



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

**News Release**

**LINDA LINGLE**  
GOVERNOR

---

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

---

**MR 2009 26**

For Immediate Release: October 21, 2009

**HAWAII'S SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AT  
7.2 PERCENT IN SEPTEMBER  
National Unemployment Rate at 9.8 percent**

**HONOLULU-** The Hawai'i State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations announced today that the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for September was 7.2 percent, an increase of 0.1 percentage point over August's rate of 7.1 percent, which was revised downward by 0.1 percentage point. In comparison, the U.S. seasonally adjusted unemployment rate also increased slightly, going from 9.7 percent in August to 9.8 percent in September. Over the last six months Hawai'i's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate has been between two to two-and-a-half percentage points lower than the national rate. There were 600,200 employed and 46,900 unemployed in September, for a total seasonally adjusted labor force of 647,100.

State of Hawai'i Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Data			
	<u>Sep 2009</u>	<u>Aug 2009</u>	<u>Sep 2008</u>
Labor Force	647,100	643,050	656,000
Employment	600,200	597,250	626,950
Unemployment	46,900	45,750	29,100

	SEP 2009	AUG 2009	SEP 2008
STATE	7.2	7.1	4.4
HONOLULU	6.3	6.0	4.1
HAWAII COUNTY	10.8	10.3	6.6
KAUAI	9.6	9.6	4.8
MAUI COUNTY	9.7	9.3	5.4
Maui Island	9.5	9.1	5.1
Moloka'i	13.9	14.6	14.3
Lana'i	11.1	11.8	4.7
U. S.	9.8	9.7	6.2

county & island rates are non-seasonally adjusted

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 figures for the counties and islands are not seasonally adjusted as the BLS currently does not utilize a model for these smaller areas.

### **Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey)**

In another measure of employment, total seasonally adjusted nonagricultural jobs declined by 4,200 from 594,100 to 589,900 in September. There were reported job losses in almost every industry in the private sector. The industries posting declines included: Financial Activities; and Leisure and Hospitality (-200 each); Educational and Health Services; and Other Services (-400 each), Professional and Business Services (-500), Construction (-700) and Trade, Transportation and Utilities (-900). Government also recorded a minimal job drop. Over-the-year, from September 2008, the seasonally adjusted job count contracted by 23,500 jobs, predominantly in the private sector. The industries posting job reduction over the past year included Construction (-5,500), Trade, Transportation and Utilities (-5,400), and Leisure and Hospitality (-5,300).

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

<b>SELECTED SERIES:</b>	<b>Sep-09</b>	<b>Aug-09</b>	<b>Sep-08*</b>
MINING, LOGGING AND AND CONSTRUCTION	31,600	32,300	37,100
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES	110,600	111,500	116,000
Wholesale Trade	17,800	18,100	18,700
Retail Trade	66,100	66,400	69,800
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES **	27,800	28,000	29,200
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing **	11,300	11,400	12,400
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES **	71,800	72,300	74,600
Professional, Scientific, Tech Svcs **	25,100	24,900	25,000
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	74,900	75,300	74,400
Educational Services	14,600	15,000	14,700
Health Care & Social Assistance	60,300	60,300	59,700
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	100,000	100,200	105,300
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	10,700	10,800	11,300
Accommodation & Food Services	89,300	89,400	94,000
OTHER SERVICES	25,600	26,000	27,000
GOVERNMENT	124,200	124,300	125,900
Federal Government	33,100	33,200	32,600
State Government	72,100	72,100	74,600
Local Government	19,000	19,000	18,700
<b>TOTAL: STATEWIDE</b>	<b>589,900</b>	<b>594,100</b>	<b>613,400</b>

\* Benchmarked Data

\*\* New Series (started publishing in 2009)

❖ **Financial Activities (-200)**

This new industrial series slipped by 200 jobs dropping for the sixth consecutive month.

Finance and Insurance; and Real Estates and Rental and Leasing each trimmed 100 jobs.

Finance and Insurance fell in depository credit intermediation, while Real Estate and Rental and Leasing slipped in offices of real estate agents and brokers.

❖ **Leisure and Hospitality (-200)**

Leisure and Hospitality recorded a modest 200 job loss sliding down for the third straight

month. Arts, Entertainment and Recreation comprised 100 of the job drop in zoos and

botanical gardens; and other amusement and recreation industries. Accommodation and

Food Services accounted for the remaining 100 job decrease mainly in Accommodation. A

hotel on Kaua`i recently re-opened after a one-year renovation rehiring most of its former employees. This re-opening was offset by another hotel on the Big Island releasing most of its staff due to a scheduled two-month hotel remodeling project.

❖ **Educational and Health Services (-400)**

This major industry trended downward after reporting a slight increase a month earlier. Educational Services accounted for the entire decline. The descent was shared between elementary and secondary schools; and technical and trade schools. Health Care and Social Assistance remained relatively unchanged. The increase in offices of dentists and home health care services was countered by the decrease in offices of physicians.

❖ **Other Services (-400)**

This miscellaneous sector reported job losses for the seventh month in a row, registering a 200 job drop in drycleaning and laundry services and grantmaking and giving services.

❖ **Professional and Business Services (-500)**

This new major industrial group declined by 500 jobs trending down for the second month in a row. Professional, Scientific and Technical Services trended up by 200 jobs in environmental consulting services; and offices of certified public accountants.

Administrative and Support Services comprised the entire job loss shaving 700 jobs mainly in temporary help services, as well as in travel arrangement and reservation services; and waste management and remediation services.

❖ **Construction (-700)**

Construction contracted by 700 jobs over-the-month declining for the third consecutive month primarily in special trade contractors in building finishing contractors; and building equipment contractors. Construction of buildings also subsided, curtailing jobs in residential building construction and nonresidential building construction. Over the past year, from September 2008, this industry declined by 5,500 jobs due in part to the continual economic downturn and less construction contracts.

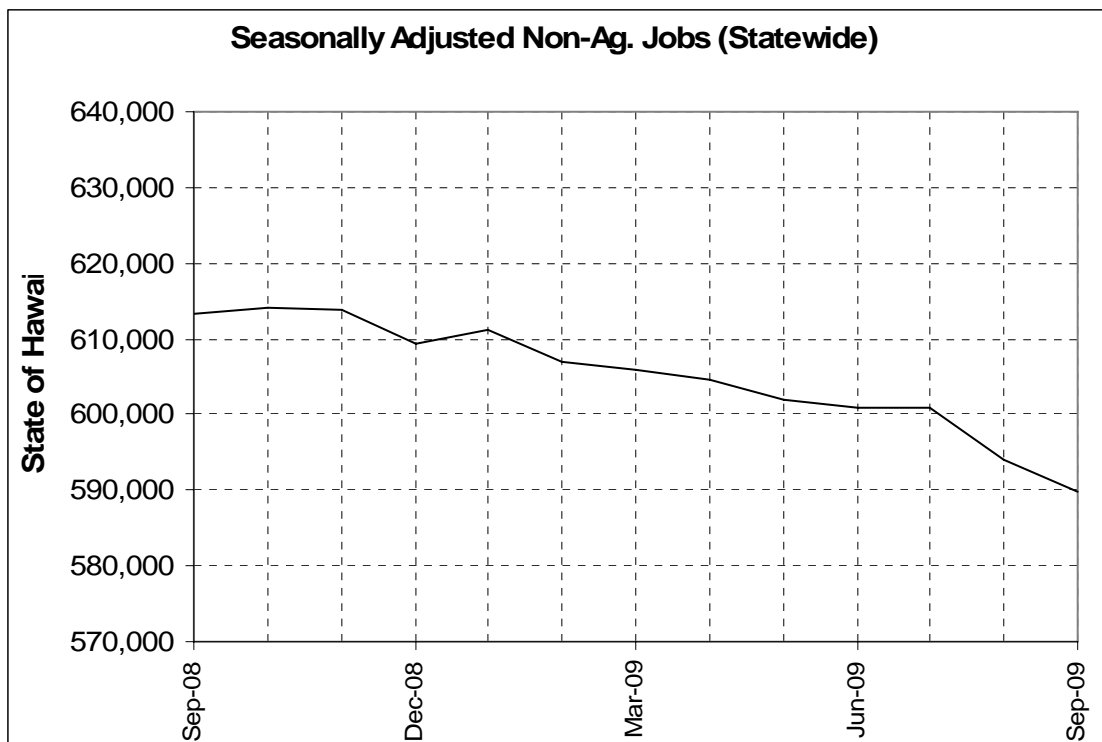
❖ **Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-900)**

This major industrial sector receded by 900 jobs slipping for the second straight month.

Wholesale Trade; Retail Trade; and Transportation and Warehousing each trimmed 300 jobs from August. Wholesale Trade fell in lumber and other construction materials merchant wholesalers; and grocery and related product merchant wholesalers. Retail Trade edged down in electronics and appliance stores; and in miscellaneous stores as pet and pet supplies stores; and art dealers. A new clothing and clothing accessories store recently opened at a major shopping center in Honolulu hiring a few hundred employees. This job gain will be reflected in next month's jobcount. Transportation subsided in scenic and sightseeing transportation, land; scenic and sightseeing transportation, water; and airport operations.

❖ **Government (-100)**

Government edged down slightly by 100 jobs in federal government. State Government and Local Government remained stable over-the-month.



## Technical Notes

### **Seasonal Adjustment**

The seasonal fluctuations in the number of employed and unemployed persons reflect hiring (and layoffs) 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. To deal with such problems, a statistical technique called seasonal adjustment is used. This technique uses the past history of the series 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. When a statistical series has been seasonally adjusted, data for any month can be more meaningfully compared with data from any other month or with an annual average.

### **Current Population (Household) Survey (CPS)**

The labor force statistics are derived from a survey based on the week including the 12<sup>th</sup> of each month of Hawai`i residents with a sample size of about 1,000 households. A series of questions are asked to assess whether a person is currently part of the labor force, and if so, what is their 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 are classified as unemployed if they do not have a job, have actively looked for work in the prior four weeks, and are currently available for work. Workers expecting to be recalled from layoff are counted as unemployed, whether or not 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.

#####

For more information, go to: [www.hawaii.gov/labor](http://www.hawaii.gov/labor)

-or-

contact:

Ryan Markham

Phone: (808) 586-8845

Fax: (808) 586-9099

Email: [ryan.k.markham@hawaii.gov](mailto:ryan.k.markham@hawaii.gov)