



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

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**HAWAII'S SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AT
7.1 PERCENT IN MARCH**

Hawaii Remains Below National Unemployment Rate of 8.5 percent

HONOLULU- The Hawaii State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations announced today that the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March was 7.1 percent, an increase of 0.6 percentage points over February's rate of 6.5 percent. In comparison, the U.S. seasonally adjusted unemployment rate climbed from 8.1 percent in February to 8.5 percent in March. For the first quarter of 2009, Hawaii's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate averaged 6.6 percent, while the national seasonally adjusted rate was 8.1 percent. In March, there were 599,050 employed and 45,850 unemployed, for a total seasonally adjusted labor force of 644,900. Given the 7.1 percent unemployment rate, Hawaii claimants may qualify for Tier 2 federal unemployment benefits. This means that claimants may receive an additional 13 weeks of Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) benefits starting in approximately one month.

State of Hawaii Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Data			
	<u>Mar 2009</u>	<u>Feb 2009</u>	<u>Mar 2008</u>
Labor Force	644,900	650,250	651,700
Employment	599,050	607,850	631,250
Unemployment	45,850	42,400	20,450

	MAR 2009	FEB 2009	MAR* 2008
STATE	7.1	6.5	3.1
HONOLULU	5.8	5.4	2.6
HAWAII COUNTY	10.2	9.1	4.0
KAUAI	10.3	9.2	3.1
MAUI COUNTY	9.0	7.9	3.3
Maui Island	8.9	7.7	3.2
Molokai	12.7	13.0	5.4
Lanai	9.1	7.7	4.7
U. S.	8.5	8.1	5.1

county & island rates are non-seasonally adjusted

* Mar 2008 county & island rates pending U.S.Bureau of Labor Statistics approval

Industry Payroll Employment

In another measure of employment, total seasonally adjusted nonagricultural jobs decreased by 100 to 606,800 from February. Trade, Transportation and Utilities reported moderate job growth (+800), while Financial Activities, Leisure and Hospitality, and Other Services all remained relatively stable. The industries reporting job losses were Professional and Business Services (-100), Educational and Health Services (-200), and Construction (-1,400). Government reported job gains shared between State Government and Local Government. Over-the-year, from March 2008, the seasonally adjusted job count declined by 19,400 jobs, occurring predominantly in the private sector. The sectors experiencing significant job reduction included Leisure and Hospitality (-6,200); Trade, Transportation and Utilities (-5,900); and Construction (-5,100).

Seasonally Adjusted Non-Ag. Jobs (Statewide)

SELECTED SERIES:	Mar-09	Feb-09	Mar-08*
MINING, LOGGING AND AND CONSTRUCTION	34,100	35,500	39,200
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES	115,300	114,500	121,200
Wholesale Trade	18,400	18,300	18,900
Retail Trade	68,500	68,800	70,900
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES **	28,800	28,800	29,600
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing **	12,400	12,500	13,000
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES **	73,800	73,900	76,200
Professional, Scientific, Tech Svcs **	25,000	25,100	25,000
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	74,400	74,600	73,700
Educational Services	14,700	14,700	14,600
Health Care & Social Assistance	59,700	59,900	59,100
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	103,100	103,100	109,300
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	11,200	11,100	11,900
Accommodation & Food Services	91,900	92,000	97,400
OTHER SERVICES	27,200	27,200	27,400
GOVERNMENT	125,900	125,400	123,900
Federal Government	32,700	32,800	31,800
State Government	74,300	74,000	73,700
Local Government	18,900	18,600	18,400
TOTAL: STATEWIDE	606,800	606,900	626,200

* Benchmarked Data

** New Series

❖ Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (+800)

This major industry expanded by the largest number of jobs in March. Wholesale Trade edged up slightly in wholesale electronic markets and agents and brokers; and grocery and related product merchant wholesaler. Retail Trade fell in March mainly in general merchandise stores and clothing and clothing accessories stores. The continual hiring at newly opened department stores helped this series from experiencing further job losses. Transportation and Warehousing accounted for majority of the growth mainly in warehousing and storage as well as in inland water transportation.

❖ **Financial Activities (No Change)**

This new group remained constant after a slight job loss from February. The increase in Finance and Insurance was offset by the decrease in Real Estate and Rental and Leasing. While Finance and Insurance added staff in depository credit intermediation, Real Estate and Rental and Leasing added workers in offices of real estate agents and brokers.

❖ **Leisure & Hospitality (No Change)**

This major industrial series remained unchanged after reporting 13 consecutive months of job declines. Arts, Entertainment and Recreation edged upward slightly in golf courses and country clubs. Accommodation and Food Services, which posted three straight months of job declines accounted for a nominal decrease in March most of which were in Accommodation. The hiring of more staff at a newly renovated Waikiki hotel helped this series from reporting further job losses. The industry continues to experience low occupancy rates compounded with less visitor arrivals.

❖ **Other Services (No Change)**

This miscellaneous industry remained steady following a moderate job increase a month earlier with a reported marginal increase in dry-cleaning and laundry services.

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

This new series recorded job losses for the third straight month. Professional, Scientific and Technical Services comprised the total 100-job loss mainly in computer systems design and related services. Management of Companies and Enterprises remained stable. Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services also was unchanged. The upward trend in investigation and security services countered the down trend in employment services.

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

Education and Health Services reported a modest 200-job drop after reporting job gain two months in a row. Educational Services remained unchanged. The increase in private

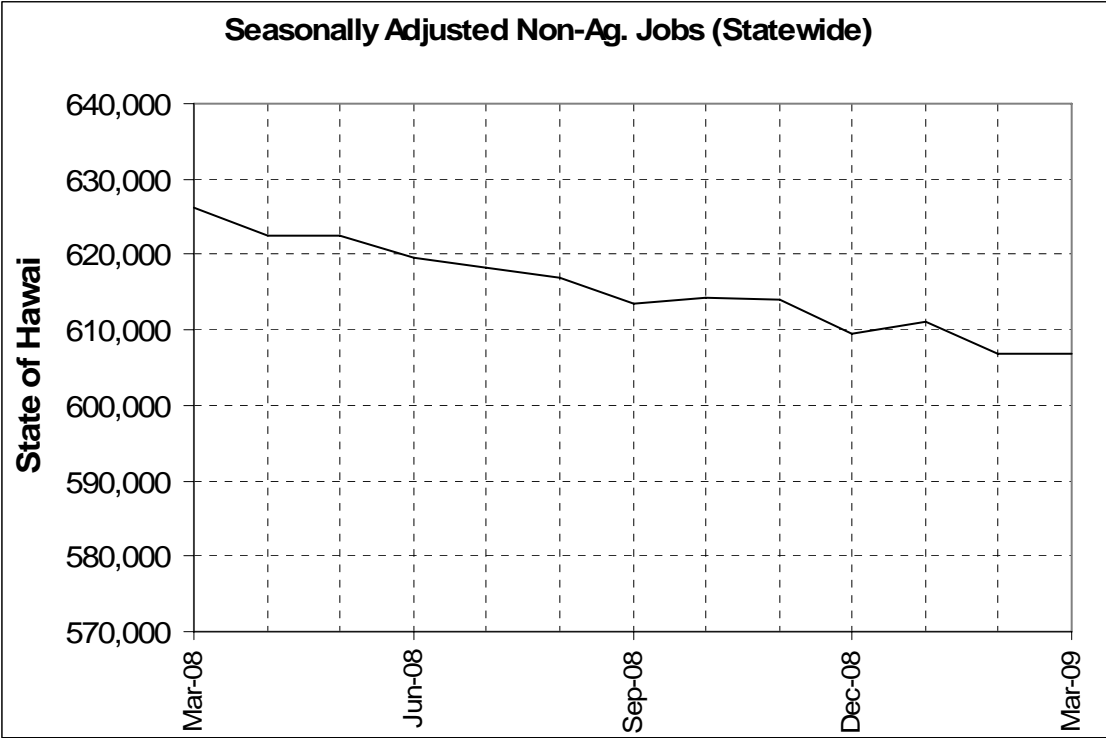
colleges, universities, and professional schools was offset by private technical and trade schools. Health Care and Social Assistance composed the total drop of 200 jobs. The descent was shared among nursing and residential care facilities in community care facilities for the elderly; and social assistance in individual family services.

❖ **Construction (-1,400)**

Construction continued to contract, declining for the fourth consecutive month and decreasing by the largest share of jobs in March. Most of the reduction was concentrated in special trade construction in building finishing contractors which included drywall and insulation contractors and flooring contractors, and finish carpentry contractors; as well as building equipment operators mainly electrical contractors. There were also job losses in construction of buildings in residential building construction. Over-the-year from March 2008, this major sector lost 5,100 jobs. The job reduction in this sector has been attributed in part to completion of construction projects and slow development of new building activities.

❖ **Government (+500)**

Government rose by 500 jobs from February. Federal Government slipped by a modest 100 jobs, while Local Government increased by 300 jobs. State Government also registered a 300-job gain primarily in state public education.



For more information, go to: www.hawaii.gov/labor

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contact:

Ryan Markham

Phone: (808) 586-8845

Fax: (808) 586-9099

Email: ryan.k.markham@hawaii.gov