



## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

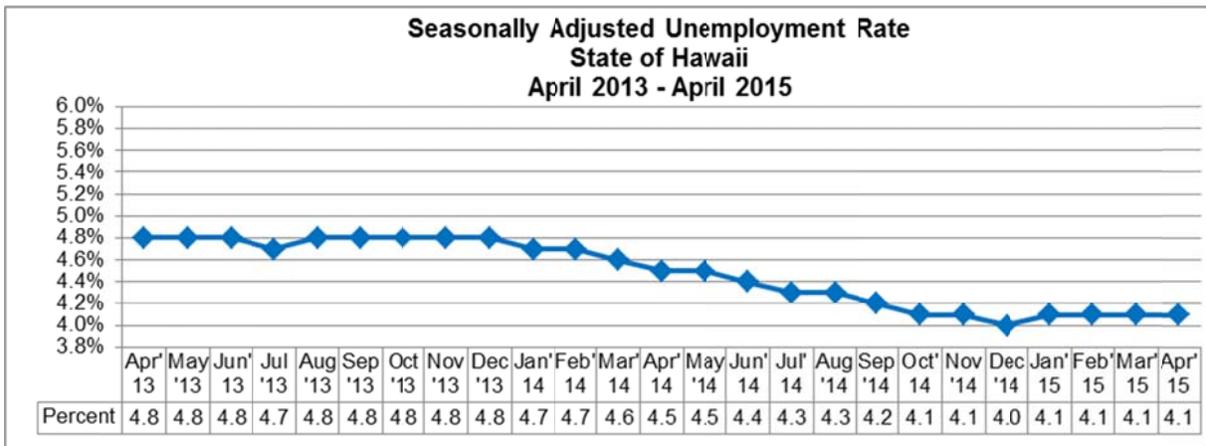
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DIRECTOR

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 26, 2015

### HAWAII'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE REMAINS AT 4.1 PERCENT IN APRIL

HONOLULU — The Hawaii State Department of Labor & Industrial Relations (DLIR) today announced that the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April was 4.1 percent, the same as the preceding three months. Statewide, 648,150 were employed and 27,450 unemployed in April for a total seasonally adjusted labor force of 675,600. Nationally, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.4 percent in April, down from 5.5 percent in March.



Both initial claims and weeks claims decreased by 379 or -21.8 percent and 2,361 or -22.4 percent, respectively for unemployment benefits compared to one year ago. Over-the-month initial claims remained unchanged while weeks claims decreased by -4.9 percent from March 2015.

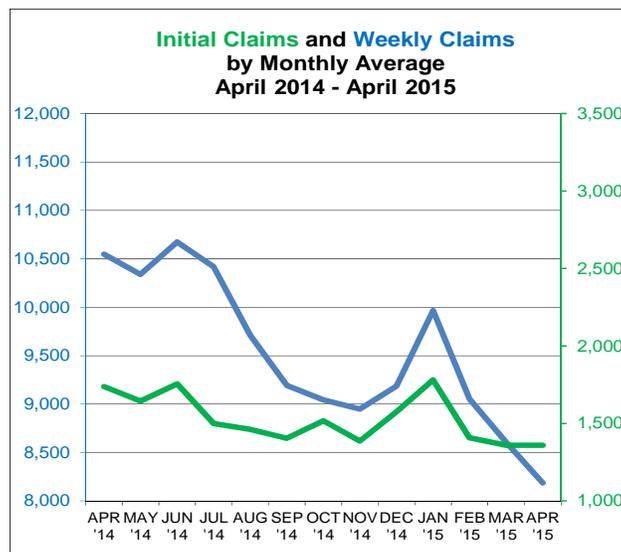
State of Hawaii Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Data**				
	Apr 2015	Mar 2015	Apr 2014*	
Labor Force	675,600	675,900	666,450	
Employment	648,150	648,150	636,150	
Unemployment	27,450	27,700	30,300	
* benchmarked data				
**totals may not add due to rounding				

	APR 2015	MAR 2015	APR* 2014
<u>Seasonally Adjusted</u>			
STATE	4.1	4.1	4.5
U. S.	5.4	5.5	6.2
<u>Not Seasonally Adjusted</u>			
STATE	3.9	3.9	4.4
HONOLULU	3.6	3.6	4.0
HAWAII COUNTY	4.8	4.9	5.7
KAUAI	4.6	4.5	4.9
MAUI COUNTY	4.1	4.2	4.7
Maui Island	3.9	4.1	4.6
Molokai	8.6	7.7	8.9
Lanai	5.6	3.8	2.1
U. S.	5.1	5.6	5.9
county & island rates are not seasonally adjusted			
* benchmarked data			

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 3.9 percent in April, unchanged from March.

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

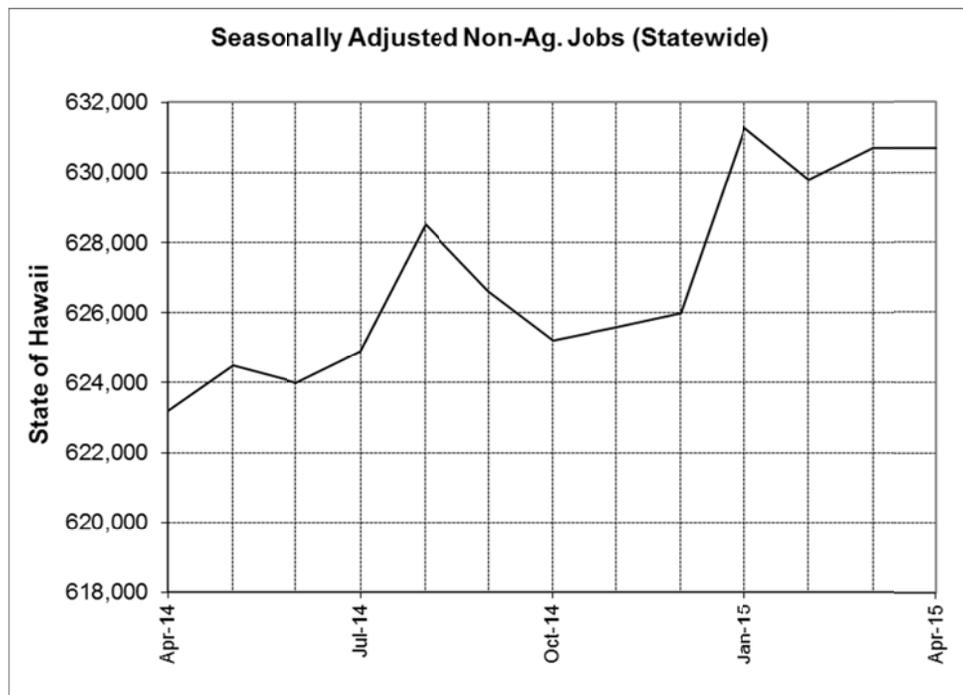
In a separate measure of employment, total seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs were unchanged over-the-month. Within the major industry groupings, there were job gains in Other Services (+500) and Educational & Health Services (+100). Employment in both Financial Services and Manufacturing was stable. Job losses occurred in Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (-200), Professional & Business Services (-200), Leisure & Hospitality (-200), and Construction (-900). Government increased by 1,100 jobs, primarily due to variation in seasonal work at the Department of Education and secondarily in the University of Hawaii system. In comparison with one year ago, there are 7,500 more seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs.



### Seasonally Adjusted Non-Ag. Jobs (Statewide)

<b>SELECTED SERIES:</b>	<b>Apr-15</b>	<b>Mar-15</b>	<b>Apr-14*</b>
MINING, LOGGING & CONSTRUCTION	31,400	32,300	31,300
MANUFACTURING	13,800	13,800	13,700
Non-Durable Goods	9,900	10,100	10,200
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES	120,300	120,500	117,300
Wholesale Trade	17,900	17,800	17,600
Retail Trade	71,600	72,300	69,600
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	27,400	27,400	27,400
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	12,000	12,000	12,100
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	83,300	83,500	82,000
Professional, Scientific, Tech Svcs	24,100	24,200	24,400
Administrative & Support & Waste Mgmt	50,600	50,900	49,300
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	80,200	80,100	78,900
Educational Services	14,600	14,200	14,400
Health Care & Social Assistance	65,600	65,900	64,500
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	114,400	114,600	113,100
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	12,200	12,600	12,100
Accommodation & Food Services	102,200	102,000	101,000
OTHER SERVICES	26,900	26,400	26,400
GOVERNMENT	124,800	123,700	124,800
Federal Government	32,700	32,600	33,300
State Government	73,100	72,300	72,800
Local Government	19,000	18,800	18,700
<b>TOTAL: STATEWIDE</b>	<b>630,700</b>	<b>630,700</b>	<b>623,200</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 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](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, Second Quarter of 2014 through First Quarter of 2015 Averages.*

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

(percent)

State	Measure					
	U-1	U-2	U-3	U-4	U-5	U-6
United States	2.8	2.9	5.9	6.3	7.2	11.6
Hawaii	1.6	1.8	4.3	4.6	5.5	10.4

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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View DLIR news releases:

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

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