



## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

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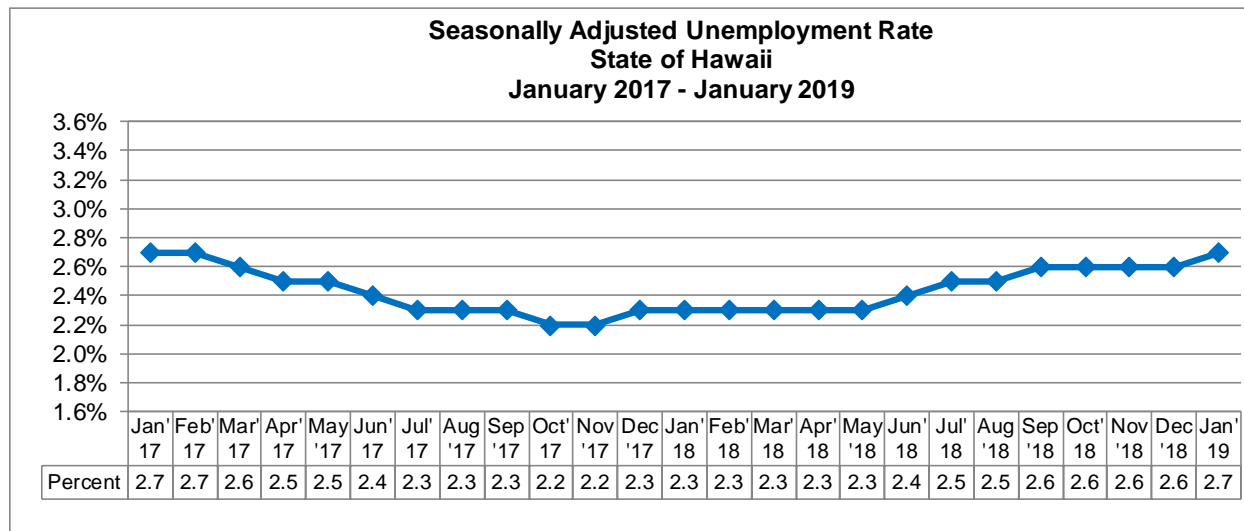
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 8, 2019

### HAWAII'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AT 2.7 PERCENT IN JANUARY

#### Jobs Increase 2,600 Over the Year

HONOLULU — The Hawaii State Department of Labor & Industrial Relations (DLIR) today announced that the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for January was 2.7 percent compared to the revised rate of 2.6 percent in December. Statewide, 658,500 were employed and 18,000 unemployed in January for a total seasonally adjusted labor force of 676,500. Nationally, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.0 percent in January, compared to 3.9 percent in December.

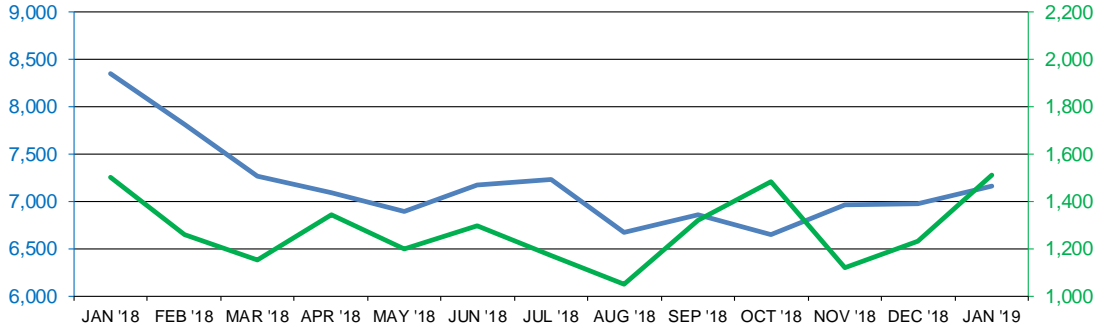


Initial claims increased by 8 or 0.5 percent while weeks claims decreased by 1,191 or -14.3 percent for unemployment benefits compared to one year ago. Over-the-month both initial claims and weeks claims increased by 22.6 percent and 2.6 percent respectively in January 2019.

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 2.9 percent in January, compared to 2.3 percent in December.

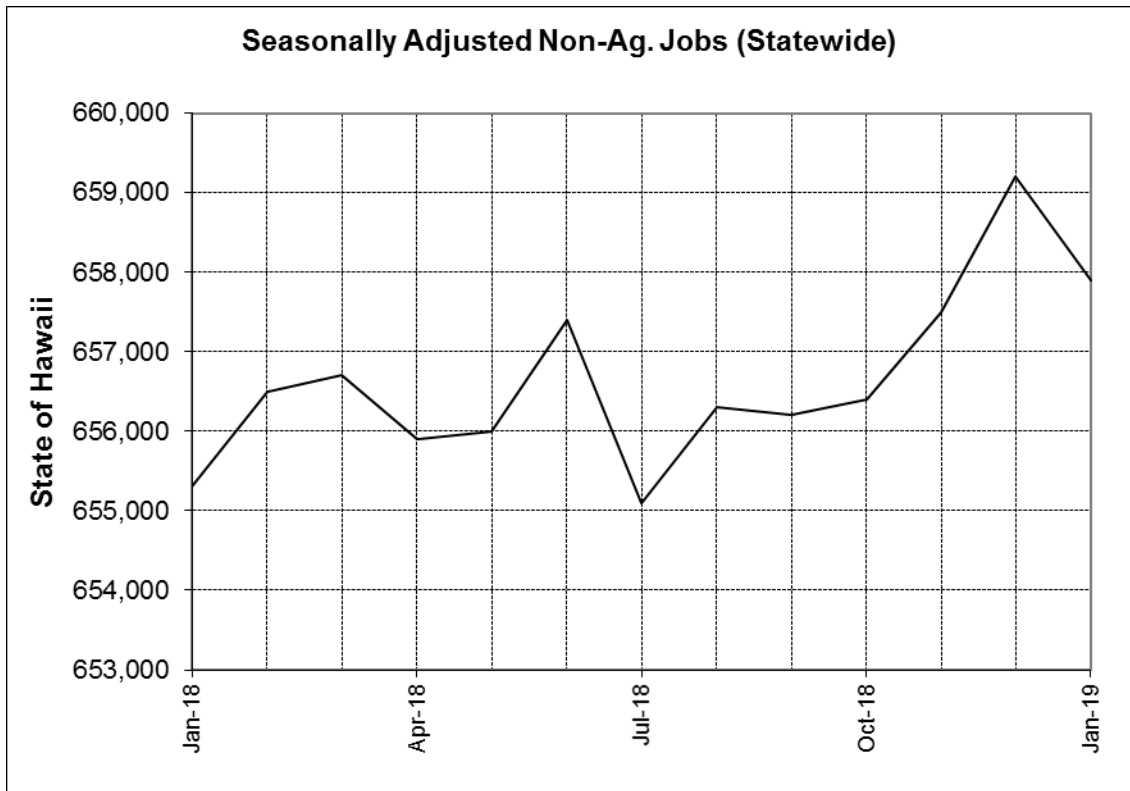


**Initial Claims and Weekly Claims**  
by Monthly Average  
January 2018 - January 2019



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

	Jan-19	Dec-18	Jan-18
MINING, LOGGING & CONSTRUCTION	36,300	36,300	35,800
MANUFACTURING	14,100	14,100	14,500
Durable Goods	3,800	3,800	3,800
Non-Durable Goods	10,300	10,300	10,700
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES	122,300	121,800	123,100
Wholesale Trade	17,900	17,900	17,900
Retail Trade	70,600	70,400	72,000
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	33,800	33,500	33,200
INFORMATION	9,200	9,500	8,600
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	29,200	29,100	28,900
Finance & Insurance	16,100	16,100	16,100
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13,100	13,000	12,800
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	82,500	82,800	82,100
Professional, Scientific, Tech Svcs	24,600	24,500	24,500
Management of Companies & Enterprises	9,200	9,100	8,900
Administrative & Support & Waste Mgmt	48,700	49,200	48,700
EDUCATION & HEALTH SERVICES	86,300	86,300	85,700
Educational Services	14,400	14,500	14,200
Health Care & Social Assistance	71,900	71,800	71,500
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	123,400	125,100	123,900
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	12,800	12,800	13,000
Accommodation & Food Services	110,600	112,300	110,900
OTHER SERVICES	28,100	28,100	28,000
GOVERNMENT	126,500	126,100	124,700
Federal Government	33,800	33,800	33,400
State Government	73,700	73,400	72,400
Local Government	19,000	18,900	18,900
<b>TOTAL: STATEWIDE</b>	<b>657,900</b>	<b>659,200</b>	<b>655,300</b>
<b>TOTAL: HONOLULU MSA</b>	<b>479,300</b>	<b>479,800</b>	<b>478,400</b>
<b>TOTAL: KAHULUI-WAILUKU-LAHAINA MSA</b>	<b>78,100</b>	<b>77,700</b>	<b>77,100</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**

Statewide and substate data for 2014-2018 have been re-estimated to reflect revised population controls and model reestimation, and for seasonally adjusted data, new seasonal adjustment.

### **Change to Monthly Employment Estimates**

This release incorporates revised job count figures for 2014-2018 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 believes 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, 2018 Annual Averages.*

## Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization for US and Hawaii, 2018 Annual Averages (percent)

State	Measure					
	U-1	U-2	U-3	U-4	U-5	U-6
United States	1.4	1.8	3.9	4.1	4.8	7.7
Hawaii	0.9	1.3	2.6	2.8	3.5	6.1

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.

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