How Have New Hampshire Businesses Responded to the Coronavirus Pandemic?

To get a more detailed understanding of how U.S. businesses have changed their operations and employment since the coronavirus pandemic began, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics created the Business Response Survey to the Coronavirus Pandemic (BRS). This survey asked businesses directly what they experienced during the pandemic and how they responded, covering a period between January 2020 and September 2020. In addition to nationwide data, BRS data also show how business establishments[1] in each state have responded to the pandemic.

Employment and Demand

The coronavirus pandemic had a strong negative impact on employment in New Hampshire, with the number of workers employed by New Hampshire businesses decreasing by 114,000 between February and April 2020. Although employment in New Hampshire began to increase in May, there were still 53,000 fewer workers employed by New Hampshire businesses in December than there had been in February.

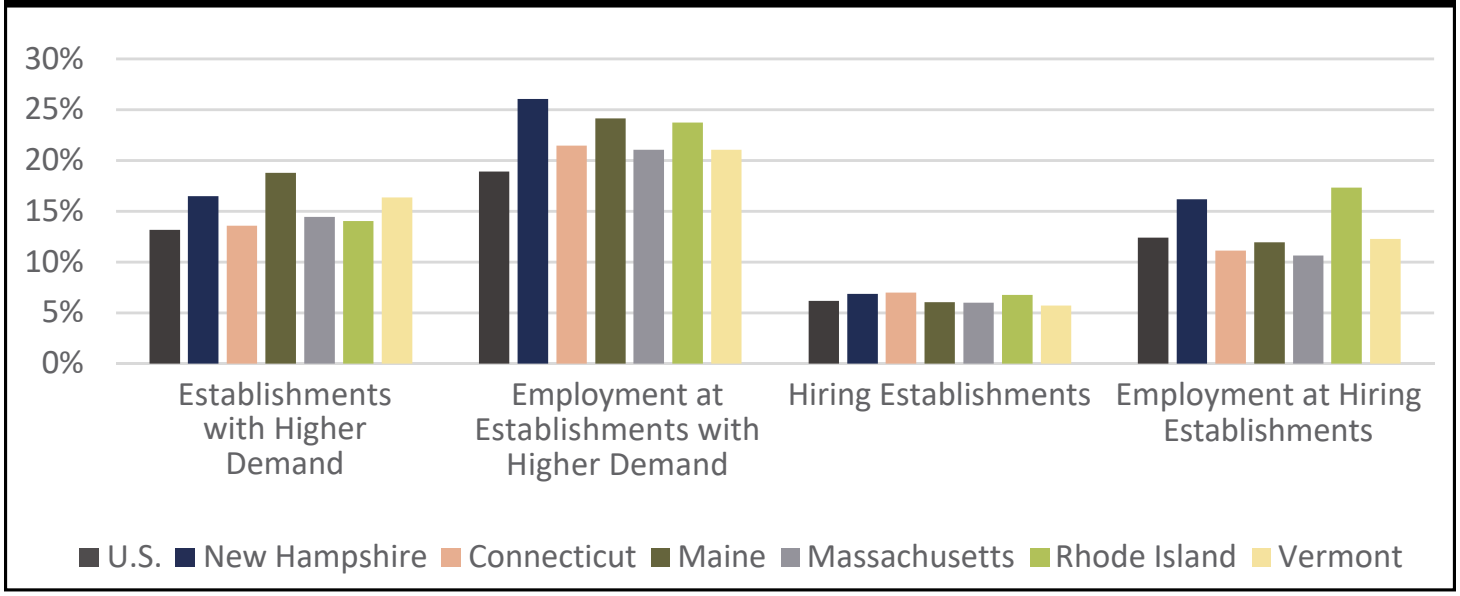
However, not every business was negatively affected by the pandemic. Although a majority of business establishments, 52.2 percent, reported a decline in demand for their products or services during the pandemic, 16.5 percent reported an increase in demand. While overall employment declined, 6.9 percent of New Hampshire business establishments reported that they had hired additional employees during the pandemic.

In both of these measures, New Hampshire performed better than the national average. Nationwide, 13.2 percent of establishments reported an increase in demand and 6.2 percent reported hiring additional staff.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

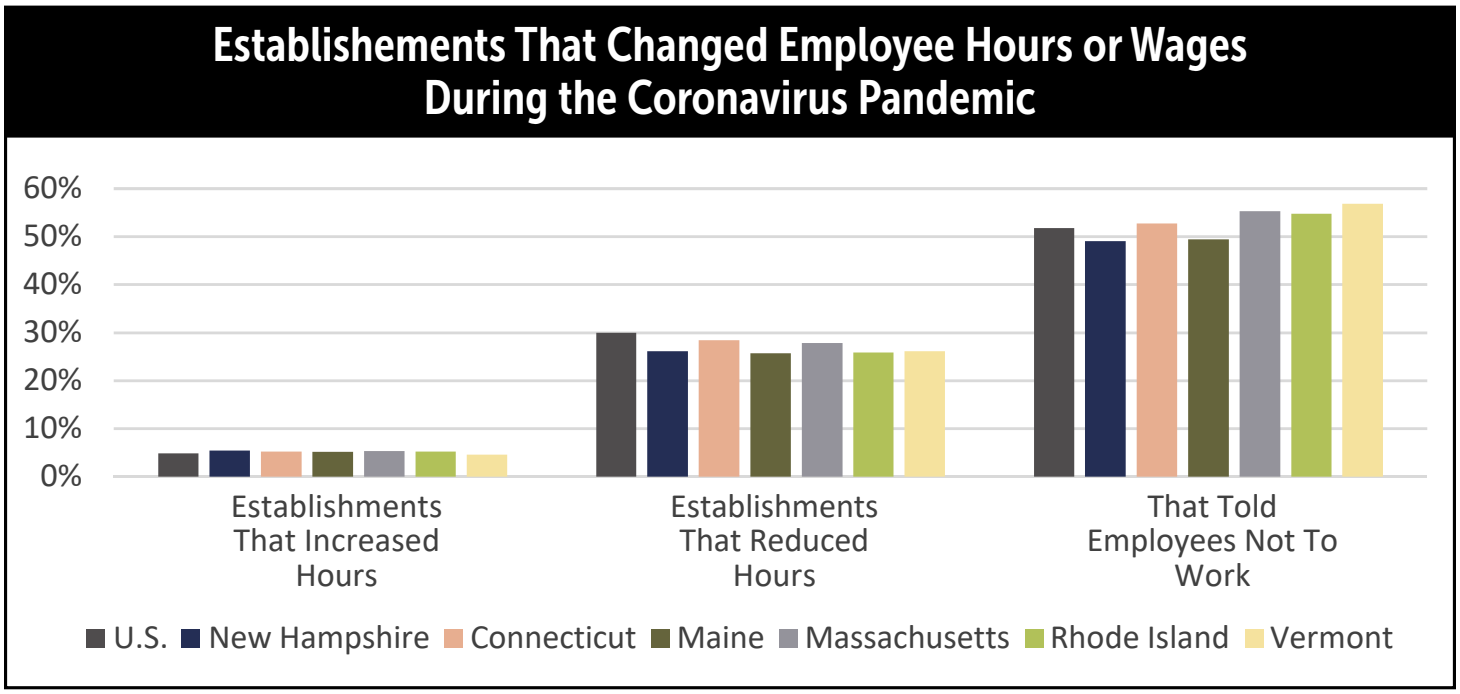
Seasonally Adjusted Estimates
Unemployment Rates 5
Current Employment Statistics 5
Not Seasonally Adjusted Estimates
Unemployment Rates 6
Current Employment Statistics 7
Claims Activity..... 10

Establishements That Experienced Higher Demand or Higher Additional Employees During the Coronavirus Pandemic



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Business Response Survey to the Coronavirus Pandemic

[1] An establishment is a single physical location where one predominant activity occurs. Firms may have more than one establishment location.



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Business Response Survey to the Coronavirus Pandemic

Among New England states, only Connecticut performed better than New Hampshire, with 18.8 percent of business establishments seeing increased demand, and 7.0 percent hiring additional staff.

The business establishments in New Hampshire that hired during the pandemic were, on average, larger; the 6.9 percent of business establishments that hired employed roughly 94,000 workers, 16.2 percent of privately employed workers in New Hampshire.

New Hampshire business establishments were also more likely to increase hours for workers than establishments in the U.S. overall; 5.5 percent of business establishments in New Hampshire reported that they increased hours during the pandemic, above the national average of 4.9 percent, and higher than any other state in New England.

Among New England states, New Hampshire had the lowest percentage of business establishments reporting that they asked employees not to work, 49.1 percent. In the U.S. overall, 51.9 percent of business establishments asked employees not to work. Workers asked not to work include those furloughed and laid off, and also include those who received pay while they were asked not to work.

Thanks in part to programs like the Payroll Protection Program (PPP), many businesses received loans or grants that allowed them to rehire or maintain employees on the payroll during the pandemic. Data from the Small Business Administration indicate that 24,000 loans, totaling $2.5 billion, were issued to New Hampshire establishments.[2] Other programs, such as New Hampshire's Main Street Relief Fund, offered additional assistance. In total, BRS estimated that 30,200 business establishments in New Hampshire, 62.5 percent of all establishments in the state, received a loan or grant tied to rehiring or maintaining employees on the payroll.

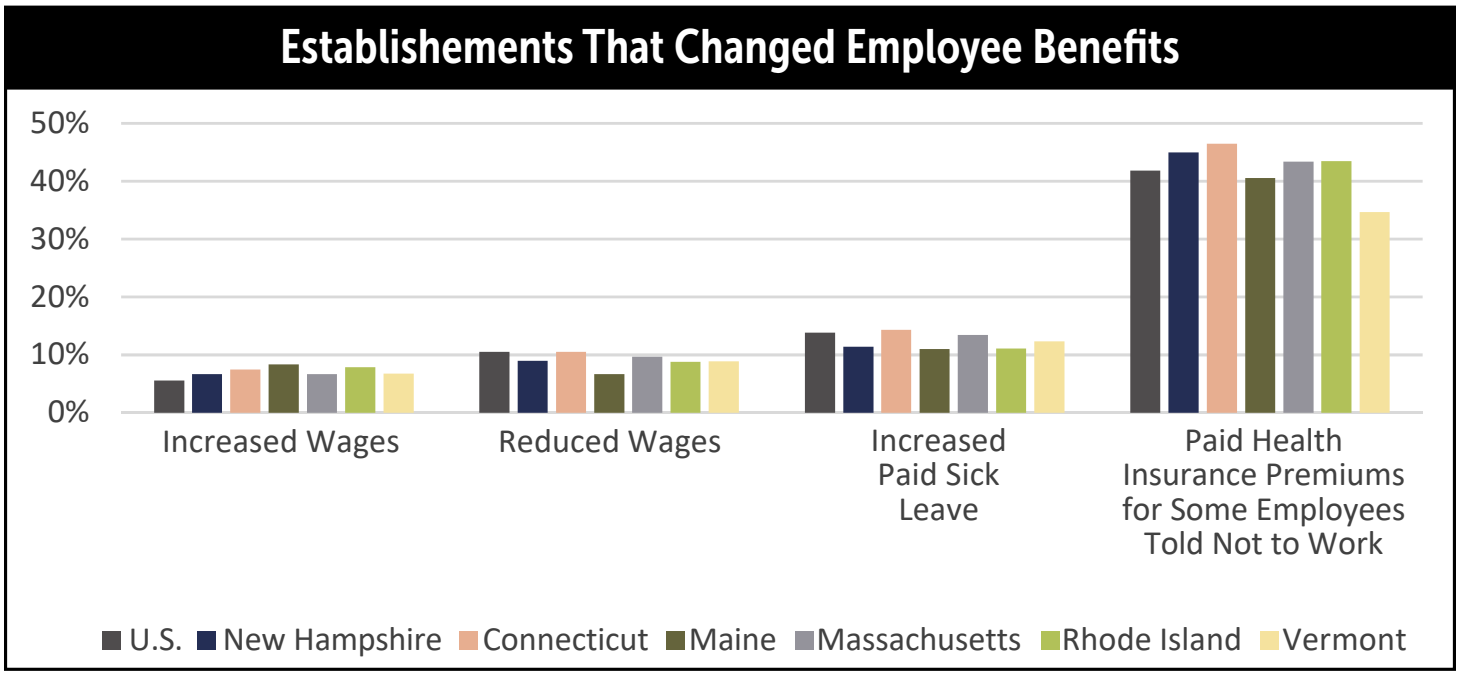
Among New Hampshire business establishments that received loans or grants, 50.4 percent still told some employees not to work. Slightly over half of establishments that received a loan but told employees not to work, 55.1 percent, paid workers who were told not to work. In total, roughly 23 percent of establishments that received a loan or grant still sent some workers home without pay, although the data does not specify what proportion of workers went without pay.

Establishments that did not receive any loans or grants to rehire or maintain employees were slightly less likely to tell their employees not to work, although those that did were less likely to pay workers who were not working. In New Hampshire, 47.2 percent of establishments that did not receive any loans or grants told some employees not to work, and just 36.9 percent of those establishments paid workers who were told not to work. Overall, 30 percent of establishments that did not receive a loan or grant sent some of their workers home without pay.

Worker Benefits

Some businesses either offered additional benefits to workers during the pandemic, or continued to offer benefits to workers who had been told not to work. One frequently offered benefit was additional paid sick time, which encouraged workers to stay home and quarantine if they were sick or

[2] U.S. Small Business Administration, Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Report, https://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/PPP%20Results%20-%20Sunday%20FINAL.pdf.



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Business Response Survey to the Coronavirus Pandemic

potentially exposed to the coronavirus, as well as to care for a sick family member, or for children who were no longer attending in-person school or daycare. For some businesses, additional paid sick leave was mandated by law. The Families First Coronavirus Relief Act required employers with fewer than 500 employees to offer their employees two weeks of paid sick time at full pay, as well as two weeks of sick leave paid at two-thirds of the employee's regular rate of pay to care for an individual subject to quarantine or who needed to care for a child whose school or child care provider was closed for coronavirus-related reasons.[3]

In New Hampshire, 11.4 percent of establishments offered additional paid sick leave to employees during the coronavirus pandemic. These establishments employed 124,000 workers, 21.4 percent of private employment in the state. This was below the national average, where 13.9 percent of establishments, employing 28.1 percent of workers, increased the amount of sick leave they provided.

Among New Hampshire establishments, 6.7 percent increased employee wages during the pandemic. This was above the national average of 5.6 percent, but was the lowest among New England states. Maine led New England with 8.4 percent of establishments increasing employee wages.

In 2019, 56 percent of New Hampshire residents received health insurance through an employer.[4] Job losses during the pandemic put unemployed workers at risk of losing health care coverage during the public health crisis. However, among New Hampshire business establishments that told some employees not to work, 45 percent continued to pay health insurance premiums for at least some of these workers. This was higher than the nationwide average of 42 percent of establishments. Among New England states, only Connecticut had a larger share of business establishments that paid health insurance premiums for workers not working during the pandemic. The survey data does not differentiate between temporary and permanent layoffs, but it is likely that a majority of workers who continued to have their health insurance premiums paid by their employer had not been permanently laid off.

Telework

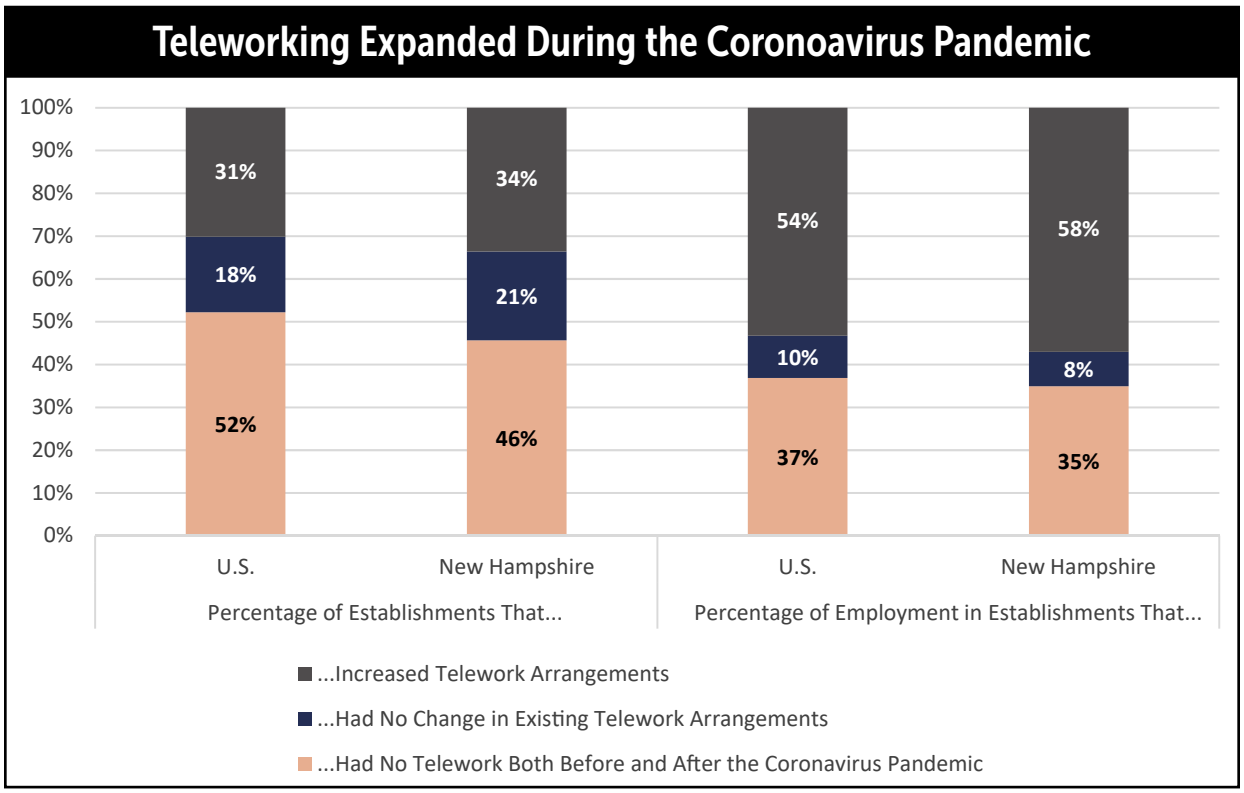
Advances in mobile technology and high speed internet have made it easier for many workers to telework. While this has been technologically possible for many office-based workers, adoption of teleworking was not widespread prior to the pandemic. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 24 percent of employed persons did some or all of their work from home in 2019.[5] This included workers who, on an average day, worked both in the office and at home. The coronavirus pandemic caused many businesses to encourage workers to telework; in the U.S., 31 percent of establishments increased teleworking arrangements as a result of the pandemic. A larger percentage of establishments in New Hampshire, 34 percent, increased teleworking arrangements. In both New Hampshire and the U.S., establishments that increased teleworking arrangements employed more than half of all employees, although the survey does not detail what percentage of employees were able to take advantage of new telework arrangements.

[3] U.S. Department of Labor, Families First Coronavirus Response Act: Employee Paid Leave Rights https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/ffcra-employee-paid-leave
[4] Kaiser Family Foundation, 2019 Health Insurance Coverage of the Total Population, https://www.kff.org/other/state-indicator/total-population/
[5] U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2019 American Time Use Survey, https://www.bls.gov/news.release/atus.t06.htm

Nearly half of establishments in New Hampshire, 46 percent, were not able to offer telework to their employees, either before or after the pandemic. This was a slightly lower percentage than in the U.S., where 52 percent of establishments were not able to offer telework.

The increase in teleworking arrangements, as well as remote schooling and telehealth, have made home access to high-speed internet even more important to daily life than it had been prior to the pandemic. An estimated ten percent of New Hampshire residents, particularly in rural areas, lack access to high-speed internet.[6] As part of its pandemic response, New Hampshire allocated $50 million of CARES Act funding to invest in expanding broadband internet to areas of the state that did not previously have access.[7]

- Greg David, Economist



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Business Response Survey to the Coronavirus Pandemic

[6] BroadbandNow, Broadband Internet in New Hampshire, https://broadbandnow.com/New-Hampshire

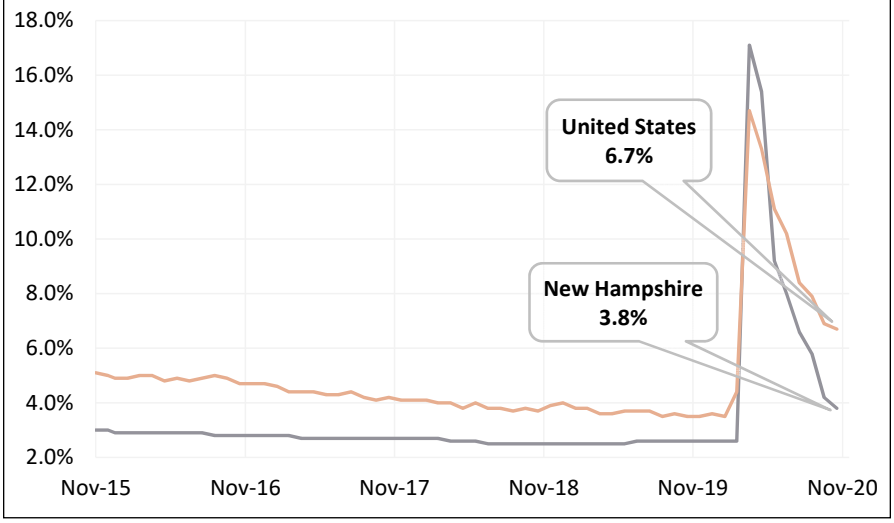
[7] New Hampshire Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery, Connecting New Hampshire – Emergency Broadband Expansion Program, https://www.goferr.nh.gov/covid-expenditures/connecting-nh

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ESTIMATES

Unemployment Estimates by Region

Seasonally Adjusted	Nov-20	Oct-20	Nov-19
United States	6.7%	6.9%	3.5%
Northeast	7.8%	7.8%	3.8%
New England	6.5%	6.4%	3.0%
Connecticut	8.2%	6.1%	3.8%
Maine	5.0%	5.4%	3.0%
Massachusetts	6.7%	7.4%	2.8%
New Hampshire	3.8%	4.2%	2.6%
Rhode Island	7.3%	7.1%	3.5%
Vermont	3.1%	3.2%	2.4%
Mid Atlantic	8.3%	8.4%	4.1%
New Jersey	10.2%	8.0%	3.7%
New York	8.4%	9.2%	3.9%
Pennsylvania	6.6%	7.4%	4.6%

Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) Unemployment Rate, NH and US



Current Employment Statistics (CES) by Place of Establishment

	Number of Jobs			Change From Previous	
	Nov-20	Oct-20	Nov-19	Month	Year
Total Nonfarm	627,200	627,200	681,700	0	-54,500
Total Private	546,300	546,400	591,900	-100	-45,600
Mining and Logging	1,000	900	1,000	100	0
Construction	27,300	27,400	28,600	-100	-1,300
Manufacturing	64,500	65,500	70,700	-1,000	-6,200
Durable Goods	48,600	49,800	52,900	-1,200	-4,300
Non-Durable Goods	15,900	15,700	17,800	200	-1,900
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	126,600	126,700	137,800	-100	-11,200
Wholesale Trade	26,100	25,400	27,800	700	-1,700
Retail Trade	83,400	85,100	92,500	-1,700	-9,100
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	17,100	16,200	17,500	900	-400
Information	11,600	11,400	12,400	200	-800
Financial Activities	35,800	35,900	34,600	-100	1,200
Financial and Insurance	28,100	28,200	27,700	-100	400
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	7,700	7,700	6,900	0	800
Professional and Business Services	79,800	78,800	84,300	1,000	-4,500
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	38,300	38,200	39,500	100	-1,200
Management of Companies and Enterprises	9,000	8,900	9,400	100	-400
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	32,500	31,700	35,400	800	-2,900
Education and Health Services	118,600	118,300	124,500	300	-5,900
Educational Services	27,700	28,200	30,900	-500	-3,200
Health Care and Social Assistance	90,900	90,100	93,600	800	-2,700
Leisure and Hospitality	55,700	55,300	71,500	400	-15,800
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	10,100	9,100	12,500	1,000	-2,400
Accommodation and Food Services	45,600	46,200	59,000	-600	-13,400
Other Services	25,400	26,200	26,500	-800	-1,100
Government	80,900	80,800	89,800	100	-8,900
Federal Government	8,100	8,200	8,100	-100	0
State Government	18,600	18,300	24,500	300	-5,900
Local Government	54,200	54,300	57,200	-100	-3,000

Current month is preliminary; past months are revised

Prior data and area data are available on our website at: www.nhes.nh.gov/elmi/statistics/ces-htm

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ESTIMATES BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE

Labor Force Estimates

New Hampshire	Nov-20	Oct-20	Nov-19
Total Civilian Labor Force	746,950	724,430	773,450
Employed	720,970	697,170	755,560
Unemployed	25,980	27,260	17,890
Unemployment Rate	3.5%	3.8%	2.3%

United States (# in thousands)	Nov-20	Oct-20	Nov-19
Total Civilian Labor Force	160,468	161,053	164,386
Employed	150,203	150,433	158,945
Unemployed	10,264	10,620	5,441
Unemployment Rate	6.4%	6.6%	3.3%

Unemployment Rates by Area

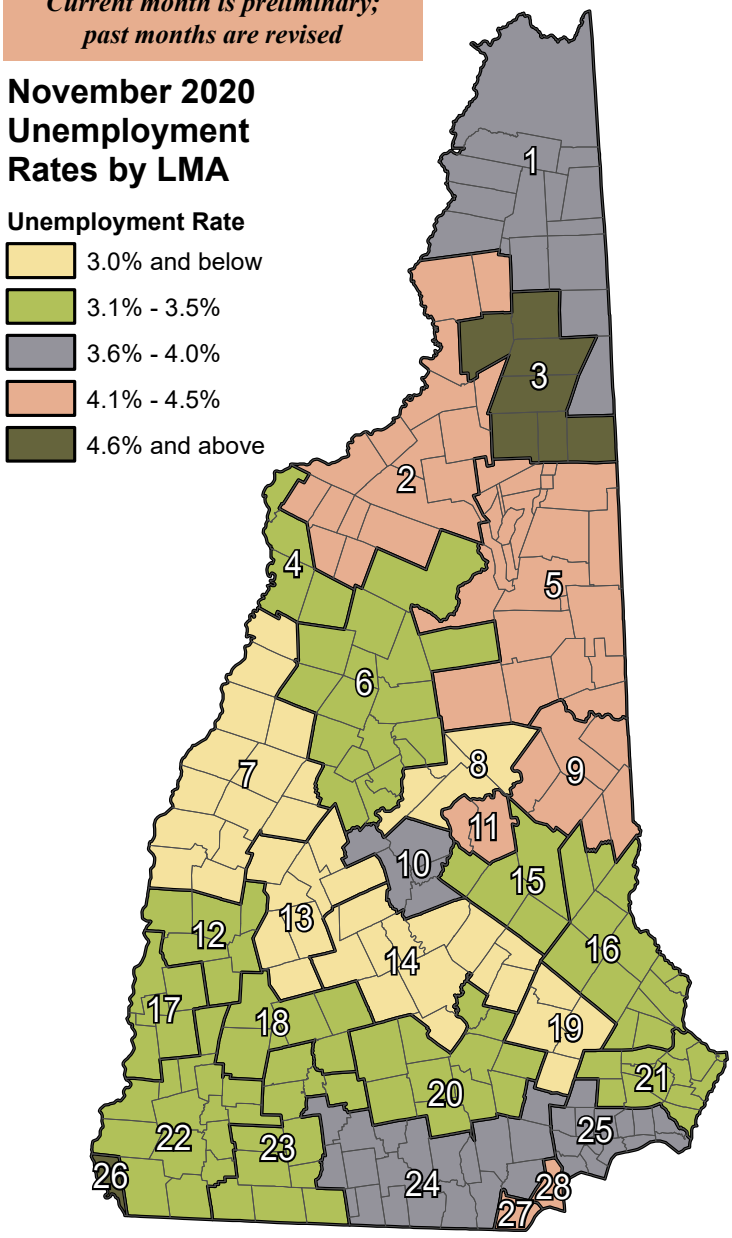
Counties	Nov-20	Oct-20	Nov-19
Belknap	3.6%	3.7%	2.3%
Carroll	4.0%	4.2%	2.3%
Cheshire	3.3%	3.6%	2.3%
Coös	4.4%	4.2%	2.7%
Grafton	3.0%	3.0%	2.0%
Hillsborough	3.6%	4.0%	2.4%
Merrimack	3.0%	3.2%	2.0%
Rockingham	3.6%	4.0%	2.5%
Strafford	3.3%	3.6%	2.1%
Sullivan	3.0%	3.2%	2.1%

Map Key	Labor Market Areas	Nov-20	Oct-20	Nov-19
1	Colebrook, NH-VT LMA, NH Portion	3.9%	2.8%	2.5%
2	Littleton, NH-VT LMA, NH Portion	4.1%	4.2%	2.0%
3	Berlin NH Micropolitan NECTA	4.8%	4.3%	3.1%
4	Haverhill, NH LMA	3.1%	3.2%	2.0%
5	Conway, NH-ME LMA, NH Portion	4.2%	4.4%	2.2%
6	Plymouth, NH LMA	3.1%	3.1%	2.1%
7	Lebanon, NH-VT Micropolitan NECTA, NH Portion	2.5%	2.7%	1.9%
8	Meredith, NH LMA	3.0%	3.2%	2.1%
9	Wolfeboro, NH LMA	4.1%	4.1%	2.5%
10	Franklin, NH LMA	3.8%	4.0%	2.3%
11	Laconia, NH Micropolitan NECTA	4.1%	4.2%	2.4%
12	Expanded Claremont, NH estimating area	3.2%	3.4%	2.2%
13	New London, NH LMA	2.7%	2.8%	2.2%
14	Concord, NH Micropolitan NECTA	2.9%	3.1%	2.0%
15	Belmont, NH LMA	3.3%	3.4%	2.2%
16	Dover-Durham, NH-ME Metropolitan NECTA, NH Portion	3.3%	3.6%	2.1%
17	Charlestown, NH LMA	3.3%	3.6%	2.0%
18	Hillsborough, NH LMA	3.4%	3.6%	2.5%
19	Raymond, NH LMA	3.0%	3.5%	2.3%
20	Manchester, NH Metropolitan NECTA	3.5%	3.8%	2.2%
21	Portsmouth, NH-ME Metropolitan NECTA, NH Portion	3.4%	3.6%	2.1%
22	Keene, NH Micropolitan NECTA	3.2%	3.5%	2.3%
23	Peterborough, NH LMA	3.3%	3.4%	2.3%
24	Nashua, NH-MA NECTA Division, NH Portion	3.6%	4.0%	2.5%
25	Seabrook-Hampstead Area, NH Portion, Haverhill-Newburyport-Amesbury MA-NH NECTA Division	4.0%	4.4%	2.7%
26	Hinsdale Town, NH Portion, Brattleboro, VT-NH LMA	4.7%	5.4%	2.9%
27	Pelham Town, NH Portion, Lowell-Billerica-Chelmsford, MA-NH NECTA Division	4.2%	4.7%	3.0%
28	Salem Town, NH Portion, Lawrence-Methuen-Salem, MA-NH NECTA Division	4.4%	5.0%	3.0%

Unemployment Rates by Region

Not Seasonally Adjusted	Nov-20	Oct-20	Nov-19
United States	6.4%	6.6%	3.3%
Northeast	7.4%	7.5%	3.5%
New England	6.1%	5.9%	2.6%
Connecticut	7.7%	5.8%	3.3%
Maine	4.7%	4.8%	2.8%
Massachusetts	6.2%	6.9%	2.3%
New Hampshire	3.5%	3.8%	2.3%
Rhode Island	7.0%	6.5%	3.3%
Vermont	2.8%	2.4%	2.3%
Mid Atlantic	7.9%	8.0%	3.8%
New Jersey	9.9%	7.6%	3.5%
New York	8.1%	9.0%	3.6%
Pennsylvania	6.1%	7.0%	4.4%

Current month is preliminary; past months are revised



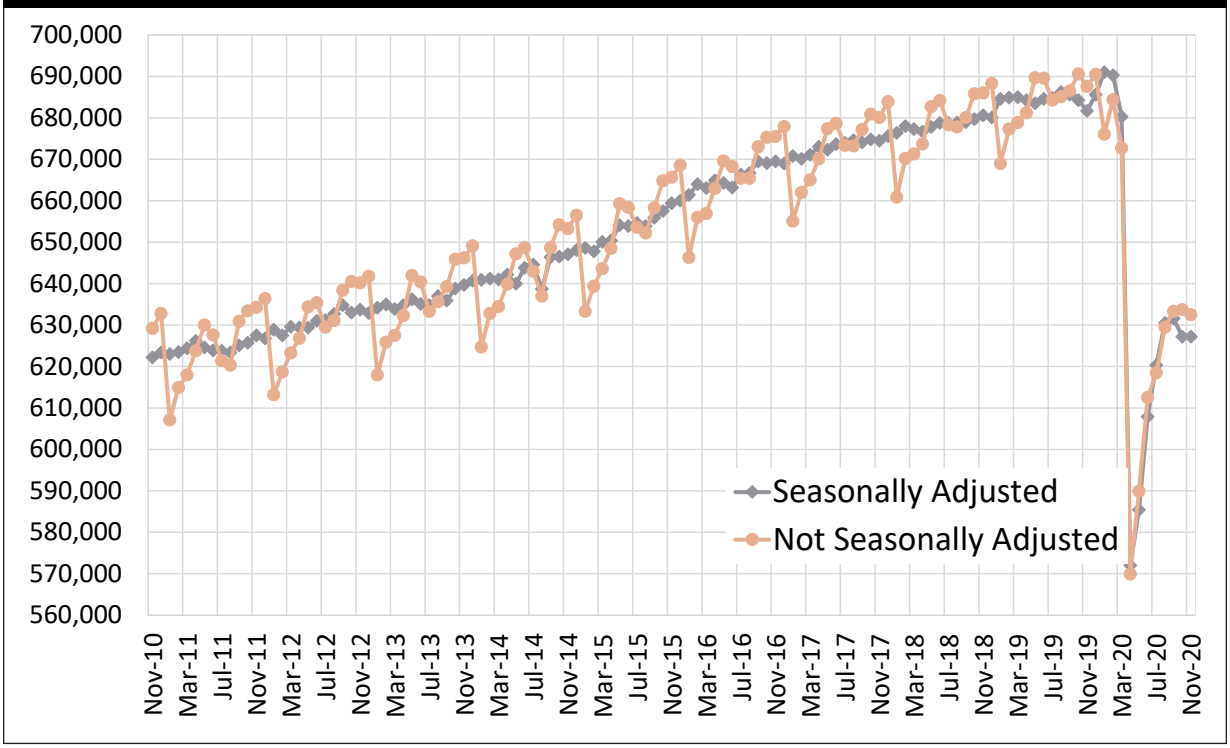
MONTHLY ESTIMATES BY PLACE OF ESTABLISHMENT

Current month is preliminary; past months are revised

New Hampshire Nonfarm Employment Statewide Not Seasonally Adjusted

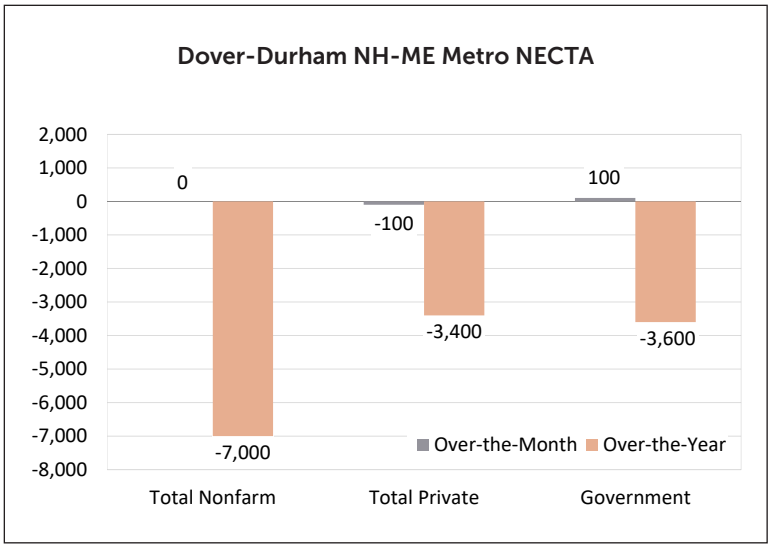
	Number of Jobs			Change From Previous	
	Nov-20	Oct-20	Nov-19	Month	Year
Total Nonfarm	632,500	633,700	687,600	-1,200	-55,100
Total Private	547,700	549,200	593,800	-1,500	-46,100
Mining and Logging	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0
Construction	28,100	28,400	29,200	-300	-1,100
Manufacturing	64,500	65,500	70,800	-1,000	-6,300
Durable Goods	48,600	49,800	52,800	-1,200	-4,200
Non-Durable Goods	15,900	15,700	18,000	200	-2,100
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	128,200	125,900	140,500	2,300	-12,300
Wholesale Trade	26,300	25,400	27,800	900	-1,500
Retail Trade	84,500	84,000	94,800	500	-10,300
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	17,400	16,500	17,900	900	-500
Information	11,600	11,400	12,400	200	-800
Financial Activities	35,800	35,900	34,600	-100	1,200
Professional and Business Services	80,000	80,300	84,500	-300	-4,500
Education and Health Services	122,400	121,000	128,300	1,400	-5,900
Leisure and Hospitality	50,800	54,100	66,100	-3,300	-15,300
Other Services	25,300	25,700	26,400	-400	-1,100
Government	84,800	84,500	93,800	300	-9,000
Federal Government	8,100	8,200	8,100	-100	0
State Government	20,500	20,600	26,500	-100	-6,000
Local Government	56,200	55,700	59,200	500	-3,000

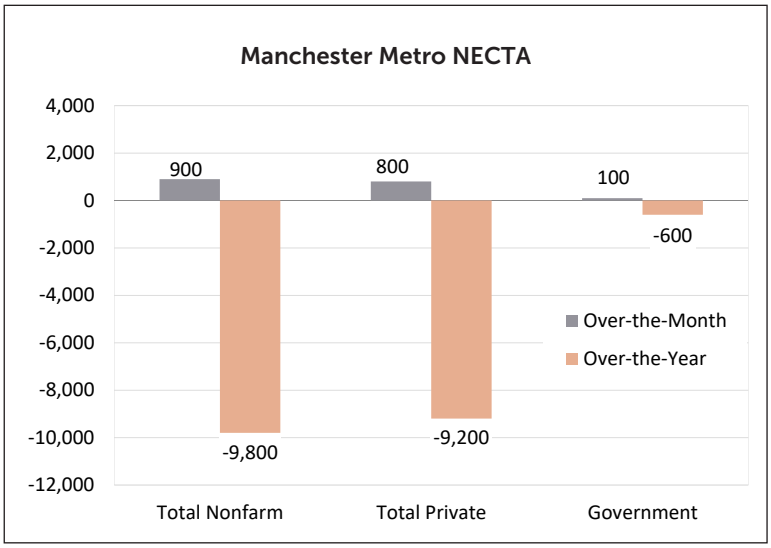
Total Nonfarm Employment Trend Through November 2020

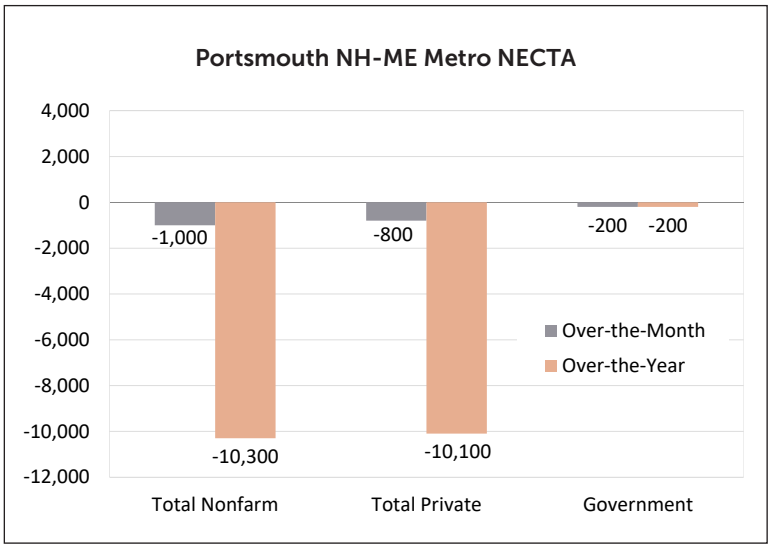


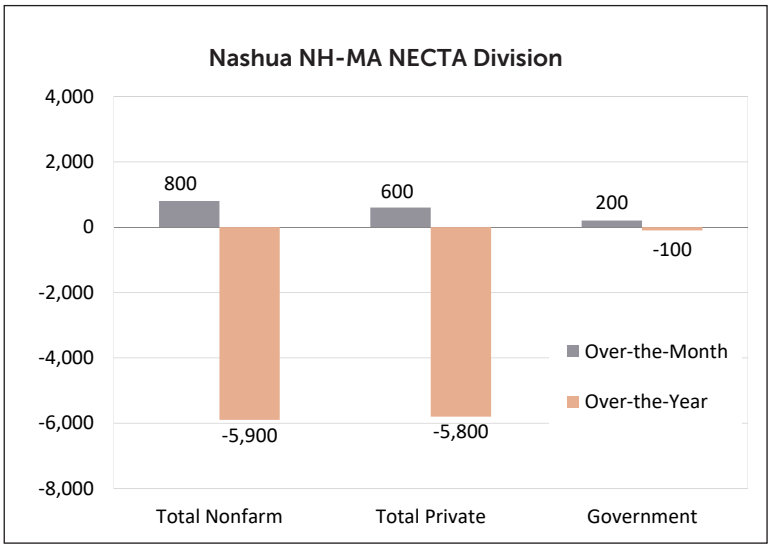
MONTHLY ESTIMATES BY PLACE OF ESTABLISHMENT

Nonfarm Employment by Metropolitan Statistical Areas - November 2020

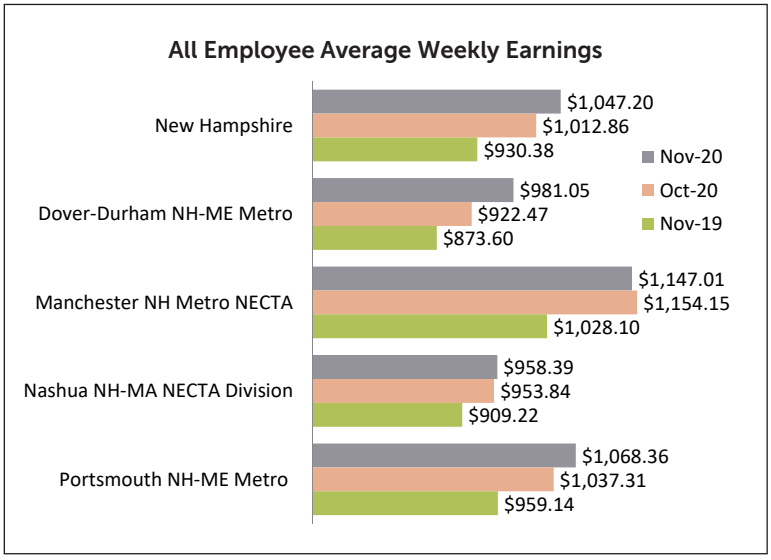


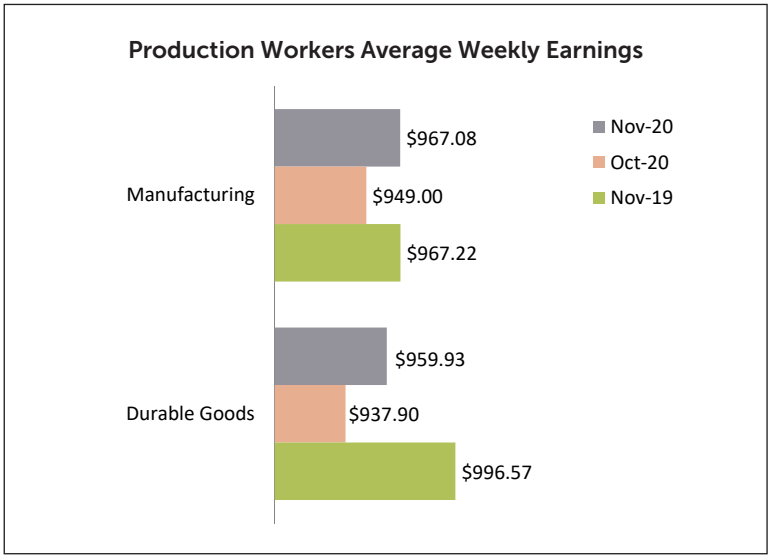






Total Private Average Weekly Earnings Data





Sector data for the four areas and hours earnings data are available on our website: www.nhes.nh.gov/elmi/statistics/ces-data.htm

MONTHLY ANALYSIS OF CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS (CES)

Seasonally Adjusted

Total nonfarm employment was unchanged at 627,200 jobs in November, according to preliminary seasonally adjusted estimates. Five private industry supersectors experienced over-the-month employment gains in November and five supersectors experienced losses. *Professional and business services* expanded payrolls by 1,000 in November and *leisure and hospitality* gained 400 jobs. *Private education and health services* added 300 positions, while *information* added 200 jobs. *Mining and logging* gained 100 jobs from October to November.

Construction, as well as *trade, transportation, and utilities* and *financial activities* each lost 100 positions. *Other services* employment decreased by 800 positions, while *manufacturing* lost 1,000 jobs. *Government* employment increased by 100 from October to November.

Total seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment decreased by 54,500 jobs from November 2019 to November 2020, reflecting the impact on employment due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and efforts to contain it. Employment losses were experienced in every supersector over the year, with the exceptions of *financial activities*, which gained 1,200 positions, and *mining and logging*, which was unchanged over the year.

Leisure and hospitality suffered the greatest loss, with 15,800 fewer jobs than in November 2019. *Trade, transportation, and utilities* employment decreased by 11,200, while *manufacturing* shed 6,200 jobs. *Private education and health services* cut payrolls by 5,900 and *professional and business services* was down by 4,500 positions over the year. *Construction* lost 1,300 jobs over the year. *Other services* employment declined by 1,100, while *Information* cut 800 positions. *Government* employment decreased by 8,900 from November 2019 to November 2020.

Not Seasonally Adjusted

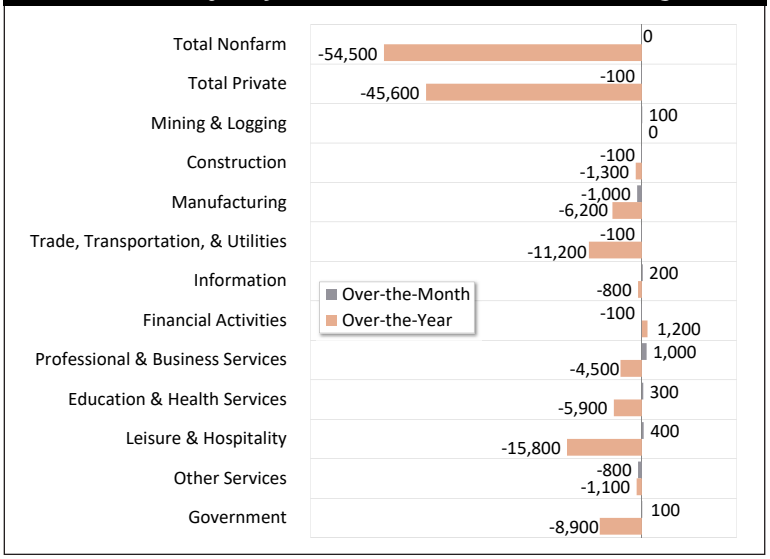
Preliminary unadjusted estimates for November show that *total nonfarm* employment decreased by 55,100 jobs since November 2019, reflecting the impact on employment due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and efforts to contain it. Employment losses were experienced in all but two supersectors over-the-year. *Financial activities* had 1,200 more positions than in November 2019. *Mining and logging* was unchanged over the year.

Leisure and hospitality experienced the largest decrease, with 15,300 fewer jobs than in November 2019. *Trade, transportation, and utilities* employment decreased by 12,300, while *manufacturing* lost 6,300 jobs. *Private education and health services* shed 5,900 positions, while *professional and business services* reduced payrolls by 4,500. *Construction* and *other services* employment each lost 1,100 jobs. *Information* employment declined by 800 over the year. *Government* employment contracted by 9,000 from November 2019 to November 2020.

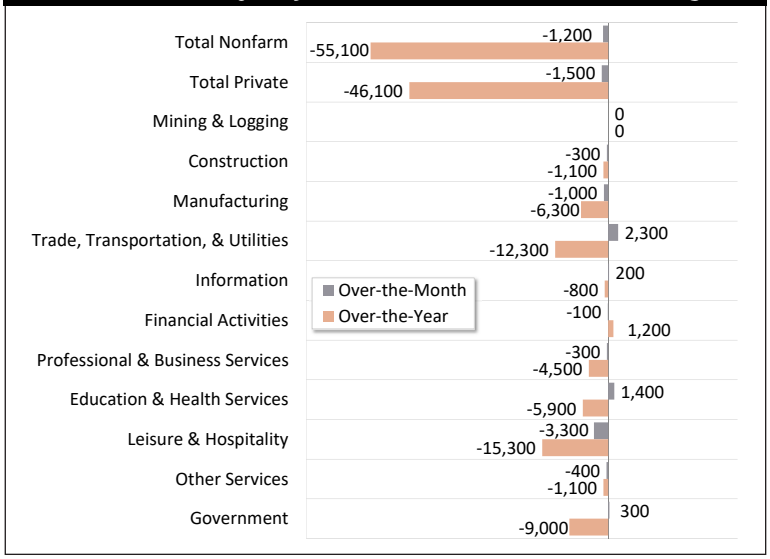
Unadjusted estimates provide a snapshot of the number of New Hampshire jobs by industry in any given month. However, over-the-month changes to unadjusted employment estimates reflect both changes in economic conditions and seasonal patterns of employment growth and decline. All industries experience seasonal changes to some degree, although these patterns tend to be more obvious in *leisure and hospitality*; *trade, transportation, and utilities* and *construction*. Over-the-month changes to unadjusted employment estimates should not be compared without consideration for the normal seasonal pattern of the appropriate industries. The most appropriate method for the comparison of unadjusted monthly data is to compare the estimates for the same month in different years; as this will minimize, but not eliminate, the effect of seasonal employment patterns on observed changes.

– Robert Cote, Research Analyst

Seasonally Adjusted November 2020 Change



Not Seasonally Adjusted November 2020 Change



Consumer Price Index

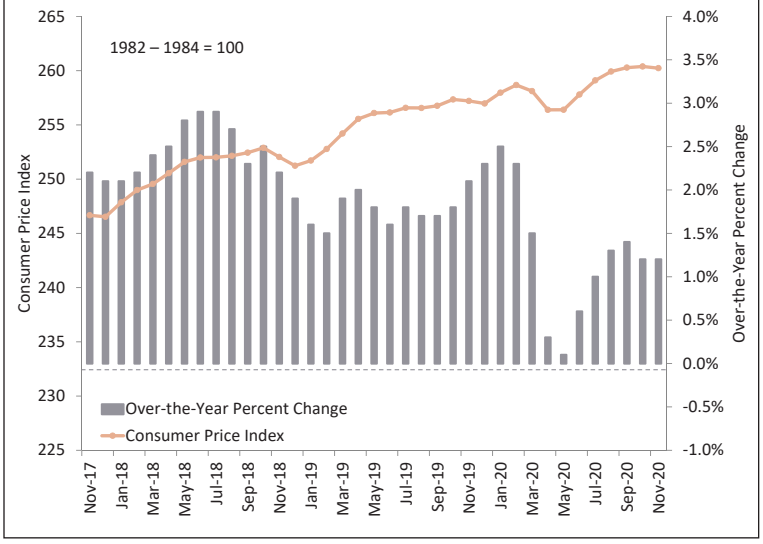
United States, All Urban Consumers
Not Seasonally Adjusted (CPI-U) (1982-1984=100)

			Change From Previous	
Nov-20	Oct-20	Nov-19	Month	Year
260.229	260.388	257.208	-0.1%	1.2%

Northeast, All Urban Consumers
Not Seasonally Adjusted (CPI-U) (1982-1984=100)

			Change From Previous	
Nov-20	Oct-20	Nov-19	Month	Year
273.543	273.374	270.643	0.1%	1.1%

Consumer Price Index United States, All Urban Consumers



Unemployment Compensation Claims Activity

	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20
Initial Claims	23,827	26,658	10,369	8,936	16,046	9,757
Continued Weeks Claimed	323,039	162,664	144,029	97,600	65,260	58,499
Average payment for a week of unemployment	$239.67	$255.15	$260.52	$272.34	$274.72	$283.63

New Hampshire Economic Conditions is published monthly in coordination with the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Employment Training Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor.

To order publications, visit our website at: www.nhes/nh/gov/elmi, call 603-228-4124
or send a written request to the following address:

ELMI Publications
NH Employment Security
45 South Fruit Street
Concord, NH 03301-4857

NH Employment Security is a proud member of America's Workforce Network and NH Works.
NHES is an Equal Opportunity Employer and complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

New Hampshire Employment Security Local Offices

Berlin	752-5500	Claremont	543-3111
Concord	228-4100	Conway	447-5924
Keene	352-1904	Laconia	524-3960
Littleton	444-2971	Manchester	627-7841
Nashua	882-5177	Portsmouth	436-3702
Salem	893-9185	Somersworth	742-3600

Claims calls: 1-800-266-2252

NHES New Hampshire Employment Security www.nhes.nh.gov

New Hampshire Employment Security
Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau

General Information	(603) 228-4124
	www.nhes.nh.gov/elmi
Research Unit	228-4173
Economist	229-4427
Covered Employment & Wages	228-4060
Current Employment Statistics	228-4175
Local Area Unemployment Statistics	228-4167
Occupational Employment Statistics	229-4315

ELMI Economic + Labor Market Information Bureau