



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

News Release

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

DARWIN L.D. CHING, DIRECTOR
COLLEEN Y. LaCLAIR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
Phone: (808) 586-8844
Fax: (808) 586-9099

MR 2008 28

For Immediate Release: October 20, 2008

**HAWAII'S SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AT
4.5 PERCENT IN SEPTEMBER**

National Unemployment Rate remains at 6.1 percent

HONOLULU – The Hawai'i State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations announced today that the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for September was 4.5 percent, an increase of 0.3 percentage point over August's rate. In contrast, the U.S. seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained unchanged over-the-month at 6.1 percent. In September, the seasonally adjusted labor force totaled an all-time high 667,750 and was comprised of 637,550 employed and 30,200 unemployed.

State of Hawaii Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Data			
	<u>Sep 2008</u>	<u>Aug 2008</u>	<u>Sep 2007</u>
Labor Force	667,750	664,200	648,150
Employment	637,550	636,050	630,050
Unemployment	30,200	28,150	18,150

	SEP 2008	AUG 2008	SEP 2007
STATE	4.5	4.2	2.8
HONOLULU#	4.2	3.9	2.7
HAWAII COUNTY#	6.7	6.2	3.7
KAUAI#	4.9	4.3	2.8
MAUI COUNTY#	5.5	4.7	3.7
Maui Island#	5.2	4.4	3.6
Molokai#	15.3	14.1	6.8
Lanai#	4.9	4.9	1.6
U. S.	6.1	6.1	4.7

non-seasonally adjusted

Industry Payroll Employment

In another measure of employment, total seasonally adjusted nonagricultural jobs declined by 1,800 to 623,100 in September. Job increases in the private sector were noted in Educational and Health Services and Other Services (+100 each). Leisure and Hospitality remained unchanged. There were job losses in Trade, Transportation and Utilities (-100) mainly in water and air transportation; and Construction (-300). However, the bulk of the job reduction occurred predominantly in state government in the Department of Education. A year ago, in September 2007, the seasonally adjusted job count trended down by 900 jobs. Over-the-year, the industries in the private sector posting job gains included Educational and Health Services (+1,600) and Other Services (+700).

“We are confident that Governor Lingle's proactive initiatives and five-point plan to stimulate the economy, coupled with the innovation and resiliency of Hawaii's workforce, will get us through this challenging period,” said Darwin L.D. Ching, Director of Labor and Industrial Relations.

Seasonally Adjusted Non-Ag. Jobs (State)			
SELECTED SERIES:	Sep-08	Aug-08	Sep-07*
NATURAL RESOURCES, MINING AND CONSTRUCTION	39,000	39,300	39,300
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES	117,700	117,800	120,400
Wholesale Trade	18,500	18,600	18,400
Retail Trade	70,500	70,300	69,800
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	74,600	74,500	73,000
Educational Services	14,900	14,800	14,200
Health Care and Social Assistance	59,700	59,700	58,800
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	107,800	107,800	109,200
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	11,200	11,300	12,200
Accommodation & Food Services	96,600	96,500	97,000
OTHER SERVICES	27,400	27,300	26,700
GOVERNMENT	125,100	126,400	123,400
Federal Government	32,600	32,200	31,600
State Government	73,800	75,500	73,800
Local Government	18,700	18,700	18,000
TOTAL: STATE	623,100	624,900	624,000

❖ **Education and Health Services (+100)**

This industrial sector improved modestly. Educational Services comprised the entire increase after reporting job losses for two consecutive months. Health Care and Social Assistance remained unchanged. The minimal increase in nursing and residential care facilities countered the slight drop in social assistance in community housing services.

❖ **Other Services (+100)**

This miscellaneous category reported growth for the second month in a row. A minimal increase was registered in social advocacy organizations.

❖ **Leisure and Hospitality (No Change)**

Leisure and Hospitality remained relatively stable over the month. Accommodation and Food Services recorded an increase after remaining stable the previous month. The gain in Food Services helped offset the losses experienced in Accommodation. Hotels have been affected by the drop in visitor arrivals as evidenced by lower occupancy rates accompanied with hotel renovations. The rise in this sector was countered by the drop in Arts, Entertainment and Recreation which hired fewer employees in museums, historical sites and similar institutions.

❖ **Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-100)**

This major group edged down slightly from August. Retail Trade trended up by 200 jobs in food and beverage stores. The recent opening of a new grocery store on O'ahu contributed to some of this gain. Wholesale Trade contracted minimally by 100 jobs in merchant wholesalers, durable goods. Transportation accounted for the remaining job loss shared among marine cargo handling and general freight trucking; and air transportation.

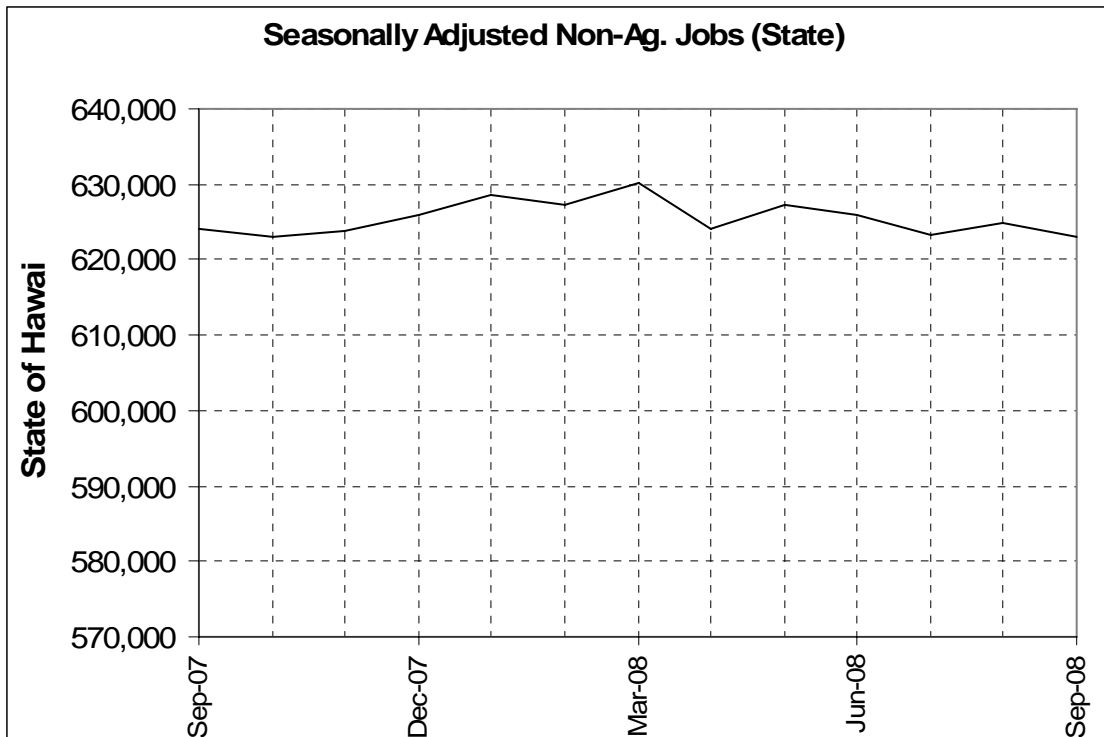
❖ **Construction (-300)**

Construction experienced the largest over-the-month drop in the private sector in September with the completion of existing projects. Majority of the reduction occurred in construction of buildings mainly in commercial and institutional building construction under nonresidential

building construction. The decrease was partly reflected from increases in initial claim filings.

❖ **Government (-1,300)**

Government accounted for the largest job decline over-the-month. Federal Government added 400 jobs while Local Government remained relatively unchanged. Within this sector, State Government encompassed the largest proportion of the decrease predominantly in the Department Education. The job loss was mainly due to public schools continuing the unified school schedule.



For more information, contact:
Ryan Markham
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations
Phone: (808) 586-8868
Fax: (808) 586-9099
Email: Ryan.K.Markham@hawaii.gov