



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

**News Release**

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**HAWAI'I'S SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AT  
4.2 PERCENT IN AUGUST**

**National Unemployment Rate rises to 6.1 percent**

**HONOLULU** - The Hawai'i State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations announced today that the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for August was 4.2 percent, a 0.3 percentage point increase over July's rate of 3.9 percent. Nationally, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate also increased over-the-month, from 5.7 percent in July to 6.1 percent in August. Over the last six months, Hawai'i's monthly seasonally adjusted unemployment rate had been on average roughly 1.8 percentage points lower than the U.S. monthly seasonally adjusted unemployment rate. There were 636,050 employed and 28,100 unemployed in Hawai'i in August, for a total seasonally adjusted labor force of 664,150.

| State of Hawaii Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Data |                 |                  |                 |
|--|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
|  | <u>Aug 2008</u> | <u>July 2008</u> | <u>Aug 2007</u> |
| Labor Force  | 664,150         | 664,550          | 646,200         |
| Employment   | 636,050         | 638,500          | 628,850         |
| Unemployment   | 28,100          | 26,050           | 17,350          |

|                | AUG<br>2008 | JUL<br>2008 | AUG<br>2007 |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| STATE          | 4.2         | 3.9         | 2.7         |
| HONOLULU#      | 3.9         | 3.9         | 2.5         |
| HAWAII COUNTY# | 6.1         | 5.8         | 3.5         |
| KAUAI#         | 4.3         | 4.3         | 2.4         |
| MAUI COUNTY#   | 4.7         | 4.4         | 3.1         |
| Maui Island#   | 4.4         | 4.2         | 3.0         |
| Molokai#       | 13.7        | 11.9        | 6.3         |
| Lanai#         | 4.8         | 5.2         | 1.3         |
| U. S.          | 6.1         | 5.7         | 4.7         |

# non-seasonally adjusted

### **Industry Payroll Employment**

In another measure of employment, total seasonally adjusted nonagricultural jobs expanded over-the-month in August by 2,300 to 625,500. Job gains in the private sector occurred in Construction and Leisure and Hospitality (+200 each); Educational and Health Services and Other Services (+100 each). Job losses were registered in Trade, Transportation and Utilities (-400), partially resulting from an additional reduction of staff with a cruise ship's earlier departure. A year ago, from August 2007, the seasonally adjusted job count grew by 3,400 jobs. Over-the-year, the industries in the private sector experiencing notable job growth were Educational and Health Services (+1,400), Other Services (+600) and Construction (+400).

"The department is encouraged by the number of jobs being created even during these challenging times," said Darwin L.D. Ching, director of labor and industrial relations. "We are also pleased to see that Hawai'i's unemployment rates remain largely lower than the nation," he added.

| <b>Seasonally Adjusted Non-Ag. Jobs (State)</b> |                |                |                |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| SELECTED SERIES:                                | <b>Aug-08</b>  | <b>Jul-08</b>  | <b>Aug-07</b>  |
| NATURAL RESOURCES, MINING<br>AND CONSTRUCTION   | 39,600         | 39,400         | 39,200         |
| TRADE, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES               | 117,800        | 118,200        | 120,600        |
| Wholesale Trade                                 | 18,600         | 18,500         | 18,400         |
| Retail Trade                                    | 70,400         | 70,500         | 69,800         |
| EDUCATIONAL AND<br>HEALTH SERVICES              | 74,400         | 74,300         | 73,000         |
| Educational<br>Services                         | 14,800         | 15,000         | 14,200         |
| Health Care and<br>Social Assistance            | 59,600         | 59,300         | 58,800         |
| LEISURE & HOSPITALITY                           | 108,000        | 107,800        | 109,700        |
| Arts, Entertainment & Recreation                | 11,300         | 11,300         | 12,200         |
| Accommodation & Food Services                   | 96,700         | 96,500         | 97,500         |
| OTHER SERVICES                                  | 27,200         | 27,100         | 26,600         |
| GOVERNMENT                                      | 126,400        | 124,900        | 121,300        |
| Federal Government                              | 32,200         | 32,300         | 31,500         |
| State Government                                | 75,500         | 74,100         | 71,800         |
| Local Government                                | 18,700         | 18,500         | 18,000         |
| <b>TOTAL: STATE</b>                             | <b>625,500</b> | <b>623,200</b> | <b>622,100</b> |

❖ **Construction (+200)**

Construction continued to improve as the industry reported an increase for the third month in a row. This sector expanded by 200 jobs over-the-month in special trade contractors, mainly in building finishing contractors. Over-the-year, the sector held steady, recording a 400 job increase. The industry remains viable to our economy with continuing private and government contracts.

❖ **Leisure and Hospitality (+200)**

Leisure and Hospitality grew by 200 jobs after experiencing two consecutive months of job losses. Accommodation and Food Services comprised the entire increase. Food Services accounted for most of this growth partially due to the recent opening of a limited-service restaurant. Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation remained virtually unchanged. The upward trend in performing arts companies was offset by the down trend in museum, historical sites and similar institutions.

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

This major industrial group increased by 100 jobs after experiencing a drop in July. Health Care and Social Assistance posted a 300 job gain. The increase was concentrated in the Health Care category with additional staff reported in physicians' offices and home health care services. Educational Services recorded a 200 net loss in private education, primarily in elementary and secondary schools.

❖ **Other Services (+100)**

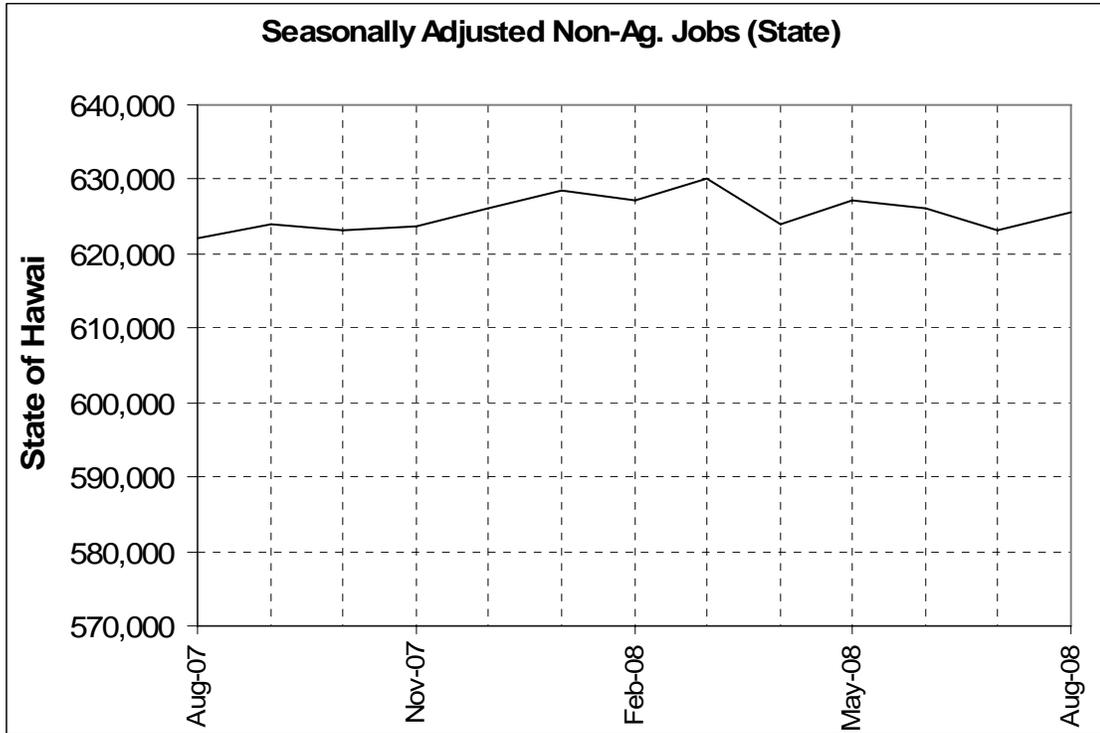
This miscellaneous group also rose by a minimal of 100 jobs. Most of the increase occurred in personal and household goods repair and maintenance.

❖ **Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-400)**

This major industrial group experienced the largest over-the-month drop in the private sector in August. Wholesale Trade registered a 100 job increase after remaining stable for three consecutive months. Some of the job gains were noted in hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies merchant wholesalers. The increase in Wholesale was offset by the modest 100 job drop in Retail Trade. The job loss in Retail Trade occurred in general merchandise stores, mainly in department stores. The entire 400 job decline was in Transportation and Warehousing, resulting from an additional loss of staff with the departure of a cruise ship, as well as in scenic and sightseeing transportation.

❖ **Government (+1,500)**

Government accounted for the largest job growth from July. Federal Government fell by a minimal 100 jobs while Local Government added 200 jobs. State Government comprised the bulk of the increase predominantly in the Department Education. The job gain was due mainly to public schools following the unified calendar schedule for the third consecutive year. The school session also commenced earlier this year than a year ago.



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