

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

News Release

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HAWAII MAINTAINS LOWEST UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN THE NATION

Hawaii's Unemployment rate of 2.9 percent is the only Rate in the U.S. Below 3.0 Percent

HONOLULU- The Hawaii State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations announced today that the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April was 2.9 percent, a slight increase from March's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 2.8 percent. In comparison, the U.S. seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained unchanged over-the-month at 5.2 percent. No state in the nation has an unemployment rate below 3.0 percent. One year ago, Hawaii's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.4 percent, while the national seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.5 percent.

In April, Hawaii's seasonally adjusted labor force totaled 631,050 and was comprised of 612,600 employed and 18,500 unemployed. Over-the year, these totals reflect labor force expansion of 2.6 percent and employment growth of 3.1 percent. In contrast, the number of unemployed compared with April 2004 has declined by 11.2 percent.

In a separate measure of employment, Hawaii's seasonally adjusted nonagricultural jobcount in April stood at 594,700, an increase of 1,800 over March. Since December of 2002, Hawaii's economy has added 30,900 new jobs.

Trade, Transportation, & Utilities expanded by 900 jobs over-the-month, in part due to hiring for a new cruise ship. Construction, Leisure & Hospitality, and Government rose by 300 jobs each, while Education & Health Services and Other Services increased by 200 and 100 jobs respectively. Manufacturing experienced a decline in April over March of 300 jobs. Over-the-year, within the seasonally adjusted industry series, Trade, Transportation, & Utilities has added the most jobs (+4,600, +4.1%), while Construction has gone up by the highest percentage (+2,900, +10.1%).

"Our economy is strong and you see that reflected in our employment numbers and the 30,900 new jobs created since the beginning of the Lingle-Aiona Administration," said Nelson Befitel, Director of Labor & Industrial Relations. "It an employee's market which is great news to those graduating from college and high school this month."

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UNEMPLOYMENT RATES- NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES- SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

	APR 2005	MAR 2005	* APR 2004
STATE	2.8	2.6	3.2
HONOLULU	2.8	2.6	3.1
HAWAII COUNTY	3.4	3.2	3.9
KAUAI	2.8	2.6	3.1
MAUI COUNTY	2.6	2.4	3.2
Maui Island	2.4	2.4	3.0
Molokai	9.3	5.5	9.4
Lanai	1.2	0.5	2.1
U. S.	4.9	5.4	5.4

	APR 2005	MAR 2005	APR 2004
STATE	2.9	2.8	3.4
U. S.	5.2	5.2	5.5

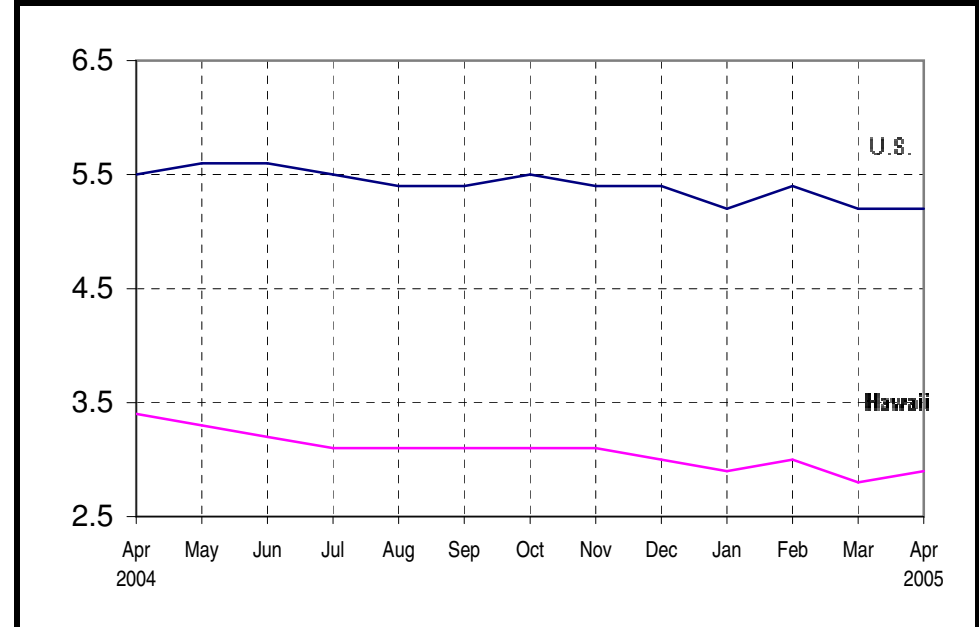
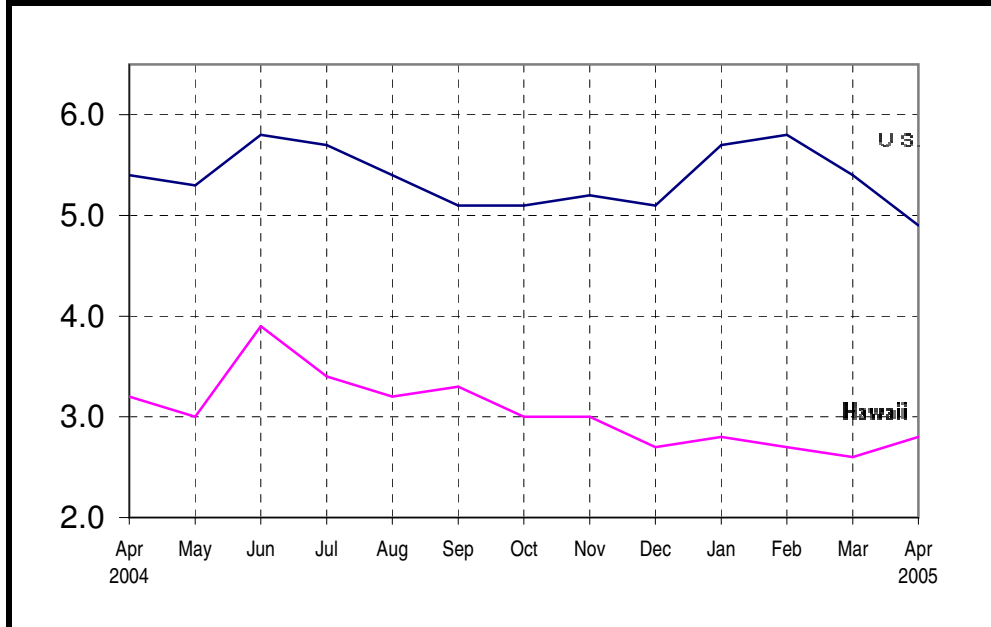
	<u>Apr 2005</u>	<u>Mar 2005</u>	<u>Apr 2004</u>
Labor Force	631,050	626,200	614,850
Employment	612,600	608,800	594,000
Unemployment	18,500	17,400	20,800

* preliminary data subject to approval by the Bureau of Labor Statistics

** totals may not add up due to rounding

	Apr 2004	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr 2005
U. S.	5.4	5.3	5.8	5.7	5.4	5.1	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.7	5.8	5.4	4.9
Hawaii	3.2	3.0	3.9	3.4	3.2	3.3	3.0	3.0	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.8

	Apr 2004	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr 2005
U. S.	5.5	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.2	5.4	5.2	5.2
Hawaii	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.0	2.9	3.0	2.8	2.9



LABOR FORCE AND JOBCOUNT ESTIMATES
April 2005 Report, Statewide

	DEPARTMENT OF LABOR -- LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES							
	STATEWIDE							
	(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)							
	Apr-05	Mar-05	Apr-04	CHANGE FROM ONE MONTH AGO		CHANGE FROM ONE YEAR AGO		
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	632.3	626.1	615.9	6.2	1.0%	16.4	2.7%	
TOTAL EMPLOYED	614.5	609.6	596.0	4.9	0.8%	18.5	3.1%	
UNEMPLOYED	17.9	16.5	19.8	1.4	8.5%	-1.9	-9.6%	
percent of Labor Force	2.8%	2.6%	3.2%					
Total Nonfarm	595.9	594.8	577.9	1.1	0.2%	18.0	3.1%	
Total Private	474.3	472.6	456.2	1.7	0.4%	18.1	4.0%	
Goods Producing	47.1	46.5	43.8	0.6	1.3%	3.4	7.7%	
Service-Providing	548.8	548.3	534.1	0.4	0.1%	14.7	2.7%	
Private Service-Providing	427.2	426.1	412.4	1.1	0.3%	14.8	3.6%	
Nat. Res & Construct	31.7	31.0	28.4	0.7	2.3%	3.3	11.7%	
Construction of Buildings	9.9	9.8	9.0	0.1	1.4%	0.9	11.8%	
Special Trade Contractors	17.2	16.7	15.1	0.5	1.3%	2.1	10.3%	
Manufacturing	15.4	15.5	15.3	-0.1	-0.7%	0.0	0.3%	
Durable Goods	4.3	4.4	4.3	0.0	-0.7%	0.0	0.0%	
Non-Durable Goods	11.0	11.1	11.0	-0.1	-0.7%	0.0	0.3%	
Trade, Transportation,	115.1	114.4	110.1	0.7	0.6%	5.0	4.5%	
Wholesale Trade	17.4	17.3	16.9	0.1	0.6%	0.5	3.1%	
Retail Trade	67.8	67.8	65.2	0.0	0.1%	2.7	4.1%	
Food and Beverage Sto	12.8	12.6	12.7	0.1	1.1%	0.1	0.7%	
Grocery Stores	10.5	10.4	10.5	0.1	0.7%	0.0	-0.1%	
Clothing and Clothing	10.5	10.5	9.6	0.0	-0.1%	0.9	9.9%	
General Merchandise S	12.0	12.1	10.7	-0.1	-0.5%	1.4	12.8%	
Department Stores	8.8	8.9	7.9	0.0	-0.5%	0.9	11.8%	
Trans,Warehouse, Util	29.9	29.3	28.1	0.5	1.8%	1.8	6.5%	
Utilities	2.8	2.8	2.7	0.0	0.8%	0.1	5.5%	
Transport & Warehouse	27.0	26.5	25.4	0.5	1.9%	1.7	6.6%	
Air Transportation	10.3	10.3	10.1	0.1	0.5%	0.2	2.1%	
Information	11.0	11.0	10.2	0.1	0.6%	0.8	8.1%	
Telecommunications	3.8	3.8	3.7	0.1	1.3%	0.1	2.6%	
Financial Activities	29.1	29.1	28.6	0.0	-0.1%	0.5	1.6%	
Finance and Insurance	16.5	16.5	16.4	-0.1	-0.4%	0.1	0.6%	
Real Estate and Renta	12.6	12.6	12.3	0.0	0.2%	0.4	3.0%	
Professional and Busin	72.8	72.3	70.1	0.5	0.7%	2.7	3.9%	
Professional, Scienti	23.7	23.5	23.0	0.1	0.6%	0.7	2.9%	
Management of Compani	6.9	6.9	6.7	0.0	0.1%	0.2	3.1%	
Administrative and Su	42.3	41.9	40.4	0.4	0.9%	1.8	4.6%	
Employment Services	15.4	15.1	14.2	0.3	2.1%	1.2	8.1%	
Educational and Health	69.2	69.3	66.7	0.0	0.0%	2.5	3.8%	
Educational Services	13.4	13.7	12.9	-0.3	-2.0%	0.6	4.3%	
Elementary and Second	7.0	7.1	6.4	-0.2	-2.5%	0.5	8.0%	
Health Care and Socia	55.8	55.5	53.8	0.2	0.4%	2.0	3.7%	
Ambulatory Health Car	22.1	22.0	21.0	0.1	0.5%	1.0	5.0%	
Hospitals	14.3	14.2	14.1	0.1	0.6%	0.1	0.9%	
Nursing and Residenti	6.5	6.5	6.2	0.1	1.0%	0.3	5.5%	
Social Assistance	12.9	12.9	12.4	0.0	-0.2%	0.5	3.7%	
Leisure and Hospitalit	105.8	105.8	102.6	0.0	0.0%	3.2	3.1%	
Arts, Entertainment,	11.5	11.5	11.4	0.0	-0.4%	0.1	0.7%	
Accommodation and Foo	94.3	94.3	91.2	0.0	0.0%	3.1	3.4%	
Accommodation	38.9	38.9	37.4	0.0	0.0%	1.4	3.9%	
Food Services and Dri	55.5	55.4	53.8	0.0	0.0%	1.6	3.0%	
Full-Service Restaura	28.9	28.8	27.8	0.1	0.3%	1.1	4.1%	
Other Services	24.2	24.2	24.1	-0.1	-0.4%	0.0	0.2%	
Government	121.6	122.2	121.7	-0.6	-0.5%	-0.1	-0.1%	
Federal Government	31.3	31.0	31.4	0.3	0.9%	-0.1	-0.3%	
Ship Building & Repai	4.1	4.1	4.3	0.0	-1.0%	-0.2	-3.6%	
Department of Defense	16.5	16.5	16.6	0.0	-0.2%	-0.1	-0.4%	
State Government	73.4	74.3	73.4	-0.9	-1.3%	0.0	-0.1%	
State Govt. Education	49.4	50.2	44.1	-0.8	-1.7%	5.2	11.9%	
Local Government	16.9	16.9	16.9	0.0	0.1%	0.0	0.3%	

Not Seasonally Adjusted Non-Ag. Jobs

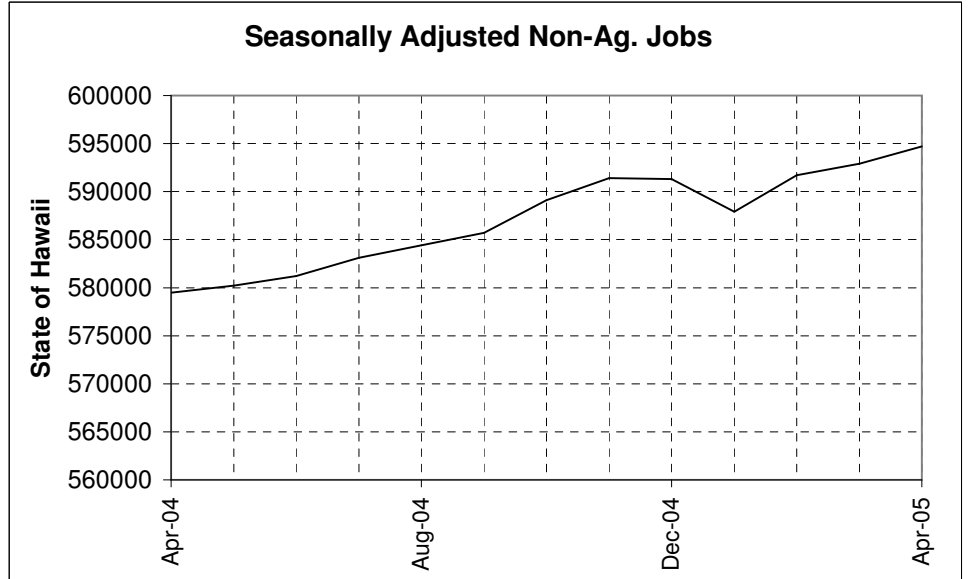
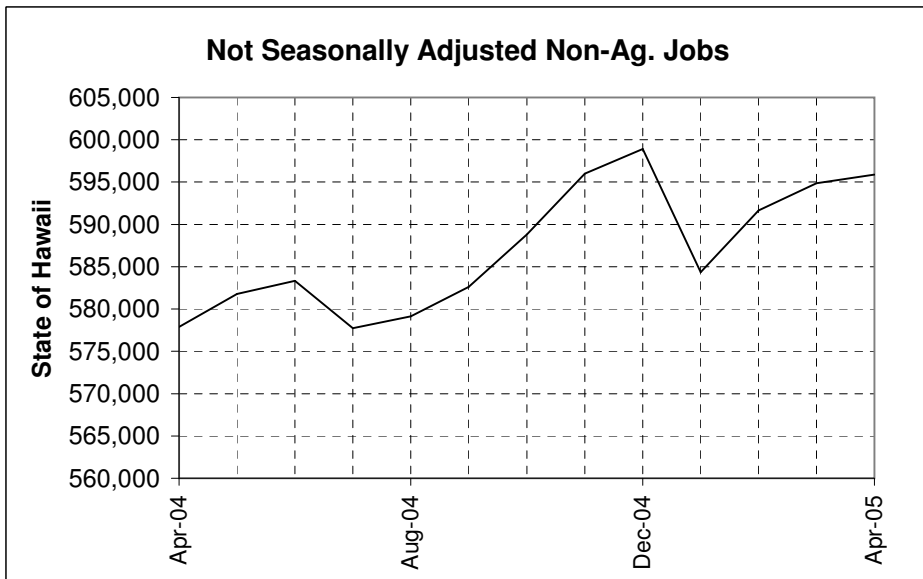
	Apr-05	Mar-05	Apr-04*
NAT. RESOURCES, MINING & CONSTR.	31,750	31,000	28,400
MANUFACTURING	15,400	15,500	15,350
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES	115,100	114,400	110,100
INFORMATION	11,050	11,000	3,750
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	29,100	29,100	28,600
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	72,850	72,300	70,100
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	69,200	69,250	66,700
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	105,800	105,800	102,600
OTHER SERVICES	24,150	24,250	24,100
GOVERNMENT	121,600	122,200	121,700
TOTAL	595,900	594,850	577,900

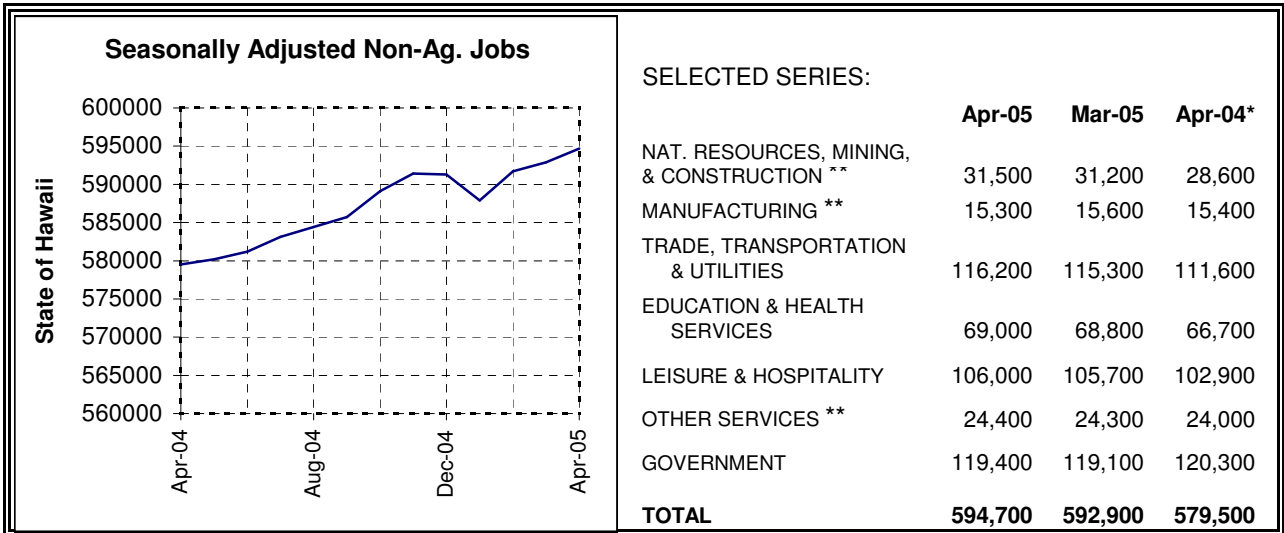
* BENCHMARKED DATA

Seasonally Adjusted Non-Ag. Jobs

	Apr-05	Mar-05	Apr-04*
NAT. RESOURCES, MINING & CONSTR. **	31,500	31,200	28,600
MANUFACTURING **	15,300	15,600	15,400
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES	116,200	115,300	111,600
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	69,000	68,800	66,700
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	106,000	105,700	102,900
OTHER SERVICES **	24,400	24,300	24,000
GOVERNMENT	119,400	119,100	120,300
TOTAL	594,700	592,900	579,500

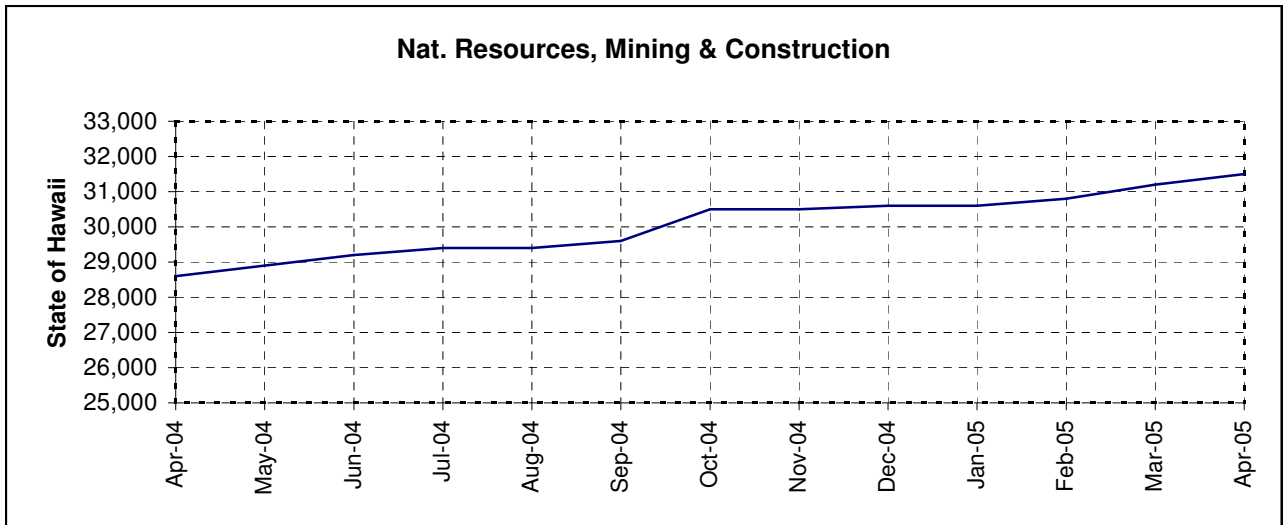
** NEW SEASONALLY ADJUSTED SERIES





* BENCHMARKED DATA; ** NEW SEASONALLY ADJUSTED SERIES

300



(300)

