

New Hampshire

Economic Conditions



July 2008

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Summer Employment in New Hampshire

Younger Workers in the Labor Force

In early June, the U.S. Department of Labor reported that between April and May, the nation's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose from 5.0 percent to 5.5 percent. Such a drastic increase had not been reported in 22 years. Some analysts attributed this jump to an increase in the number of young people seeking work.

From a labor market perspective, heightened numbers of young workers in the summertime is nothing new. Data on young workers are organized into two distinct age groups - those aged 16-19 and those aged 20-24. Generally, the 20-24 age group is beginning the transition from school to work, setting out on their own, and beginning new

careers. Therefore, the 20-24 age group boasts a larger labor force and higher employment levels than the 16-19 age group. Both groups, however, experience a significant summertime spike in both labor force and employment. If indeed the springtime deluge of young workers must shoulder the blame for the rising unemployment rate, what sort of a job market did they find?

Early on, some predicted that the economic difficulties at the national level would also spell a tough market for summer employment in New Hampshire. However, the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for May increased only 0.2 percentage points. This small uptick in the face of a much larger national increase, combined with the new work



Labor Force and Employment



Source: Current Population Survey (CPS)

Published by New Hampshire
 Employment Security's Economic
 and Labor Market Information
 Bureau

visa regulations limiting the hiring of temporary immigrant labor, provided hope that the state's summer job market for young people might not be as tight as initially feared.

A deeper look into the numbers reveals a slightly different picture. This summer's job market has been more difficult for those aged 16-19, evidenced by the increasing gap between those in the labor force and those actually securing employment. From April to June of 2008, the average share of those aged 16-19 who were in the labor force but had not secured employment was 15.8 percent, up nearly 2.5 percentage points from the average of the same period in 2007. Among those aged 20-24, the gap between those in the labor force and those securing employment also grew – from 6.3 percent in June 2007 to 9.3 percent in June 2008.

The media has already detailed the more obvious reasons for this tight market, including heightened competition from displaced workers, fewer paid internships, less consumer spending, and the rising costs of transportation. Little has been said, however, about broader shifts in how young workers actually *perceive* the idea of summer employment.

New graduates at all levels are encountering a competitive, global work environment where skills and experience are valued. Additionally, those planning on attending college are finding that a degree no longer guarantees a good job right out of school. As a result, many young people feel that now, more than ever, they need a diverse résumé of experiences to help them stand out from the crowd.

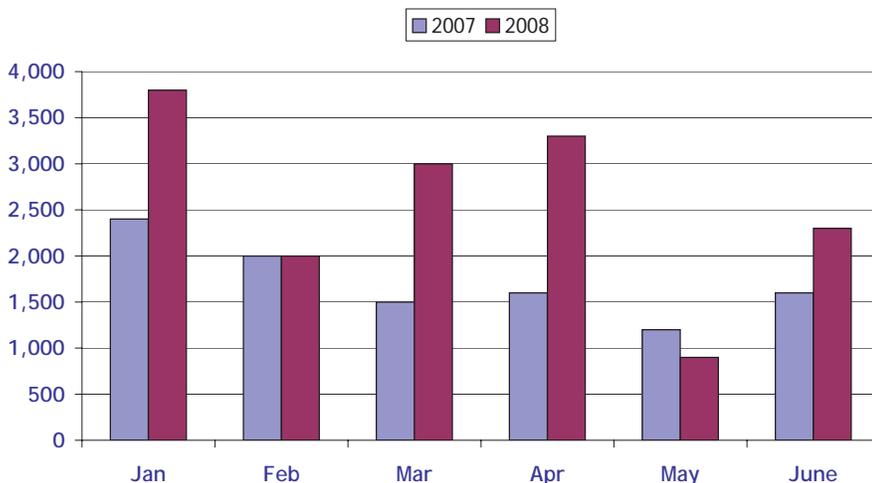
NH Employment Security (NHES) Connecting Students to the Workplace

Some youth between the ages of 16 and 19 have been preparing to enter the job market for the first time. Commissioner Richard Brothers instituted the Youth Employment Service (YES!) Program to help prepare high school juniors and seniors for employment. NHES local offices offer training sessions and job fairs so students may explore what they want to do when they graduate. They are taught how to use the O*Net Ability Profiler, Interest Profiler, and the NHES web site. The offices also conduct tours of their Resource Centers and hold workshops on job searching, resume writing, and interview skills. Commissioner Brothers believes "New Hampshire's workforce depends on a continuing infusion of skilled and talented people. The better we prepare our students to enter the workforce, the more likely it is that New Hampshire will retain its place as a leader in the nation."

Could this shift spell the beginning of the end for the typical summer job?

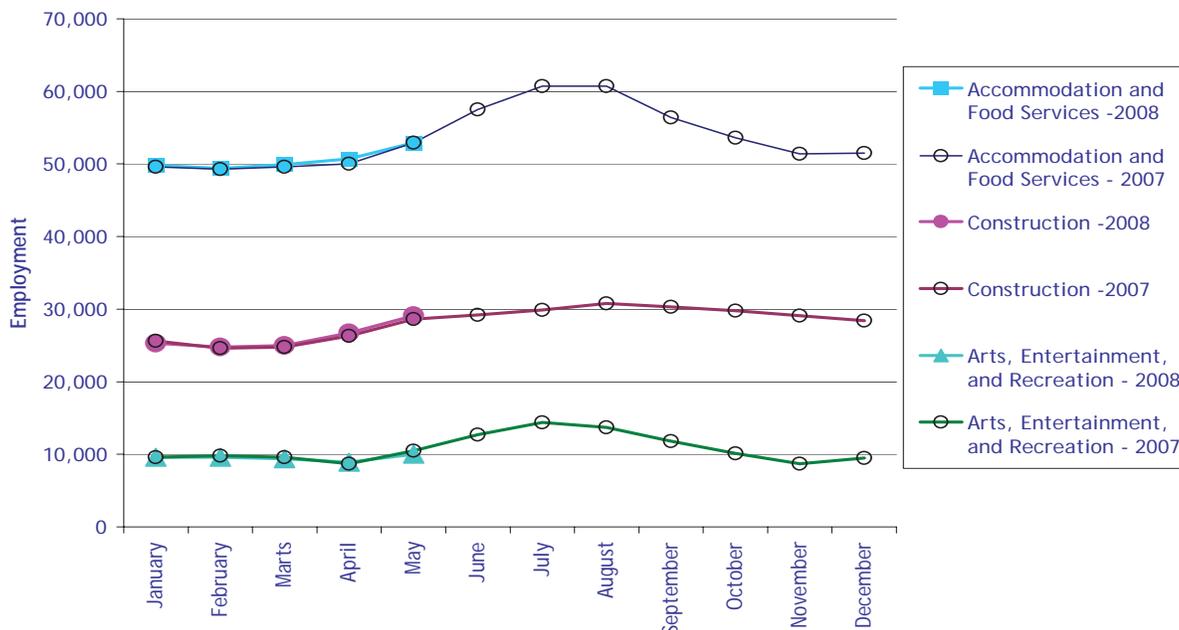
Perhaps one clue lies within the Current Population Survey (CPS), conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. The CPS helps illuminate some of the reasons why individuals are no longer in the labor force. While some workers drop out because they are discouraged by their prospects, others drop out for different reasons. Among those aged 16-24, the average number of workers who reported dropping out of New Hampshire's labor force for "reasons other than discouragement" in the first six months of 2008 increased 48 percent compared to the same span in 2007. Young people, especially students, may be beginning to view the summer break as a time not to get a job, but to pursue other activities such as unpaid career internships, service learning, or additional coursework that will set them apart in the competitive markets they expect to face as adults.

Those aged 16-24 who are not looking for work for reasons other than discouragement



Source: Current Population Survey (CPS)

Current Employment Statistics for Selected Sectors



Source: Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau

Comparing the Summer Job Industry Sectors

Considering the economy as a whole, covered employment figures from April to July of 2007 reveal that more than 15,000 jobs were added to two sectors related to tourism: *Accommodation and food services*, and *Arts, entertainment and recreation*. In addition, about 3,400 jobs were added to two other summertime employment stalwarts—*Construction* and *Retail trade*. Through May 2008, estimates from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program (a more current measurement than covered employment) suggest that the seasonal employment increases seen in years past are on target, although it remains to be seen whether broader economic difficulties such as rising fuel costs will curtail this seasonal growth. One industry showing gains in employment is *Construction*, which is 500 employees higher than the May 2007 count. Even in a contracting housing market, the relative strength of the *Construction* sector in New Hampshire is due to nonresidential projects, such as commercial, industrial and institutional buildings.¹

While some industries grow in the summer, others contract. For example, the *Government* sector shed 20,000 jobs in covered employment from April to July 2007 and private *Educational services* shed close to 1,200 jobs. Covered employment in *Local government* accounted for more than 99 percent of this decline, equal to roughly a quarter of the workforce. This drop is attributable to the closing of public schools over the summer vacation. In 2008, no changes are expected, although a higher cost of living may force some teachers and other seasonal employees back into the summer job market.

Another group that might join the labor force in larger numbers is retirees. On the one hand, the gap between the labor force and employment among those aged 65 and over is small, suggesting that those who are seeking work find it. On the other hand, Current Population Survey (CPS) data do not reveal a regular seasonal spike for older workers, suggesting instead a non-seasonal, regular entry into the labor force.

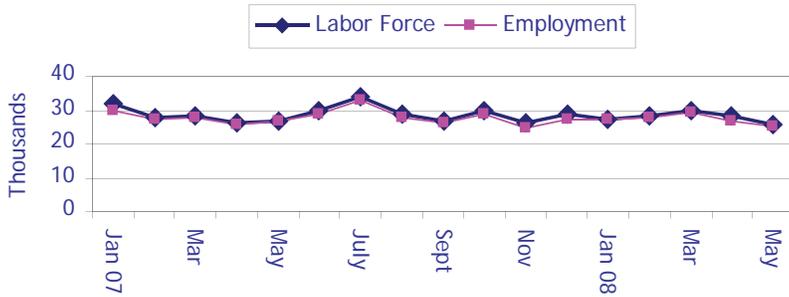
¹ Feingold, Jeff, New Hampshire Business Review, "Future commercial construction remains strong in May," June 25, 2008

Deciphering summer employment in New Hampshire is a complex task. The labor market presents different obstacles for different workers, all of which are compounded by the unique nature of each industry. Even though it appears that New Hampshire's summer employment situation can best be described

as stable, the figures available at this time may not yet reflect the current negative economic conditions that have grabbed headlines nationwide. The coming months will provide the data necessary to understand New Hampshire's job market in the tumultuous summer of 2008.

*Ben Amsden
Annette Nielsen*

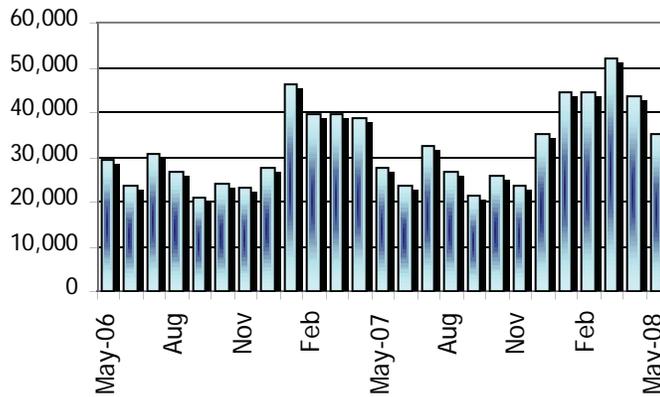
Labor Force and Employment for those aged 65 and over



Source: Current Population Survey (CPS)

Unemployment Compensation Claims Activity

Compensation Programs:	May-08	April-08	May-07	Change from Previous			
				Month		Year	
				Net	Percent	Net	Percent
Initial Claims	3,706	5,659	3,140	-1,953	-34.5%	566	18.0%
Continued Weeks	35,035	43,364	27,651	-8,329	-19.2%	7,384	26.7%



Continued Weeks Claimed

May 06 - May 08

Unemployment Compensation Fund

Unemployment compensation fund balance at the end of May	\$222,031,288.32
Average payment for a week of total unemployment:	\$270.38
Net benefits paid:	\$7,731,623.14
Net contributions received during the month:	\$15,344,846.39
Interest Received:	\$0.00
Reed Act Distribution:	\$0.00
Reed Act Withdrawn for Administrative Costs:	\$1,290,964.00

Trust Fund

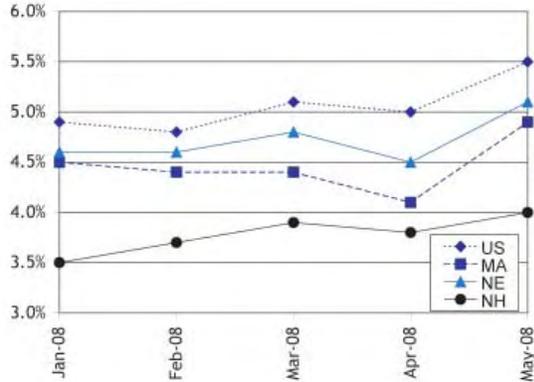
May-08	Apr-08	May-07	Change from Previous	
			Month	Year
216.632	214.823	207.949	0.8%	4.2%

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

Consumer Price Index

Seasonally Adjusted Estimates

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



Unemployment Rates by Region

Seasonally Adjusted	May-08	Apr-08	May-07
United States	5.5%	5.0%	4.5%
Northeast	5.2%	4.8%	4.4%
New England	5.1%	4.5%	4.4%
Connecticut	5.4%	4.7%	4.4%
Maine	5.4%	4.7%	4.7%
Massachusetts	4.9%	4.1%	4.5%
New Hampshire	4.0%	3.8%	3.6%
Rhode Island	7.2%	6.1%	5.0%
Vermont	4.9%	4.4%	3.8%
Mid Atlantic	5.2%	4.9%	4.4%
New Jersey	5.4%	4.9%	4.3%
New York	5.2%	4.7%	4.5%
Pennsylvania	5.2%	5.0%	4.3%

Seasonally Adjusted
Labor Force
Estimates

Local Area Unemployment
Statistics (LAUS)
By Place of Residence

	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08	Apr-08	May-08
New Hampshire					
Unemployment Rate	3.5%	3.7%	3.9%	3.8%	4.0%
Civilian Labor Force	742,760	741,570	743,470	746,050	745,310
Number Employed	716,860	713,950	714,550	717,630	715,730
Number Unemployed	25,900	27,620	28,920	28,420	29,580
United States (in thousands)					
Unemployment Rate	4.9%	4.8%	5.1%	5.0%	5.5%
Civilian Labor Force	153,824	153,374	153,784	153,957	154,534
Number Employed	146,248	145,993	145,969	146,331	146,046
Number Unemployed	7,576	7,381	7,815	7,626	8,487

Seasonally Adjusted
Nonfarm Employment
Estimates

Current Employment
Statistics (CES)
By Place of
Establishment

Supersector	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08	Apr-08	May-08
Total Nonfarm	654,300	653,100	655,200	655,400	656,600
Construction	27,700	27,800	27,600	27,600	28,700
Manufacturing	77,900	77,900	78,000	78,100	78,100
Durable Goods	60,100	59,900	60,000	60,100	60,200
Non-Durable Goods	17,800	18,000	18,000	18,000	17,900
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	142,800	141,900	142,400	142,400	142,700
Wholesale Trade	28,500	28,400	28,700	28,700	28,800
Retail Trade	98,900	98,100	98,200	98,300	98,600
Transportation and Utilities	15,400	15,400	15,500	15,400	15,300
Information	12,300	12,200	12,400	12,200	12,300
Financial Activities	38,400	38,600	38,700	38,700	39,000
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	7,900	7,900	7,800	7,800	7,700
Professional and Business Services	67,000	67,400	67,300	67,800	67,600
Administrative and Support	28,900	29,100	29,500	29,900	29,600
Education and Health Services	104,300	105,500	105,800	106,200	106,300
Educational Services	23,200	24,000	24,000	24,100	24,100
Health Care and Social Assistance	81,100	81,500	81,800	82,100	82,200
Leisure and Hospitality	64,000	63,900	63,900	63,900	63,000
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	10,200	10,500	10,400	10,200	10,200
Accommodation and Food Services	53,800	53,400	53,500	53,700	52,800
Other Services	22,300	22,300	22,200	22,100	22,000
Government	96,600	94,600	95,800	95,300	95,700
Federal Government	7,600	7,600	7,500	7,600	7,500
State Government	25,400	24,500	25,200	24,900	24,900
Local Government	63,600	62,500	63,100	62,800	63,300

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.

Not Seasonally Adjusted Estimates

Labor Force Estimates

New Hampshire	May-08	Apr-08	May-07
Total Civilian Labor Force	741,560	739,660	733,530
Employed	713,320	711,120	707,760
Unemployed	28,240	28,540	25,770
Unemployment Rate	3.8%	3.9%	3.5%

United States (in thousands)	May-08	Apr-08	May-07
Total Civilian Labor Force	154,003	153,208	152,350
Employed	145,926	145,921	145,864
Unemployed	8,076	7,287	6,486
Unemployment Rate	5.2%	4.8%	4.3%

Unemployment Rates by Area

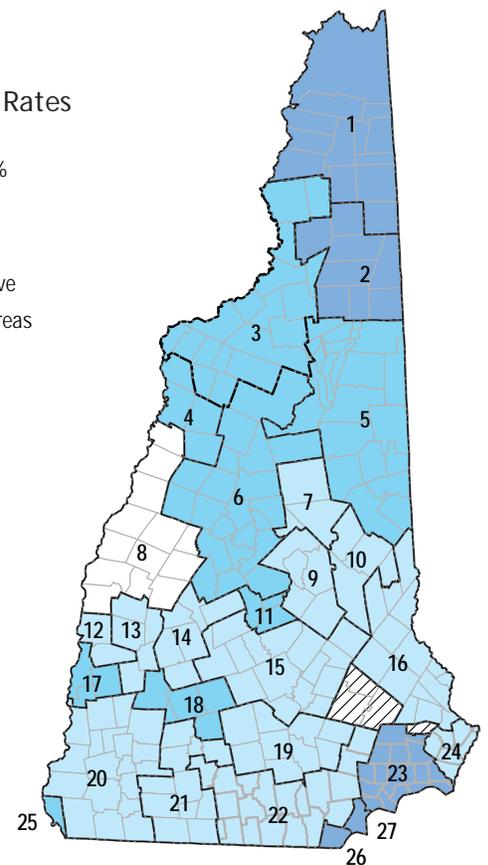
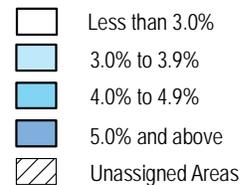
Counties	May-08	Apr-08	May-07
Belknap	3.8%	4.7%	3.3%
Carroll	3.9%	4.3%	3.6%
Cheshire	3.5%	3.7%	3.4%
Coos	5.7%	6.3%	5.1%
Grafton	3.3%	3.5%	2.9%
Hillsborough	3.8%	3.8%	3.5%
Merrimack	3.5%	3.9%	3.2%
Rockingham	4.2%	3.8%	3.9%
Strafford	3.6%	3.5%	3.1%
Sullivan	3.3%	3.7%	2.9%

Unemployment Rates by States

Not Seasonally Adjusted U.S and Regional States	May-08	Apr-08	May-07
United States	5.2%	4.8%	4.3%
Northeast	5.0%	4.6%	4.2%
New England	5.0%	4.4%	4.3%
Connecticut	5.3%	4.5%	4.3%
Maine	5.2%	5.1%	4.5%
Massachusetts	4.7%	3.9%	4.3%
New Hampshire	3.8%	3.9%	3.5%
Rhode Island	7.2%	6.0%	4.7%
Vermont	4.6%	5.0%	3.5%
Mid Atlantic	5.0%	4.6%	4.1%
New Jersey	5.2%	4.8%	4.0%
New York	4.9%	4.5%	4.2%
Pennsylvania	5.0%	4.7%	4.2%

Key Labor Market Areas	May-08	Apr-08	May-07
1 Colebrook NH-VT LMA, NH Portion	5.9%	8.5%	5.9%
2 Berlin NH MicroNECTA	5.5%	5.7%	5.1%
3 Littleton NH-VT LMA, NH Portion	4.5%	4.9%	3.8%
4 Haverhill NH LMA	4.2%	5.5%	4.0%
5 Conway NH-ME LMA, NH Portion	4.3%	4.6%	4.0%
6 Plymouth NH LMA	4.0%	4.4%	3.4%
7 Moultonborough NH LMA	3.1%	3.8%	3.0%
8 Lebanon NH-VT MicroNECTA, NH Portion	2.5%	2.6%	2.4%
9 Laconia NH MicroNECTA	3.9%	4.9%	3.4%
10 Wolfeboro NH LMA	3.5%	3.9%	3.2%
11 Franklin NH MicroNECTA	4.1%	5.0%	3.6%
12 Claremont NH MicroNECTA	3.3%	3.8%	3.0%
13 Newport NH LMA	3.3%	4.0%	3.0%
14 New London NH LMA	3.3%	3.3%	2.9%
15 Concord NH MicroNECTA	3.4%	3.8%	3.2%
16 Rochester-Dover NH-ME MetroNECTA, NH Portion	3.6%	3.5%	3.1%
17 Charlestown NH LMA	4.1%	4.3%	3.4%
18 Hillsborough NH LMA	4.0%	4.3%	3.7%
19 Manchester NH MetroNECTA	3.7%	3.8%	3.5%
20 Keene NH MicroNECTA	3.3%	3.5%	3.3%
21 Peterborough NH LMA	3.9%	4.3%	3.5%
22 Nashua NH-MA NECTA Division, NH Portion	3.7%	3.7%	3.5%
23 Exeter Area, NH Portion, Haverhill-N. Andover-Amesbury MA-NH NECTA Division	5.0%	4.1%	4.6%
24 Portsmouth NH-ME MetroNECTA, NH Portion	3.3%	3.3%	3.1%
25 Hinsdale Town, NH Portion, Brattleboro VT-NH LMA	4.0%	4.1%	4.0%
26 Pelham Town, NH Portion, Lowell-Billerica-Chelmsford MA-NH NECTA Division	5.5%	4.2%	5.6%
27 Salem Town, NH Portion, Lawrence-Methuen-Salem MA-NH NECTA Division	5.7%	4.5%	5.3%

May - 08 Unemployment Rates



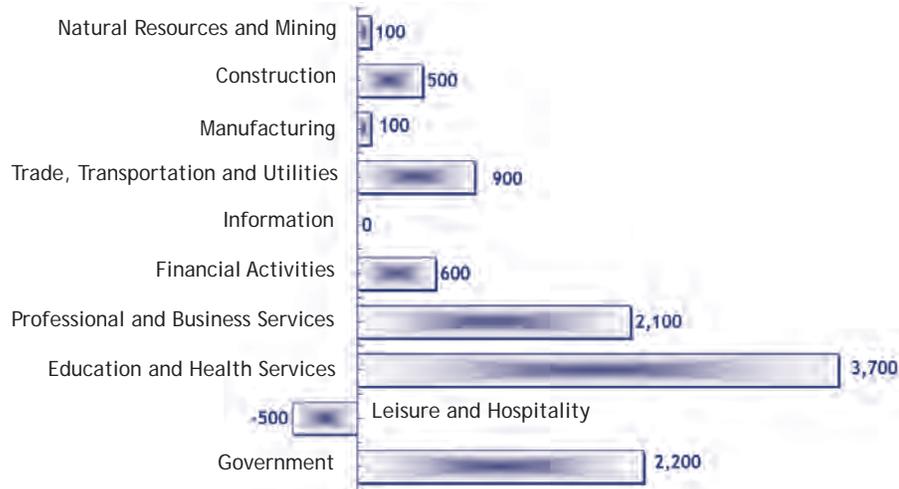
New Hampshire unemployment and labor force estimates are calculated using a regression model which depends on Current Population Survey (CPS) estimates. Labor Market Area estimates are calculated using the Bureau of Labor Statistics "Handbook Method" and then adjusted to the State levels.

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:	
	May-08 preliminary	Apr-08 revised	May-07	Month	Year
	Total All Supersectors	658,800	650,800	648,900	8,000
Private Employment Total	560,500	552,500	552,800	8,000	7,700
Natural Resources and Mining	1,200	1,100	1,100	100	100
Construction	29,100	26,700	28,600	2,400	500
Manufacturing	77,800	77,600	77,700	200	100
Durable Goods	59,900	59,800	59,600	100	300
Non-Durable Goods	17,900	17,800	18,100	100	-200
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	142,000	140,200	141,100	1,800	900
Wholesale Trade	28,900	28,500	28,500	400	400
Retail Trade	97,500	96,300	97,000	1,200	500
Transportation and Utilities	15,600	15,400	15,600	200	0
Information	12,300	12,300	12,300	0	0
Financial Activities	38,800	38,600	38,200	200	600
Professional and Business	67,900	67,800	65,800	100	2,100
Education and Health	106,500	106,700	102,800	-200	3,700
Leisure and Hospitality	62,900	59,600	63,400	3,300	-500
Other Services	22,000	21,900	21,800	100	200
Government Total	98,300	98,300	96,100	0	2,200

Change in Nonfarm Employment

May 07 - May 08



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>

Seasonally Adjusted: Construction (supersector 20) with its 1,100 added jobs supplied the lion's share of the 1,200 additional jobs in May's preliminary seasonally adjusted estimates. Government (supersector 90) contributed 400 jobs to the May total, and trade, transportation, and utilities (supersector 40) and financial activities (supersector 55) each bumped up their employment count by 300 jobs. Rounding out the list of industries that added to their ranks, information (supersector 50) and education and health services (supersector 65) each expanded their roster by 100.

In the neutral position for employment activity, manufacturing (supersector 30) held its May job total at that set in April.

Putting a damper on May's job growth, leisure and hospitality (supersector 70) dropped 900 jobs from its inventory. Professional and business services (supersector 60) entered this side of the ledger with a 200-job reduction, and other services (supersector 80) completed the month's seasonally adjusted employment activity with a 100-job setback.

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-08	Change from previous: Month Year		preliminary May-08	Change from previous: Month Year		preliminary May-08	Change from previous: Month Year		preliminary May-08	Change from previous: Month Year	
Total All Sectors	101,900	500	600	134,300	1,100	0	56,400	900	800	58,700	600	1,200
Private Employment Total	89,900	400	200	118,900	1,100	100	46,700	900	800	44,400	400	700
Natural Resources and Construction	4,900	100	-300	5,100	300	-300	1,600	0	0	2,000	100	0
Manufacturing	9,500	100	200	25,600	-100	300	3,900	0	0	6,900	0	0
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	20,300	100	0	29,900	400	-500	11,200	100	0	11,000	100	0
Wholesale Trade	4,800	0	0	6,400	100	200	2,000	0	0	1,200	0	0
Retail Trade	12,300	-100	-200	19,400	200	-700	8,000	100	0	8,800	100	0
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	Data not available			4,100	100	0	1,200	0	0	1,000	0	0
Information	3,400	0	100	2,200	0	100	1,900	0	100	1,100	0	0
Financial Activities	8,500	0	0	8,900	100	300	4,900	0	300	3,000	0	100
Professional and Business	13,100	0	-100	14,600	-100	-100	9,100	0	100	4,800	0	200
Education and Health	17,000	-100	100	17,200	100	400	5,800	100	200	8,200	0	300
Leisure and Hospitality	8,600	200	-100	11,000	400	-100	6,900	700	100	5,600	200	100
Other Services	4,600	0	300	4,400	0	0	1,400	0	0	1,800	0	0
Government Total	12,000	100	400	15,400	0	-100	9,700	0	0	14,300	200	500

Average Earnings and Hours of Production Workers in Manufacturing

Sector	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	May-08 preliminary	Apr-08 revised	May-07	May-08 preliminary	Apr-08 revised	May-07	May-08 preliminary	Apr-08 revised	May-07
New Hampshire									
All Manufacturing	\$680.75	\$690.29	\$678.22	38.9	39.4	39.5	\$17.50	\$17.52	\$17.17
Durable Goods	\$708.00	\$716.94	\$710.84	40.0	40.3	40.9	\$17.70	\$17.79	\$17.38
Nondurable Goods	\$594.01	\$605.54	\$573.65	35.4	36.5	35.0	\$16.78	\$16.59	\$16.39

Unadjusted:
With the onset of the spring season and warmer weather, New Hampshire employers increased the state's working population by 8,000 jobs in May's preliminary unadjusted estimates.

Leisure and hospitality (supersector 70) gave us a sign of the approaching vacation season with its 3,300-job increase. The warmer weather also influenced the 2,400-job growth for the construction (supersector 20) industries. Next, trade, transportation, and utilities (supersector 40) brought 1,800 more workers on board in May.

Elsewhere, manufacturing (supersector 30) and financial activities (supersector

55) each augmented their force with 200 jobs. To wrap up the plus side, natural resources and mining (supersector 10), professional and business services (supersector 60), and other services (supersector 80) each employed 100 more people during the month.

Information (supersector 50) and government (supersector 90) sustained their respective job totals in May at the April level.

The one off note in May's employment symphony turned out to be education and health services (supersector 65) as it dropped 200 jobs from the roles.

B. G. McKay

New on the Web

New Hampshire Employment Projections by Occupation and Industry *PDF; Tables*

Projections of employment by industry and occupation covering a ten-year time span are estimated biennially. The latest edition estimates employment for 2006 and projects employment to 2016 for 116 industries and more than 700 occupations. Industry tables include numeric and percent change. Occupational tables include growth rate, projected openings from growth and replacement needs, training categories, and an "occupational descriptor" that summarizes the expected employment prospects for an occupation.

New Hampshire Short-Term Employment Projections, 2007 Q2 - 2009 Q2 *Tables*

Projections of employment by industry and occupation covering an eight-quarter time span are estimated twice each year, based on either the second quarter or the fourth quarter of the year. The latest version estimates employment for the second quarter of 2007 and projects employment to the second quarter of 2009.

To view the above reports, go to <www.nh.gov/nhes/elmi> and click on "Projections" under the "Fast Find" menu.



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