



**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
GOVERNOR

**ELAINE N. YOUNG**  
ACTING DIRECTOR

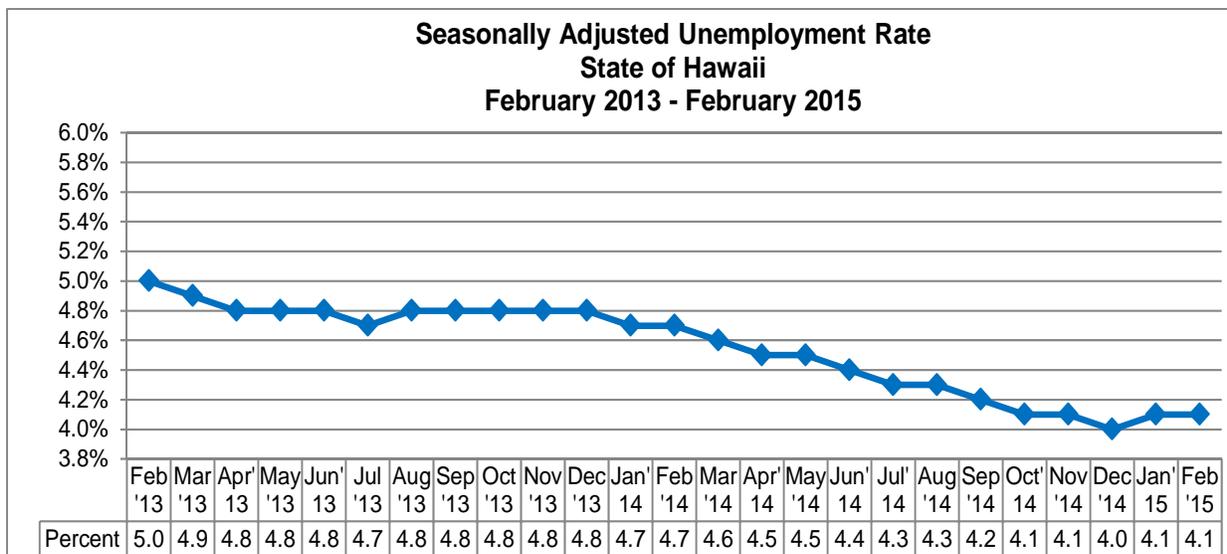
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 25, 2015

**HAWAII'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE REMAINS  
AT 4.1 PERCENT IN FEBRUARY**

**Record Civilian Labor Force at 674,900**

HONOLULU — The Hawaii State Department of Labor & Industrial Relations (DLIR) today announced that the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for February was 4.1 percent, the same as in January. Statewide, 647,000 were employed and 27,900 unemployed in February for a total seasonally adjusted labor force of 674,900. Nationally, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.5 percent in February, down from 5.7 percent in January.



Both initial claims and weeks claims decreased by 363 or -20.5 percent and 2,334 or -20.5 percent respectively for unemployment benefits compared to one year ago. Over-the-month both initial claims and weeks claims also decreased by -21.0 percent and -9.1 percent from January 2015.

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 4.1 percent in February, down from 4.3 percent in January.

State of Hawaii Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Data**			
	Feb 2015	Jan 2015	Feb 2014*
Labor Force	674,900	673,650	664,400
Employment	647,000	646,100	633,450
Unemployment	27,900	27,550	30,950

\* benchmarked data

\*\*totals may not add due to rounding

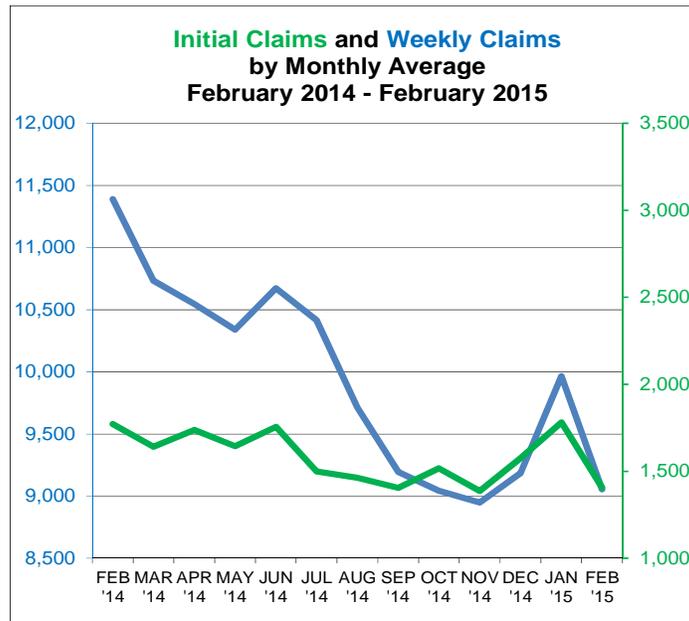
	FEB 2015	JAN 2015	FEB* 2014
<u>Seasonally Adjusted</u>			
STATE	4.1	4.1	4.7
U. S.	5.5	5.7	6.7
<u>Not Seasonally Adjusted</u>			
STATE	4.1	4.3	4.6
HONOLULU	3.9	4.1	4.2
HAWAII COUNTY	5.3	5.2	5.9
KAUAI	4.8	4.9	5.4
MAUI COUNTY	4.4	4.4	5.0
Maui Island	4.2	4.3	4.9
Molokai	9.4	8.5	10.2
Lanai	3.7	3.4	3.0
U. S.	5.8	6.1	7.0

county & island rates are not seasonally adjusted

\* benchmarked data

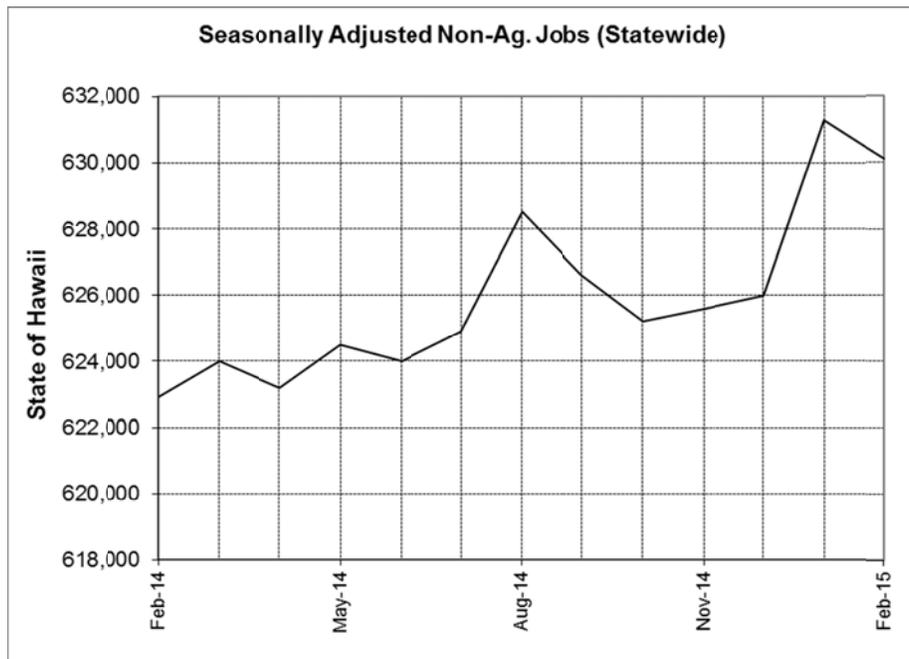
### **Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey)**

In a separate measure of employment, total seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs declined by 1,200 over-the-month. Several major industries were stable, as there was no change in jobs in February over January in Manufacturing, Educational & Health Services, Leisure & Hospitality, and Other Services. Relatively small declines occurred in Construction (-200), Financial Activities (-200), and Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (-400). Professional & Business Services (-1,000) contraction was primarily concentrated in the Administrative & Support subsector, more specifically in Temporary Help Services and Professional Employer Organizations. Government increased by 200 jobs over-the-month. In comparison with February 2014, there has been an expansion of 7,200 nonfarm jobs.



<b>Seasonally Adjusted Non-Ag. Jobs (Statewide)</b>			
<b>SELECTED SERIES:</b>	<b>Feb-15</b>	<b>Jan-15</b>	<b>Feb-14*</b>
MINING, LOGGING & CONSTRUCTION	31,800	32,000	31,400
MANUFACTURING	13,700	13,700	13,600
Non-Durable Goods	10,000	10,100	10,100
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES	119,500	119,900	116,700
Wholesale Trade	18,100	18,000	17,700
Retail Trade	70,900	71,500	69,200
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	27,400	27,600	27,400
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	12,000	12,100	11,900
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	83,700	84,700	81,700
Professional, Scientific, Tech Svcs	24,600	24,100	24,300
Administrative & Support & Waste Mgmt	50,600	51,400	49,000
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	79,800	79,800	78,600
Educational Services	14,200	14,200	14,400
Health Care & Social Assistance	65,600	65,600	64,200
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	114,700	114,700	113,100
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	12,600	12,400	12,200
Accommodation & Food Services	102,100	102,300	100,900
OTHER SERVICES	26,500	26,500	26,700
GOVERNMENT	124,600	124,400	125,300
Federal Government	32,800	33,000	33,300
State Government	72,800	72,300	73,200
Local Government	19,000	19,100	18,800
<b>TOTAL: STATEWIDE</b>	<b>630,100</b>	<b>631,300</b>	<b>622,900</b>

\*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 12<sup>th</sup> 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**

Statewide data for 1976-2014 and substate data for 2014 have been re-estimated using a new generation of time series models. See “Report on Revision to State and Area Time-Series Models” at [www.bls.gov/lauschanges2015.htm](http://www.bls.gov/lauschanges2015.htm).

## **Change to Monthly Employment Estimates**

This release incorporates revised job count figures from 1990 through 2014 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, 2014 Annual Averages.*

### **Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization for US and Hawaii, 2014 Annual Averages** (percent)

State	Measure					
	U-1	U-2	U-3	U-4	U-5	U-6
United States	3.0	3.1	6.2	6.6	7.5	12.0
Hawaii	1.9	1.8	4.4	4.7	5.6	10.2

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.

#### Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

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

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View DLIR news releases:

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

#### **Media Contact:**

Bill Kunstman

Department of Labor and Industrial Relations

(808) 586-8845

[william.g.kunstman@hawaii.gov](mailto:william.g.kunstman@hawaii.gov)

<http://labor.hawaii.gov>