

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS in New Hampshire



June 2001

Volume 101, Number 06

**Housing in
New Hampshire ... 2**

**Spring 2001
Summary is
available 3**

**Local Area
Unemployment
Statistics 5**

**Current
employment
statistics 6**

**For Additional
Information 8**

New Hampshire employees better off in 2000 than in 1999

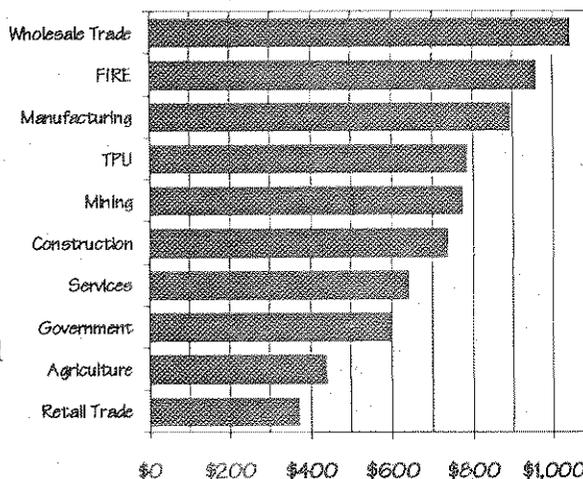
Average weekly wage up nearly \$50 over-the-year

New Hampshire's total payroll exceeded \$21 billion in 2000. The average weekly wage increased nearly \$50, going from \$617.99 in 1999 to \$667.78 in 2000. Manufacturing saw the largest growth in average weekly wage, \$93.28 over-the-year. Within Manufacturing, Electronic and other electrical equipment experienced large growth in both employment and wages. An increase of 1,249 employees and nearly \$275 million in wages caused the average weekly wage in this industry to increase \$196.67 from 1999 to 2000.

Wholesale trade's average weekly wage of \$1,044.24 in 2000 was an increase of \$83.19 over 1999. Retail trade had the smallest average weekly wage in 2000, \$370.73, an increase of \$22.09 over 1999. All other divisions saw over-the-year increases in average weekly wage.

Preliminary covered employment and wages data showed businesses in the state employing 606,043 people in 2000,

Wholesale Trade Led All Divisions In
Average Weekly Wage for 2000



an over-the-year increase of 14,877. Services accounted for nearly half of this employment increase, bringing its number of employees to 173,954 in 2000. Retail trade reached 131,241 in 2000, adding 2,874 employees over-the-year. Government employment grew by 1,934 over-the-year, climbing to 76,404. Manufacturing and Mining both saw minor employment decreases from 1999 to 2000.

Elisabeth Picard

Covered Employment and Wages, 1999 vs. 2000

Division	Employment		Change		Average Weekly Wage		Change	
	1999	2000	Net	Percent	1999	2000	Net	Percent
Total Private & Government	591,166	606,043	14,877	2.5%	\$617.99	\$667.78	\$49.79	8.1%
Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing	5,445	5,678	233	4.3%	\$421.63	\$439.23	\$17.60	4.2%
Mining	452	421	-31	-6.9%	\$745.43	\$772.40	\$26.96	3.6%
Construction	24,209	25,138	929	3.8%	\$700.44	\$736.99	\$36.55	5.2%
Manufacturing	106,571	106,386	-185	-0.2%	\$799.34	\$892.62	\$93.28	11.7%
Transportation & Public Utilities	20,716	21,015	299	1.4%	\$728.72	\$785.78	\$57.06	7.8%
Wholesale Trade	31,661	33,149	1,488	4.7%	\$961.05	\$1,044.24	\$83.19	8.7%
Retail Trade	128,367	131,241	2,874	2.2%	\$348.64	\$370.73	\$22.09	6.3%
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	31,677	31,766	89	0.3%	\$878.87	\$956.77	\$77.90	8.9%
Services	166,606	173,954	7,348	4.4%	\$589.94	\$639.88	\$49.94	8.5%
Government	74,470	76,404	1,934	2.6%	\$583.24	\$599.80	\$16.56	2.8%

Published by the Economic and
Labor Market Information Bureau

Employment
SECURITY

Portsmouth Area Leads New England in Unaffordability of Housing

Only California is less affordable

According to the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), the Portsmouth-Rochester, NH-ME, PMSA was the least affordable Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area (PMSA) in the U.S., outside of California, for purchasing a home in fourth quarter 2000. Portsmouth, ranked 174th of 180, was the only area among the ten least affordable not in California. The NAHB produced *Housing Opportunity Index: Fourth Quarter 2000*. You may view this report at <http://www.nahb.com/facts/hoi/2000_4Q/complete_ranking.htm>.

The NAHB estimated median family income and calculated the median sales price for 180 statistical areas in the U.S. It then presented the share of affordable homes sold in 4th quarter 2000, given the median family income. Only about one in five homes from the Portsmouth area were affordable for families at the median income level.

Portsmouth was not alone in New Hampshire in lack of affordability. Lowell, MA-NH, PMSA was 168th,

nestled between New York, NY, PMSA and Barnstable-Yarmouth, MA, MSA. The Nashua, NH, PMSA was the most affordable area in the state and it ranked 108th among the 180. About two of three homes there were affordable. Within New England, Connecticut and Western Massachusetts were the most affordable areas where 2/3 to 3/4 of the homes fell in that category. Within the Northeast, the closer the area is to Boston or New York, the less affordable it is.

The West had by far the largest gap between income and home price. The most affordable area in the West was Anchorage, AK, MSA at 20th over all. Next came Albuquerque NM, MSA, all the way down in 88th place. The Midwest was at the other end of the scale with the first six most affordable areas. Des Moines, IA, MSA was the most affordable area in the nation with 86.0 percent of the homes affordable for those at median income. Of the 36 areas in the Midwest, fifteen were in the top 25 most affordable areas.

Martin Capodice

Affordable Housing by Metro Area

Metro Area	Affordable Homes for		Comments
	Median Income	Affordability Rank	
Des Moines, IA, MSA	88.9%	1	most affordable in nation
New Haven-Meriden, CT, PMSA	73.9%	55	most affordable in region
Nashua, NH, PMSA	63.1%	168	most affordable in state
Boston, MA-NH, PMSA	43.8%	150	
Lawrence, MA-NH, PMSA	38.9%	154	
Lowell, MA-NH, PMSA	28.6%	168	
Portsmouth-Rochester, NH-ME, PMSA	20.4%	174	least affordable in state
San Francisco CA, PMSA	6.1%	180	least affordable in nation

Source: *Housing Opportunity Index: Fourth Quarter*, http://www.nahb.com/facts/hoi/2000_4Q/complete_ranking.htm

Summary of New Hampshire Economy - Spring 2001, May 2001, 8 pages

**Spring 2001
Summary
Released**

New Hampshire, like the nation as a whole, is experiencing layoffs and cutbacks. What is the impact on New Hampshire's economy? What are the hottest areas for employment? Where are expectations waning? Twice a year the Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau of New Hampshire Employment Security releases a paper on employment in New Hampshire and how this relates to the economy of the state. This edition looks at the latest data on employment, wages, consumer confidence, construction indices, and other aspects of the economy. It then attempts to weigh the impact of the changing employment picture. There is a section on each employment division with highlights of over-the-year changes.

All publications are available by accessing our Web site at <www.nhes.state.nh.us/lmimage.htm>. For more information contact us at: (603) 228-4124, or at the bureau address listed on page 8.

Unemployment Compensation Claims Activity

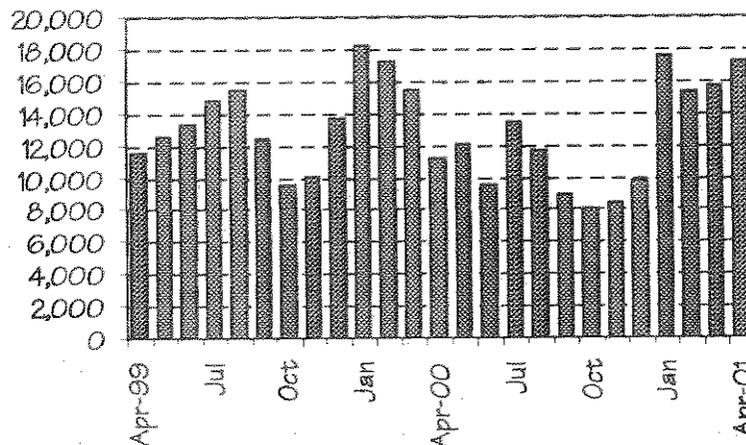
Total Regular Unemployment Compensation Programs:				Change from Previous			
	Apr-01	Mar-01	Apr-00	Month		Year	
				Net Percent	Net Percent		
Initial Claims	5,320	2,869	2,467	2,451	85.4%	2,853	115.6%
Continued Weeks	17,258	15,663	11,245	1,595	10.2%	6,013	53.5%

**Claims
Activity**

Unemployment Compensation Fund, April 2001

Unemployment compensation fund balance at the end of April:	\$328,775,942.44
Average payment for a week of total unemployment:	\$221.06
Net benefits paid:	\$4,191,587.15
Net contributions received during the month:	\$5,358,702.35
Interest received:	\$0.00

**Trust
Fund**



**Continued
Weeks Claimed**

April-99 through April-01
Continued weeks claimed in April 2001 exceeded those in March for the first time since April 1991.

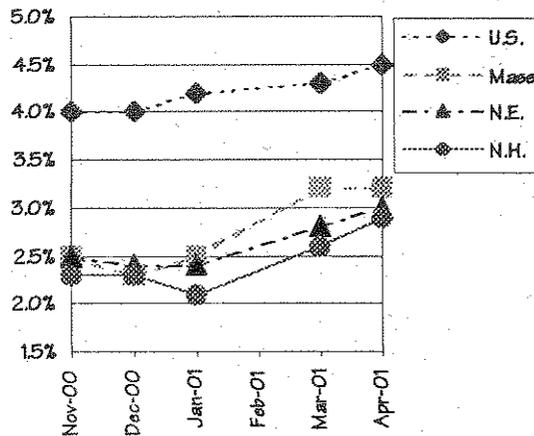
Apr-01	Mar-01	Apr-00	change from previous	
			Month	Year
176.9	176.2	171.3	0.4%	3.3%

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

**Consumer Price
Index**

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

Unemployment in all New England states, save Massachusetts, increased over March, yet New Hampshire maintained a lower rate than the New England average.



Unemployment Rates by Region

	preliminary Apr-01	revised Mar-01	Apr-00
United States	4.5%	4.3%	4.0%
Northeast	3.9%	3.8%	3.9%
New England	3.0%	2.8%	2.9%
Connecticut	2.2%	1.9%	2.3%
Maine	3.1%	2.4%	3.8%
Massachusetts	3.2%	3.2%	2.8%
New Hampshire	2.9%	2.6%	3.1%
Rhode Island	4.4%	4.0%	4.2%
Vermont	3.1%	3.0%	3.0%
Mid Atlantic	4.3%	4.1%	4.2%
New Jersey	4.2%	3.8%	3.7%
New York	4.3%	4.0%	4.6%
Pennsylvania	4.3%	4.5%	4.1%

Labor Force Estimates

By Place of Residence

	Dec-00	Jan-01	Feb-01	revised Mar-01	preliminary Apr-01
New Hampshire					
Unemployment Rate	2.3%	2.1%	2.1%	2.6%	2.9%
Civilian Labor Force	693,350	696,370	697,890	699,770	702,700
Number Employed	677,680	681,930	683,190	681,800	682,300
Number Unemployed	15,670	14,440	14,700	17,970	20,400
United States (in thousands)					
Unemployment Rate	4.0%	4.2%	4.2%	4.3%	4.5%
Civilian Labor Force	141,489	141,955	141,751	141,868	141,757
Number Employed	135,836	135,999	135,815	135,780	135,354
Number Unemployed	5,653	5,956	5,936	6,088	6,402

Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment

By Place of Establishment

Industry	Dec-00	Jan-01	Feb-01	revised Mar-01	preliminary Apr-01
TOTAL ALL INDUSTRIES	624,900	627,200	625,500	626,300	627,900
Mining*	400	400	400	400	400
Construction	25,100	25,800	26,300	25,900	25,800
Manufacturing	105,200	105,100	104,900	104,600	104,200
Durable Goods	75,500	75,500	75,400	75,400	74,800
Nondurable Goods	29,700	29,600	29,500	29,200	29,400
Transportation and Public Utilities	22,100	21,500	21,700	21,700	21,500
Trade	166,200	164,700	164,600	165,000	165,800
Wholesale Trade	33,200	32,700	32,700	33,100	33,400
Retail Trade	133,000	132,000	131,900	131,900	132,400
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	32,900	32,800	32,800	32,700	32,600
Services	191,100	193,500	192,400	194,400	195,800
Government	81,900	83,400	82,400	81,600	81,800

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

Labor Force Estimates

New Hampshire	Apr-01	Mar-01	Apr-00
Number of Workers	preliminary	revised	
Total Civilian Labor Force	698,970	695,550	679,590
Employed	677,070	674,990	657,070
Unemployed	21,900	20,560	22,520
Unemployment Rate (% of labor force)	3.1%	3.0%	3.3%

Unemployment Rates by Area

	Apr-01	Mar-01	Apr-00
	preliminary	revised	

U.S. and Regional States

United States	4.2%	4.6%	3.7%
Northeast	3.7%	4.1%	3.6%
New England	2.8%	3.1%	2.7%
Connecticut	2.0%	2.1%	2.1%
Maine	3.4%	3.3%	4.2%
Massachusetts	2.9%	3.5%	2.4%
New Hampshire	3.1%	3.0%	3.3%
Rhode Island	3.9%	4.3%	3.7%
Vermont	3.1%	3.2%	3.0%
Mid Atlantic	4.0%	4.4%	4.0%
New Jersey	3.8%	4.0%	3.3%
New York	4.1%	4.4%	4.4%
Pennsylvania	4.0%	4.9%	3.8%

Berlin LMA	5.3%	3.3%	6.3%
Seabrook-South Hampton, NH			
Portion Boston, MA-NH PMSA	7.3%	7.8%	4.6%
Claremont LMA	2.1%	2.0%	2.3%
Colebrook LMA	8.5%	3.1%	9.5%
Concord LMA	2.4%	2.6%	2.1%
Conway LMA	3.4%	3.3%	2.9%
NH Portion Hartford-Lebanon, VT-NH LMA	1.6%	1.4%	1.2%
NH Portion Keene-Brattleboro, NH-VT LMA	2.8%	2.8%	2.5%
Laconia LMA	2.8%	2.8%	2.4%
Lancaster LMA	5.4%	4.6%	6.1%
Salem-Derry, NH Portion			
Lawrence, MA-NH PMSA	4.6%	4.4%	3.8%
Littleton LMA	4.6%	3.5%	5.0%
Pelham, NH Portion Lowell, MA-NH PMSA	4.3%	4.5%	3.4%
Manchester PMSA	2.6%	2.5%	2.2%
Nashua PMSA	3.3%	2.9%	2.6%
Peterborough LMA	3.1%	3.1%	2.4%
Plymouth LMA	2.7%	2.3%	2.7%
NH Portion Portsmouth-Rochester, NH-ME PMSA	2.8%	2.8%	2.1%

Counties

Belknap	2.7%	2.9%	2.4%
Carroll	3.3%	3.1%	2.9%
Cheshire	3.0%	3.0%	2.7%
Coos	6.2%	3.7%	7.2%
Grafton	2.5%	2.1%	2.3%
Hillsborough	3.0%	2.7%	2.4%
Merrimack	2.3%	2.5%	2.1%
Rockingham	3.8%	3.7%	3.0%
Strafford	3.1%	3.0%	2.2%
Sullivan	2.2%	2.1%	2.3%

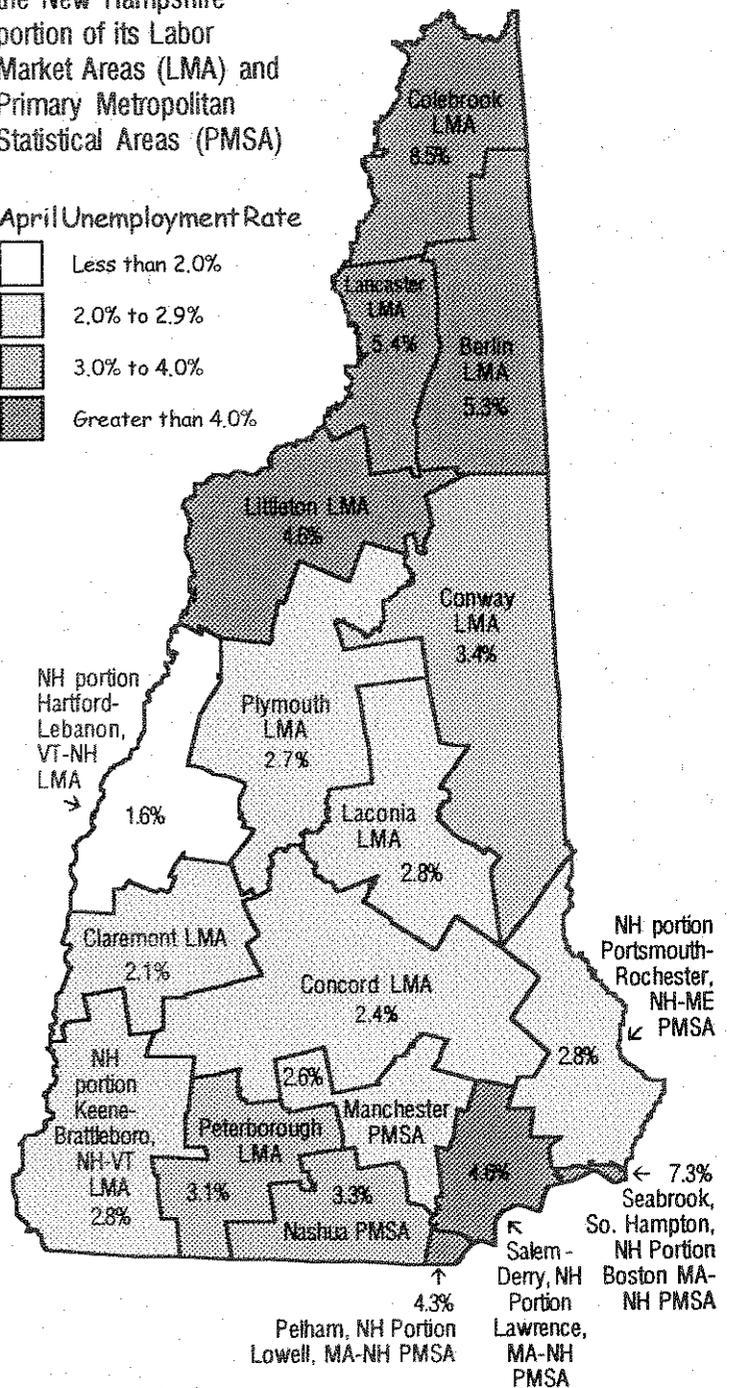
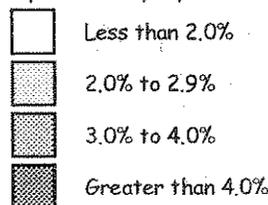
Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

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)

April Unemployment Rate



Only Manufacturing lost employment over the month. Government and Transportation and public utilities joined Manufacturing for over-the-year losses.

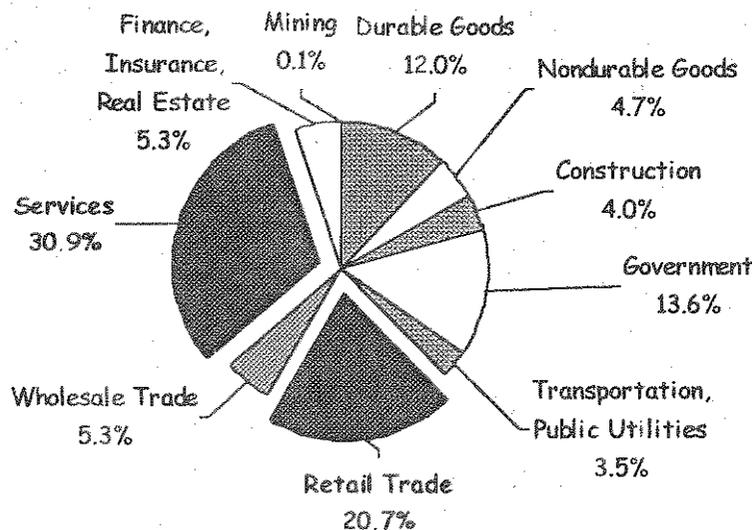
More detailed industry information is available at our Web site

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	
	Apr-01 (preliminary)	Mar-01 (revised)	Apr-00	From Previous Month	Year
Total All Industries	622,900	618,300	615,700	4,600	7,200
Private Employment Total	538,200	534,100	529,300	4,100	8,900
Mining	400	400	400	0	0
Construction	25,200	23,700	24,300	1,500	900
Manufacturing	104,300	104,800	106,600	-500	-2,300
Durable Goods Total	74,800	75,500	75,900	-700	-1,100
Nondurable Goods Total	29,500	29,300	30,700	200	-1,200
Transportation & Public Utilities	21,500	21,500	21,800	0	-300
Trade Total	162,000	160,300	160,700	1,700	1,300
Wholesale Trade	33,200	32,700	32,700	500	500
Retail Trade	128,800	127,600	128,000	1,200	800
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	32,500	32,500	32,400	0	100
Services	192,300	190,900	183,100	1,400	9,200
Government Total	84,700	84,200	86,400	500	-1,700

Note: Totals are rounded to hundreds



In Manchester, half of the growth over the month for all industries was in Construction.

Current Employment Statistics (CES) Manchester PMSA

Employment by Industry Number of jobs by place of establishment	Number of Jobs			Change	
	Apr-01 (preliminary)	Mar-01 (revised)	Apr-00	from previous: Month	Year
Total All Industries	108,400	107,800	106,900	600	1,500
Private Employment Total	96,700	96,100	95,100	600	1,600
Construction & Mining	5,600	5,300	5,100	300	500
Manufacturing	15,400	15,400	15,300	0	100
Durable Goods	11,000	11,000	10,700	0	300
Transportation & Public Utilities	5,700	5,800	6,100	-100	-400
Trade Total	26,600	26,400	25,400	200	1,200
Wholesale Trade	7,800	7,600	7,200	200	600
Retail Trade	18,800	18,800	18,200	0	600
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	7,600	7,600	7,800	0	-200
Services	35,800	35,600	35,400	200	400
Government Total	11,700	11,700	11,800	0	-100

Current Employment Statistics Nashua PMSA

Employment by Industry Number of jobs by place of establishment	Apr-01 (preliminary)	Mar-01 (revised)	Apr-00	from previous:	
				Month	Year
Total All Industries	101,200	100,500	98,700	700	2,500
Private Employment Total	92,100	91,400	89,800	700	2,300
Construction & Mining	3,500	3,400	3,300	100	200
Manufacturing	28,000	28,300	27,600	-300	400
Durable Goods	22,100	22,400	21,600	-300	500
Nondurable Goods	5,900	5,900	6,000	0	-100
Transportation & Public Utilities	3,300	3,200	3,200	100	100
Trade Total	26,500	25,900	25,500	600	1,000
Wholesale Trade	4,700	4,700	4,700	0	0
Retail Trade	21,800	21,200	20,800	600	1,000
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	6,100	6,100	5,700	0	400
Services	24,700	24,500	24,500	200	200
Government Total	9,100	9,100	8,900	0	200

Current Employment Statistics Portsmouth-Rochester, NH-ME PMSA

Employment by Industry Number of jobs by place of establishment	Apr-01 (preliminary)	Mar-01 (revised)	Apr-00	from previous:	
				Month	Year
Total All Industries	126,300	124,400	124,400	1,900	1,900
Private Employment Total	103,300	101,800	100,900	1,500	2,400
Construction & Mining	4,000	4,000	4,000	0	0
Manufacturing	18,500	18,400	18,900	100	-400
Durable Goods	11,600	11,700	12,000	-100	-400
Nondurable Goods	6,900	6,700	6,900	200	0
Transportation & Public Utilities	4,100	4,300	4,100	-200	0
Trade Total	32,600	31,900	32,400	700	200
Wholesale Trade	6,600	6,700	6,200	-100	400
Retail Trade	26,000	25,200	26,200	800	-200
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	6,400	6,400	6,500	0	-100
Services	37,700	36,800	35,000	900	2,700
Government Total	23,000	22,600	23,500	400	-500

Average Earnings and Hours of Production Workers in Manufacturing

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Apr-01 (prelim.)	Mar-01 (revised)	Apr-00	Apr-01 (prelim.)	Mar-01 (revised)	Apr-00	Apr-01 (prelim.)	Mar-01 (revised)	Apr-00
NEW HAMPSHIRE									
All Manufacturing	\$549.85	\$555.41	\$544.66	39.7	40.6	41.2	\$13.85	\$13.68	\$13.22
Durable Goods	551.38	556.49	541.51	40.1	41.1	41.4	13.75	13.54	13.08
Nondurable Goods	544.90	551.77	551.49	38.7	39.3	40.7	14.08	14.04	13.55
MANCHESTER PMSA									
All Manufacturing	\$633.45	\$628.62	\$579.62	41.0	40.4	39.7	\$15.45	\$15.56	\$14.60
Durable Goods	684.34	669.07	579.22	43.7	42.4	39.7	15.66	15.78	14.59
NASHUA PMSA									
All Manufacturing	\$553.41	\$571.18	\$561.25	38.7	41.3	40.7	\$14.30	\$13.83	\$13.79
Durable Goods	531.91	555.18	537.74	38.6	41.9	40.8	13.78	13.25	13.18
Nondurable Goods	636.09	634.92	638.78	39.0	39.0	40.2	16.31	16.28	15.89
PORTSMOUTH-ROCHESTER, NH-MA PMSA									
All Manufacturing	\$537.99	\$569.50	\$562.95	39.5	42.5	42.2	\$13.62	\$13.40	\$13.34
Durable Goods	609.37	627.34	608.57	42.2	45.1	43.1	14.44	13.91	14.12
Nondurable Goods	407.45	463.33	480.70	34.5	37.7	40.6	11.81	12.29	11.84

During April in Nashua, Retail trade was responsible for nearly all over-the-month growth and 40.0 percent of total over-the-year growth.

Services and Retail trade combined for most of the growth in Portsmouth-Rochester for April, while Services had the largest impact on the total over-the-year results.

Durable goods manufacturing workers in Manchester saw an increase in hours and wages as opposed to the reductions experienced in Nashua and Portsmouth.

For Additional Information



New Hampshire Employment Security
 Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau:

General Information 228-4124
 Research Unit 228-4173
 Economist 228-4122
 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

Internet address: www.nhes.state.nh.us/lmimage.htm

New Hampshire Employment Security
 Local Offices:

Berlin 752-5500
 Claremont 543-3111
 Concord 228-4100
 Conway 447-5924
 Keene 352-1904
 Laconia 524-3960
 Lebanon 448-6340
 Littleton 444-2971
 Manchester ... 627-7841
 Nashua 882-5177
 Portsmouth ... 436-3702
 Salem 893-9185
 Somersworth .. 742-3600

US Department of Labor Boston Regional Office:
 Bureau of Labor Statistics Information (617) 565-2327

About This Publication:

Economic Conditions in New Hampshire is published monthly in coordination with the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Employment and Training Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor. NHES is an Equal Opportunity Employer and complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. TDD ACCESS: RELAY NH 1-800-735-2964.

To Order Publications:

Visit our Web site at <www.nhes.state.nh.us/lmimage.htm>; call (603) 228-4124; or send a written request to the following address:

ELMI Publications
 New Hampshire Employment Security
 32 South Main Street
 Concord, New Hampshire 03301-4857

NH EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
 32 SOUTH MAIN STREET
 CONCORD NH 03301-4857



OFFICIAL BUSINESS

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED