



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

News Release

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

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

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HAWAII'S SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AT 7.4 PERCENT IN MAY
National Unemployment Rate at 9.4 percent

HONOLULU- The Hawai'i State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations announced today that the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for May was 7.4 percent, an increase of 0.5 percentage point over April's rate of 6.9 percent. The U.S. seasonally adjusted unemployment rate also went up by an identical amount, going from 8.9 percent in April to 9.4 percent in May. For the second consecutive month, Hawaii's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was lower than the national rate by 2.0 percentage points. In May, there were 601,150 employed and 47,850 unemployed, for a seasonally adjusted statewide labor force of 649,000.

"After 5 months of decline, it is encouraging to see some job growth in the construction industry," said Director Darwin L.D. Ching. "We are anticipating even greater construction job gains as the Governor's Capital Improvement Projects get underway," he added.

State of Hawai'i Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Data			
	<u>May 2009</u>	<u>Apr 2009</u>	<u>May 2008</u>
Labor Force	649,000	646,650	654,450
Employment	601,150	601,750	630,700
Unemployment	47,850	44,950	23,750

	MAY 2009	APR 2009	MAY 2008
STATE	7.4	6.9	3.6
HONOLULU	6.0	5.8	3.2
HAWAII COUNTY	10.4	9.8	4.9
KAUAI	10.3	9.9	3.4
MAUI COUNTY	9.2	8.8	3.6
Maui Island	9.0	8.6	3.5
Moloka'i	13.6	14.3	5.1
Lana'i	11.5	8.8	5.2
U. S.	9.4	8.9	5.5

county & island rates are non-seasonally adjusted

Industry Payroll Employment

In another measure of employment, total seasonally adjusted nonagricultural jobs decreased by 2,900 to 601,600 in May. The industries reporting job growth were Professional and Business Services (+800), Educational and Health Services (+200) and Construction (+100). The sectors registering job decreases included Financial Activities and Other Services (-200 each), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-300) and Leisure and Hospitality (-600). Government shedded jobs primarily in State Government in the Department of Education as it continues its year round calendar session. Federal Government also posted job losses mainly resulting from turnover in census workers. Over-the-year, from May 2008, the seasonally adjusted job count declined by 21,000 jobs, predominantly in the private sector. The sectors recording job contraction were noted in Leisure and Hospitality (-6,700); Trade, Transportation and Utilities (-5,800); and Construction (-5,400).

Seasonally Adjusted Non-Ag. Jobs (Statewide)

SELECTED SERIES:	May-09	Apr-09	May-08*
MINING, LOGGING AND AND CONSTRUCTION	32,800	32,700	38,200
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES	113,400	113,700	119,200
Wholesale Trade	18,500	18,500	18,900
Retail Trade	67,200	67,400	70,300
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES **	28,600	28,800	29,600
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing **	12,100	12,300	12,900
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES **	74,000	73,200	76,300
Professional, Scientific, Tech Svcs **	25,300	24,900	25,000
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	74,600	74,400	73,600
Educational Services	14,600	14,500	14,500
Health Care & Social Assistance	60,000	59,900	59,100
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	101,400	102,000	108,100
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	10,900	11,000	11,500
Accommodation & Food Services	90,500	91,000	96,600
OTHER SERVICES	26,800	27,000	27,400
GOVERNMENT	126,400	129,800	124,400
Federal Government	32,900	33,500	32,000
State Government	74,900	77,500	73,900
Local Government	18,600	18,800	18,500
TOTAL: STATEWIDE	601,600	604,500	622,600

* Benchmarked Data

** New Series

❖ **Professional and Business Services (+800)**

This major industrial group expanded by 800 jobs after experiencing four consecutive months of job losses. Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services comprised one half of the industry's increase throughout different sectors including marketing research and public opinion polling, scientific research and development services, direct mail advertising, and engineering services. Administrative and Support Services composed the remaining 400 jobs gain in employment services, investigation and security services, and services to buildings and dwellings.

❖ **Educational & Health Services (+200)**

This sector rose by 200 jobs after trimming jobs for two consecutive months. Educational Services added 100 jobs in private education. Health Care and Social Assistance also equally increased by 100 jobs in nursing and residential care facilities and vocational rehabilitation services.

❖ **Construction (+100)**

Construction edged upward by 100 jobs after five straight months of job declines in special trade contractors shared between building equipment contractors and building finishing contractors. Still over-the-year from May 2008, this sector posted drop by 5,400 jobs. The job losses in this major industry have been affected by the continued weakened economy and the lack of new construction activities.

❖ **Financial Activities (-200)**

This new industrial series trended downward for the second consecutive month. Real Estate and Rental and Leasing accounted for the entire decrease slipping by 200 jobs in commercial and industrial machinery and equipment rental and leasing. Finance and Insurance remained virtually unchanged with a marginal decrease in depository credit intermediation.

❖ **Other Services (-200)**

This miscellaneous sector descended for the third month in a row. The job losses were shared among religious organizations and automotive repair and maintenance.

❖ **Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (-300)**

This major industrial group fell for the second straight month. Wholesale Trade remained unchanged. The increase in confectionery merchant wholesalers offset the decrease in paper and paper product merchant wholesalers. Retail Trade accounted for a 200 job loss shared among food and beverage stores and general merchandise stores. Transportation made up the remaining 100 job loss in scenic and sightseeing transportation.

❖ **Leisure and Hospitality (-600)**

Leisure and Hospitality continued its descent as it declined by the largest proportion in the private sector in May. Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation edged down by a modest 100 jobs in amusement and recreation industries. Accommodation and Food Services comprised majority of the decline slipping by 500 jobs, most of which were in Accommodation. The hotel industry continues to experience low visitor arrival counts and occupancy rates. Food Services, which also accounted for part of the downturn in the industry reported less jobs in full-service restaurants.

❖ **Government (-3,400)**

Government contracted the most jobs from April experiencing losses in all branches of government. Local Government fell by a minimal 200 jobs. Federal Government dropped by 600 jobs mainly due to turnover in census workers. State Government accounted for majority of the decline in the Department of Education as it continues its year round calendar schedule.



