

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

in New Hampshire



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Newest Occupational Employment and Wages Released

New Hampshire mean hourly wage above national average

New Hampshire workers earned, on average, \$18.30 an hour in May 2005, according to the latest Occupational Employment Statistics estimates. This mean hourly wage was slightly higher than the national average. In New England, Massachusetts led the states with the highest mean hourly wage, followed closely by Connecticut. Rhode Island followed in third place while New Hampshire landed in fourth. Vermont and Maine had

the lowest wages in the region and were the only two New England states to have mean hourly wages lower than the national average.

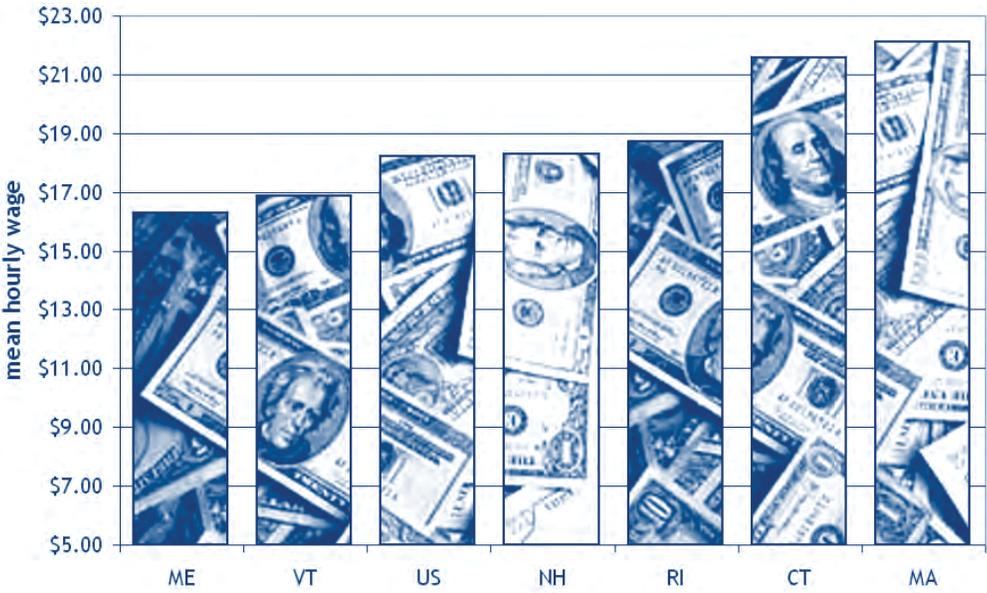
Geographically speaking, mean hourly wages for all occupations ranged from a low of \$14.38 in the Northern NH Area to a high of \$20.77 in the Portsmouth Area. Four of the sixteen substate wage areas had mean hourly wages higher than the statewide average.

New Hampshire's mean hourly wage of \$18.30 for all occupations was slightly higher than the national average and fourth highest in New England in May 2005

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Highest and Lowest Paid Jobs

Healthcare Practitioners and Technical occupations claimed the top ten highest paying jobs in New Hampshire. Most of these jobs require a First-professional degree (medical degree). Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons topped the

SOC Code	Occupation	Estimated Employment	Mean (Average) Wage
29-1022	Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons	NP	\$94.04
29-1067	Surgeons	100	\$93.04
29-1061	Anesthesiologists	NP	\$89.73
29-1064	Obstetricians and Gynecologists	170	\$89.40
29-1063	Internists, General	110	\$87.81
29-1021	Dentists, General	350	\$75.56
29-1069	Physicians and Surgeons, All Other	1,560	\$74.49
29-1062	Family and General Practitioners	400	\$70.63
29-1066	Psychiatrists	80	\$69.72
29-1065	Pediatricians, General	NP	\$64.40

NP= Not Publishable

list of highest paying jobs in May 2005 with a mean hourly wage of \$94.04. Surgeons followed, making an average of one dollar less an hour than their counterparts in the dental field.

SOC Code	Occupation	Estimated Employment	Mean (Average) Wage
39-3031	Ushers, Lobby Attendants, and Ticket Takers	460	\$7.39
35-9011	Dining Room and Cafeteria Attendants and Bartender Helpers	1,580	\$7.71
35-3031	Waiters and Waitresses	11,500	\$7.92
35-9021	Dishwashers	3,280	\$8.11
35-3021	Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food	10,930	\$8.23
37-2019	Building Cleaning Workers, All Other	NP	\$8.46
35-3022	Counter Attendants, Cafeteria, Food Concession, and Coffee Shop	2,900	\$8.57
53-3099	Motor Vehicle Operators, All Other	470	\$8.64
41-2011	Cashiers	20,740	\$8.66
45-2092	Farmworkers and Laborers, Crop, Nursery, and Greenhouse	310	\$8.76

NP= Not Publishable

At the other end of the pay scale, Ushers/Lobby Attendants/Ticket Takers came in with the lowest mean hourly wage, \$7.39. Five of the ten lowest paid jobs in the state are Food Preparation

and Serving related. Jobs like Waiters and Waitresses (\$7.92) and Dishwashers (\$8.11) typically don't require much prior work experience so many young people choose these types of occupations as their first job. Cashiers were also in the ten lowest paid jobs with a mean hourly wage of \$8.66.

Occupational Groups

The Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey classifies workers into more than 600 specific detailed occupations such as accountants, cashiers, computer programmers, and carpenters. These detailed occupations are grouped into 22 major occupational groups based on job similarity.

Among the occupational groups, Management occupations had the highest mean hourly wage in New Hampshire in May 2005, \$41.57. This was about one dollar lower than the national average for this occupational group and ranked New Hampshire fourth highest in New England. Jobs in this group generally require more education and experience and are made up of managers of various types and levels, including chief executives whose salaries help to boost the mean wage.

Food Preparation and Serving Related occupations had the lowest mean wage with \$9.32 an hour. Although this was higher than the national average for this occupational group, every state in the region, except Maine, had higher mean hourly wages. Many occupations in this group have lower skill and experience requirements than most jobs, which helps to explain the lower pay scale. This occupational group also includes jobs that are traditionally tipped, such as waiters and waitresses, and bartenders. Employers are asked to include these tips in the wages that they report on the OES Survey form.

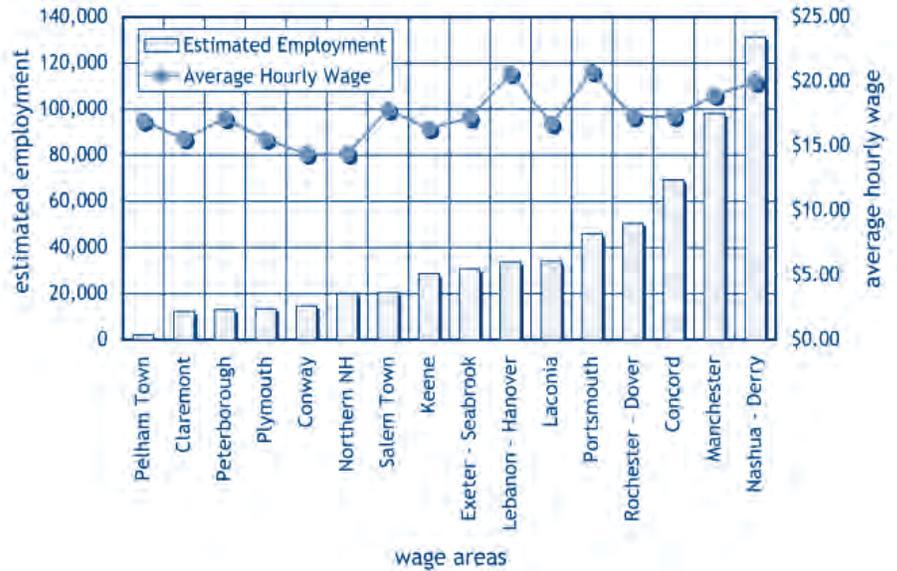
Occupational Employment and Wages by Area

Jobs in two of the sixteen wage areas in the state paid, on average, more than \$20 an hour in May 2005 – the Portsmouth Area (\$20.77) and the Lebanon-Hanover Area (\$20.64). Employees in jobs with the lowest average hourly wages in May 2005 worked in the northernmost part of the state, specifically the Conway Area (\$14.39) and the Northern NH Area (\$14.38).

When it came to estimated employment, the Nashua-Derry Area, which includes 19 cities and towns, topped the list of wage areas in New Hampshire with 131,350 jobs. The mean hourly

Continued on page 8

Estimated Employment vs Average Hourly Wage by Wage Area in New Hampshire - May 2005

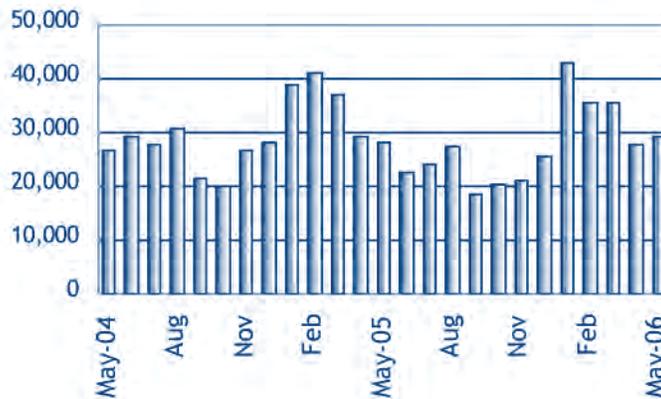


Unemployment Compensation Claims Activity

Total Regular Unemployment Compensation Programs:	Change from Previous					
	May-06		Apr-06		May-05	
	Net	Percent	Net	Percent	Net	Percent
Initial Claims	3,570	-6.9%	3,836	482	15.6%	3,088
Continued Weeks	29,238	5.8%	27,642	1,078	3.8%	28,160

Unemployment Compensation Fund

Unemployment compensation fund balance at the end of May	\$271,469,651.97
Average payment for a week of total unemployment:	\$254.27
Net benefits paid:	\$5,748,258.19
Net contributions received during the month:	\$26,846,761.71
Interest Received:	\$0.00
Reed Act Distribution:	\$0.00
Reed Act Withdrawal for Administrative Costs:	\$47,319.23



Claims Activity

Trust Fund

Continued Weeks Claimed

May 2004 - May 2006

Continued weeks claimed rose by almost 1,600 over-the-month, the largest April to May increase since 1998.

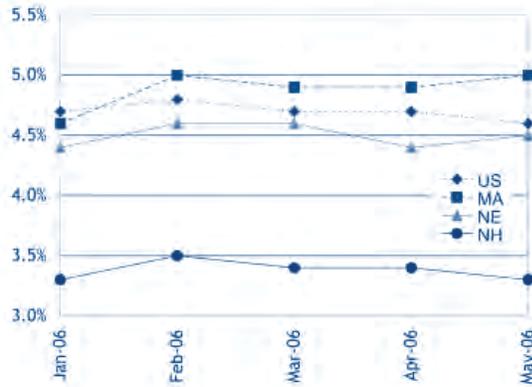
			Change from Previous	
May-06	Apr-06	May-05	Month	Year
202.5	201.5	194.4	0.5%	4.2%

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

Consumer Price Index

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

New Hampshire's rate of 3.3 percent was the state's lowest May rate since 2001.



Unemployment Rates by Region

	May-06	Apr-06	May-05
United States	4.6%	4.7%	5.1%
Northeast	4.7%	4.8%	4.8%
New England	4.5%	4.4%	4.7%
Connecticut	4.0%	3.9%	5.0%
Maine	4.4%	4.2%	4.9%
Massachusetts	5.0%	4.9%	4.8%
New Hampshire	3.3%	3.4%	3.6%
Rhode Island	5.5%	5.4%	5.0%
Vermont	3.0%	3.3%	3.2%
Mid Atlantic	4.8%	4.9%	4.9%
New Jersey	5.0%	5.1%	4.2%
New York	4.6%	4.9%	5.1%
Pennsylvania	4.8%	4.7%	5.0%

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Estimates

By Place of Residence

	Jan-06	Feb-06	Mar-06	Apr-06	May-06
New Hampshire					
Unemployment Rate	3.3%	3.5%	3.4%	3.4%	3.3%
Civilian Labor Force	736,154	735,865	737,350	735,336	735,006
Number Employed	711,511	710,462	712,404	710,658	710,705
Number Unemployed	24,643	25,403	24,946	24,678	24,301
United States (in thousands)					
Unemployment Rate	4.7%	4.8%	4.7%	4.7%	4.6%
Civilian Labor Force	150,114	150,449	150,652	150,811	150,991
Number Employed	143,074	143,257	143,641	143,688	143,976
Number Unemployed	7,040	7,193	7,011	7,123	7,015

Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment Estimates

By Place of Establishment

Supersector	Jan-06	Feb-06	Mar-06	Apr-06	May-06
Total Nonfarm	639,400	640,500	641,300	641,600	643,100
Construction	30,000	30,400	30,500	30,800	31,100
Manufacturing	78,100	77,600	77,400	77,000	77,000
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	141,800	141,500	141,800	141,800	142,300
Information	13,000	13,000	12,900	13,000	12,900
Financial Activities	40,200	40,500	40,600	40,800	41,000
Professional and Business Services	60,300	60,500	60,800	61,100	61,000
Educational and Health Services	100,300	100,600	100,600	101,000	101,000
Leisure and Hospitality	65,000	64,700	64,700	64,200	64,700
Other Services	21,100	21,000	21,200	21,100	21,000
Government	88,600	89,700	89,800	89,700	90,000

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	May-06	Apr-06	May-05
Number of workers			
Total Civilian Labor Force	731,050	729,450	728,480
Employed	707,870	704,870	702,800
Unemployed	23,180	24,580	25,680
Unemployment Rate (percent of labor force)	3.2%	3.4%	3.5%

Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

Not Seasonally
Adjusted

By Place of Residence

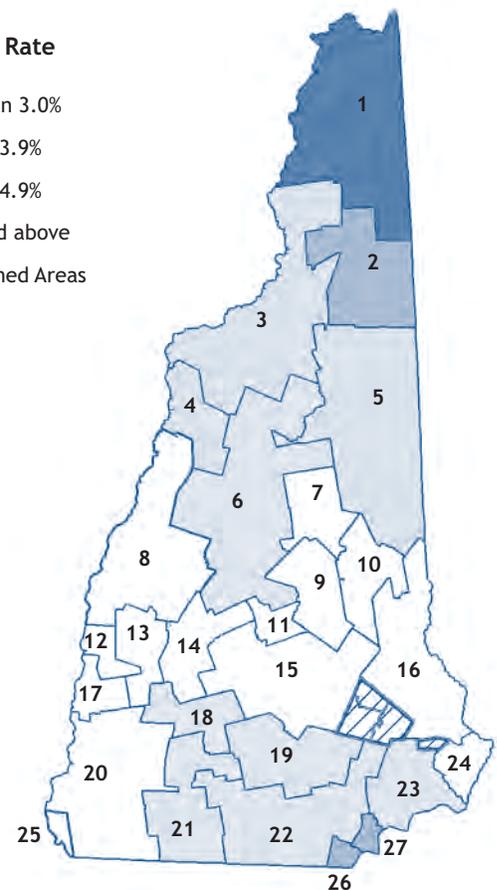
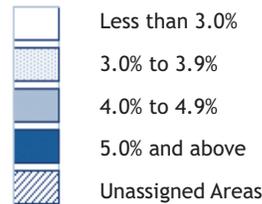
Unemployment Rates by Area

	May-06	Apr-06	May-05
U.S and Regional States			
United States	4.4%	4.5%	4.9%
Northeast	4.5%	4.6%	4.6%
New England	4.3%	4.4%	4.5%
Connecticut	3.9%	3.8%	5.0%
Maine	4.2%	4.6%	4.7%
Massachusetts	4.7%	4.7%	4.6%
New Hampshire	3.2%	3.4%	3.5%
Rhode Island	5.2%	5.3%	4.4%
Vermont	2.8%	3.9%	3.1%
Mid Atlantic	4.6%	4.7%	4.6%
New Jersey	4.8%	4.9%	4.1%
New York	4.4%	4.7%	4.8%
Pennsylvania	4.7%	4.4%	4.9%

Map		May-06	Apr-06	May-05
Key Labor Market Areas				
1	Colebrook NH-VT LMA, NH Portion	5.4%	6.7%	7.8%
2	Berlin NH MicroNECTA	4.2%	4.2%	4.1%
3	Littleton NH-VT LMA, NH Portion	3.2%	4.0%	3.3%
4	Haverhill NH LMA	3.4%	4.2%	3.0%
5	Conway NH-ME LMA, NH Portion	3.5%	4.0%	3.8%
6	Plymouth NH LMA	3.0%	3.1%	3.2%
7	Moultonborough NH LMA	2.1%	2.6%	2.8%
8	Lebanon NH-VT MicroNECTA, NH Portion	2.1%	2.5%	2.3%
9	Laconia NH MicroNECTA	2.8%	3.1%	3.1%
10	Wolfeboro NH LMA	2.7%	3.0%	2.9%
11	Franklin NH MicroNECTA	2.9%	3.5%	3.4%
12	Claremont NH MicroNECTA	2.9%	3.2%	2.9%
13	Newport NH LMA	2.9%	3.1%	2.8%
14	New London NH LMA	2.4%	2.5%	2.8%
15	Concord NH MicroNECTA	2.8%	3.1%	3.0%
16	Rochester-Dover NH-ME MetroNECTA, NH Portion	2.8%	3.0%	3.3%
17	Charlestown NH LMA	2.7%	3.2%	3.0%
18	Hillsborough NH LMA	3.4%	3.7%	3.1%
19	Manchester NH MetroNECTA	3.2%	3.4%	3.4%
20	Keene NH MicroNECTA	2.8%	2.9%	2.9%
21	Peterborough NH LMA	3.3%	3.5%	3.4%
22	Nashua NH-MA NECTA Division, NH Portion	3.4%	3.6%	3.8%
23	Exeter Area, NH Portion, Haverhill-N. Andover-Amesbury MA-NH NECTA Division	3.9%	3.9%	4.4%
24	Portsmouth NH-ME MetroNECTA, NH Portion	2.8%	3.0%	3.4%
25	Hinsdale Town, NH Portion, Brattleboro VT-NH LMA	1.9%	2.2%	3.3%
26	Pelham Town, NH Portion, Lowell-Billerica-Chelmsford MA-NH NECTA Division	4.4%	4.1%	5.6%
27	Salem Town, NH Portion, Lawrence-Methuen-Salem MA-NH NECTA Division	4.6%	4.6%	5.2%

Counties	May-06	Apr-06	May-05
Belknap	2.8%	3.2%	3.1%
Carroll	3.1%	3.6%	3.5%
Cheshire	2.9%	3.0%	3.1%
Coos	4.1%	4.6%	4.5%
Grafton	2.7%	3.0%	2.9%
Hillsborough	3.3%	3.5%	3.7%
Merrimack	2.8%	3.0%	3.0%
Rockingham	3.5%	3.6%	4.0%
Strafford	2.8%	3.0%	3.3%
Sullivan	2.7%	3.0%	2.7%

May
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.

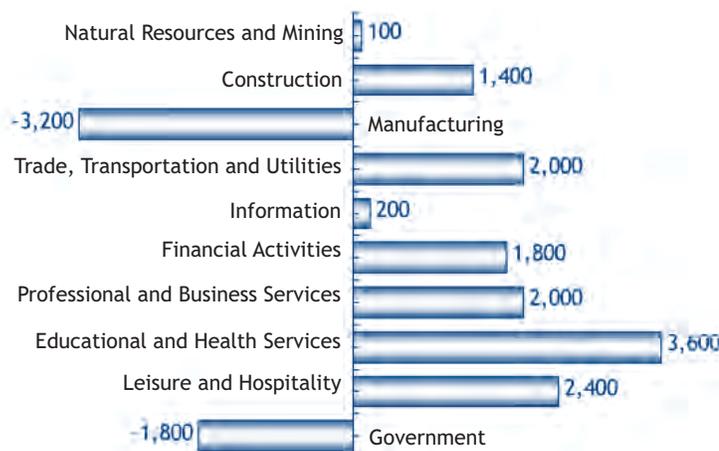
Almost half of May's seasonal private employment boost came from Leisure and hospitality.

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:	
	May-06 preliminary	Apr-06 revised	May-05	Month	Year
	Total All Supersectors	645,800	636,400	637,700	9,400
Private Employment Total	552,700	544,000	542,800	8,700	9,900
Natural Resources and Mining	1,100	1,100	1,000	0	100
Construction	31,400	30,000	30,000	1,400	1,400
Manufacturing	77,100	77,000	80,300	100	-3,200
Durable Goods	59,400	59,200	61,300	200	-1,900
Non-Durable Goods	17,700	17,800	19,000	-100	-1,300
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	141,500	139,300	139,500	2,200	2,000
Wholesale Trade	27,500	27,000	27,600	500	-100
Retail Trade	98,200	97,000	96,300	1,200	1,900
Transportation and Utilities	15,800	15,300	15,600	500	200
Information	12,900	13,000	12,700	-100	200
Financial Activities	40,800	40,600	39,000	200	1,800
Professional and Business	61,000	60,700	59,000	300	2,000
Educational and Health	101,300	101,300	97,700	0	3,600
Leisure and Hospitality	64,600	60,200	62,200	4,400	2,400
Other Services	21,000	20,800	21,400	200	-400
Government Total	93,100	92,400	94,900	700	-1,800

Change in Nonfarm Employment

Apr 2005 to Apr 2006



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>

Seasonally Adjusted:

New Hampshire's economy expanded by 1,500 jobs in May according to preliminary seasonally adjusted estimates.

Trade, transportation, and utilities (supersector 40) and leisure and hospitality (supersector 70) each kicked in 500 jobs to the May increase. Construction (supersector 20) and government (supersector 90) each added 300 jobs to the month's total, as financial activities (supersector 55) rounded out the upturn with a 200-job addition.

Manufacturing (supersector 30) and educational and health services (su-

persector 65) sustained their respective employment totals at the previous month's level.

On the declining side, information (supersector 50), professional and business services (supersector 60), and other services (supersector 80) each reduced its work forces by 100 jobs.

Unadjusted:

May's preliminary unadjusted estimates indicated that preparations for the upcoming travel and tourism season are well underway, as New Hampshire's total nonfarm employment grew by 9,400 jobs.

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 May-06	Change from previous:		preliminary May-06	Change from previous:		preliminary May-06	Change from previous:		preliminary May-06	Change from previous:	
		Month	Year		Month	Year		Month	Year		Month	Year
Total All Sectors	101,300	0	2,400	134,700	800	800	56,800	1,100	1,700	57,000	800	900
Private Employment Total	89,900	200	2,500	119,600	1,000	900	47,200	1,100	1,600	43,100	600	600
Natural Resources and Construction	5,500	200	100	6,600	300	600	1,800	100	0	2,200	100	100
Manufacturing	9,600	0	0	25,400	0	-400	3,600	0	0	6,600	0	100
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	20,800	0	700	30,800	100	-100	11,100	100	-200	11,100	100	-200
Wholesale Trade	5,000	0	100	6,000	0	100	2,000	0	0	1,500	0	-100
Retail Trade	12,600	0	400	20,600	0	-200	7,800	100	-300	8,600	100	-100
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	Data not available			4,200	100	0	1,300	0	100	1,000	0	0
Information	3,300	-100	0	2,200	0	100	1,800	0	0	1,300	100	100
Financial Activities	8,700	0	100	9,300	0	-300	5,400	0	500	2,800	0	100
Professional and Business	12,500	100	1000	12,600	0	-500	8,900	0	400	3,800	-100	100
Educational and Health	16,700	-100	500	16,000	100	300	5,900	100	200	7,600	100	100
Leisure and Hospitality	8,800	200	200	12,000	500	1,200	7,100	800	700	5,800	300	200
Services	4,000	-100	-100	4,700	0	0	1,600	0	0	1,900	0	0
Government Total	11,400	-200	-100	15,100	-200	-100	9,600	0	100	13,900	200	300

Average Earnings and Hours of Production Workers in Manufacturing

Sector	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	May-06 preliminary	Apr-06 revised	May-05	May-06 preliminary	Apr-06 revised	May-05	May-06 preliminary	Apr-06 revised	May-05
New Hampshire									
All Manufacturing	\$683.81	\$674.43	\$635.13	41.9	41.3	40.3	\$16.32	\$16.33	\$15.76
Durable Goods	\$700.77	\$683.88	\$650.96	42.6	41.7	41.2	\$16.45	\$16.40	\$15.80
Non-durable Goods	\$627.66	\$641.59	\$589.25	39.5	39.5	37.7	\$15.89	\$16.08	\$15.63
Manchester NH MetroNECTA									
All Manufacturing	\$820.05	\$788.11	\$654.86	42.8	42.1	40.2	\$19.16	\$18.72	\$16.29
Nashua NH-MA NECTA Division, NH Portion									
All Manufacturing	\$741.15	\$746.06	\$696.78	42.4	43.3	42.8	\$17.48	\$17.23	\$16.28

Note: Production workers and information for Portsmouth and Rochester are not currently available.

As would be expected in May, leisure and hospitality (supersector 70) led all industries with a 4,400-job expansion, followed by trade, transportation, and utilities (supersector 40) with a 2,200-job increase. Construction (supersector 20) bumped up its work force by 1,400 positions during the month.

Making more modest increases, government (supersector 90) put 700 additional workers on the payrolls in May, while professional and business services (supersector 60) found it necessary to add 300 employees. Financial activities (supersector 55) and other services (supersector 80) each increased

staff by 200. To complete the plus side of the ledger, manufacturing (supersector 30) hired 100 more people during the month.

Natural resources and mining (supersector 10) and educational and health services (supersector 65) maintained their respective employment totals at the April level.

Concluding May's estimating activities, information (supersector 50) reduced its force by 100 jobs.

B. G. McKay

Continued from page 3

wage for this area was \$19.97 in May 2005. The Manchester Area followed as second largest with 98,130 jobs in nine cities and towns. Workers in jobs in this area made an average of \$18.93 an hour, about one dollar less than their counterparts to the south.

Not counting the individual town of Pelham, the Claremont Area came in at the other end of the employment scale with 12,410 jobs in its ten cities and towns. Workers in these jobs made an average of \$15.57 an hour in May 2005.

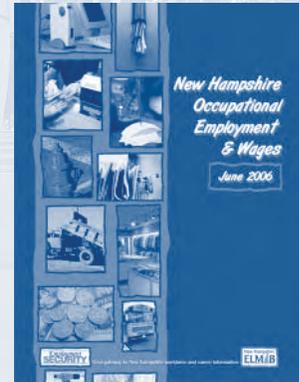
Background

The Occupational Employment Statistics program is based on a semiannual survey administered by State Employment Security Agencies in all 50 states. The New Hampshire survey was conducted by New Hampshire Employ-

ment Security's Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau (ELMIB), in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The survey is designed to collect data on occupational employment and wage rates of workers in all nonfarm industries.

Elisabeth Picard

New Hampshire Occupational Employment Statistics, June 2006 is available on our Web site at www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/oesfiles.htm.



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