

# ECONOMIC CONDITIONS in New Hampshire



February 2006

Volume 106, Number 02

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Published by the Economic and  
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## Health Care and Social Assistance in New Hampshire

Overall, average quarterly covered employment in New Hampshire grew from 616,442 jobs in second quarter 2004 to 623,499 jobs in second quarter 2005, an increase of 1.1 percent. At the industry sector level, Health care and social assistance added the most jobs, 1,814 over the year. The Finance and insurance sector added the second highest number of jobs with 1,524, and third was the Professional and technical services sector, mending 926 jobs. Management of companies and enterprises grew the fastest by 5.8 percent, adding 404 jobs over-the-year, and Finance and insurance grew second fastest at an annual rate of 5.5 percent.

The Health care and social assistance sector has, in general, experienced strong growth for the last decade. And with the Manufacturing sector

shedding about a fifth of its employment in between 2001 and 2003, the Health care and social assistance sector has grown to nearly match the employment level of the Manufacturing sector. With projected increases in Health care social assistance, this sector will soon be larger than the Manufacturing sector and become the state's second largest employing sector, on the heels of the Retail trade sector.

Despite the perception that wages in the health care field are high, the average weekly wage, in New Hampshire, for the Health care and social assistance sector was \$733.35 in the second quarter 2005, in contrast to the average for all industries of \$754.63. In comparison, the average weekly wage for Manufacturing was \$936.31 for that same time period. Two subsectors within Health care and social assistance, Ambulatory health care services and Hospitals,

**Health care and social assistance is the third largest employing sector in New Hampshire in 2Q 2005.**



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approached the higher wage levels of the Manufacturing sector. The other two subsectors, Nursing and residential care facilities and Social assistance, had average weekly wages closer to the \$490.14 of the state's largest employing sector, Retail trade.

A great portion of the growth in the Health care and social assistance sector can be attributed to strong population growth that the state has experienced over the last couple of decades, leading to an increased demand for health care and social services. The projected health care employment growth, along with a related combination of population growth components, is answering the demands of an aging babyboomer generation. In order to get a better understanding of what is driving this sector's growth, the Health care and social assistance sector will be examined at the four-digit level. Employment growth over-the-year second quarter 2004 to second quarter 2005 will be inspected, as well as over a five-year period from second quarter 2000 to second quarter 2005. This will capture the short-term as well as long-term growth.

2nd Quarter 2005 Covered Employment			
NAICS Code	NAICS Industry Title	Average Quarterly Employment	Over-the-year percent change
<b>621</b>	<b>Ambulatory Health Care Services</b>	<b>26,235</b>	<b>2.6%</b>
6211	Offices of Physicians	10,871	2.8%
6212	Offices of Dentists	4,175	2.5%
6213	Offices of Other Health Practitioners	2,501	7.7%
6214	Outpatient Care Centers	3,588	4.5%
6215	Medical and Diagnostic Laboratories	700	-8.6%
6216	Home Health Care Services	3,519	-0.5%
6219	Other Ambulatory Health Care Services	881	2.2%
<b>622</b>	<b>Hospitals</b>	<b>24,275</b>	<b>3.5%</b>
6221	General Medical and Surgical Hospitals	23,623	3.7%
6222	Psychiatric and Substance Abuse Hospitals	n	n
6223	Other specialty Hospitals	n	n
<b>623</b>	<b>Nursing and Residential Care Facilities</b>	<b>12,863</b>	<b>2.3%</b>
6231	Nursing Care Facilities	7,603	-1.3%
6232	Residential Mental Health Facilities	1,867	6.1%
6233	Community Care Facilities for the Elderly	2,610	11.9%
6239	Other Residential Care Facilities	783	1.8%
<b>624</b>	<b>Social Assistance</b>	<b>11,200</b>	<b>0.2%</b>
6241	Individual and Family Services	4,781	5.2%
6242	Emergency and Other Relief Services	554	2.4%
6243	Vocational Rehabilitation Services	819	-23.1%
6244	Child Day Care Services	5,046	0.4%

n= not disclosable

ing 826 jobs. This subsector consists of three industry groups: General medical and surgical hospitals, Psychiatric and substance abuse hospitals, and Other specialty hospitals. General medical and surgical hospitals was the industry group that added the most jobs among all the industry groups within Health care and social assistance. General medical and surgical hospitals added 838 jobs over-the-year, more than the whole Hospitals subsector did. Consequently, it can be concluded that there was a slight decline in the employment levels of Psychiatric and substance abuse hospitals and Other specialty hospitals, combined.

The five year employment change shows the same pattern of General medical and surgical hospitals adding more jobs than at the aggregated level of Hospitals. In addition, the change over five years shows that General medical and surgical hospitals grew at a faster annualized rate between second quarter 2000 and second quarter 2005 than over-the-year second quarter 2004 to second quarter 2005.

#### Ambulatory Health Care Services

The over-the-year growth of 2.6 percent in Ambulatory health care services from second quarter 2004 to second quarter 2005, followed in line with its annualized growth rate of 2.7 percent from second quarter 2000 to second quarter 2005. This subsector added 668 jobs over-the-year. A little under half (44 percent) of the jobs were added in Offices of physicians, more commonly known as doctors offices. Over the five-year period, 60 percent of the total jobs added to Ambulatory health care services came from growth in Offices of physicians. This translates to Offices of physicians experiencing a faster annualized growth rate between 2000 and 2005 from second quarter 2004 to 2005. Two other industry groups within Ambulatory health care services, Offices of den-

#### Detailed level

There are four subsector groups that are part of the Health care and social assistance sector. These include Ambulatory and health care services; Hospitals; Nursing and residential care facilities; and Social assistance.

#### Hospitals

Overall, Hospital employment grew by 3.5 percent over-the-year, add-

tists and Other ambulatory health care services (Ambulance services and Blood and organ banks) experienced faster annual growth rates over the five-year period than over the most recent year. An explanation can be that since 2000 there has been a gradual slowdown in the state's population growth from 3.3 percent from 1999 to 2000 then only 0.8 percent between 2004 and 2005.

Despite the strong employment growth in Health care and social assistance as a whole, Medical and diagnostic laboratories are on a downward trend. Over the year, this industry group shed 66 jobs and over the five-year period it lost 155 jobs, translating to a total decline for the period of 18.1 percent. The

reason for this job loss might be due to consolidations.

Employment in Health home care services also saw a slight decline from second quarter 2004 to second quarter 2005. However, this industry group did show a slightly positive annualized growth rate, over the five-year period. Included in this industry group are visiting nurse associations, home health care agencies, and in-home hospice care services. With an aging babyboomer generation requiring more services it might seem that there will soon be a growing demand for these services. From 2000 to 2004 the age group 65 and over grew by 12.0 percent in New Hampshire compared to 12.4 per-

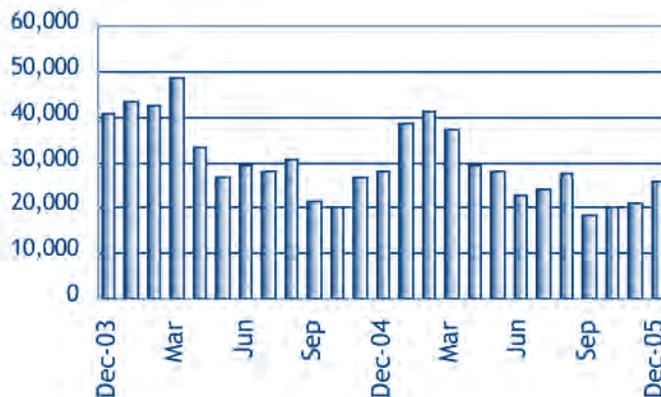
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### Unemployment Compensation Claims Activity

Total Regular Unemployment Compensation Programs:				Change from Previous			
	Dec-05	Nov-05	Dec-04	Month		Year	
				Net	Percent	Net	Percent
Initial Claims	7,329	4,340	6,821	2,989	68.9%	508	7.4%
Continued Weeks	25,665	21,150	28,174	4,515	21.3%	-2,509	-8.9%

### Unemployment Compensation Fund

Unemployment compensation fund balance at the end of December	\$264,218,523.19
Average payment for a week of total unemployment:	\$251.98
Net benefits paid:	\$4,690,375.12
Net contributions received during the month:	\$70,279.09
Interest Received:	\$3,103,901.06
Reed Act Distribution:	\$0.00
Reed Act Withdrawal for Administrative Costs:	\$9,593.62



### Claims Activity

### Trust Fund

### Continued Weeks Claimed

Dec 2003 - Dec 2005

The volume of continued weeks claimed by the end of 2005 was almost 12 percent lower, 44,964 fewer claims, than it was at the end of 2004.

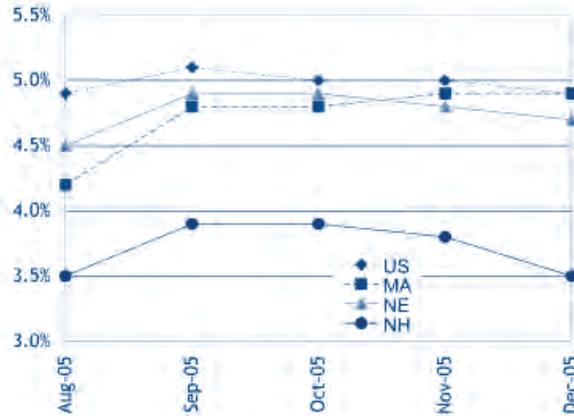
			Change from Previous	
Dec-05	Nov-05	Dec-04	Month	Year
196.8	197.6	190.3	-0.4%	3.4%

United States  
All Urban Areas (CPI-U)  
(1982-1984=100)

### Consumer Price Index

### N.H and U.S. Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

Vermont was the only state in New England to have an increase in its unemployment rate over-the-month.



### Unemployment Rates by Region

	preliminary Dec-05	revised Nov-05	Dec-04
United States	4.9%	5.0%	5.4%
Northeast	4.9%	5.0%	5.1%
New England	4.7%	4.8%	4.5%
Connecticut	4.8%	5.1%	4.5%
Maine	4.8%	5.0%	4.6%
Massachusetts	4.9%	4.9%	4.7%
New Hampshire	3.5%	3.8%	3.4%
Rhode Island	5.2%	5.2%	4.8%
Vermont	3.6%	3.5%	3.6%
Mid Atlantic	5.0%	5.1%	5.3%
New Jersey	4.7%	4.6%	4.2%
New York	5.1%	5.4%	5.6%
Pennsylvania	4.9%	5.1%	5.7%

### Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Estimates

By Place of Residence

	Aug-05	Sep-05	Oct-05	revised Nov-05	preliminary Dec-05
<b>New Hampshire</b>					
Unemployment Rate	3.5%	3.9%	3.9%	3.8%	3.5%
Civilian Labor Force	740,559	741,750	740,634	740,352	739,455
Number Employed	714,492	712,826	711,576	712,335	713,452
Number Unemployed	26,067	28,924	29,058	28,017	26,003
<b>United States (in thousands)</b>					
Unemployment Rate	4.9%	5.1%	4.9%	5.0%	4.9%
Civilian Labor Force	149,792	150,083	150,043	150,183	150,153
Number Employed	142,425	142,435	142,625	142,611	142,779
Number Unemployed	7,367	7,648	7,418	7,572	7,375

Note: Beginning in January 2005, data reflect revised population controls used in the household survey. Seasonally adjusted data have been revised to reflect updated seasonal adjustment factors.

### Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment Estimates

By Place of Establishment

Supersector	Aug-05	Sep-05	Oct-05	revised Nov-05	preliminary Dec-05
Total Nonfarm	644,700	642,500	641,200	640,600	642,200
Construction	31,300	31,100	31,300	31,300	31,200
Manufacturing	82,200	82,000	80,900	81,400	81,700
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	144,400	145,000	143,700	143,600	144,300
Financial Activities	38,300	38,200	38,500	38,600	38,800
Professional and Business Services	56,800	56,900	56,700	56,200	56,200
Leisure and Hospitality	67,100	66,800	67,800	66,900	68,200
Other Services	20,100	19,900	19,400	19,400	19,400
Government	91,900	90,900	90,100	89,800	89,700

Please note that not all supersectors meet the statistical criteria for publication in this category. We seasonally adjust the total nonfarm data series and all the published supersectors independently. Therefore, the sum of the published parts will not equal the total.

### Labor Force Estimates

New Hampshire	Dec-05	Nov-05	Dec-04
Number of workers	preliminary	revised	
Total Civilian Labor Force	736,240	739,260	721,620
Employed	712,290	712,930	699,630
Unemployed	23,950	26,330	21,990
Unemployment Rate (percent of labor force)	3.3%	3.6%	3.0%

### Unemployment Rates by Area

	preliminary Dec-05	revised Nov-05	Dec-04
<b>U.S and Regional States</b>			
United States	4.6%	4.8%	5.1%
Northeast	4.6%	4.8%	4.7%
New England	4.3%	4.4%	4.0%
Connecticut	4.3%	4.8%	3.9%
Maine	4.7%	4.9%	4.4%
Massachusetts	4.5%	4.4%	4.2%
New Hampshire	3.3%	3.6%	3.0%
Rhode Island	4.8%	4.5%	4.2%
Vermont	3.4%	3.4%	3.2%
Mid Atlantic	4.7%	4.9%	5.0%
New Jersey	4.4%	4.3%	3.9%
New York	5.0%	5.3%	5.4%
Pennsylvania	4.4%	4.8%	5.2%

Map	preliminary Dec-05	revised Nov-05	Dec-04
<b>Key Labor Market Areas</b>			
1 Colebrook NH-VT LMA, NH Portion	5.5%	5.4%	5.9%
2 Berlin NH MicroNECTA	3.7%	3.8%	3.1%
3 Littleton NH-VT LMA, NH Portion	3.3%	3.5%	2.5%
4 Haverhill NH LMA	3.5%	3.4%	3.2%
5 Conway NH-ME LMA, NH Portion	3.0%	3.7%	2.9%
6 Plymouth NH LMA	2.8%	3.3%	2.4%
7 Moultonborough NH LMA	2.6%	2.9%	2.5%
8 Lebanon NH-VT MicroNECTA, NH Portion	2.3%	2.7%	1.8%
9 Laconia NH MicroNECTA	3.1%	3.3%	2.6%
10 Wolfeboro NH LMA	2.7%	3.1%	2.4%
11 Franklin NH MicroNECTA	3.4%	3.2%	2.9%
12 Claremont NH MicroNECTA	2.7%	3.6%	2.2%
13 Newport NH LMA	3.0%	3.2%	2.2%
14 New London NH LMA	2.2%	2.7%	1.9%
15 Concord NH MicroNECTA	2.9%	3.1%	2.4%
16 Rochester-Dover NH-ME MetroNECTA, NH Portion	2.8%	3.2%	2.9%
17 Charlestown NH LMA	2.9%	3.1%	2.9%
18 Hillsborough NH LMA	3.0%	3.3%	2.5%
19 Manchester NH MetroNECTA	3.2%	3.3%	2.9%
20 Keene NH MicroNECTA	2.8%	3.0%	2.2%
21 Peterborough NH LMA	3.2%	3.6%	3.0%
22 Nashua NH-MA NECTA Division, NH Portion	3.6%	3.9%	3.4%
23 Exeter Area, NH Portion, Haverhill-N. Andover-Amesbury MA-NH NECTA Division	4.0%	4.6%	4.4%
24 Portsmouth NH-ME MetroNECTA, NH Portion	3.0%	3.4%	3.1%
25 Hinsdale Town, NH Portion, Brattleboro VT-NH LMA	2.2%	3.0%	3.0%
26 Pelham Town, NH Portion, Lowell-Billerica-Chelmsford MA-NH NECTA Division	4.5%	4.9%	4.1%
27 Salem Town, NH Portion, Lawrence-Methuen-Salem MA-NH NECTA Division	5.2%	5.9%	5.6%

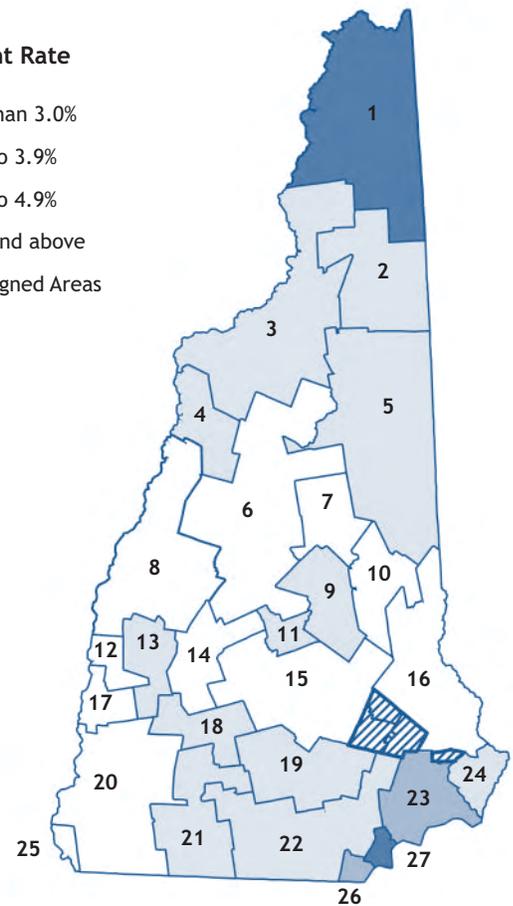
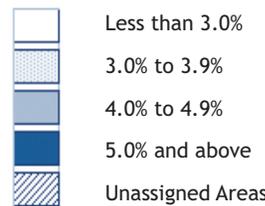
### Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

Not Seasonally Adjusted

By Place of Residence

Counties	preliminary Dec-05	revised Nov-05	Dec-04
Belknap	3.0%	3.2%	2.6%
Carroll	2.9%	3.5%	2.7%
Cheshire	2.9%	3.2%	2.5%
Coos	4.0%	4.1%	3.7%
Grafton	2.7%	3.1%	2.2%
Hillsborough	3.4%	3.6%	3.1%
Merrimack	2.9%	3.0%	2.4%
Rockingham	3.7%	4.2%	3.9%
Strafford	2.8%	3.2%	2.9%
Sullivan	2.8%	3.2%	2.3%

#### December Unemployment Rate



New Hampshire unemployment and labor force estimates are calculated using a regression model which depends on Current Population Survey (CPS) estimates. Labor Market Area estimates are calculated using the Bureau of Labor Statistics "Handbook Method" and then adjusted to the State levels.

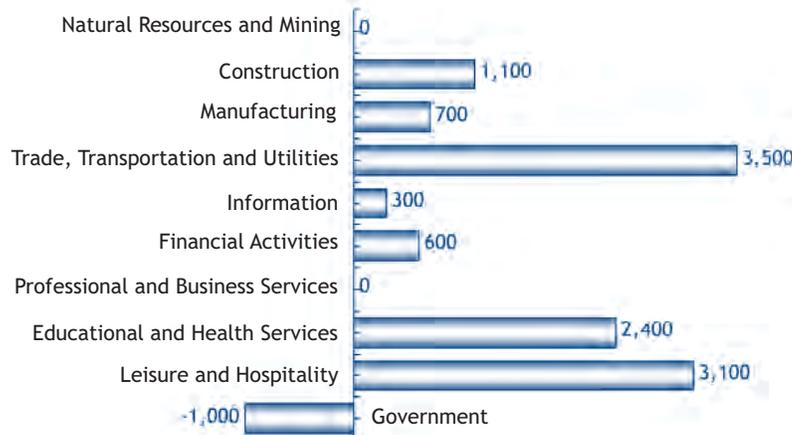
## Monthly Not Seasonally Adjusted New Hampshire Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment

The influence of the holiday season was evident as Retail trade and Leisure and hospitality provided almost 90 percent of the job growth in private employment.

Current Employment Statistics Employment by Super Sector by place of establishment	Number of Jobs			Change from previous:	
	Dec-05 preliminary	Nov-05 revised	Dec-04	Month	Year
	Total All Super Sectors	648,400	643,500	638,600	4,900
Private Employment Total	555,500	550,700	544,700	4,800	10,800
Natural Resources and Mining	1,000	1,100	1,000	-100	0
Construction	31,200	31,800	30,100	-600	1,100
Manufacturing	82,000	81,500	81,300	500	700
Durable Goods	62,800	62,400	62,000	400	800
Non-Durable Goods	19,200	19,100	19,300	100	-100
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	150,100	147,400	146,600	2,700	3,500
Wholesale Trade	27,900	27,800	27,700	100	200
Retail Trade	105,800	103,300	103,400	2,500	2,400
Transportation and Utilities	16,400	16,300	15,500	100	900
Information	13,200	13,200	12,900	0	300
Financial Activities	38,900	38,600	38,300	300	600
Professional and Business	56,600	56,500	56,600	100	0
Educational and Health	99,000	98,800	96,600	200	2,400
Leisure and Hospitality	64,200	62,400	61,100	1,800	3,100
Other Services	19,300	19,400	20,200	-100	-900
Government Total	92,900	92,800	93,900	100	-1,000

### Change in Nonfarm Employment

Dec 2004 to Dec 2005



### Monthly Analysis of Current Employment Statistics (CES) Data

For further analysis please read the *Detailed Monthly Analysis of Industry Employment Data* on our Web site at <[www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/nonfarm.htm](http://www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/nonfarm.htm)>

#### Seasonally Adjusted:

The final preliminary seasonally adjusted estimates for 2005 showed that New Hampshire employers added 1,600 jobs to the state's economy. Leisure and hospitality (supersector 70) covered 1,300 of those jobs. Trade, transportation, and utilities (supersector 40) bumped its employment level up by 700, while manufacturing (supersector 30) increased its work force by 300 positions. To complete those industries expanding their numbers in December, financial activities (supersector 55) increased its staffing level by 200.

For December, professional and business services (supersector 60) and other services (supersector 80) held their respective employment totals at the November number.

On the downside of the ledger, construction (supersector 20) and government (supersector 90), each reduced staffing by 100 jobs during the month.

#### Unadjusted:

With December being the high point of the shopping season, New Hampshire's employment level increased by 4,900 jobs. Trade, transportation, and utili-

## Monthly Unadjusted Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment by Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Employment by Sector number of jobs by place of establishment	Manchester NH MetroNECTA			Nashua NH-MA NECTA Division, NH Portion			Portsmouth NH-ME MetroNECTA, NH Portion			Rochester-Dover NH- ME MetroNECTA, NH Portion		
	preliminary Dec-05	Change from previous:		preliminary Dec-05	Change from previous:		preliminary Dec-05	Change from previous:		preliminary Dec-05	Change from previous:	
		Month	Year		Month	Year		Month	Year		Month	Year
Total All Sectors	103,100	700	1,800	134,300	600	1,800	55,900	-100	1,700	57,400	200	1,300
Private Employment Total	91,400	600	1,600	119,400	400	1,900	45,900	0	1,500	43,400	200	1,100
Natural Resources and Construction	5,500	-100	100	6,100	-100	0	1,800	-100	0	2,200	0	0
Manufacturing	9,700	0	100	26,000	0	0	4,000	0	0	6,600	100	100
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	22,300	500	600	32,600	500	400	11,700	100	300	11,800	100	200
Wholesale Trade	5,200	0	0	5,600	0	0	1,900	0	0	1,400	0	0
Retail Trade	13,900	500	300	22,300	500	100	8,300	100	0	9,200	100	0
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	Information will be made available in January 2006			4,700	0	300	1,500	0	300	1,200	0	200
Information	3,500	100	200	2,000	0	0	1,800	0	100	1,400	0	100
Financial Activities	8,800	0	0	8,400	100	300	4,900	0	100	2,900	0	300
Professional and Business	11,600	0	-600	13,500	-100	400	8,100	0	100	3,800	0	0
Educational and Health	16,600	-100	200	16,000	-100	500	5,700	0	100	7,600	0	200
Leisure and Hospitality	9,100	200	900	10,400	100	400	6,300	0	800	5,200	0	200
Services	4,300	0	100	4,400	0	-100	1,600	0	0	1,900	0	0
Government Total	11,700	100	200	14,900	200	-100	10,000	-100	200	14,000	0	200

Note: Employment estimates for the Lawrence-Methuen-Salem MA-NH NECTA Division, NH Portion, will be available with January 2006 data.

## Average Earnings and Hours of Production Workers in Manufacturing

Sector	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Dec-05 preliminary	Nov-05 revised	Dec-04	Dec-05 preliminary	Nov-05 revised	Dec-04	Dec-05 preliminary	Nov-05 revised	Dec-04
<b>New Hampshire</b>									
All Manufacturing	\$682.50	\$679.47	\$626.26	42.0	42.6	40.3	\$16.25	\$15.95	\$15.54
Durable Goods	\$702.35	\$691.55	\$638.69	42.8	42.9	41.1	\$16.41	\$16.12	\$15.54
Non-durable Goods	\$625.67	\$642.72	\$593.63	39.7	39.7	38.2	\$15.76	\$15.45	\$15.54
<b>Manchester NH MetroNECTA</b>									
All Manufacturing	\$680.90	\$739.17	\$673.46	39.2	42.9	39.2	\$17.37	\$17.23	\$17.18
<b>Nashua NH-MA NECTA Division, NH Portion</b>									
All Manufacturing	\$783.06	\$777.98	\$690.77	44.9	45.1	43.2	\$17.44	\$17.25	\$15.99

Note: Production workers and information for Portsmouth and Rochester will be available with January 2006 data.

ties (supersector 40) led the way with a 2,700-job growth. In addition to shopping, the occasional snow shower in December benefited the leisure and hospitality (supersector 70) industries to the tune of 1,800 additional jobs. Manufacturers (supersector 30) contributed 500 jobs to the increase for month, while financial activities (supersector 55) brought 300 more workers on board. Educational and health services (supersector 65) added 200 jobs to its payroll. Wrapping up the plus side, professional and business (supersector 60) and government (supersector 90) each augmented their ranks with 100 jobs.

Information (supersector 50) made no change to its employment total from the level established in November.

December for construction (supersector 20) represented the "off season", as firms in these industries trimmed 600 jobs from their rolls. In a similar fashion, natural resources and mining (supersector 10) and other services (supersector 80) each pared back staffing by 100 positions.

*B. G. McKay*

Continued from page 3

cent nationally. However that growth rate may accelerate as the median age of New Hampshire's population of 37.1 years is almost two years older than that of the nation at 35.3 years.

#### Nursing and Residential Care Facilities

The demands leading to employment growth in this subsector can also be related to a growing and aging population. Within this subsector, Community care facilities for the elderly grew the most by 11.9 percent over the year, with an annualized growth rate of 11.3 percent over the last five years. Nursing care facilities, the largest employing industry group, declined slightly over-the-year, 1.3 percent, but showed an average annualized increase of 3.1 percent from 2000 to 2005. The distinction between the two industry groups is that Nursing care facilities concentrates in providing inpatient and rehabilitation nursing care, whereas

Community care facilities for the elderly provide residential care to the elderly and are not restricted to being admitted to an on-site facility.

#### Social Assistance

Social assistance is the only subsector within the Healthcare and social assistance sector that did not experience any substantial growth either over-the-year or over the five-year period. That might seem in contradiction to population growth. However, this probably is more indicative of declining government funding.

Industries included under Individual and family services are Child and youth services, Services for Elderly and persons with disabilities, and Other individual and family services.

*Annette Nielsen*

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