



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

News Release

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

NELSON B. BEFITEL, DIRECTOR
COLLEEN Y. LaCLAIR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
Phone: (808) 586-8844
Fax: (808) 586-9099

MR 2006 03

For Immediate Release: April 3, 2006

HAWAII'S SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AT 2.5 PERCENT IN FEBRUARY

Private Sector Jobs Grew by 19,800 Since February of 2005

HONOLULU- The Hawaii State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations announced today that the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for February was 2.5 percent, a slight increase over January's 15-year record low rate of 2.4 percent. The national seasonally adjusted rate also went up by 0.1 percentage point, from 4.7 percent in January to 4.8 percent in February. One year ago, Hawaii and the U.S. had seasonally adjusted unemployment rates of 2.9 percent and 5.4 percent respectively. For the last 13 months, Hawaii's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate has been below three percent. In February, there were 630,350 employed and 16,250 unemployed, for a total seasonally adjusted statewide labor force of 646,600.

In a separate measure of employment, total seasonally adjusted nonagricultural jobs stood at 615,000 in February, an increase over January of 4,300, or 0.7 percent. Since February 2005, the seasonally adjusted job count has expanded by 20,900, or 3.5 percent, increasing during eleven out of the last twelve months.

In February over January, within the seasonally adjusted industry series, the most noteworthy shift in employment was an increase in Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (+2,000, +1.7 percent), which was boosted by momentum from recent major retail store openings, strong visitor arrivals, and cruise ship hiring. Smaller over-the-month job increases occurred in Leisure & Hospitality (+600, +0.6 percent) and Construction (+100, +0.3 percent). Jobs in Manufacturing, Education & Health Services, and Other Services remained stable. Government employment rose by 2.4 percent, with the bulk of the increase concentrated in the Department of Education, due to the return of both instructional and non-instructional support workers following the winter break. Over-the-year, Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (+6,700, + 5.8 percent) has added the most jobs, while Construction (+4,200, +13.2 percent) rose by the highest percentage. Since February 2005, the number of private sector jobs has expanded by 19,800, or 4.2 percent.

“Hawaii’s consistent economic growth has produced considerable job creation over a wide range of sectors,” said Nelson Befitel, Director of Labor and Industrial Relations.

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 of the Fund and its projected balance at the end of the year.

Fund Balance as of end of February 2006:	\$466,921,360
Taxes received year-to-date through end of February:	\$24,079,238
Interest received year-to-date through end of February:	\$599
Benefits paid year-to-date through end of February:	\$14,400,994
Current Tax Schedule (for calendar year 2006):	Schedule “C”

Fund projections (as of end of February) for calendar year 2006 and projected calendar year 2007 tax schedule:

Fund Balance, end of 2006:	\$534,300,000 (projected)
Taxes for calendar year 2006:	\$139,800,000 (projected)

Interest for calendar year 2006:	\$23,900,000 (projected)
Benefits for calendar year 2006:	\$86,600,000 (projected)
Projected Tax Schedule for calendar year 2007:	Schedule "B" (projected)

For comparison purposes, in calendar year 2005 the Fund collected \$130.2 million in taxes and paid out \$82.3 million in benefits.

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For more information, contact:
James P. Hardway
Assistant to the Director
Phone: (808) 586-8845
Fax: (808) 586-9099
Email: jhardway@hawaii.gov

LABOR FORCE AND JOBCOUNT ESTIMATES
February 2006 Report, Statewide

	DEPARTMENT OF LABOR -- LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES							
	STATEWIDE							
	(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)							
	Feb-06	Jan-06	Feb-05	CHANGE FROM ONE MONTH AGO		CHANGE FROM ONE YEAR AGO		
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	644.8	645.9	625.1	-1.1	-0.2%	19.7	3.2%	
TOTAL EMPLOYED	630.2	631.5	608.0	-1.3	-0.2%	22.2	3.7%	
UNEMPLOYED	14.6	14.5	17.1	0.1	0.7%	-2.5	-14.6%	
percent of Labor Force	2.3%	2.2%	2.7%					
Total Nonfarm	614.9	605.3	593.2	9.5	1.6%	21.7	3.7%	
Total Private	493.0	489.8	472.2	3.2	0.7%	20.9	4.4%	
Goods Producing	50.6	50.4	46.3	0.3	0.5%	4.3	9.3%	
Service-Providing	564.2	555.0	546.9	9.3	1.7%	17.3	3.2%	
Private Service-Providing	442.4	439.4	425.8	3.0	0.7%	16.5	3.9%	
Nat. Res & Construct	35.4	35.2	31.1	0.2	0.5%	4.3	13.7%	
Construction of Buildings	11.3	11.2	9.8	0.1	0.9%	1.5	9.9%	
Special Trade Contractors	18.9	18.8	16.7	0.1	0.6%	2.3	15.4%	
Manufacturing	15.3	15.2	15.2	0.1	0.6%	0.1	0.4%	
Durable Goods	4.5	4.5	4.4	0.0	1.0%	0.1	3.4%	
Non-Durable Goods	10.7	10.7	10.8	0.0	0.5%	-0.1	-0.7%	
Trade, Transportation,	121.6	121.1	114.9	0.5	0.4%	6.7	5.8%	
Wholesale Trade	18.0	17.9	17.3	0.1	0.4%	0.7	4.0%	
Retail Trade	71.0	70.9	68.1	0.1	0.2%	2.9	4.2%	
Food and Beverage Sto	13.1	12.9	12.8	0.1	1.0%	0.3	2.4%	
Grocery Stores	10.9	10.8	10.7	0.1	1.0%	0.2	1.7%	
Clothing and Clothing	11.6	11.8	10.9	-0.1	-1.2%	0.7	6.8%	
General Merchandise S	12.6	12.8	11.9	-0.2	-1.4%	0.7	6.0%	
Department Stores	9.5	9.6	8.8	-0.1	-1.1%	0.7	8.1%	
Trans,Warehouse, Util	32.6	32.3	29.5	0.3	0.9%	3.1	10.5%	
Utilities	2.9	2.9	2.8	0.0	0.3%	0.1	2.5%	
Transport & Warehouse	29.7	29.4	26.7	0.3	1.0%	3.0	11.4%	
Air Transportation	10.1	10.1	10.3	-0.1	-0.6%	-0.2	-2.1%	
Information	11.0	11.0	10.6	0.0	0.1%	0.3	3.2%	
Telecommunications	4.0	4.0	3.7	0.0	0.3%	0.3	6.7%	
Financial Activities	29.7	29.6	29.0	0.1	0.4%	0.7	2.6%	
Finance and Insurance	16.7	16.6	16.5	0.1	0.4%	0.2	1.4%	
Real Estate and Renta	13.0	12.9	12.5	0.0	0.3%	0.5	4.1%	
Professional and Busin	75.9	75.2	72.5	0.7	0.9%	3.4	4.7%	
Professional, Scienti	23.6	23.5	23.1	0.2	0.7%	0.5	2.3%	
Management of Compani	7.6	7.5	7.3	0.0	0.3%	0.3	4.2%	
Administrative and Su	44.7	44.2	42.1	0.5	1.1%	2.6	6.1%	
Employment Services	16.6	16.5	14.9	0.2	1.2%	1.7	11.6%	
Educational and Health	71.1	70.4	69.5	0.7	1.0%	1.7	2.4%	
Educational Services	14.0	13.6	13.4	0.5	3.4%	0.6	4.3%	
Elementary and Second	7.3	7.0	7.0	0.3	3.6%	0.3	4.5%	
Health Care and Socia	57.1	56.8	56.0	0.3	0.5%	1.1	1.9%	
Ambulatory Health Car	22.9	22.8	22.4	0.1	0.4%	0.6	2.5%	
Hospitals	14.1	14.1	14.1	0.1	0.5%	0.0	0.1%	
Nursing and Residenti	6.8	6.8	6.6	0.0	-0.2%	0.2	3.5%	
Social Assistance	13.3	13.1	13.0	0.1	1.0%	0.3	2.2%	
Leisure and Hospitalit	107.8	107.0	104.8	0.8	0.8%	3.0	2.9%	
Arts, Entertainment,	11.8	11.6	11.2	0.2	1.7%	0.6	5.0%	
Accommodation and Foo	96.0	95.4	93.6	0.6	0.7%	2.5	2.6%	
Accommodation	39.3	39.3	38.4	0.0	0.1%	0.9	2.3%	
Food Services and Dri	56.7	56.1	55.1	0.6	1.1%	1.6	2.9%	
Full-Service Restaura	29.4	29.0	28.5	0.4	1.4%	0.9	3.2%	
Other Services	25.3	25.2	24.6	0.1	0.4%	0.7	2.7%	
Government	121.9	115.6	121.0	6.3	5.5%	0.8	0.7%	
Federal Government	31.3	31.4	31.1	-0.1	-0.4%	0.2	0.7%	
Ship Building & Repai	4.2	4.2	4.1	0.0	-0.1%	0.0	0.9%	
Department of Defense	16.4	16.4	16.3	-0.1	-0.3%	0.1	0.5%	
State Government	73.3	67.0	73.0	6.3	9.5%	0.3	0.3%	
State Govt. Education	49.2	43.3	49.2	5.9	13.7%	0.0	-0.1%	
Local Government	17.3	17.2	16.9	0.1	0.7%	0.4	2.1%	

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES- NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

	FEB 2006	JAN 2006	* FEB 2005
STATE	2.3	2.2	2.7
HONOLULU	2.2	2.2	2.7
HAWAII COUNTY	2.6	2.5	3.1
KAUAI	2.2	2.1	2.8
MAUI COUNTY	2.2	2.2	2.5
U. S.	5.1	5.1	5.8

* county data preliminary- subject to Bureau of Labor Statistics approval

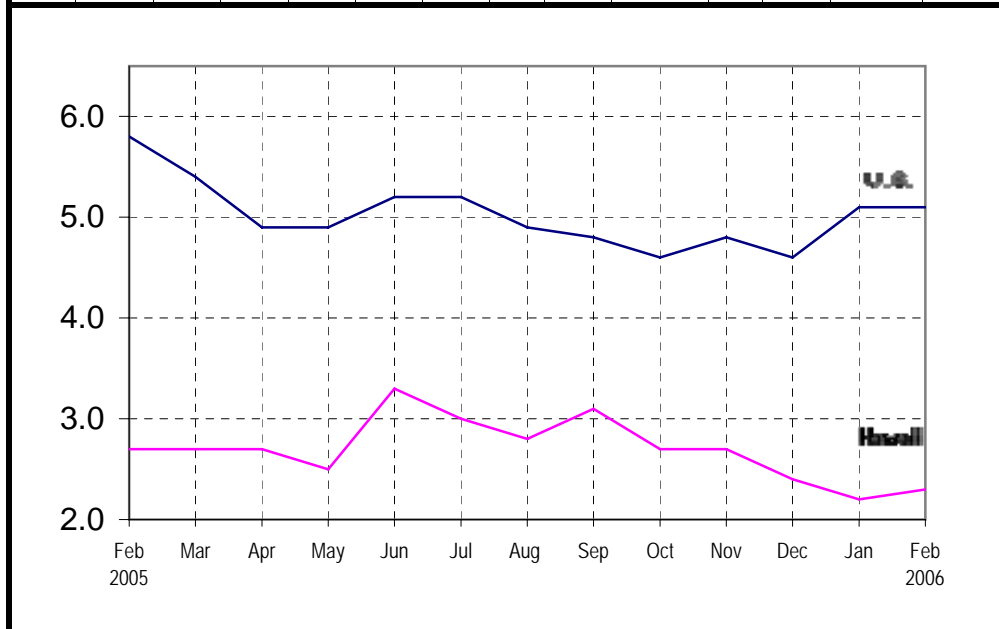
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES- SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

	FEB 2006	JAN 2006	FEB 2005
STATE	2.5	2.4	2.9
U. S.	4.8	4.7	5.4

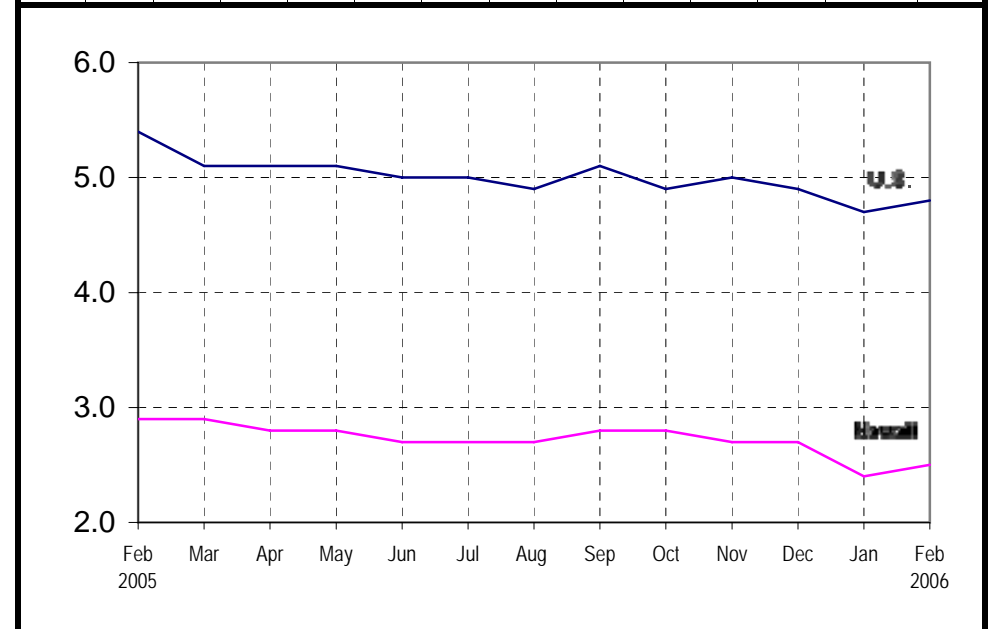
	Feb 2006	Jan 2006	Feb 2005
Labor Force	646,600	645,700	627,200
Employment	630,350	630,450	608,850
Unemployment	16,250	15,300	18,350

** totals may not add up due to rounding

	Feb 2005	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb 2006
U. S.	5.8	5.4	4.9	4.9	5.2	5.2	4.9	4.8	4.6	4.8	4.6	5.1	5.1
Hawaii	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.5	3.3	3.0	2.8	3.1	2.7	2.7	2.4	2.2	2.3



	Feb 2005	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb 2006
U. S.	5.4	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.0	4.9	5.1	4.9	5.0	4.9	4.7	4.8
Hawaii	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.4	2.5



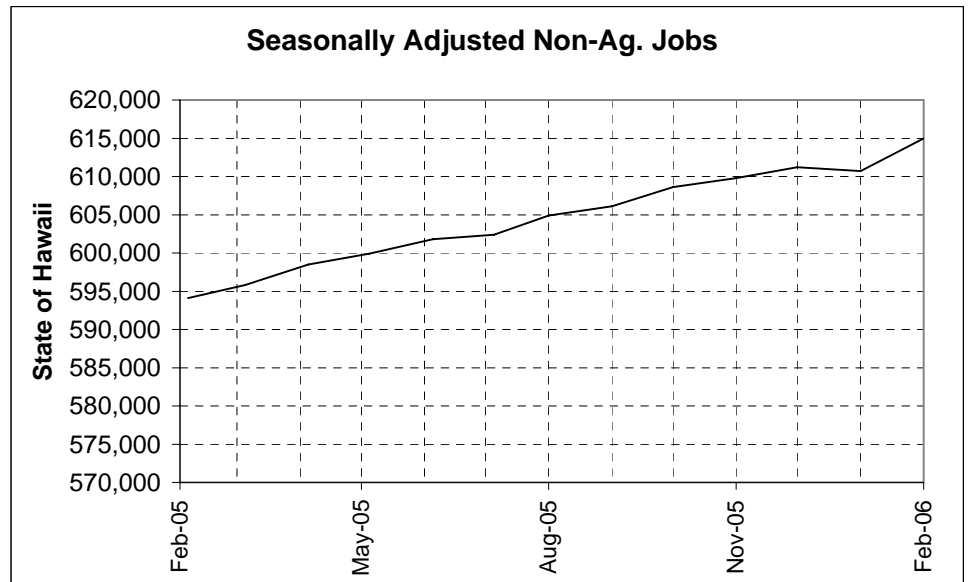
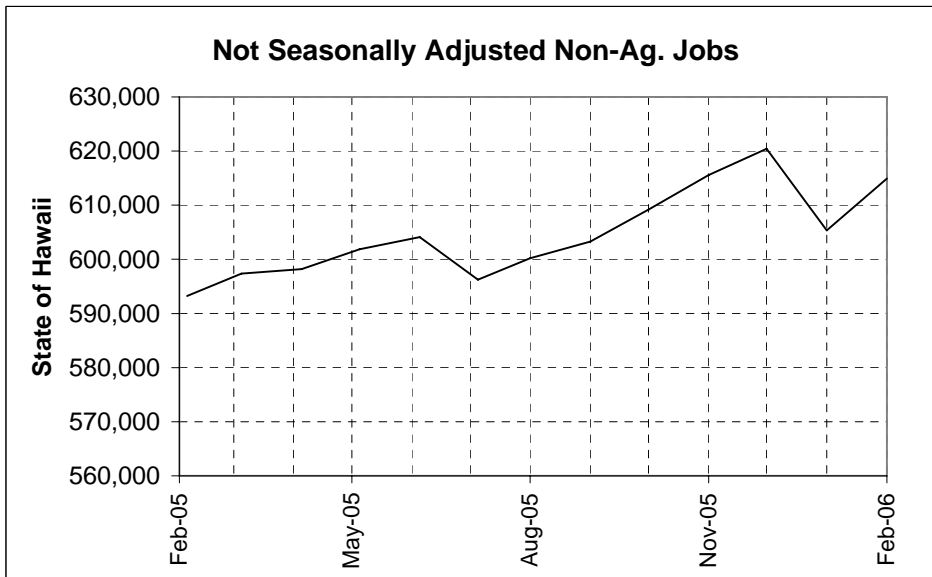
Not Seasonally Adjusted Non-Ag. Jobs

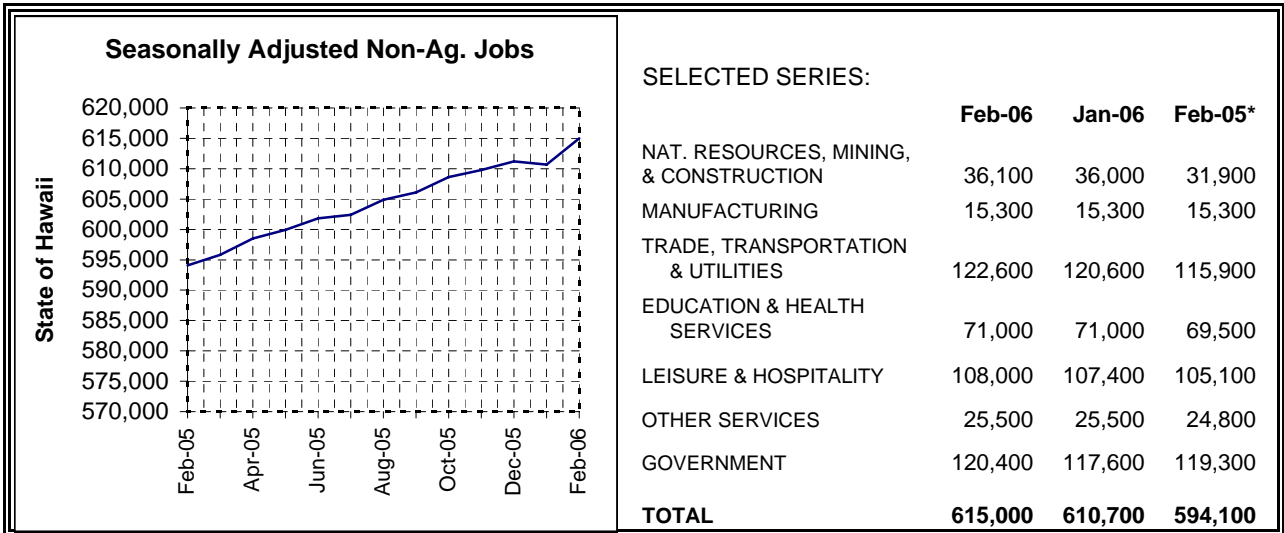
	Feb-06	Jan-06	Feb-05*
NAT. RESOURCES, MINING & CONSTR.	35,350	35,200	31,100
MANUFACTURING	15,300	15,200	15,200
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES	121,550	121,100	114,900
INFORMATION	11,000	11,000	10,650
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	29,700	29,600	28,950
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	75,850	75,200	72,450
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	71,150	70,400	69,500
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	107,850	107,000	104,800
OTHER SERVICES	25,300	25,150	24,600
GOVERNMENT	121,850	115,550	121,050
TOTAL	614,900	605,350	593,200

Seasonally Adjusted Non-Ag. Jobs

	Feb-06	Jan-06	Feb-05*
NAT. RESOURCES, MINING & CONSTR.	36,100	36,000	31,900
MANUFACTURING	15,300	15,300	15,300
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES	122,600	120,600	115,900
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	71,000	71,000	69,500
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	108,000	107,400	105,100
OTHER SERVICES	25,500	25,500	24,800
GOVERNMENT	120,400	117,600	119,300
TOTAL	615,000	610,700	594,100

* BENCHMARKED DATA

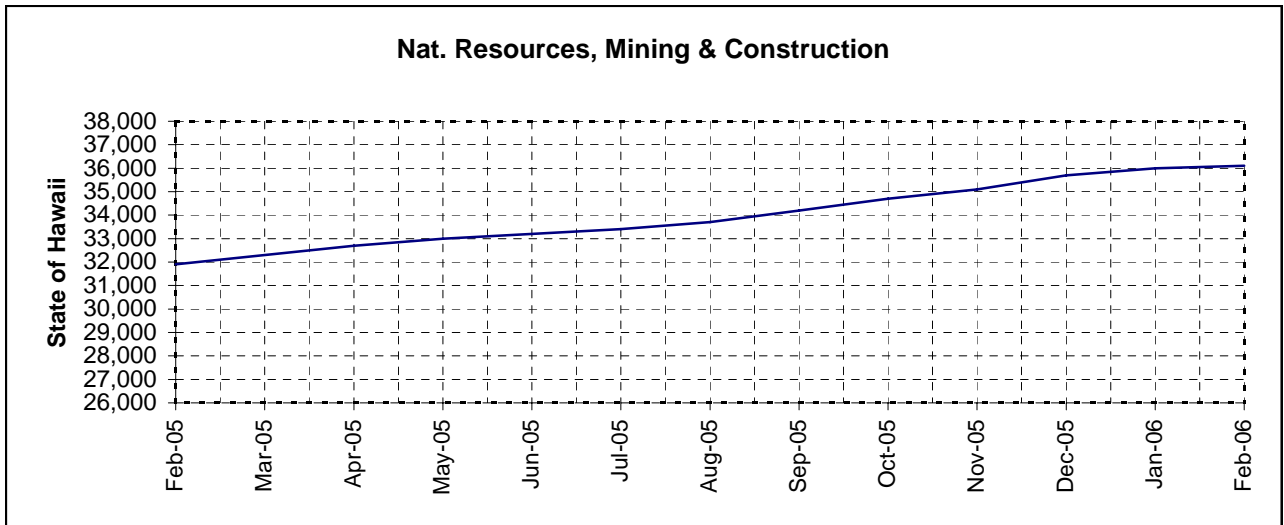




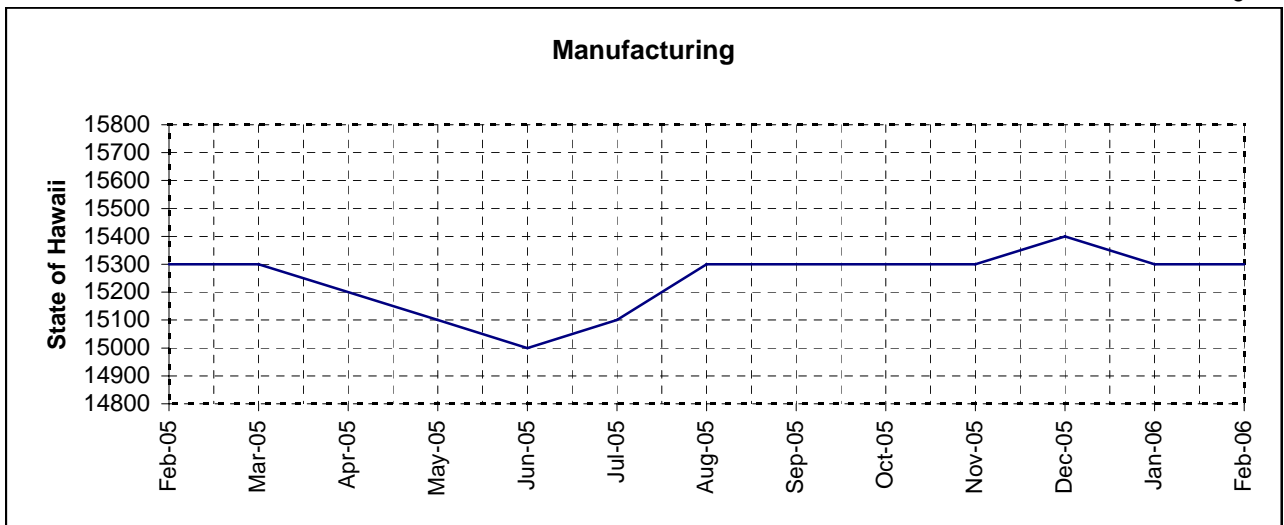
Jan-06 - Feb-06p (+4,300, +.7%)

* BENCHMARKED DATA

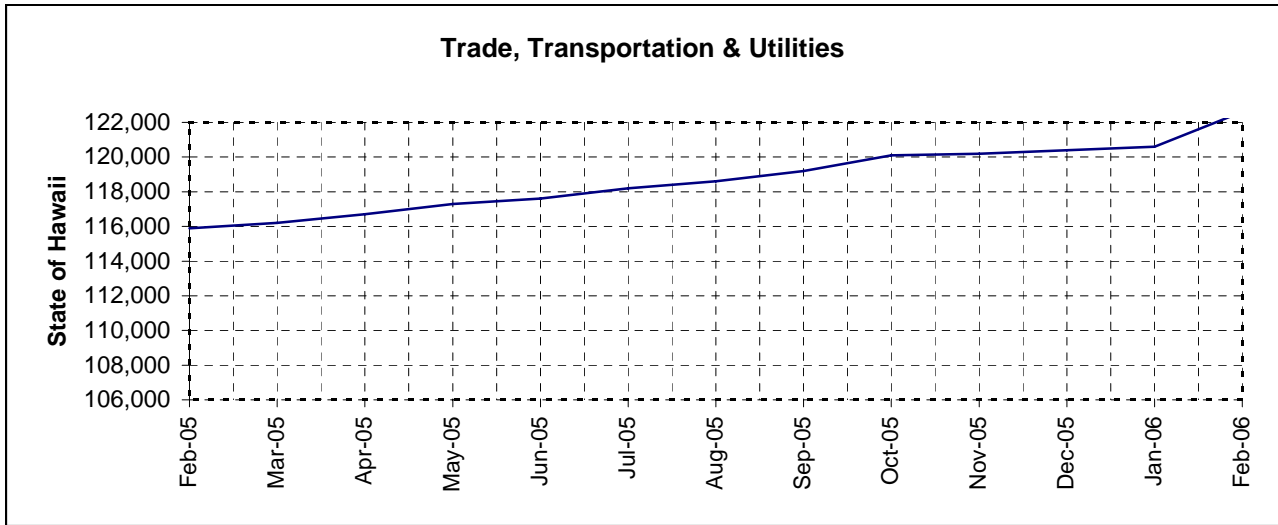
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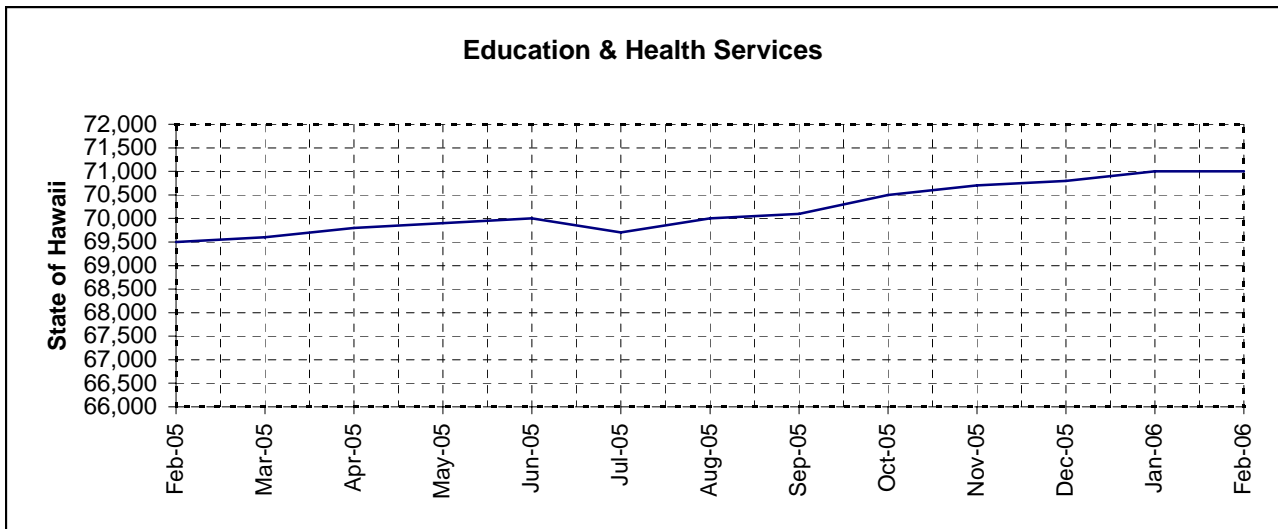
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