



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

News Release

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HAWAII'S SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AT 6.1 PERCENT IN JANUARY

HONOLULU- The Hawaii'i State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations announced today that the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for January was 6.1 percent, an increase of 1.0 percentage point over December's revised rate of 5.1 percent. Over the last 12 months, Hawaii's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate has been in the range of 1.5 to 2.1 percentage points lower than the national unemployment rate. In January, Hawaii's seasonally adjusted labor force totaled 648,700 and was composed of 609,150 employed and 39,550 unemployed. This release incorporates labor force and unemployment figures for the years 2004 through 2008 that have been revised, in order to reflect additional data inputs and updated estimation techniques. The methodology used to produce this data is performed at the end of every year and is uniform across states in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Users should be cautious about comparing labor force and unemployment estimates for the current year to those for prior years.

State of Hawaii'i Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Data			
	<u>Jan 2009</u>	<u>Dec 2008*</u>	<u>Jan 2008*</u>
Labor Force	648,700	657,600	649,450
Employment	609,150	624,200	629,750
Unemployment	39,550	33,400	19,750

* Benchmarked Data

	JAN 2009	DEC* 2008	JAN* 2008
STATE	6.1	5.1	3.0
HONOLULU	5.2	4.2	2.7
HAWAII COUNTY	8.4	7.2	3.8
KAUAI	8.8	7.6	3.0
MAUI COUNTY	7.4	6.7	3.1
Maui Island	7.3	6.6	2.9
Molokai	12.5	8.9	7.0
Lanai	8.5	5.3	4.3
U. S.	7.6	7.2	4.9

county & island rates are non-seasonally adjusted

* benchmarked data; county/islands are pending BLS' approval

Industry Payroll Employment

In another measure of employment, total seasonally adjusted nonagricultural jobs, which reflects the annual benchmarked revisions increased by 1,500 from 609,400 to 610,900 in January. Education and Health Services (+400) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+200) were sectors posting increases, while Leisure & Hospitality remained unchanged. Job declines occurred in Construction, Financial Activities, and Other Services (-100 each) as well as Professional and Business Services (-300). Government accounted for the largest job gain mainly in State Education as it continues its year round school session. Over-the-year, from January 2008, the seasonally adjusted job count declined by 17,000 jobs, primarily in the private sector.

Effective with this release, the seasonally adjusted series have been expanded. There are two new major industries with one detail series each within these industries.

Seasonally Adjusted Non-Ag. Jobs (Statewide)

SELECTED SERIES:	Jan-09	Dec-08*	Jan-08*
MINING, LOGGING AND AND CONSTRUCTION	36,400	36,500	39,400
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES	114,700	114,500	122,100
Wholesale Trade	18,400	18,600	18,800
Retail Trade	68,900	68,400	70,600
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES **	28,800	28,900	29,700
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing **	12,300	12,400	13,000
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES **	74,000	74,300	76,600
Professional, Scientific, Tech Svcs **	25,000	24,800	25,000
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	74,600	74,200	73,700
Educational Services	14,900	14,700	14,700
Health Care & Social Assistance	59,700	59,500	59,000
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	104,100	104,100	109,800
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	11,100	11,000	11,900
Accommodation & Food Services	93,000	93,100	97,900
OTHER SERVICES	26,900	27,000	27,200
GOVERNMENT	127,000	125,600	123,800
Federal Government	32,200	32,400	31,800
State Government	75,900	74,500	73,700
Local Government	18,900	18,700	18,200
TOTAL: STATEWIDE	610,900	609,400	627,900

. * Benchmarked Data ** New Series

❖ Educational and Health Services (+400)

This major group expanded by the largest jobs in the private sector. Educational Services and Health Care and Social Assistance each reported a 200 job gain. Education added more employees in private schools while Health Care and Social Assistance hired staff in dental offices and family and services.

❖ Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+200)

This industrial series posted a modest gain after several months of decline. Wholesale Trade trended down by 200 jobs mainly in wholesale trade agents and brokers.

Transportation trimmed a minimal 100 jobs in couriers and messengers. Retail Trade grew by a notable 500 jobs, mainly due to early hiring to support the March opening of a major department store as it prepares to open two new locations on Oahu. Several hundred more

jobs are expected to be filled in the coming months. Meanwhile the recent opening of another general merchandise store will add more jobs on Oahu giving a boost to this industry in creating new jobs.

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

Leisure and Hospitality remained unchanged. The upturn in Arts, Entertainment and Recreation in amusement and recreation industries was offset by the downturn in Accommodation and Food Services. In Accommodation and Food Services, the marginal decrease occurred in Food Services mainly in full-service restaurants. The reopening of a renovated Waikiki hotel rehiring many of its former employees helped Accommodation remain stable even with the announcement of lower visitor arrivals and occupancy rates.

❖ **Construction (-100)**

Construction registered a slight drop in jobs from December after a larger decrease a month earlier. Most of the descent occurred in special trade contractors in building equipment contractors. The recent job reduction in this sector has been attributed in part to completion of existing projects and firms putting on hold or delaying the development of new projects.

❖ **Financial Activities* (-100)**

This new series experienced a minimal decrease in January with Real Estate and Rental and Leasing accounting for the entire job loss mainly in real estate property managers. Finance and Insurance was relatively unchanged. The upward trend in depository credit intermediation and insurance carriers was offset by the downward trend in agencies, brokerages, and other insurance related activities.

❖ **Other Services (-100)**

This miscellaneous group edged down slightly again in civic and social organizations.

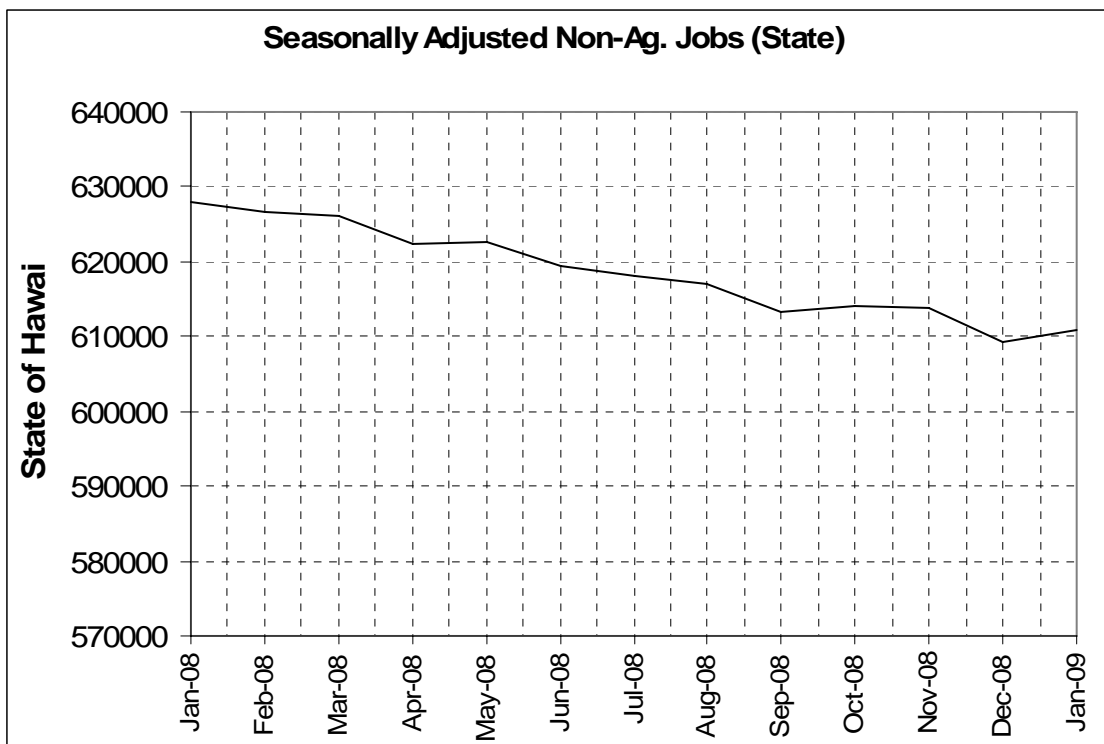
❖ **Professional & Business Services* (-300)**

This new industrial group trended down by the largest margin within the private sector. Professional, Scientific and Technical Services rose by 200 jobs in legal services. The bulk of the drop concentrated in Administration and Support and Waste Management and

Remediation Services with contraction spread among the different groups including employment services, business support services and services to building and dwellings.

❖ **Government (+1,400)**

Government registered the largest job gain in January. The 200 job increase in Local Government was equally countered by the 200 job decrease in Federal Government. State Government accounted for the total industry's growth predominantly in the state education as it continues its year round calendar session.



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