



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

News Release

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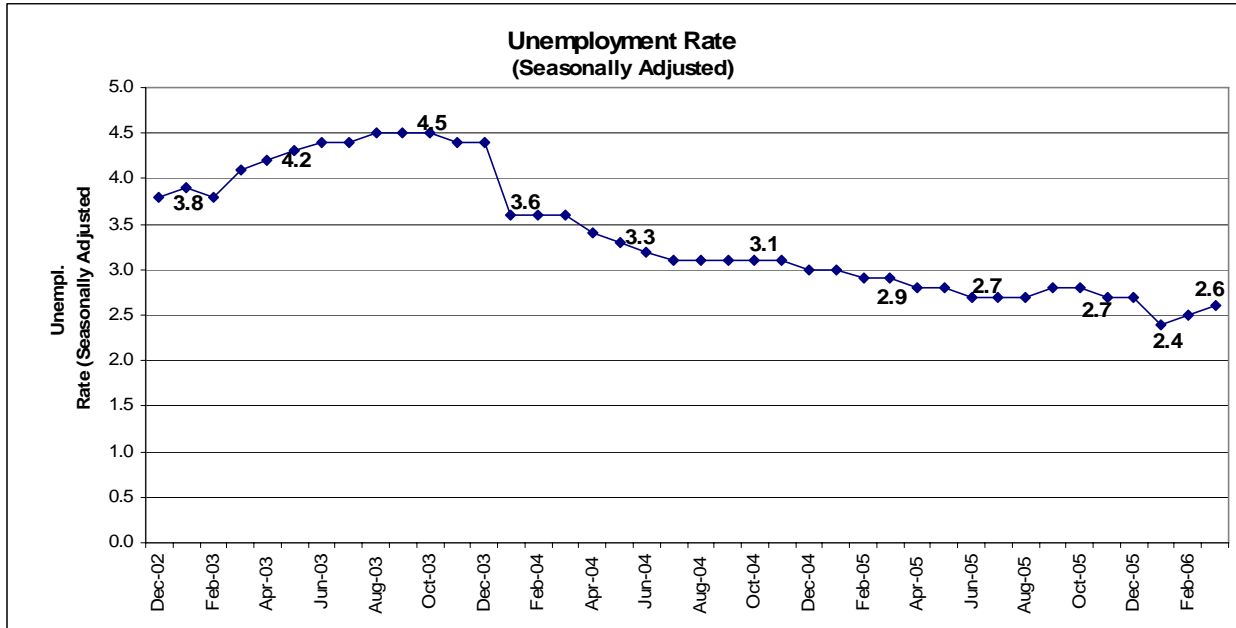
**HAWAII'S MARCH SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
AT 2.6 PERCENT**

**52,200 New Jobs Created during Lingle-Aiona Administration Decreases
the Number of Unemployed by 23.5 percent**

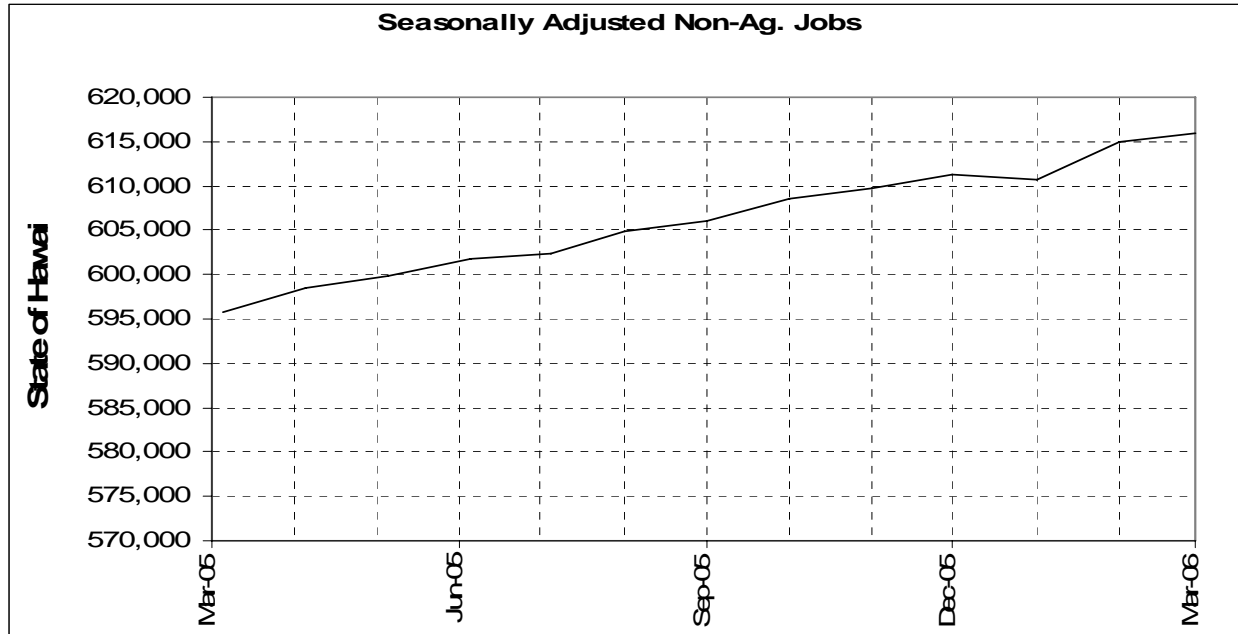
HONOLULU- The Hawaii State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations announced today that the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March was 2.6 percent, inching up from 2.5 percent in February. The U.S. unemployment rate went from 4.8 percent in February to 4.7 percent in March. One year ago, Hawaii's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 2.9 percent, while the national seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.1 percent. Since March 2004, Hawaii's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate has been lower than the national seasonally adjusted unemployment rate by more than two percentage points. In March 2006, Hawaii's seasonally adjusted labor force totaled 645,750, and was comprised of 628,950 employed and 16,800 unemployed.

	MAR 2006	FEB 2006	MAR 2005
STATE	2.6	2.5	2.9
U. S.	4.7	4.8	5.1

Since the Lingle-Aiona Administration took office in December of 2002, Hawaii's unemployed population has decreased 23.5 percent, dropping from 21,950 individuals in December 2002 to 16,800 as of March 2006. This reduction of the unemployed population has significantly contributed to Hawaii's lowest in the nation unemployment rate of 2.6 percent.

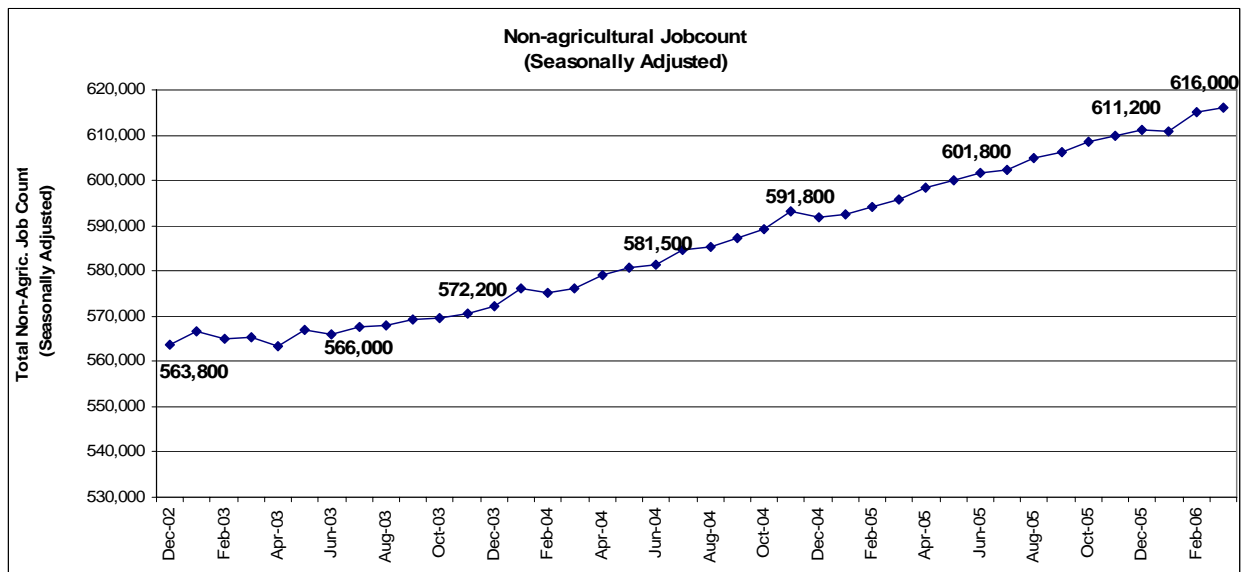


In another measure of employment, total seasonally adjusted nonagricultural jobs increased in March over February by 1,000, or 0.2 percent, to 616,000. Within the seasonally adjusted industry series, over-the-month job gains were realized in Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (+500) and Leisure & Hospitality (+300), with employment in Trade, Transportation, & Utilities continuing to benefit from cruise ship hiring. Job losses over-the-month occurred in Construction (-500), Government (-300), and Education & Health Services (-200), with the job decline in Construction primarily the result of the unusually prolonged stormy weather in March. Employment in Other Services remained stable in March over February. Over-the-month, the jobcount has risen in fourteen of the last fifteen months. Over-the-year, the total jobcount has expanded by 20,200, or 3.4 percent, while within the private sector, jobs have risen by 19,300, or 4.1 percent.



Since December 2002, total seasonally adjusted nonagricultural jobs increased by 52,000, or 9.3 percent, to 616,000. Overall, new jobs created within the seasonally adjusted industry series* were as follows:

- | | |
|---|---------|
| 1. Trade, Transportation, & Utilities: | +15,400 |
| 2. Leisure & Hospitality: | +10,200 |
| 3. Natural resources, mining, & construction: | +8,400 |
| 4. Education & Health Services: | +7,200 |
| 5. Manufacturing: | +500 |
| 6. Government: | +900 |
| 7. Employment in Other Services: | +1,600 |
| 8. Information, Financial Activities, Professional and Business Services* | +8,000 |



Seasonally Adjusted Non-Ag. Jobs			
SELECTED SERIES:	Mar-06	Mar-05*	Dec-02
NAT. RESOURCES, MINING, & CONSTRUCTION	35,500	32,300	27,100
MANUFACTURING	15,400	15,300	14,900
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES	123,000	116,200	107,600
EDUCATION & HEALTH SERVICES	70,800	69,600	63,600
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	108,400	105,700	98,200
OTHER SERVICES	25,500	24,700	23,900
GOVERNMENT	120,200	119,300	119,300
INFORMATION, FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES, PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES*	117,200	112,700	109,200
TOTAL	616,000	595,800	563,800

*Not Seasonally Adjusted

"Small businesses owners deserve much of the credit for the success of Hawaii's economy," said Nelson Befitel, Director of Labor and Industrial Relations. "Despite the fact that we are one of the costliest states in the nation to do business, they have managed to endure and prosper while providing our working families with jobs and a livelihood."

In Hawaii, 98 percent of the 30,000 employers in Hawaii are small businesses with 100 employees or less.

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 March 2006:	\$464,364,636
Taxes received year-to-date through end of March:	\$24,318,399
Interest received year-to-date through end of March:	\$5,048,038
Benefits paid year-to-date through end of March:	\$22,244,318
Current Tax Schedule (for calendar year 2006):	Schedule "C"

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

Fund Balance, end of 2006:	\$536,400,000 (projected)
Taxes for calendar year 2006:	\$144,800,000 (projected)
Interest for calendar year 2006:	\$23,500,000 (projected)
Benefits for calendar year 2006:	\$89,200,000 (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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LABOR FORCE AND JOBCOUNT ESTIMATES
March 2006 Report, Statewide

	DEPARTMENT OF LABOR -- LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES							
	STATEWIDE							
	(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)							
	Mar-06	Feb-06	Mar-05	CHANGE FROM ONE MONTH AGO		CHANGE FROM ONE YEAR AGO		
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	645.4	644.8	626.8	0.6	0.1%	18.6	3.0%	
TOTAL EMPLOYED	629.6	630.2	609.7	-0.6	-0.1%	19.9	3.3%	
UNEMPLOYED	15.9	14.6	17.1	1.3	8.9%	-1.2	-7.0%	
percent of Labor Force	2.5%	2.3%	2.7%					
Total Nonfarm	617.5	615.0	597.4	2.4	0.4%	20.1	3.4%	
Total Private	494.5	493.1	475.2	1.5	0.3%	19.4	4.1%	
Goods Producing	50.6	50.6	47.0	-0.1	-0.1%	3.6	7.6%	
Service-Providing	566.9	564.4	550.4	2.5	0.4%	16.5	3.0%	
Private Service-Providing	444.0	442.4	428.2	1.5	0.3%	15.8	3.7%	
Nat. Res & Construct	35.3	35.3	31.8	-0.1	-0.2%	3.5	11.0%	
Construction of Buildings	11.2	11.3	10.0	0.0	-1.6%	1.2	7.4%	
Special Trade Contractors	18.9	18.9	17.0	0.0	-0.4%	1.9	12.0%	
Manufacturing	15.3	15.3	15.2	0.0	0.0%	0.1	0.5%	
Durable Goods	4.5	4.5	4.4	0.0	0.2%	0.1	2.9%	
Non-Durable Goods	10.8	10.8	10.8	0.0	-0.1%	-0.1	-0.5%	
Trade, Transportation,	121.9	121.5	115.2	0.4	0.3%	6.7	5.8%	
Wholesale Trade	18.0	18.0	17.4	0.0	0.1%	0.6	3.5%	
Retail Trade	71.1	71.0	68.2	0.1	0.2%	2.9	4.3%	
Food and Beverage Sto	13.1	13.1	12.8	0.0	0.4%	0.4	3.0%	
Grocery Stores	10.9	10.8	10.7	0.1	0.6%	0.2	2.1%	
Clothing and Clothing	11.7	11.6	11.0	0.0	0.3%	0.7	6.3%	
General Merchandise S	12.6	12.6	11.8	0.0	0.3%	0.8	6.7%	
Department Stores	9.6	9.5	8.8	0.1	0.5%	0.8	8.8%	
Trans,Warehouse, Util	32.7	32.5	29.6	0.2	0.6%	3.1	10.5%	
Utilities	2.9	2.9	2.8	0.0	0.0%	0.1	2.3%	
Transport & Warehouse	29.8	29.6	26.8	0.2	0.7%	3.1	11.4%	
Air Transportation	10.1	10.1	10.3	0.0	0.1%	-0.2	-1.7%	
Information	11.2	11.0	10.4	0.2	1.7%	0.8	7.4%	
Telecommunications	4.0	4.0	3.7	0.0	0.5%	0.3	8.0%	
Financial Activities	29.8	29.7	29.0	0.1	0.3%	0.8	2.8%	
Finance and Insurance	16.7	16.7	16.4	0.0	0.2%	0.4	2.3%	
Real Estate and Renta	13.0	13.0	12.6	0.0	0.3%	0.4	3.5%	
Professional and Busin	76.4	75.9	73.1	0.5	0.7%	3.3	4.5%	
Professional, Scienti	23.8	23.6	23.2	0.1	0.5%	0.6	2.4%	
Management of Compani	7.6	7.5	7.3	0.0	0.6%	0.3	4.2%	
Administrative and Su	45.0	44.7	42.6	0.4	0.8%	2.4	5.6%	
Employment Services	17.0	16.7	15.3	0.4	2.3%	1.8	11.6%	
Educational and Health	71.2	71.2	70.0	0.1	0.1%	1.3	1.8%	
Educational Services	14.2	14.0	13.8	0.2	1.5%	0.4	2.6%	
Elementary and Second	7.3	7.3	7.0	0.0	0.6%	0.3	4.3%	
Health Care and Socia	57.0	57.2	56.1	-0.1	-0.3%	0.9	1.6%	
Ambulatory Health Car	22.8	22.9	22.4	-0.1	-0.5%	0.4	1.7%	
Hospitals	14.1	14.1	14.1	-0.1	-0.4%	0.0	0.2%	
Nursing and Residenti	6.8	6.8	6.6	0.0	0.1%	0.2	2.8%	
Social Assistance	13.3	13.3	13.0	0.0	0.1%	0.3	2.4%	
Leisure and Hospitalit	108.2	107.9	105.9	0.3	0.3%	2.3	2.2%	
Arts, Entertainment,	11.7	11.8	11.4	-0.1	-0.7%	0.3	2.3%	
Accommodation and Foo	96.5	96.1	94.4	0.4	0.4%	2.1	2.2%	
Accommodation	39.5	39.3	38.7	0.2	0.4%	0.8	2.2%	
Food Services and Dri	57.0	56.8	55.8	0.2	0.4%	1.2	2.2%	
Full-Service Restaura	29.6	29.5	29.0	0.1	0.4%	0.6	1.9%	
Other Services	25.4	25.3	24.7	0.0	0.1%	0.7	2.7%	
Government	123.0	122.0	122.2	1.0	0.8%	0.8	0.6%	
Federal Government	31.5	31.4	31.0	0.1	0.2%	0.5	1.6%	
Ship Building & Repai	4.2	4.2	4.1	0.0	0.2%	0.2	1.1%	
Department of Defense	16.5	16.4	16.3	0.0	0.4%	0.1	1.7%	
State Government	74.2	73.3	74.3	0.9	1.2%	-0.1	-0.1%	
State Govt. Education	50.1	49.2	50.2	0.9	1.9%	-0.1	-0.2%	
Local Government	17.3	17.3	16.9	0.0	0.1%	0.4	2.1%	

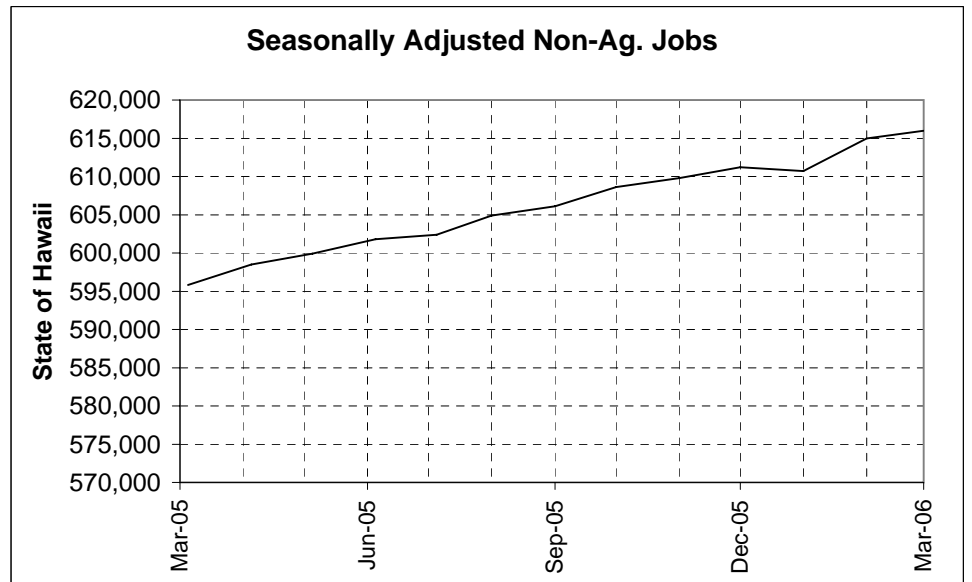
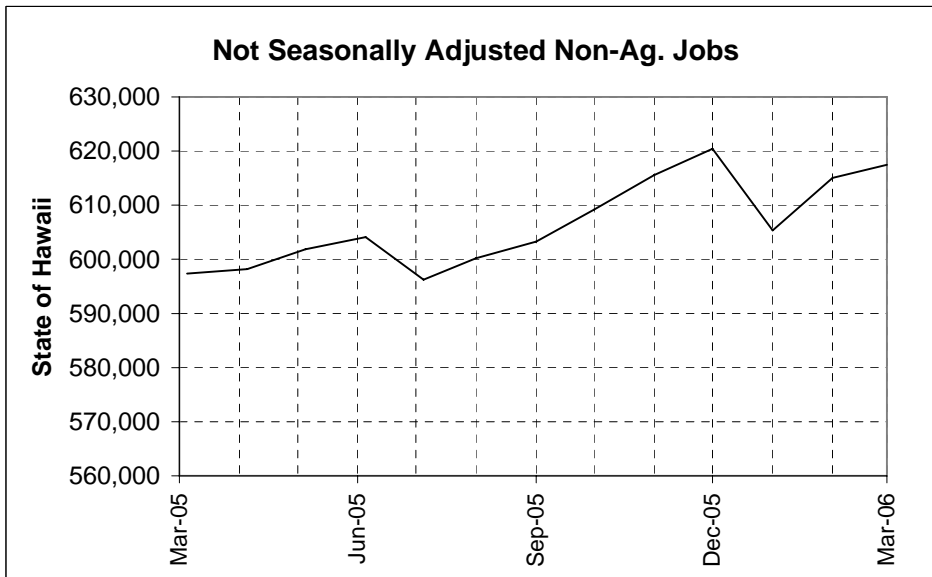
Not Seasonally Adjusted Non-Ag. Jobs

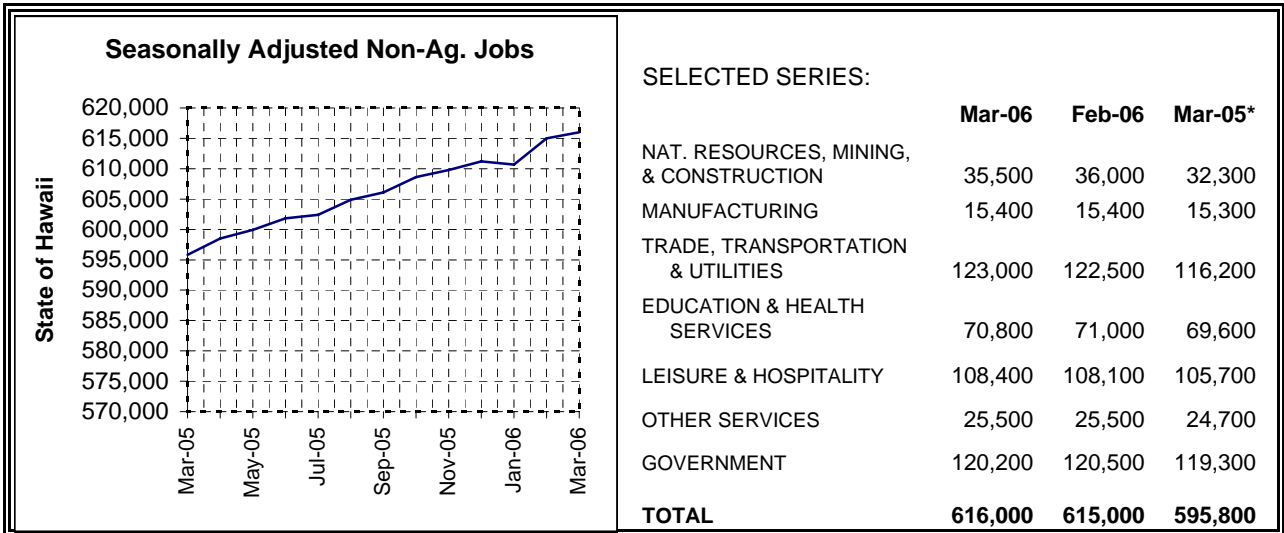
	Mar-06	Feb-06	Mar-05*
NAT. RESOURCES, MINING & CONSTR.	35,250	35,300	31,750
MANUFACTURING	15,300	15,300	15,250
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES	121,850	121,500	115,200
INFORMATION	11,150	11,000	10,400
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	29,750	29,700	28,950
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	76,400	75,850	73,150
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	71,250	71,150	69,950
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	108,200	107,900	105,850
OTHER SERVICES	25,350	25,350	24,700
GOVERNMENT	122,950	122,000	122,200
TOTAL	617,450	615,050	597,350

Seasonally Adjusted Non-Ag. Jobs

	Mar-06	Feb-06	Mar-05*
NAT. RESOURCES, MINING & CONSTR.	35,500	36,000	32,300
MANUFACTURING	15,400	15,400	15,300
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES	123,000	122,500	116,200
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	70,800	71,000	69,600
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	108,400	108,100	105,700
OTHER SERVICES	25,500	25,500	24,700
GOVERNMENT	120,200	120,500	119,300
TOTAL	616,000	615,000	595,800

* BENCHMARKED DATA

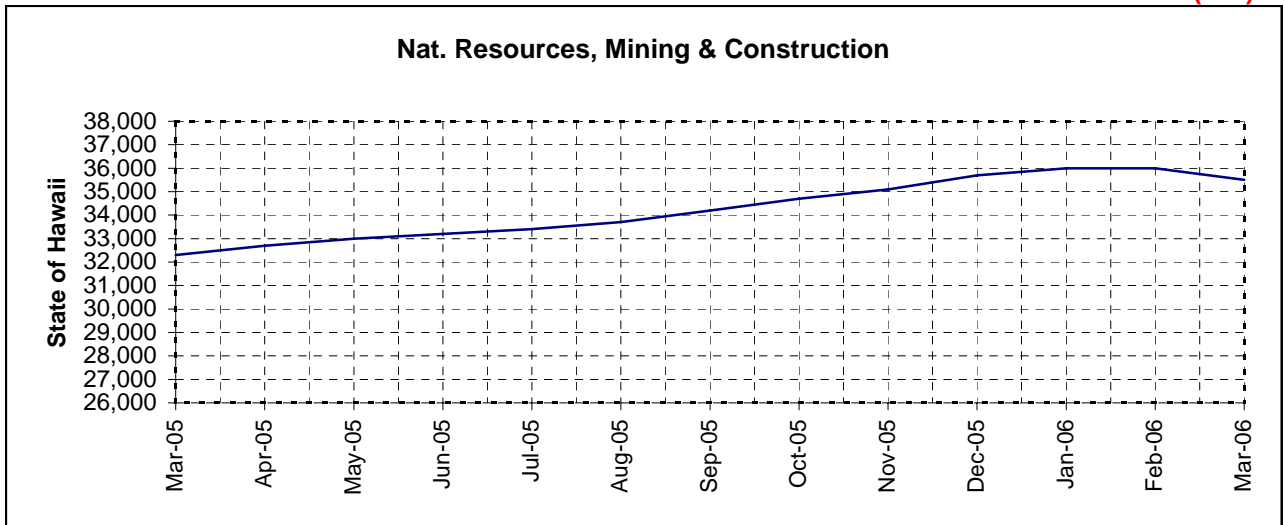




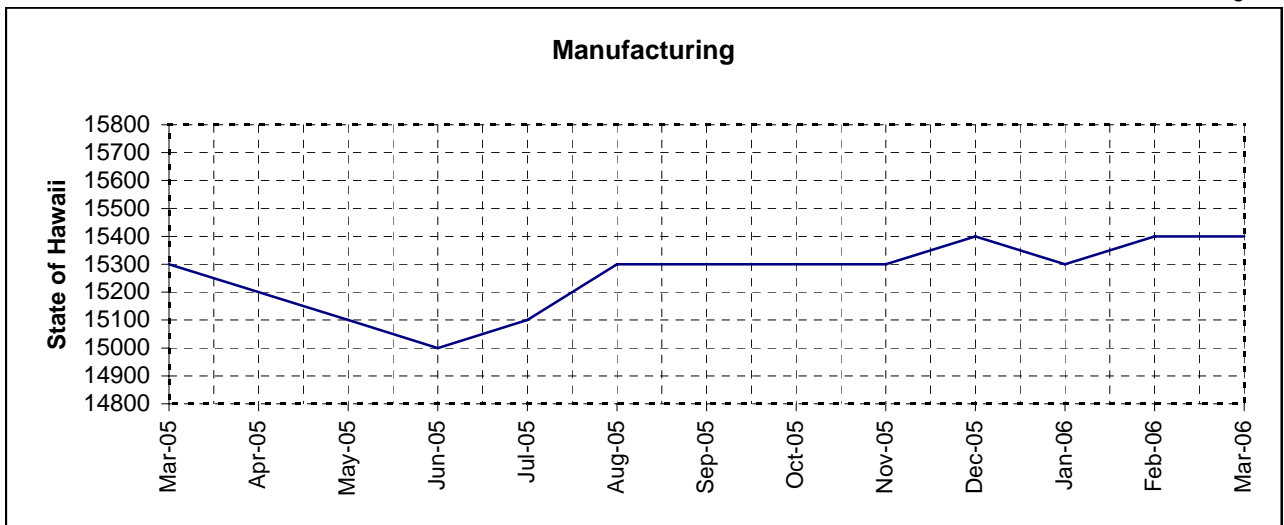
Feb-06 - Mar-06 (+1000, +.2%)

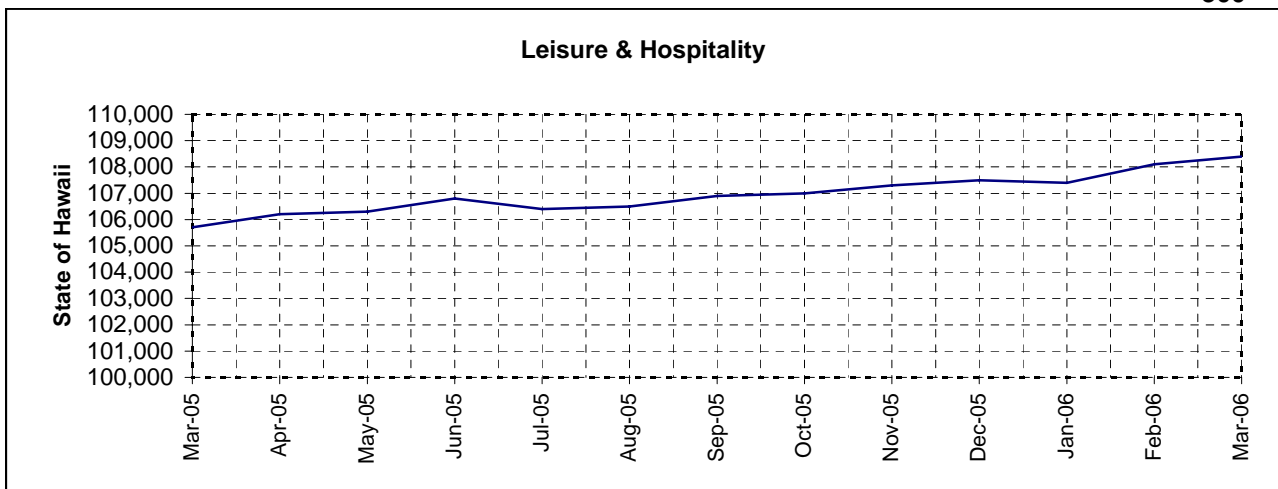
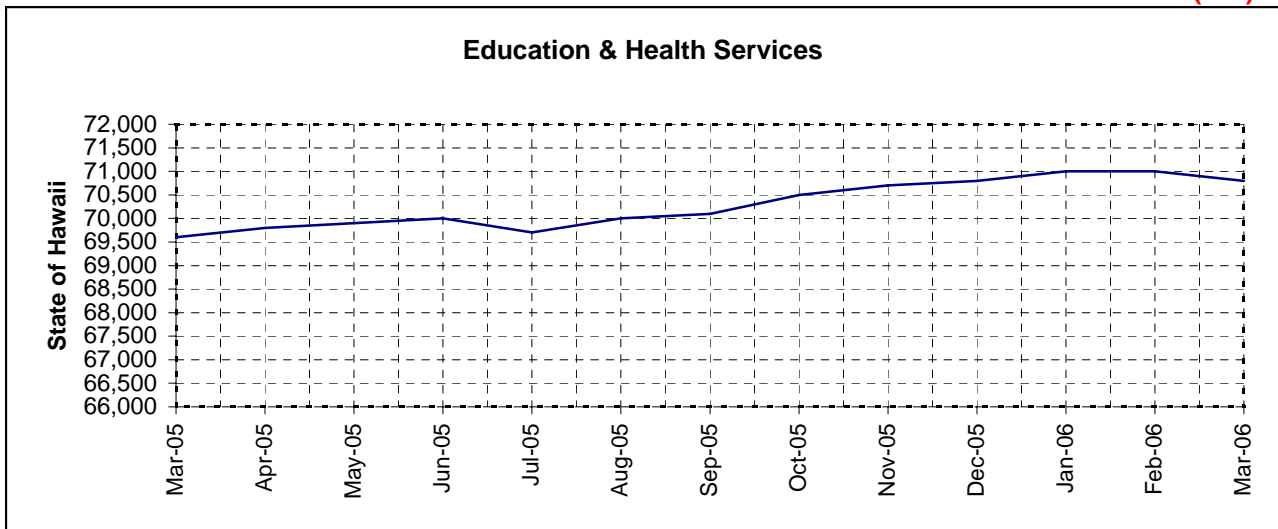
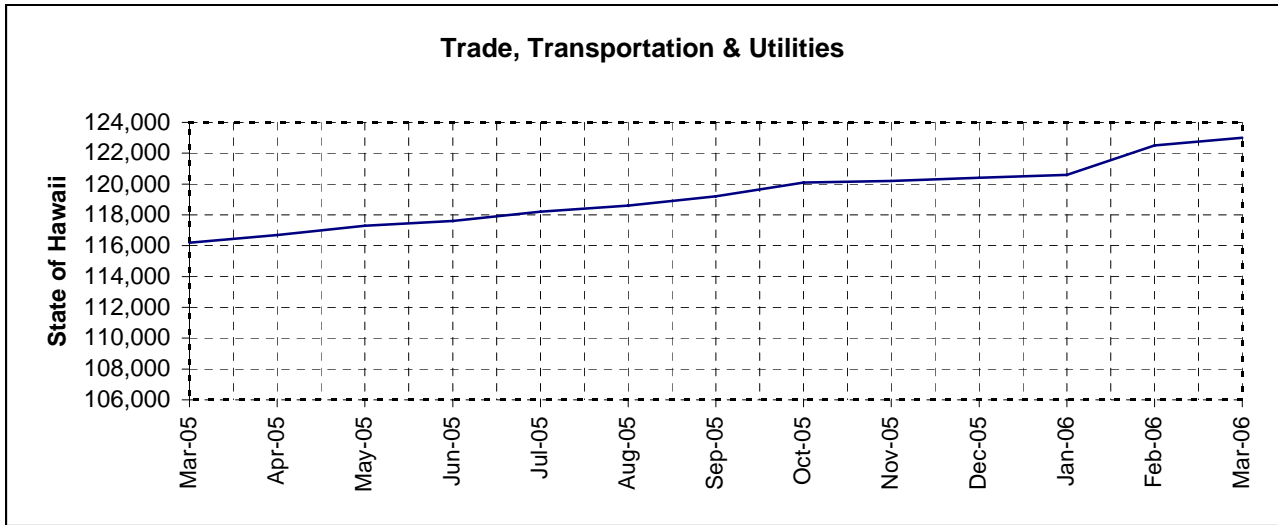
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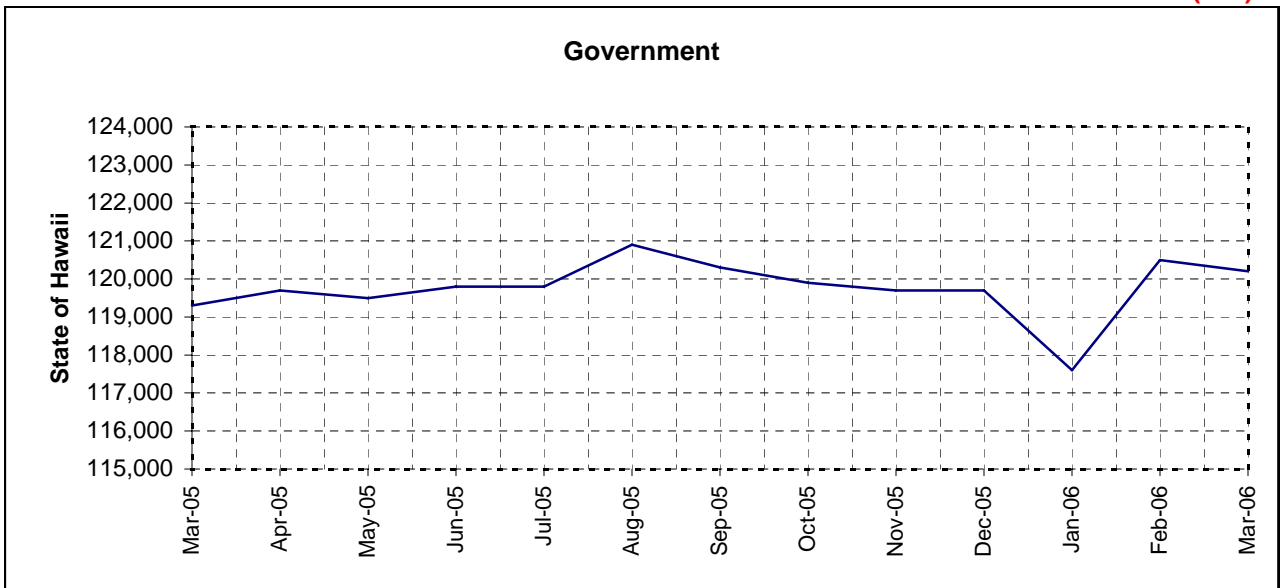
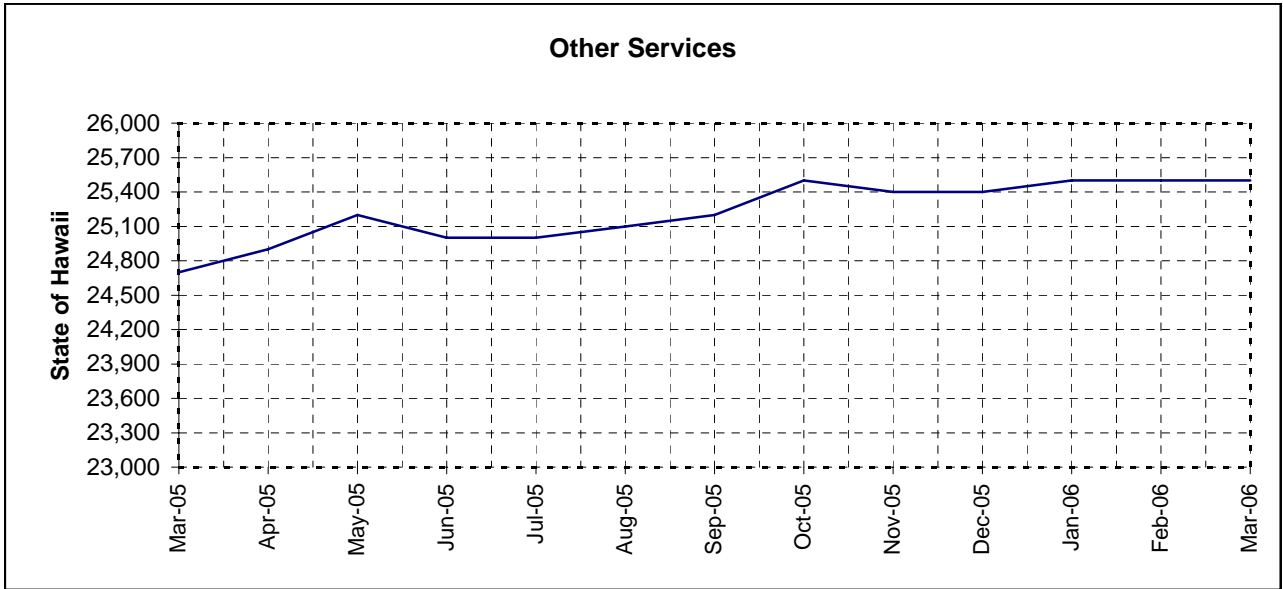
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UNEMPLOYMENT RATES- NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

	MAR 2006	FEB 2006	* MAR 2005
STATE	2.5	2.3	2.7
HONOLULU	2.4	2.2	2.7
HAWAII COUNTY	3.0	2.6	3.3
KAUAI	2.8	2.2	2.7
MAUI COUNTY	2.4	2.2	2.5
U. S.	4.8	5.1	5.4

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

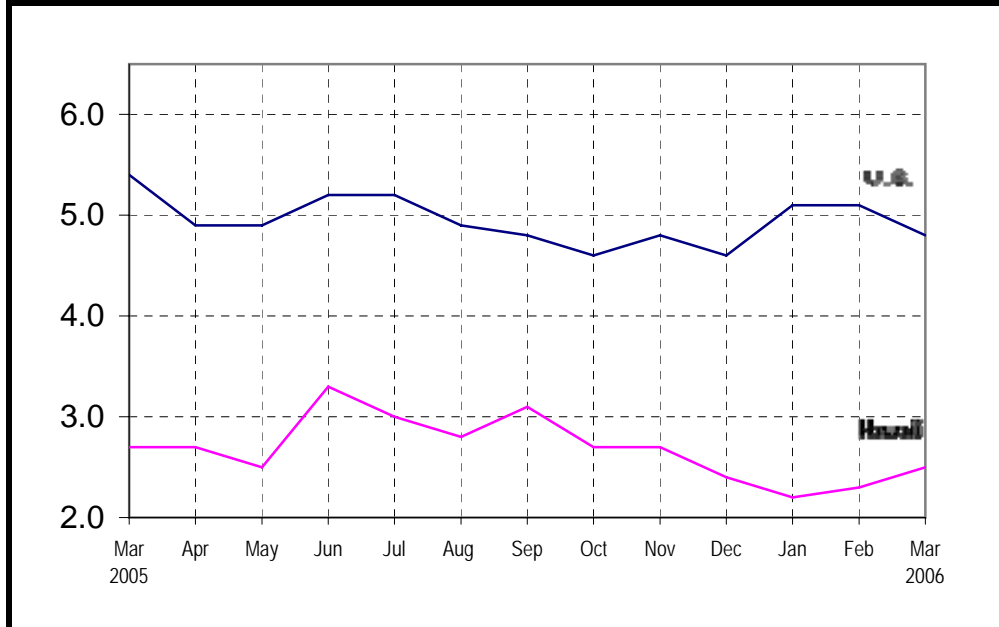
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES- SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

	MAR 2006	FEB 2006	MAR 2005
STATE	2.6	2.5	2.9
U. S.	4.7	4.8	5.1

	Mar 2006	Feb 2006	Mar 2005
Labor Force	645,750	646,600	628,150
Employment	628,950	630,350	610,150
Unemployment	16,800	16,250	18,000

** totals may not add up due to rounding

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



	Mar 2005	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar 2006
U. S.	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.0	4.9	5.1	4.9	5.0	4.9	4.7	4.8	4.7
Hawaii	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.4	2.5	2.6

