

New Hampshire

Economic Conditions



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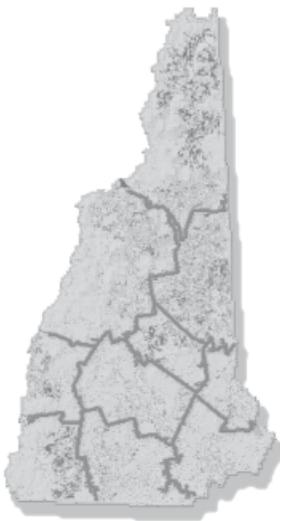
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Occupational Projections 2006-2016: A Descriptive Approach

When a student sits with a guidance counselor to discuss future education and career plans, one of the tools the counselor can use to provide advice is occupational projections.

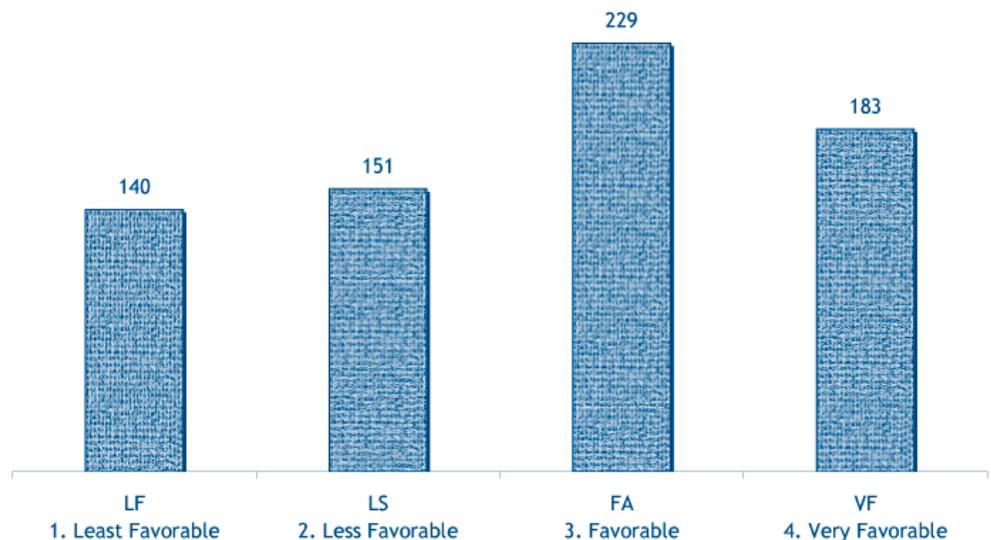
Historically, occupational projections have contained a variety of numbers such as percent change, average annual growth rate, total new jobs, and total annual openings. This data is quite useful and appreciated when presented to analysts and technical users. Others, however, can easily get lost in the multitude of numbers for more than 700 occupations. For these users, help has arrived.

Now there is a way to tell at a glance, without wading through all those numbers, if an occupation

is expected to be a good bet for future employment opportunities. The latest version of projections introduces *Occupational Descriptors*, a concept that uses four categories (very favorable, favorable, less favorable, and least favorable) to summarize the expected prospects for an occupation.

Descriptors are simpler to understand and better handle the fact that employment and growth rate projections are not intended to be exact predictions because input data and forecast methodologies are not an exact science. Descriptors also make it easier to compare projections for different time periods and geographic areas. Another benefit of descriptors is that they put smaller occupations on an even footing with larger occupations, so that small, fast-growing occupations get attention.

More than half of all projected occupations are described as "Favorable" or better



Creating the Descriptors

The descriptors are determined by two factors: the projected growth rate and the projected number of job openings for a particular occupation.

Growth Rate

In the first step, occupations are assigned one of five categories based on the projected percentage change in employment between 2006 and 2016. Ranges are determined by statistical analysis that distributes the occupations over five roughly equal categories:

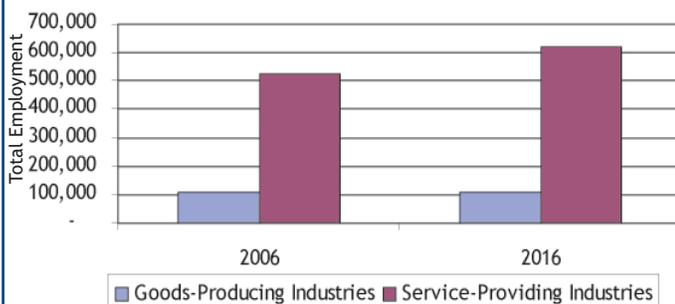
- ▶ *Very Low* – negative growth rate
- ▶ *Low* – growth rate between zero and approximately one percent
- ▶ *Average* – growth rate of approximately one percent to 1.3 percent (the average for all occupations)
- ▶ *High* – growth rate between 1.3 percent and 1.8 percent
- ▶ *Very High* – growth rate greater than 1.8 percent

New Hampshire employment projected to grow by 13.9 percent

Employment growth in New Hampshire is expected to surpass national trends in the 2006-2016 release of long-term projections. A gain of 96,445 jobs over the decade amounts to a 13.9 percent increase.

In comparison, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects a 10.4 percent growth rate for the nation as a whole during the same ten-year period. Projected growth for both the nation and the state is not expected to be as robust as in the past, but is still positive.

Service-providing industries in New Hampshire are expected to generate nearly all of the employment gains, 2006-2016



Openings

In the next step, occupations are assigned to one of five categories based on the number of projected average annual openings from both growth and replacement needs. Likewise, statistical analysis distributes the occupations over five roughly equal categories:

- ▶ *Very Low* – zero or one opening
- ▶ *Low* – two to four openings
- ▶ *Average* – five to 14 openings
- ▶ *High* – 15 to 39 openings
- ▶ *Very High* – 40 or more openings

Descriptor Categories

Finally, the five growth rate categories are combined with the five categories representing the number of projected openings to produce 25 possible results. These are then assigned one of four descriptive labels:

Least Favorable (LF): Occupations in this category have a growth rate less than one percent and fewer than four annual openings per year. These occupations are not expected to be significant sources of jobs through 2016.

Less Favorable (LS): These occupations have better expected opportunities than the least favorable category, either because of a higher growth rate or more projected openings.

Favorable (FA): Favorable occupations may have a low growth rate, but only if the projected openings are high or very high. An occupation may be designated as favorable if the growth rate is better than average but the number of openings is below average. Occupations with an average growth rate and average or better openings are also considered to be favorable.

Very Favorable (VF): Those occupations that combine high growth and a large number of openings are described as very favorable. These occupations are expected to provide the best opportunities through 2016.

While the initial breakdown of growth rate and openings into five categories is based on statistical analysis, assignment of four descriptors involves a bit of judgement. One goal was to make sure that job seekers, employment counselors, and other users are not misled by overly optimistic or pessimistic descriptors, keeping in mind that some occupations can be on the borderline between favorable and less favorable.

Best Bets: Very Favorable

Health care occupations stand out on the list of very favorable occupations. As state and national populations grow increasingly older and require more health care, these occupations will be in high demand. Examples are *Physicians and surgeons* and *Registered nurses*, along with *Pharmacists*, *Physical therapists*, *Dental hygienists*, and *Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses*. Many *Community and social services* occupations are also very favorable, *Social and human service assistants* being one of the largest.

Rapidly evolving technology and security concerns are just two reasons why many computer-related occupations are very favorable. *Computer software engineers, applications*; *Computer software engineers, systems software*; and *Computer systems analysts* all project to have high projected growth and openings.

New Hampshire's reputation as an attractive tourist destination will help increase demand for occupations such as *Combined food preparation and serving workers*, *Waiters and waitresses*, *Restaurant cooks*, and *Supervisors and managers of food preparation and serving workers*. Another related occupation with very favorable prospects is *Retail salespersons*.

Population growth and the need to replace retiring teachers may offset budgetary constraints, creating demand for teaching occupations at the elementary and secondary level, including *Special education teachers* at all levels and *Teacher assistants*. *Postsecondary education teachers* should also have very favorable opportunities.

In the office, some of the larger occupations with very favorable prospects are *Bookkeeping, accounting*, and *auditing clerks*; *Customer service representatives*; and *General office clerks*.

The other side: Least Favorable

Occupations small in size or concentrated in industries projected to lose employment over the ten-year period are usually described as least favorable. Many of these occupations are in manufacturing and are declining due to changes in technology and improvements in productivity. However, these changes will open opportunities in other occupations. *Milling and planing machine setters, operators and tenders, metal and plastic*; *Bindery workers*; *Pressers, textile, garment, and related materials*; *Job printers*; and *Chemical equipment operators and tenders* are just a few examples.

Some occupations exhibit slightly positive growth in the projections period, but because of their small numbers, do not have enough projected openings to consider them as favorable. *Loan counselors*; *Tax preparers*; *Desktop publishers*; and *Airline pilots, copilots, and flight engineers* are considered less favorable for that reason.

Descriptors and Training

Job seekers and employment counselors can use occupational descriptors to spotlight very favorable occupations by training category. Prospective students can focus on occupational choices that fit their specific training requirements.

Here are some examples, looking at postsecondary vocational education, associate degrees, and bachelor's degrees:

Postsecondary vocational training programs can prepare students for a wide variety of very favorable occupations. *Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants*; *Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses*; and *Hairdressers, hairstylists, and cosmetologists* are expected to add significantly to job totals over the decade.

The occupations listed below are among the largest (in terms of 2006 employment) in each training category identified as being very favorable because of a combination of projected high growth and numerous openings.

SOC Code	Occupation	Average Annual Growth	Total Openings	Training Category
31-1012	Nursing Aides, Orderlies, and Attendants	2.3%	267	Postsecondary Vocational Training
39-5012	Hairdressers, Hairstylists, and Cosmetologists	1.7%	120	Postsecondary Vocational Training
25-2011	Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education	2.7%	145	Postsecondary Vocational Training
29-1111	Registered Nurses	2.8%	613	Associate degree
29-2021	Dental Hygienists	3.1%	65	Associate degree
23-2011	Paralegals and Legal Assistants	1.7%	35	Associate degree
13-1199	Business Operations Specialists, All Other	2.3%	353	Bachelor's degree
25-2021	Elementary School Teachers, Ex. Special Ed	2.3%	380	Bachelor's degree
41-3021	Insurance Sales Agents	1.7%	217	Bachelor's degree

Registered nurses lead the list of occupations requiring an associate degree with very favorable prospects. Other occupations in this training category include Paralegals and legal assistants, Dental hygienists, and Radiologic technologists and technicians.

Graduates with a bachelor's degree can look forward to many very favorable opportunities through 2016. Leading occupations for openings and growth include Business operations specialists, all other; Accountants and auditors; Elementary, middle and secondary school teachers; and Computer software engineers, applications.

Michael Argiropolis

A complete set of industry and occupational projections can be found on the Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau web site at:
 <<http://www.nh.gov/nhes/elmi/projections.htm>>

Unemployment Compensation Claims Activities

Claims Activity

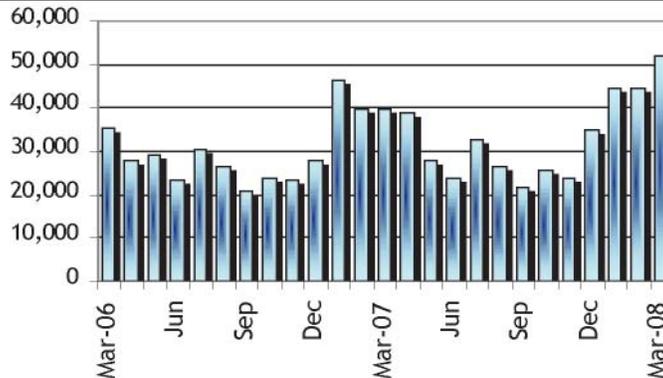
Total Regular Unemployment Compensation Programs:				Change from Previous			
				Month		Year	
	Mar-08	Feb-08	Mar-07	Net	Percent	Net	Percent
Initial Claims	4,459	5,260	3,865	-801	-15.2%	594	15.4%
Continued Weeks	51,903	44,391	39,653	7,512	16.9%	12,250	30.9%

Unemployment Compensation Fund

Trust Fund

Unemployment compensation fund balance at the end of March	\$215,076,129.04
Average payment for a week of total unemployment:	\$268.48
Net benefits paid:	\$12,799,475.39
Net contributions received during the month:	\$268,872.84
Interest Received:	\$2,797,407.01
Reed Act Distribution:	\$0.00
Reed Act Withdrawn for Administrative Costs:	\$0.00

Continued Weeks Claimed



Mar 2006 - Mar 2008

			Change from Previous	
			Month	Year
Mar-08	Feb-08	Mar-07	0.9%	3.9%

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

Consumer Price Index