

# ECONOMIC CONDITIONS in New Hampshire



May 2001

Volume 101, Number 05

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## New Hampshire Income Among Fastest Growing in 2000

### Personal Income up 9.5 percent

Personal income grew 9.5 percent in New Hampshire in 2000. This was the fourth highest rate of growth in the nation. The 2000 estimate follows gains of 7.2 percent in 1999, 8.3 percent in 1998, and 7.2 percent in 1997. Only Colorado surpassed New Hampshire over this four-year span.

The primary factor behind the increase was the gain in net earnings. The 2000 figure was 10.4 percent above 1999. Only five states had a higher percentage. Wage reports of employment covered by unemployment insurance support this gain. In 2000 total wages surpassed \$21 billion dollars. This was an impressive \$2 billion more than wages paid in 1999. No year had ever seen an increase of more than \$1.5 billion. This reflects the economic growth and continued low level of unemployment within the state.

The earnings growth in New Hampshire spanned the economy. Goods producing industry grew 10.4 percent; service producing was up 10.7 percent. Only three other states, Massachusetts,

California, and Idaho, saw double-digit growth in both sectors.

Dividends, interest, and rent was another component of personal income to show a large increase. This escalated by 8.8 percent over 1999. Only two states had a larger percentage increase.

Per capita personal income in New Hampshire was estimated at \$33,332 for 2000, the sixth highest in the nation. This amount is 112 percent of the national average. These are the first estimates incorporating results from the 2000 Decennial Census. In 1990 the Granite State ranked 11<sup>th</sup> highest in the nation with \$20,713 per capita income. Over the decade it grew by \$12,619, an increase of 60.9 percent. In the process, it passed California, Illinois, Delaware, Alaska, and Hawaii.

The 1991 through 1999 estimates, incorporating 2000 Census data, are due for release in September, concurrent with the revision of state personal income for 1998 through 2000.

*Martin Capodice*

Area	1990		2000		Change	
	PCI	Rank	PCI	Rank	Percent	Net
United States	\$19,584		\$29,676		51.5%	\$10,092
Connecticut	26,736	1	40,640	1	52.0%	13,904
Massachusetts	23,223	4	37,992	2	63.6%	14,769
New Jersey	24,766	2	36,983	3	49.3%	12,217
New York	23,315	3	34,547	4	48.2%	11,232
Maryland	23,023	5	33,872	5	47.1%	10,849
New Hampshire	20,713	11	33,332	6	60.9%	12,619
Colorado	19,703	19	32,949	7	67.2%	13,246
California	21,889	8	32,275	8	47.4%	10,386
Illinois	20,756	10	32,259	9	55.4%	11,503
Minnesota	20,011	16	32,101	10	60.4%	12,090

Published by the Economic and  
Labor Market Information Bureau

*Employment*  
**SECURITY**

# Two New STATS Available from ELM

## GED Participation in New Hampshire

New Hampshire experienced increased numbers of people completing the battery of tests, a seven and one-half hour ordeal, for the General Educational Development (GED) high school credential. In 2000 the number of those completing the GED test in New Hampshire was more than the state's total number participating in 1996. Nationally in 1998, there was a 4.5 percent increase in adults in the GED program and a similar increase in the number of those completing.

Traditionally, low unemployment rates lower the interest in obtaining this credential. Even with the recent good economic conditions, however, numbers of participants have been increasing. New Hampshire participants have increased over 18 percent since 1996.

This may reflect a condition of a new information age where employers demand more education and training.

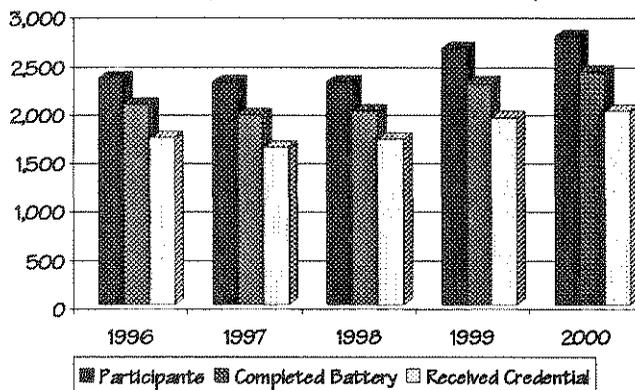
Access to the GED training and tutoring programs had changed as well. The military implemented three different incentive programs in 1998 to encourage recruits to complete the GED program. The result was a 33 percent increase in active duty personnel taking the tests from 1998 to 1999. Other institutions have also provided access to the GED program. County Houses of Corrections in New Hampshire make tutoring and training available to prepare individuals for testing. Based on available information, the Houses of Corrections showed a participant-testing ratio increase from 34 percent in 1996 to 50 percent in 2000.

Evidence showed a decrease in the age of participants. In New Hampshire the average age fell from 25.8 years of age in 1996 to 23.8 in 2000. Nationally it has declined from 26.7 in 1988 to 24.6 in 1999. One influence may have been home-schoolers pursuing education documentation to qualify for postsecondary education and financial assistance.

Anita Josten

These two STATS in their entirety, along with all other publications are available by accessing our Web site at <www.nhes.state.nh.us/lmpage.htm>. For more information contact us at: (603) 228-4124, or at the bureau address listed on page 8.

New Hampshire GED Program Participants



Who Took the GED? GED 1998 Statistical Report, 1999, Joan Chikos Auchter, Executive Director, GEDTS <www.acenet.edu>

## NH Higher Education Report Card

How did New Hampshire compare to other states with its first report card on higher education? The state excelled in one category, failed in another, and was average in three others.

The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education released *Measuring Up 2000*, which evaluates higher education through bachelor degrees in each state. This was a two-year process that reviewed six areas of higher education: Preparation, Participation, Affordability, Completion, Benefits, and Learning.

New Hampshire demonstrated the best performance in *Completion*. Nearly two-

thirds of students completed their degree within five years of beginning.

The *Preparation* grade indicated 90 percent of Granite State students earned a high school diploma or its equivalent by the age of 24. New Hampshire students performed well on college entrance exams.

*Participation* data found that nearly 43 percent of Granite State high school graduates started college immediately after high school, with another 37 percent of those between 18 and 24 starting college after a break.

Continued on page 3

One *Benefit* that graded well was that 30 percent of adults had at least a bachelor degree. Income for that degree, however, increased only seven percent.

According to the Center, New Hampshire failed *Affordability* because of, among other things, the high cost of education and the availability of need-based financial aid.

Continued from page 2

**New England's Report Card**

Categories	Conn.	Me.	Mass.	N.H.	R.I.	Vt.
Preparation	A	B+	A	B	C	B-
Participation	B+	C+	A-	C+	A	C-
Affordability	C	F	D	F	F	D-
Completion	B+	B+	A-	A	A	A
Benefits	A	C	A-	B-	A	B-
Learning	I	I	I	I	I	I

All New England states received an incomplete in *Learning*. Comparative data on the quality and quantity of what students learn was not available at the time of the study.

Gail Houston

Source: The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education. "Measuring Up 2000 The State-by-State Report Card for Higher Education". Nov. 30, 2000. Retrieved May 1, 2001. <<http://measuringup2000.highereducation.org>>

**Unemployment Compensation Claims Activity**

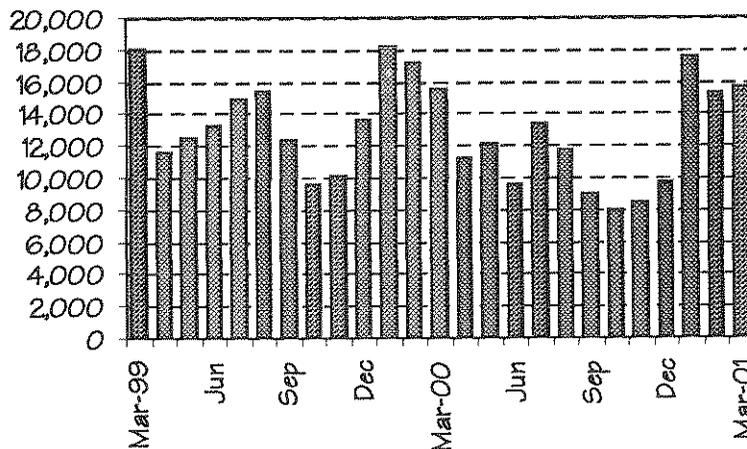
Total Regular Unemployment Compensation Programs:	Change from Previous						
				Month		Year	
	Mar-01	Feb-01	Mar-00	Net	Percent	Net	Percent
Initial Claims	2,869	2,923	2,467	(54)	-1.8%	402	16.3%
Continued Weeks	15,663	15,307	15,528	356	2.3%	135	0.9%

**Claims Activity**

**Unemployment Compensation Fund, March 2001**

Unemployment compensation fund balance at the end of March:	\$327,608,827.24
Average payment for a week of total unemployment:	\$224.90
Net benefits paid:	\$2,732,883.90
Net contributions received during the month:	\$161,948.33
Interest Received:	\$5,360,663.77

**Trust Fund**



**Continued Weeks Claimed**

Mar -99 through Mar-01  
After a typical drop in February, continued claims in March 2001 rose to a level slightly above March 2000.

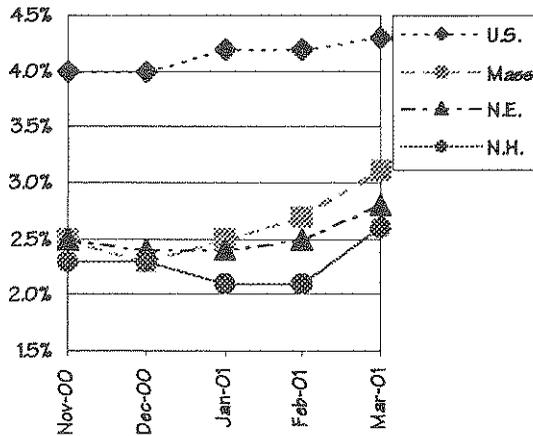
Mar-01	Feb-01	Mar-00	change from previous	
			Month	Year
176.2	175.8	171.2	0.2%	2.9%

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

**Consumer Price Index**

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

New Hampshire's unemployment rate rose half a percentage point from February 2001, but still remained below the 2.8 percent for New England.



## Unemployment Rates by Region

	preliminary		revised
	Mar-01	Feb-01	Mar-00
United States	4.3%	4.2%	4.0%
Northeast	3.8%	3.8%	3.8%
New England	2.8%	2.5%	2.9%
Connecticut	1.9%	1.9%	2.4%
Maine	2.4%	2.7%	3.9%
Massachusetts	3.1%	2.7%	2.6%
New Hampshire	2.6%	2.1%	2.9%
Rhode Island	4.0%	3.6%	4.2%
Vermont	2.9%	2.8%	2.8%
Mid Atlantic	4.1%	4.2%	4.2%
New Jersey	3.8%	3.6%	3.6%
New York	4.0%	4.3%	4.6%
Pennsylvania	4.5%	4.6%	4.0%

## Labor Force Estimates

By Place of Residence

	Nov-00	Dec-00	Jan-01	revised Feb-01	preliminary Mar-01
<b>New Hampshire</b>					
Unemployment Rate	2.3%	2.3%	2.1%	2.1%	2.6%
Civilian Labor Force	690,570	693,350	696,370	697,890	699,500
Number Employed	675,030	677,680	681,930	683,190	681,530
Number Unemployed	15,540	15,670	14,440	14,700	17,970
<b>United States (in thousands)</b>					
Unemployment Rate	4.0%	4.0%	4.2%	4.2%	4.3%
Civilian Labor Force	141,136	141,489	141,955	141,751	141,868
Number Employed	135,478	135,836	135,999	135,815	135,780
Number Unemployed	5,658	5,653	5,956	5,936	6,088

## Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment

By Place of Establishment

Industry	Nov-00	Dec-00	Jan-01	revised Feb-01	preliminary Mar-01
<b>TOTAL ALL INDUSTRIES</b>	624,500	624,900	627,200	625,500	625,800
Mining*	400	400	400	400	400
Construction	25,000	25,100	25,800	26,300	25,900
Manufacturing	105,400	105,200	105,100	104,900	104,500
Durable Goods	75,500	75,500	75,500	75,400	75,400
Nondurable Goods	29,900	29,700	29,600	29,500	29,100
Transportation and Public Utilities	22,100	22,100	21,500	21,700	21,600
Trade	165,500	166,200	164,700	164,600	164,800
Wholesale Trade	33,100	33,200	32,700	32,700	33,000
Retail Trade	132,400	133,000	132,000	131,900	131,800
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	33,100	32,900	32,800	32,800	32,900
Services	190,600	191,100	193,500	192,400	194,200
Government	82,400	81,900	83,400	82,400	81,500

\* Since N.H. mining employment exhibits no clear seasonal pattern, these estimates are not adjusted.

### Labor Force Estimates

New Hampshire	Mar-01 preliminary	Feb-01 revised	Mar-00
Number of Workers			
Total Civilian Labor Force	695,270	691,680	676,070
Employed	674,710	674,190	653,430
Unemployed	20,560	17,490	22,640
Unemployment Rate (% of labor force)	3.0%	2.5%	3.3%

### Unemployment Rates by Area

	Mar-01 preliminary	Feb-01 revised	Mar-00
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U.S. and Regional States			
United States	4.6%	4.6%	4.3%
Northeast	4.1%	4.3%	4.2%
New England	3.1%	3.1%	3.2%
Connecticut	2.1%	2.5%	2.6%
Maine	3.3%	3.8%	4.9%
Massachusetts	3.5%	3.1%	3.0%
New Hampshire	3.0%	2.5%	3.3%
Rhode Island	4.3%	4.7%	4.5%
Vermont	3.2%	3.8%	3.1%
Mid Atlantic	4.4%	4.7%	4.5%
New Jersey	4.0%	3.9%	3.8%
New York	4.4%	4.8%	5.0%
Pennsylvania	4.9%	5.2%	4.3%

Berlin LMA	3.3%	3.1%	6.3%
Seabrook-South Hampton, NH			
Portion Boston MA-NH PMSA	7.4%	6.1%	6.9%
Claremont LMA	2.1%	1.9%	2.6%
Colebrook LMA	3.0%	3.7%	5.7%
Concord LMA	2.6%	2.4%	2.9%
Conway LMA	3.4%	2.8%	3.8%
NH Portion Hartford-Lebanon			
VT-NH LMA	1.4%	1.3%	1.4%
NH Portion Keene-Brattleboro			
NH-VT LMA	2.8%	2.4%	3.0%
Laconia LMA	2.8%	2.5%	3.5%
Lancaster LMA	4.4%	3.9%	6.5%
Salem-Derry, NH Portion Lawrence			
MA-NH PMSA	4.3%	3.6%	4.7%
Littleton LMA	3.5%	2.6%	3.6%
Pelham, NH Portion Lowell MA-NH			
PMSA	4.5%	3.7%	5.3%
Manchester PMSA	2.6%	2.1%	3.0%
Nashua PMSA	2.9%	2.5%	3.4%
Peterborough LMA	3.1%	2.8%	3.0%
Plymouth LMA	2.3%	2.0%	3.3%
NH Portion Portsmouth-Rochester,			
NH-ME PMSA	2.8%	2.3%	2.8%

Counties			
Bellknop	2.9%	2.6%	2.6%
Carroll	3.2%	2.6%	2.9%
Cheshire	3.1%	2.8%	2.4%
Coos	3.6%	3.4%	4.6%
Grafton	2.1%	1.7%	1.8%
Hillsborough	2.7%	2.3%	2.5%
Merrimack	2.5%	2.3%	2.2%
Rockingham	3.6%	3.0%	3.0%
Strafford	3.0%	2.5%	2.3%
Sullivan	2.2%	2.0%	1.9%

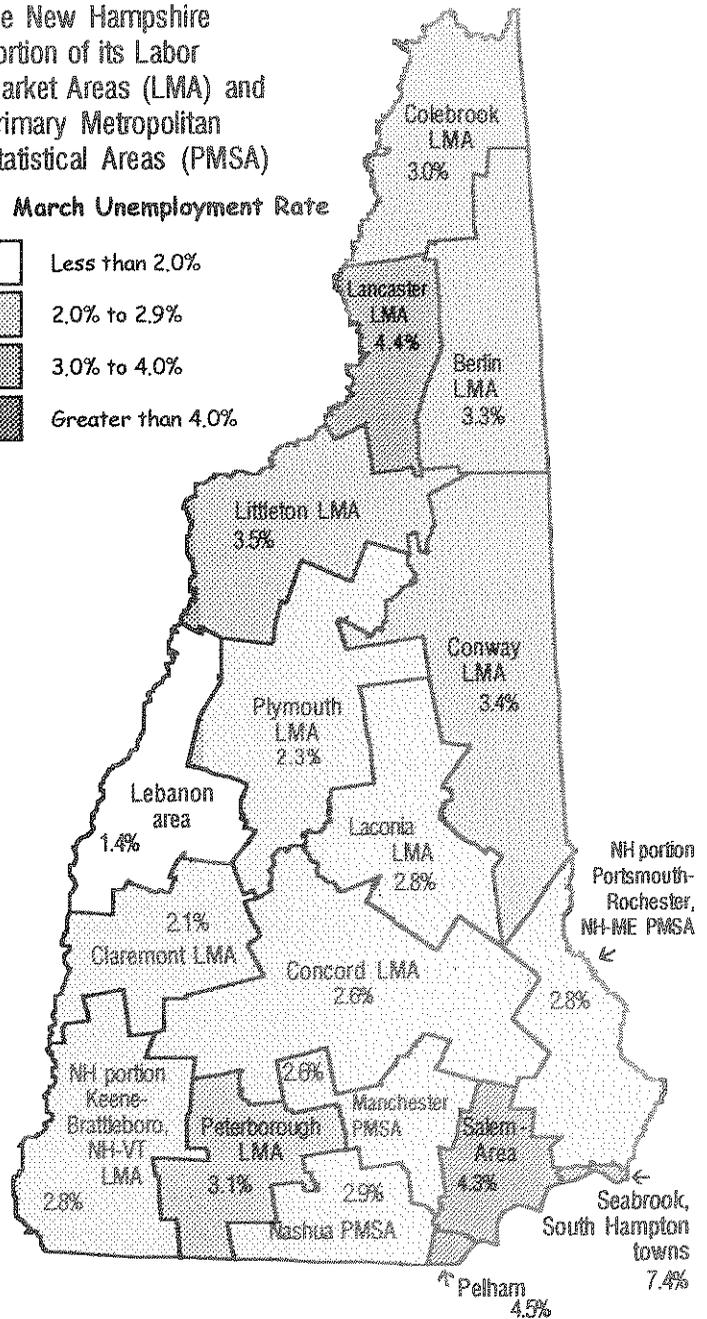
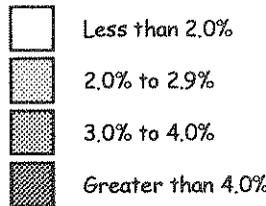
## Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

Not Seasonally  
Adjusted

By Place of Residence

Unemployment rates in the New Hampshire portion of its Labor Market Areas (LMA) and Primary Metropolitan Statistical Areas (PMSA)

#### March Unemployment Rate



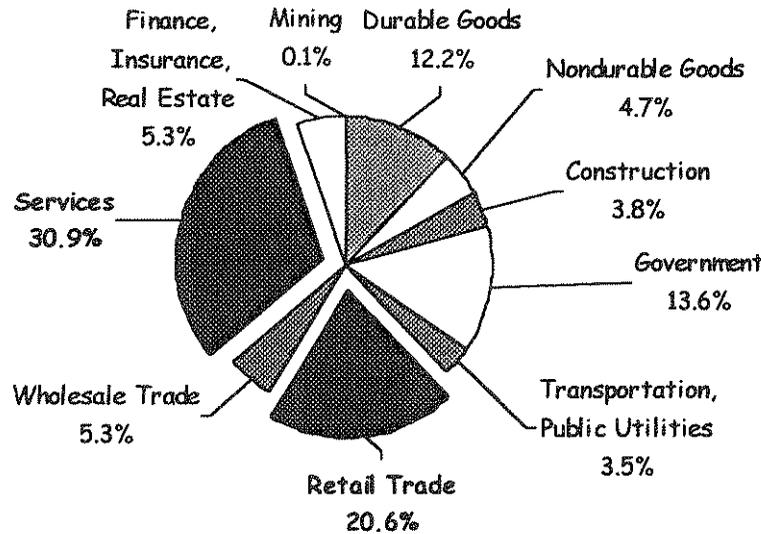
While showing only a slight increase from February, Services is largely responsible for the over-the-year growth in private employment.

**More detailed industry information is available at our Web site**

**Divisional Percentages of Nonfarm Employment**

Monthly Not Seasonally Adjusted New Hampshire Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment					
Current Employment Statistics Employment by Industry - Number of Jobs by place of establishment	Number of Jobs			Net Change	
	Mar-01 (preliminary)	Feb-01 (revised)	Mar-00	From Previous Month	Year
Total All Industries	617,800	618,900	609,600	-1,100	8,200
Private Employment Total	533,700	534,200	522,900	-500	10,800
Mining	400	400	400	0	0
Construction	23,700	23,500	22,600	200	1,100
Manufacturing	104,700	105,200	106,200	-500	-1,500
Durable Goods Total	75,500	75,700	76,200	-200	-700
Nondurable Goods Total	29,200	29,500	30,000	-300	-800
Transportation & Public Utilities	21,400	21,600	21,200	-200	200
Trade Total	160,100	160,500	158,500	-400	1,600
Wholesale Trade	32,600	32,500	32,100	100	500
Retail Trade	127,500	128,000	126,400	-500	1,100
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	32,700	32,500	32,300	200	400
Services	190,700	190,500	181,700	200	9,000
Government Total	84,100	84,700	86,700	-600	-2,600

Note: Totals are rounded to hundreds



March 2001 over-the-month increases could not counteract losses in three divisions.

Current Employment Statistics (CES) Manchester PMSA					
Employment by Industry Number of jobs by place of establishment	Number of Jobs			Change from previous:	
	Mar-01 (preliminary)	Feb-01 (revised)	Mar-00	Month	Year
Total All Industries	107,200	107,500	105,200	-300	2,000
Private Employment Total	95,500	95,700	93,300	-200	2,200
Construction & Mining	5,300	5,300	4,700	0	600
Manufacturing	15,200	15,400	14,900	-200	300
Durable Goods	10,800	11,000	10,500	-200	300
Transportation & Public Utilities	5,800	6,000	5,800	-200	0
Trade Total	26,100	26,400	25,400	-300	700
Wholesale Trade	7,600	7,600	7,100	0	500
Retail Trade	18,500	18,800	18,300	-300	200
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	7,700	7,700	7,700	0	0
Services	35,400	34,900	34,800	500	600
Government Total	11,700	11,800	11,900	-100	-200

### Current Employment Statistics Nashua PMSA

Employment by Industry Number of jobs by place of establishment	Mar-01 (preliminary)	Feb-01 (revised)	Mar-00	from previous:	
				Month	Year
Total All Industries	100,700	100,400	98,100	300	2,600
Private Employment Total	91,500	91,300	89,200	200	2,300
Construction & Mining	3,400	3,300	3,200	100	200
Manufacturing	28,300	28,400	27,600	-100	700
Durable Goods	22,400	22,500	21,500	-100	900
Nondurable Goods	5,900	5,900	6,100	0	-200
Transportation & Public Utilities	3,200	3,200	3,100	0	100
Trade Total	25,900	25,800	25,200	100	700
Wholesale Trade	4,700	4,700	4,700	0	0
Retail Trade	21,200	21,100	20,500	100	700
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	6,100	6,100	5,800	0	300
Services	24,600	24,500	24,300	100	300
Government Total	9,200	9,100	8,900	100	300

No division lost employment over-the-year in Nashua. Manufacturing and Retail trade led gains.

### Current Employment Statistics Portsmouth-Rochester, NH-ME PMSA

Employment by Industry Number of jobs by place of establishment	Mar-01 (preliminary)	Feb-01 (revised)	Mar-00	from previous:	
				Month	Year
Total All Industries	124,600	124,300	121,300	300	3,300
Private Employment Total	101,900	101,400	98,200	500	3,700
Construction & Mining	4,100	4,000	3,700	100	400
Manufacturing	18,500	18,500	19,000	0	-500
Durable Goods	11,700	11,700	12,200	0	-500
Nondurable Goods	6,800	6,800	6,800	0	0
Transportation & Public Utilities	4,300	4,300	4,100	0	200
Trade Total	32,000	32,000	31,200	0	800
Wholesale Trade	6,700	6,700	5,800	0	900
Retail Trade	25,300	25,300	25,400	0	-100
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	6,400	6,300	6,400	100	0
Services	36,600	36,300	33,800	300	2,800
Government Total	22,700	22,900	23,100	-200	-400

Services led Portsmouth to both over-the-month and over-the-year employment gains.

### Average Earnings and Hours of Production Workers in Manufacturing

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Mar-01 (prelim.)	Feb-01 (revised)	Mar-00	Mar-01 (prelim.)	Feb-01 (revised)	Mar-00	Mar-01 (prelim.)	Feb-01 (revised)	Mar-00
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>									
All Manufacturing	\$552.42	\$550.90	\$546.40	40.5	40.3	41.3	\$13.64	\$13.67	\$13.23
Durable Goods	552.68	556.24	543.35	41.0	40.9	41.7	13.48	13.60	13.03
Nondurable Goods	551.77	540.15	553.48	39.3	39.0	40.4	14.04	13.85	13.70
<b>MANCHESTER PMSA</b>									
All Manufacturing	\$611.33	\$611.20	\$587.98	39.8	40.0	40.3	\$15.36	\$15.28	\$14.59
Durable Goods	645.63	664.26	584.45	41.6	42.8	40.7	15.52	15.52	14.36
<b>NASHUA PMSA</b>									
All Manufacturing	\$571.29	\$567.81	\$558.55	41.1	40.5	40.8	\$13.90	\$14.02	\$13.69
Durable Goods	556.36	549.32	535.87	41.8	40.6	41.0	13.31	13.53	13.07
Nondurable Goods	629.38	638.40	630.80	38.4	40.0	40.0	16.39	15.96	15.77
<b>PORTSMOUTH-ROCHESTER, NH-MA PMSA</b>									
All Manufacturing	\$564.77	\$547.94	\$546.22	42.4	40.8	41.1	\$13.32	\$13.43	\$13.29
Durable Goods	620.55	610.84	600.36	45.0	43.6	42.7	13.79	14.01	14.06
Nondurable Goods	463.33	428.34	444.25	37.7	35.4	38.1	12.29	12.10	11.66

Increases in the average weekly hours for all manufacturing in Portsmouth-Rochester resulted in increased average weekly earnings.

**For Additional Information**



**New Hampshire Employment Security  
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General Information ..... 228-4124  
 Research Unit ..... 228-4173  
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 Covered Employment and Wages (ES-202) .... 228-4177  
 Current Employment Statistics (790) ..... 228-4127  
 Local Area Unemployment Statistics ..... 228-4175  
 Mass Layoff Statistics (MLS) ..... 228-4175  
 Occupational Employment Statistics ..... 229-4315

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