Job Market

The civilian labor force increased to 696,250 in April 2017, an increase of 14,450, or 2.1 percent from the same month last year. Civilian employment recorded 678,200 people at work in April 2017, 2.5 percent higher than the same month last year.

The April 2017 not seasonally adjusted (NSA) unemployment rate was 2.6 percent down from 3.0 percent in April 2016. The U.S. NSA unemployment rate for April 2017 was 4.1 percent, down from the 4.7 percent recorded in April 2016. Hawaii’s April 2017 YTD NSA was 2.7 percent. At that, Hawaii achieved a ranking of 1 as the lowest among the states, for the fourth month in a row.

The total number of non-agriculture wage and salary jobs in April 2017 was 653,700, 1.3 percent higher than the same month last year. It marks the 79th consecutive month that jobs have increased year-over-year.

Initial unemployment claims declined 0.5 percent in April 2017 compared with April 2016, but was 7.9 percent higher than March 2017.
Building Permits

The total value of private building permits issued in April 2017 was $267.6 million, or 3.8 percent higher than April 2016.

Permit activities were largely positive this month with Commercial and industrial increasing 215.8 percent, while Residential permits declined 38.3 percent, and Additions and alterations declined 10.8 percent in April 2017 compared to April 2016.

Comparing YTD April 2016 to YTD April 2017, the Total increased 47.8 percent. Residential, Commercial & industrial, and Additions & alterations increased 79.2, 226.3, and 0.8 percent respectively.

State Tax Revenue

State general fund revenues increased 3.3 percent from April 2016 to April 2017 and increased 4.4 percent from YTD April 2016 to YTD April 2017.

General excise and use tax revenues increased 2.0 percent April 2016 to April 2017 and increased 1.7 percent from YTD April 2016 to YTD April 2017.

Individual income tax revenues increased 8.5 percent April 2016 to April 2017 and increased 11.4 percent from YTD April 2016 to YTD April 2017.

The transient accommodations tax revenues increased 2.5 percent from April 2016 to April 2017 and increased 10.3 percent from YTD April 2016 to YTD April 2017.
**Visitor Arrivals and Spending**

In April 2017, Hawaii visitor arrivals totaled 752,964, of which 737,783 arrived by air and the remaining 15,181 by cruise ship.

Visitor arrivals by air and days increased by 8.9 and 9.1 percent respectively, while expenditures increased by 9.4 percent for April 2017 compared to April 2016.

As of April 2017 YTD, visitors by air from the U.S. mainland accounted for 62.0 percent of the total air visitors, with U.S. West at 39.5 percent and U.S. East at 22.5 percent. Japanese visitors accounted for 16.7 percent of the total, and 8.2 percent of the air visitors came from Canada.

**Visitor Market at Glance (by air only)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>April 2016</th>
<th>April 2017</th>
<th>% Chg.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visitor arrivals</td>
<td>677,671</td>
<td>737,783</td>
<td>8.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitor days</td>
<td>5,875,417</td>
<td>6,411,268</td>
<td>9.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitor expenditure ($mil)</td>
<td>1,138.7</td>
<td>1,245.8</td>
<td>9.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avg. length of stay (days)</td>
<td>8.67</td>
<td>8.69</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPPD ($)</td>
<td>193.8</td>
<td>194.3</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Hawaii Tourism Authority.

**Visitor Arrivals by Major Markets (by air only), YTD April 2017**

- **Canada, 244,261 (8.2%)**
- **U.S. West, 1,170,308 (39.5%)**
- **U.S. East, 665,420 (22.5%)**
- **Japan, 493,306 (16.7%)**
- **All Others, 388,426 (13.1%)**

**% Change from last year**

- **U.S. West**: 3.7%
- **U.S. East**: 6.4%
- **Japan**: 7.6%
- **Canada**: 6.1%
- **All Others**: -4.9%

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