

# New Hampshire Economic Conditions



March 2009

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## How is this economic downturn affecting job gains and losses in New Hampshire industries?

*(This is the second of a three-part series discussing the economic situation in New Hampshire)*

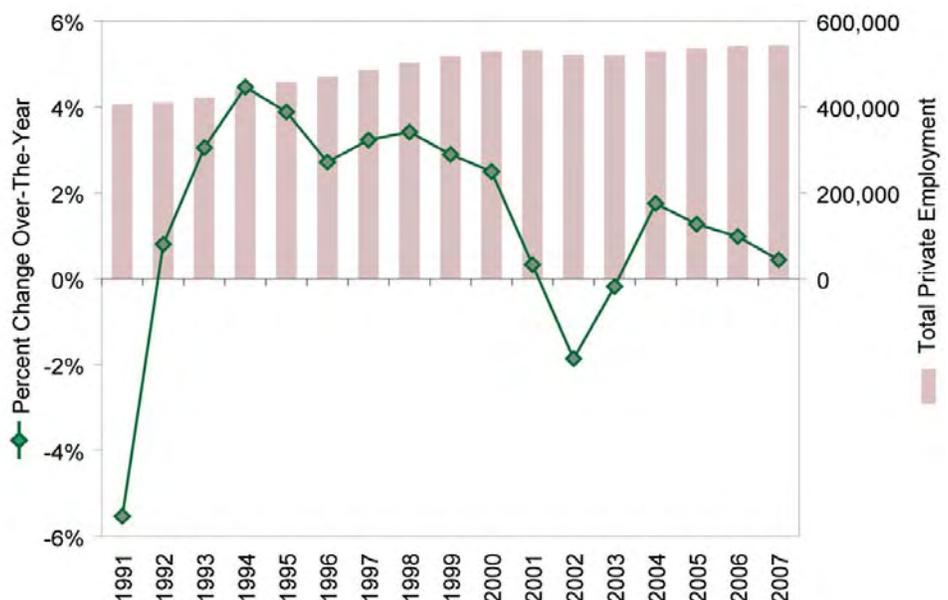
### Gross Change vs. Net Change

The average annual rate of employment growth in New Hampshire has tapered off significantly compared to the solid increases following the recession in the 1990s. Total private employment shrank over-the-year following the 2001 recession, and continued to slide through 2003. Average annual employment showed a net gain of over 9,000 jobs in 2004, but was still shy of the pre-recession average of 531,225 workers. Average annual employment growth continued to increase through 2007, but at a much slower rate.

Availability of micro level employment detail provides a closer view of the total (gross) number of job gains and job losses. These are part of a data series called Business Employment Dynamics. On a national level, these data are accumulated and seasonally adjusted, and New Hampshire provides quarterly analysis with this information.<sup>1</sup> While the seasonally adjusted information includes data on business expansions and contractions, as well as openings and closings, it lacks industry specific information.

This second installment of the series about the New Hampshire economy examines in more detail quarterly employment change in New Hampshire. Graphing the data on a quarterly basis provides a picture of

Private Employment Trend

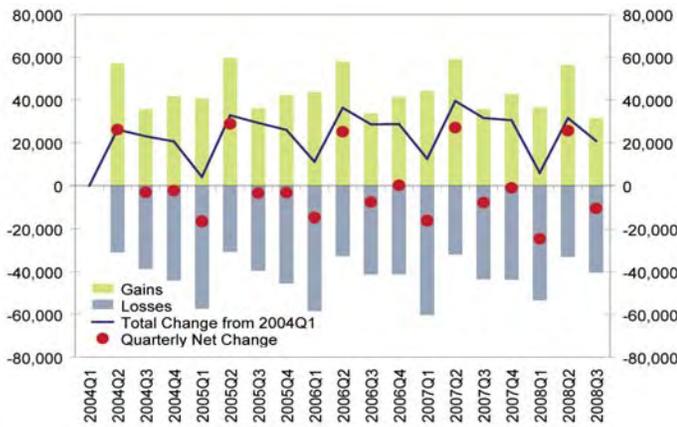


<sup>1</sup> New Hampshire Employment Security, Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau, Business Employment Dynamics. [www.nh.gov/nhes/elmi/nhbed.htm](http://www.nh.gov/nhes/elmi/nhbed.htm).

the number of job gains and job losses by industry. It is important to keep in mind that data by individual industry are not seasonally adjusted.

Employment in New Hampshire follows a distinct seasonal pattern, typically increasing in the spring and summer and receding in the fall. The quarterly net change of private employment from first quarter to second quarter usually shows an increase. From 2004 through 2007 the pattern of employment change from one quarter to the next was fairly regular. For quarters in 2008, job losses were larger than the corresponding quarter the previous year and job gains were smaller.

Private Employment



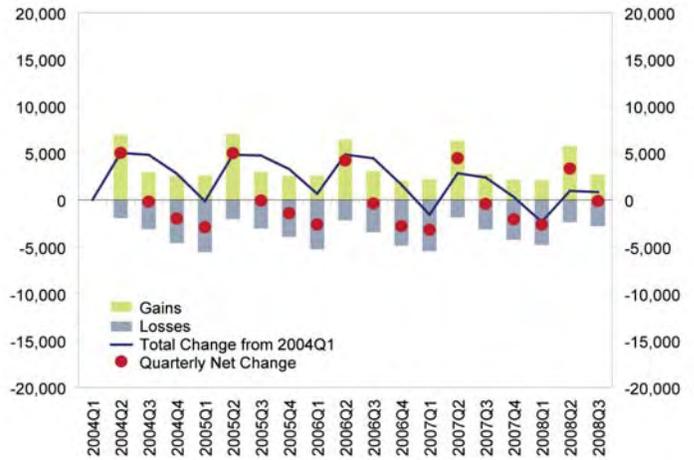
For this analysis, total change is measured from 2004, since that was the first year of positive employment growth in the state after the 2001 recession. The total change from 2004 indicates that peak employment periods (generally in the second quarter each year) continued to grow during 2005, 2006 and 2007. In 2008, while peak employment was still in the second quarter, that peak was at a lower employment level.

It is interesting to examine total private employment by industry to determine which industries are driving the quarterly job number change. Additionally, gross job gains and gross job losses add dimension to what would otherwise be considered stagnant employment change.

### Construction

Part of New Hampshire’s character is defined by cold winters and snow. Those same elements play an important role in the timing of seasonal hiring in the *Construction* sector. That is why job gains usually outnumber job losses during the second quarter in this industry. The overall employment level in *Construction* didn’t show any significant change until job gains started to slow in fourth quarter 2006, while job losses continued to follow similar seasonal levels as prior years.

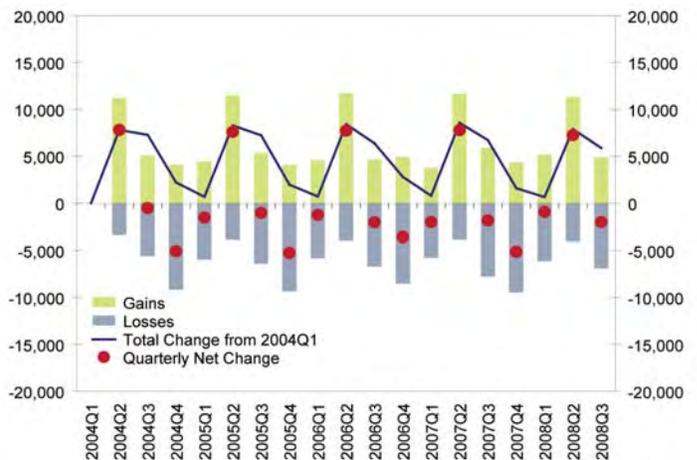
Construction



### Accommodation and Food Services

Another industry that relies on New Hampshire’s seasonal character is the *Accommodation and food services* sector. Similar to job patterns in the *Construction* sector, seasonal hiring usually peaks in the second quarter of each year as summer resorts open for the season. The *Accommodation and food services* sector is different from *Construction* in that

Accommodation and Food Services

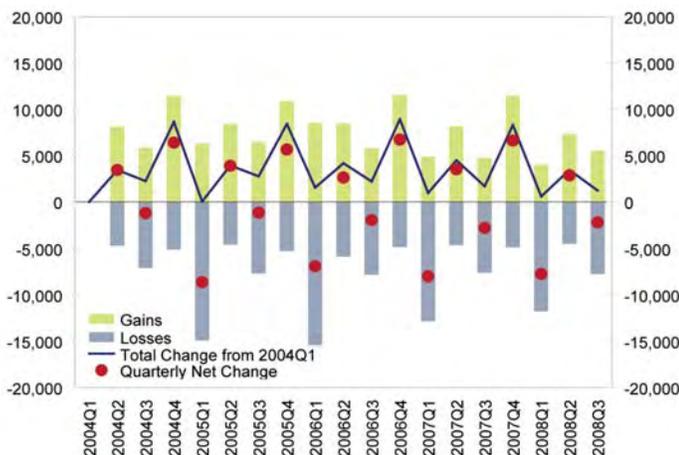


job losses in fourth quarter are usually the largest for this sector. This is related to a hiring slow down between the summer vacation season and the winter recreation season.

### Retail Trade

Retail trade employment is very important to New Hampshire, making up 17 percent of the state's private employment in the third quarter of 2008. Seasonal peaks for job gains in the industry revolve around the summer tourist season, during second quarter, and the end-of-year holidays, during fourth quarter. Typically job losses are largest in the first quarter each year as employers who had added temporary holiday staff then release those workers.

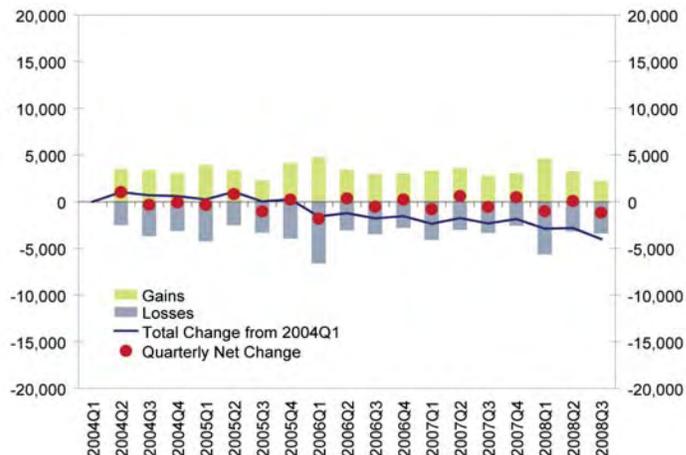
### Retail Trade



### Manufacturing

Manufacturing had historically been the largest employing industry in New Hampshire. That changed in 2002 when employment gains in Retail trade outpaced those of Manufacturing. Between 2006 and 2007, employment in Health care and social services also edged past that of Manufacturing. At present Manufacturing has the third largest employment level among all industries in the state. New Hampshire experienced modest growth in Manufacturing during 2004 and 2005, the first years of post-2001-recession growth. Beginning in the first quarter of 2006, although there were still some job gains, the job losses from companies started to outweigh the gains. This resulted in a downward trend through the third quarter 2008.

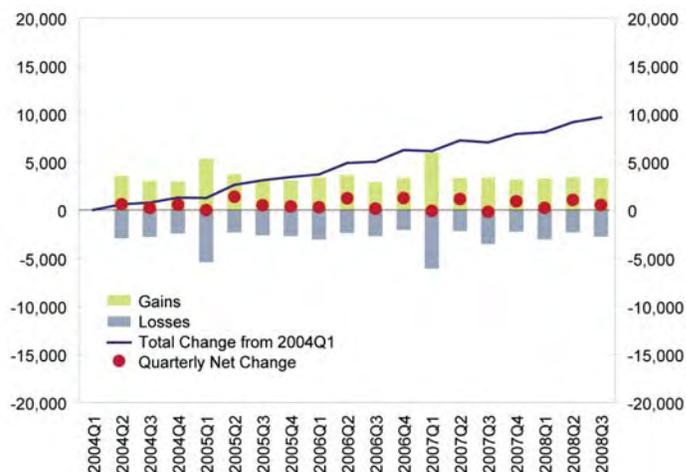
### Manufacturing



### Health Care and Social Assistance

Since 2004, employment change within the Health care and social assistance sector has been very balanced, with about the same number of job gains and losses each quarter. If anything, quarterly job gains for 2004 to 2007 had been growing as total employment in the industry has shown steady growth since first quarter 2004. However, net changes from quarter to quarter in 2008 indicate smaller job gains.

### Health Care and Social Assistance

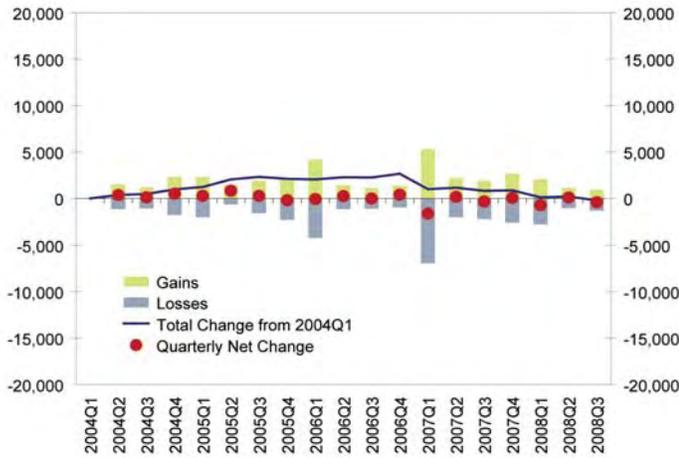


### Finance and Insurance

New Hampshire's average annual employment in the Finance and insurance industry sector is over 28,000 workers. This is slightly more than the Construction sector, but for the most part, Finance and insurance doesn't experience the seasonal swings.

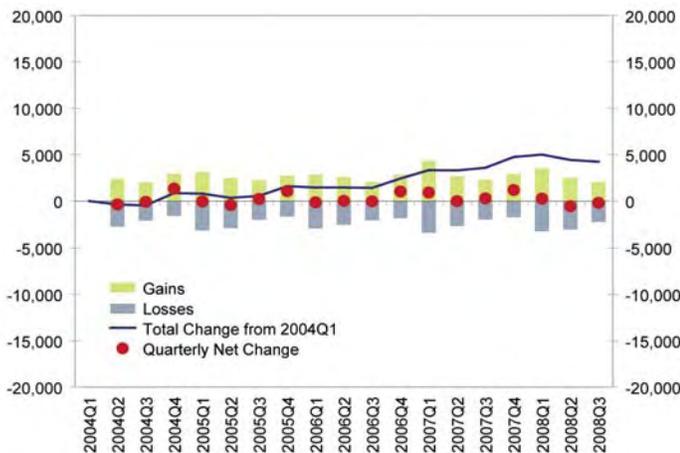
The jobs gained outpaced the jobs lost through fourth quarter 2006, before receding. By third quarter 2008, the cumulative net change was virtually zero and total *Finance and insurance* employment was about where it stood in first quarter 2004.

### Finance and Insurance



**Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services**  
Gross job gains and job losses among the companies in this industry were fairly even coming out of the 2001 recession, showing little to no net employment growth through the end of 2004. From first quarter 2005 forward, gross job gains in this industry started to grow, while job losses stayed level. Although not the largest employing industry in the state, growth in this industry is significant in that workers in *Professional, scientific and technical services* are generally well compensated, with the fifth highest average weekly wage among the industry sectors. As of third quarter 2008, the average weekly wage was \$1,328.

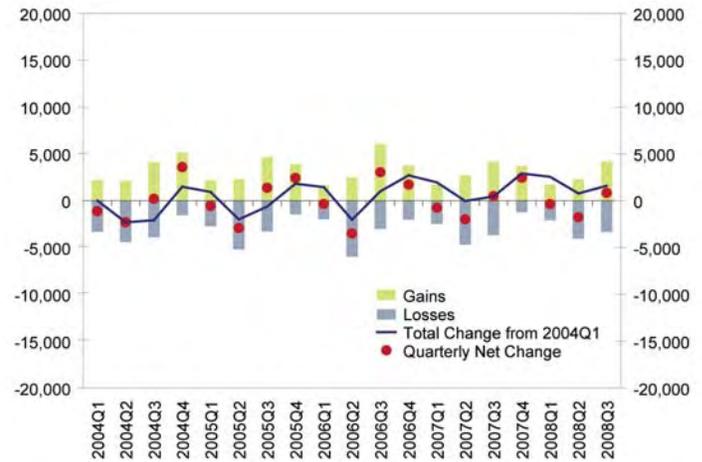
### Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services



### Local Government

Quarterly job changes in *Local government* are primarily driven by the academic calendar. Other employment changes come from *Public administration*, including the municipal offices, court systems, police and fire services. Through fourth quarter 2005 job losses outpaced job gains in *Local government* entities. From 2005 forward there were gradual increases in the job gains as compared to job losses.

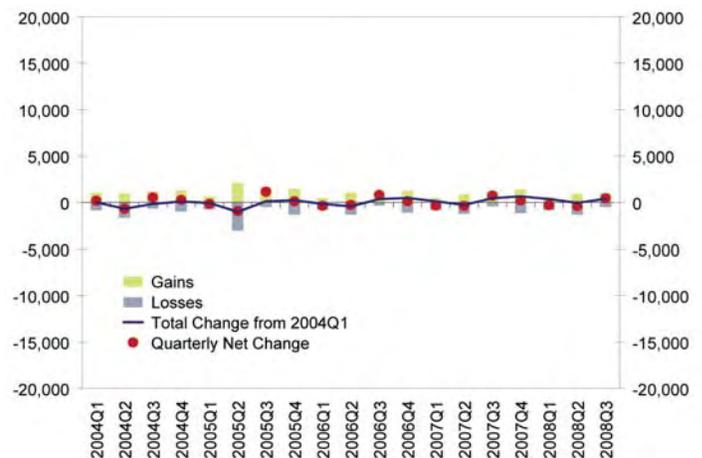
### Local Government



### State Government

*State government* has far less fluidity in job changes than private business. Similar to *Local government*, the primary catalyst for quarterly job gains and job losses is from *Educational services*, which includes the state university and community college systems. There is a balance between quarterly job gains and job losses in *State government* employment, resulting in a nearly flat trend line for net change.

### State Government



There are still job gains at the micro level in every industry, but there is evidence that those gains are shrinking while job losses are on the rise, an apparent result of the national economic downturn. Even while considering seasonal shifts in employment, examining job gains versus job losses helps identify both when and how severely the current economic downturn has affected industry employment in New Hampshire.

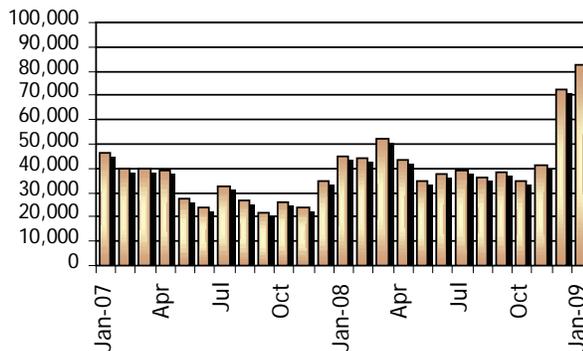
*(Next month the series will conclude with a review of the occupational groups and the effects of the economic downturn.)*

Anita Josten

**Unemployment Compensation Claims Activity**

**Claims Activity**

Total Regular Unemployment Compensation Programs:				Change from Previous			
				Month		Year	
	Jan-09	Dec-08	Jan-08	Net	Percent	Net	Percent
Initial Claims	11,534	13,189	6,680	-1,655	-12.5%	4,854	72.7%
Continued Weeks	82,696	72,661	44,650	10,035	13.8%	38,046	85.2%



**Continued Weeks Claimed**

January 07 to January 09

**Unemployment Compensation Fund**

**Trust Fund**

Unemployment compensation fund balance at the end of January	\$158,399,510.43
Average payment for a week of total unemployment:	\$273.00
Net benefits paid:	\$18,397,416.57
Net contributions received during the month:	\$1,502,336.27
Interest Received:	\$0.00
Reed Act Distribution:	\$0.00
Reed Act Withdrawn for Administrative Costs:	\$0.00

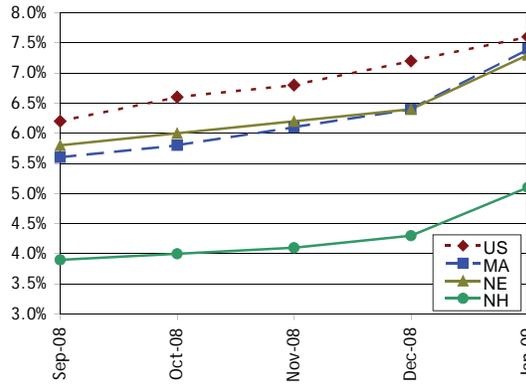
			Change from Previous	
Jan-09	Dec-08	Jan-08	Month	Year
211.143	210.228	211.080	0.4%	0.0%

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

**Consumer Price Index**

# Seasonally Adjusted Estimates

## Unemployment Rates by Region



Seasonally Adjusted	Jan-09	Dec-08	Jan-08
United States	7.6%	7.2%	4.9%
Northeast	7.1%	6.4%	4.7%
New England	7.3%	6.4%	4.7%
Connecticut	7.3%	6.6%	5.0%
Maine	7.8%	6.5%	4.8%
Massachusetts	7.4%	6.4%	4.6%
New Hampshire	5.1%	4.3%	3.5%
Rhode Island	10.3%	9.4%	6.3%
Vermont	6.8%	5.9%	4.3%
Mid Atlantic	7.1%	6.4%	4.8%
New Jersey	7.3%	6.8%	4.6%
New York	7.0%	6.6%	4.7%
Pennsylvania	7.0%	6.4%	4.6%

### Sep-08 Oct-08 Nov-08 Dec-08 Jan-09

### Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) By Place of Residence

New Hampshire					
Unemployment Rate	3.9%	4.0%	4.1%	4.3%	5.1%
Civilian Labor Force	738,460	738,170	738,460	738,870	739,760
Number Employed	709,670	709,010	708,250	707,430	701,700
Number Unemployed	28,790	29,160	30,210	31,440	38,060
United States (in thousands)					
Unemployment Rate	6.2%	6.6%	6.8%	7.2%	7.6%
Civilian Labor Force	154,621	154,878	154,620	154,447	153,716
Number Employed	145,029	144,657	144,144	143,338	142,099
Number Unemployed	9,592	10,221	10,476	11,108	11,616

### Current Employment Statistics (CES) By Place of Establishment

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.

### Sep-08 Oct-08 Nov-08 Dec-08 Jan-09

Total Nonfarm	645,600	644,800	643,100	638,800	642,900
Construction	25,700	25,300	24,100	23,100	23,100
Manufacturing	75,700	74,300	73,100	72,300	71,900
Durable Goods	57,700	56,500	55,400	55,400	55,500
Non-Durable Goods	18,000	17,800	17,700	16,900	16,400
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	139,700	139,400	139,400	139,000	142,500
Wholesale Trade	27,900	27,500	27,600	27,600	27,900
Retail Trade	96,800	96,900	96,900	96,400	100,100
Transportation and Utilities	15,000	15,000	14,900	15,000	14,500
Information	12,600	12,600	12,000	11,900	12,100
Financial Activities	37,700	37,600	37,600	37,700	38,300
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	7,600	7,600	7,400	7,400	7,500
Professional and Business Services	66,500	65,900	68,000	65,900	66,400
Administrative and Support	27,300	27,200	28,800	27,400	28,800
Education and Health Services	105,700	107,000	107,500	107,200	106,200
Educational Services	22,900	24,100	24,000	23,900	23,100
Health Care and Social Assistance	82,800	82,900	83,500	83,300	83,100
Leisure and Hospitality	63,100	64,000	62,300	62,500	63,500
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	10,800	10,400	9,000	9,400	9,500
Accommodation and Food Services	52,300	53,600	53,300	53,100	54,000
Other Services	22,100	22,300	22,200	21,800	21,700
Government	95,700	95,300	95,900	96,500	96,400
Federal Government	7,700	7,600	7,600	7,900	7,900
State Government	25,600	25,400	25,700	26,400	26,100
Local Government	62,400	62,300	62,600	62,200	62,400
Manchester NH MetroNECTA	101,400	101,300	101,200	100,900	100,800
Nashua NH-MA NECTA Division	130,900	131,300	131,700	131,600	132,000
Portsmouth NH-ME MetroNECTA	54,600	55,100	55,300	55,000	55,000
Rochester-Dover NH-ME MetroNECTA	58,200	57,700	57,800	57,500	58,800

Current month is Preliminary  
Past months are Revised

# Not Seasonally Adjusted Estimates

## Labor Force Estimates

New Hampshire	Jan-09	Dec-08	Jan-08
Total Civilian Labor Force	736,930	731,860	737,680
Employed	694,990	700,520	708,500
Unemployed	41,940	31,340	29,180
Unemployment Rate	5.7%	4.3%	4.0%

United States (# in thousands)	Jan-09	Dec-08	Jan-08
Total Civilian Labor Force	153,445	154,349	152,828
Employed	140,436	143,350	144,607
Unemployed	13,009	10,999	8,221
Unemployment Rate	8.5%	7.1%	5.4%

## Unemployment Rates by Area

Counties	Jan-09	Dec-08	Jan-08
Belknap	6.8%	4.8%	4.7%
Carroll	5.6%	4.2%	3.8%
Cheshire	5.2%	3.9%	3.9%
Coos	7.3%	6.0%	5.0%
Grafton	4.7%	3.3%	3.4%
Hillsborough	5.6%	4.2%	3.9%
Merrimack	5.3%	3.9%	3.9%
Rockingham	6.1%	4.8%	4.3%
Strafford	5.6%	4.1%	3.7%
Sullivan	5.2%	3.5%	3.4%

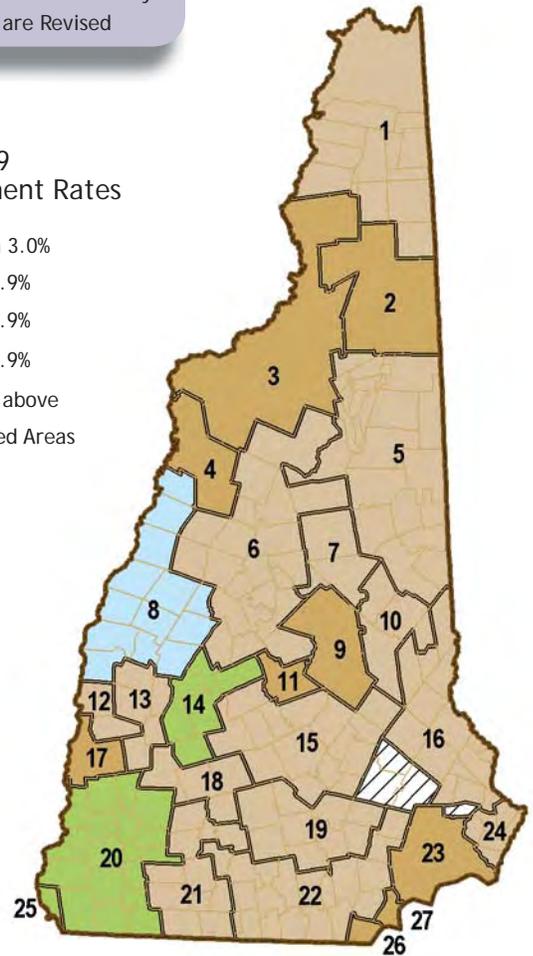
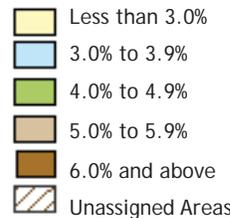
Map	Jan-09	Dec-08	Jan-08
<b>Key Labor Market Areas</b>			
1 Colebrook NH-VT LMA, NH Portion	5.9%	5.9%	5.5%
2 Berlin NH MicroNECTA	7.7%	5.8%	5.1%
3 Littleton NH-VT LMA, NH Portion	6.3%	5.2%	3.8%
4 Haverhill NH LMA	7.3%	4.7%	5.9%
5 Conway NH-ME LMA, NH Portion	5.3%	4.2%	3.6%
6 Plymouth NH LMA	5.8%	3.9%	3.9%
7 Moultonborough NH LMA	5.4%	3.5%	3.7%
8 Lebanon NH-VT MicroNECTA, NH Portion	3.4%	2.3%	2.8%
9 Laconia NH MicroNECTA	6.8%	5.0%	4.8%
10 Wolfeboro NH LMA	5.8%	3.9%	3.8%
11 Franklin NH MicroNECTA	7.6%	5.5%	5.0%
12 Claremont NH MicroNECTA	5.7%	3.5%	3.4%
13 Newport NH LMA	5.1%	3.5%	3.3%
14 New London NH LMA	4.1%	2.6%	3.3%
15 Concord NH MicroNECTA	5.3%	3.9%	4.0%
16 Rochester-Dover NH-ME MetroNECTA, NH Portion	5.7%	4.1%	3.7%
17 Charlestown NH LMA	6.7%	4.9%	4.3%
18 Hillsborough NH LMA	5.9%	4.4%	4.0%
19 Manchester NH MetroNECTA	5.5%	4.1%	3.8%
20 Keene NH MicroNECTA	4.9%	3.6%	3.6%
21 Peterborough NH LMA	5.9%	4.4%	4.2%
22 Nashua NH-MA NECTA Division, NH Portion	5.5%	4.2%	3.8%
23 Exeter Area, NH Portion, Haverhill-N. Andover-Amesbury MA-NH NECTA Division	7.3%	6.0%	4.9%
24 Portsmouth NH-ME MetroNECTA, NH Portion	5.1%	3.9%	3.4%
25 Hinsdale Town, NH Portion, Brattleboro VT-NH LMA	4.4%	5.4%	5.0%
26 Pelham Town, NH Portion, Lowell-Billerica-Chelmsford MA-NH NECTA Division	7.7%	6.3%	5.5%
27 Salem Town, NH Portion, Lawrence-Methuen-Salem MA-NH NECTA Division	7.1%	6.2%	5.4%

## Unemployment Rates by States

Not Seasonally Adjusted U.S and Regional States	Jan-09	Dec-08	Jan-08
United States	8.5%	7.1%	5.4%
Northeast	7.8%	6.6%	5.3%
New England	8.1%	6.5%	5.3%
Connecticut	7.9%	6.6%	5.4%
Maine	8.8%	6.9%	5.6%
Massachusetts	8.1%	6.5%	5.2%
New Hampshire	5.7%	4.3%	4.0%
Rhode Island	11.4%	9.6%	7.4%
Vermont	7.6%	5.9%	5.0%
Mid Atlantic	7.7%	6.7%	5.3%
New Jersey	7.9%	6.8%	5.2%
New York	7.6%	6.8%	5.3%
Pennsylvania	7.7%	6.4%	5.4%

Current month is Preliminary  
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January - 09  
Unemployment Rates



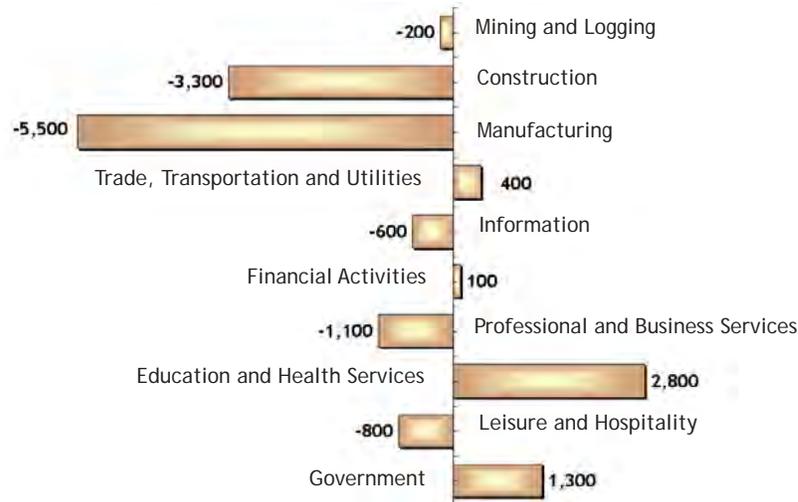
New Hampshire unemployment and labor force estimates are calculated using a regression model which depends on Current Population Survey (CPS) estimates. Labor Market Area estimates are calculated using the Bureau of Labor Statistics "Handbook Method" and then adjusted to the State levels.

Monthly Not Seasonally Adjusted New Hampshire Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment

Current Employment Statistics Employment by Supersector by place of establishment	Number of Jobs			Change from previous:	
	Jan-09 preliminary	Dec-08 revised	Jan-08	Month	Year
	Total All Supersectors	630,000	643,600	637,600	-13,600
Private Employment Total	535,000	543,900	543,900	-8,900	-8,900
Mining and Logging	800	900	1,000	-100	-200
Construction	20,900	23,200	24,200	-2,300	-3,300
Manufacturing	71,500	72,400	77,000	-900	-5,500
Durable Goods	55,200	55,400	58,600	-200	-3,400
Non-Durable Goods	16,300	17,000	18,400	-700	-2,100
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	141,300	144,100	140,900	-2,800	400
Wholesale Trade	27,600	27,600	28,000	0	-400
Retail Trade	99,400	101,300	97,900	-1,900	1,500
Transportation and Utilities	14,300	15,200	15,000	-900	-700
Information	12,100	12,000	12,700	100	-600
Financial Activities	38,100	37,800	38,000	300	100
Professional and Business	64,300	65,600	65,400	-1,300	-1,100
Education and Health	106,100	107,400	103,300	-1,300	2,800
Leisure and Hospitality	58,600	58,900	59,400	-300	-800
Other Services	21,300	21,600	22,000	-300	-700
Government Total	95,000	99,700	93,700	-4,700	1,300

Change in Nonfarm Employment

Jan. 08 - Jan. 09



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.nh.gov/nhes/elmi/nonfarm.htm](http://www.nh.gov/nhes/elmi/nonfarm.htm)>

**Seasonally Adjusted:** Over-the-month, from December 2008 to January 2009, preliminary seasonally adjusted employment gained 4,100 jobs. Employers posted a loss of 6,900 jobs from January 2008 to January 2009.

Retail trade accounted for the bulk of the over-the-month growth, adding 3,700 jobs over-the-month. Employment in leisure and hospitality (supersector 70) increased by 1,000 from December to January. Financial activities (supersector 55), professional and business services (supersector 60), and information (supersector

50) each added jobs over-the-month, up 600, 500, and 200, respectively. Construction (supersector 20) kept the same employment levels as it had in December.

Employment in education and health services (supersector 65), declined, over-the-month, down 1,000 jobs. Educational services (sector 610) accounted for over three-fourths of this loss. During the same time period, manufacturing (supersector 30) posted a decrease of 400 jobs. Within manufacturing, non-durable goods lost 500 jobs from December to January. Employers in other services

## 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			Portsmouth NH-ME MetroNECTA			Rochester-Dover NH-ME MetroNECTA		
	preliminary Jan-09	Change from previous:		preliminary Jan-09	Change from previous:		preliminary Jan-09	Change from previous:		preliminary Jan-09	Change from previous:	
		Month	Year		Month	Year		Month	Year		Month	Year
Total All Sectors	100,100	-2,000	-500	130,700	-2,800	-1,400	53,600	-1,200	400	57,300	-1,700	500
Private Employment Total	88,600	-1,600	-100	115,700	-2,200	-1,200	44,000	-1,100	100	44,600	-600	-200
Mining and Logging and Construction	4,300	-300	-200	4,200	-400	-500	1,400	-100	-100	1,600	-100	-100
Manufacturing	8,700	-100	-500	23,900	-300	-1,100	3,900	0	0	6,800	-100	-100
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	19,900	-800	-300	31,100	-800	400	10,900	-300	-100	11,200	-300	-200
Wholesale Trade	4,500	0	-300	5,900	0	-100	2,000	0	0	1,200	0	-100
Retail Trade	12,400	-400	-200	21,400	-500	600	8,000	-200	100	9,000	-300	-100
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	Data not available			3,800	-300	-100	900	-100	-200	1,000	0	0
Information	3,100	100	0	2,400	0	100	1,800	0	-100	1,100	0	-100
Financial Activities	8,100	0	0	8,500	-100	-300	4,100	0	-200	4,300	0	200
Professional and Business	14,100	-100	300	14,000	-100	-200	9,000	-100	0	4,600	0	-200
Education and Health	18,100	0	700	17,100	-100	200	5,600	0	200	8,100	0	200
Leisure and Hospitality	8,200	-200	100	10,100	-300	200	5,800	-600	400	5,100	-100	100
Other Services	4,100	-200	-200	4,400	-100	0	1,500	0	0	1,800	0	0
Government Total	11,500	-400	-400	15,000	-600	-200	9,600	-100	300	12,700	-1,100	700

## Average Earnings and Hours of Production Workers in Manufacturing

Sector	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Jan-09 preliminary	Dec-08 revised	Jan-08	Jan-09 preliminary	Dec-08 revised	Jan-08	Jan-09 preliminary	Dec-08 revised	Jan-08
<b>New Hampshire</b>									
All Manufacturing	\$641.93	\$647.77	\$687.46	37.3	37.4	39.6	\$17.21	\$17.32	\$17.36
Durable Goods	\$646.58	\$657.78	\$719.96	36.8	37.1	41.0	\$17.57	\$17.73	\$17.56
Nondurable Goods	\$629.40	\$618.16	\$586.78	38.9	38.3	35.2	\$16.18	\$16.14	\$16.67

(supersector 80) and government (supersector 90) each reduced its workforce by 100 jobs over-the-month.

### Seasonally Unadjusted:

Not seasonally adjusted employment decreased by 13,600 jobs over-the-month. From January 2008 to January 2009 employment fell by 7,600 jobs.

Government (supersector 90), from December to January, lost 4,700 jobs. Most of this loss can be attributed to state government, which saw a loss of 4,100 jobs, mostly in the state public education sector including the University

System. Trade, transportation, and utilities (supersector 40) posted an over-the-month drop of 2,800 jobs. Retail trade claimed just over two-thirds of this reduction, down 1,900 jobs. Employment in construction (supersector 20) contracted from December to January, down 2,300 jobs. Employers in specialty trade contractors (subsector 238) experienced a loss of 1,700 jobs over-the-month.

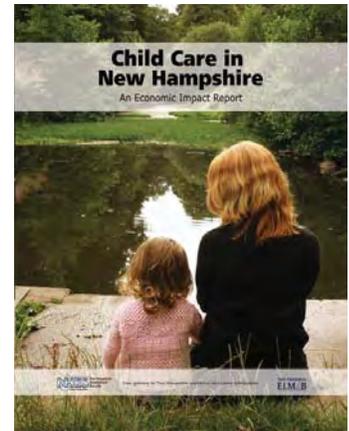
*Gail Clay*

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*Child Care in New Hampshire* is available on our web page, as are all other publications and additional information produced by the Bureau. The web address is: [www.nh.gov/nhes/elmi/](http://www.nh.gov/nhes/elmi/)



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