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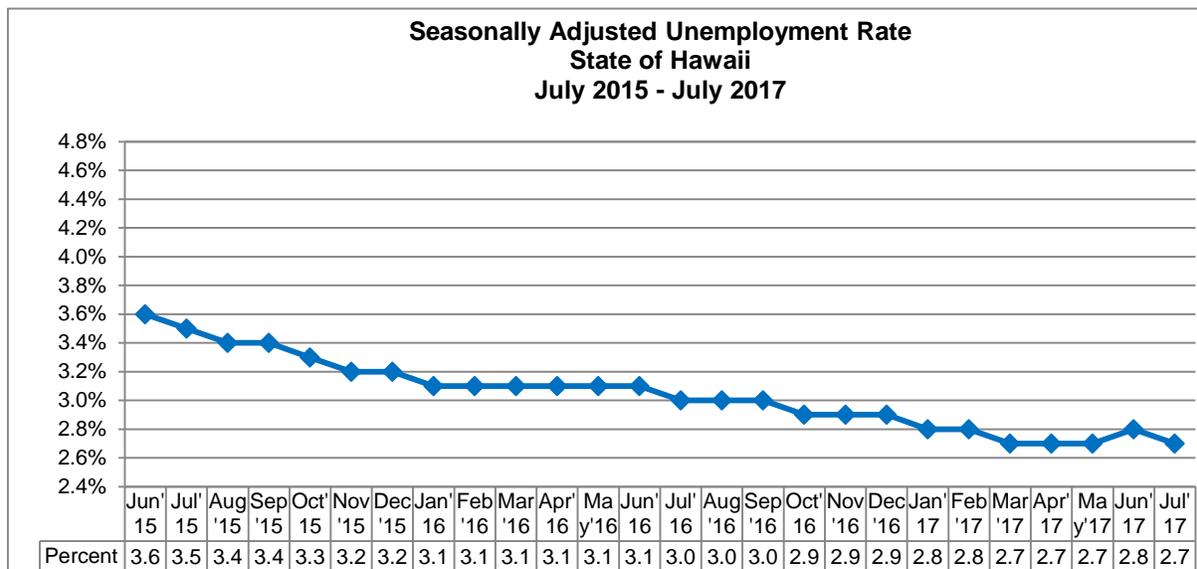
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 17, 2017

HAWAII'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AT 2.7 PERCENT IN JULY

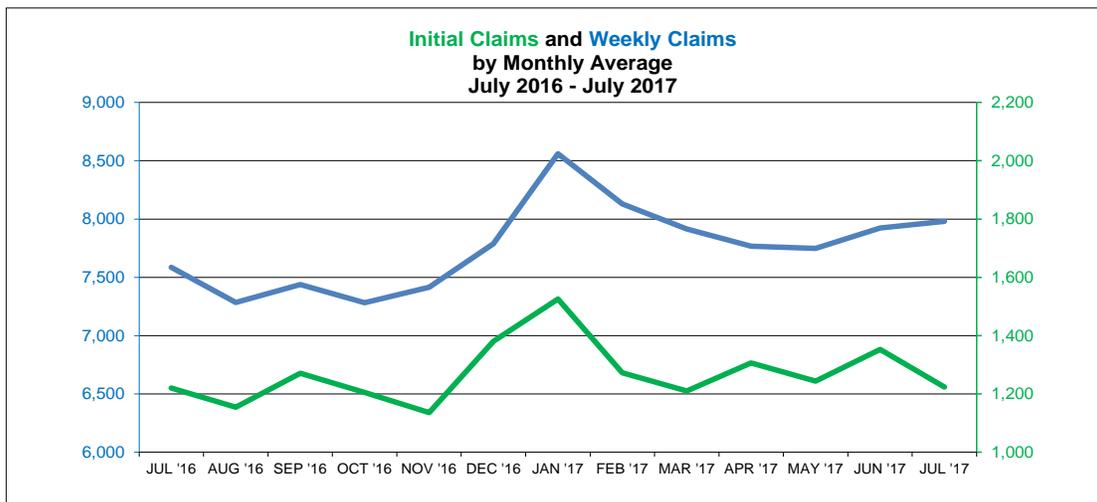
Non-Agricultural Jobs up 8,100 Over the Year

HONOLULU — The Hawaii State Department of Labor & Industrial Relations (DLIR) today announced that the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for July was 2.7 percent, compared to the revised rate for June of 2.8 percent. Statewide, 674,450 were employed and 18,650 unemployed in July for a total seasonally adjusted labor force of 693,100. “Hawaii’s economy continues to maintain a low 2.8 percent average unemployment rate for the first seven months of this year compared to 3.0 percent in 2016,” said Linda Chu Takayama, Director of the state Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. Nationally, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.3 percent in July, compared to 4.4 percent in June.



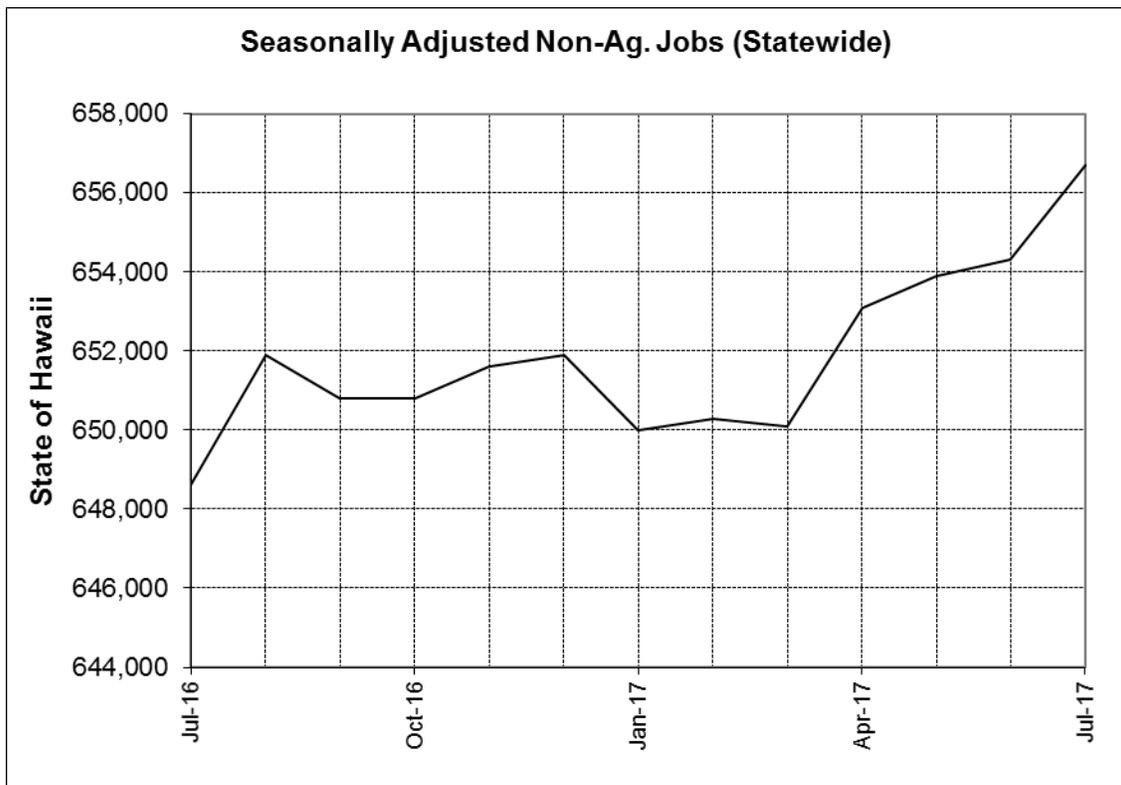
Both initial claims and weeks claims increased by 52 or 4.0 percent and by 564 or 7.7 percent respectively for unemployment benefits compared to one year ago. Over-the-month both initial claims and weeks claims rose by 8.8 percent and 2.3 percent respectively in June 2017.

The unemployment rate figures for the State of Hawaii and the U.S. in this release are



Seasonally Adjusted Non-Ag. Jobs (Statewide)

SELECTED SERIES:	Jul-17	Jun-17	Jul-16*
MINING, LOGGING & CONSTRUCTION	36,800	37,100	38,100
MANUFACTURING	14,000	13,900	14,200
Durable Goods	3,700	3,600	3,800
Non-Durable Goods	10,300	10,300	10,400
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES	123,600	121,800	120,000
Wholesale Trade	17,000	17,200	17,900
Retail Trade	74,100	72,300	70,400
INFORMATION	9,200	9,000	9,000
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	28,200	28,100	28,400
Finance & Insurance	16,000	15,900	16,000
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	12,200	12,200	12,400
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	85,600	85,100	83,700
Professional, Scientific, Tech Svcs	24,200	24,100	24,300
Administrative & Support & Waste Mgmt	52,000	50,900	50,700
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	85,900	83,600	83,600
Educational Services	15,600	15,300	15,200
Health Care & Social Assistance	70,300	68,300	68,400
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	122,400	122,700	118,300
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	12,300	12,300	12,000
Accommodation & Food Services	110,100	110,400	106,300
OTHER SERVICES	27,600	27,400	27,300
GOVERNMENT	123,400	125,600	126,000
Federal Government	33,300	33,200	33,200
State Government	71,000	73,300	73,800
Local Government	19,100	19,100	19,000
TOTAL: STATEWIDE	656,700	654,300	648,600



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, Third Quarter of 2016 through Second Quarter of 2017 Averages.

Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization for US and Hawaii, 3rd Quarter of 2016 through 2nd Quarter of 2017 Averages (percent)

State	Measure					
	U-1	U-2	U-3	U-4	U-5	U-6
United States	1.8	2.3	4.7	5.0	5.7	9.2
Hawaii	0.9	1.1	2.8	3.2	3.9	6.8

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.

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program
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