

Employment and Wages (Monthly)



Current Employment Statistics (CES) are monthly estimates of employment, hours, and earnings for persons on nonfarm payrolls based on a sample survey of employing establishments. CES estimates are often referred to as *nonfarm* because farming employment is not included. New Hampshire's data, combined with that of other states, is used to measure national economic trends. Government and financial institutions, as well as the media, use CES estimates in their analysis of the economy.

CES estimates include the current number of jobs in nonfarm employment as well as estimates of average weekly hours, average weekly earnings, and average hourly earnings. Estimates are produced for the state and for the larger metropolitan areas in New Hampshire.

The data produced by the CES program are published monthly in *Economic Conditions* and a detailed monthly analysis of industry employment data is online at www.nhes.nh.gov/elmi/statistics/ces-data.htm.

Employment and Wages (Quarterly)



As part of the Unemployment Insurance compensation system, New Hampshire Employment Security (NHES) collects quarterly data on the number of people employed and total wages paid from those employers subject to the unemployment insurance law. This data is called Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) but is often referred to as "covered employment" or ES-202 data. Nationwide, the QCEW data cover about 97 percent of all nonfarm (CES) employment and nearly all (99.7 percent) wage and salary civilian employment. QCEW data from all states combined are used to identify regional and national economic trends, and conduct performance analysis. As an example, the Bureau of Economic Analysis of the U.S. Department of Commerce uses QCEW data as a major component in estimating total wage and salary for the National Income and Product Accounts, Gross Domestic Product, and Personal Income and Outlays.

QCEW data are compiled by geographic location, industry (NAICS), and ownership (public vs. private). This facilitates tracking employment history and economic growth by location and industry — important information in economic development efforts. Data are published approximately two quarters, or six months, after the end of the reference quarter. This lag is due to quarterly reporting and data processing time.

ELMIB uses QCEW data to benchmark nonfarm employment estimates produced by the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program. QCEW data are also used as input in developing Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) and as a sampling frame for the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) program and occasionally for surveys conducted by the Research Unit.

QCEW data are available online at www.nhes.nh.gov/elmi/statistics/qcew-data.htm.

Employment Projections by Industry and Occupation

ELMIB prepares both long-term and short-term projections of employment for 110 industries and over 700 occupations. Projected growth rates and employment change for industries and occupations are available. Occupational data include projected average annual new job growth and replacements, along with requirements for education and work experience, as well as on-the-job training required to gain competence in the occupation.

Long-term projections are released every two years and cover a ten-year time frame. These projections are driven by structural changes in the economy, along with changes in population and demographics. Long-term projections take into account jobs created by growth in the economy as well as jobs needed to replace workers who retire or leave an occupation for other reasons.

Short-term projections are prepared at least once each year and cover an eight-quarter time frame. Short-term projections are directly influenced by business cycle fluctuations and changes in demand for the final product or service produced by an industry. Changes in interest rates, consumer confidence, and the relative prices of other products are just some of the factors that can affect industry and occupational employment in the short-term.

www.nhes.nh.gov/elmi/products/proj.htm.

Labor Force and Unemployment Rate

The unemployment rate is one of the most frequently requested pieces of workforce information produced by ELMIB. Each month the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) unit estimates the civilian labor force, the number of employed and unemployed, and the unemployment rate based on place of residence in New Hampshire. Additionally, LAUS calculates the unemployment rate for labor market areas, counties, cities and towns. These data are used by businesses, planners, researchers, other government agencies, and the general public. LAUS estimates are also used to identify Labor Surplus Areas. Employers located in Labor Surplus Areas may be given preference in bidding on federal contracts to advance economic development into areas of greatest need.

LAUS

Even though the unemployment rate is a simple calculation of the estimated unemployed divided by the estimated labor force, estimating employment and unemployment is a much more complicated process. Because many unemployed persons are not eligible for unemployment compensation benefits and because others who are eligible choose not to file, a simple tally of persons filing for unemployment compensation benefits is not an appropriate method of determining the number of unemployed people in the state. LAUS estimates employment and unemployment from a household survey conducted monthly (Current Population Survey, or CPS) by the U.S. Census Bureau, in combination with a variety of other economic data.

Annually, LAUS estimates are revised through a benchmarking process. This can result in adjustments to the estimated unemployment rates for individual months in each year.

Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics provides estimates for six measures of labor underutilization based on results of the Current Population Survey. These measures were developed to provide data users with two measures that are more narrowly defined and three measures that are more broadly defined than the official unemployment rate. The most restrictive measure indicates the percentage of the labor force that have been unemployed for fifteen weeks or longer, while the next most restrictive measure indicates the percentage of the labor force that are job losers. Two more broadly defined measures add discouraged workers to the estimate; and then those who would like a job, but are neither currently looking nor discouraged. The most broadly defined measure adds those persons who work part-time, but want and are available for full-time work to the underutilized labor estimate.

Historic and current data from the LAUS program can be found on our Web site at www.nhes.nh.gov/elmi/statistics/laus-data.htm and the current unemployment rates by area are also published monthly in *Economic Conditions*.

Career Resources

A provider of career resources, ELMIB develops and distributes a variety of information on education, jobs, occupations and careers. Workforce data produced by ELMIB, such as occupations with the best employment prospects, wage rates, and educational requirements, are used in career-related materials.

Periodically, ELMIB produces *New Hampshire Job Notes*, a career tabloid, as well as other career information. To learn more about career products and services, visit www.nhes.nh.gov/elmi/career/.

Occupational Employment and Wages



The Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) program is responsible for developing employment and wage estimates by occupation, including the mean, median, entry and experienced level hourly wages for more than 550 occupations in New Hampshire. In cases where hourly wage data is not available, the annual figures are calculated. Estimated employment levels are also available by occupation.

These estimates are based on a semi-annual survey of New Hampshire's employers. Employers report the number of workers by occupation, and hourly earnings or annual salary.

OES employment estimates are the basis for occupational projections in New Hampshire. Job seekers, employers, government planners, educational specialists, and economic developers also use this employment and wage data.

Data for New Hampshire are available in the publication *New Hampshire Occupational Employment & Wages* and online at www.nhes.nh.gov/elmi/products/oes-prod.htm. Information in this publication is available for New Hampshire and 16 substate areas. The occupational employment and wage data are available online for New Hampshire counties as well, as is a *Dictionary of Occupations*.

Research, Presentations, and Special Requests

The Research Unit is a resource for a wide variety of workforce and career information. It acts as a clearinghouse, packaging information into products that meet consumer needs. The unit's staff is responsible for broad knowledge of the workforce and career information produced in ELMIB and in other State and Federal agencies. The unit responds to questions and data requests on a daily basis. In this role, the Research Unit is frequently called upon to prepare special reports or presentations for the economic development community, other government agencies, the media, and employers.

Unemployment Insurance Claims Data

The Administrative Reporting Unit reports unemployment insurance claims activity by local office. These data include important economic indicators such as the number of initial and continued claims, the number of weeks compensated for unemployment, the average duration of benefit payments, and the average weekly benefit amount paid to claimants.

Initial claims activity is a leading indicator of the economic well being of an area. A significant change in average weekly initial claims can signal a shift in the direction of business activity.

This information is published monthly in *Economic Conditions* and online at www.nhes.nh.gov/elmi/statistics/claims-data.htm

Local Employment Dynamics

Local Employment Dynamics (LED) is a voluntary partnership between New Hampshire Employment Security and the U.S. Census Bureau to develop new information about local labor market conditions at low cost, with no added respondent burden, and with the same confidentiality protections afforded Census and survey data.



LED data are available in three products:

Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI)

Measures local labor market performance, such as new hires, turnover, and job creation.

Industry Focus

Customized industry rankings based on the QWI.

On The Map

A dynamic web-based mapping tool showing where people live in relation to where they work. Includes reports on age, earnings, industry, distribution, and local workforce indicators.

LED products are available at www.nhes.nh.gov/elmi/products/led.htm