



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

**News Release**

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GOVERNOR

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**MAY MARKS EIGHTH CONSECUTIVE MONTH OF RELATIVELY LOW  
UNEMPLOYMENT FOR HAWAII**

**HONOLULU-** The State of Hawaii Department of Labor & Industrial Relations announced today that the statewide unemployment rate in May was 3.8 percent, an anticipated, modest increase from 3.7 percent in April. Hawaii's unemployment rate in May however, remained well below the national unemployment rate, which stood unchanged at 5.8 percent. One year ago, the statewide unemployment rate was 4.2 percent, while the national unemployment rate was 5.5 percent.

"Hawaii's labor force continues to not be adversely impacted by the external events of the first half of the year," said Colleen LaClair, Deputy Director of Labor and Industrial Relations. "We are heartened to see a positive trend in the private sector as employment has continued to increase each month since January 2003. This seems to be having a stabilizing effect upon our unemployment numbers."

In May, there were 577,300 employed and 23,000 unemployed, for a total civilian labor force of 600,200, the largest civilian labor force count since March 2000.

In another measure of employment, total nonagricultural jobs increased by 4,500 in May over April. Much of the job gain was due to significant numbers of substitute teachers and support staff at the Department of Education returning to work. Employment in state education (DOE and UH system) expanded by 3,400 jobs over-the-month.

Outside of government, the private sector grew by 1,200 jobs. Retail trade added 600 jobs, with the growth spread over several retail sectors. The information sector gained 500 jobs mainly due to the hiring of "extras" for movie and television productions in the islands. Meanwhile, hospitals posted 100 fewer jobs due to the nurses' strike at a private hospital.

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## UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (not seasonally adjusted)

	MAY 2003	APR 2003	MAY 2002
<b>STATE</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>4.2</b>
<b>HONOLULU*</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>3.8</b>
<b>HAWAII COUNTY</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>6.2</b>
<b>KAUAI</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>5.8</b>
<b>MAUI COUNTY</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>4.1</b>
<b>Maui Island</b>	3.6	3.6	3.9
<b>Molokai</b>	12.2	7.9	7.7
<b>Lanai</b>	2.5	2.7	4.5
<b>U. S.</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>5.5</b>

\* City & County of Honolulu

## COMPARATIVE RATES - U. S. AND HAWAII

