

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

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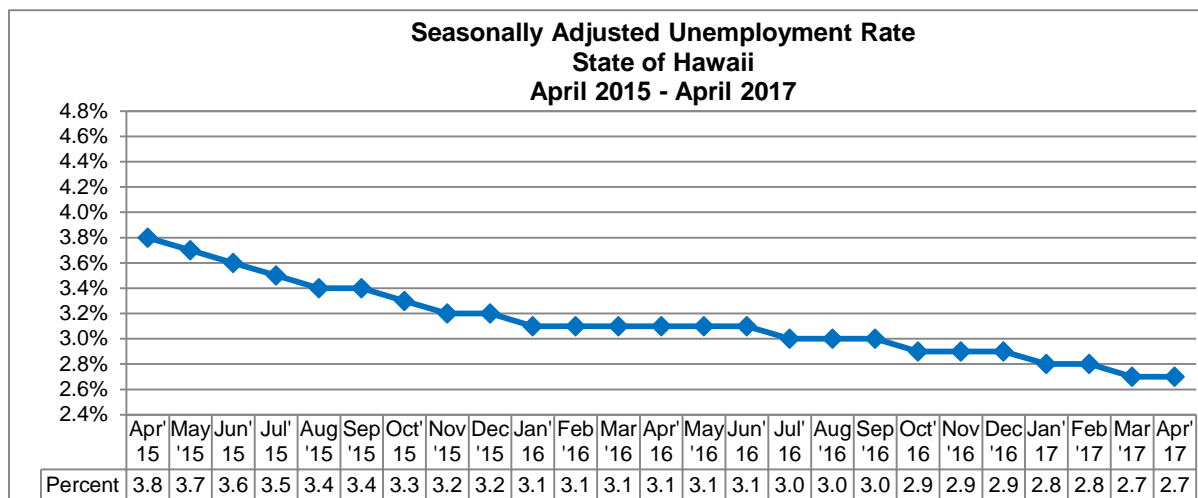
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 18, 2017

HAWAII'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE REMAINS AT 2.7 PERCENT IN APRIL

HONOLULU — The Hawaii State Department of Labor & Industrial Relations (DLIR) today announced that the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April was 2.7 percent, the same as in March. Statewide, 679,150 were employed and 18,850 unemployed in April for a total seasonally adjusted labor force of 698,000. Nationally, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.4 percent in April, compared to 4.5 percent in March.



Initial claims decreased by 7 or -0.5 percent while weeks claims increased by 968 or 14.3 percent for unemployment benefits compared to one year ago. Over-the-month initial claims grew by 7.9 percent and weeks claims dropped by -2.0 percent in April 2017.

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 2.6 percent in April, also the same as in March.

State of Hawaii Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Data**					
	Apr 2017	Mar 2017	Apr 2016*		
Labor Force	698,000	696,850	681,800		
Employment	679,150	677,700	660,700		
Unemployment	18,850	19,150	21,100		

* benchmarked data

**totals may not add due to rounding

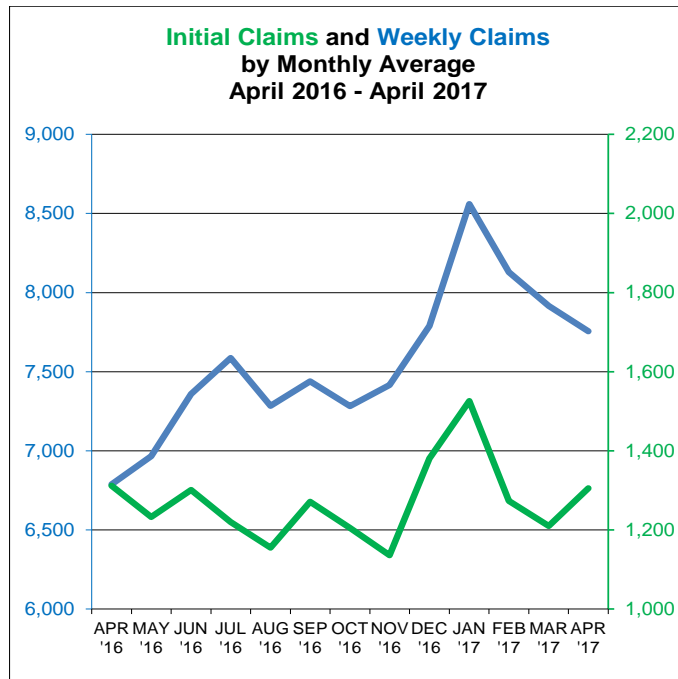
	APR 2017	MAR 2017	APR* 2016
<u>Seasonally Adjusted</u>			
STATE	2.7	2.7	3.1
U. S.	4.4	4.5	5.0
<u>Not Seasonally Adjusted</u>			
STATE	2.6	2.6	3.0
HONOLULU	2.4	2.4	2.8
HAWAII COUNTY	3.2	3.1	3.9
KAUAI	3.0	2.8	3.5
MAUI COUNTY	3.0	2.9	3.1
Maui Island	2.9	2.8	2.9
Molokai	5.6	5.4	5.7
Lanai	3.2	3.7	8.0
U. S.	4.1	4.6	4.7

county & island rates are not seasonally adjusted

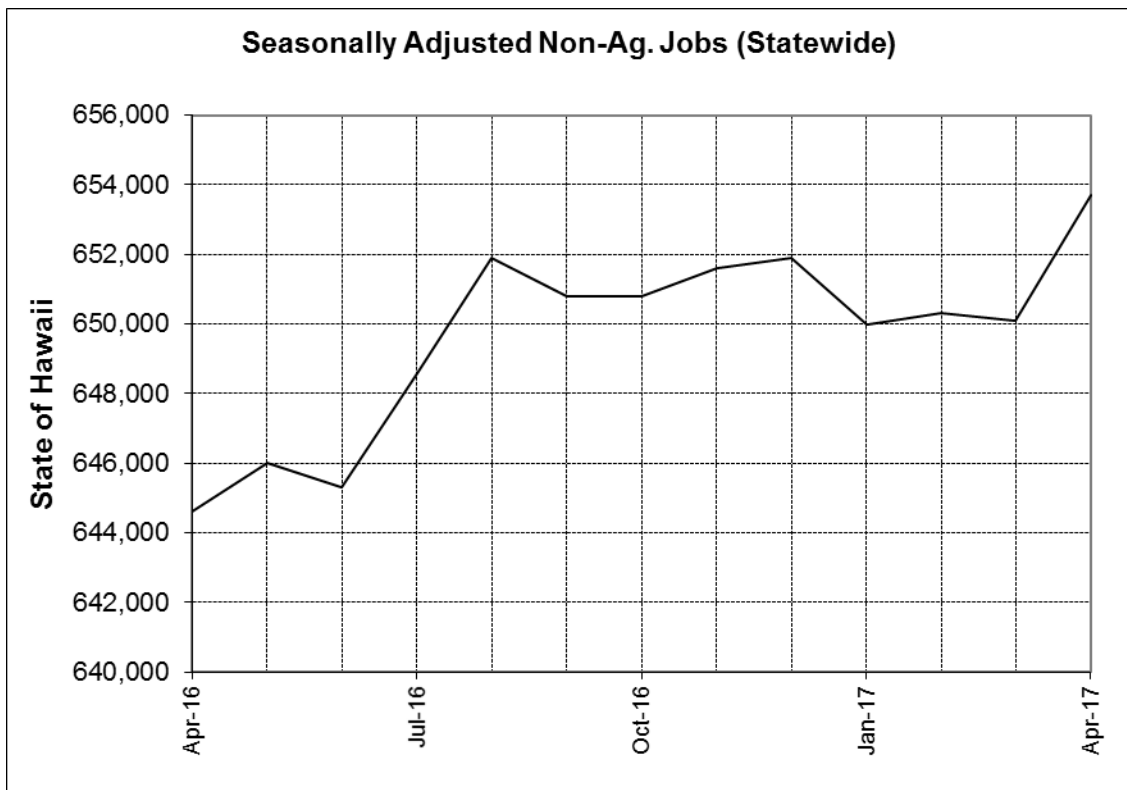
* benchmarked data

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey)

In a separate measure of employment, there was an increase of 3,600 jobs in April over March. "Hawaii's economy is performing well with the jobcount at or over 650,000 since August 2016," said Linda Chu Takayama, director of the state Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. Within the major industry groupings, job gains occurred in Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (+1,100), Construction (+800), Educational & Health Services (+700), Professional & Business Services (+400), Information (+300), Financial Activities (+200), and Manufacturing (+100). About one-half of the rise in Trade, Transportation, & Utilities was attributed to expansion in Retail Trade, while gains in Educational & Health Services were wholly concentrated in Health Services. Employment in Leisure & Hospitality remained unchanged. Job losses were experienced in Other Services (-100). Government increased by 100 jobs. In comparison with one year ago, total nonfarm employment has risen by 9,100 jobs.



Seasonally Adjusted Non-Ag. Jobs (Statewide)			
SELECTED SERIES:	Apr-17	Mar-17	Apr-16*
MINING, LOGGING & CONSTRUCTION	37,700	36,900	38,000
MANUFACTURING	13,800	13,700	14,100
Durable Goods	3,700	3,700	3,800
Non-Durable Goods	10,100	10,000	10,300
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES	121,400	120,300	119,400
Wholesale Trade	17,400	17,400	17,700
Retail Trade	71,900	71,300	70,400
INFORMATION	9,200	8,900	8,500
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	28,400	28,200	28,300
Finance & Insurance	16,000	16,000	16,100
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	12,400	12,200	12,200
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	84,400	84,000	83,400
Professional, Scientific, Tech Svcs	24,300	24,200	24,400
Administrative & Support & Waste Mgmt	51,000	50,800	50,500
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	83,600	82,900	83,700
Educational Services	15,700	15,700	15,100
Health Care & Social Assistance	67,900	67,200	68,600
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	121,400	121,400	117,400
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	12,200	12,200	11,900
Accommodation & Food Services	109,200	109,200	105,500
OTHER SERVICES	27,300	27,400	27,200
GOVERNMENT	126,500	126,400	124,600
Federal Government	33,300	33,300	33,000
State Government	74,500	74,200	72,700
Local Government	18,700	18,900	18,900
TOTAL: STATEWIDE	653,700	650,100	644,600



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 12th 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 and substate data for 2012-2016 have been re-estimated to reflect revised population controls, model reestimation and for seasonally adjusted data, new seasonal adjustment.

Change to Monthly Employment Estimates

This release incorporates revised job count figures from 1990 through 2016 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, Honolulu and Kahului-Wailuku-Lahaina 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 and Maui County

BLS publishes smoothed seasonally adjusted civilian labor force and unemployment estimates for all metropolitan areas, which includes the City and County of Honolulu and Maui County. BLS releases this data each month in the *Metropolitan Area Employment and Unemployment* news release. The schedule is available at <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/metro.toc.htm>.

Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization

Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization for States, Second Quarter of 2016 through First Quarter of 2017 Averages.

Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization for US and Hawaii, Second Quarter of 2016 through First Quarter of 2017 Averages (percent)

State	Measure					
	U-1	U-2	U-3	U-4	U-5	U-6
United States	1.9	2.3	4.8	5.1	5.8	9.5
Hawaii	1.0	1.2	2.9	3.2	4.1	7.1

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.
 TDD/TTY Dial 711 then ask for (808) 586-8866

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