated by someone in their household, and 3) all persons who were temporarily absent from

their regular jobs, whether they were paid or not. Persons considered unemployed are ones that do not have a job, have actively looked for work in the prior four weeks and are available for work. Temporarily laid off workers are counted as unemployed, whether they have engaged in a specific job seeking activity. Persons not in the labor force are those who are not classified as employed or unemployed during the survey reference week.

Benchmark Changes to Local Area Unemployment Statistics Data

Revisions to the 2013 labor force estimates included incorporating updated inputs, updated population controls, re-estimation of models, and adjustment to new division and national control totals. The updated population controls reflect the annual updating of population estimates by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Change to Monthly Employment Estimates

This release incorporates revised job count figures from 1990 through 2013 for the seasonally adjusted series. The reconstructed data reflects data from historical corrections applied to unadjusted supersector or sector level series. For years, analysts with the State DLIR's Research and Statistics Office have developed monthly employment estimates for Hawaii and our metropolitan areas. These estimates were based on a monthly survey of Hawaii businesses and analysts' knowledge about our local economies. Beginning with the production of preliminary estimates for March 2011, responsibility for the production of State and metropolitan area (MSA) estimates was transitioned from individual state agencies to the U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

For Hawaii, this means the transition of statewide and Honolulu MSA areas. State agencies will continue to provide the BLS with information on local events that may affect the estimates, such as strikes or large layoffs/hiring at businesses not covered by the survey and to disseminate and analyze the Current Employment Statistics (CES) estimates for local data users. BLS feels this change is designed to improve the cost efficiency of the CES program and to reduce the potential bias in state and area estimates. A portion of the cost savings generated by this change is slated to be directed towards raising survey response rates in future years, which will decrease the level of statistical error in the CES estimates. Until then, state analysts feel this change could result in increased month-to-month variability for the industry employment numbers particularly for Hawaii's counties and islands.

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force and Unemployment Estimates for Honolulu

Effective with the release of metropolitan area data for May 2011, the BLS is publishing smoothed seasonally adjusted civilian labor force and unemployment estimates for all metropolitan areas, which includes the City and County of Honolulu. BLS releases this data each month in the *Metropolitan Area Employment and Unemployment* news release. The schedule is available at <http://www.bls.gov/lau/lausched.htm>.

Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization

Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization for States, Fourth Quarter of 2013 through Third Quarter of 2014 Averages.

Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization for US and Hawaii, Fourth Quarter of 2013 through Third Quarter of 2014 Averages

(percent)

State	Measure					
	U-1	U-2	U-3	U-4	U-5	U-6
United States	3.3	3.3	6.5	6.9	7.8	12.5
Hawaii	2.2	1.9	4.7	5.2	6.0	10.8

The six alternative labor underutilization state measures based on the Current Population Survey (CPS) and compiled on a 4-quarter moving average basis defined:

U-1, persons unemployed 15 weeks or longer, as a percent of the civilian labor force;

U-2, job losers and persons who completed temporary jobs, as a percent of the civilian labor force;

U-3, total unemployed, as a percent of the civilian labor force (this is the definition used for the official unemployment rate);

U-4, total unemployed plus discouraged workers, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus discouraged workers;

U-5, total unemployed, plus discouraged workers, plus all other marginally attached workers*, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus all marginally attached workers; and

U-6, total unemployed, plus all marginally attached workers, plus total employed part time for economic reasons, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus all marginally attached workers.

* Individuals who want, and are available for work, and who have looked for a job sometime in the prior 12 months (or since the end of their last job if they held one within the past 12 months), but were not counted as unemployed because they had not searched for work in the four weeks preceding the survey, for such reasons as child care or transportation problems, for example. Discouraged workers are a subset of the marginally attached.

Note that, the state unemployment rates (U-3) that are shown are derived directly from the CPS. As a result, these U-3 measures may differ from the official state unemployment rates for the latest 4-quarter period. The latter are estimates developed from statistical models that incorporate CPS estimates, as well as input data from other sources, such as state unemployment claims data.

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.
TTY/TTD (808) 586-8844

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<http://labor.hawaii.gov/blog/category/news/>

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January 12, 2015

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January 2, 2015

TO: All staff at the Department of Labor & Industrial Relations

FROM: Dwight Takamine, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations

SUBJECT: Message from the Director

First of all, Happy New Year, and I hope everyone enjoyed a joyous and safe Holiday Season. Thank you again, for your collective efforts to move the Department forward in 2014. As we look ahead at 2015, I hope it will be full of new opportunities for you and your families, and that your dedication and hard work will continue to pay off, for the community that we serve - and for the Department that we work for.

As of January 2nd, Jade Butay will be working as Administrative Deputy for the State Department of Transportation. I will be continuing in my role until January 31st, 2015, and we will keep you informed of any further adjustments. Good Luck and Best Wishes in the Year of the Ram!



(<http://labor.hawaii.gov>)

State of Hawaii

Home (<http://labor.hawaii.gov/>) » News (<http://labor.hawaii.gov/blog/category/news/>) » Minimum Wage to Increase to \$7.75 in 2015

Posted on Dec 24, 2014 in News (<http://labor.hawaii.gov/blog/category/news/>)

HONOLULU — The Hawaii State Department of Labor & Industrial Relations (DLIR) today announced that per Act 82, Session Laws of Hawaii (2014), the minimum wage for most employers will increase to \$7.75 per hour beginning on January 1, 2015.

“This increase will boost consumer demand and jobs because minimum and low-wage workers spend most if not all of their increased wages and therefore will generate economic activity and contribute to Hawaii’s strengthening economy,” said DLIR Director Dwight Takamine.

The minimum wage will rise to \$8.50 per hour on January 1, 2016, \$9.25 per hour on January 1, 2017, and \$10.10 per hour on January 1, 2018. Tipped employees may be paid 50 cents below the minimum wage beginning on January 1, 2015 and 75 cents below the minimum wage beginning on January 1, 2016 as long as the combined amount the employee receives from the employee’s employer and tips is at least \$7.00 more than the minimum wage.

Hawaii’s unemployment rate was 4 percent in October while the record labor force included 669,850 individuals.

For more information about minimum wage and tip credit, please visit:

<http://labor.hawaii.gov/wsd/minimum-wage/>

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

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