



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

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**HAWAII'S SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE  
AT 6.7 PERCENT IN APRIL**

**National Unemployment Rate 9.9 percent**

**HONOLULU** - The Hawai'i State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations announced today that the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April was 6.7 percent, a 0.2 percentage point decline from 6.9 percent in March. Nationally, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose to 9.9 in April from 9.7 percent in March. There were 593,950 employed and 42,550 unemployed in April, for a total seasonally adjusted labor force of 636,500.

State of Hawai'i Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Data**			
	<u>Apr 2010</u>	<u>Mar 2010</u>	<u>Apr 2009*</u>
Labor Force	636,500	636,600	639,900
Employment	593,950	592,850	596,500
Unemployment	42,550	43,750	43,400

\* benchmarked data

\*\*totals may not add due to rounding

	APR 2010	MAR 2010	APR* 2009
<u>Seasonally Adjusted</u>			
STATE	6.7	6.9	6.8
U. S.	9.9	9.7	8.9
<u>Not Seasonally Adjusted</u>			
STATE	6.3	6.8	6.5
HONOLULU	5.2	5.6	5.5
HAWAII COUNTY	9.5	10.1	9.2
KAUAI	8.9	9.2	9.3
MAUI COUNTY	8.3	8.9	8.3
Maui Island	8.2	8.8	8.1
Moloka'i	11.8	12.5	13.1
Lana'i	6.0	6.6	8.3
U. S.	9.5	10.2	8.6

county & island rates are not seasonally adjusted

\* benchmarked data

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 dropped to 6.3 percent in April from 6.8 percent in March.

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

In another measure of employment, total seasonally adjusted nonagricultural jobs increased by 1,600 or +0.3 percent to 590,300 in April. The sectors recording job growth included Leisure and Hospitality (+1,300); Educational and Health Services (+500); Other Services (+200); and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+100). The industries reporting job decreases were Financial Activities (-100); Professional and Business Services (-500); and Construction (-1,200). Government rose mainly in State Government in the Department of Education. Over-the-year,

from April 2009, the seasonally adjusted job count dropped by 5,000 jobs or -0.8 percent. The private sector registered job losses in Professional and Business Services (-3,900) and Construction (-2,800).

<b>Seasonally Adjusted Non-Ag. Jobs (Statewide)</b>			
<b>SELECTED SERIES:</b>	<b>Apr-10</b>	<b>Mar-10</b>	<b>Apr-09*</b>
MINING, LOGGING AND AND CONSTRUCTION	29,500	30,700	32,300
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES	111,500	111,400	111,600
Wholesale Trade	17,200	17,300	18,000
Retail Trade	67,500	67,500	66,500
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	27,500	27,600	28,000
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	11,500	11,500	11,400
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	68,000	68,500	71,900
Professional, Scientific, Tech Svcs	23,500	23,800	24,800
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	77,100	76,600	74,500
Educational Services	15,900	15,900	14,600
Health Care & Social Assistance	61,200	60,700	59,900
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	102,600	101,300	101,000
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	10,300	10,300	10,700
Accommodation & Food Services	92,300	91,000	90,300
OTHER SERVICES	25,800	25,600	25,800
GOVERNMENT	126,300	124,700	127,100
Federal Government	34,600	34,700	33,600
State Government	73,200	71,500	74,800
Local Government	18,500	18,500	18,700
<b>TOTAL: STATEWIDE</b>	<b>590,300</b>	<b>588,700</b>	<b>595,300</b>

\* Benchmarked Data

❖ **Leisure and Hospitality (+1,300)**

Leisure and Hospitality expanded by a notable 1,300 jobs, growing for the third consecutive month. The total increase occurred in Accommodation and Food Services. Accommodation accounted for part of the job gain as hotel operators experienced a slight increase in over-the-month visitor arrivals and in over-the-year hotel occupancy rates. Majority of the job expansion was in Food Services mainly in snack and nonalcoholic beverages bars and special food services.

❖ **Educational and Health Services (+500)**

This industrial group rose by a moderate 500 jobs rising for the third month in a row. All of the job gain in this sector occurred in Health Care and Social Assistance. In Health Care, the increase was shared among offices of dentists and other health practitioners as well as home health care services. Social Assistance included hiring of emergency and other relief services. Educational Services was constant as the upturn in elementary and secondary schools was offset by the downturn in colleges, universities, and professional schools.

❖ **Other Services (+200)**

This miscellaneous sector recorded a modest 200-job increase. The bulk of this growth was in personal and laundry services.

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

This major industrial series registered a minimal job gain trending up for the second straight month. Wholesale Trade fell by a nominal 100 jobs in miscellaneous durable goods merchant wholesalers. Retail Trade remained steady as the increase in grocery stores was countered by the decrease in gasoline stations. Transportation and Warehousing composed the remaining 200-job gain most of which were in air transportation which was helped by the slight increase in visitor arrivals.

❖ **Financial Activities (-100)**

This group fell marginally slipping for the second consecutive month. Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing experienced no change as the uptrend in the offices of real estate agents and brokers was offset by the downtrend in commercial and industrial machinery and equipment rental and leasing. Finance and Insurance comprised the sector's 100-job decrease in depository credit intermediation.

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

This industrial series trimmed by 500 jobs sliding for the second straight month.

Professional, Scientific and Technical Services reported a 300-job loss in management, scientific, and technical consulting services; and computer facilities management services.

Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services attributed to

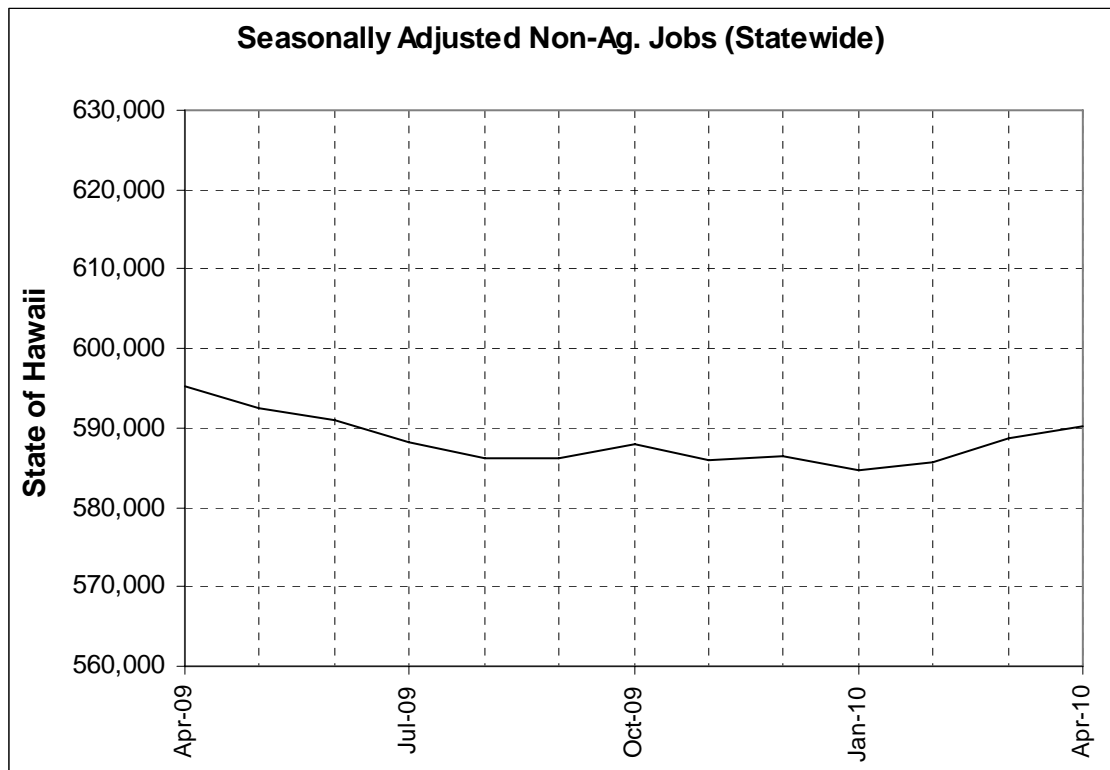
the remaining 200-job drop most of which occurred in remediation and other waste management services.

❖ **Construction (-1,200)**

Construction declined by 1,200 jobs in all series and various entities in April after experiencing a 900-job gain a month earlier. Job contractions were experienced in nonresidential building construction in Construction of Building. Jobs were also curtailed in foundation, structure, and building exterior contractors; building equipment contractors; and building finishing contractors in Special Trade Contractors. In addition, jobs dipped in utility system construction in Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction. Over-the-year, from April 2009, this major industry shaved 2,800 jobs or -8.7 percent due in part to fewer construction projects resulting from the slow economy.

❖ **Government (+1,600)**

Government grew by 1,600 jobs from March, majority of which were in State Government predominantly in the Department of Education due to its year-round calendar schedule. Federal Government reported a 100-job loss most of which were census workers. However, the hiring of additional census workers is anticipated to grow substantially in May. Meanwhile, Local Government remained relatively stable.



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 is 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.

### **Changes to Local Area Unemployment Statistics Data**

The 2009 labor force estimates have been revised to incorporate updated inputs, updated population controls, re-estimation of models, and adjustment to new division and national control totals. The updated population controls reflect the annual updating of population estimates by the U.S. Census Bureau.

In addition, the Local Area Unemployment Statistics program has introduced a long-run trend smoothing procedure to its seasonally adjusted data series back to January 1976. The smoothing procedure reduces month-to-month volatility in the estimates and addresses long-standing disconnection issues related to end-of-year revisions that will enhance the analytical capability of the estimates. For more information about this topic, please see the questions and answers on the Bureau of Labor Statistics website at [www.bls.gov/lau/lassaqa.htm](http://www.bls.gov/lau/lassaqa.htm).