



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

SCOTT T. MURAKAMI
DIRECTOR

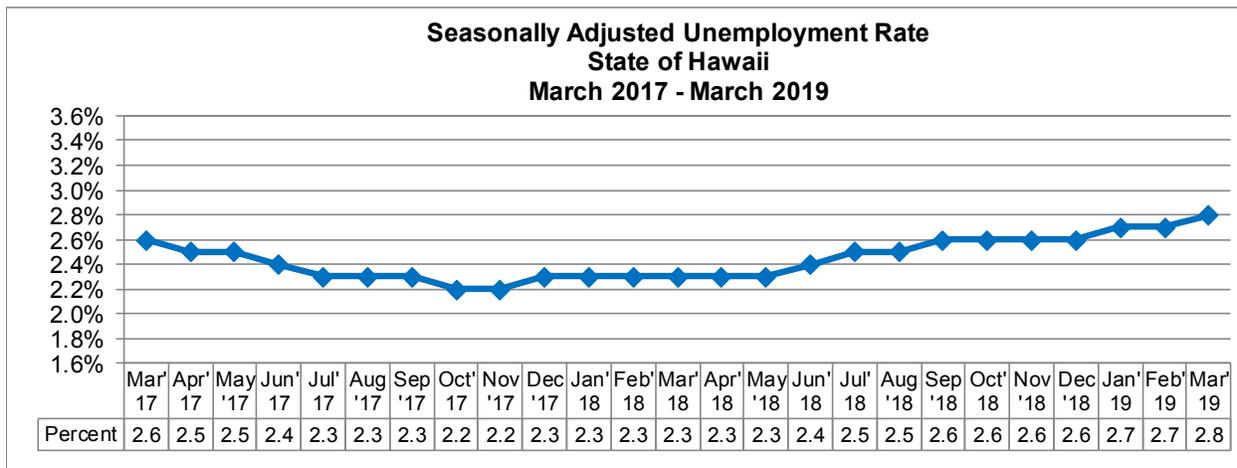
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 18, 2019

HAWAII'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AT 2.8 PERCENT IN MARCH

Jobs Increase 1,400 Over the Year

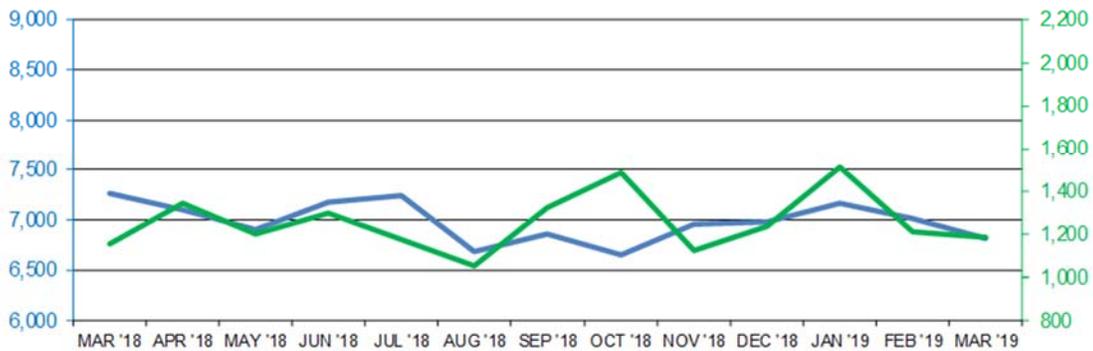
HONOLULU — The Hawaii State Department of Labor & Industrial Relations (DLIR) today announced that the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March was 2.8 percent, compared to 2.7 percent in February. Statewide, 654,100 were employed and 18,650 unemployed in March for a total seasonally adjusted labor force of 672,750. Nationally, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.8 percent in March, the same as in February.



Initial claims increased by 31 or 2.7 percent while weeks claims decreased by 448 or -6.2 percent for unemployment benefits compared to one year ago. Over-the-month, both initial claims and weeks claims declined by -2.2 percent and -2.8 percent respectively in March 2019.

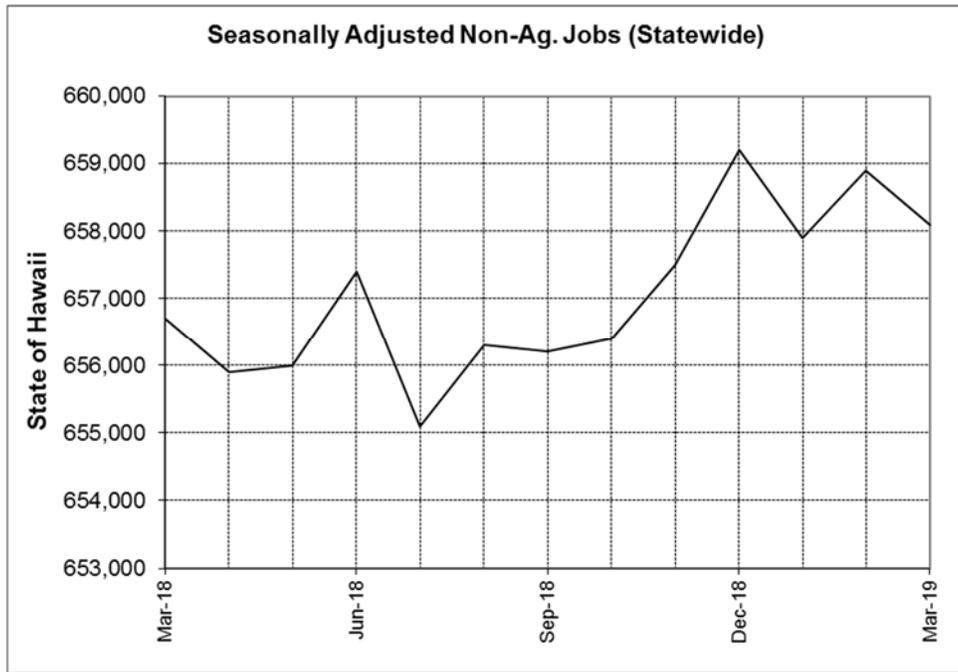
The unemployment rate figures for the State of Hawaii and the U.S. in this release are seasonally adjusted, in accordance with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) methodology. The not seasonally adjusted rate for the State was 2.8 percent in March, compared to the revised rate of 2.8 percent in February.

Initial Claims and Weekly Claims
by Monthly Average
March 2018 - March 2019



Seasonally Adjusted Non-Ag. Jobs (Statewide)

	Mar-19	Feb-19	Mar-18
MINING, LOGGING & CONSTRUCTION	36,200	35,800	35,900
MANUFACTURING	13,800	13,800	14,400
Durable Goods	3,800	3,800	3,800
Non-Durable Goods	10,000	10,000	10,600
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES	121,400	122,000	123,000
Wholesale Trade	18,000	18,100	17,900
Retail Trade	70,600	70,700	71,800
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	32,800	33,200	33,300
INFORMATION	9,400	9,300	9,100
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	29,400	29,300	28,800
Finance & Insurance	16,200	16,100	16,000
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13,200	13,200	12,800
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	81,800	82,300	82,500
Professional, Scientific, Tech Svcs	24,400	24,300	24,600
Management of Companies & Enterprises	9,100	9,200	9,000
Administrative & Support & Waste Mgmt	48,300	48,800	48,900
EDUCATION & HEALTH SERVICES	86,200	86,200	85,800
Educational Services	14,400	14,400	14,400
Health Care & Social Assistance	71,800	71,800	71,400
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	125,000	125,100	124,000
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	12,800	12,800	13,100
Accommodation & Food Services	112,200	112,300	110,900
OTHER SERVICES	28,400	28,300	28,000
GOVERNMENT	126,500	126,800	125,200
Federal Government	33,900	33,900	33,500
State Government	73,700	74,000	72,800
Local Government	18,900	18,900	18,900
TOTAL: STATEWIDE	658,100	658,900	656,700
TOTAL: HONOLULU MSA	480,600	481,200	477,300
TOTAL: KAHULUI-WAILUKU-LAHAINA MSA	78,000	77,800	77,700



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 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 to produce 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, 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.

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

###

View DLIR news releases:

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

Media Contact:

Bill Kunstman

Department of Labor and Industrial Relations

(808) 586-8845

william.g.kunstman@hawaii.gov

<http://labor.hawaii.gov>