



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

News Release

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**HAWAII'S SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AT
2.9 PERCENT IN NOVEMBER**

**November Marks Nearly Three Years That Hawaii's has Maintained One of the Nation's
Lowest Unemployment Rate at 3 Percent or Lower**

HONOLULU - The Hawaii State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations announced today that the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for November was 2.9 percent, an increase of 0.2 percentage point over October's rate of 2.7 percent. In contrast, the national seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained stable over-the-month at 4.7 percent. Over the past 12 months, Hawaii's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate has averaged 2.5 percent. In November, there were 629,100 employed and 18,700 unemployed, for a total seasonally adjusted statewide labor force of 647,800.

State of Hawaii Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Data			
	<u>Nov 2007</u>	<u>Oct 2007</u>	<u>Nov 2006</u>
Labor Force	647,800	646,700	647,650
Employment	629,100	629,400	634,300
Unemployment	18,700	17,350	13,350

	NOV 2007	OCT 2007	NOV 2006
STATE	2.9	2.7	2.1
HONOLULU*	2.7	2.4	2.1
HAWAII COUNTY*	3.7	3.2	2.5
KAUAI*	3.0	2.4	1.9
MAUI COUNTY*	3.5	3.1	2.1
Maui Island*	3.4	3.1	2.0
Molokai*	6.8	5.0	5.7
Lanai*	2.8	1.1	1.2
U. S.	4.7	4.7	4.5

* non-seasonally adjusted

Industry Payroll Employment

In another measure of employment, total seasonally adjusted nonagricultural jobs decreased in over-the-month from October by 2,200 to 628,900. However, the Construction Industry continues to create new jobs (+300). There were slight job losses in Trade, Transportation & Utilities mainly due to less air transportation jobs and Other Services partially due to fewer repair and maintenance workers.

State Government recorded the largest drop in jobs primarily in State Education. A year ago in November 2006, the seasonally adjusted job count expanded by 6,100 or 1.0 percent with the private sector comprising 73.5 percent of the increase. Over-the-year, the industries showing considerable job growth were composed of Leisure & Hospitality (+2,200), Construction (+1,800) and Educational & Health Services (+1,000).

"Since October 2004, Hawai'i's extraordinary employment growth has seen our unemployment rate drop below 3 percent, reaching an historical low of 1.6 percent in December of 2006," said Darwin L.D. Ching, Director of Labor and Industrial Relations. "Hawai'i's private sector continues to create employment opportunities, maintaining exceptional employment numbers and low unemployment rates."

Seasonally Adjusted Non-Ag. Jobs (State)

SELECTED SERIES:	Nov-07	Oct-07	Nov-06*
NATURAL RESOURCES, MINING AND CONSTRUCTION	38,500	38,200	36,700
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES	120,100	120,300	121,200
Wholesale Trade**	18,300	18,300	18,000
Retail Trade**	69,600	69,600	69,500
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	72,500	72,500	71,500
Educational Services**	13,600	13,600	13,700
Health Care and Social Assistance**	58,900	58,900	57,800
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	109,600	109,700	107,400
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation**	11,500	11,400	11,300
Accommodation & Food Services**	98,100	98,300	96,100
OTHER SERVICES	26,800	27,000	26,400
GOVERNMENT	120,900	124,000	123,100
Federal Government**	31,900	31,900	31,800
State Government**	70,900	74,000	73,600
Local Government**	18,100	18,100	17,700
TOTAL: STATE	628,900	631,100	622,800

❖ **Construction (+300)**

The Construction industry continues to show its strength, posting the largest over-the-month job gain among all the sectors. The majority of the growth was generated by special trade contractors mainly in building finishing contractors and residential building construction. Construction also added more workers in nonresidential building construction. Over-the-year, the construction industry grew by 1,800 jobs primarily with various special trades contractors.

❖ **Educational and Health Services (No change)**

This group remained steady. Educational Services in private education experienced no change. Health Care and Social Assistance was also essentially unchanged as the job gain in doctor's offices was offset by the job loss in nursing and residential care facilities. From November 2006, while Educational Services reported a minimal drop of 100 jobs, Health

Care and Social Assistance trended up by 1,000 jobs, which were distributed in hospitals and child day care services.

❖ **Leisure and Hospitality (-100)**

Leisure and Hospitality registered a modest decrease. Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation rose by 100 jobs mainly in golf courses and country clubs. Accommodation and Food Services reported 200 fewer jobs most of which were in food services due to some businesses switching to employment leasing companies. Over-the-year, the sector exhibited the largest increase among all the industries predominantly in Accommodation and Food Service due to the influx of new restaurants opening in the state.

❖ **Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (-200)**

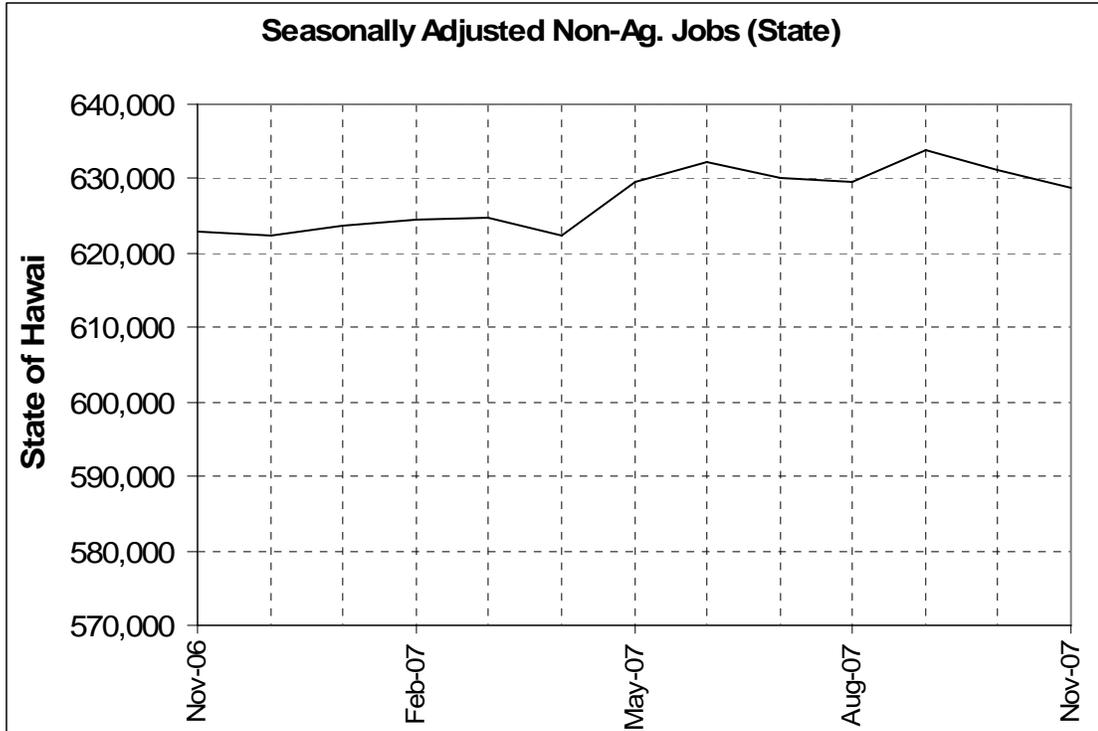
This major category reported a 200 job loss. Both Wholesale Trade and Retail Trade remained stable. Wholesale Trade registered an increase in merchant wholesalers, durable goods while it posted a drop in merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods. Meanwhile, Retail Trade experienced an uptrend in food and beverage stores which was countered by the downtrend in gasoline services and motor vehicle and parts dealers. Last month, Transportation accounted for the entire decrease primarily in air transportation.

❖ **Other Services (-200)**

This miscellaneous group registered a modest decline in jobs. Most of the reduction occurred in commercial and industrial machinery and equipment (except automotive and electronic) repair and maintenance. However, over-the-year, this industry added 400 jobs.

❖ **Government (-3,100)**

The Government sector experienced the largest decline compared to a year ago. Federal and Local Government each remained unchanged. The 3,100 loss in jobs occurred mainly in the State Government's Department of Education. The large decline was notably due to the ongoing year round unified session in public schools.



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