



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

LINDA CHU TAKAYAMA
DIRECTOR

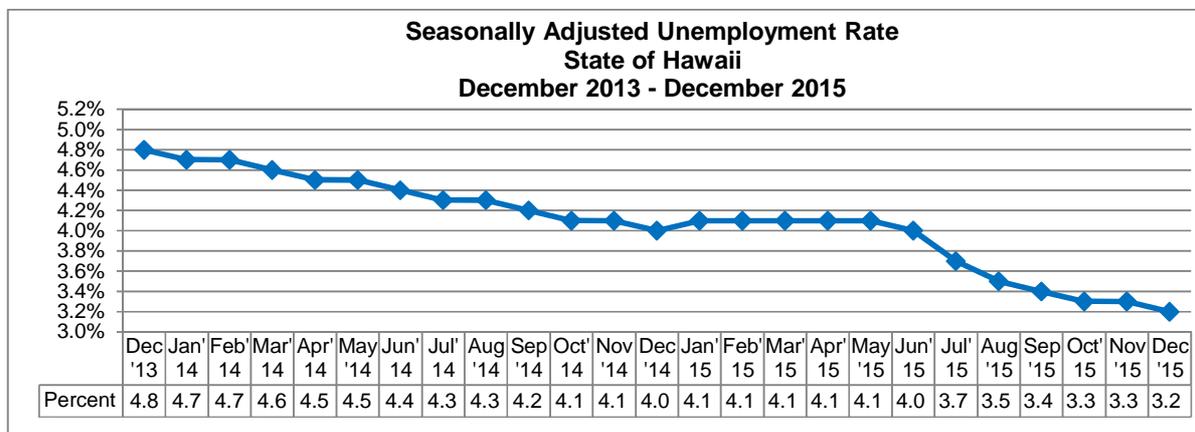
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 25, 2016

HAWAII'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AT 3.2 PERCENT IN DECEMBER

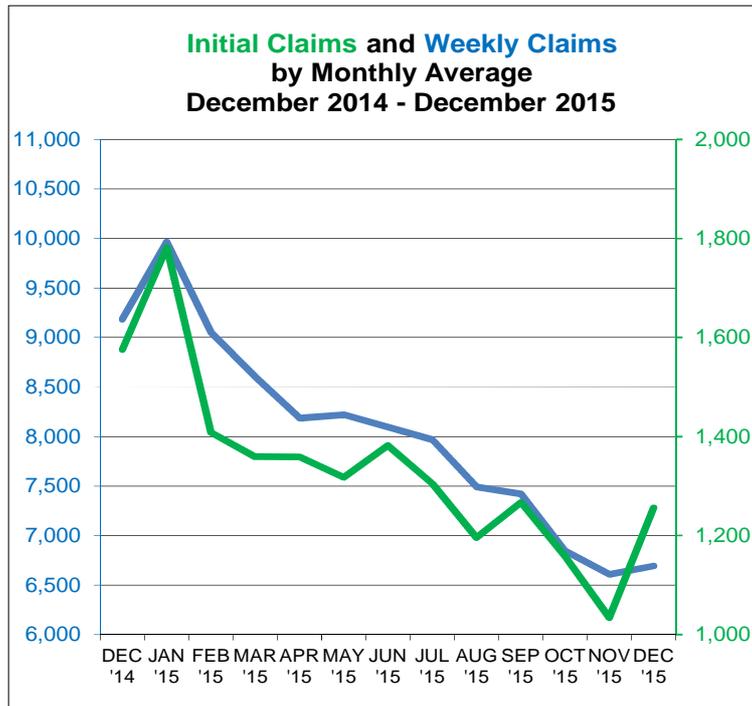
Non-Agricultural Jobs up 15,700 over-the-year

HONOLULU — The Hawaii State Department of Labor & Industrial Relations (DLIR) today announced that the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for December was 3.2 percent, down from the revised rate of 3.3 percent in November. The last time the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was at 3.2 percent was in January 2008. Statewide, 660,600 were employed and 22,150 unemployed in December for a total seasonally adjusted labor force of 682,750. Nationally, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.0 percent in December, the same as in November.

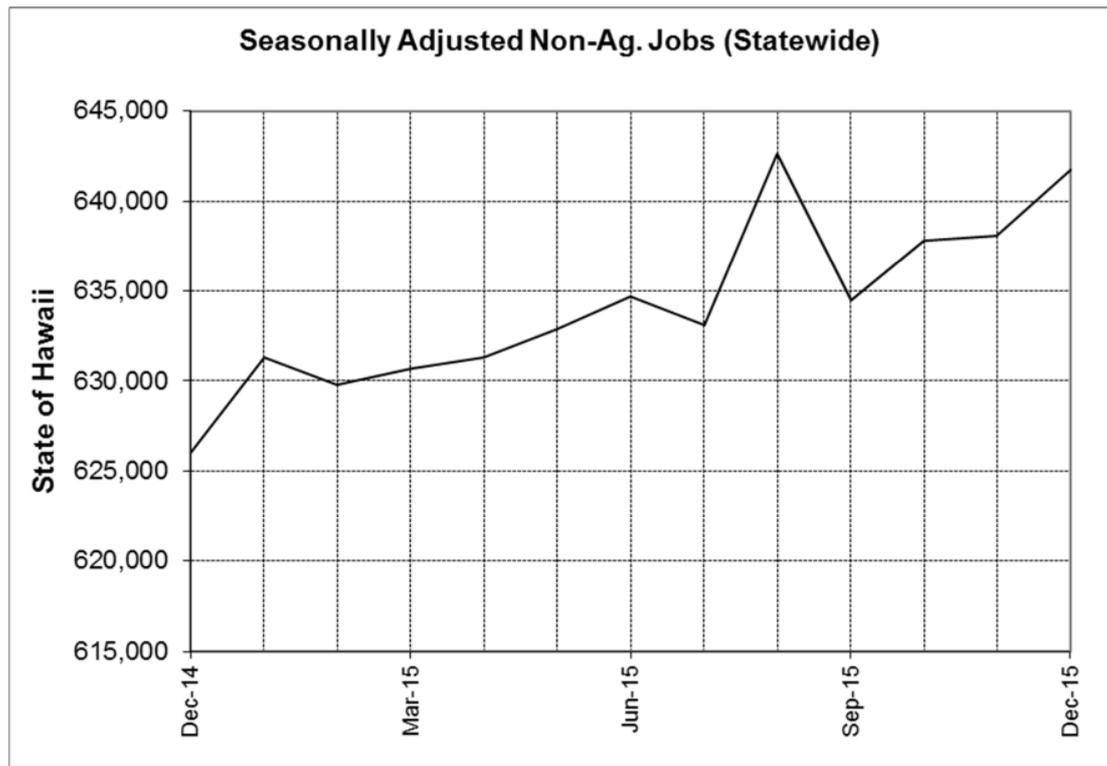


Both initial claims and weeks claims decreased by 320 or -20.3 percent and 2,491 or -27.1 percent respectively for unemployment benefits compared to one year ago. Over-the-month, both initial claims and weeks claims increased by 21.5 percent and 1.3 percent respectively from November 2015.

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 2.9 percent in December, down from 3.2 percent in November.



Seasonally Adjusted Non-Ag. Jobs (Statewide)			
SELECTED SERIES:	Dec-15	Nov-15	Dec-14*
MINING, LOGGING & CONSTRUCTION	35,700	35,200	30,900
MANUFACTURING	13,400	13,400	13,400
Non-Durable Goods	9,800	9,800	10,000
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES	120,000	120,200	118,000
Wholesale Trade	17,900	18,000	18,100
Retail Trade	70,900	71,100	70,200
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	28,000	27,900	27,600
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	12,600	12,500	12,100
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	84,200	83,400	83,700
Professional, Scientific, Tech Svcs	23,800	23,700	24,100
Administrative & Support & Waste Mgmt	51,500	50,900	50,900
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	81,600	81,100	79,500
Educational Services	13,600	13,600	13,900
Health Care & Social Assistance	68,000	67,500	65,600
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	116,500	115,600	113,500
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	12,500	12,500	12,300
Accommodation & Food Services	104,000	103,100	101,200
OTHER SERVICES	28,100	27,900	25,900
GOVERNMENT	125,400	124,600	124,800
Federal Government	33,100	33,100	33,100
State Government	73,300	72,600	72,700
Local Government	19,000	18,900	19,000
TOTAL: STATEWIDE	641,700	638,100	626,000



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, Fourth Quarter of 2014 through Third Quarter of 2015 Averages.

Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization for US and Hawaii, Fourth Quarter of 2014 through Third Quarter of 2015 Averages (percent)

State	Measure					
	U-1	U-2	U-3	U-4	U-5	U-6
United States	2.4	2.7	5.4	5.9	6.7	10.8
Hawaii	1.5	1.8	3.9	4.3	5.3	9.7

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
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 TDD/TTY Dial 711 then ask for (808) 586-8866

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Media Contact:
 Bill Kunstman
 Department of Labor and Industrial Relations
 (808) 586-8845
 william.g.kunstman@hawaii.gov
 http://labor.hawaii.gov