



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

News Release

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**28,500 NEW JOBS ADDED SINCE DECEMBER 2002 AS HAWAII
UNEMPLOYMENT DROPS 1.5 PERCENTAGE POINTS FROM
OCTOBER 2003 TO AN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF 3.3 PERCENT
FOR OCTOBER 2004.**

The Monthly Unemployment Rate Edged Up Slightly Over-The-Month,
Largely Due to an Increase in the Size of the Labor Force as Private Sector
Creates 2,200 New Jobs.

HONOLULU- The Hawaii State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations announced today that the October statewide seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.3 percent, a slight increase from 3.1 percent in September. In comparison, the national seasonally adjusted unemployment rate went from 5.4 percent in September to 5.5 percent in October. Since April, Hawaii's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate has been at least two percentage points lower than the national seasonally adjusted unemployment rate. One year ago, Hawaii had a seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 4.5 percent, while the seasonally adjusted national unemployment rate stood at 6.0 percent. In October, the statewide seasonally adjusted labor force totaled 632,100 and was comprised of 611,500 employed and 20,600 unemployed.

In a separate measure of employment, total seasonally adjusted non-agricultural jobs in October stood at 589,600, an over-the-month increase of 1,500 jobs. Leisure & Hospitality, boosted by a long awaited hotel opening on the Big Island and continuing strong visitor arrivals, expanded by 1,100 jobs in October over September. In the past six months, the Leisure & Hospitality sector has grown by 3,300 jobs. Trade, Transportation, & Utilities, rose by 1,000 jobs over-the-month, with staffing additions at two Honolulu retail establishments as well as hiring for the cruise industry factoring into the job gains. Since April, Trade, Transportation, & Utilities have added 4,600 jobs. In October over September, job losses occurred in Education & Health Services, which dipped by 200 jobs, and Government, which contracted by 700 jobs. However, in the past six months, Education & Health Services employment has risen by 1,700 jobs.

“Since Governor Lingle took office in 2002, 28,500 new jobs has been created and we have consistently ranked among the lowest in the nation in terms of unemployment,” said Nelson Befitel, Director of Labor and Industrial Relations. “The Governor’s policies for a pro-growth, business friendly environment have helped to make Hawaii’s economy one of the strongest in the nation. This has directly resulted in putting more of Hawaii’s residents to work and putting more money in the hands of Hawaii’s families.”

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