United States Congress
Joint Economic Committee
Est. 1946 Republicans
Representative David Schweikert, *Chairman*

# Hawaii

## Employment Update

**September 2026** | Released October 20, 2026

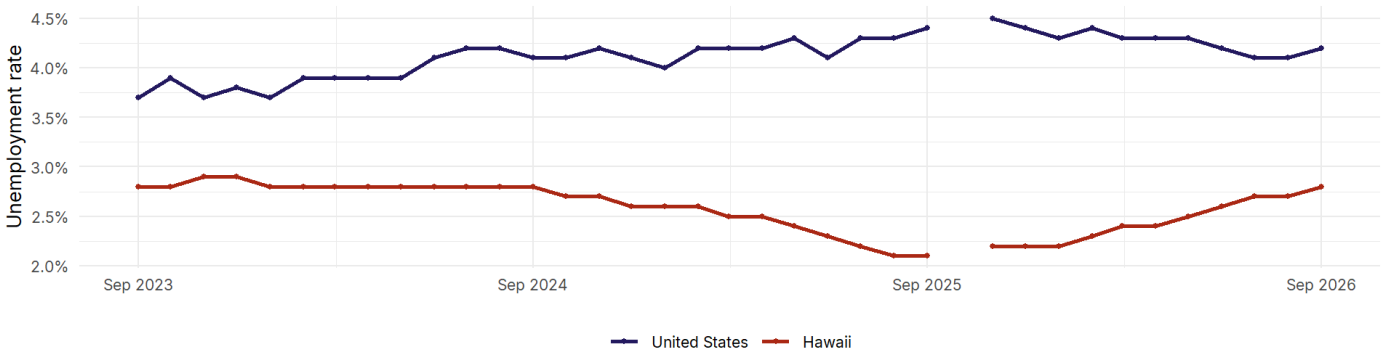
## **United States** Employment Snapshot

- In September, among the 50 states and the District of Columbia **unemployment fell in 18, rose in 9, and remained unchanged in 24.**
- The highest unemployment rate was 5.6 percent in **District of Columbia**, and the lowest was 2 percent in **South Dakota**. Nationally, the unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point to 4.2 percent.
- In September, **payroll jobs rose in 24 states and fell in 25.** The largest payroll job percent increase was 0.5 percent in **South Carolina**. The largest payroll job percent decline was 0.4 percent in **Missouri and Wisconsin**.

## **Hawaii** Employment Snapshot

- In September, **Hawaii remained unchanged with 0 net payroll jobs** and the **unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point to 2.8 percent**. In the prior month, Hawaii lost 500 net payroll jobs.
- Over the past 12 months, **Hawaii added 400 net payroll jobs** and the **unemployment rate rose by 0.7 percentage points from 2.1 percent**.
- Nationally, nonfarm payrolls **rose by 29,000 in September, or 0 percent.** Hawaii **is tied for 37th** in the nation for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.
- In September, **Hawaii's private sector added 600 net private payroll jobs**, and over the past 12 months it added 1,500 private payroll jobs. In the prior month, Hawaii lost 700 net private payroll jobs.
- In September, employment in Hawaii **rose by 1,526**, and over the past 12 months it rose by 2,649.
- **Hawaii's labor force participation rate rose to 61.3 percent** in September from 61.1 percent and **is tied for 32nd** in the nation. In the past 12 months, the labor force participation rate has risen by 0.7 percentage points.

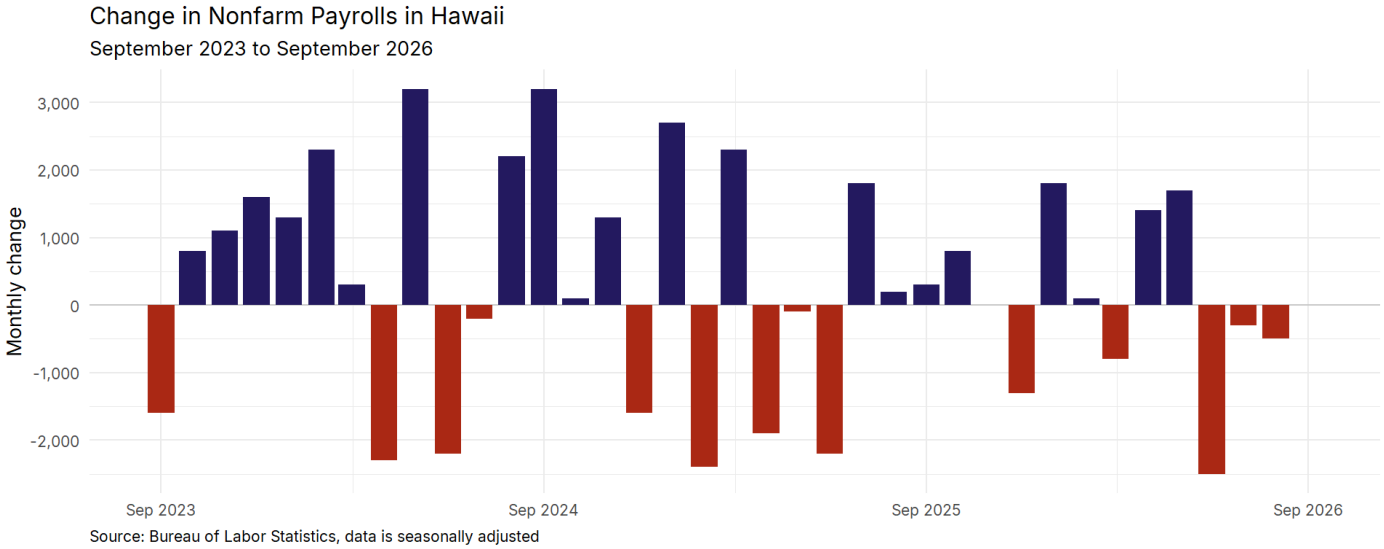
Unemployment Rate in Hawaii
September 2023 to September 2026



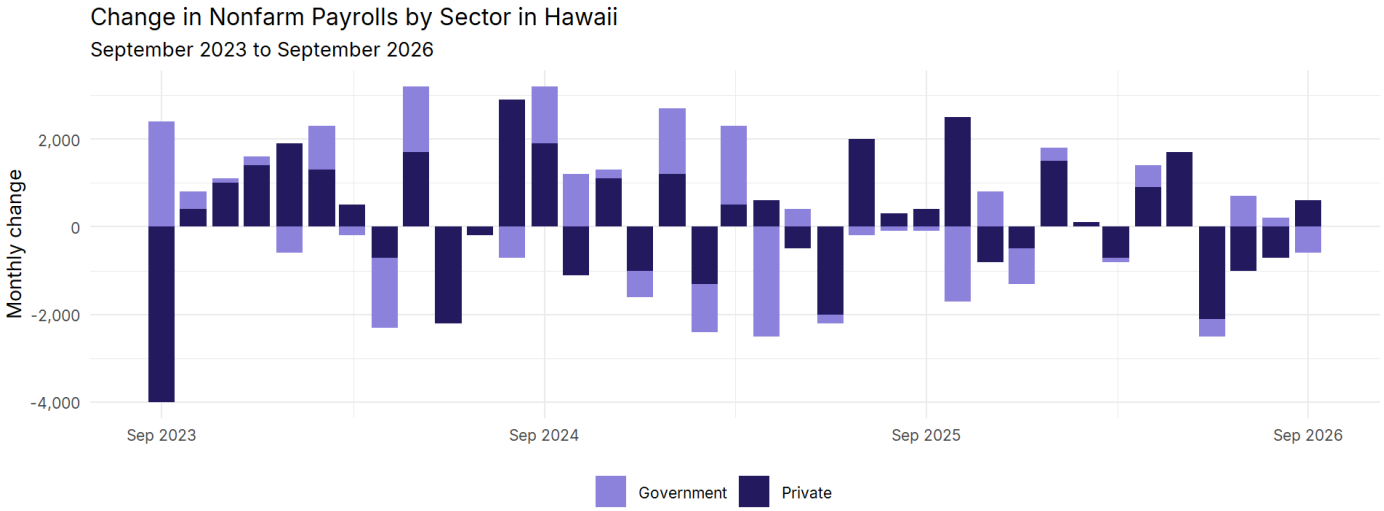

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, data is seasonally adjusted

Hawaii

# Payroll employment




Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, data is seasonally adjusted

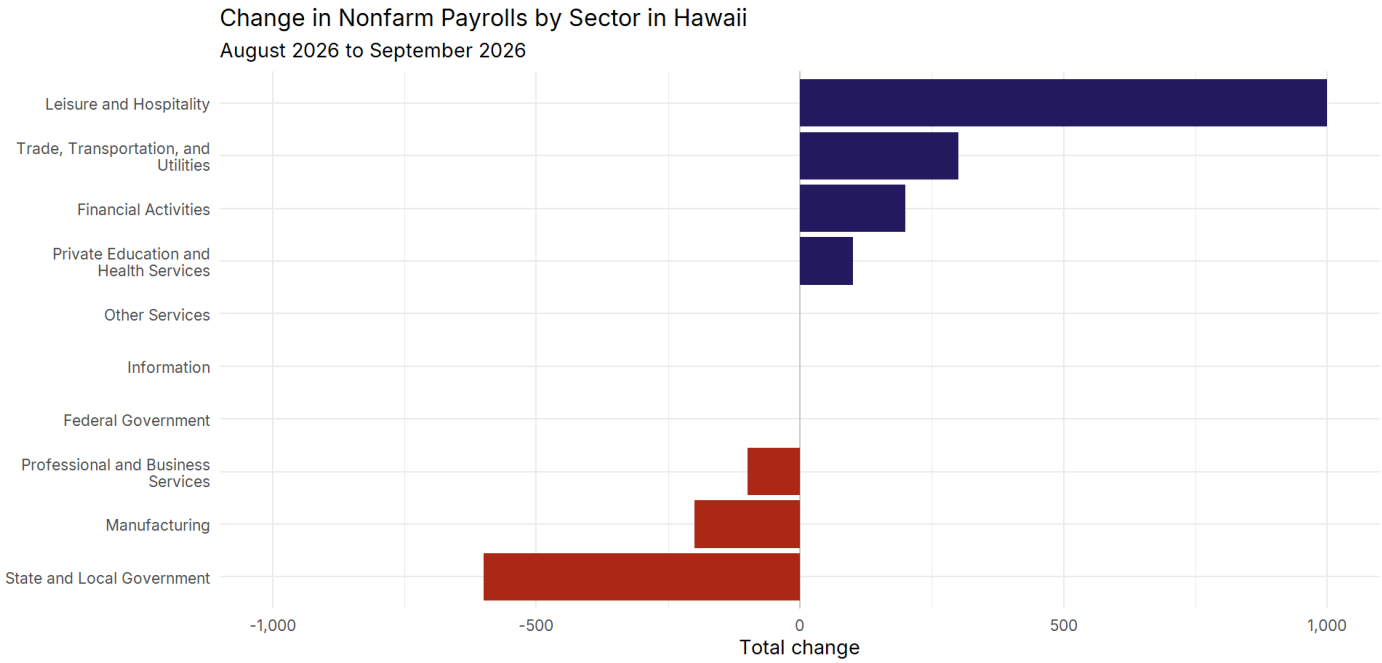



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, data is seasonally adjusted

- **Hawaii remained unchanged with 0 net payroll jobs, or 0 percent,** on a seasonally adjusted basis during September. In the prior month, Hawaii lost 500 jobs. Hawaii nonfarm payroll employment has increased in **5 of the past 12 months.**
- Nationally, nonfarm payrolls **rose by 29,000 in September, or 0 percent.** Hawaii is tied for 37th in the nation for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.
- **Hawaii added 600 private sector jobs, or 0.1 percent,** on a seasonally adjusted basis during September. In the prior month, Hawaii lost 700 jobs. Hawaii private sector payroll employment has increased in **6 of the past 12 months.**
- Nationally, private sector payroll jobs **rose by 46,000 jobs in September, or 0 percent.** Hawaii is tied for 34th in the nation for percentage gain in private sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

### From August 2026 to September 2026:

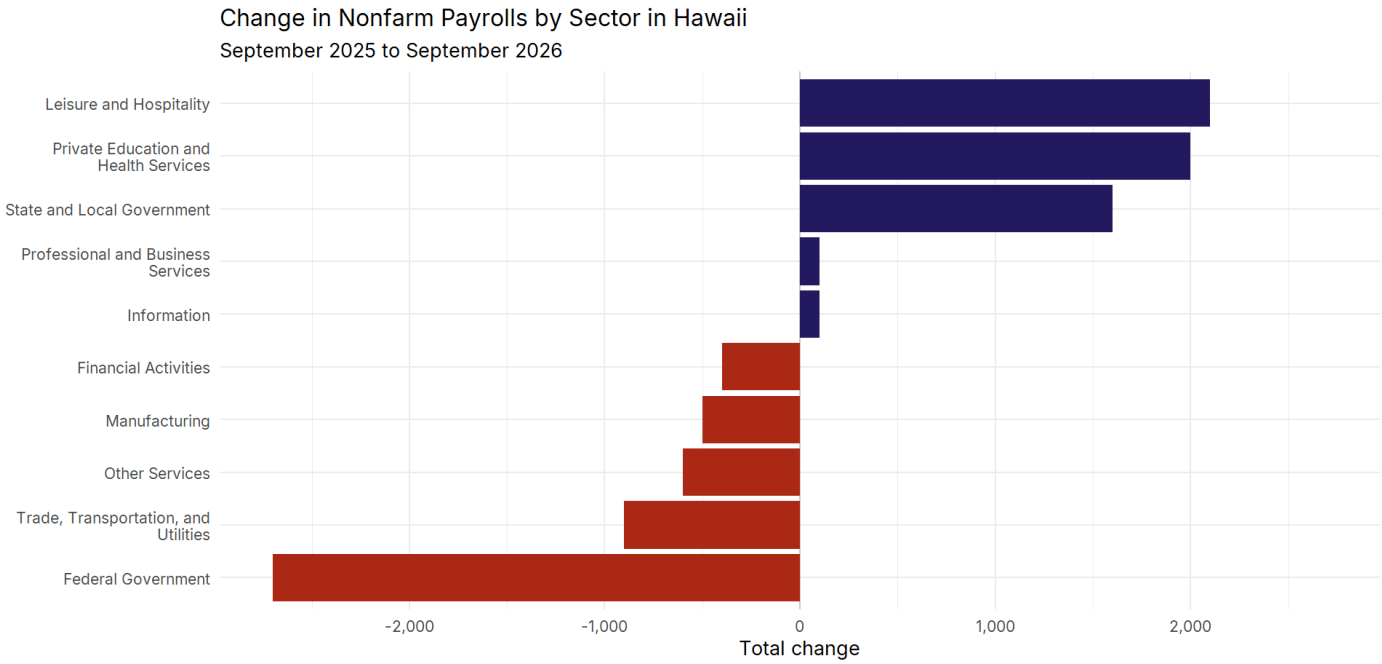
- The best performing sectors were **Leisure and Hospitality** (+1,000) and **Trade, Transportation, and Utilities** (+300).
- The worst performing sectors were **State and Local Government** (-600) and **Manufacturing** (-200).




Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, data is seasonally adjusted

### From September 2025 to September 2026:

- The best performing sectors were **Leisure and Hospitality** (+2,100) and **Private Education and Health Services** (+2,000).
- The worst performing sectors were **Federal Government** (-2,700) and **Trade, Transportation, and Utilities** (-900).

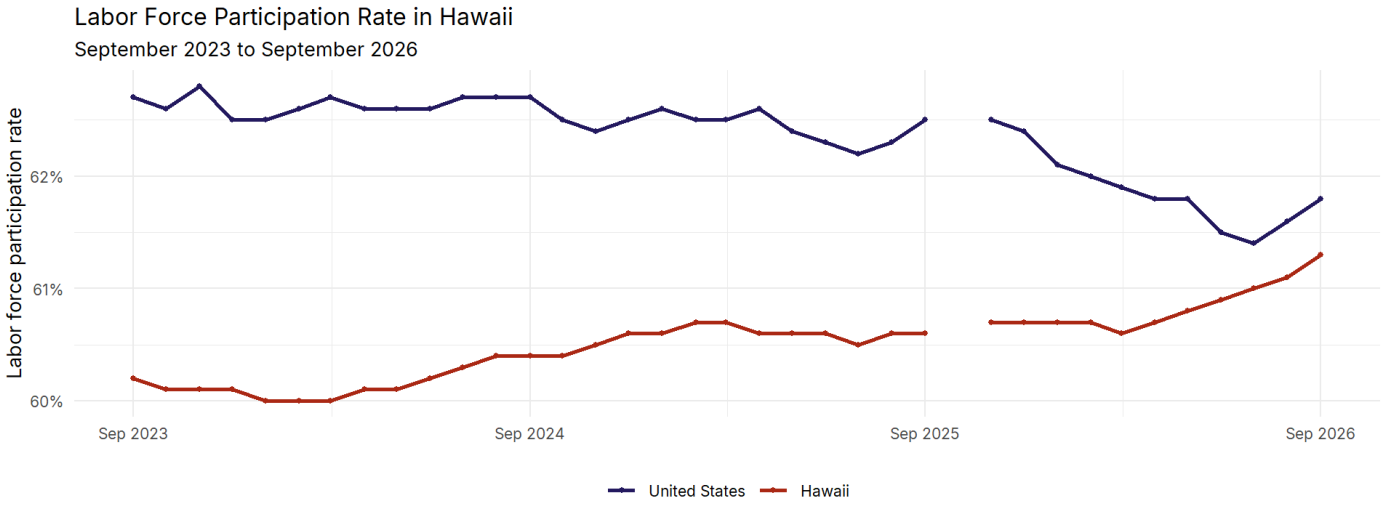



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, data is seasonally adjusted

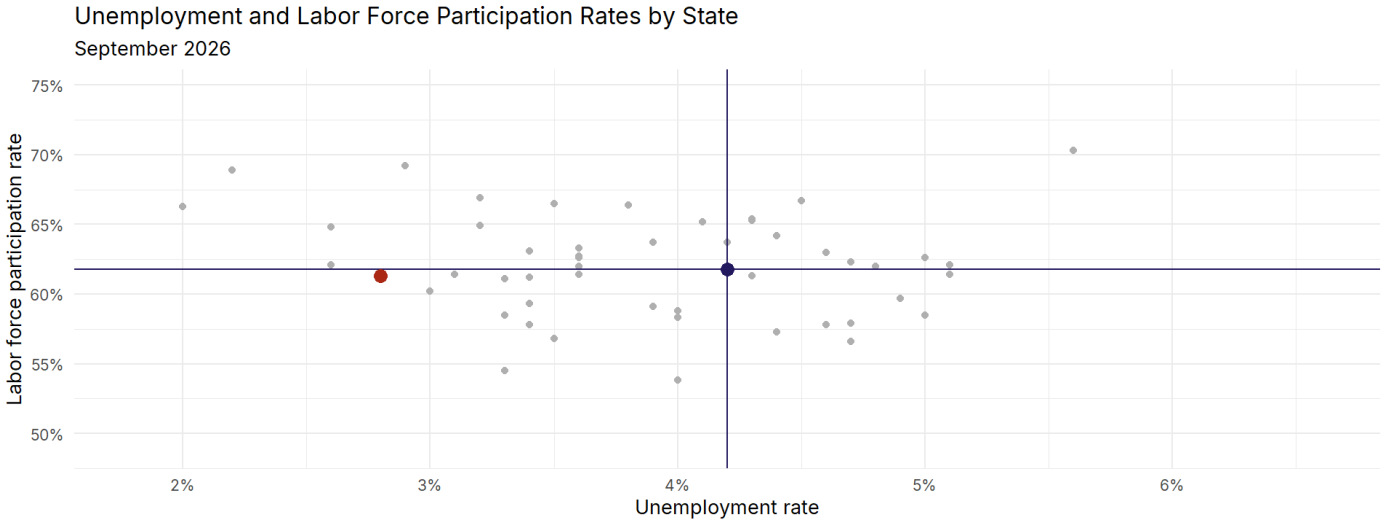
# Labor force

The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

- The labor force participation rate in **Hawaii rose to 61.3 percent in September from 61.1 percent in the prior month**.
- **Hawaii is tied for 32nd** in the nation.
- The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in Hawaii was **62.4 percent** in March 2017, and the 10-year low was **55.3 percent** in September 2020.
- The national labor force participation rate **rose by 0.2 percentage points to 61.8 percent** in September.




Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, data is seasonally adjusted




Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, data is seasonally adjusted