



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

DWIGHT TAKAMINE
DIRECTOR

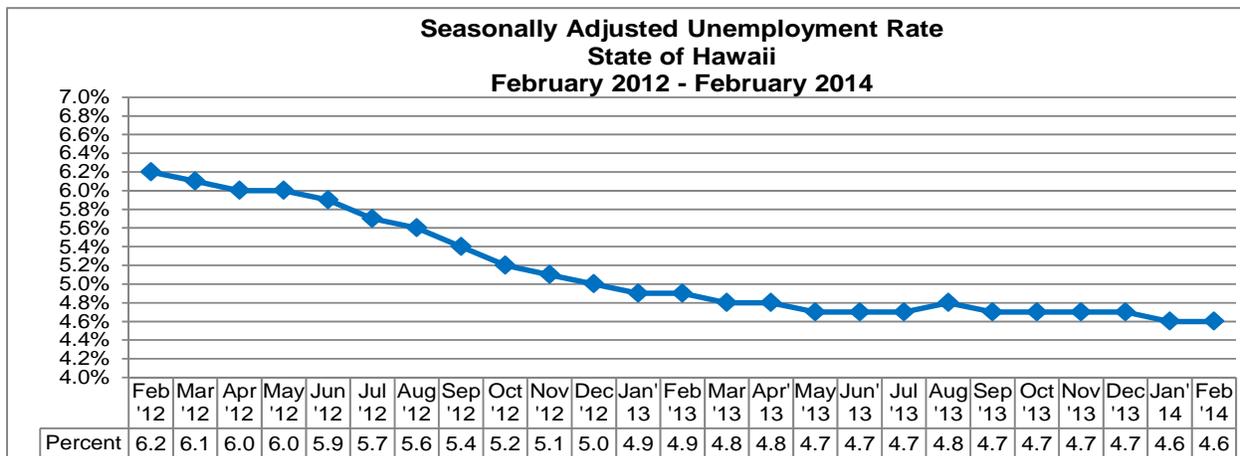
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March. 27, 2014

HAWAII'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE REMAINS AT 4.6 PERCENT IN FEBRUARY

New Record for Employment at 626,400

HONOLULU — The Hawaii State Department of Labor & Industrial Relations today announced that the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for February was 4.6 percent, unchanged from January. Statewide, there were 626,400 employed and 30,150 unemployed in February, which combines for a total seasonally adjusted labor force of 656,550.



Both initial claims and weeks claims decreased by 44 or -2.4% and 384 or -3.3% respectively for unemployment benefits compared to one year ago. Over the month, both initial claims and weeks claims also dropped by -16.9% and -2.2% respectively from January 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 also 4.6 percent in February, unchanged from January.

| State of Hawaii Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Data** | | | |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| | <u>Feb 2014</u> | <u>Jan 2014</u> | <u>Feb 2013*</u> |
| Labor Force | 656,550 | 655,800 | 647,150 |
| Employment | 626,400 | 625,650 | 615,550 |
| Unemployment | 30,150 | 30,150 | 31,600 |

* benchmarked data

**totals may not add due to rounding

| | FEB 2014 | JAN 2014 | FEB* 2013 |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| <u>Seasonally Adjusted</u> | | | |
| STATE | 4.6 | 4.6 | 4.9 |
| U. S. | 6.7 | 6.6 | 7.7 |
| <u>Not Seasonally Adjusted</u> | | | |
| STATE | 4.6 | 4.6 | 4.8 |
| HONOLULU | 4.1 | 4.2 | 4.3 |
| HAWAII COUNTY | 6.1 | 6.1 | 7.0 |
| KAUAI | 5.6 | 5.4 | 6.0 |
| MAUI COUNTY | 5.1 | 5.0 | 5.3 |
| Maui Island | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.2 |
| Molokai | 9.7 | 6.8 | 10.4 |
| Lanai | 3.1 | 2.9 | 2.5 |
| U. S. | 7.0 | 7.0 | 8.1 |

county & island rates are not seasonally adjusted

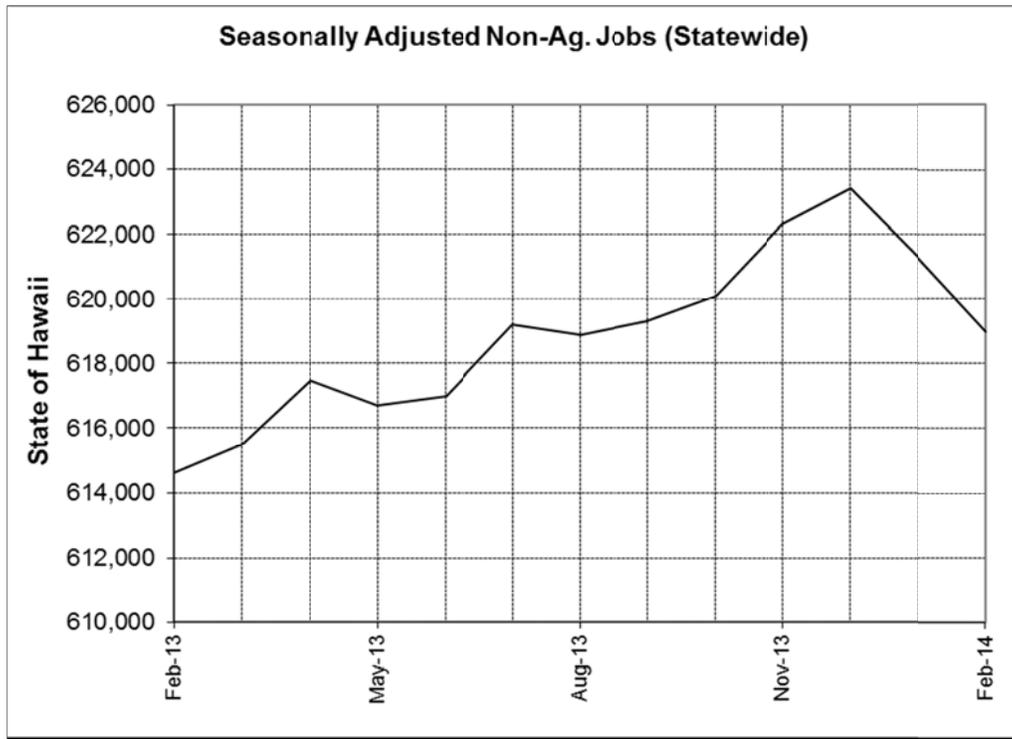
* benchmarked data

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey)

In a separate measure of employment, total seasonally adjusted nonagricultural jobs decreased

by 2,300 in February over January. Over the month, there were major industry sector job gains experienced in Financial Activities (+300) and Construction (+100). Jobs in Educational & Health Services remained stable. Job declines occurred in Manufacturing (-100), Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (-100), Other Services (-1,000), Professional & Business Services (-1,100) and Leisure & Hospitality (-1,800). The bulk of the job contraction in Professional & Business Services was attributed to less hiring at Professional Employer Organizations and Temporary Help Services. Following an all-time high level of employment in January, Leisure & Hospitality went down as the visitor industry tempered down a bit. Government increased by 1,300 jobs, primarily due to hiring at the University of Hawaii system. In comparison with February 2013, there has been an increase of 4,400 nonfarm jobs.

| Seasonally Adjusted Non-Ag. Jobs (Statewide) | | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| SELECTED SERIES: | Feb-14 | Jan-14 | Feb-13* |
| MINING, LOGGING & CONSTRUCTION | 30,600 | 30,500 | 30,600 |
| MANUFACTURING | 13,400 | 13,500 | 13,400 |
| Non-Durable Goods | 9,800 | 9,900 | 9,800 |
| TRADE, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES | 116,400 | 116,500 | 116,600 |
| Wholesale Trade | 17,900 | 17,700 | 17,900 |
| Retail Trade | 69,000 | 68,900 | 69,500 |
| FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES | 27,500 | 27,200 | 27,000 |
| Real Estate & Rental & Leasing | 12,100 | 11,900 | 11,700 |
| PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES | 78,200 | 79,300 | 78,800 |
| Professional, Scientific, Tech Svcs | 23,800 | 23,600 | 24,400 |
| Mgmt of Companies & Enterprises | 8,500 | 8,600 | 8,100 |
| Administrative & Support & Waste Mgmt | 45,900 | 47,100 | 46,300 |
| EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES | 79,100 | 79,100 | 78,600 |
| Educational Services | 15,300 | 15,200 | 15,000 |
| Health Care & Social Assistance | 63,800 | 63,900 | 63,600 |
| LEISURE & HOSPITALITY | 110,800 | 112,600 | 109,700 |
| Arts, Entertainment & Recreation | 11,800 | 12,000 | 11,700 |
| Accommodation & Food Services | 99,000 | 100,600 | 98,000 |
| OTHER SERVICES | 27,500 | 28,500 | 26,500 |
| GOVERNMENT | 126,900 | 125,600 | 125,000 |
| Federal Government | 33,400 | 33,600 | 34,200 |
| State Government | 74,900 | 73,400 | 72,300 |
| Local Government | 18,600 | 18,600 | 18,500 |
| TOTAL: STATEWIDE | 619,000 | 621,300 | 614,600 |



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 12th 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 - 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, 2013 Annual Averages.

Alternative measures of labor underutilization for US and Hawaii, 2013 Annual Averages (percent)

| State | Measure | | | | | |
|---------------|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| | U-1 | U-2 | U-3 | U-4 | U-5 | U-6 |
| United States | 3.9 | 3.9 | 7.4 | 7.9 | 8.8 | 13.8 |
| Hawaii | 2.4 | 2.1 | 4.8 | 5.5 | 6.6 | 11.5 |

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.

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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