



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STATEWIDE EMPLOYMENT FORECASTED TO EXPAND BY 2.9 PERCENT

Construction Industry's 12.1 Percent Projected Growth Leads Expansion

HONOLULU — The Hawaii State Department of Labor & Industrial Relations (DLIR) today announced the release of its *Employment Forecasts for the Short-Term Future - 2017* publication, which forecasts that statewide employment will expand by 2.9 percent, or 20,020 jobs, from the first quarter of 2015 to the first quarter of 2017. All major industries, except for natural resources and mining, will display positive movement, but the construction industry will again lead the economic expansion with the fastest growth rate (12.1 percent), creating 3,880 new jobs.

The department estimates that statewide employment will grow by 2.9 percent from 700,940 in the first quarter of 2015 to 720,960 in the first quarter of 2017, creating 20,020 new jobs. On an annual basis, this 1.4 percent increase equals 10,180 new jobs resulting from growth. About 17,040 job openings are expected to arise due to replacement needs, bringing the total annual projected job openings to 27,220.

"This is certainly good news and confirms that our economy remains strong," said Gov. David Ige. "We remain focused on diversifying our economy beyond tourism and the military, which is why I am taking a comprehensive, long-term approach to develop an innovation economy that offers the best promise of high-quality, living wage jobs in Hawaii."

"DLIR is enhancing job skills in the workforce as part of the effort to support diversifying the economy by bringing community stakeholders together in advisory boards in select sectors," said DLIR Director Linda Chu Takayama. "To remain competitive and productive in the global marketplace, it is crucial to employ a highly skilled workforce and why we have convened workforce advisory boards in agriculture, healthcare and robotics as a start."

Industry Highlights

- More than half of **construction industry** jobs will occur in the **specialty trades**, while **building construction** accounts for another 40% of the increase

INDUSTRY SUB-SECTORS WITH THE MOST JOB GROWTH, 2015-2017



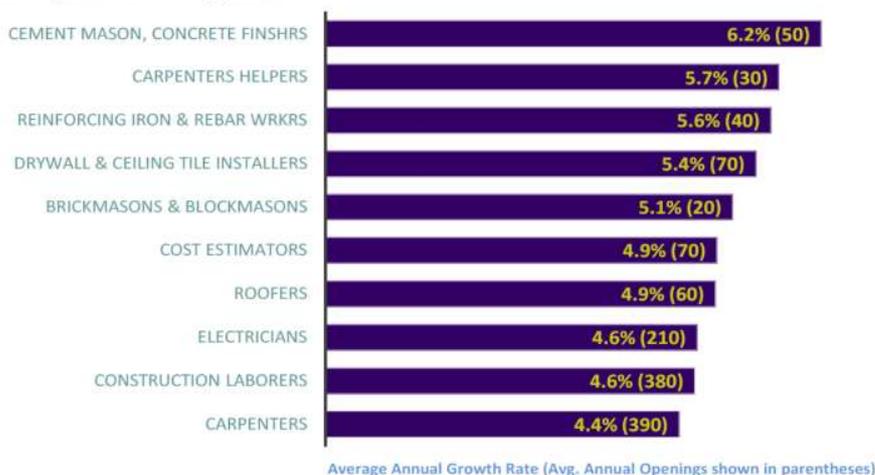
- **Professional and business services** will generate nearly 3,000 new positions in growing 3.6%
 - 79% of the growth in professional and business services is concentrated in the **administrative and support services** fields
 - **Retail trade** is projected to produce 1,930 jobs or 2.8%
 - The **leisure and hospitality**

industry will produce 3,090 new jobs for a boost of 2.7 per-cent. Although hotels will have some job creation, it is the **restaurant industry** that will lead job growth in this sector

Occupational Projections

FASTEST GROWING OCCUPATIONS, 2015-2017

(includes occupations with 300+ employment)



- As the building industry gains momentum, **construction and extraction occupations** will enjoy the most rapid job growth (4.3 percent annually) and generate 2,090 job openings each year. About 87 percent of the openings will be for construction workers in various **trades**.

- A distant second in terms of the next

fastest growing major group is **transportation and material moving occupations** with a predicted annual job increase of 1.7 percent and 1,790 annual job openings.

- **Service jobs** will produce modest growth of 1.5 percent with an estimated 8,600 annual average openings forecast, this group is by far the leading job creator. About 56 percent of the job openings will be food preparation and serving related, such as **food and beverage serving workers** and **cooks** and **food preparation workers**. Another 17 percent of openings will occur in **building** and **grounds cleaning and maintenance**.

- Large-sized occupations with slower growth potential are likely to dominate the top 10 occupations with the most job openings. All of them attribute more job openings to replacement needs rather than from expected growth. **Retail salespersons** top the list,

while four of the occupations are in the **food preparation and serving related occupational group: waiters and waitresses; combined food preparation and serving workers; restaurant cooks; and counter attendants** for cafeteria, food concession, and coffee shops. Number three on the list is **cashiers**, while ranked in the middle are **maids/housekeeping cleaners** and **janitors/cleaners**.

OCCUPATIONS WITH THE MOST JOB OPENINGS, 2015–2017



Methodology

The *Employment Forecasts for the Short-Term Future* report provides short-term industry and occupational projections for the State of Hawaii. The forecasts use actual first quarter 2015 employment for the base year and employment is projected to the first quarter of 2017. The full report, including a description of the methodology, is available at the Hawaii Workforce Infonet (HIWI) website: <https://www.hiwi.org/admin/qsipub/htmlarea/uploads/Short-TermForecasts-2015-2017.pdf>

Hawaii Workforce Infonet (HIWI): <https://www.hiwi.org>

The Hawaii Workforce Infonet (HIWI) website is a powerful labor market information system. It was specifically designed for employers, job seekers, researchers and analysts, and others seeking economic and workforce information. The system provides fast access to a complete set of data tools in one web site. It is designed to be a comfortable system for everyone, even the person who has little computer experience. Examples of HIWI features that help employers, job seekers, and researchers and analysts include:

For Employers

Workforce & Economic data
Education and training
Affirmative Action (EEO)
Occupational wages
Post job openings
Find workers

For Jobseekers

Find employers near you
Education and training
Career assistance
Find a job

For Researchers & Analysts

Occupational data
Industry data
Area data
Local Employment Dynamics
Workforce data and reports

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

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