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

Hawaii

Employment Update

September 2026 | Released October 20, 2026

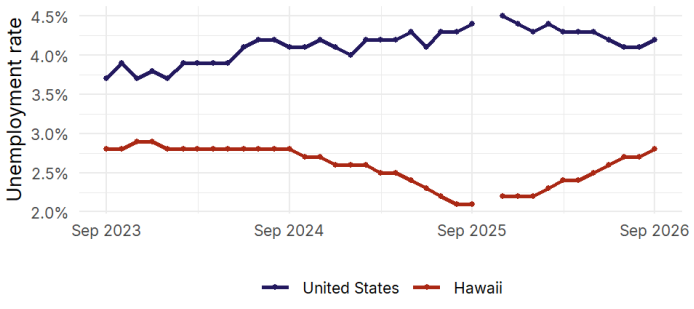
United States Employment Snapshot

- 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

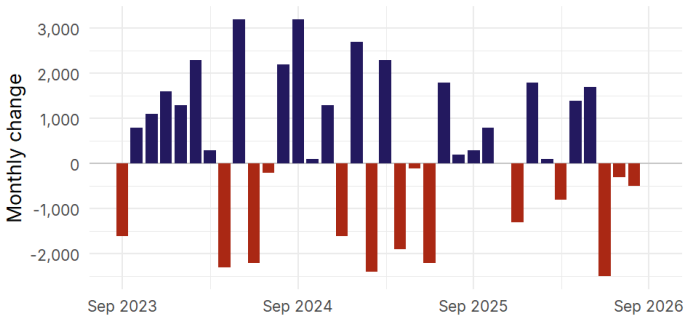
- In September, **Hawaii remained unchanged with 0 net payroll jobs** and the **unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point to 2.8 percent**. In the prior month, Hawaii lost 500 net payroll jobs.
- Over the past 12 months, **Hawaii added 400 net payroll jobs** and the **unemployment rate rose by 0.7 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

Change in Nonfarm Payrolls in Hawaii
September 2023 to September 2026



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, data is seasonally adjusted

Read the full release (https://www.jec.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/republicans/hi/)