



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

For Immediate Release: January 22, 2010

**HAWAII'S SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AT
6.9 PERCENT IN DECEMBER**

National Unemployment Rate remains unchanged at 10.0 percent

HONOLULU- The Hawai'i State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations announced today that the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for December was 6.9 percent, a 0.1 percentage point increase from November's revised rate of 6.8 percent. Nationally, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained unchanged at 10.0 percent for November and December. The seasonally adjusted annual average unemployment rate for Hawai'i for 2009 was 7.0 percent compared to 3.9 percent for 2008. There were 593,850 employed and 44,300 unemployed in December, for a total seasonally adjusted labor force of 638,150.

State of Hawai'i Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Data			
	<u>Dec 2009</u>	<u>Nov 2009</u>	<u>Dec 2008</u>
Labor Force	638,150	643,500	657,600
Employment	593,850	599,750	624,200
Unemployment	44,300	43,750	33,400

	DEC 2009	NOV 2009	DEC 2008
<u>Seasonally Adjusted</u>			
STATE	6.9	6.8	5.1
U. S.	10.0	10.0	7.4
<u>Not Seasonally Adjusted</u>			
STATE	6.5	6.8	5.1
HONOLULU	5.3	5.8	4.2
HAWAII COUNTY	9.6	9.7	7.2
KAUAI	8.9	8.9	7.6
MAUI COUNTY	8.8	9.1	6.7
Maui Island	8.7	9.0	6.6
Moloka'i	11.9	12.5	8.9
Lana'i	8.7	9.0	5.3
U. S.	9.7	9.4	7.1

county & island rates are not 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 not seasonally adjusted rate for the State declined from 6.8 percent in November to 6.5 percent in December. (See technical notes at the end of this news release for information on seasonal adjustments.)

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey)

In another measure of employment, total seasonally adjusted nonagricultural jobs increased by 1,200 to 586,100 in December. The industries registering job gains were Construction (+300) and Financial Activities (+100). Educational and Health Services; and Other Services remained relatively stable. Job losses in the private sector included Professional and Business Services (-100); Trade, Transportation and Utilities (-700); and Leisure and Hospitality (-900).

Government rose slightly in State Government in the Department of Education. Over-the-year,

from December 2008, the seasonally adjusted job count declined by 23,300 jobs predominantly in the private sector. The industrial series registering job losses included Trade, Transportation and Utilities (-5,500); Construction (-4,900); and Leisure and Hospitality (-4,500). For the year 2009, the annual average total nonagricultural jobs was 598,200. In comparison, the annual average in 2008 composed 619,300, a decline of 21,100 jobs over-the-year.

Seasonally Adjusted Non-Ag. Jobs (Statewide)			
SELECTED SERIES:	Dec-09	Nov-09	Dec-08*
MINING, LOGGING AND AND CONSTRUCTION	31,600	31,300	36,500
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES	109,000	109,700	114,500
Wholesale Trade	17,600	17,700	18,600
Retail Trade	65,500	65,500	68,400
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES **	27,700	27,600	28,900
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing **	11,400	11,300	12,400
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES **	70,600	70,700	74,300
Professional, Scientific, Tech Svcs **	24,300	24,300	24,800
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	75,500	75,500	74,200
Educational Services	14,600	14,500	14,700
Health Care & Social Assistance	60,900	61,000	59,500
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	99,600	100,500	104,100
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	10,300	10,400	11,000
Accommodation & Food Services	89,300	90,100	93,100
OTHER SERVICES	25,300	25,300	27,000
GOVERNMENT	123,800	123,500	125,600
Federal Government	33,700	33,700	32,400
State Government	71,500	71,200	74,500
Local Government	18,600	18,600	18,700
TOTAL: STATEWIDE	586,100	584,900	609,400

* Benchmarked Data

** New Series (started publishing in 2009)

❖ **Construction (+300)**

Construction experienced a 300 job gain in December following a notable decline a month earlier. The sector's increase comprised of Specialty Trade Contractors in building equipment contractors and building finishing contractors; as well as Construction of Buildings in residential building construction. Over-the-year from December 2008, this

industry contracted by 4,900 jobs in part due to fewer construction activities, delays and cancellations of projects due to the weak economy.

❖ **Financial Activities (+100)**

This new industrial group increased modestly after a slight drop in November. The gain occurred in Real Estate and Rental and Leasing in offices of real estate agents and brokers. Finance and Insurance was unchanged, however there was a slight increase in insurance agencies and brokers.

❖ **Educational and Health Services (No Change)**

This major industrial sector remained stable after recording two consecutive months of job gains. The increase in Educational Services in colleges, universities and professional schools was offset by the decrease in Health Care and Social Assistance in child day care services.

❖ **Other Services (No Change)**

This miscellaneous series was constant following a decrease in November. The uptrend in grantmaking and giving services countered the downtrend in business, professional, labor, political and similar organizations.

❖ **Professional & Business Services (-100)**

This industry fell for the fifth consecutive month. The modest drop was in Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services in investigation and security services. Professional, Scientific and Technical Services remained unchanged. The gain in veterinary services was offset by the loss in marketing research and public opinion polling.

❖ **Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-700)**

This major industrial series contracted by 700 jobs continuing its decline for the fifth straight month. Retail Trade remained steady. The upturn in clothing and clothing accessories stores was countered by the downturn in general merchandise stores and gasoline stations. Wholesale Trade edged down by 100 jobs in merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods. Transportation and Warehousing comprised the bulk of the industry's job loss in

warehousing and storage; scenic and sightseeing transportation, water; and support activities for transportation.

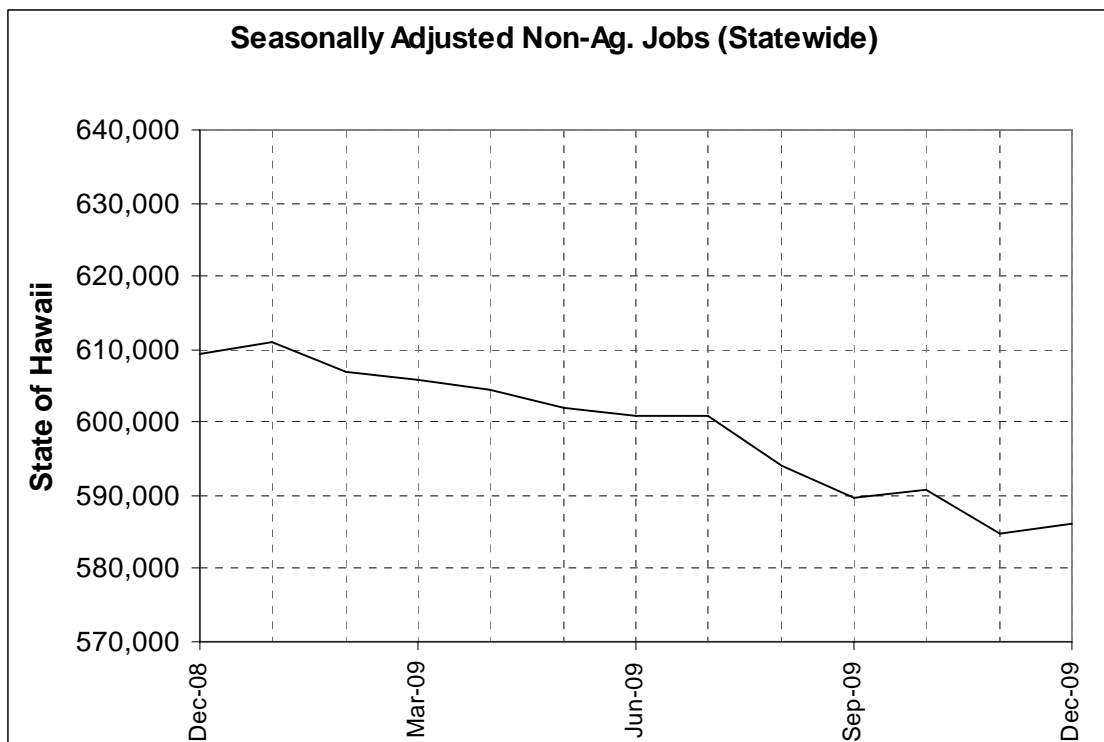
❖ **Leisure & Hospitality (-900)**

Leisure & Hospitality lost 900 jobs following a slight gain in November. Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation lost 100 jobs in performing arts, spectacular sports, and related industries.

The majority of the sector's decline was shared in Accommodation and Food Services in full-service restaurants.

❖ **Government (+300)**

Government increased by 300 jobs from November predominantly in State Government in the Department of Education. Both Federal Government and Local Government remained unchanged.



Technical Notes

Seasonal Adjustment

The seasonal fluctuations in the number of employed and unemployed persons reflect hiring (and layoff) 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. The December 2009 seasonal factors for total jobcounts may have been compiled to reflect returning the counts to the level prior to November 2009 when its seasonal factors were likely compiled using counts resulting from the 2008 election. In November of last year, the estimates reflected the poll workers hired during the general election, while December 2008 reflected the release of the poll workers, which are not included this year.

Current Population (Household) Survey (CPS)

The labor force statistics are derived from a survey based on the week including the 12th 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.