



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

News Release

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**HAWAII'S SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DROPS
TO 3.1 PERCENT IN MARCH**

**2,000 New Jobs Created Over-the-month; Hawaii tied for fourth lowest
Unemployment Rate in the nation**

HONOLULU - The Hawai'i State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations announced today that the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March was 3.1 percent, a slight decrease of 0.1 percentage point over February. In contrast, the U.S. seasonally adjusted unemployment rose over-the-month by 0.3 percentage point, going from 4.8 percent in February to 5.1 percent in March. Hawai'i's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate has ranged from 2.8 – 3.2 percent over the last six months, while the national seasonally adjusted unemployment has ranged from 4.7 – 5.1 percent.

Hawaii's unemployment rate was the fourth lowest in the nation, with South Dakota posting the lowest unemployment rate in the nation at 2.5 percent for the month of March. In March, Hawai'i's seasonally adjusted labor force totaled 658,000, and was comprised of 637,500 employed and 20,500 unemployed.

State of Hawaii Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Data			
	<u>Mar 2008</u>	<u>Feb 2008</u>	<u>Mar 2007</u>
Labor Force	658,000	650,350	651,850
Employment	637,500	629,450	635,500
Unemployment	20,500	20,850	16,350

	MAR 2008	FEB 2008	* MAR 2007
STATE	3.1	3.2	2.5
HONOLULU#	2.7	2.8	2.3
HAWAII COUNTY#	4.1	3.9	3.0
KAUAI#	3.1	3.0	2.3
MAUI COUNTY#	3.4	3.3	2.2
Maui Island#	3.2	3.2	2.1
Molokai#	5.8	6.3	4.8
Lanai#	4.6	4.7	2.8
U. S.	5.1	4.8	4.4

non-seasonally adjusted

* county data preliminary- subject to Bureau of Labor Statistics approval

Industry Payroll Employment

In another measure of employment, total seasonally adjusted nonagricultural jobs grew in March from February by 2,000 to 629,200. The industries experiencing job increases included Trade, Transportation & Utilities and Leisure and Hospitality (+200 each) and Other Services (+100). The sectors reporting job decreases were Construction and Educational and Health Services (-100 each).

The largest job growth occurred in State Government predominantly in State Education. A year ago, in March 2007, the seasonally adjusted job count expanded by 4,900 or 0.8 percent with the private sector comprising nearly three out of every five jobs. The industries recording considerable over-the-year job gains in the private sector included Construction and Educational and Health Services (+1,600 each).

"The Department is optimistic that Hawai'i's relatively low unemployment rate and excellent employment numbers, will present new employment opportunities for those skilled workers recently affected by several high-profile closures ," said Darwin L.D. Ching, director of labor and industrial relations."

Seasonally Adjusted Non-Ag. Jobs (State)			
SELECTED SERIES:	Mar-08	Feb-08	Mar-07*
NATURAL RESOURCES, MINING AND CONSTRUCTION	40,200	40,300	38,600
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES	121,200	121,000	122,200
Wholesale Trade	18,600	18,800	18,500
Retail Trade	70,800	70,500	70,600
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	74,200	74,300	72,600
Educational Services	15,000	15,000	14,100
Health Care and Social Assistance	59,200	59,300	58,500
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	109,500	109,300	110,100
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	11,500	11,500	11,900
Accommodation & Food Services	98,000	97,800	98,200
OTHER SERVICES	27,100	27,000	26,400
GOVERNMENT	124,000	122,900	122,000
Federal Government	31,500	31,400	31,900
State Government	74,200	73,400	72,300
Local Government	18,300	18,100	17,800
TOTAL: STATE	629,200	627,200	624,300

❖ **Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (+200)**

This major sector increased by 200 jobs after posting a decrease last month. Wholesale Trade dropped by 200 jobs in machinery, equipment, and supplies merchant wholesalers and jewelry, watch, precious stone, and precious metal merchant wholesalers. Retail Trade rose by 300 jobs mainly in general merchandise partly due to the expansion of a Honolulu shopping center.

Despite the loss of additional jobs in water transportation resulting from a major cruise line company relocating one of its ships to Europe and another water transportation firm

releasing more workers due to repair work on its ship, transportation and warehousing as a whole reported a slight gain in jobs. Air transportation will see a significant adjustment next month due to the abrupt shutdown of two major airline carriers laying off many of their employees.

❖ **Leisure and Hospitality (+200)**

Leisure and Hospitality recorded job gains for the second consecutive month. Arts, Entertainment and Recreation remained stable. The upturn in fitness and recreational sport centers was offset by slight slowdown in golf courses and country clubs. Accommodation and Food Services accounted for the entire increase in this sector predominantly in food services in both full service restaurants and limited-service eating places.

❖ **Other Services (+100)**

This miscellaneous series edged up slightly for the second month in a row in personal care services and labor unions and similar labor organizations.

❖ **Construction (-100)**

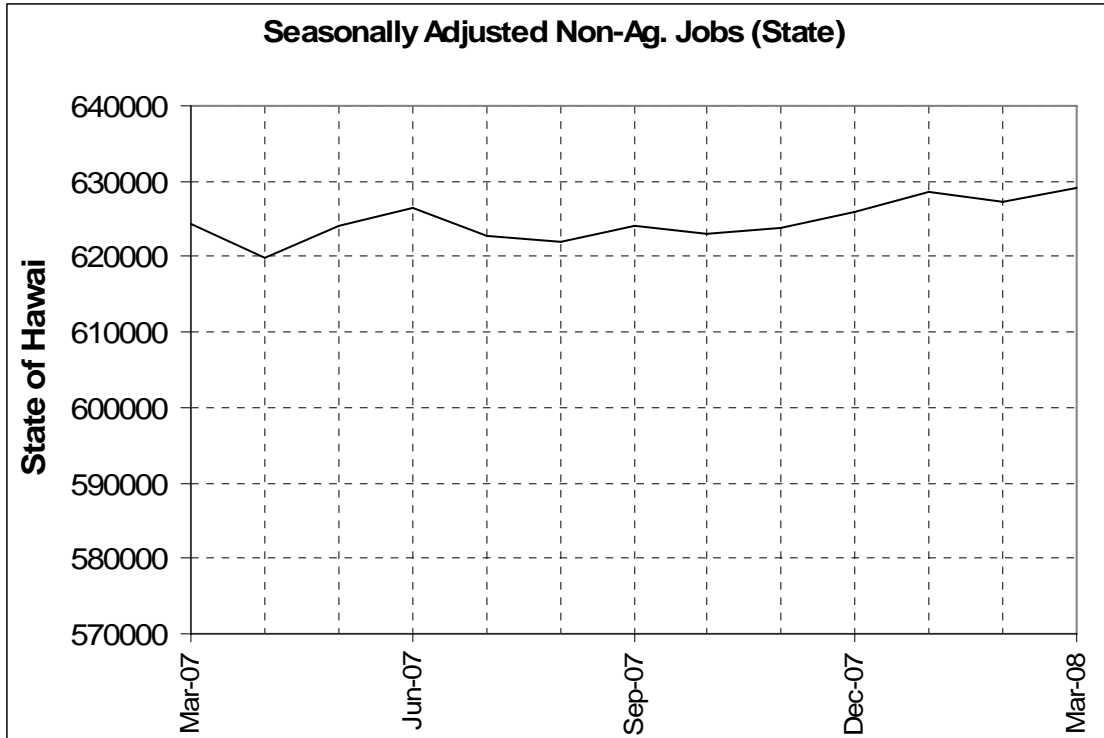
After a notable 400 job gain from February, Construction fell modestly over-the-month. The loss was mainly in special trade contractors in equipment building contractors. This industry continued to maintain its strength; over-the-year, it rose by 1,600 jobs or 4.1 percent.

❖ **Educational and Health Services (-100)**

This industrial group reported a minimal loss of jobs after registering four consecutive months of growth. Educational Services was unchanged in private schools. Health Care and Social Assistance comprised of the total loss of 100 jobs, mainly in child day care services in the social assistance category.

❖ **Government (+1,100)**

Government reported the largest job gain in March with increases in all branches of government. Federal Government grew by a minimal 100 jobs, while Local Government added 200 jobs. State Government made up the balance of 800 jobs mainly in the Department of Education.



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UNEMPLOYMENT RATES- NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

	MAR 2008	FEB 2008	* MAR 2007
STATE	3.0	3.0	2.4
HONOLULU	2.7	2.8	2.3
HAWAII COUNTY	4.1	3.9	3.0
KAUAI	3.1	3.0	2.3
MAUI COUNTY	3.4	3.3	2.2
Maui Island	3.2	3.2	2.1
Molokai	5.8	6.3	4.8
Lanai	4.6	4.7	2.8
U. S.	5.2	5.2	4.5

* county data preliminary- subject to Bureau of Labor Statistics approval

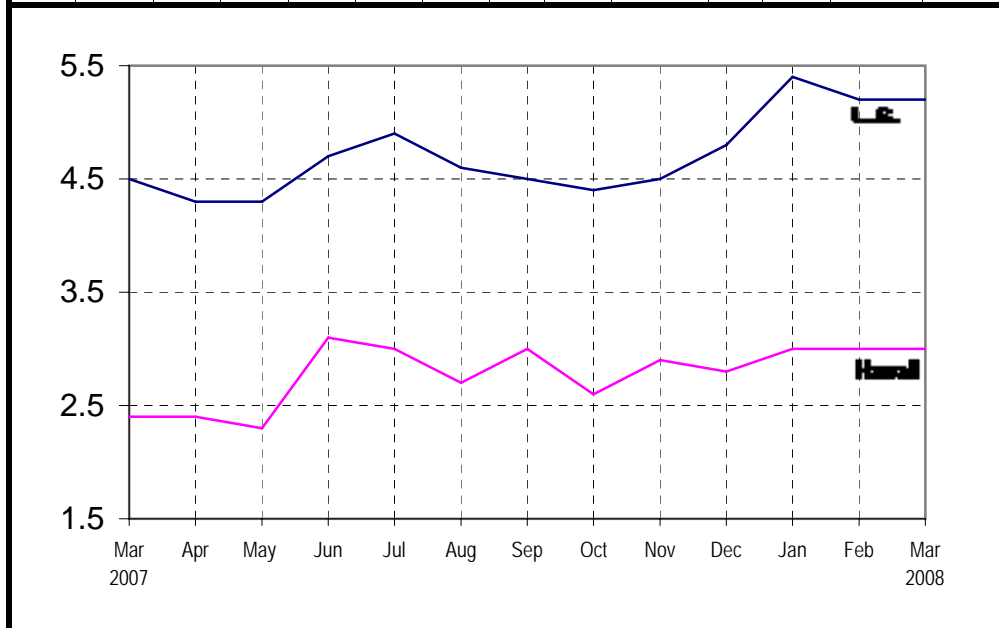
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES- SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

	MAR 2008	FEB 2008	MAR 2007
STATE	3.1	3.2	2.5
U. S.	5.1	4.8	4.4

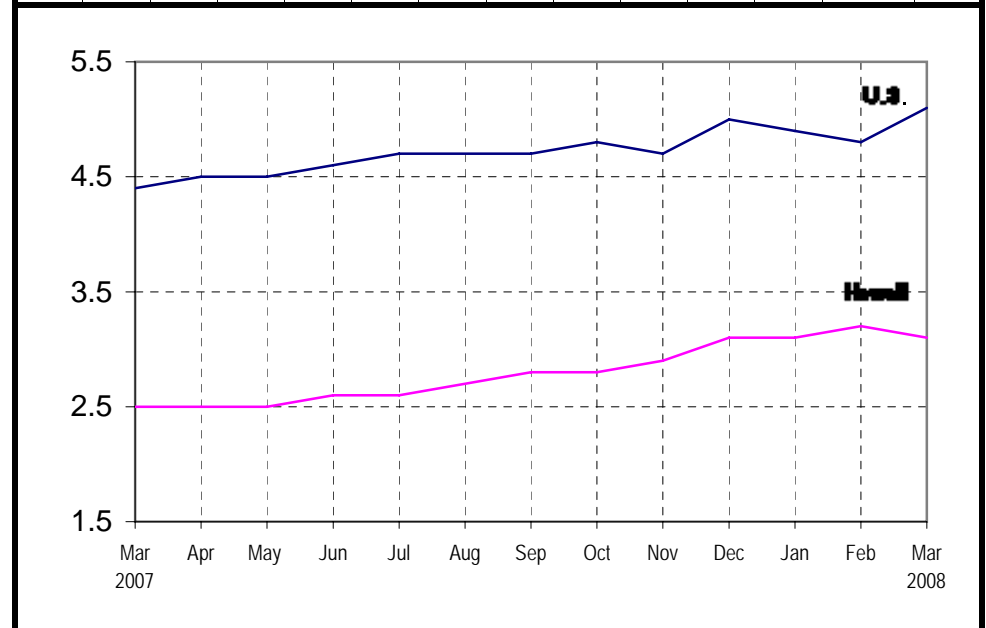
	Mar 2008	Feb 2008	Mar 2007
Labor Force	658,000	650,350	651,850
Employment	637,500	629,450	635,500
Unemployment	20,500	20,850	16,350

**totals may not add due to rounding

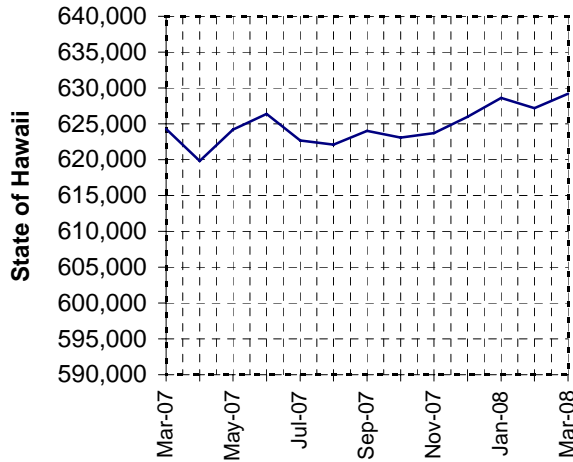
	Mar 2007	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar 2008
U. S.	4.5	4.3	4.3	4.7	4.9	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.8	5.4	5.2	5.2
Hawaii	2.4	2.4	2.3	3.1	3.0	2.7	3.0	2.6	2.9	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.0



	Mar 2007	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar 2008
U. S.	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.7	5.0	4.9	4.8	5.1
Hawaii	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.9	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.1



Seasonally Adjusted Non-Ag. Jobs (State)



SELECTED SERIES:

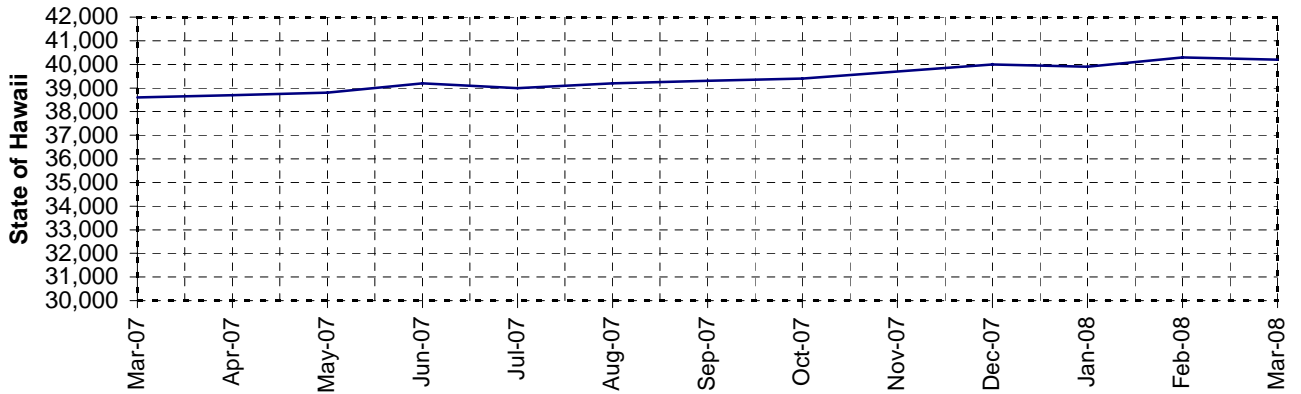
	Mar-08	Feb-08	Mar-07*
NAT. RESOURCES, MINING, & CONSTRUCTION	40,200	40,300	38,600
TRADE, TRANSP, UTILITIES	121,200	121,000	122,200
Wholesale Trade	18,600	18,800	18,500
Retail Trade	70,800	70,500	70,600
EDUCATION & HEALTH SVCS.	74,200	74,300	72,600
Educational Services	15,000	15,000	14,100
Health Care/Social Assist.	59,200	59,300	58,500
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	109,500	109,300	110,100
Arts, Entertain., Recreation	11,500	11,500	11,900
Accommodation/Food Svcs.	98,000	97,800	98,200
OTHER SERVICES	27,100	27,000	26,400
GOVERNMENT	124,000	122,900	122,000
Federal	31,500	31,400	31,900
State	74,200	73,400	72,300
Local	18,300	18,100	17,800
TOTAL	629,200	627,200	624,300

Feb-08 - Mar-08 (+2,000, +.3%)

* BENCHMARKED DATA

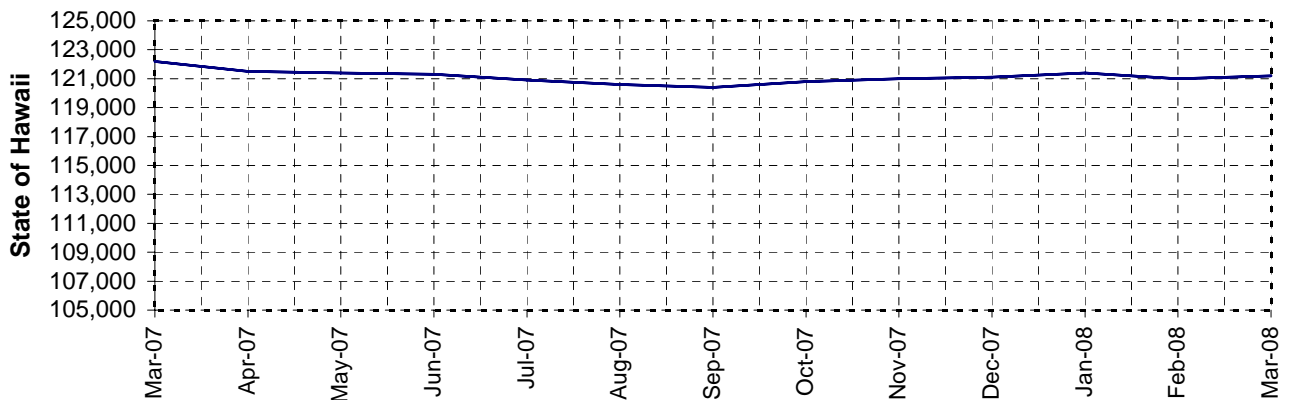
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NAT. RESOURCES, MINING & CONSTRUCTION

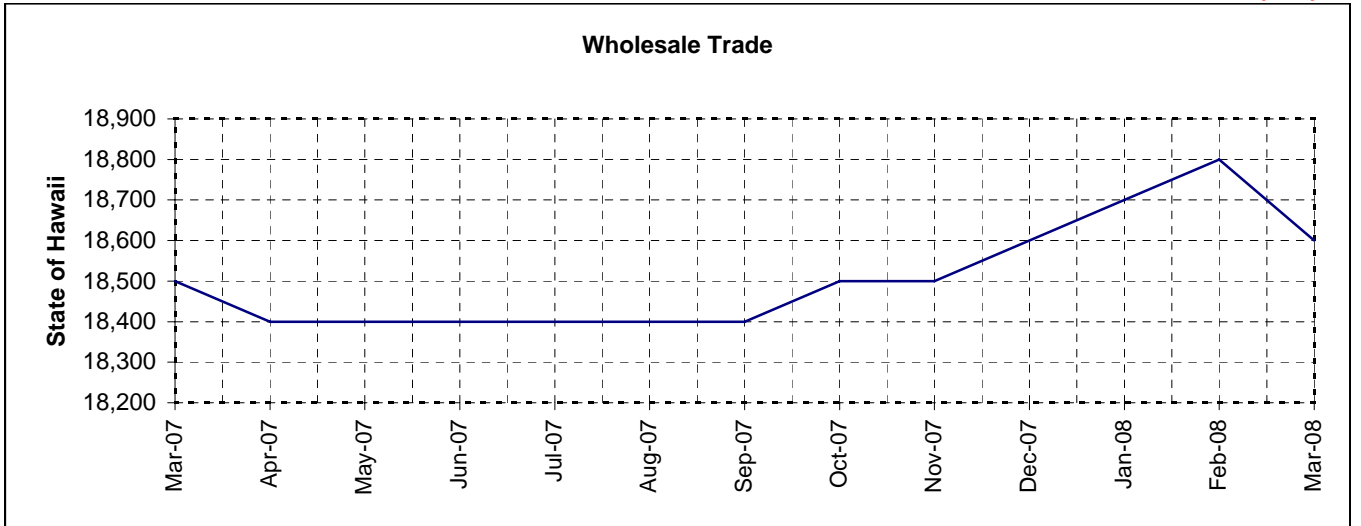


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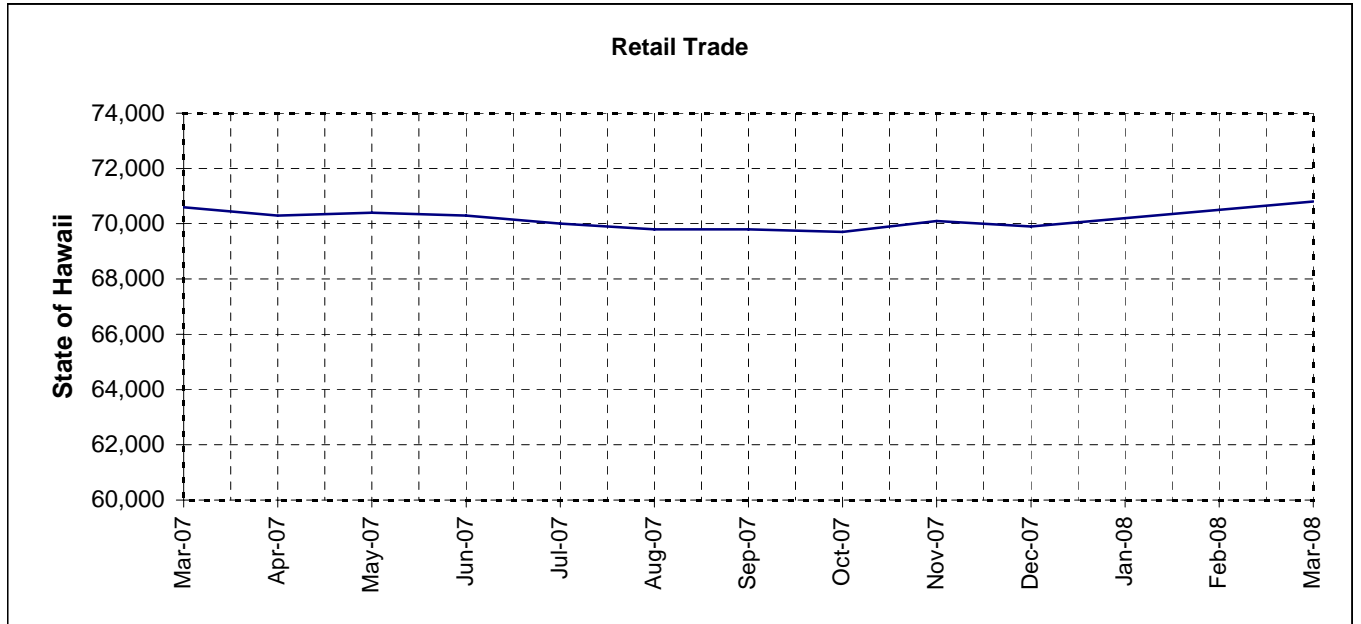
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, & UTILITIES



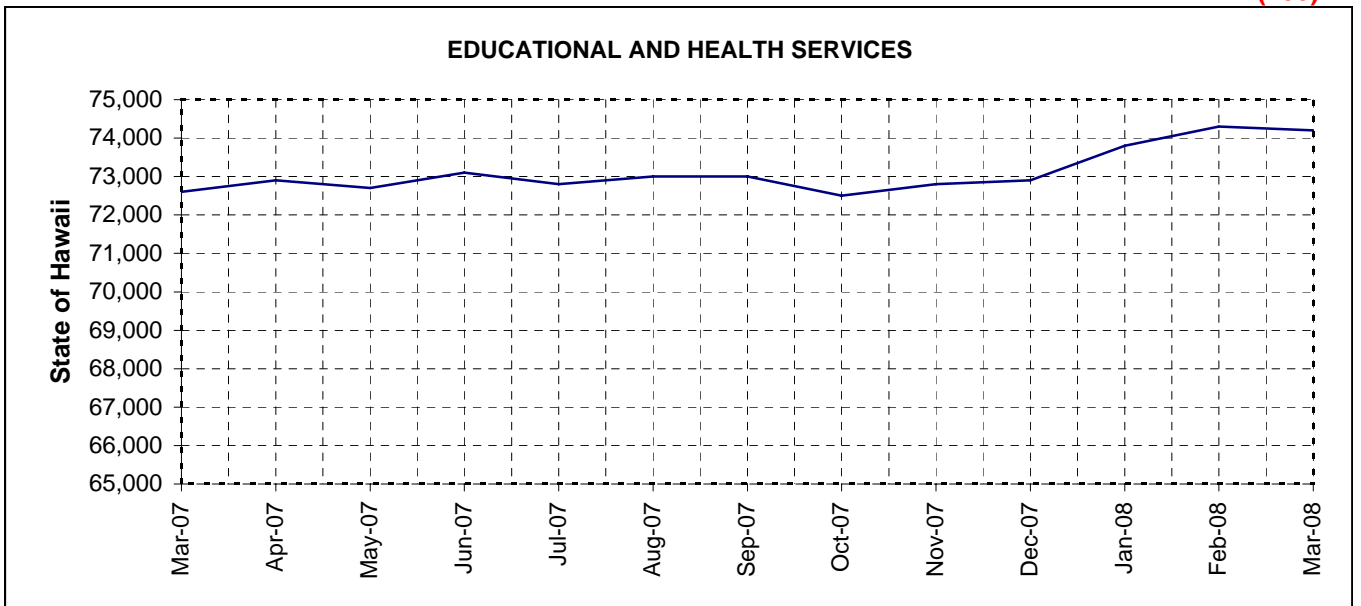
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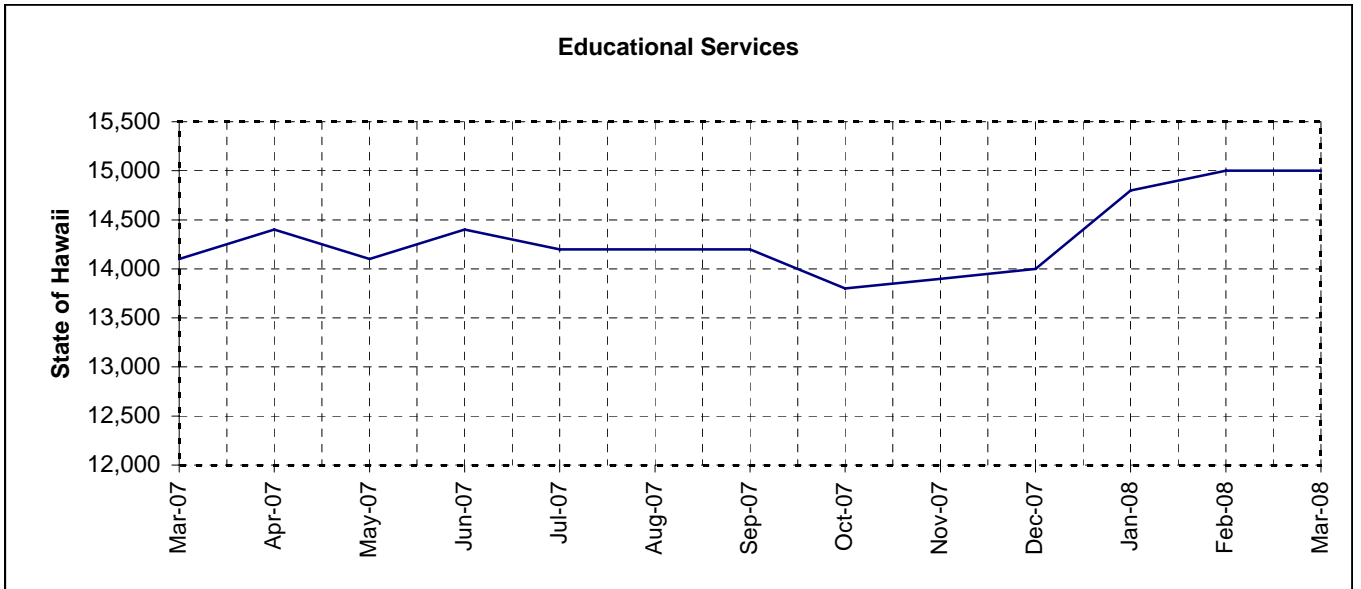


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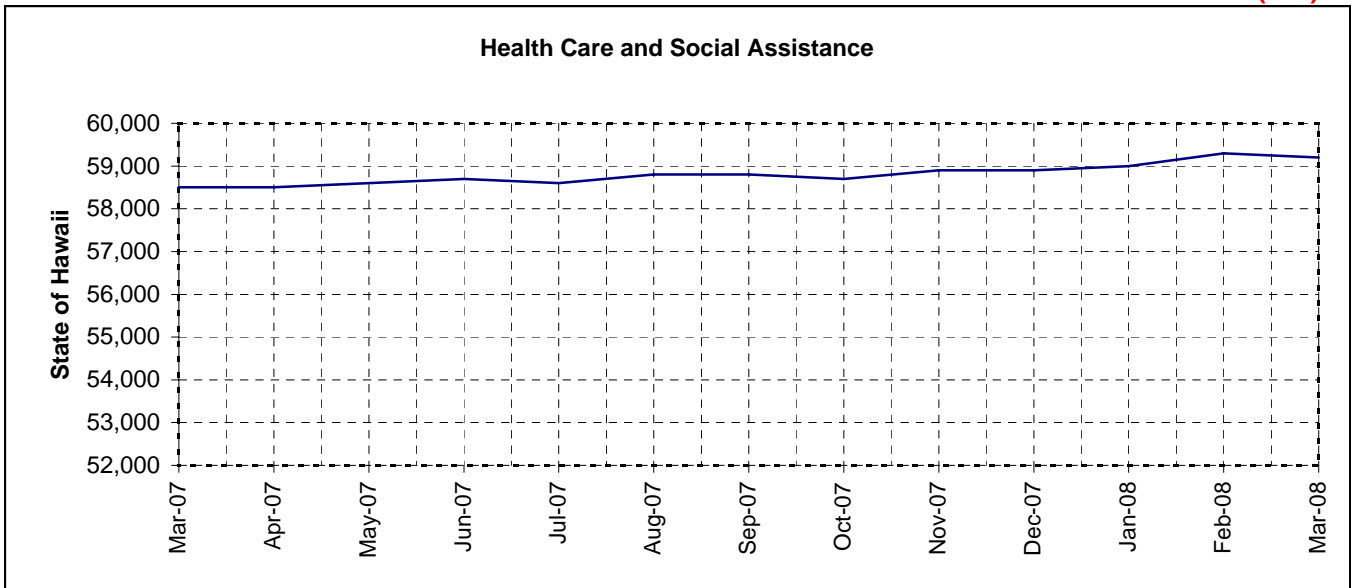


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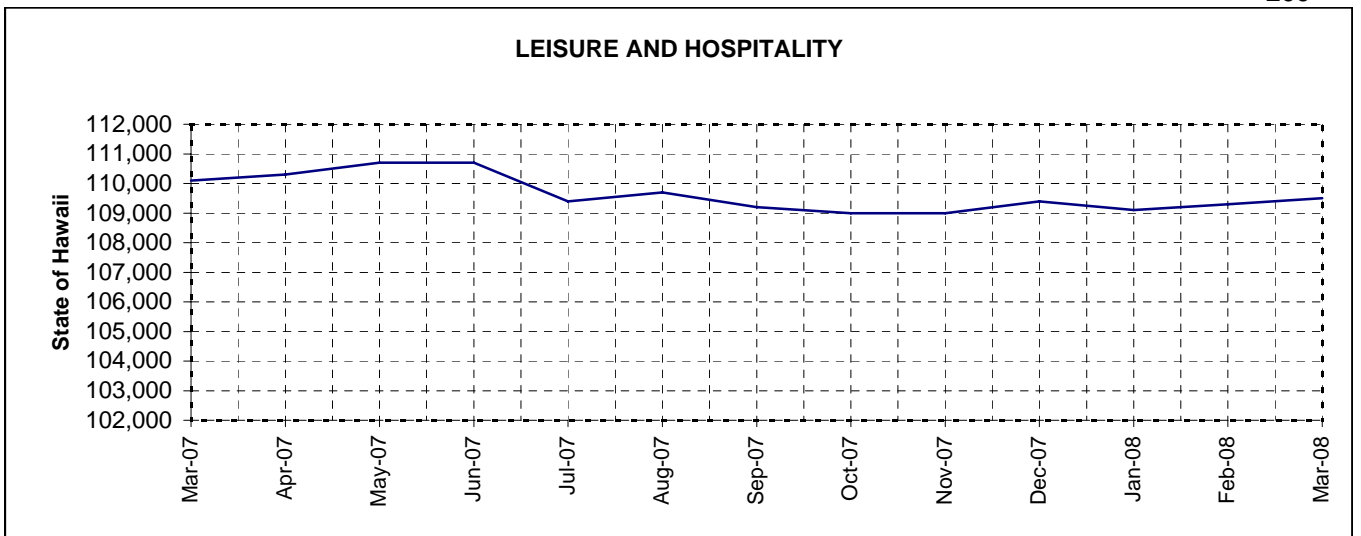


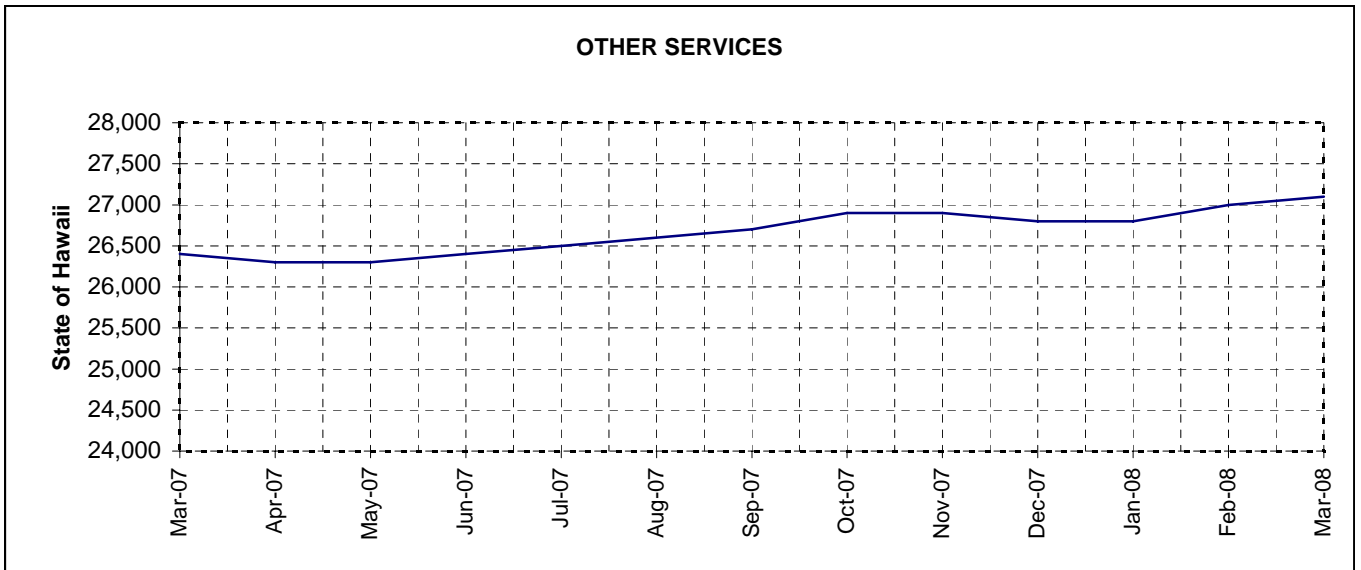
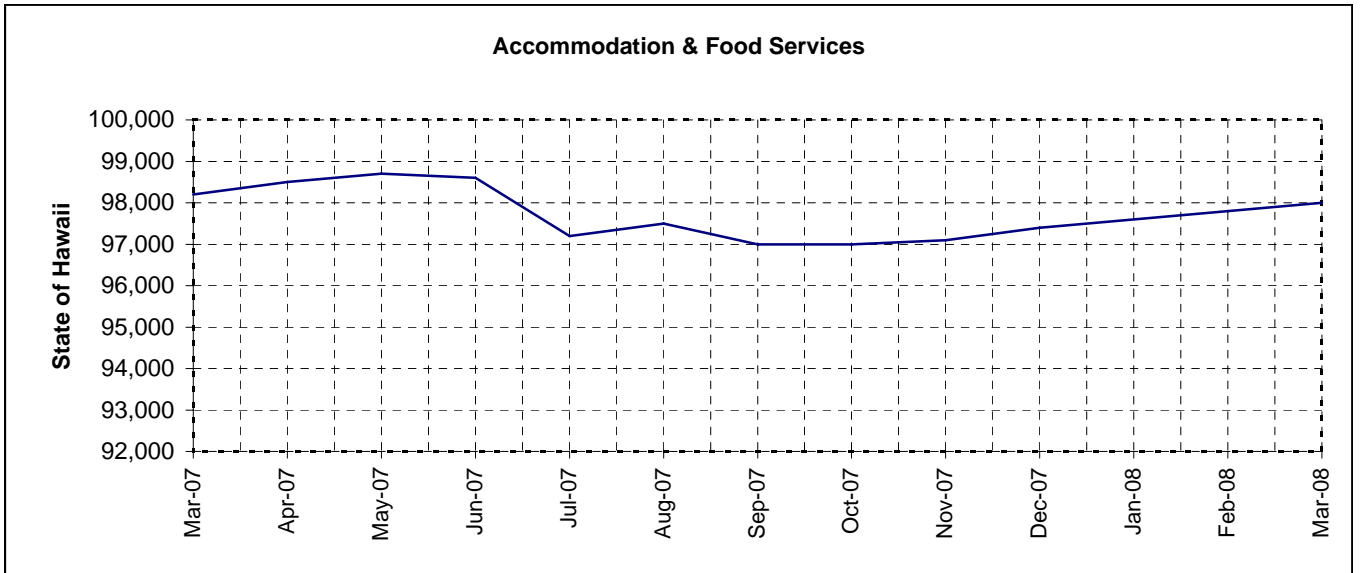
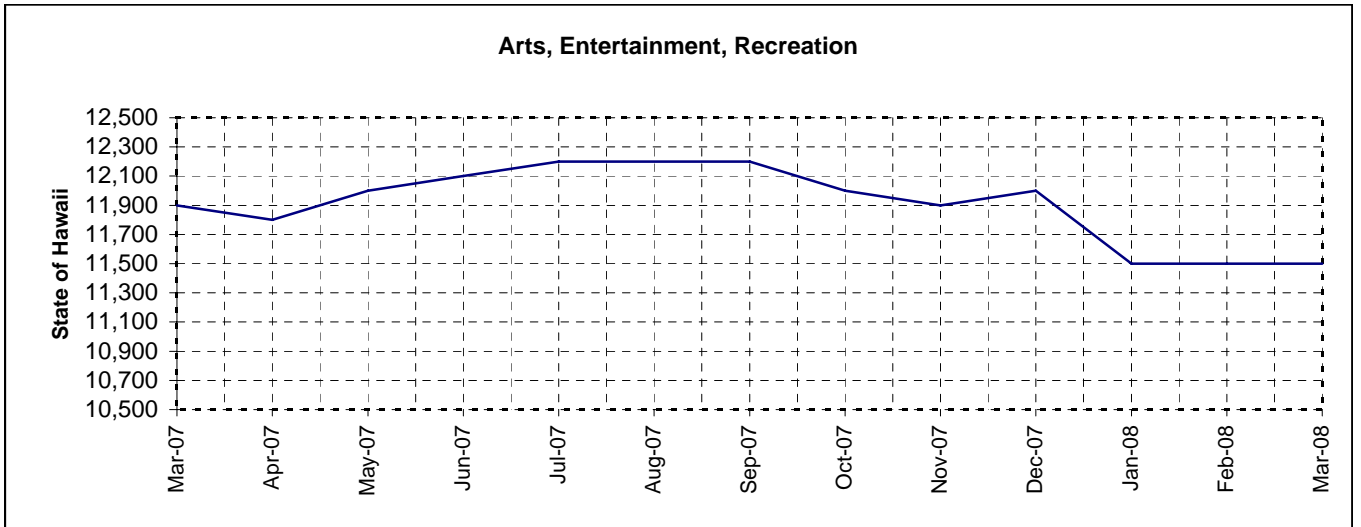


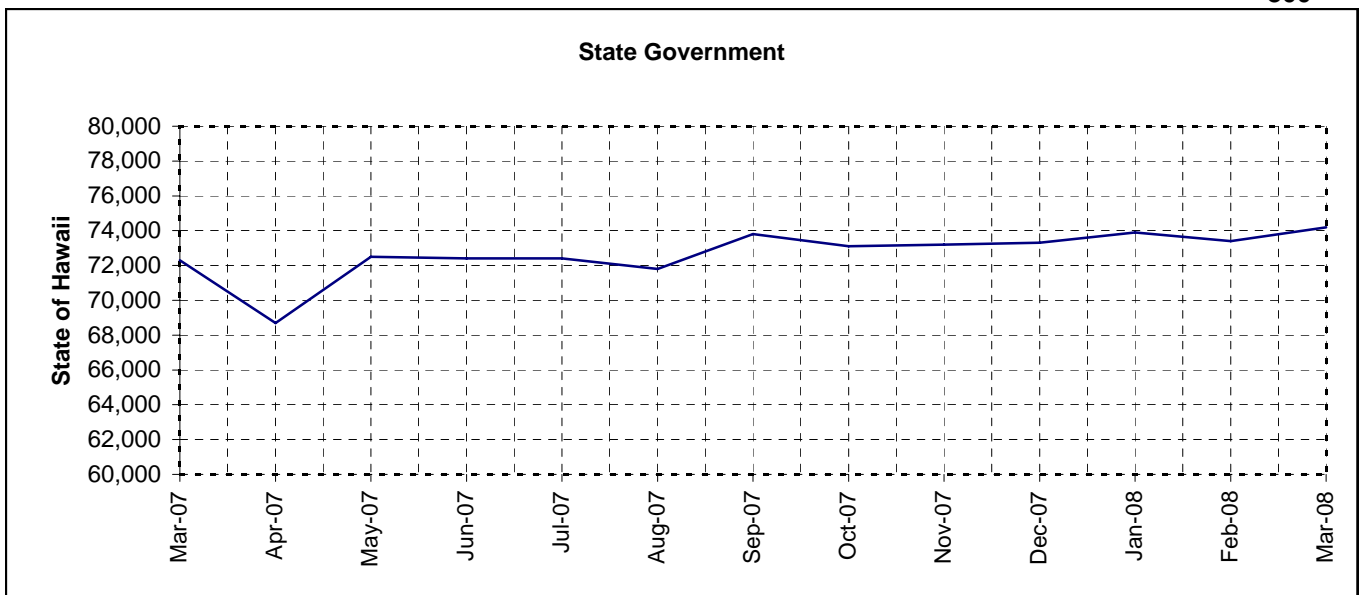
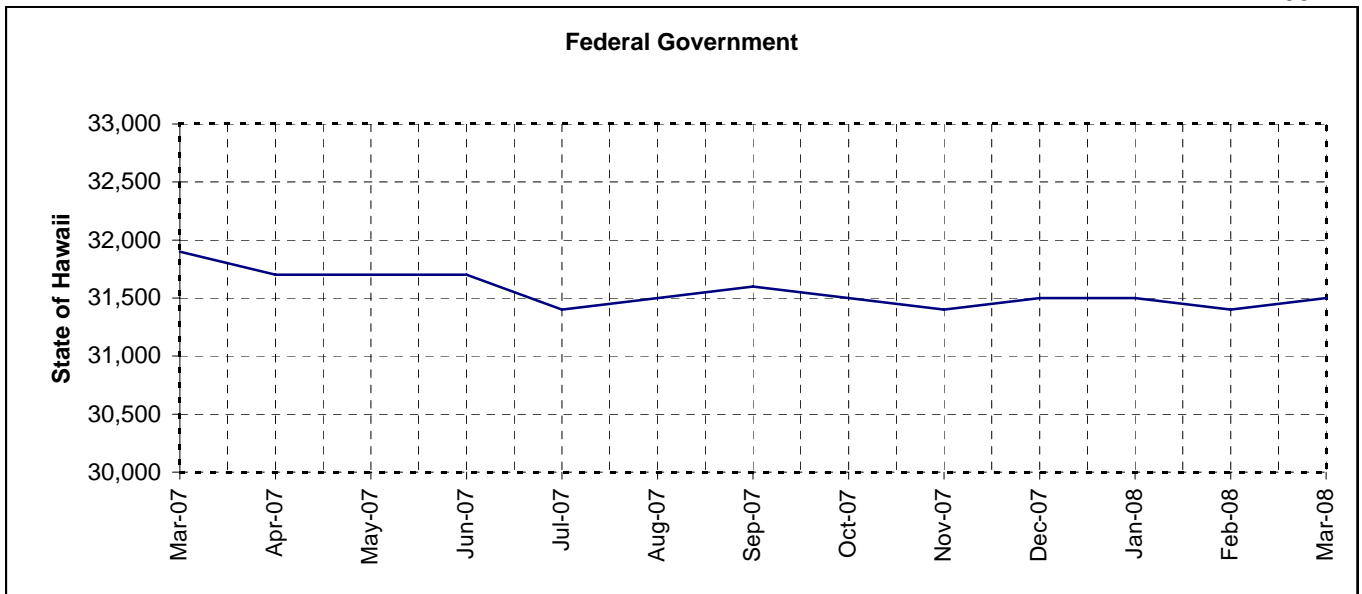
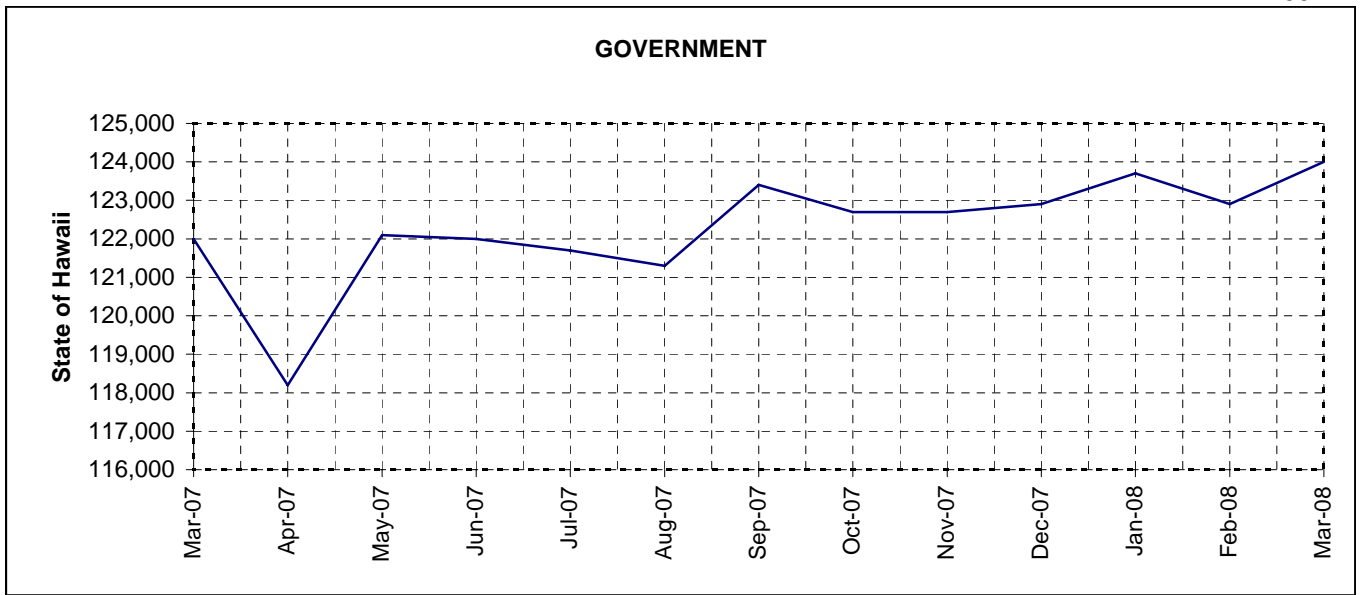
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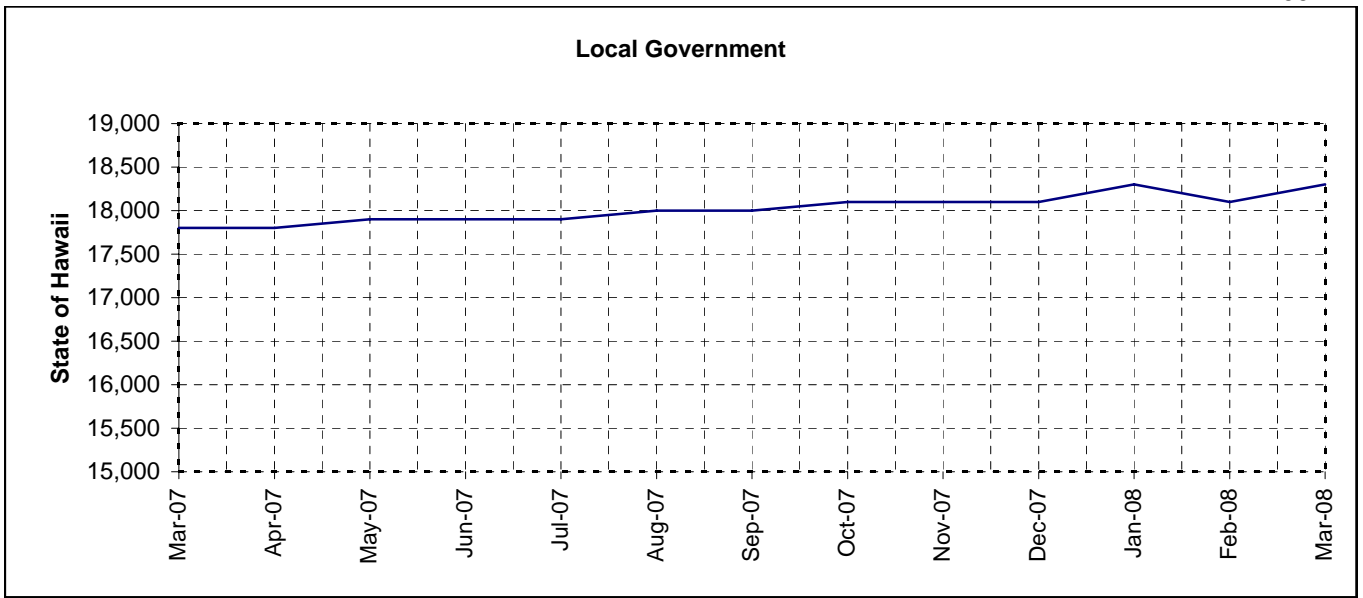


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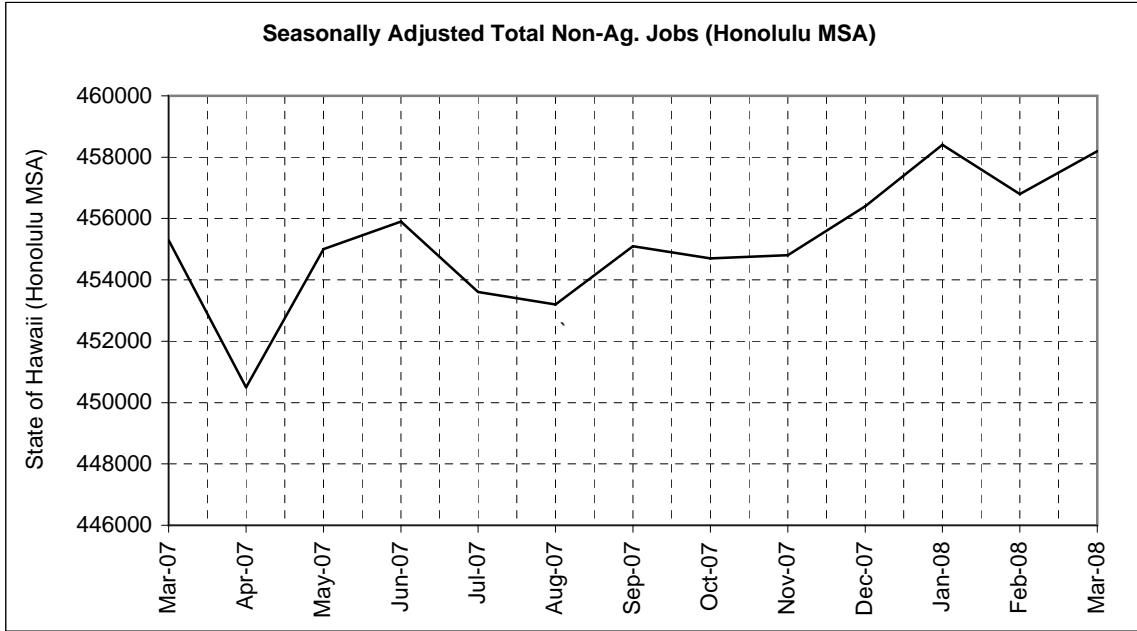


Seasonally Adjusted Total Non-Ag. Jobs

	Mar-08	Feb-08	Mar-07*
HONOLULU MSA	458,200	456,800	455,300

Feb-08 - Mar-08 (+ 1,400, +.3%)

* BENCHMARKED DATA



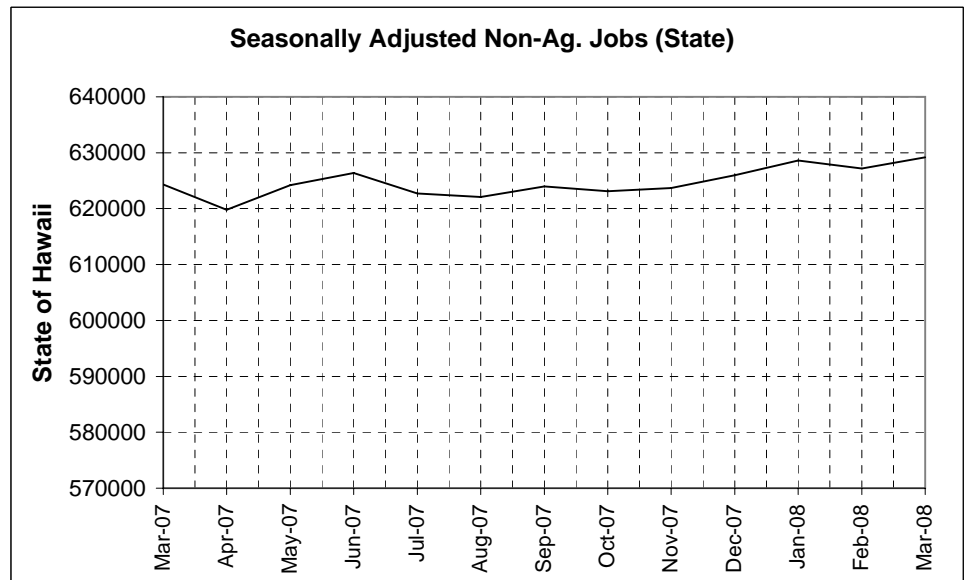
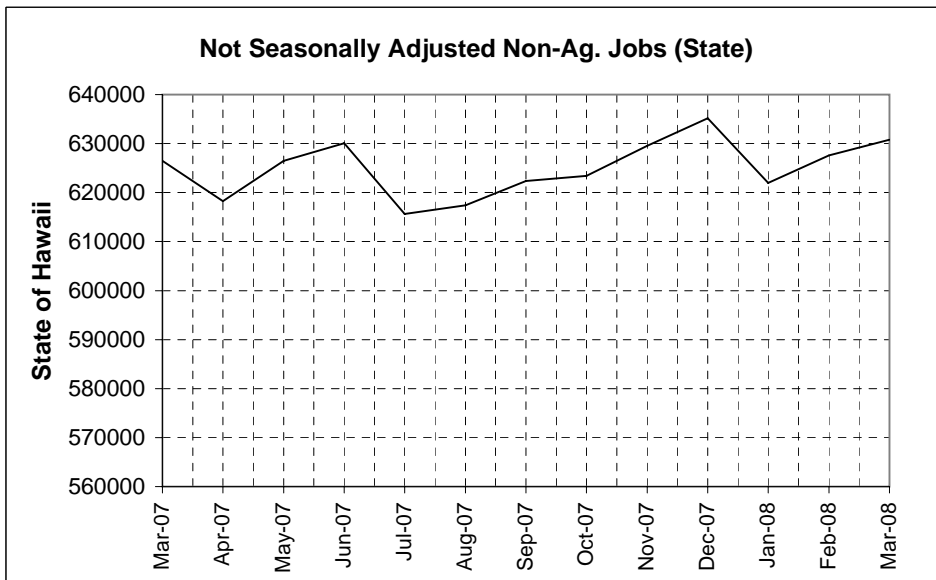
Not Seasonally Adjusted Non-Ag. Jobs (State)

	Mar-08	Feb-08	Mar-07*
NAT. RESOURCES, MINING & CONSTR.	39,900	39,700	38,050
MANUFACTURING	15,200	15,100	15,300
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES	120,200	120,600	121,350
Wholesale Trade	18,500	18,650	18,350
Retail Trade	70,150	69,800	70,050
INFORMATION	10,700	10,450	10,850
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	30,000	29,900	30,200
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	77,350	76,900	76,050
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	74,450	74,250	72,900
Educational Services	15,350	15,150	14,450
Health Care & Social Assistance	59,150	59,100	58,500
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	109,300	109,000	110,400
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	11,400	11,350	11,950
Accommodation & Food Services	97,950	97,650	98,500
OTHER SERVICES	26,900	26,800	26,400
GOVERNMENT	126,800	124,950	124,950
Federal Government	31,500	31,400	31,850
State Government	77,150	75,550	75,450
Local Government	18,150	18,000	17,650
TOTAL: STATE	630,800	627,600	626,500
TOTAL: HONOLULU MSA	459,900	457,600	457,150

Seasonally Adjusted Non-Ag. Jobs (State)

SELECTED SERIES:	Mar-08	Feb-08	Mar-07*
NATURAL RESOURCES, MINING AND CONSTRUCTION	40,200	40,300	38,600
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES	121,200	121,000	122,200
Wholesale Trade	18,600	18,800	18,500
Retail Trade	70,800	70,500	70,600
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	74,200	74,300	72,600
Educational Services	15,000	15,000	14,100
Health Care and Social Assistance	59,200	59,300	58,500
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	109,500	109,300	110,100
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	11,500	11,500	11,900
Accommodation & Food Services	98,000	97,800	98,200
OTHER SERVICES	27,100	27,000	26,400
GOVERNMENT	124,000	122,900	122,000
Federal Government	31,500	31,400	31,900
State Government	74,200	73,400	72,300
Local Government	18,300	18,100	17,800
TOTAL: STATE	629,200	627,200	624,300
TOTAL: HONOLULU MSA	458,200	456,800	455,300

* BENCHMARKED DATA



LABOR FORCE AND JOBCOUNT ESTIMATES

March 2008 Report, Statewide

	DEPARTMENT OF LABOR -- LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES							
	STATEWIDE							
	(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)							
	Mar-08	Feb-08	Mar-07	CHANGE FROM ONE MONTH AGO		CHANGE FROM ONE YEAR AGO		
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	659.0	648.4	653.6	10.6	1.6%	5.4	0.8%	
TOTAL EMPLOYED	639.4	628.8	638.1	10.6	1.7%	1.3	0.2%	
UNEMPLOYED	19.6	19.6	15.5	0.0	0.0%	4.1	26.5%	
percent of Labor Force	3.0%	3.0%	2.4%					
Total Nonfarm	630.8	627.6	626.5	3.2	0.5%	4.3	0.7%	
Total Private	504.0	502.6	501.6	1.3	0.3%	2.4	0.5%	
Goods Producing	55.1	54.8	53.4	0.3	0.6%	1.7	3.2%	
Service-Providing	575.7	572.8	573.1	2.9	0.5%	2.6	0.5%	
Private Service-Providing	448.9	447.9	448.2	1.0	0.2%	0.7	0.2%	
Nat. Res & Construct	39.9	39.7	38.1	0.2	0.5%	1.8	4.8%	
Construction of Buildings	12.8	12.7	12.6	0.1	-1.6%	0.3	6.2%	
Special Trade Contractors	21.7	21.6	20.2	0.1	0.8%	1.5	2.0%	
Manufacturing	15.2	15.1	15.3	0.1	0.7%	-0.1	-0.7%	
Durable Goods	4.6	4.5	4.7	0.1	2.2%	-0.1	-1.4%	
Non-Durable Goods	10.6	10.6	10.7	0.0	0.0%	0.0	-0.5%	
Trade, Transportation,	120.2	120.6	121.3	-0.4	-0.3%	-1.1	-0.9%	
Wholesale Trade	18.5	18.7	18.4	-0.1	-0.7%	0.2	0.9%	
Retail Trade	70.2	69.8	70.1	0.4	0.5%	0.1	0.2%	
Food and Beverage Sto	13.0	12.9	12.7	0.1	0.4%	0.2	1.9%	
Grocery Stores	11.0	11.0	10.6	0.0	0.2%	0.4	4.1%	
Clothing and Clothing	11.5	11.4	11.6	0.1	0.9%	-0.1	-1.1%	
General Merchandise S	13.2	12.9	12.5	0.3	2.5%	0.7	5.5%	
Department Stores	9.4	9.1	9.0	0.3	3.4%	0.4	4.3%	
Trans,Warehouse, Util	31.5	32.1	32.9	-0.6	-1.9%	-1.4	-4.2%	
Utilities	3.0	3.0	3.0	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.5%	
Transport & Warehouse	28.5	29.1	29.9	-0.6	-2.1%	-1.4	-4.7%	
Air Transportation	9.8	9.7	9.9	0.1	0.6%	-0.1	-0.9%	
Information	10.7	10.5	10.9	0.2	2.2%	-0.2	-1.6%	
Telecommunications	4.1	4.1	4.2	0.0	0.3%	-0.1	-2.4%	
Financial Activities	30.0	29.9	30.2	0.1	0.3%	-0.2	-0.6%	
Finance and Insurance	16.7	16.7	17.0	0.0	0.0%	-0.3	-2.0%	
Real Estate and Renta	13.3	13.2	13.2	0.1	0.8%	0.1	1.1%	
Professional and Busin	77.3	76.9	76.0	0.4	0.6%	1.3	1.7%	
Professional, Scienti	24.9	24.8	24.6	0.1	0.3%	0.3	1.1%	
Management of Compani	7.6	7.7	7.6	0.0	-0.2%	0.0	0.4%	
Administrative and Su	44.8	44.4	43.8	0.4	0.8%	1.0	2.3%	
Employment Services	15.6	15.3	14.4	0.3	2.2%	1.2	8.6%	
Educational and Health	74.5	74.2	72.9	0.2	0.3%	1.5	2.1%	
Educational Services	15.3	15.1	14.4	0.2	1.2%	0.9	6.1%	
Elementary and Second	7.6	7.6	7.4	0.0	0.5%	0.2	3.2%	
Health Care and Socia	59.1	59.1	58.5	0.0	0.1%	0.6	1.1%	
Ambulatory Health Car	23.3	23.2	22.8	0.0	0.2%	0.4	1.8%	
Hospitals	14.2	14.2	14.6	0.0	0.0%	-0.4	-2.4%	
Nursing and Residenti	6.9	6.9	6.7	0.0	0.3%	0.2	3.3%	
Social Assistance	14.7	14.7	14.4	0.0	-0.1%	0.4	2.5%	
Leisure and Hospitalit	109.3	109.0	110.4	0.3	0.3%	-1.1	-1.0%	
Arts, Entertainment,	11.4	11.4	11.9	0.0	0.2%	-0.5	-4.6%	
Accommodation and Foo	97.9	97.6	98.5	0.3	0.3%	-0.6	-0.6%	
Accommodation	39.2	39.3	39.6	-0.1	-0.2%	-0.4	-1.1%	
Food Services and Dri	58.8	58.4	58.9	0.4	0.7%	-0.1	-0.2%	
Full-Service Restaura	30.6	30.4	30.4	0.2	0.8%	0.3	0.9%	
Other Services	26.9	26.8	26.4	0.1	0.3%	0.5	1.8%	
Government	126.8	125.0	125.0	1.9	1.5%	1.9	1.5%	
Federal Government	31.5	31.4	31.8	0.1	0.3%	-0.3	-1.0%	
Ship Building & Repai	4.1	4.1	4.0	0.0	0.2%	-0.4	-2.5%	
Department of Defense	16.2	16.2	16.6	0.0	0.0%	0.1	1.3%	
State Government	77.2	75.5	75.5	1.6	2.2%	1.7	2.2%	
State Govt. Education	52.3	51.0	51.0	1.3	2.5%	1.3	2.5%	
Local Government	18.1	18.0	17.6	0.1	0.7%	0.5	2.8%	