



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

**News Release**

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**HAWAII'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE HOLDS STEADY AT 2.6 PERCENT  
FOR MONTH OF AUGUST**

**August marks 32<sup>nd</sup> Consecutive Month Hawaii's Seasonally Adjusted  
Unemployment Rate Remained below 3 Percent**

**HONOLULU-** The Hawai'i State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations announced today that the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for August was 2.6 percent, remaining stable over-the-month. Similarly, the national seasonally adjusted unemployment also showed no change over July, remaining at 4.6 percent. August marked the 32<sup>nd</sup> consecutive month that Hawai'i's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate has been under three percent, with Hawai'i at least two percentage points lower than the U.S. for all but one month during this span. In August, Hawai'i's seasonally adjusted labor force totaled 642,450, and was comprised of 625,850 employed and 16,600 unemployed.

State of Hawaii Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Data			
	<u>Aug 2007</u>	<u>Jul 2007</u>	<u>Aug 2006</u>
Labor Force	642,450	648,500	644,000
Employment	625,850	631,500	629,500
Unemployment	16,600	17,000	14,500

	AUG 2007	JUL 2007	AUG 2006
STATE	2.6	2.6	2.3
HONOLULU*	2.4	2.8	2.3
HAWAII COUNTY*	3.3	3.8	2.8
KAUAI*	2.4	2.8	2.6
MAUI COUNTY*	3.0	3.1	2.2
Maui Island*	3.0	3.0	2.1
Molokai*	5.9	5.8	5.6
Lanai*	1.2	2.6	1.4
U. S.	4.6	4.6	4.7

\* non-seasonally adjusted

### **Industry Payroll Employment**

In another measure of employment, total seasonally adjusted nonagricultural jobs increased slightly over-the-month by 100 to 630,100. The largest job growth occurred in Educational and Health Care Services (+700) followed by Construction and Trade, Transportation and Utilities, (each +200). Since August 2006, the total number of jobs grew by 11,800 or 1.9 percent, with the private sector accounting for a substantial 97.5 percent of the increase. Over-the-year, the industries experiencing notable gain in jobs included Construction (+2,000), Leisure & Hospitality (+2,200), and Educational & Health Services (+1,900).

“Hawai`i’s labor force continues to benefit from job growth as a by-product of a strong local economy”, said Darwin L.D. Ching, Director of Labor and Industrial Relations.

**Seasonally Adjusted Non-Ag. Jobs (State)**

SELECTED SERIES:	Aug-07	Jul-07	Aug-06*
NATURAL RESOURCES, MINING AND CONSTRUCTION	38,100	37,900	35,900
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES	121,300	121,100	121,100
Wholesale Trade**	18,400	18,200	17,900
Retail Trade**	70,000	70,000	69,800
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	73,600	72,900	71,700
Educational Services**	14,500	14,400	14,100
Health Care and Social Assistance**	59,100	58,500	57,600
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	109,700	109,900	107,500
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation**	11,500	11,600	11,400
Accommodation & Food Services**	98,200	98,300	96,100
OTHER SERVICES	26,700	26,600	26,300
GOVERNMENT	121,600	121,900	121,300
Federal Government**	31,800	31,700	31,600
State Government**	71,800	72,400	72,400
Local Government**	18,000	17,800	17,300
<b>TOTAL: STATE</b>	<b>630,100</b>	<b>630,000</b>	<b>618,300</b>

❖ **Educational and Health Services (+700)**

This major industry gained largest number of jobs among all the sectors. Health Care and Social Assistance made up the bulk of the growth mainly in community housing services and individual and family services programs. Education edged up minimally by 100 jobs in private schools.

❖ **Construction (+200)**

Construction trended up after falling slightly last month. Additional hiring in construction was concentrated in residential building construction. Additionally, hiring among special trades contractors, which includes building equipment contractors, contributed to this increase. Over-the-year, construction employment expanded by 2,200 jobs or 6.1 percent, while the nation experienced a drop of 1.2 percent. Existing and new residential, commercial, industrial and resort construction activities in all counties contributed much of the expansion.

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

This major sector rose by 200 jobs from July, all of which came from Wholesale Trade.

Retail Trade remained stable due to the job gain in food and beverage stores being offset by fewer jobs in clothing and clothing accessories stores and general merchandise stores.

Transportation also was unchanged in part due to the growth in truck transportation and scenic and sightseeing transportation which was overshadowed by the drop in air transportation jobs.

❖ **Other Services (+100)**

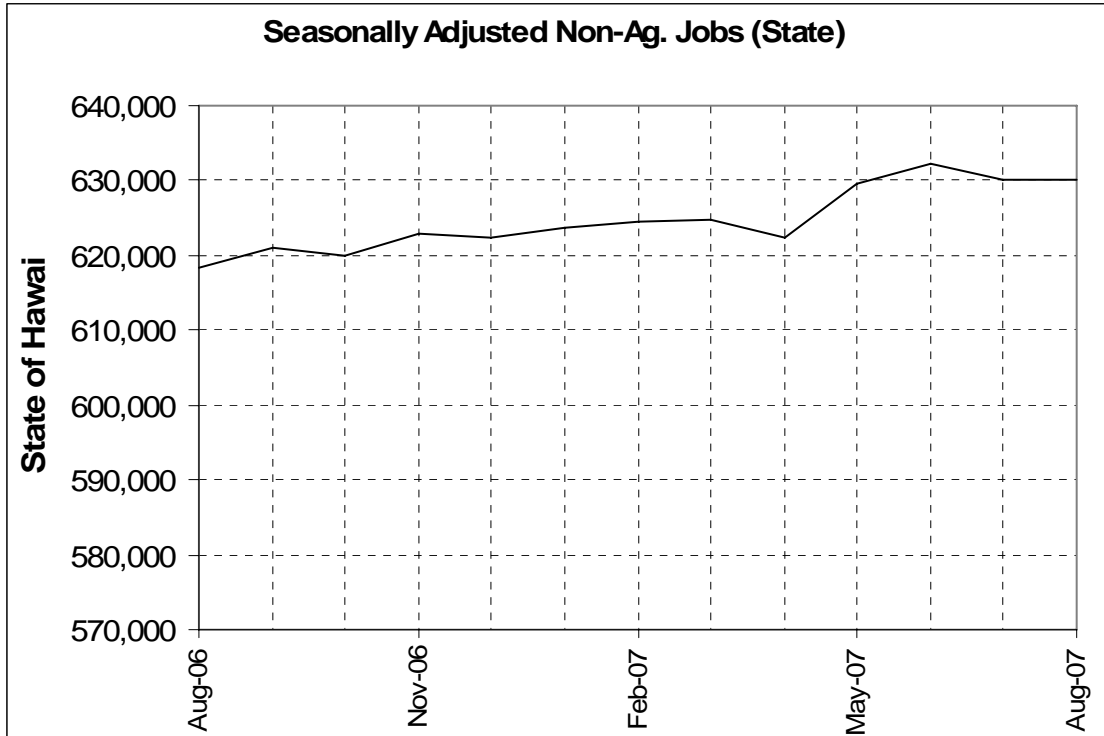
This miscellaneous group registered a slight increase in commercial and industrial machinery and equipment (except automotive/electronic) repair and maintenance service.

❖ **Leisure and Hospitality (-200)**

Over-the-month, Leisure & Hospitality experienced declines in employment with Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation and Accommodation and Food Services each losing 100 jobs. Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation recorded a decrease in jobs in amusement and recreation industries. Accommodation and Food Services posted a slight loss mainly in Accommodation as hotel occupancy rates continued to slide.

❖ **Government (-300)**

Government reported 300 fewer jobs. Since last month, Federal and Local Government added 100 jobs and 200 jobs, respectively. State Government decreased by 600 jobs predominantly in the Department of Education. The job loss was partially affected by the shifting of the school calendar in public schools as it enters the new unified calendar session for the second year.



**Unemployment Trust Fund**

To keep the public informed on the status of the state's Unemployment Compensation Fund (Fund), from which unemployment benefits are paid to qualified claimants, the following is the status as of the end of August 2007 and its projected balance at the end of the year.

Fund Balance as of end of August 2007:	\$562,047,599
Taxes received year to date through end of August:	\$86,779,675
Interest received year to date through end of August:	\$13,019,916
Benefits paid year to date through end of August:	\$69,895,635

**Tax Schedule for calendar year 2007: Schedule "B"**

Fund projections (as of August 2007) for calendar year 2007 and calendar year 2008 tax schedule:

Fund Balance, end of 2007:	\$559,800,000 (projected)
Taxes for calendar year 2007:	\$108,600,000 (projected)
Interest for calendar year 2007:	\$25,800,000 (projected)
Benefits for calendar year 2007:	\$106,700,000 (projected)

Tax Schedule for calendar year 2008: Schedule "A"

For comparison purposes, in calendar year 2006 the Fund collected \$142.2 million in taxes and paid out \$90.6 million in benefits.

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