



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

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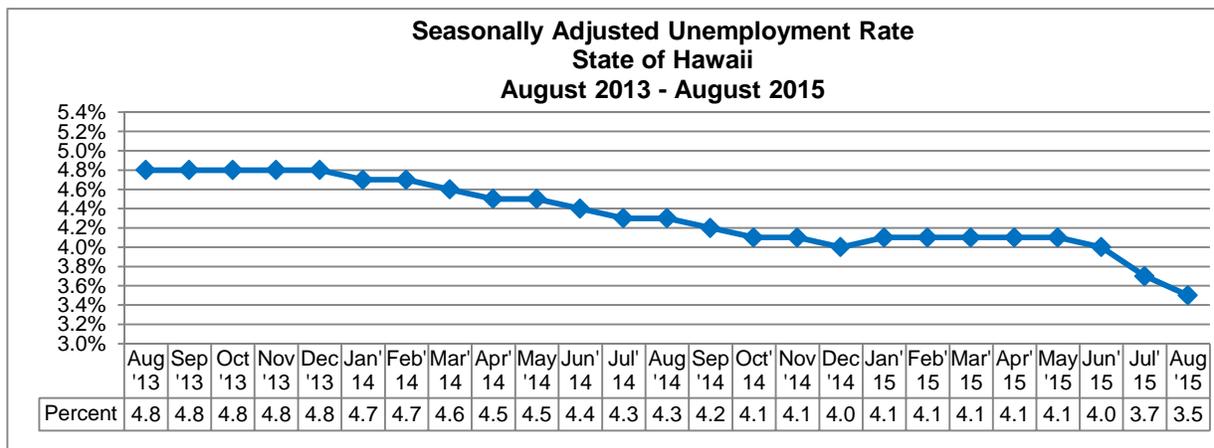
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 17, 2015

HAWAII'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DROPS TO 3.5 PERCENT IN AUGUST

State's Lowest Rate Since March 2008

HONOLULU — The Hawaii State Department of Labor & Industrial Relations (DLIR) today announced that the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for August was 3.5 percent, down from 3.7 percent in July. The last time the seasonally adjust unemployment rate was at or below 3.5 percent was in March 2008 when it was 3.4 percent. Statewide, 649,350 were employed and 23,700 unemployed in August for a total seasonally adjusted labor force of 673,050. Nationally, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.1 percent in August, down from 5.3 percent in July.



Both initial claims and weeks claims decreased by 266 or -18.2 percent and 2,220 or -22.9 percent respectively for unemployment benefits compared to one year ago. Over-the-month, both initial claims and weeks claims also decreased by -8.4 percent and -6.0 percent respectively from July 2015.

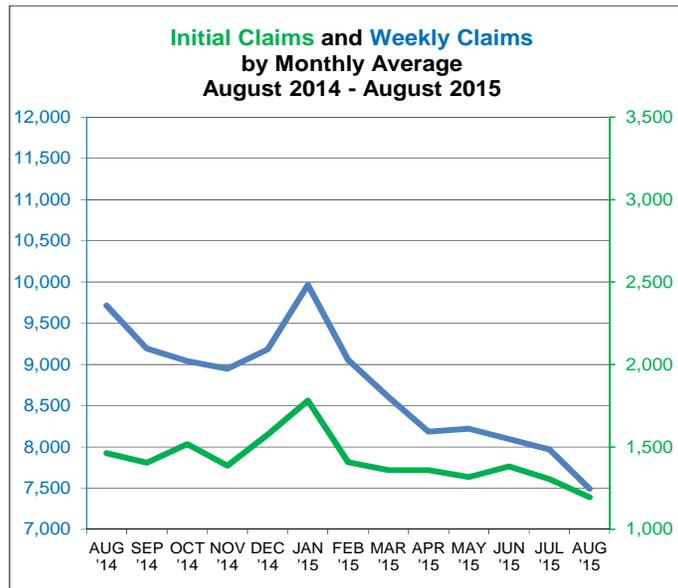
The unemployment rate figures for the State of Hawaii and the U.S. in this release are seasonally adjusted, in accordance with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) methodology. The not seasonally adjusted rate for the State was 3.3 percent in August, the same as in July.

State of Hawaii Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Data**			
	<u>Aug 2015</u>	<u>Jul 2015</u>	<u>Aug 2014*</u>
Labor Force	673,050	672,950	669,800
Employment	649,350	648,100	641,350
Unemployment	23,700	24,800	28,500
* benchmarked data **totals may not add due to rounding			

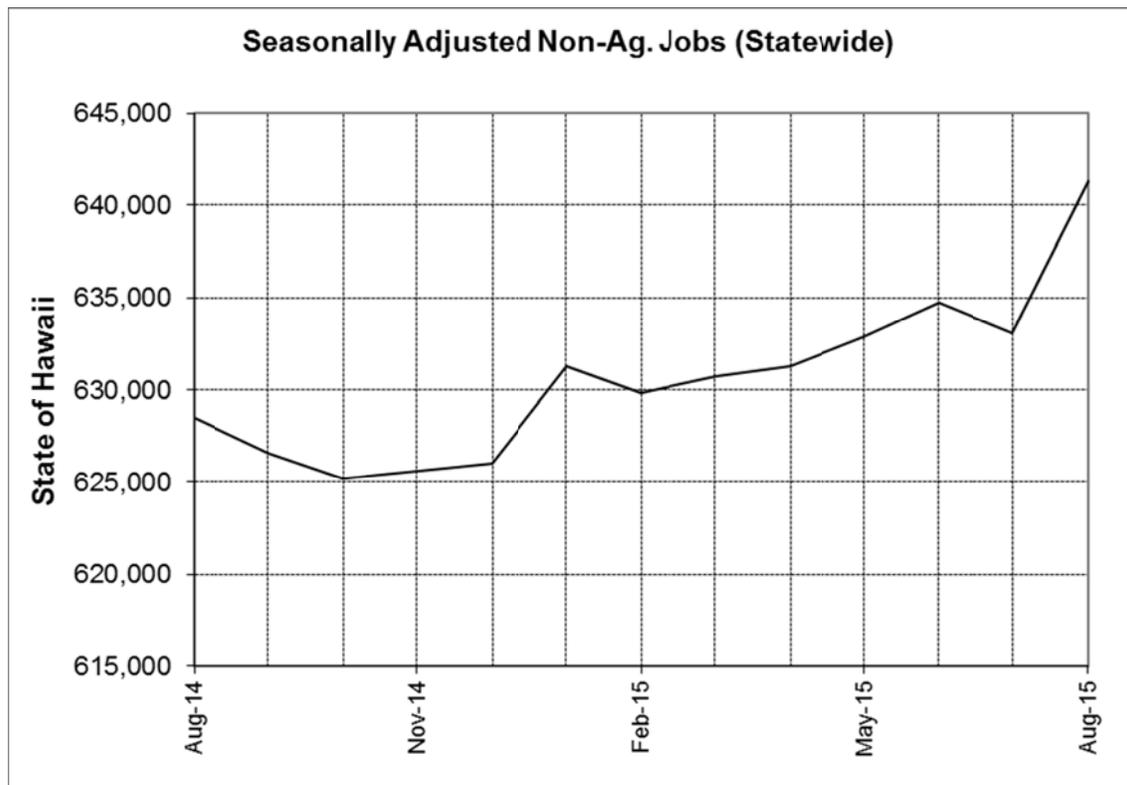
	<u>AUG</u>	<u>JUL</u>	<u>AUG*</u>
	2015	2015	2014
<u>Seasonally Adjusted</u>			
STATE	3.5	3.7	4.3
U. S.	5.1	5.3	6.1
<u>Not Seasonally Adjusted</u>			
STATE	3.3	3.3	4.2
HONOLULU	3.1	3.1	3.9
HAWAII COUNTY	4.2	4.3	5.2
KAUAI	3.8	3.7	4.6
MAUI COUNTY	3.4	3.3	4.3
Maui Island	3.2	3.1	4.0
Molokai	9.2	8.8	13.5
Lanai	2.9	2.1	2.5
U. S.	5.2	5.6	6.3
county & island rates are not seasonally adjusted			
* benchmarked data			

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey)

In a separate measure of employment, total nonagricultural jobs increased by 8,200 over-the-month. Major industries that experienced job gains were Leisure & Hospitality (+700), Construction (+500), Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (+400), Educational & Health Services (+400), and Financial Activities (+200). Employment in Manufacturing and Other Services remained unchanged. Professional & Business Services dipped by 100 jobs. Government rose by 5,900 jobs, primarily due to an earlier than typical seasonal rise in the Department of Education. In comparison with August 2014, there has been an increase of 12,800 total nonagricultural jobs (+2.0%).



Seasonally Adjusted Non-Ag. Jobs (Statewide)			
SELECTED SERIES:	Aug-15	Jul-15	Aug-14*
MINING, LOGGING & CONSTRUCTION	34,100	33,600	32,100
MANUFACTURING	13,400	13,400	14,000
Non-Durable Goods	9,800	9,800	10,500
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES	121,300	120,900	117,400
Wholesale Trade	18,200	18,400	17,600
Retail Trade	71,700	71,600	69,800
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	28,300	28,100	27,400
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	12,800	12,800	12,100
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	82,600	82,700	82,100
Professional, Scientific, Tech Svcs	23,600	23,500	24,200
Administrative & Support & Waste Mgmt	50,500	50,600	49,600
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	80,900	80,500	78,900
Educational Services	13,800	13,700	13,900
Health Care & Social Assistance	67,100	66,800	65,000
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	115,200	114,500	112,600
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	12,700	12,600	11,700
Accommodation & Food Services	102,500	101,900	100,900
OTHER SERVICES	27,800	27,800	26,500
GOVERNMENT	129,400	123,500	128,900
Federal Government	32,500	32,500	33,100
State Government	78,000	72,400	77,000
Local Government	18,900	18,600	18,800
TOTAL: STATEWIDE	641,300	633,100	628,500



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

Statewide data for 1976-2014 and substate data for 1990-2014 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.

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, Honolulu and Kahului-Wailuku-Lahaina 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, Third Quarter of 2014 through Second Quarter of 2015 Averages.

Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization for US and Hawaii, Third Quarter of 2014 through Second Quarter of 2015 Averages

(percent)

State	Measure					
	U-1	U-2	U-3	U-4	U-5	U-6
United States	2.6	2.8	5.7	6.1	7.0	11.3
Hawaii	1.6	1.8	4.1	4.5	5.5	10.1

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/TDD (808) 586-8844

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