



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

News Release

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MR 2004 21

For Immediate Release: October 25, 2004

**3,300 NEW JOBS ADDED IN SEPTEMBER AS HAWAII
CONTINUES TO LEAD THE NATION IN LOWEST UNEMPLOYMENT AS
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE REMAINED
STABLE AT 3.1 PERCENT**

Dramatic Decrease in People Holding Multiple Jobs

HONOLULU- The Hawaii State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) announced today that for the fifth straight month Hawaii led the nation in having the lowest unemployment rate. The September statewide seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.1 percent, a slight increase from 2.9 percent in August. For the past five months, Hawaii's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate has remained near or below the 3 percent level.

The DLIR also announced that the number workers holding two or more jobs have significantly decreased in the last two years. In 2001, Hawaii's multiple jobholders numbered 57,928 and accounted for 9.8 percent of the total employed population. In 2003, that population saw a significant decrease as multiple job holders dropped to 44,977, a decrease of 12,951 persons. In 2003, 7.6 percent of the total employed population were multiple job holders. Nationally, these workers accounted for 5.4 percent of the total employed population in 2001 and 5.3 percent in 2003.

Nationally, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained unchanged over-the-month at 5.4 percent. One year ago, Hawaii's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate stood at 4.5 percent, while the U.S. seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.1 percent. In September, the seasonally adjusted statewide labor force totaled 630,200 and was comprised of 610,650 employed and 19,550 unemployed.

In percentage increases for job growth from September 2003 to September 2004, Hawaii was second in the nation in job creation as Hawaii's economy created 18,800 new jobs.

In a separate measure of employment, total seasonally adjusted non-agricultural jobs expanded in September over August by 3,300, with all seasonally adjusted industry groupings gaining jobs over-the-month. Trade, Transportation, & Utilities increased by 1,100 jobs in September over August, with a boost from the imminent opening of a large retail establishment. Since June, the Trade, Transportation, & Utilities sector has grown by 2,900 jobs. Leisure & Hospitality rose for the sixth consecutive month, adding 500 jobs over-the-month, for an overall boost of 2,700 jobs since March. Education & Health Services grew by 200 jobs in September over August, rising by 1,800 jobs since April. Employment in the public sector increased by 1,000 jobs over-the-month.

"Job creation has increased considerably since Governor Lingle took office, Hawaii's economy has created 18,800 new jobs, we lead the nation for the fifth straight month in having the lowest unemployment, and the state has experienced dramatic decreases in people holding multiple jobs," said Nelson Befitel, Director of Labor and Industrial Relations. "All of these positive numbers are a direct result of the Governor's pro-growth, business friendly policies that have created more jobs and employed more of Hawaii's residents than ever before."

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