



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

**News Release**

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**MR 2009 06**

**For Immediate Release: March 27, 2009**

**HAWAI‘I’S SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AT 6.5  
PERCENT IN FEBRUARY**  
**National Unemployment Rate at 8.1 percent**

**HONOLULU-** The Hawaii State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations announced today that the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for February was 6.5 percent, an increase of 0.4 percentage points over January’s rate of 6.1 percent. In comparison, the U.S. seasonally adjusted unemployment rate went from 7.6 percent in January to 8.1 percent in February. There were 607,950 employed and 42,250 unemployed in February, comprising a seasonally adjusted labor force of 650,200.

State of Hawaii Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Data			
	<u>Feb 2009</u>	<u>Jan 2009</u>	<u>Feb 2008</u>
Labor Force	650,200	648,900	649,800
Employment	607,950	609,150	629,450
Unemployment	42,250	39,750	20,350

	FEB 2009	JAN 2009	FEB* 2008
<b>STATE</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>3.1</b>
HONOLULU	5.4	5.2	2.6
HAWAII COUNTY	9.1	8.4	3.7
KAUAI	9.1	8.9	2.8
MAUI COUNTY	7.8	7.5	3.1
Maui Island	7.7	7.3	3.0
Molokai	12.9	12.6	5.5
Lanai	7.7	8.6	4.5
<b>U. S.</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>4.8</b>

county & island rates are non-seasonally adjusted

\* Feb 2008 county rates pending U.S.Bureau of Labor Statistics approval

### **Industry Payroll Employment**

In another measure of employment, total seasonally adjusted nonagricultural jobs declined by 3,700 from 611,100 to 607,400 in February. The industries reporting job gains included Professional and Business Services (+400), Other Services (+300) and Education and Health Services (+100). Job losses were experienced in Trade, Transportation and Utilities (-100), Financial Activities (-300), Leisure and Hospitality (-600) and Construction (-900). Government comprised the largest job reduction predominantly in State Education. Over-the-year, from February 2008, the seasonally adjusted job count contracted by 19,200 jobs, most of which occurred in the private sector. The sectors experiencing notable job reduction included Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-7,100), Leisure and Hospitality (-6,600) and Construction (-3,900).

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

<b>SELECTED SERIES:</b>	<b>Feb-09</b>	<b>Jan-09</b>	<b>Feb-08*</b>
MINING, LOGGING AND AND CONSTRUCTION	35,500	36,400	39,400
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES	114,500	114,600	121,600
Wholesale Trade	18,300	18,500	18,900
Retail Trade	68,800	68,700	70,600
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES **	28,800	29,100	29,800
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing **	12,500	12,600	13,200
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES **	74,400	74,000	76,300
Professional, Scientific, Tech Svcs **	25,200	25,100	25,000
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	74,600	74,500	73,700
Educational Services	14,700	14,900	14,600
Health Care & Social Assistance	59,900	59,600	59,100
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	103,300	103,900	109,900
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	11,100	11,100	11,900
Accommodation & Food Services	92,200	92,800	98,000
OTHER SERVICES	27,100	26,800	27,400
GOVERNMENT	125,100	127,400	123,300
Federal Government	32,500	32,600	31,700
State Government	74,000	75,900	73,300
Local Government	18,600	18,900	18,300
<b>TOTAL: STATEWIDE</b>	<b>607,400</b>	<b>611,100</b>	<b>626,600</b>

\* Benchmarked Data

\*\* New Series

❖ **Professional and Business Services (+400)**

This new series expanded by the largest jobs in the private sector after registering job losses a month earlier. Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services edged up by 100 jobs in veterinary services and marketing research and public opinion polling.

Administration and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services composed the remaining 300 jobs in employment services and waste treatment disposal.

❖ **Other Services (+300)**

This miscellaneous group reported a moderate job gain after two consecutive months of job losses. The bulk of the increase was noted in civic and social organizations and drycleaning and laundry services.

❖ **Education & Health Services (+100)**

Education & Health Services recorded job growth for the second consecutive month. Health Care and Social Assistance trended up by 300 jobs. In Health Care, job increases were in home health care services and dentists' offices. In Social Assistance, most of the jobs were in child day care services. The job growth in health services helped offset the 200 job loss recorded in private education.

❖ **Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-100)**

Trade, Transportation & Utilities trended down slightly by 100 jobs. Transportation remained relatively stable. The increase in scenic and sightseeing transportation, land was offset by the decrease in scenic and sightseeing transportation, water. Wholesale Trade slipped by 200 jobs shared between grocery and related product merchant wholesalers and lumber and other construction materials merchant wholesalers. Retail Trade rose by 100 jobs mainly in general merchandise stores. A general merchandise store added more staff in preparation for the opening of its two stores held earlier this month. Meanwhile, a new department store, which opened the end of last month has also been hiring staff. This store, among others, which recently opened at the Kapolei Commons shopping complex helped this major industry from experiencing further job declines. More businesses at this complex are anticipated to open in the coming months which will create more jobs.

❖ **Financial Activities (-300)**

This new series posted a 300 job loss after registering an increase a month earlier. Real Estate and Rental and Leasing edged down by a marginal 100 jobs mostly in real estate property managers. Finance and Insurance accounted for the remaining 200 job loss shared between depository credit intermediation and nondepository credit intermediation.

❖ **Leisure & Hospitality (-600)**

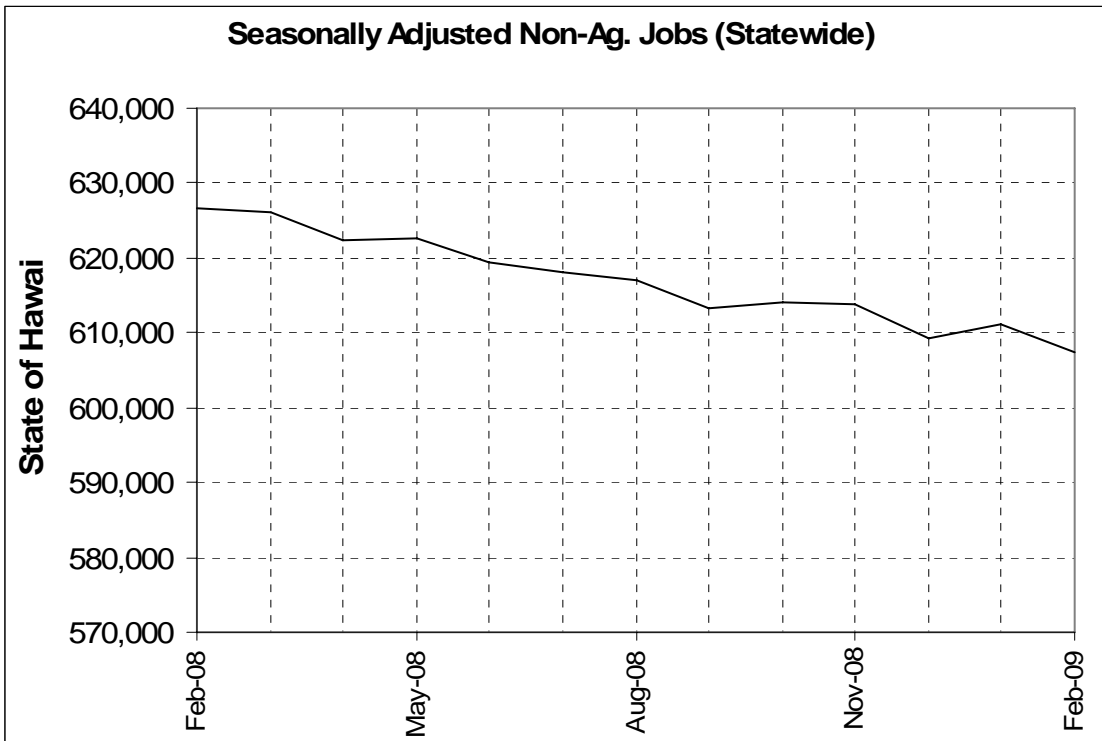
Leisure and Hospitality continued its downward trend shredding 600 jobs in February. Arts, Entertainment and Recreation remained unchanged while exhibiting a marginal increase in golf courses and country club. Accommodation and Food Services accounted for the entire decline in this industry, majority of which were in Accommodation. The job loss in hotels was in part a reflection from reported continual lower occupancy rates and less visitor arrivals.

❖ **Construction (-900)**

Construction declined by the largest share within the private sector after experiencing a minimal job loss a month ago. The bulk of the contraction was concentrated in construction of building in both residential building construction and nonresidential building construction. Over-the-year from February 2008, this major industry descended by 3,900 jobs. The reduction in this sector has been attributed in part to slow development of new construction activities and with companies putting private projects on hold due to the slowing economy.

❖ **Government (-2,300)**

Government recorded the largest job loss from January posting decreases in all sectors within the industry. Federal Government fell by a modest 100 jobs while Local Government trimmed 300 jobs. State Government accounted for majority of the reduction mainly in state public education.



For more information, go to: [www.hawaii.gov/labor](http://www.hawaii.gov/labor)

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