

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC ANALYSIS DIVISION

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
DIRECTOR

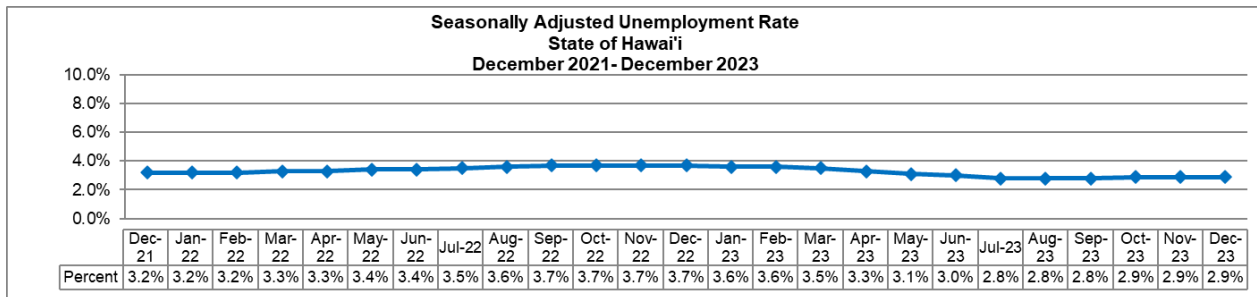
DR. EUGENE TIAN
CHIEF STATE ECONOMIST

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 22, 2024

HAWAI'I DECEMBER UNEMPLOYMENT RATE REMAINS AT 2.9 PERCENT

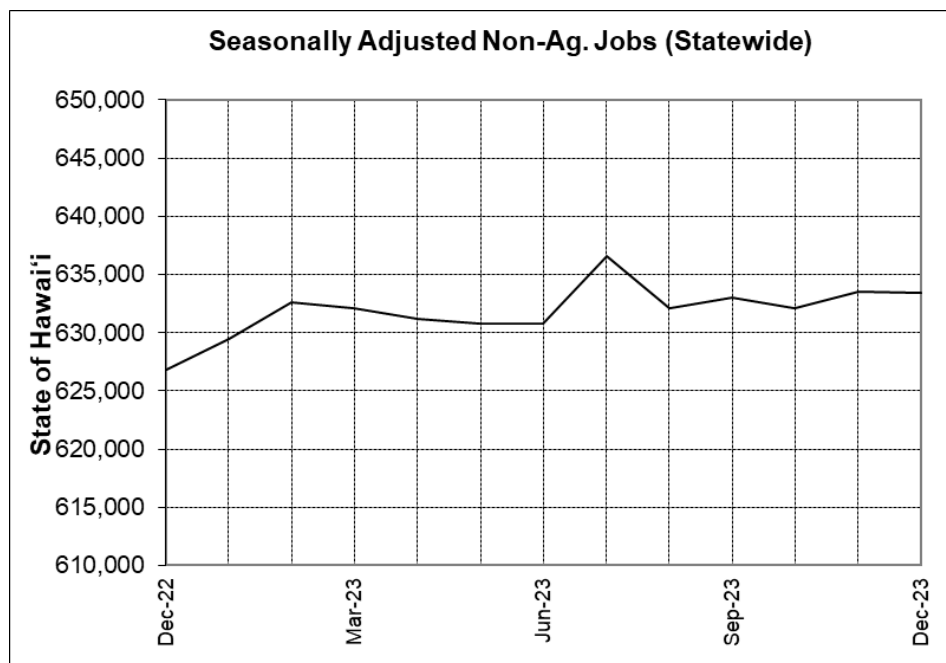
Jobs increased by 6,600 year-over-year

HONOLULU — The Hawai'i State Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) today announced that the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for December was 2.9 percent, the same as in October and November. In December, 655,000 persons were employed and 19,900 were unemployed, for a total seasonally adjusted labor force of 674,900 statewide. Nationally, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.7 percent in December, the same as in November.



The unemployment rate figures for the state of Hawai'i 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 also 2.9 percent in December, unchanged from November.

Seasonally Adjusted Non-Ag. Jobs (Statewide)			
	Dec-23	Nov-23	Dec-22
MINING, LOGGING & CONSTRUCTION	37,800	37,900	39,200
MANUFACTURING	12,800	13,000	12,700
Durable Goods	3,200	3,300	3,300
Non-Durable Goods	9,600	9,700	9,400
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES	114,900	114,800	115,700
Wholesale Trade	16,900	17,000	17,200
Retail Trade	64,500	64,000	65,200
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	33,500	33,800	33,300
INFORMATION	8,700	8,800	8,800
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	26,500	26,700	27,700
Finance & Insurance	14,600	14,700	15,300
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	11,900	12,000	12,400
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	73,100	72,500	72,000
Professional, Scientific, Tech Svcs	27,200	27,300	26,400
Management of Companies & Enterprises	8,800	8,700	8,700
Administrative & Support & Waste Mgmt	37,100	36,500	36,900
PRIVATE EDUCATION & HEALTH SERVICES	89,000	89,200	87,100
Private Educational Services	15,200	15,300	14,300
Health Care & Social Assistance	73,800	73,900	72,800
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	119,600	119,500	115,500
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	12,800	13,100	12,000
Accommodation & Food Services	106,800	106,400	103,500
OTHER SERVICES	26,700	26,800	27,000
GOVERNMENT	124,300	124,300	121,100
Federal Government	35,100	35,100	34,800
State Government	70,300	70,300	67,700
Local Government	18,900	18,900	18,600
TOTAL: STATEWIDE	633,400	633,500	626,800
TOTAL: HONOLULU MSA	457,600	456,600	452,300
TOTAL: KAHULUI-WAILUKU-LAHAINA MSA	74,000	73,400	75,700



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 four-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 Hawai'i 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 to 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 supersector or sector-level series dating back from 1990 through 2022. For years, analysts with the State of Hawai'i Department of Labor and Industrial Relations' Research and Statistics Office have developed monthly employment estimates for Hawai'i and its metropolitan areas. These estimates were based on a monthly survey of Hawai'i 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 statistical area (MSA) estimates were transitioned from individual state agencies to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

For Hawai'i, this means the transition of statewide, Honolulu and Kahului-Wailuku-Lahaina 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 toward 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 Hawai'i'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 Hawai'i County, Kaua'i County, Maui, Moloka'i, and Lāna'i are produced by the State of Hawai'i Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism.

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force and Unemployment Estimates for Honolulu and Maui County

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, Fourth Quarter of 2022 through Third Quarter of 2023 averages</i>						
Area	Measure					
	U-1	U-2	U-3	U-4	U-5	U-6
United States	1.2	1.7	3.6	3.8	4.4	6.8
Hawai'i	1.3	1.3	3.3	3.4	4.1	6.3

The six alternative labor underutilization state measures based on the Current Population Survey (CPS) and compiled on a four-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 four-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.

Media Contacts:

Dr. Eugene Tian
Research and Economic Analysis Division
Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism
808-586-2470
eugene.x.tian@hawaii.gov
dbedt.hawaii.gov/economic

Laci Goshi
Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism
808-518-5480
lacianne.a.goshi@hawaii.gov
dbedt.hawaii.gov