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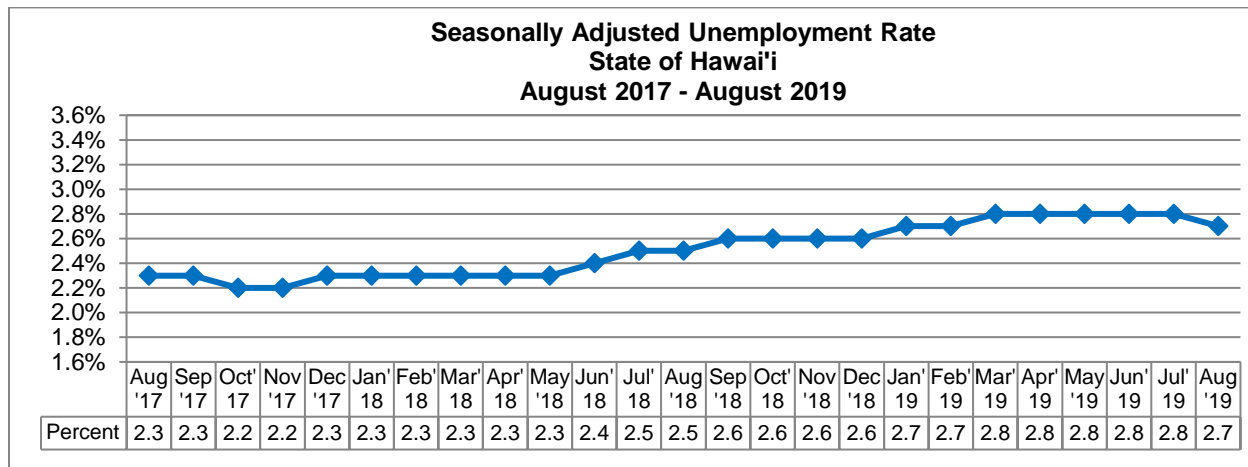
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 19, 2019

HAWAII'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AT 2.7 PERCENT IN AUGUST

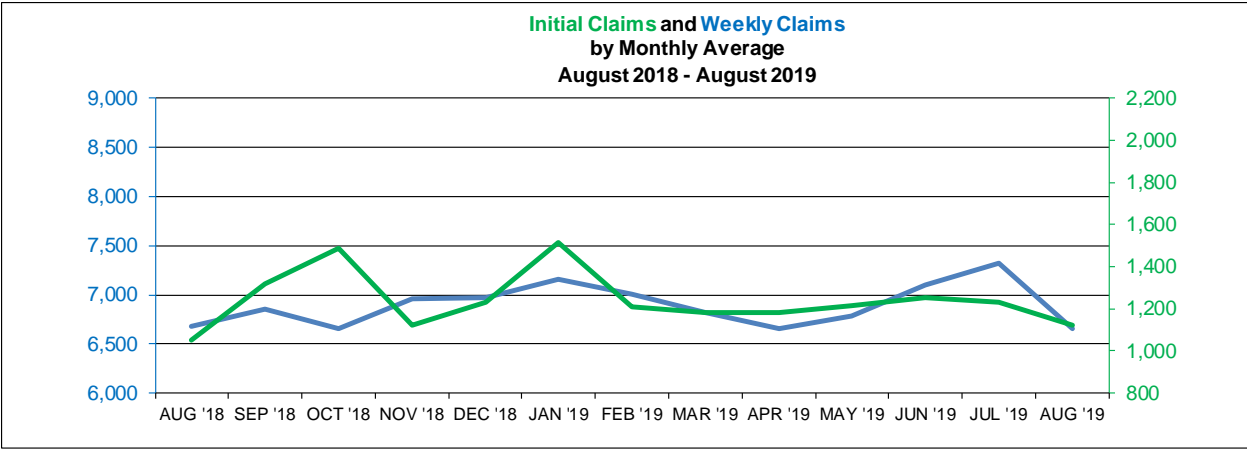
Unemployment Rate Under 3 Percent for 37 Months

HONOLULU — The Hawai'i State Department of Labor & Industrial Relations (DLIR) today announced that the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for August was 2.7 percent, compared to 2.8 percent for March through July. Statewide, 643,050 were employed and 18,000 unemployed in August for a total seasonally adjusted labor force of 661,050. Nationally, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.7 percent in August, the same for the third consecutive month.



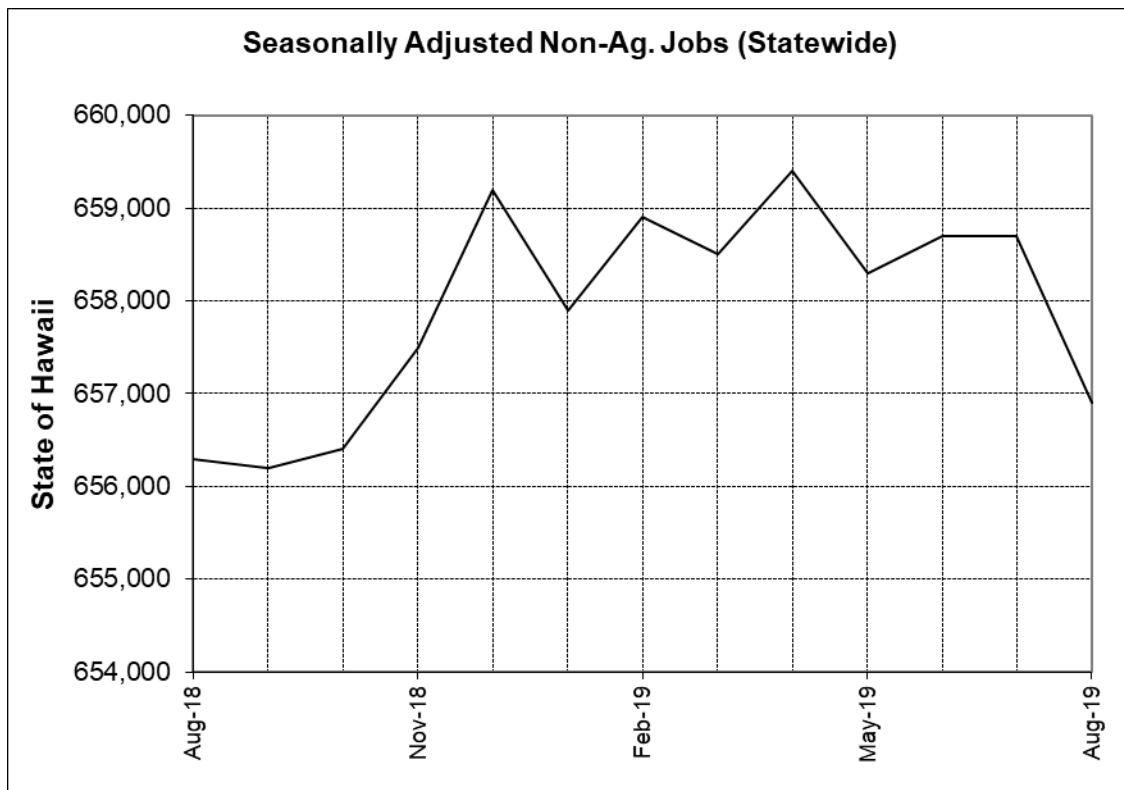
Initial claims increased by 70 or 6.6 percent while weeks claims decreased by 19 or -0.3 percent for unemployment benefits compared to one year ago. Over-the-month both initial claims and weeks claims dropped by -8.8 percent and -9.0 percent respectively in August 2019.

The unemployment rate figures for the State of Hawai'i 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 2.5 percent in August, compared to 2.7 percent in July.



Seasonally Adjusted Non-Ag. Jobs (Statewide)

	Aug-19	Jul-19	Aug-18
MINING, LOGGING & CONSTRUCTION	37,000	36,900	36,100
MANUFACTURING	14,000	13,900	14,000
Durable Goods	3,800	3,800	3,700
Non-Durable Goods	10,200	10,100	10,300
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES	119,000	119,400	123,000
Wholesale Trade	17,400	17,400	17,700
Retail Trade	68,500	68,800	71,900
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	33,100	33,200	33,400
INFORMATION	9,300	9,300	9,300
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	28,200	28,300	28,600
Finance & Insurance	15,500	15,600	15,900
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	12,700	12,700	12,700
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	83,500	83,100	82,600
Professional, Scientific, Tech Svcs	24,000	24,200	24,700
Management of Companies & Enterprises	9,200	9,100	9,000
Administrative & Support & Waste Mgmt	50,300	49,800	48,900
EDUCATION & HEALTH SERVICES	86,600	86,300	85,400
Educational Services	14,400	14,400	14,000
Health Care & Social Assistance	72,200	71,900	71,400
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	126,200	126,000	123,800
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	12,700	12,700	12,800
Accommodation & Food Services	113,500	113,300	111,000
OTHER SERVICES	28,600	28,600	27,900
GOVERNMENT	124,500	126,900	125,600
Federal Government	34,100	34,000	33,700
State Government	71,400	73,900	73,100
Local Government	19,000	19,000	18,800
TOTAL: STATEWIDE	656,900	658,700	656,300
TOTAL: HONOLULU MSA	481,400	482,200	477,300
TOTAL: KAHULUI-WAILUKU-LAHAINA MSA	77,900	77,800	77,900



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 Hawai'i 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 Hawai'i and our metropolitan areas. These estimates were based on a monthly survey of Hawai'i 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 Hawai'i, 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 Hawai'i'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 2018 through second quart of 2019 averages.

Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization for US and Hawai'i, third quarter of 2018 through second quarter of 2019 averages (percent)

	Measure					
	U-1	U-2	U-3	U-4	U-5	U-6
United States	1.4	1.8	3.8	4.0	4.7	7.4
Hawai'i	0.9	1.2	2.8	3.1	4.0	6.9

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.
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