



## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

**NEIL ABERCROMBIE**  
GOVERNOR

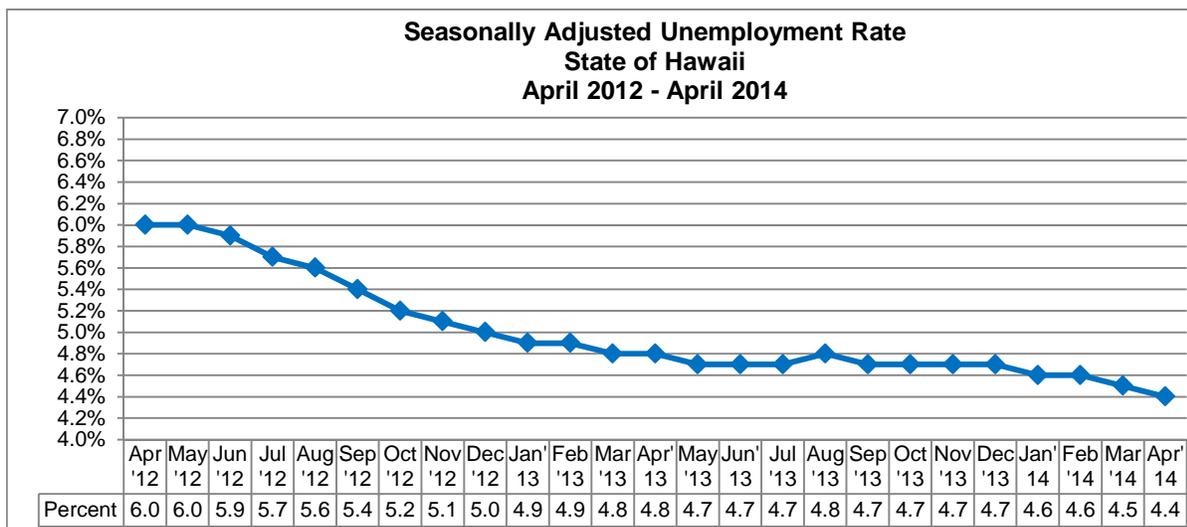
**DWIGHT TAKAMINE**  
DIRECTOR

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 15, 2014

### HAWAII'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FALLS TO 4.4 PERCENT IN APRIL Record 660,400 in Labor Force

HONOLULU — The Hawaii State Department of Labor & Industrial Relations (DLIR) today announced that the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April was 4.4 percent, down from 4.5 percent in March. The last time the rate was 4.4% was August 2008. Statewide, there were 631,300 employed and 29,100 unemployed in April, for a total seasonally adjusted labor force of 660,400. Nationally, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.3 percent in April, down from 6.7 percent in March.



Both Initial claims and weeks claims declined by 178 or -9.3% and 1,247 or -10.6% respectively for unemployment benefits compared to one year ago. Over the month initial claims grew by 5.9% while weeks claims dropped by -1.7% from March 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 4.2 percent in April, down from the revised rate of 4.4 percent in March.

State of Hawaii Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Data**			
	<u>Apr 2014</u>	<u>Mar 2014</u>	<u>Apr 2013*</u>
Labor Force	660,400	658,300	647,050
Employment	631,300	628,750	616,300
Unemployment	29,100	29,600	30,750

\* benchmarked data

\*\*totals may not add due to rounding

	APR 2014	MAR 2014	APR* 2013
<u>Seasonally Adjusted</u>			
STATE	4.4	4.5	4.8
U. S.	6.3	6.7	7.5
<u>Not Seasonally Adjusted</u>			
STATE	4.2	4.3	4.4
HONOLULU	3.8	3.9	3.9
HAWAII COUNTY	5.7	5.8	6.6
KAUAI	5.0	5.2	5.5
MAUI COUNTY	4.6	4.9	4.8
Maui Island	4.5	4.8	4.7
Molokai	8.8	8.2	8.4
Lanai	2.1	2.7	2.4
U. S.	5.9	6.8	7.1

county & island rates are not seasonally adjusted

\* benchmarked data

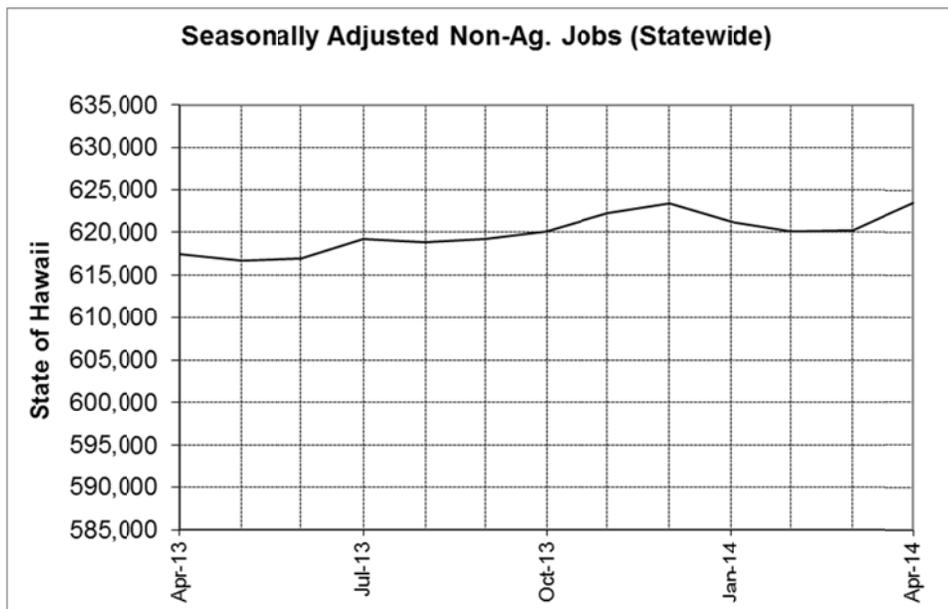
### **Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey)**

In a separate measure of employment, total seasonally adjusted nonagricultural jobs went up by 3,300 over the month. In April over March, among the major industry sectors, there were job gains in Leisure & Hospitality (+1,600), Educational & Health Services (+600), Construction (+300), Manufacturing (+200), and Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (+200). Within Leisure & Hospitality, there was job expansion in all of the three subsectors: Accommodations, Food Services & Drinking Places, and Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation. Over the month job losses occurred in Financial Activities (-100), Professional & Business Services (-100), and Other

Services (-200). Government rose by 800 jobs, primarily due to shifts in seasonal hiring at the Department of Education. Over the year, there has been an expansion of 6,000 total nonfarm jobs.

<b>Seasonally Adjusted Non-Ag. Jobs (Statewide)</b>			
<b>SELECTED SERIES:</b>	<b>Apr-14</b>	<b>Mar-14</b>	<b>Apr-13*</b>
MINING, LOGGING & CONSTRUCTION	30,800	30,500	31,000
MANUFACTURING	13,700	13,500	13,400
Non-Durable Goods	10,100	10,000	9,900
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES	116,200	116,000	116,800
Wholesale Trade	17,700	18,000	17,800
Retail Trade	69,100	69,100	69,600
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	27,500	27,600	27,100
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	12,200	12,200	11,800
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	79,400	79,500	79,400
Professional, Scientific, Tech Svcs	23,900	24,200	24,400
Mgmt of Companies & Enterprises	8,600	8,600	8,300
Administrative & Support & Waste Mgmt	46,900	46,700	46,700
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	79,600	79,000	78,900
Educational Services	15,200	15,100	14,900
Health Care & Social Assistance	64,400	63,900	64,000
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	113,300	111,700	110,200
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	12,100	11,900	11,800
Accommodation & Food Services	101,200	99,800	98,400
OTHER SERVICES	27,600	27,800	26,500
GOVERNMENT	126,900	126,100	125,800
Federal Government	33,400	33,300	34,200
State Government	74,800	74,100	73,000
Local Government	18,700	18,700	18,600
<b>TOTAL: STATEWIDE</b>	<b>623,500</b>	<b>620,200</b>	<b>617,500</b>

\*Benchmarked Data



## Technical Notes

### **Seasonal Adjustment**

The seasonal fluctuations in the number of employed and unemployed persons reflect hiring (and layoffs) 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. To deal with such problems, a statistical technique called seasonal adjustment is used. This technique uses the history of the series 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. When a statistical series has been seasonally adjusted, data for any month can be more meaningfully compared with data from any other month or with an annual average.

### **Current Population (Household) Survey (CPS)**

The labor force statistics are derived from a survey based on the week including the 12<sup>th</sup> of each month of Hawaii residents with a sample size of about 1,000 households. A series of questions are asked to assess whether a person is currently part of the labor force, and if so, what is their 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 are classified as unemployed if they do not have a job, have actively looked for work in the prior four weeks, and are currently available for work. Workers expecting to be recalled from layoff are counted as unemployed, whether or not 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**

The 2013 labor force estimates have been revised to incorporate 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, monthly employment estimates for Hawaii and our metropolitan areas have been developed by analysts with the State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations - Research and Statistics Office. 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 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 Bureau of Labor Statistics is publishing smoothed seasonally adjusted civilian labor force and unemployment estimates for all metropolitan areas. This includes estimates for Honolulu County. The data will be available on the day of each 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, Second Quarter of 2013 through First Quarter of 2014 Averages.*

**Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization for US and Hawaii, Second Quarter of 2013 through First Quarter of 2014 Averages**  
(percent)

State	Measure					
	U-1	U-2	U-3	U-4	U-5	U-6
United States	3.8	3.7	7.1	7.6	8.5	13.4
Hawaii	2.3	2.0	4.7	5.3	6.4	11.3

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.

###

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>