

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS in New Hampshire



December 2000

Volume 100, Number 12

Fall Summary is released 2

NHnetwork on the Web 3

Local Area Unemployment Statistics 5

Current Employment Statistics 6

For Additional Information 8

New Hampshire ranked healthiest in nation

States receive annual check-up

New Hampshire topped the list of healthiest states for the third time in six years. According to the 2000 UnitedHealth Group State Health Rankings, the Granite State bumped Minnesota down a notch to claim the number one ranking in the nation. New Hampshire enjoyed the same ranking in both 1994 and 1995.

The state ranked first in the following four categories: lowest *violent crime* (107 offenses per 100,000 population), highest *adequacy of prenatal care* (87.3 percent of population), highest *support for public healthcare* (ratio of

3.49), and lowest *infant mortality* (4.3 deaths per 1,000 live births). The state showed the most improvement in its number of *limited activity days*, which at 2.8 increased from 16th to 2nd place. *Limited activity days* is the average number of days in the past 30 days that a person could not perform work or household tasks because of physical or mental illness. The state's *high school graduation* rate, 74.5 percent, also had a significant increase over-the-year, going from 31st to 19th place. The number of *cancer cases*, the state's worst ranking, dropped from 20th to 21st place.

Elisabeth Picard

2000 Ranking of the Healthiest States

Rank	State
1	New Hampshire
2	Minnesota
3	Utah
4	Massachusetts
5	Hawaii
6	Vermont
7	Colorado
8	Wisconsin
9	Connecticut
10	Maine
10	Washington

Source: UnitedHealth Group <www.unitedhealthgroup.com>

New Hampshire Rankings

Category	2000	1999	1990
Violent crime	1	1	5
Adequacy of prenatal care	1	2	2
Support for public health care	1	1	11
Infant mortality	1	1	2
Unemployment	2	4	1
Limited activity days	2	16	16
Premature death	2	2	3
Infectious disease	4	4	12
Motor vehicles deaths	6	4	2
Total mortality	7	10	14
Risk for heart disease	10	12	18
Lack of health insurance	12	13	23
Heart disease	16	18	16
Prevalence of smoking	18	27	31
Occupational fatalities	18	22	17
High school graduation	19	31	32
Cancer cases	21	20	28

Source: UnitedHealth Group <www.unitedhealthgroup.com>

Published by the Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau

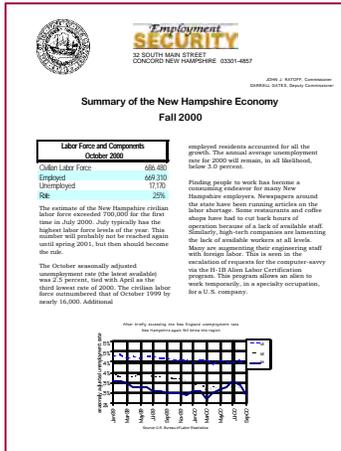
Employment
SECURITY

Fall Summary is released

Summary of New Hampshire Economy - Fall 2000, November 2000, 10 pages

What is the state of 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 studies the impact of the low unemployment rate and ways employers are addressing the issue. There is a section on each division with highlights of changes affecting employment. Below is the conclusion of the paper.

Martin Capodice



Conclusion

The unemployment rate has been among the lowest in the nation. There has been consistent growth in employment, slightly above the national level. Average weekly wages have been increasing well above the changes in the Consumer Price Index. The recently released Gross State Product showed this state as leading the nation in percent growth. (*Economic Conditions*, November 2000) The Granite State led the region in percentage growth in exports and was ten percentage points ahead of the nation. (*Economic Conditions*, November 2000) The state led the region in in-migration, and those moving to New Hampshire brought with them considerably more income than those leaving took out. (*Economic Conditions*, September 2000) Granite Staters are the Healthiest in the nation (*Economic Conditions*, June 2000), Safest in the nation, Most Kid Friendly (*Economic Conditions*, May 2000), and the fifth Most Livable State (*Economic Conditions*, September 2000).

The New England Economic Project concluded that the New England economy is showing signs of cooling. As hot as the New Hampshire economy has been over the past three years, cooling might be a relief. The civilian labor force is growing at a pace nearly twice the rate of population growth. Companies are in

search of workers. Engineers and computer programmers are in such demand that many companies are applying for permits for foreign workers. Mom and Pop operations are cutting back on hours of operation because of an inability to find workers. Housing is in short supply.

Much of the recent growth has been in technology-oriented organizations. Investors and venture capitalists may be scrutinizing these types of firms more closely. There also may be less opportunity for initial public offerings. Without an infusion of capital, some companies may cut back and this could affect employment. All other divisions of the economy attribute much of their recent windfall to value added from expanding manufacturing and business services firms. Nonetheless, worldwide demand for software, hardware, and communications equipment continues. The more permanent Most-Favored-Nation (Normal-Trade-Relations) status given to China could increase this demand.

New Hampshire is well-placed in the U.S. and world economies. This, along with the industrial diversity of the state's economy, makes it unlikely that New Hampshire will experience a recession in the near future.

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New!
on the Web

An Economic and Labor Market Information Data System for New Hampshire Job Seekers and Town Planners and Students and Businesses . . .

e-LMI

NHnetwork for Job Seekers and NHnetwork now available

New Hampshire's economic and labor market information data system is now available on the web, providing data for job seekers, business people, economic developers, counselors, librarians, and others who need information about the labor market and the economy. **NHnetwork for Job Seekers** provides data specifically for those in the job market. **NHnetwork** provides data for those needing a source of research information on New Hampshire's economy and labor markets.

To access **NHnetwork for Job Seekers**: <<http://nhnetwork.nhes.state.nh.us/nhjs>>, **NHnetwork** is available at: <<http://nhnetwork.nhes.state.nh.us/nhnetwork>>.

Unemployment Compensation Claims Activity

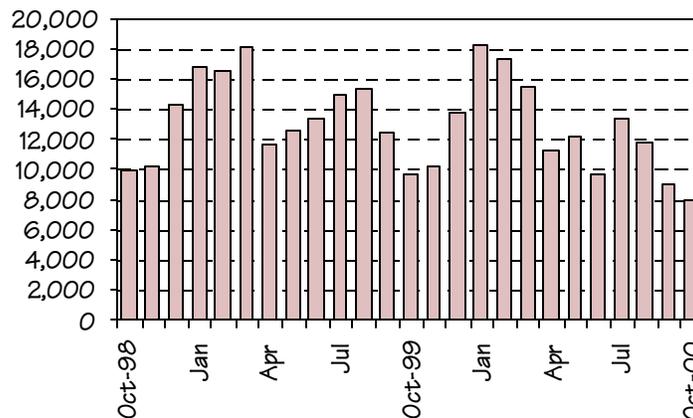
Total Regular Unemployment Compensation Programs:				Change from Previous			
	Oct-00	Sep-00	Oct-99	Month		Year	
				Net Percent	Net Percent	Net Percent	Net Percent
Initial Claims	1,649	1,213	1,843	436	35.9%	(194)	-10.5%
Continued Weeks	8,033	8,990	9,614	(957)	-10.6%	(1,581)	-16.4%

Claims Activity

Unemployment Compensation Fund, October 2000

Unemployment compensation fund balance at the end of October:	\$323,212,307.96
Average payment for a week of total unemployment:	\$230.40
Net benefits paid:	\$2,355,592.77
Net contributions received during the month:	\$1,984,503.36
Interest Received:	\$0.00
Reed Act Distribution:	\$397,852.00
Reed Act Withdrawn:	\$404,529.00

Trust Fund



Continued Weeks Claimed

Oct-98 through Oct-00

Continued weeks claimed decreased as is typical from September to October. In each of the previous three years, however, the decrease had been around 2,800.

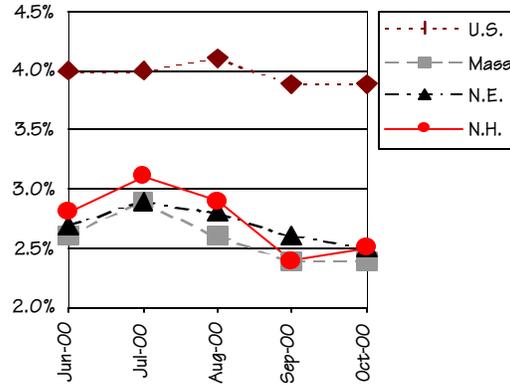
Oct-00	Sep-00	Oct-99	change from previous	
			Month	Year
174.0	173.7	168.2	0.2%	3.4%

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

Consumer Price Index

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

Seven of the nine Northeast states were within 2/10 percentage points of their September rates.



Unemployment Rates by Region

	preliminary Oct-00	revised Sep-00	Oct-99
United States	3.9%	3.9%	4.1%
Northeast	3.7%	3.8%	4.3%
New England	2.5%	2.6%	3.2%
Connecticut	2.0%	2.4%	3.1%
Maine	3.4%	3.5%	3.9%
Massachusetts	2.4%	2.4%	3.3%
New Hampshire	2.5%	2.4%	2.5%
Rhode Island	3.3%	3.8%	4.0%
Vermont	2.7%	2.8%	2.9%
Mid Atlantic	4.2%	4.3%	4.7%
New Jersey	3.8%	3.8%	4.5%
New York	4.4%	4.6%	5.1%
Pennsylvania	4.2%	4.0%	4.3%

Labor Force Estimates

By Place of Residence

	Jun-00	Jul-00	Aug-00	revised Sep-00	preliminary Oct-00
New Hampshire					
Unemployment Rate	2.8%	3.1%	2.9%	2.4%	2.5%
Civilian Labor Force	684,590	686,440	683,970	683,760	686,480
Number Employed	665,090	665,450	664,190	667,330	669,310
Number Unemployed	19,500	20,990	19,780	16,430	17,170
United States (in thousands)					
Unemployment Rate	4.0%	4.0%	4.1%	3.9%	3.9%
Civilian Labor Force	140,762	140,399	140,742	140,639	140,918
Number Employed	135,179	134,749	134,912	135,161	135,422
Number Unemployed	5,583	5,650	5,829	5,477	5,496

Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment

By Place of Establishment

Industry	Jun-00	Jul-00	Aug-00	revised Sep-00	preliminary Oct-00
TOTAL ALL INDUSTRIES	611,800	610,200	610,900	613,300	611,700
Mining*	500	500	500	500	500
Construction	26,000	26,200	26,000	26,100	26,200
Manufacturing	105,500	106,000	106,100	106,200	106,000
Durable Goods	75,300	75,800	76,200	76,300	76,200
Nondurable Goods	30,200	30,200	29,900	29,900	29,800
Transportation and Public Utilities	21,000	20,900	19,900	21,600	21,700
Trade	161,800	160,900	162,100	161,900	161,600
Wholesale Trade	31,900	32,000	31,700	32,300	32,400
Retail Trade	129,900	128,900	130,400	129,600	129,200
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	32,800	32,900	32,700	32,800	32,900
Services	179,600	179,800	180,400	180,700	180,300
Government	84,600	83,000	83,200	83,500	82,500

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

Labor Force Estimates

New Hampshire	Oct-00	Sep-00	Oct-99
Number of Workers	preliminary	revised	
Total Civilian Labor Force	682,550	676,170	668,180
Employed	667,940	661,910	653,670
Unemployed	14,610	14,260	14,510
Unemployment Rate (% of labor force)	2.1%	2.1%	2.2%

Unemployment Rates by Area

	Oct-00	Sep-00	Oct-99
	preliminary	revised	

U.S. and Regional States

United States	3.6%	3.8%	3.8%
Northeast	3.5%	3.6%	4.0%
New England	2.3%	2.4%	3.0%
Connecticut	2.0%	1.9%	3.0%
Maine	2.9%	2.7%	3.3%
Massachusetts	2.1%	2.5%	2.9%
New Hampshire	2.1%	2.1%	2.2%
Rhode Island	3.4%	3.9%	4.1%
Vermont	2.4%	2.5%	2.6%
Mid Atlantic	3.9%	4.1%	4.4%
New Jersey	3.4%	3.7%	4.2%
New York	4.2%	4.4%	4.9%
Pennsylvania	3.8%	4.0%	3.9%

Labor Market Areas (NH Portions Only)

Berlin LMA	2.0%	2.1%	2.5%
Seabrook-South Hampton, NH			
Portion Boston MA-NH PMSA	4.5%	3.8%	2.9%
Claremont LMA	1.7%	1.6%	2.0%
Colebrook LMA	2.4%	2.7%	1.7%
Concord LMA	1.6%	1.7%	1.5%
Conway LMA	2.2%	2.1%	1.7%
NH Portion Hartford-Lebanon VT-NH LMA	1.3%	1.3%	0.9%
NH Portion Keene-Brattleboro NH-VT LMA	2.1%	2.1%	1.8%
Laconia LMA	1.8%	1.8%	1.8%
Lancaster LMA	2.5%	2.1%	2.3%
Salem-Derry, NH Portion Lawrence MA-NH PMSA	3.6%	3.6%	3.6%
Littleton LMA	1.9%	1.8%	1.7%
Pelham, NH Portion Lowell MA-NH PMSA	3.4%	3.0%	4.2%
Manchester LMA	1.8%	1.8%	1.9%
Nashua LMA	2.3%	2.3%	2.4%
Peterborough LMA	2.1%	2.1%	1.9%
Plymouth LMA	1.4%	1.2%	1.4%
NH Portion Portsmouth-Rochester, NH-ME PMSA	2.0%	1.9%	1.7%

Counties

Belknap	1.7%	1.7%	1.8%
Carroll	2.1%	2.1%	1.7%
Cheshire	2.3%	2.2%	1.9%
Coos	2.2%	2.3%	2.4%
Grafton	1.4%	1.4%	1.2%
Hillsborough	2.1%	2.1%	2.2%
Merrimack	1.5%	1.6%	1.5%
Rockingham	2.8%	2.7%	2.7%
Strafford	2.1%	2.1%	1.6%
Sullivan	1.7%	1.6%	2.0%

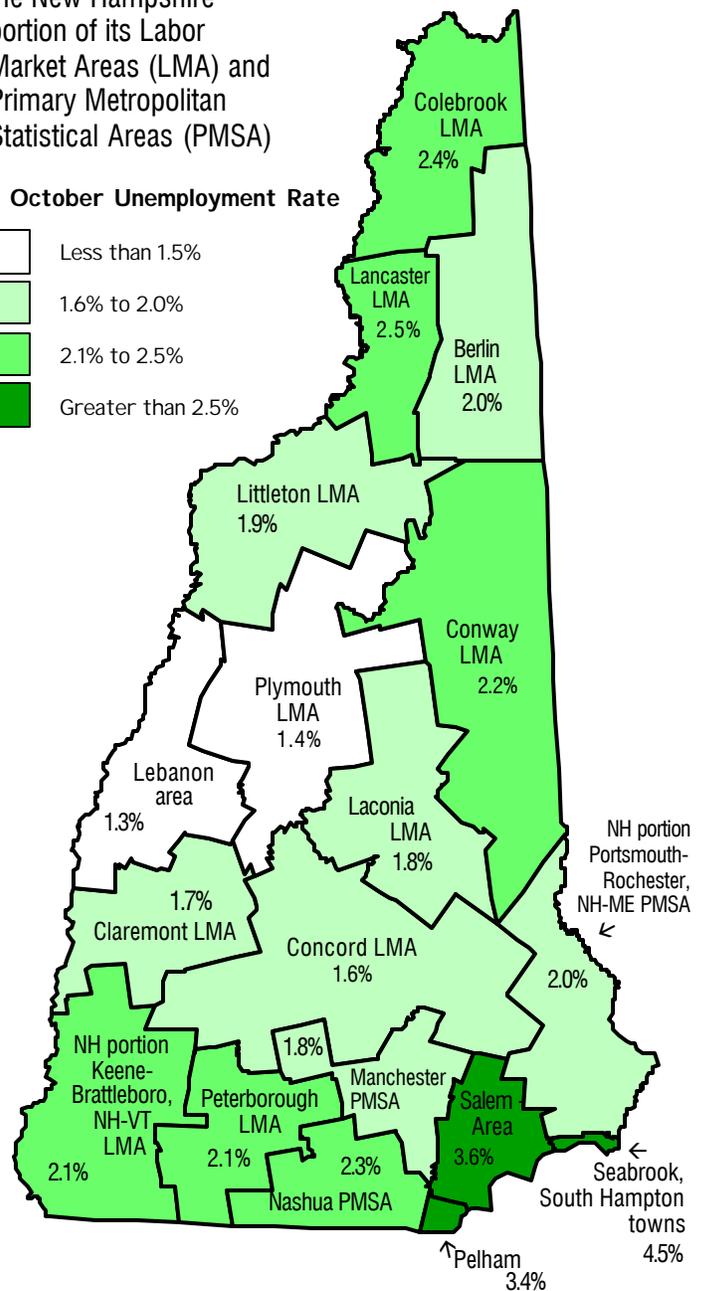
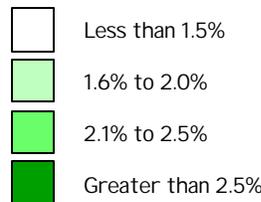
Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

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)

October Unemployment Rate



Reductions in Retail Trade and Services, primarily in tourist-related industries, led to the decline in private employment.

More detailed industry information is available at our Web site

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	
	Oct-00 (preliminary)	Sep-00 (revised)	Oct-99	From Previous	
				Month	Year
Total All Industries	616,700	616,400	611,600	300	5,100
Private Employment Total	532,100	533,200	527,400	-1,100	4,700
Mining	500	500	500	0	0
Construction	27,200	27,300	25,600	-100	1,600
Manufacturing	105,700	105,800	106,000	-100	-300
Durable Goods Total	75,900	76,100	75,800	-200	100
Nondurable Goods Total	29,800	29,700	30,200	100	-400
Transportation & Public Utilities	21,700	21,800	21,600	-100	100
Trade Total	162,500	162,700	161,600	-200	900
Wholesale Trade	32,400	32,200	31,900	200	500
Retail Trade	130,100	130,500	129,700	-400	400
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	32,800	32,800	32,800	0	0
Services	181,700	182,300	179,300	-600	2,400
Government Total	84,600	83,200	84,200	1,400	400

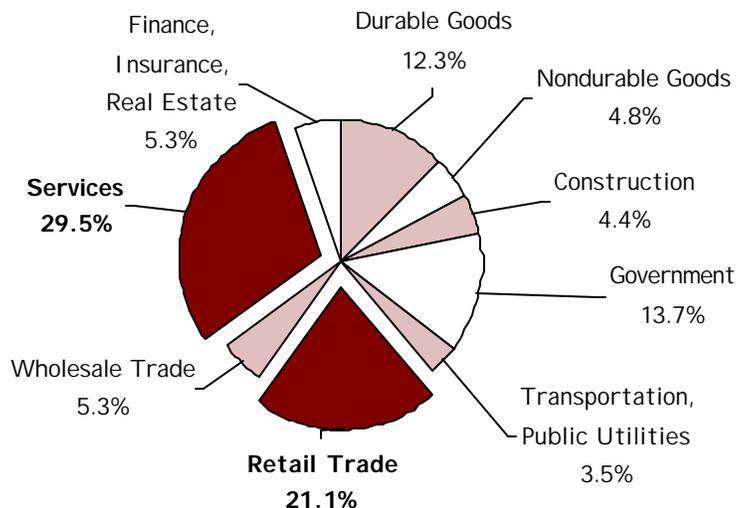
Note: Totals are rounded to hundreds

Retail trade led job growth both over-the-month and over-the-year in the Manchester PMSA

Current Employment Statistics (CES) Manchester PMSA

Employment by Industry Number of jobs by place of establishment	Number of Jobs			Change	
	Oct-00 (preliminary)	Sep-00 (revised)	Oct-99	from previous:	
				Month	Year
Total All Industries	105,100	104,400	103,100	700	2,000
Private Employment Total	93,700	93,100	92,000	600	1,700
Construction & Mining	5,300	5,400	5,100	-100	200
Manufacturing	15,600	15,400	14,700	200	900
Durable Goods	10,900	10,800	10,200	100	700
Transportation & Public Utilities	6,500	6,400	6,300	100	200
Trade Total	26,200	25,600	25,100	600	1,100
Wholesale Trade	6,600	6,500	6,600	100	0
Retail Trade	19,600	19,100	18,500	500	1,100
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	7,500	7,500	7,800	0	-300
Services	32,600	32,800	33,000	-200	-400
Government Total	11,400	11,300	11,100	100	300

Divisional Percentages of Nonfarm Employment



**Current Employment Statistics
Nashua PMSA**

Employment by Industry Number of jobs by place of establishment	Oct-00	Sep-00	Oct-99	from previous:	
	(preliminary)	(revised)		Month	Year
Total All Industries	96,800	96,200	96,100	600	700
Private Employment Total	87,900	87,400	87,500	500	400
Construction & Mining	3,600	3,500	3,200	100	400
Manufacturing	27,800	27,700	27,200	100	600
Durable Goods	21,800	21,800	21,100	0	700
Nondurable Goods	6,000	5,900	6,100	100	-100
Transportation & Public Utilities	3,100	3,200	3,200	-100	-100
Trade Total	24,900	24,400	24,900	500	0
Wholesale Trade	4,700	4,700	4,700	0	0
Retail Trade	20,200	19,700	20,200	500	0
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	4,400	4,400	4,800	0	-400
Services	24,100	24,200	24,200	-100	-100
Government Total	8,900	8,800	8,600	100	300

Unlike state totals, the Nashua PMSA picked up jobs in Retail trade over-the-month.

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

Employment by Industry Number of jobs by place of establishment	Oct-00	Sep-00	Oct-99	from previous:	
	(preliminary)	(revised)		Month	Year
Total All Industries	122,900	123,200	121,500	-300	1,400
Private Employment Total	101,000	102,000	98,800	-1,000	2,200
Construction & Mining	4,300	4,300	4,200	0	100
Manufacturing	18,400	18,600	18,300	-200	100
Durable Goods	12,000	12,000	11,500	0	500
Nondurable Goods	6,400	6,600	6,800	-200	-400
Transportation & Public Utilities	3,800	3,700	3,900	100	-100
Trade Total	33,800	34,300	33,300	-500	500
Wholesale Trade	5,900	5,900	5,900	0	0
Retail Trade	27,900	28,400	27,400	-500	500
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	6,700	6,600	6,600	100	100
Services	34,000	34,500	32,500	-500	1,500
Government Total	21,900	21,200	22,700	700	-800

Despite an over-the-month loss in Services in the Portsmouth PMSA, strength in that division led to over-the-year employment gains.

Average Earnings and Hours of Production Workers in Manufacturing

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Oct-00 (prelim.)	Sep-00 (revised)	Oct-99	Oct-00 (prelim.)	Sep-00 (revised)	Oct-99	Oct-00 (prelim.)	Sep-00 (revised)	Oct-99
NEW HAMPSHIRE									
All Manufacturing	\$553.11	\$557.88	\$531.33	40.7	40.9	40.1	\$13.59	\$13.64	\$13.25
Durable Goods	550.11	556.91	530.00	40.9	41.1	40.0	13.45	13.55	13.25
Nondurable Goods	561.96	558.96	533.57	40.4	40.3	40.3	13.91	13.87	13.24
MANCHESTER PMSA									
All Manufacturing	\$578.57	\$594.43	\$560.95	38.7	38.4	39.2	\$14.95	\$15.48	\$14.31
Durable Goods	596.69	624.85	558.33	39.7	39.2	38.8	15.03	15.94	14.39
NASHUA PMSA									
All Manufacturing	\$557.44	\$558.55	\$577.50	40.6	41.1	42.0	\$13.73	\$13.59	\$13.75
Durable Goods	538.65	538.48	560.05	40.9	41.2	42.3	13.17	13.07	13.24
Nondurable Goods	626.87	628.56	631.50	39.5	40.5	40.9	15.87	15.52	15.44
PORTSMOUTH-ROCHESTER, NH-MA PMSA									
All Manufacturing	\$559.61	\$562.65	\$540.19	41.7	42.4	40.8	\$13.42	\$13.27	\$13.24
Durable Goods	613.68	616.96	601.38	43.4	44.1	42.5	14.14	13.99	14.15
Nondurable Goods	448.82	457.47	435.85	38.1	39.1	37.9	11.78	11.70	11.50

In the Manchester PMSA, average weekly hours increases were not sufficient to offset the average hourly earnings drop, leading to an over-the-month drop in average weekly earnings.

For Additional Information

<p>New Hampshire Employment Security Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau:</p> <p>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</p> <p>Internet address: www.nhes.state.nh.us/lmipage.htm</p>	<p>New Hampshire Employment Security Local Offices:</p> <p>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</p>
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