



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

News Release

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HAWAII'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DECLINES TO 3.0 PERCENT IN JULY

Hawaii continues to see significant reduction in its Unemployed Population

HONOLULU- The Hawaii State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations announced today that the July statewide seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined from 4.4 percent in July 2003 to 3.0 percent in July 2004. In comparison, the U.S. seasonally adjusted unemployment rate also experienced a significant drop in unemployment, falling from 6.2 percent in July 2003 to 5.5 percent in July 2004.

Year-to-date, Hawaii's employed population grew by 8,100 since January 2004. Between July 2003 and July 2004, Hawaii's employed population saw significant growth, jumping from 591,600 to 611,400, an increase of 19,800 new jobs. Overall, Hawaii's available labor force totaled 630,150, with an unemployed population of 18,750 individuals. Hawaii's unemployed population continues to see significant declines as July 2004's unemployed population shows a decrease of 8,650 from July 2003, when the unemployed population totaled 27,400.

In a separate measure of employment, total seasonally adjusted nonagricultural jobs expanded over-the-month by 2,800 to 579,100, as all four of the seasonally adjusted industry series added jobs. The Trade, Transportation & Utilities industries saw significant job gains of 400 new jobs in July, as Norwegian Cruise Lines inaugurated its new inter-island visitor routes. Leisure & Hospitality and Education & Health Services each added 200 jobs. Government, largely due to more support positions at the Department of Education, gained 1,000 jobs. Since July 2003, Hawaii's seasonally adjusted nonagricultural jobcount has gone up by 12,900, or 2.3 percent.

"Hawaii's continued job growth and the significant reductions in our unemployed population, reflect a healthy economy that shows no signs of slowing down," said Nelson Befitel, Director of Labor and Industrial Relations. "The relatively new visitor segments, such as the cruise industry, along with the thriving movie and television sector, are shining examples of the diverse employment opportunities for Hawaii's residents."

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