

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

News Release

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**HAWAII'S SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DROPS
TO LOWEST LEVEL IN 14 YEARS**

March Marks the 4th Straight Month Hawaii's Unemployment Rate has remained at or below 3.0 Percent as Hawaii's Unemployment Rate Declines to 2.8 Percent

HONOLULU - The Hawai'i State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations announced today that the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March was 2.8 percent, a decline of 0.2 percent over February. The last time Hawai'i's unemployment rate was 2.8 percent was in March of 1991.

Nationally, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate also went down by the same amount, going from 5.4 percent in February to 5.2 percent in March. One year ago, Hawai'i's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate stood at 3.6 percent, while the U.S. seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.7 percent. For the past four months, Hawai'i's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate has remained at or below 3.0 percent. In March, Hawai'i's seasonally adjusted labor force totaled 626,350 and was comprised of 608,800 employed and 17,500 unemployed.

In another measure of employment, Hawai'i's seasonally adjusted nonagricultural jobcount expanded by 800 over-the-month to 592,500. Over-the-year, the seasonally adjusted jobcount has grown by 16,900, or 2.9 percent, while excluding government, private sector jobs have gone up by 17,200, or 3.8 percent.

Over the month, Trade, Transportation, & Utilities and Other Services went up by 300 jobs respectively. Since March 2004, employment in Trade, Transportation, & Utilities has risen by 5,400 jobs. Construction and Manufacturing had no change in March over February. While growing by 2,900 jobs or 10.4 percent compared with one year ago, construction employment has remained largely stable for the past six months. Small decreases over the month were experienced in Leisure & Hospitality and Education & Health Services, which dipped slightly by 100 jobs each, and in Government, which went down by 200 jobs. Over-the-year, Leisure & Hospitality and Education and Health Services have added 3,500 jobs and 1,800 jobs respectively, while government employment has contracted by 300 jobs.

"Thanks to the Lingle-Aiona Administration's pro-jobs initiatives, long term growth in diverse private sector industries such as construction, trade, and health services continues to provide a solid foundation for our local economy and makes Hawai'i's economy one of the most vibrant in the nation," said Nelson Befitel, Director of Labor & Industrial Relations.

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UNEMPLOYMENT RATES- NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES- SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

	MAR 2005	FEB 2005	* MAR 2004
STATE	2.6	2.7	3.6
HONOLULU	2.6	2.7	3.5
HAWAII COUNTY	3.2	3.2	4.0
KAUAI	2.6	2.7	3.5
MAUI COUNTY	2.5	2.5	3.3
Maui Island	2.4	2.4	3.2
Molokai	5.5	5.8	8.8
Lanai	0.5	2.2	0.6
U. S.	5.4	5.8	6.0

	MAR 2005	FEB 2005	MAR 2004
STATE	2.8	3.0	3.6
U. S.	5.2	5.4	5.7

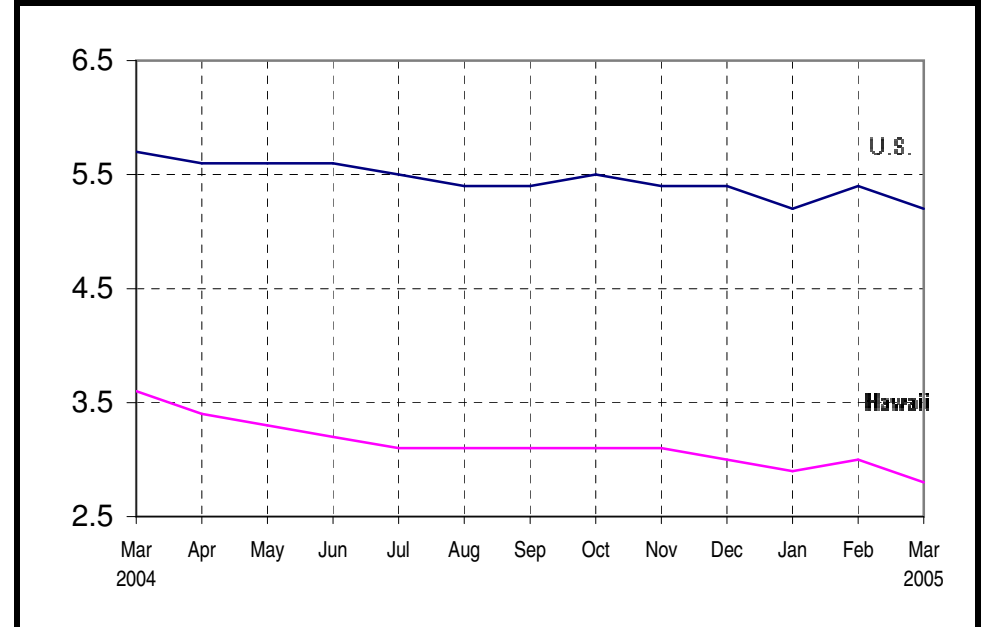
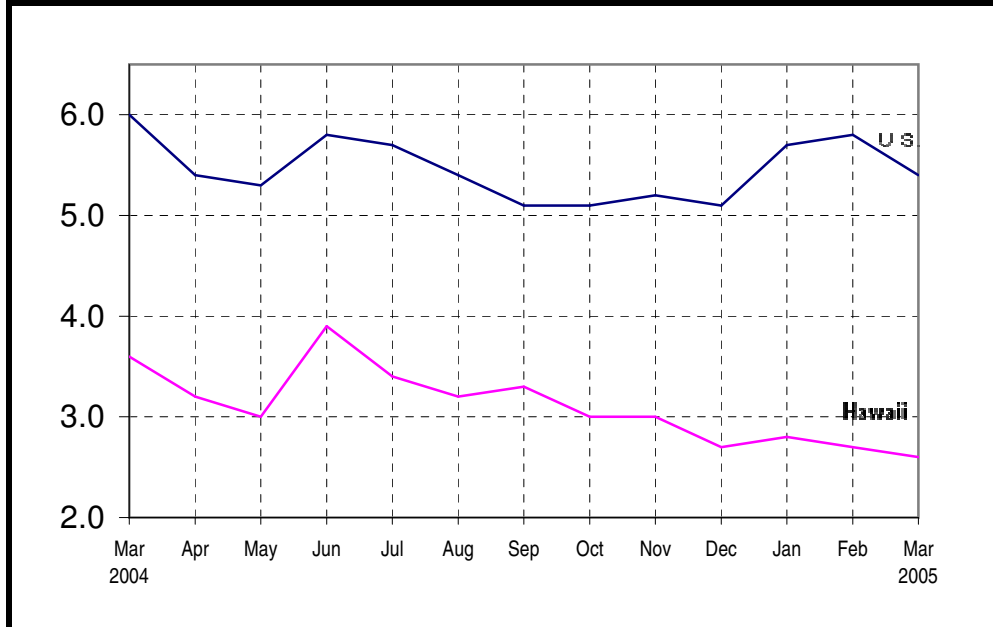
	<u>Mar 2005</u>	<u>Feb 2005</u>	<u>Mar 2004</u>
Labor Force	626,350	627,800	614,750
Employment	608,800	609,050	592,900
Unemployment	17,500	18,700	21,900

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

** totals may not add up due to rounding

	Mar 2004	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar 2005
U. S.	6.0	5.4	5.3	5.8	5.7	5.4	5.1	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.7	5.8	5.4
Hawaii	3.6	3.2	3.0	3.9	3.4	3.2	3.3	3.0	3.0	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.6

	Mar 2004	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar 2005
U. S.	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.2	5.4	5.2
Hawaii	3.6	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.0	2.9	3.0	2.8



LABOR FORCE AND JOBCOUNT ESTIMATES
March 2005 Report, Statewide

	DEPARTMENT OF LABOR -- LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES							
	STATEWIDE							
	(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)							
	Mar-05	Feb-05	Mar-04	CHANGE FROM ONE MONTH AGO		CHANGE FROM ONE YEAR AGO		
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	626.3	625.8	615.5	0.5	0.1%	10.8	1.8%	
TOTAL EMPLOYED	609.7	608.9	593.5	0.8	0.1%	16.2	2.7%	
UNEMPLOYED	16.6	16.9	22.0	-0.3	-1.8%	-5.4	-24.5%	
percent of Labor Force	2.6%	2.7%	3.6%					
Total Nonfarm	594.4	591.6	578.0	2.7	0.5%	16.4	2.8%	
Total Private	472.2	470.7	455.5	1.5	0.3%	16.7	3.7%	
Goods Producing	46.1	45.8	42.7	0.3	0.7%	3.4	7.9%	
Service-Providing	548.3	545.9	535.3	2.4	0.4%	13.0	2.4%	
Private Service-Providing	426.1	424.9	412.8	1.1	0.3%	13.3	3.2%	
Nat. Res & Construct	30.6	30.3	27.4	0.3	1.0%	3.2	11.5%	
Construction of Buildings	9.8	9.7	8.6	0.1	1.0%	1.2	13.6%	
Special Trade Contractors	16.3	16.1	14.8	0.1	0.8%	1.5	14.0%	
Manufacturing	15.5	15.5	15.3	0.0	0.1%	0.2	1.5%	
Durable Goods	4.4	4.4	4.2	0.0	0.0%	0.2	4.5%	
Non-Durable Goods	11.1	11.1	11.1	0.0	0.2%	0.0	0.3%	
Trade, Transportation,	114.4	114.3	109.1	0.1	0.1%	5.3	4.9%	
Wholesale Trade	17.3	17.2	16.8	0.1	0.5%	0.5	2.9%	
Retail Trade	67.7	67.8	65.2	-0.1	-0.1%	2.5	3.8%	
Food and Beverage Sto	12.7	12.8	12.7	-0.1	-0.7%	0.0	0.4%	
Grocery Stores	10.6	10.7	10.5	-0.1	-0.7%	0.1	0.6%	
Clothing and Clothing	10.3	10.3	9.6	0.0	-0.1%	0.7	7.0%	
General Merchandise S	12.1	12.2	10.6	-0.1	-1.0%	1.5	13.7%	
Department Stores	8.9	9.0	7.9	-0.1	-1.0%	1.0	12.3%	
Trans,Warehouse, Util	29.4	29.3	27.0	0.1	0.4%	2.4	8.7%	
Utilities	2.8	2.8	2.7	0.0	0.4%	0.1	5.4%	
Transport & Warehouse	26.6	26.5	24.4	0.1	0.4%	2.2	9.1%	
Air Transportation	10.2	10.2	10.1	0.0	0.2%	0.1	1.2%	
Information	11.1	11.2	10.4	-0.1	-0.5%	0.7	6.9%	
Telecommunications	3.8	3.8	3.8	0.0	-0.3%	0.0	0.0%	
Financial Activities	29.1	29.1	28.6	0.1	0.3%	0.5	1.8%	
Finance and Insurance	16.6	16.5	16.4	0.1	0.4%	0.1	0.8%	
Real Estate and Renta	12.6	12.6	12.2	0.0	0.1%	0.4	3.2%	
Professional and Busin	72.1	71.7	70.6	0.3	0.5%	1.5	2.1%	
Professional, Scienti	23.5	23.3	22.9	0.2	0.8%	0.6	2.5%	
Management of Compani	6.9	6.9	6.8	0.0	0.1%	0.1	1.4%	
Administrative and Su	41.7	41.5	40.9	0.1	0.3%	0.8	2.0%	
Employment Services	15.2	15.1	14.6	0.1	0.6%	0.6	3.8%	
Educational and Health	69.1	68.9	67.1	0.2	0.3%	2.0	2.9%	
Educational Services	13.9	13.6	13.2	0.2	1.8%	0.7	5.2%	
Elementary and Second	7.3	7.1	6.5	0.1	1.6%	0.7	10.9%	
Health Care and Socia	55.2	55.2	53.9	0.0	-0.1%	1.3	2.4%	
Ambulatory Health Car	21.7	21.6	21.1	0.1	0.5%	0.7	3.1%	
Hospitals	14.1	14.1	14.1	-0.1	-0.4%	-0.1	-0.5%	
Nursing and Residenti	6.5	6.5	6.2	0.0	-0.4%	0.3	5.2%	
Social Assistance	12.9	13.0	12.5	-0.1	-0.5%	0.4	3.1%	
Leisure and Hospitalit	106.0	105.8	102.6	0.2	0.2%	3.4	3.3%	
Arts, Entertainment,	11.6	11.6	11.4	0.0	0.1%	0.3	2.3%	
Accommodation and Foo	94.4	94.2	91.2	0.2	0.2%	3.2	3.5%	
Accommodation	38.8	38.7	37.5	0.1	0.2%	1.2	3.3%	
Food Services and Dri	55.6	55.5	53.7	0.1	0.2%	1.9	3.6%	
Full-Service Restaura	28.8	28.8	27.8	0.1	0.2%	1.0	3.7%	
Other Services	24.2	23.9	24.4	0.2	1.0%	-0.2	-0.8%	
Government	122.2	120.9	122.4	1.3	1.1%	-0.2	-0.2%	
Federal Government	31.0	31.0	31.4	0.0	0.0%	-0.4	-1.2%	
Ship Building & Repai	4.1	4.1	4.3	0.0	0.1%	-0.2	-3.6%	
Department of Defense	16.5	16.5	16.6	0.0	0.0%	-0.1	-0.5%	
State Government	74.3	73.1	74.2	1.2	1.7%	0.1	0.2%	
State Govt. Education	50.2	49.2	50.2	1.0	2.0%	0.0	-0.1%	
Local Government	16.9	16.9	16.9	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.1%	

Not Seasonally Adjusted Non-Ag. Jobs

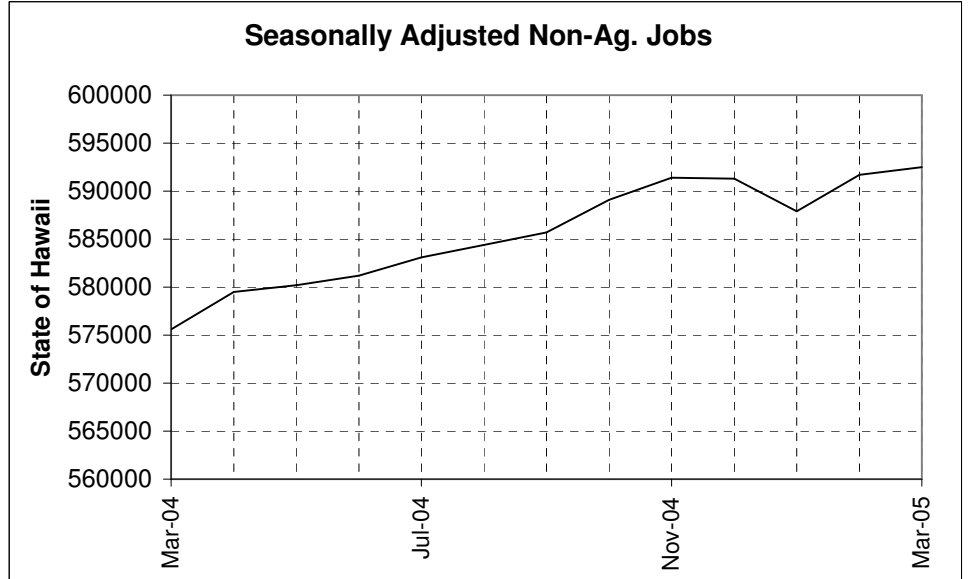
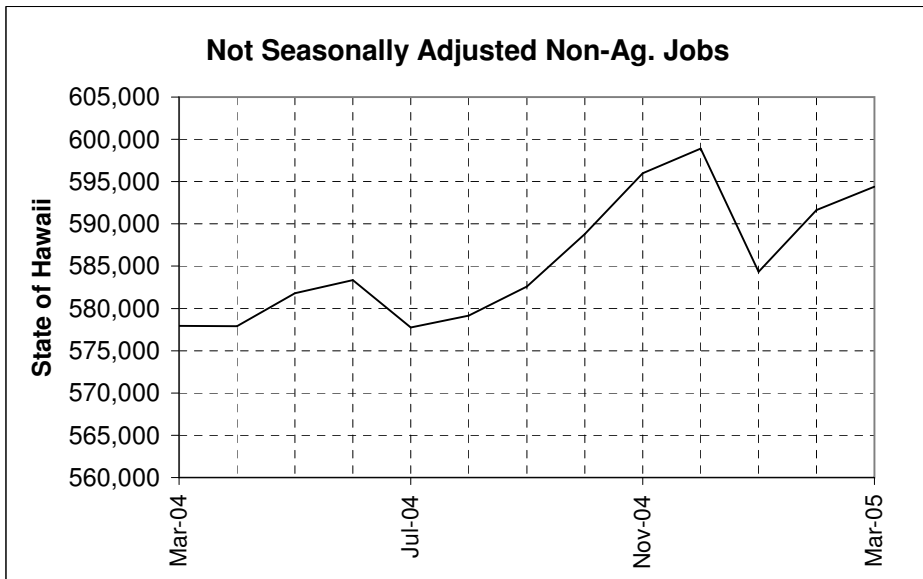
	Mar-05	Feb-05	Mar-04*
NAT. RESOURCES, MINING & CONSTR.	30,600	30,300	27,450
MANUFACTURING	15,500	15,450	15,250
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES	114,400	114,300	109,100
INFORMATION	11,150	11,200	3,750
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	29,150	29,050	28,600
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	72,100	71,750	70,600
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	69,050	68,850	67,100
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	106,050	105,850	102,600
OTHER SERVICES	24,200	23,950	24,400
GOVERNMENT	122,200	120,950	122,450
TOTAL	594,400	591,650	577,950

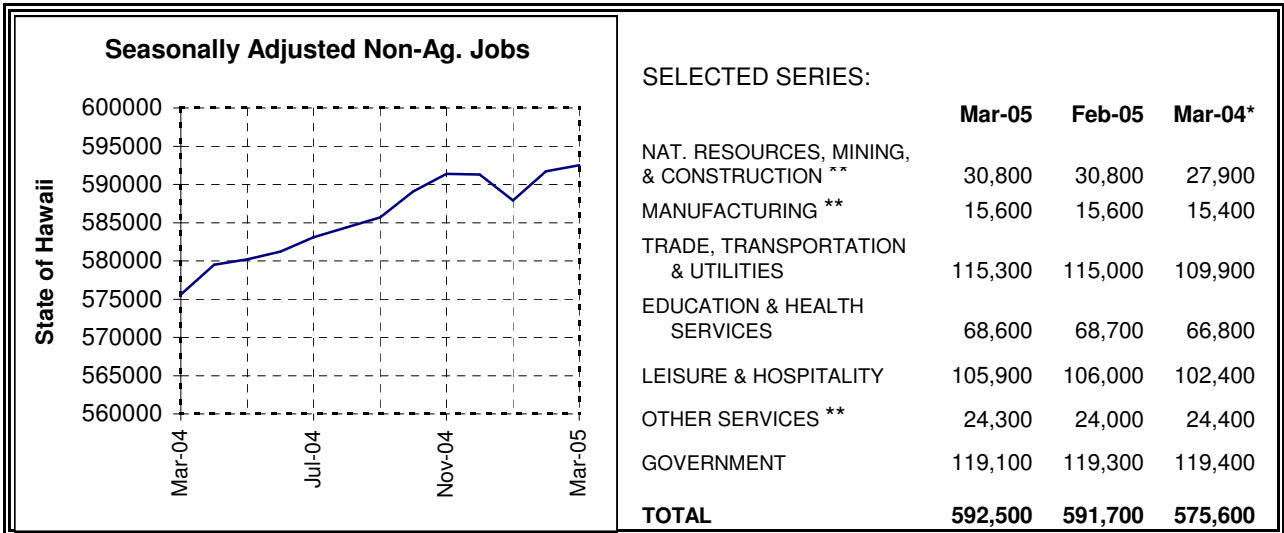
* BENCHMARKED DATA

Seasonally Adjusted Non-Ag. Jobs

	Mar-05	Feb-05	Mar-04*
NAT. RESOURCES, MINING & CONSTR. **	30,800	30,800	27,900
MANUFACTURING **	15,600	15,600	15,400
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES	115,300	115,000	109,900
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	68,600	68,700	66,800
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	105,900	106,000	102,400
OTHER SERVICES **	24,300	24,000	24,400
GOVERNMENT	119,100	119,300	119,400
TOTAL	592,500	591,700	575,600

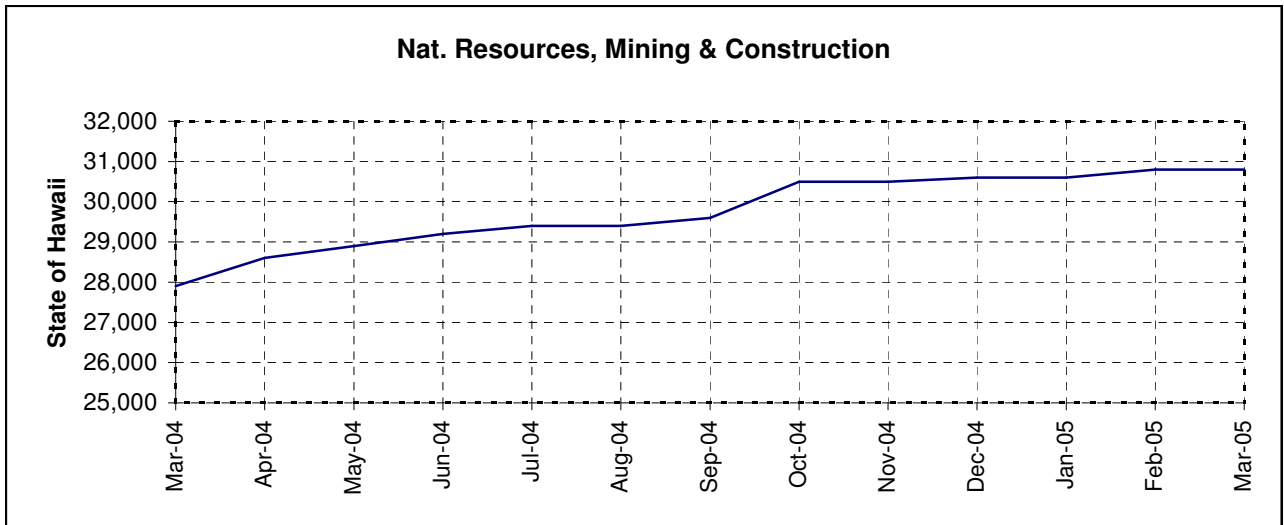
** NEW SEASONALLY ADJUSTED SERIES





* BENCHMARKED DATA; ** NEW SEASONALLY ADJUSTED SERIES

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