



## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

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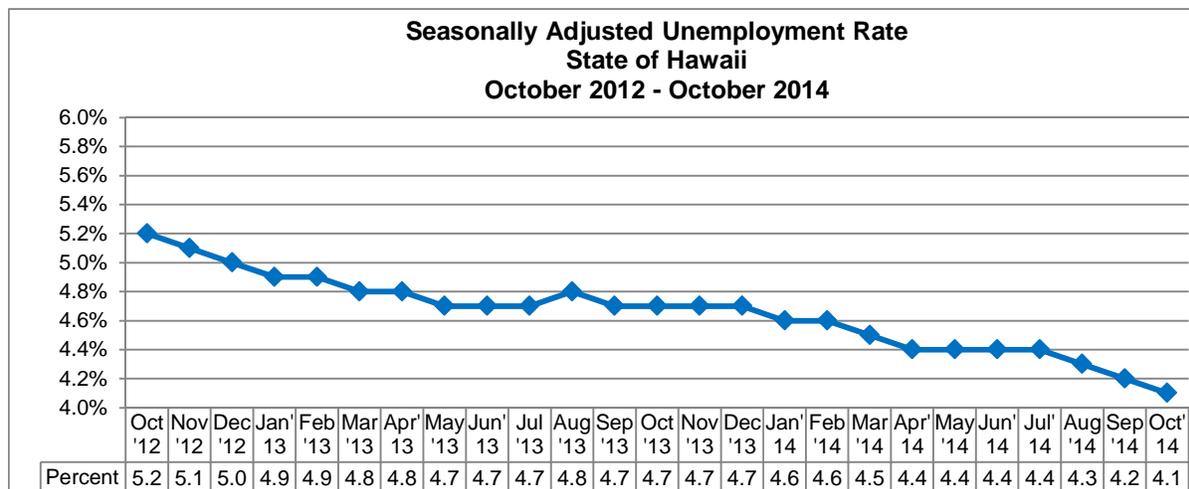
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Nov. 20, 2014

### HAWAII'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DROPS TO 4.1 PERCENT IN OCTOBER

**Record Civilian Labor Force at 667,750**

HONOLULU — The Hawaii State Department of Labor & Industrial Relations (DLIR) today announced that the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for October was 4.1 percent, down from 4.2 percent in September. Statewide, 640,150 were employed and 27,650 unemployed in October for a total seasonally adjusted labor force of 667,750. Nationally, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined to 5.8 percent in October from 5.9 percent in September.



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 October, unchanged from the revised rate of 4.2 percent in September.

State of Hawaii Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Data**			
	Oct 2014	Sep 2014	Oct 2013*
Labor Force	667,750	665,850	651,050
Employment	640,150	638,000	620,300
Unemployment	27,650	27,850	30,800

\* benchmarked data

\*\*totals may not add due to rounding

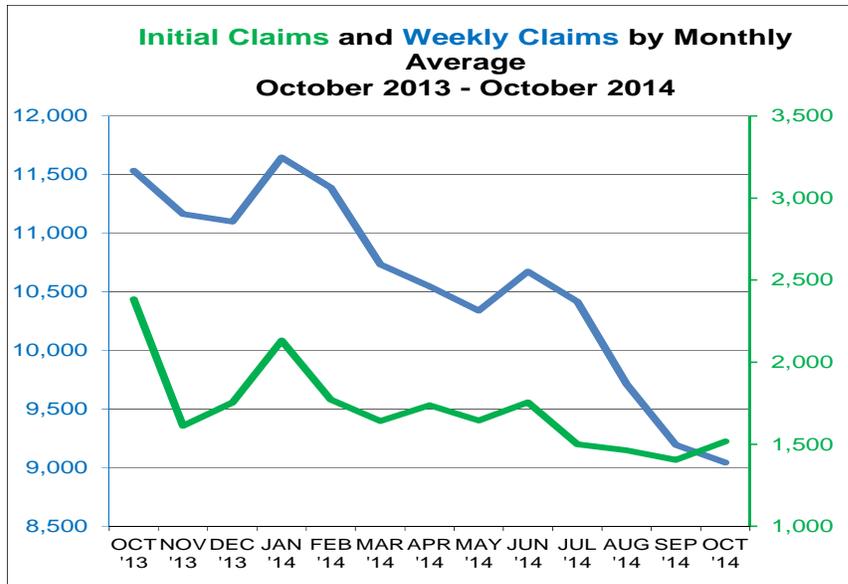
	OCT 2014	SEP 2014	OCT* 2013
<u>Seasonally Adjusted</u>			
STATE	4.1	4.2	4.7
U. S.	5.8	5.9	7.2
<u>Not Seasonally Adjusted</u>			
STATE	4.2	4.2	4.9
HONOLULU	3.9	4.0	4.4
HAWAII COUNTY	5.3	5.3	6.7
KAUAI	4.7	4.8	5.8
MAUI COUNTY	4.3	4.3	5.3
Maui Island	4.0	4.0	5.1
Molokai	13.9	15.5	11.9
Lanai	2.9	2.5	4.2
U. S.	5.5	5.7	7.0

county & island rates are not seasonally adjusted

\* benchmarked data

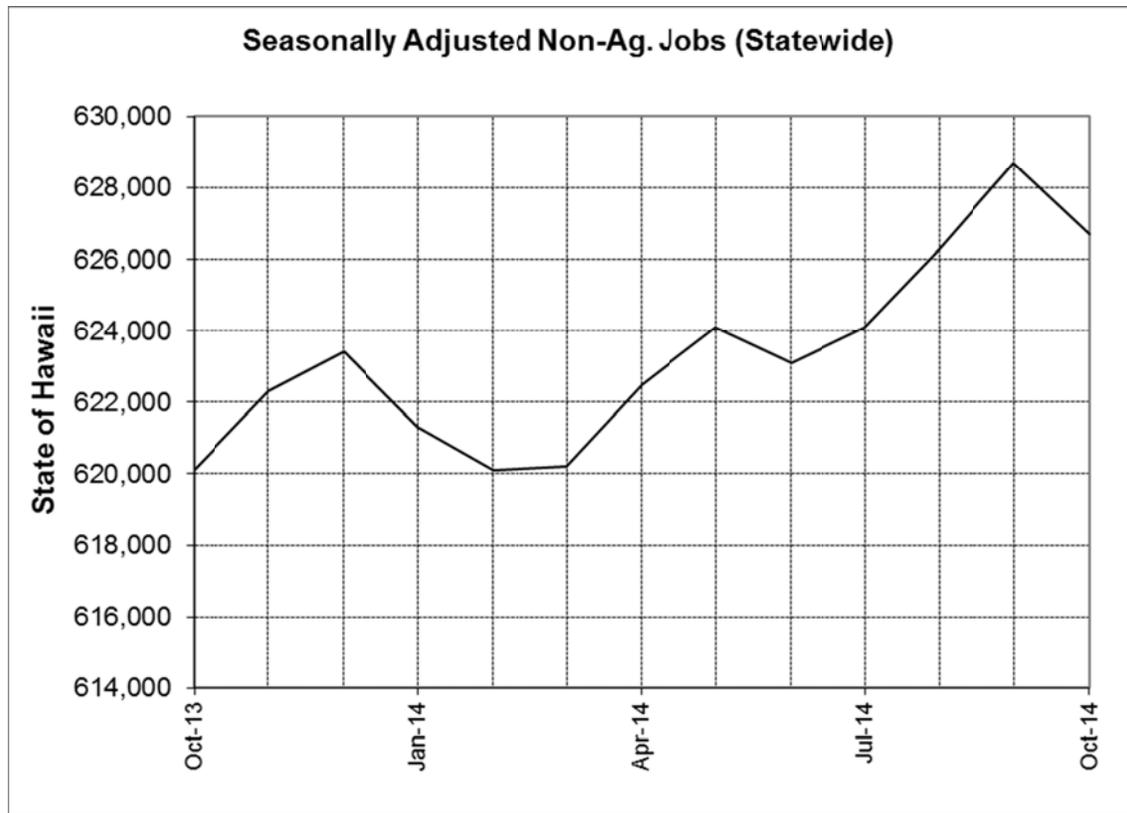
### **Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey)**

In a separate measure of employment, total seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs declined by 2,000 over-the-month. Among the major industry sectors, job gains occurred in Leisure & Hospitality (+2,200) and in Professional & Business Services (+600). Within Leisure & Hospitality, most of the rise was evenly attributed to job growth in both Accommodation and Food Services. In contrast, there were job losses in Financial Activities (-300), Education & Health Services (-400), Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (-500), Construction (-800), and Other Services (-1,100). Jobs in Manufacturing remained stable. Government decreased by 1,700 jobs, primarily as a result of variability in seasonal employment levels at the Department of Education and in the University of Hawaii system. In comparison to October 2013, there has been an expansion of 6,600 nonfarm jobs.



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

<b>SELECTED SERIES:</b>	<b>Oct-14</b>	<b>Sep-14</b>	<b>Oct-13*</b>
MINING, LOGGING & CONSTRUCTION	30,600	31,400	30,600
MANUFACTURING	13,700	13,700	13,500
Non-Durable Goods	9,600	9,900	9,900
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES	117,800	118,300	117,800
Wholesale Trade	18,300	18,200	17,800
Retail Trade	68,600	69,300	70,000
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	27,500	27,800	27,300
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	12,000	12,400	11,900
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	82,900	82,300	80,100
Professional, Scientific, Tech Svcs	25,000	25,100	24,300
Mgmt of Companies & Enterprises	8,600	8,600	8,300
Administrative & Support & Waste Mgmt	49,300	48,600	47,500
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	80,200	80,600	79,300
Educational Services	15,300	15,400	15,300
Health Care & Social Assistance	64,900	65,200	64,000
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	115,100	112,900	110,800
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	12,100	11,700	11,800
Accommodation & Food Services	103,000	101,200	99,000
OTHER SERVICES	25,800	26,900	26,700
GOVERNMENT	124,700	126,400	125,500
Federal Government	33,200	33,200	33,600
State Government	72,800	74,600	73,200
Local Government	18,700	18,600	18,700
<b>TOTAL: STATEWIDE</b>	<b>626,700</b>	<b>628,700</b>	<b>620,100</b>



#### 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**

Revisions to the 2013 labor force estimates included incorporating 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, 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, Third Quarter of 2013 through Second Quarter of 2014 Averages.*

## Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization for US and Hawaii, Fourth Quarter of 2013 through Third Quarter of 2014 Averages

(percent)

State	Measure					
	U-1	U-2	U-3	U-4	U-5	U-6
<b>United States</b>	3.3	3.3	6.5	6.9	7.8	12.5
<b>Hawaii</b>	2.2	1.9	4.7	5.2	6.0	10.8

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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View DLIR news releases:

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

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