

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

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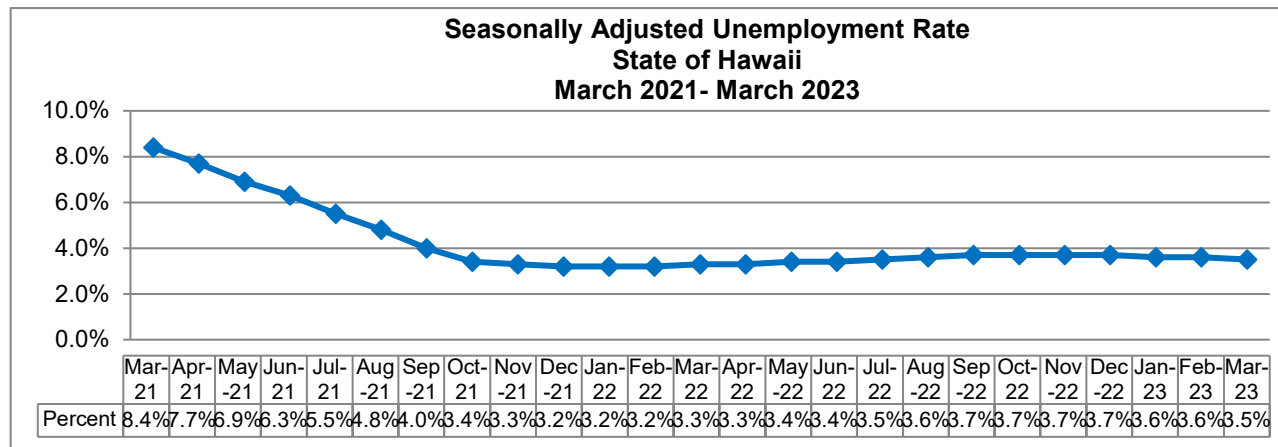
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 20, 2023

HAWAII'S MARCH UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AT 3.5 PERCENT

Jobs increased by 22,900 year-over-year

HONOLULU — The Hawaii State Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT) today announced that the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March was 3.5 percent, compared to 3.6 percent in February. In March, 654,850 persons were employed and 23,600 were unemployed, for a total seasonally adjusted labor force of 678,450 statewide. Nationally, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.5 percent in March, down from 3.6 percent in February.



The unemployment rate figures for the State of Hawaii and the U.S. in this release are seasonally adjusted, in accordance with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) methodology. The not seasonally adjusted rate for the state was 3.1 percent in March, compared to 3.2 percent in February.

State of Hawaii Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Data**			
	<u>Mar 2023</u>	<u>Feb 2023</u>	<u>Mar 2022*</u>
Labor Force	678,450	678,350	671,500
Employment	654,850	654,200	649,600
Unemployment	23,600	24,200	21,900

* benchmarked data

	MAR	FEB	MAR*
	2023	2023	2022
<u>Seasonally Adjusted</u>			
STATE	3.5	3.6	3.3
U. S.	3.5	3.6	3.6
<u>Not Seasonally Adjusted</u>			
STATE	3.1	3.2	3.0
HONOLULU	2.9	3.1	3.0
HAWAII COUNTY	3.5	3.4	3.0
KAUAI	3.0	3.1	3.5
MAUI COUNTY	3.4	3.2	3.3
Maui Island	3.4	3.2	3.2
Molokai	5.1	4.7	5.4
Lanai	2.8	1.9	3.8
U. S.	3.6	3.9	3.8

county & island rates are not seasonally adjusted

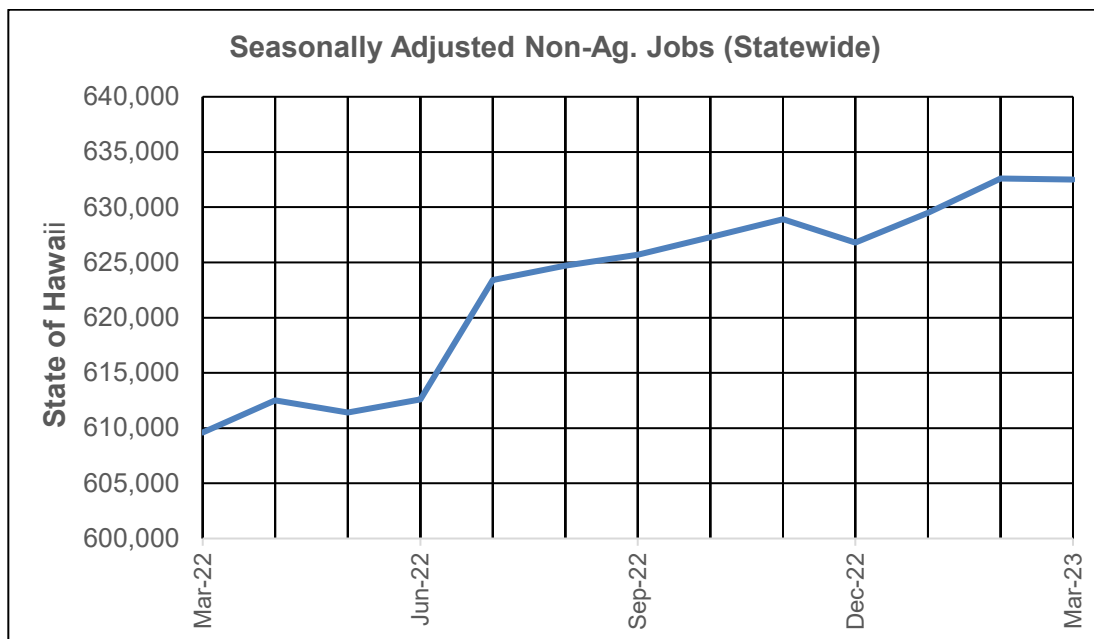
* benchmarked data

Industry Payroll Employment (Establishment Survey)

In a separate measure of employment, total nonagricultural jobs decreased by 100 month-over-month, from February 2023 to March 2023. Job gains were experienced in Leisure & Hospitality (+300); Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (+200); Professional & Business Services (+200); Manufacturing (+100); and Other Services (+100). Employment in Information; and Financial Activities remained stable. Job losses occurred in Construction (-300); and Private Education & Health Services (-1,500). Within Private Education & Health Services, most of the decline was in Health Services. Primary factors in the drop were a hospital strike on Maui County and contraction in Ambulatory Health Care Services. Government employment went up by 800 jobs, with about one-half of the rise in State Government, in part due to increased staffing in the University of Hawaii System. Year-over-year (March 2022 was the 24th month of pandemic effects), nonfarm jobs have gone up by 22,900, or 3.8 percent. However, in comparison with March 2020 (the last month prior to pandemic effects), nonfarm jobs were down by 22,700, or -3.5 percent.

Seasonally Adjusted Non-Ag. Jobs (Statewide)

	Mar-23	Feb-23	Mar-22
MINING, LOGGING & CONSTRUCTION	38,200	38,500	37,100
MANUFACTURING	12,900	12,800	12,500
Durable Goods	3,300	3,300	3,200
Non-Durable Goods	9,600	9,500	9,300
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES	116,400	116,200	114,200
Wholesale Trade	17,300	17,400	17,200
Retail Trade	65,000	64,900	64,700
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	34,100	33,900	32,300
INFORMATION	8,900	8,900	8,300
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	27,600	27,600	27,600
Finance & Insurance	15,300	15,300	15,800
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	12,300	12,300	11,800
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	72,100	71,900	71,000
Professional, Scientific, Tech Svcs	26,400	26,600	25,700
Management of Companies & Enterprises	8,700	8,700	8,700
Administrative & Support & Waste Mgmt	37,000	36,600	36,600
PRIVATE EDUCATION & HEALTH SERVICES	86,200	87,700	86,200
Private Educational Services	14,400	14,600	13,700
Health Care & Social Assistance	71,800	73,100	72,500
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	120,300	120,000	108,000
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	12,500	12,600	11,100
Accommodation & Food Services	107,800	107,400	96,900
OTHER SERVICES	27,100	27,000	25,700
GOVERNMENT	122,800	122,000	119,000
Federal Government	35,100	34,900	34,500
State Government	68,900	68,400	66,000
Local Government	18,800	18,700	18,500
TOTAL: STATEWIDE	632,500	632,600	609,600
TOTAL: HONOLULU MSA	456,300	455,200	440,000
TOTAL: KAHULUI-WAILUKU-LAHAINA MSA	75,600	75,600	73,600



Technical Notes:

Labor Force Components

The concepts and definitions used by the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program are the same as those used in the Current Population Survey for the national labor force data:

- *Civilian labor force.* Included are all persons in the civilian noninstitutional population ages 16 and older classified as either employed or unemployed. (See the definitions below.)
- *Employed persons.* These are all persons who, during the reference week (the week including the 12th day of the month), (a) did any work as paid employees, worked in their own business or profession or on their own farm, or worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers in an enterprise operated by a member of their family, or (b) were not working but who had jobs from which they were temporarily absent because of vacation, illness, bad weather, childcare problems, maternity or paternity leave, labor-management dispute, job training, or other family or personal reasons, whether or not they were paid for the time off or were seeking other jobs. Each employed person is counted only once, even if he or she holds more than one job.
- *Unemployed persons.* Included are all persons who had no employment during the reference week, were available for work, except for temporary illness, and had made specific efforts to find employment sometime during the 4 week-period ending with the reference week. Persons who were waiting to be recalled to a job from which they had been laid off need not have been looking for work to be classified as unemployed.
- *Unemployment rate.* The unemployed percent of the civilian labor force [i.e., 100 times (unemployed/civilian labor force)].

Seasonal Adjustment

The seasonal fluctuations in the number of employed and unemployed persons reflect hiring and layoff patterns that accompany regular events such as the winter holiday season and the summer vacation season. These variations make it difficult to tell whether month-to-month changes in employment and unemployment are due to normal seasonal patterns or to changing economic conditions. Therefore, the BLS uses a statistical technique called seasonal adjustment to address these issues. This technique uses the history of the labor force data and the job count data to identify the seasonal movements and to calculate the size and direction of these movements. A seasonal adjustment factor is then developed and applied to the estimates to eliminate the effects of regular seasonal fluctuations on the data. Seasonally adjusted statistical series enable more meaningful data comparisons between months or with an annual average.

Current Population (Household) Survey (CPS)

A survey conducted for employment status in the week that includes the 12th day of each month generates the unemployment rate statistics, which is a separate survey from the Establishment Survey that yields the industry job counts. The CPS survey contacts approximately 1,000 households in Hawaii to determine an individual's current employment status. Employed persons consist of 1) all persons who did any work for pay or profit during the survey reference week, 2) all persons who did at least 15 hours of unpaid work in a family-owned enterprise operated by someone in their household, and 3) all persons who were temporarily absent from their regular jobs, whether they were paid or not. Persons considered unemployed are those that do not have a job, have actively looked for work in the prior four weeks and are available for work. Temporarily laid-off workers are counted as unemployed, whether they have engaged in a specific job seeking activity. Persons not in the labor force are those who are not classified as employed or unemployed during the survey reference week.

Benchmark Changes to Local Area Unemployment Statistics Data

Statewide and substate data for 2010-2022 have revised inputs and have been re-estimated to reflect revised population controls and model re-estimation.

Change to Monthly Employment Estimates

This release incorporates revised job count figures for the seasonally adjusted series. The revised data reflects historical corrections applied to unadjusted super sector or sector level series dating back from 1990 through 2022. For years, analysts with the State of Hawaii Department of Labor and Industrial Relations' Research and Statistics Office have developed monthly employment estimates for Hawaii and its metropolitan areas. These estimates were based on a monthly survey of Hawaii businesses and analysts' knowledge about our local economies. Beginning with the production of preliminary estimates for March 2011, responsibility for the production of State and metropolitan area (MSA) estimates were transitioned from individual state agencies to the U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

For Hawaii, this means the transition of statewide, Honolulu and Kahului-Wailuku-Lāhainā MSA estimates for both the seasonally adjusted and not seasonally adjusted areas are produced by BLS. State agencies will continue to provide the BLS with information on local events that may affect the estimates, such as strikes or large layoffs/hiring at businesses not covered by the survey and to disseminate and analyze the Current Employment Statistics (CES) estimates for local data users. BLS feels this change is designed to improve the cost efficiency of the CES program and to reduce the potential bias in state and area estimates. A portion of the cost savings generated by this change is slated to be directed towards raising survey response rates in future years, which will decrease the level of statistical error in the CES estimates. Until then, state analysts feel this change could result in increased month-to-month variability for the industry employment numbers particularly for Hawaii's counties and islands. BLS can be reached at (202) 691-6555 for any questions about these estimates.

The not seasonally adjusted job estimates for Hawaii County, Kauai County, Maui, Molokai, and Lanai are produced by the State of Hawaii Department of Business, Economic Development, & Tourism.

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force & Unemployment Estimates for Honolulu & Maui Co.

BLS publishes smoothed seasonally adjusted civilian labor force and unemployment estimates for all metropolitan areas, which includes the City and County of Honolulu and Maui County. BLS releases this data each month in the *Metropolitan Area Employment and Unemployment* news release. The schedule is available at <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/metro.toc.htm>.

Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization

<i>Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization for States, 2022 Annual Averages</i>						
State	Measure					
	U-1	U-2	U-3	U-4	U-5	U-6
United States	1.3	1.7	3.6	3.9	4.5	6.9
Hawaii	1.5	1.4	3.7	3.8	4.4	7.5

The six alternative labor underutilization state measures based on the Current Population Survey (CPS) and compiled on a 4-quarter moving average basis defined:

- U-1, persons unemployed 15 weeks or longer, as a percent of the civilian labor force;
- U-2, job losers and persons who completed temporary jobs, as a percent of the civilian labor force;
- U-3, total unemployed, as a percent of the civilian labor force (this is the definition used for the official unemployment rate);
- U-4, total unemployed plus discouraged workers, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus discouraged workers;
- U-5, total unemployed, plus discouraged workers, plus all other marginally attached workers*, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus all marginally attached workers; and
- U-6, total unemployed, plus all marginally attached workers, plus total employed part time for economic reasons, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus all marginally attached workers.

*Individuals who want and are available for work, and who have looked for a job sometime in the prior 12 months (or since the end of their last job if they held one within the past 12 months) but were not counted as unemployed because they had not searched for work in the four weeks preceding the survey, for such reasons as childcare or transportation problems, for example. Discouraged workers are a subset of the marginally attached.

Please note that the state unemployment rates (U-3) that are shown are derived directly from the CPS. As a result, these U-3 measures may differ from the official state unemployment rates for the latest 4-quarter period. The latter are estimates developed from statistical models that incorporate CPS estimates, as well as input data from other sources, such as state unemployment claims data.

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