



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

**News Release**

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**HAWAII'S SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE  
REMAINS AT 6.9 PERCENT IN MARCH**  
National Unemployment Rate remains at 9.7 percent

**HONOLULU-** The Hawai'i State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations announced today that the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March remained at 6.9 percent for the third consecutive month. Nationally, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate also remained at 9.7 percent in March for the third consecutive month. There were 592,850 employed and 43,800 unemployed in February, for a total seasonally adjusted labor force of 636,650.

State of Hawai'i Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Data**			
	<u>Mar 2010</u>	<u>Feb 2010</u>	<u>Mar 2009*</u>
Labor Force	636,650	635,150	640,600
Employment	592,850	591,500	598,300
Unemployment	43,800	43,650	42,300

\* benchmarked data

\*\*totals may not add due to rounding

	MAR 2010	FEB 2010	MAR* 2009
<u>Seasonally Adjusted</u>			
STATE	6.9	6.9	6.6

U. S.	9.7	9.7	8.6
<u>Not Seasonally Adjusted</u>			
STATE	6.8	6.7	6.6
HONOLULU	5.6	5.7	5.5
HAWAII COUNTY	10.1	9.8	9.5
KAUAI	9.3	9.1	9.8
MAUI COUNTY	8.9	8.5	8.6
Maui Island	8.8	8.4	8.5
Moloka'i	12.5	11.9	11.4
Lana'i	6.6	7.5	8.3
U. S.	10.2	10.4	9.0

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 inched up to 6.8 percent in March from 6.7 percent in January.

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

In another measure of employment, total seasonally adjusted nonagricultural jobs increased by 2,800 or +0.5 percent to 588,600 in March. The industries posting job gains included Construction (+1,400); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+900); Leisure and Hospitality (+600); Educational and Health Services; and Other Services (+100 each). The industries reporting job decreases were Financial Activities (-300) and Professional and Business Services (-900). Government rose mainly in Federal Government due to the hiring of census workers. Over-the-year, from March 2009, the seasonally adjusted job count fell by 9,400 jobs or -1.6 percent. The sectors recording job losses in the private sector included Professional and Business Services (-4,100); and Construction (-2,000).

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

<b>SELECTED SERIES:</b>	<b>Mar-10</b>	<b>Feb-10</b>	<b>Mar-09*</b>
MINING, LOGGING AND AND CONSTRUCTION	31,200	29,800	33,200
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES	111,400	110,500	112,000
Wholesale Trade	17,500	17,300	18,100
Retail Trade	67,500	67,400	66,900
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	27,600	27,900	27,900
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	11,400	11,600	11,400
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	68,700	69,600	72,800
Professional, Scientific, Tech Svcs	24,100	24,100	25,000
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	76,000	75,900	74,700
Educational Services	15,300	15,200	14,700
Health Care & Social Assistance	60,700	60,700	60,000
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	101,200	100,600	101,400
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	10,300	10,200	10,700
Accommodation & Food Services	90,900	90,400	90,700
OTHER SERVICES	25,500	25,400	26,400
GOVERNMENT	124,700	123,900	126,300
Federal Government	34,700	34,000	32,900
State Government	71,500	71,300	74,700
Local Government	18,500	18,600	18,700
<b>TOTAL: STATEWIDE</b>	<b>588,600</b>	<b>585,800</b>	<b>598,000</b>

\* Benchmarked Data

❖ **Construction (+1,400)**

Construction expanded notably by 1,400 jobs in all sectors in this industry after a slight drop the previous month. There were reported job gains in residential building construction in construction of building; as well as in foundation, structure, and building exterior contractors, building equipment contractors, and building finishing contractors in special trade contractors. There were also job increases in heavy and civil engineering construction. Over-the-year, from March 2009 this major industry experienced a loss of 2,000 jobs or -6.0 percent resulting from the slowdown in construction projects.

❖ **Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (+900)**

This industrial series recorded a moderate 900 job growth after remaining stable a month earlier. Wholesale Trade added 200 jobs in machinery, equipment, and supplies merchant wholesalers; and in miscellaneous durable goods merchant wholesalers. Retail Trade edged up by a modest 100 jobs in department stores. Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities comprised the bulk of the increase growing by 600 jobs. There were job gains in various entities such as in scenic and sightseeing transportation, land; taxi and limousine service; and support activities for air transportation.

❖ **Leisure and Hospitality (+600)**

Leisure and Hospitality climbed by 600 jobs growing for the second consecutive month. Arts, Entertainment and Recreation inched up by 100 jobs in amusement and recreation industries. Accommodation and Food Services accounted for majority of the job gain adding 500 jobs. Most of the job growth was concentrated in Food Services in limited-service eating places as well as in full-service restaurants.

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

This industrial series registered a minimal job increase trending upward for the second month in a row. Educational Services made up the entire gain in exam preparation and tutoring. Health Care Services remained unchanged. The increase in the offices of physicians; and offices of dentists in ambulatory health care services was offset by the decrease in community housing services; and child day care services in social assistance.

❖ **Other Services (+100)**

This miscellaneous sector trended upward slightly by 100 jobs after slipping for two consecutive months. The gain occurred in automotive repair and maintenance.

❖ **Financial Activities (-300)**

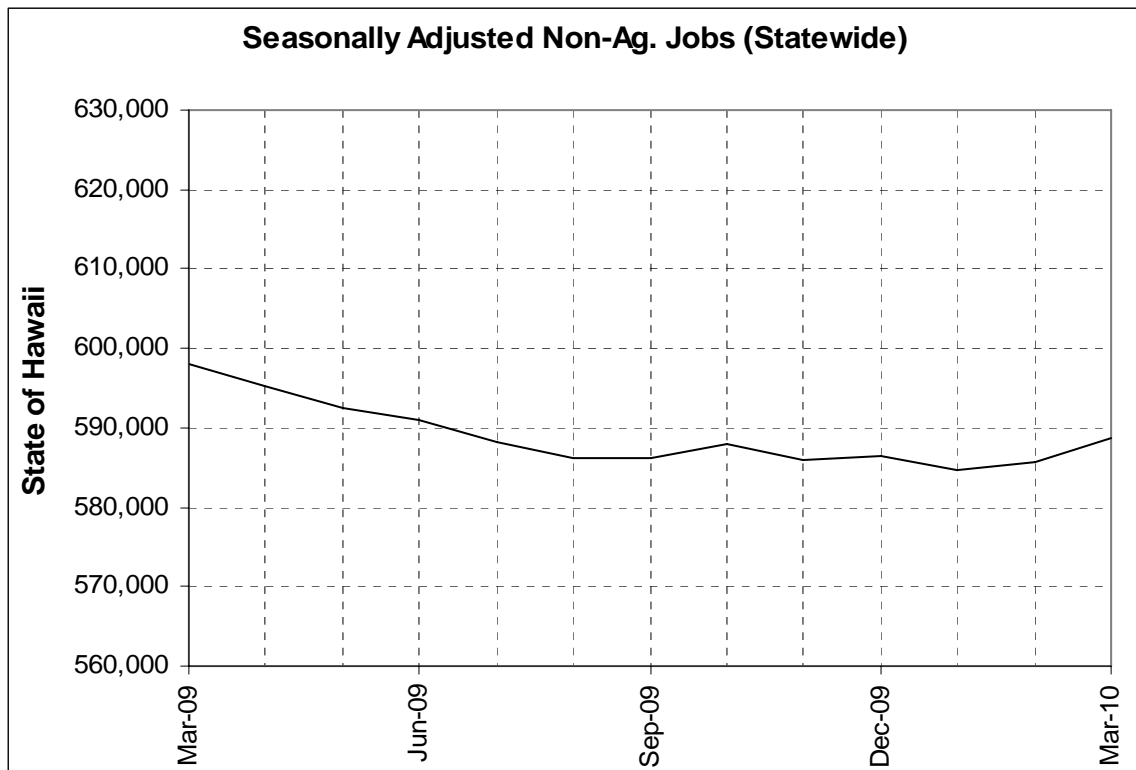
Financial Activities fell by 300 jobs following a modest increase one month ago. Real Estate reported a 200 job drop in real estate property managers. Finance and Insurance also fell by a minimal 100 jobs in agencies, brokerages, and other insurance related activities.

❖ **Professional and Business Services (-900)**

This industrial group declined by a moderate 900 jobs after experiencing an increase in February. Management of Companies and Enterprises edged down slightly in corporate, subsidiary, and regional managing offices. However, the bulk of the job decline was concentrated in Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services in various areas including employment services; services to buildings and dwellings; and investigation and security services. Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services remained relatively stable. The increase in management, scientific, and technical consulting services countered the decrease in marketing research and public opinion polling.

❖ **Government (+800)**

Government posted an increase from February, most of which were in Federal Government which added 700 jobs mainly due to the hiring of additional 2010 census workers in March. State Government trended up slightly by 200 jobs while Local Government trended down by a mere 100 jobs.



## 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.

## **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).