

# New Hampshire

## Economic Conditions

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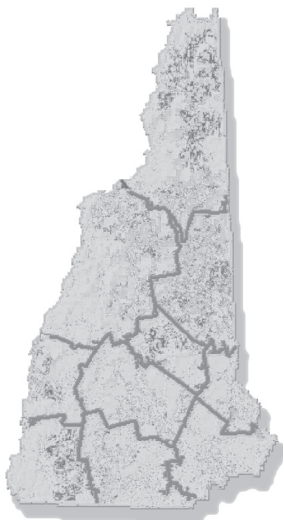
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**Local Area  
Unemployment  
Statistics .....5**

**Current  
Employment  
Statistics .....6**

**Licensed, Certified  
& Registered  
Occupations .....8**

**For Additional  
Information .....8**



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## New Hampshire Claimants in 2007

New Hampshire has typically maintained an unemployment rate lower than that of the national average.

One of the elements used in developing the unemployment rate is measuring the number of claims for unemployment compensation. An initial claim is the first step in filing a claim for benefits. Economists often use this figure as a measurement of the current health of an economy. They feel if initial claims are increasing then more people are in the early stages of unemployment. Tracking the number of monthly initial claims in the state shows seasonal peaks and valleys:

► The increase in initial claims each December is typically from manufacturing company shutdowns for the holidays.

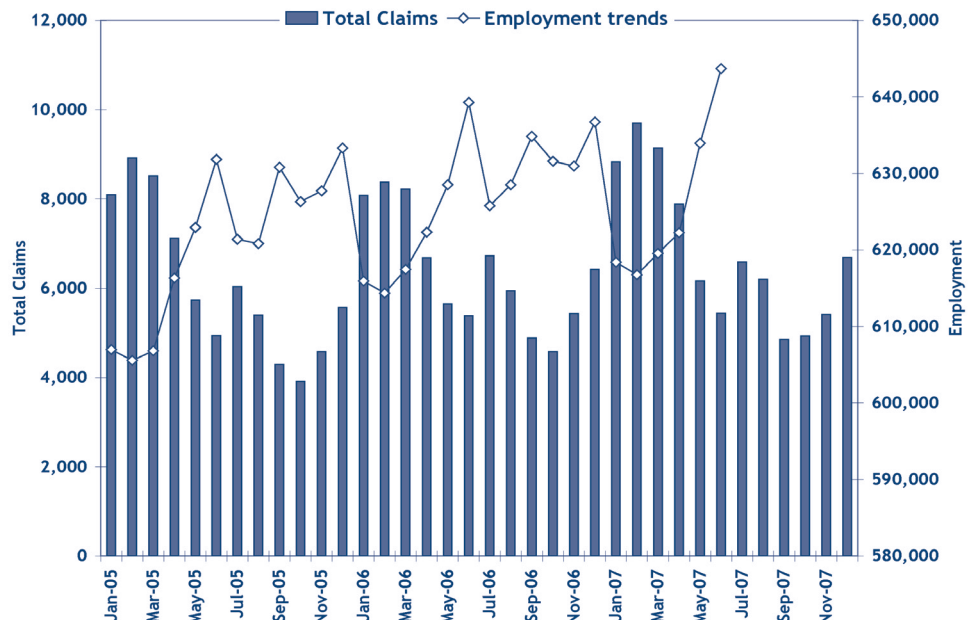
► January follows as having the next highest number of initial claims – that may be attributable in part to the reduction in retail staff after the holiday employment buildups.

► Individuals on summer hiatus from the academic year and factory vacation shutdowns typically inflate July initial claims.

► September is a mixed bag for initial claims depending on when the summer tourist season wraps up and the academic year begins.

It is key to recognize the difference between seasonal patterns and economic change or cyclical patterns in the number of claims. Seasonal changes are easily distinguished and predictable. Cyclical changes are prompted by changes in the “business cycle” which are unrelated to the calendar but

Seasonal trends in unemployment compensation claims are inverse to those of industry employment

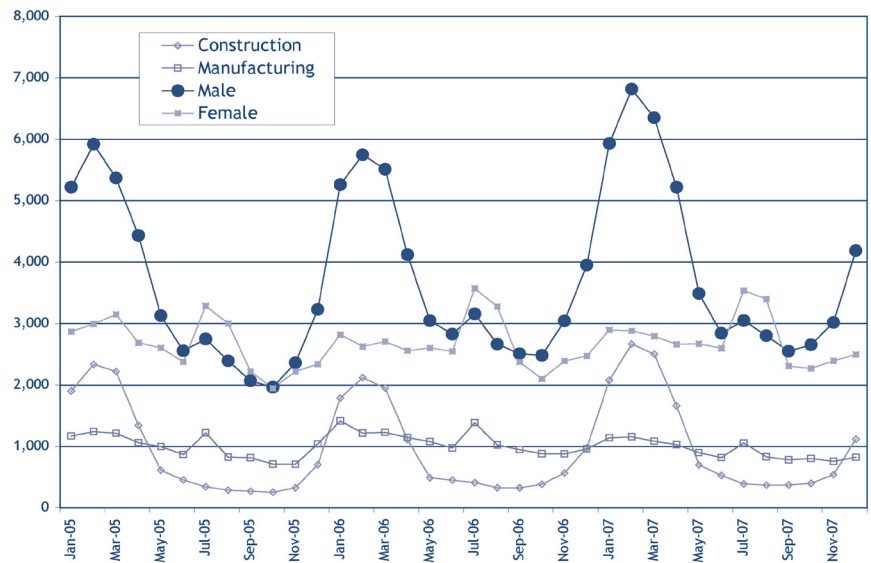


instead define recession and recovery periods. Structural economic changes are those of a more permanent nature, reflecting complex shifts in technology and population changes.

Not all unemployed individuals file for unemployment compensation. There are many reasons for this. People who have been out of the workforce and return and those entering the workforce for the first time may not be eligible for compensation because they do not have "qualifying wages" from recent employment. In addition, those who voluntarily leave their jobs typically are not eligible. Some workers who are eligible may simply choose not to file. Most who lose a job through no fault of their own and those on temporary layoff do qualify for unemployment compensation.

Another indicator of the strength of the economy is the "average duration." For the twelve months prior to September 2007, the average duration in New Hampshire was 12.5 weeks compared to 15.2 weeks for the nation. That represents the average length of time that claimants received unemployment benefit payments. For example, shorter duration periods could be indicative of a strong economy in which displaced workers become reemployed in a short time frame.

### Claims trends follow the seasonal demands of gender dominated industries



Reviewing the gender breakout within the industries adds another dimension, and provides an indication of gender-by-industry staffing patterns. Overall, of the claims filed in New Hampshire during 2007, *Construction* and *Manufacturing* had the largest share of total claims. For example, the *Construction* industry includes more jobs that are male dominated, like those in the *Construction and extraction* occupations.

### Share of New Hampshire Claims by Gender Among the Industries 2007

	Males	Females	Total
Finance & Insurance	794	2,067	2,861
Professional/Scientific/Tech. Services	1,434	1,707	3,141
Transportation & Warehouse	1,676	1,648	3,324
Wholesale Trade	2,621	1,185	3,806
Accommodation & food Services	1,853	2,505	4,358
Health Care & Social Assistance	793	3,908	4,701
Admin & Support/Waste Mgmt/Remedia Svc.	4,954	3,221	8,175
Retail Trade	5,069	3,849	8,918
Manufacturing	7,261	3,924	11,185
Construction	12,371	953	13,324
All Others	10,883	10,013	

However the industry also includes jobs in *Office and administrative support, Management, and Sales and related occupations*.

*Construction*, with 16.3 percent of total claims, included over a quarter of all male claimants and just shy of three percent of female claimants. Claimants in *Manufacturing and Retail* followed with the next largest shares of all claims, and the breakout of male and female was a little closer, 14.8 percent of males vs. 11.9 percent of female claimants in *Manufacturing* and 10.4 percent of males vs. 11.7 percent of females in *Retail trade*.

Claimants in the *Administrative support/waste management services* sector held 10.0 percent of all claimant activity in 2007. It was also the most balanced, 10.1 percent of male claimants and 9.8 percent of female claimants. The gender-by-industry staffing patterns show more clearly in the claimant information from the *Health care and social assistance* industry. While the industry sector as a whole held 5.7 of claimant activity during the year, only 1.9 percent of males filed in this industry and 11.9 percent of females filed.

Anita Josten

## Unemployment Compensation Claims Activities

Total Regular Unemployment Compensation Programs:				Change from Previous			
				Month		Year	
	Dec-07	Nov-07	Dec-06	Net	Percent	Net	Percent
Initial Claims	7,536	4,255	6,592	3,281	77.1%	944	14.3%
Continued Weeks	35,069	23,684	27,612	11,385	48.1%	7,457	27.0%

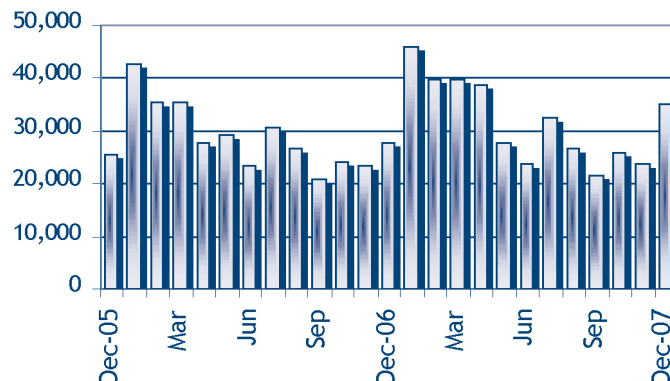
## Claims Activity

## Unemployment Compensation Fund

Unemployment compensation fund balance at the end of December	\$239,744,730.04
Average payment for a week of total unemployment:	\$273.82
Net benefits paid:	\$8,486,654.69
Net contributions received during the month:	\$122,806.08
Interest Received:	\$2,987,543.81
Reed Act Distribution:	\$0.00
Reed Act Withdrawn for Administrative Costs:	\$0.00

## Trust Fund

## Continued Weeks Claimed



Dec 2005 - Dec 2007

December's spike to 35,069 continued weeks claimed put the annual total more than 34,000 weeks claimed ahead of 2006.

			Change from Previous	
Dec-07	Nov-07	Dec-06	xMonth	Year
210.0	210.2	201.8	-0.1%	4.1%

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

## Consumer Price Index