

New Hampshire ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

August 2020

West Rattlesnake Island, Lake Winnepesaukee, Alton NH - NH DTTD on flickr

Impact of Coronavirus Pandemic on Different Groups of New Hampshire Workers

Coronavirus and the economic restrictions enacted to contain spread of the disease have had a major impact on New Hampshire and its workforce. The unemployment rate increased from 3.1 percent in February 2020 to 17.2 percent in April 2020.

Unemployment fell over the next three months, but the not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in August was 6.4 percent, two and a half times higher than the July 2019 rate of 2.5 percent.

This unemployment rate is an average for the workforce as a whole. Different

groups of workers have been impacted to varying degrees. This article will examine a variety of characteristics that affect how these different groups have been impacted.

Industry

Although every business and industry in New Hampshire has been impacted by coronavirus, some industries have been impacted to a greater degree than others. The restrictions placed on businesses varied by industry, and some industries were better equipped to enact remote working and social distancing measures

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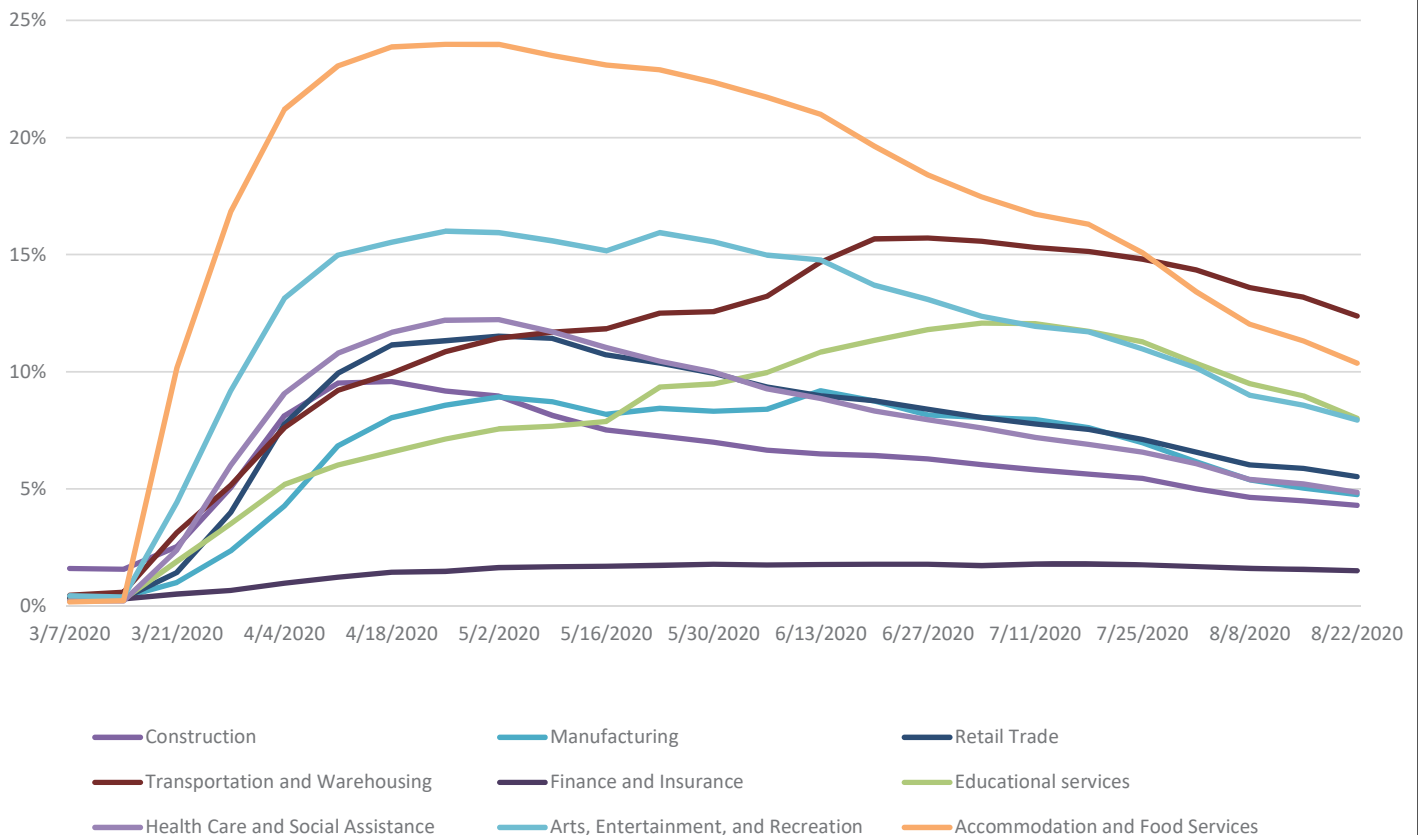
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Percent of Industry Workforce Filing Continued Unemployment Claims



Source: New Hampshire Employment Security, Unemployment Compensation Bureau

than others. As a result, the industry in which workers were employed had a large impact on how likely they were to become unemployed during the coronavirus pandemic.

While unemployment rates are not broken down by industry, unemployment claims data indicate what industry an individual worked in before filing for unemployment. Comparing the number of workers who filed continuing unemployment claims (indicating that they were determined eligible for unemployment benefits, and continue to be unemployed) to the size of the pre-pandemic workforce (in this case, the 2019 Q4 workforce) gives an idea of how employment in each industry was impacted.¹

Between March and July, workers employed in the *Accommodation and Food Services* industry were most likely to file continuing unemployment claims. During late April and early May, 24 percent of individuals who had been employed in that industry filed continuing unemployment claims. This percentage declined to ten percent by the end of August, but remained higher than almost every other industry.

Although the overall number of continuing unemployment claims began to decrease in New Hampshire in May, the number of workers filing continuing claims in two industries continued to increase into late June and early July. The percentage of workers filing a continuing claim in *Transportation and Warehousing* peaked during the week ending June 27th at almost 16 percent, and the percentage filing a continuing claim in *Educational Services* peaked

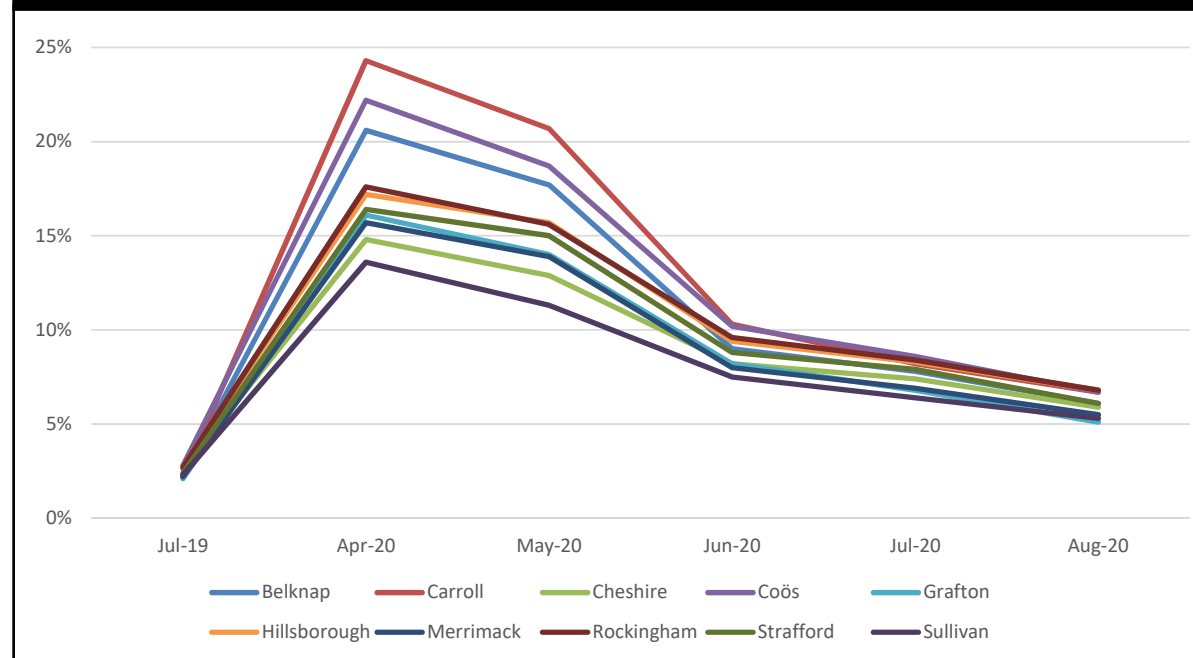
the following week, at 12 percent. Most claims in the *Transportation and Warehousing* industry were related to the *Transit and ground passenger transportation* subsector, which includes public transportation and school bus systems. Claims increases in June for *Transportation and Warehousing* and *Educational Services* were likely related to the end of the school year.

Employment in a number of industries was not strongly impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. From April through August, the percentage of workers in the *Finance and Insurance* industry who filed a continuing unemployment claim remained below two percent. The percentage of workers in the *Professional and Technical Services* and *Information* industries filing a claim was low as well, remaining below five percent.

Location

Unemployment rates have varied by county as well. Carroll County had the highest unemployment rate from April through June, reaching 24.3 percent in April, seven percentage points higher than the state as a whole. Unemployment rates in Coös and Belknap counties also surpassed 20 percent in April. Sullivan County had the lowest unemployment rate in April, 13.6 percent, and remained lowest among New Hampshire counties through July. Grafton County had the lowest unemployment rate in August, 5.1 percent, while Hillsborough and Rockingham counties tied for the highest rate that month, 6.8 percent.

Unemployment Rate by County



Source: New Hampshire Employment Security, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Age

Prior to the pandemic, individuals between the ages of 16 and 19 had a higher unemployment rate than the labor force overall. The unemployment rate for this age group was 8.5 percent in July 2019, compared to 2.5 percent overall.² Individuals between the ages of 20 and 24 also had a higher than average unemployment rate, 4.5 percent in July 2019.

These two age cohorts continued to have higher than average

¹ Continuing claims only measure workers who were employed at businesses located in New Hampshire, not New Hampshire residents employed in other states. The 2019 Q4 workforce used in this calculation does not include self-employed workers.

² Unemployment rates for demographic groups were not re-estimated as part of annual benchmarking revisions.

unemployment rates from April through August. In April, when the overall unemployment rate increased to 17.2 percent, the unemployment rate reached 44.4 percent for individuals between the ages of 16 and 19, and 28.5 percent for individuals between the ages of 20 and 24. Individuals between the ages of 45 and 54 and between the ages of 55 and 64 had the lowest unemployment rates from April through July. While the unemployment rate for individuals between the ages of 45 and 54 remained low in August, the unemployment rate for individuals between the ages of 55 and 64 increased, from 6.3 percent to 7.8 percent.

Gender

Prior to the coronavirus pandemic, the unemployment rate for females was lower than the rate for males by roughly one percentage point.³ Starting in April 2020, this trend reversed, and the unemployment rate for males has been lower than the rate for females. In April, the unemployment rate for males was 13.5 percent, while the rate for females was 17.9 percent,

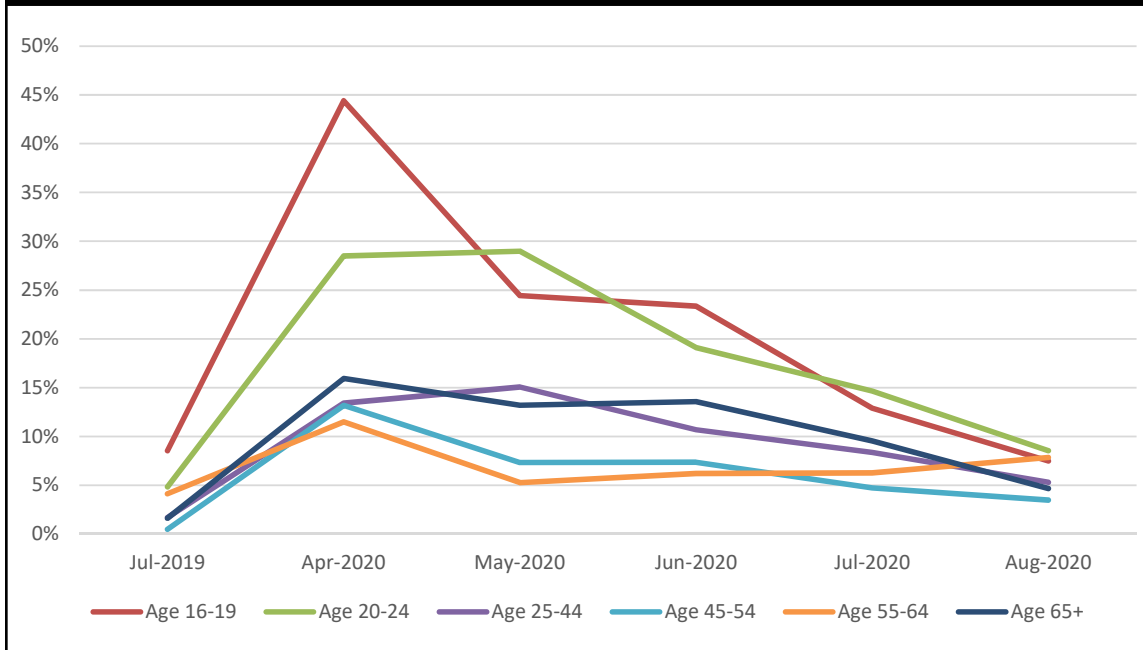
a difference of 4.4 percentage points. This gap between the unemployment rates for males and females remained until August, when rates were essentially the same.

This gap is likely the result of the industries in which males and females are more likely to work. The *Accommodation and Food Services*, *Retail Trade*, and *Health Care and Social Assistance* industries lost more jobs than any other industries. While employment in *Retail Trade* was evenly split between males and females, *Health Care and Social Assistance* and *Accommodation and Food Services* were more likely to employ females. In 2019, the workforce in *Accommodation and Food Services* was 57 percent female, and the workforce in *Health Care and Social Assistance* was nearly 80 percent female.⁴ Meanwhile, industries that usually employ more male workers, such as *Manufacturing* and *Construction*, did not lose as many jobs.

Education level

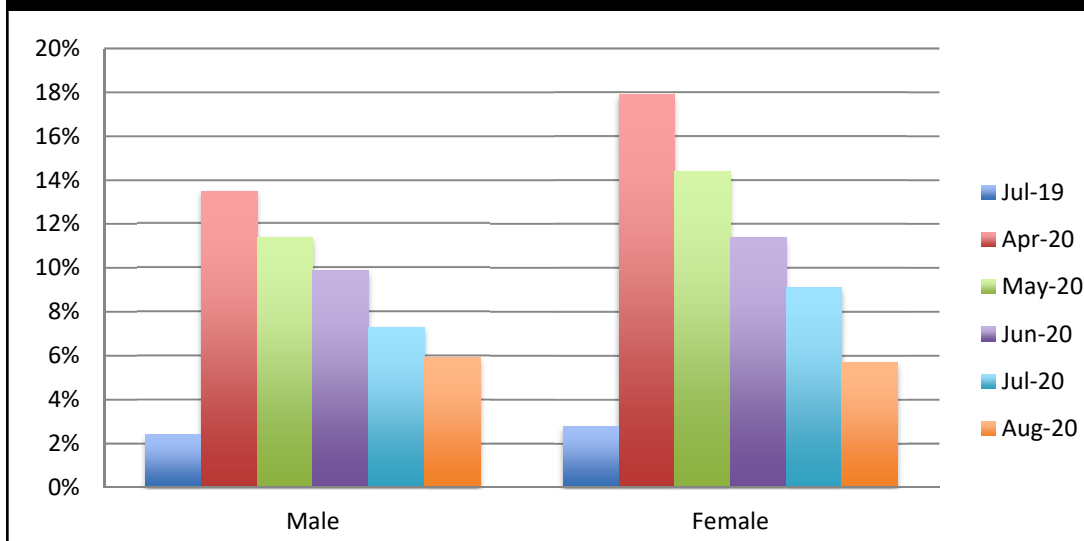
In general, as educational attainment increases, unemployment decreases. This has mostly remained the case during the pandemic as well.

Unemployment Rates by Age Group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, unpublished Current Population Survey data

Unemployment Rate in New Hampshire by Gender



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, unpublished Current Population Survey data

³ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2018

⁴ U.S. Census Bureau, Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics.

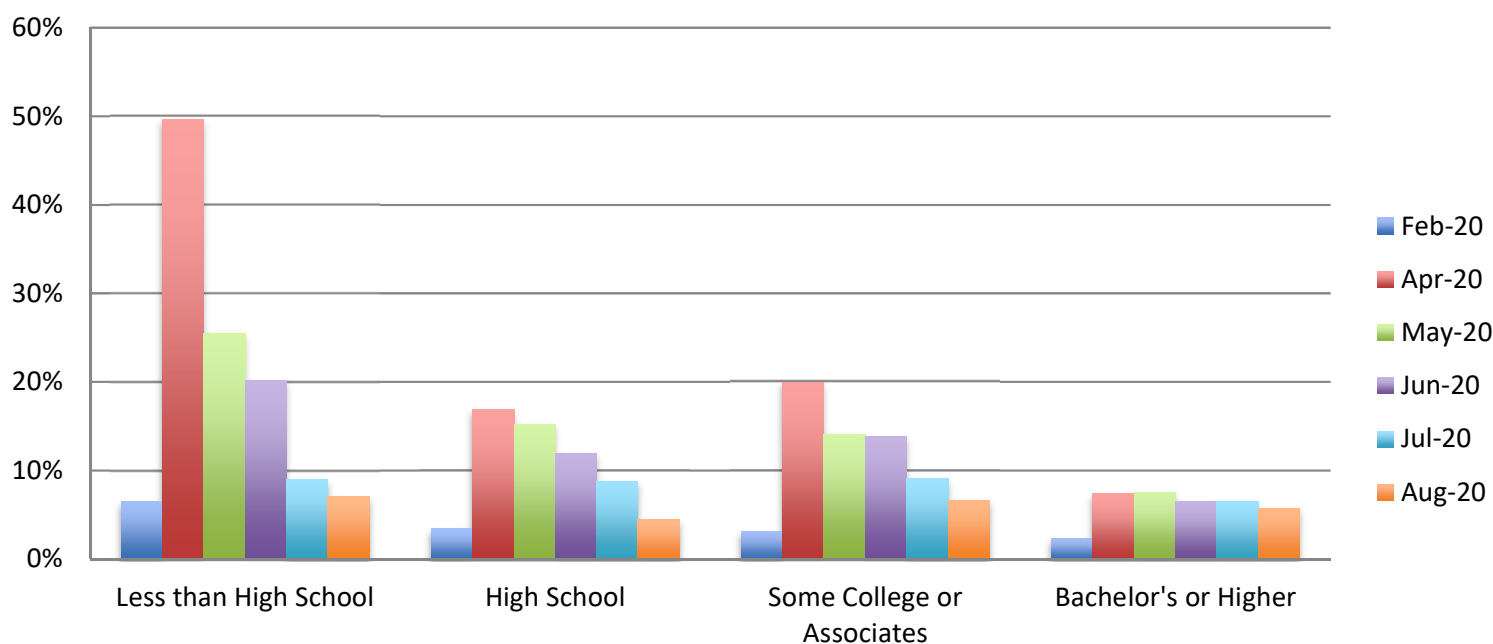
The unemployment rate for individuals with less than a high school diploma reached nearly 50 percent in April. Although the rate for this group dropped to 7.0 percent in August, this was still tied for the highest rate among all educational levels. Individuals with a Bachelor's degree or higher had the lowest unemployment rate, both before the pandemic and after it began to impact New Hampshire. The unemployment rate for individuals with a Bachelor's degree reached its highest level in May, 7.6 percent, far lower than the high point for any other level of educational attainment.

As an exception, the unemployment rate for individuals with either some college education (no degree attained) or an Associate's degree was higher than the rate for those with a high school diploma in April, June, and July and August. In April,

the unemployment rate for workers with some college education or an Associate's degree was 20 percent, compared to 17 percent for workers with a high school diploma.

In August, the unemployment rate for individuals with a high school diploma fell to 4.4 percent, lower than any other group. Unfortunately, this decrease was not the result of more individuals going back to work. Instead, the decline in the number of unemployed individuals was linked to an increase in the number of individuals who were not in the labor force. To be considered unemployed, an individual must have looked for work within the last four weeks. Those who have not looked for work in four weeks are considered out of the labor force, and are not counted in the unemployment rate.

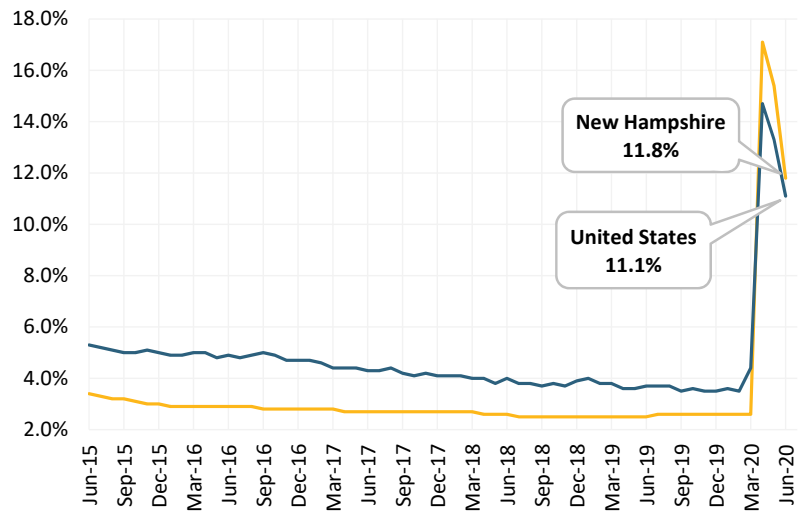
Unemployment Rate in New Hampshire by Educational Attainment



SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ESTIMATES

Unemployment Estimates by Region

Seasonally Adjusted	Jun-20	May-20	Jun-19
United States	11.1%	13.3%	3.7%
Northeast	14.6%	14.2%	3.7%
New England	13.4%	14.0%	3.1%
Connecticut	9.8%	9.6%	3.7%
Maine	6.6%	9.4%	2.9%
Massachusetts	17.4%	16.6%	2.9%
New Hampshire	11.8%	15.4%	2.5%
Rhode Island	12.4%	16.4%	3.6%
Vermont	9.4%	12.8%	2.4%
Mid Atlantic	15.1%	14.3%	3.9%
New Jersey	16.6%	15.4%	3.3%
New York	15.7%	14.5%	3.9%
Pennsylvania	13.0%	13.4%	4.3%

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

Current Employment Statistics (CES) by Place of Establishment

	Number of Jobs			Change From Previous	
	Jun-20	May-20	Jun-19	Month	Year
Total Nonfarm	610,200	585,400	684,600	24,800	-74,400
Total Private	526,000	503,400	594,100	22,600	-68,100
Mining and Logging	900	900	1,000	0	-100
Construction	27,000	27,200	27,800	-200	-800
Manufacturing	65,200	66,600	71,700	-1,400	-6,500
Durable Goods	49,700	50,400	53,600	-700	-3,900
Non-Durable Goods	15,500	16,200	18,100	-700	-2,600
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	121,100	115,300	139,200	5,800	-18,100
Wholesale Trade	25,900	25,900	28,200	0	-2,300
Retail Trade	79,300	74,200	93,900	5,100	-14,600
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	15,900	15,200	17,100	700	-1,200
Information	11,800	11,800	12,400	0	-600
Financial Activities	34,200	34,000	35,000	200	-800
Financial and Insurance	27,300	27,100	27,900	200	-600
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	6,900	6,900	7,100	0	-200
Professional and Business Services	75,500	75,700	83,700	-200	-8,200
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	36,700	36,800	38,800	-100	-2,100
Management of Companies and Enterprises	8,700	8,700	9,200	0	-500
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	30,100	30,200	35,700	-100	-5,600
Education and Health Services	121,400	111,700	124,600	9,700	-3,200
Educational Services	33,900	27,500	30,500	6,400	3,400
Health Care and Social Assistance	87,500	84,200	94,100	3,300	-6,600
Leisure and Hospitality	44,600	36,600	73,100	8,000	-28,500
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	7,400	5,600	12,900	1,800	-5,500
Accommodation and Food Services	37,200	31,000	60,200	6,200	-23,000
Other Services	24,300	23,600	25,600	700	-1,300
Government	84,200	82,000	90,500	2,200	-6,300
Federal Government	8,300	8,100	7,900	200	400
State Government	22,400	21,800	24,300	600	-1,900
Local Government	53,500	52,100	58,300	1,400	-4,800

*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	Jun-20	May-20	Jun-19
Total Civilian Labor Force	754,780	730,540	781,080
Employed	666,680	618,590	761,640
Unemployed	88,100	111,950	19,440
Unemployment Rate	11.7%	15.3%	2.5%

United States (# in thousands)	Jun-20	May-20	Jun-19
Total Civilian Labor Force	160,883	157,975	164,120
Employed	142,811	137,461	157,828
Unemployed	18,072	20,514	6,292
Unemployment Rate	11.2%	13.0%	3.8%

Unemployment Rates by Area

Counties	Jun-20	May-20	Jun-19
Belknap	12.8%	17.7%	2.4%
Carroll	14.7%	20.7%	2.5%
Cheshire	10.5%	12.9%	2.6%
Coös	14.1%	18.7%	2.9%
Grafton	10.9%	14.0%	2.2%
Hillsborough	12.0%	15.7%	2.6%
Merrimack	10.8%	13.9%	2.2%
Rockingham	11.6%	15.6%	2.6%
Strafford	11.4%	15.0%	2.3%
Sullivan	9.6%	11.3%	2.3%

Map Key	Labor Market Areas	Jun-20	May-20	Jun-19
1	Colebrook, NH-VT LMA, NH Portion	10.0%	16.0%	2.8%
2	Littleton, NH-VT LMA, NH Portion	14.8%	18.8%	2.3%
3	Berlin NH Micropolitan NECTA	14.9%	19.7%	3.2%
4	Haverhill, NH LMA	9.0%	11.3%	2.2%
5	Conway, NH-ME LMA, NH Portion	16.5%	24.2%	2.3%
6	Plymouth, NH LMA	12.8%	16.7%	2.3%
7	Lebanon, NH-VT Micropolitan NECTA, NH Portion	7.9%	10.0%	2.1%
8	Meredith, NH LMA	11.5%	15.7%	2.2%
9	Wolfeboro, NH LMA	13.1%	17.2%	2.8%
10	Franklin, NH LMA	14.1%	19.4%	2.4%
11	Laconia, NH Micropolitan NECTA	14.0%	19.2%	2.6%
12	Expanded Claremont, NH estimating area	10.5%	12.3%	2.4%
13	New London, NH LMA	9.1%	11.3%	2.2%
14	Concord, NH Micropolitan NECTA	10.6%	13.6%	2.2%
15	Belmont, NH LMA	11.9%	16.5%	2.3%
16	Dover-Durham, NH-ME Metropolitan NECTA, NH Portion	11.4%	15.0%	2.3%
17	Charlestown, NH LMA	8.4%	9.6%	2.3%
18	Hillsborough, NH LMA	13.1%	13.3%	2.6%
19	Raymond, NH LMA	10.9%	14.8%	2.4%
20	Manchester, NH Metropolitan NECTA	12.1%	15.8%	2.4%
21	Portsmouth, NH-ME Metropolitan NECTA, NH Portion	10.5%	14.2%	2.3%
22	Keene, NH Micropolitan NECTA	11.0%	13.5%	2.5%
23	Peterborough, NH LMA	9.7%	12.0%	2.5%
24	Nashua, NH-MA NECTA Division, NH Portion	11.7%	15.6%	2.7%
25	Seabrook-Hampstead Area, NH Portion, Haverhill-Newburyport-Amesbury MA-NH NECTA Division	12.7%	16.8%	2.9%
26	Hinsdale Town, NH Portion, Brattleboro, VT-NH LMA	12.1%	14.7%	3.7%
27	Pelham Town, NH Portion, Lowell-Billerica-Chelmsford, MA-NH NECTA Division	12.8%	17.4%	3.1%
28	Salem Town, NH Portion, Lawrence-Methuen-Salem, MA-NH NECTA Division	13.8%	18.2%	3.3%

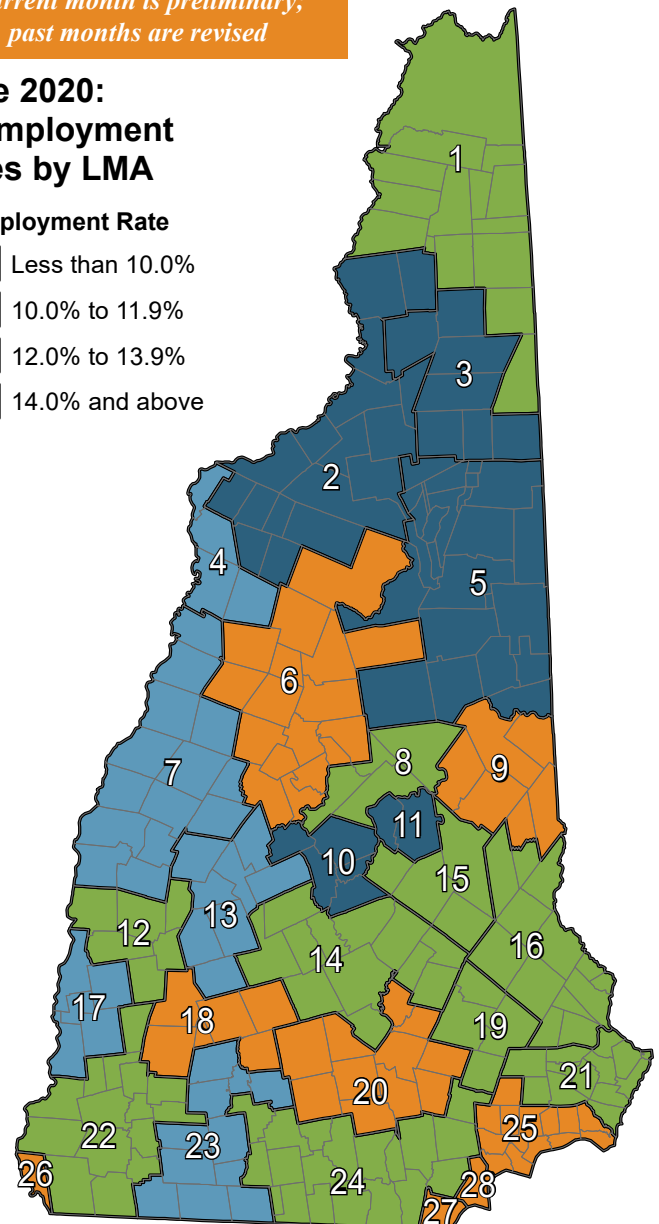
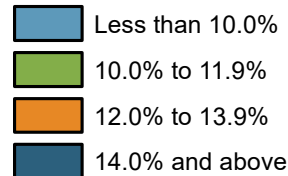
Unemployment Rates by Region

Not Seasonally Adjusted	Jun-20	May-20	Jun-19
United States	11.2%	13.0%	3.8%
Northeast	14.5%	14.0%	3.7%
New England	13.5%	13.9%	3.2%
Connecticut	10.0%	9.4%	3.9%
Maine	6.4%	9.4%	2.8%
Massachusetts	17.5%	16.5%	3.1%
New Hampshire	11.7%	15.3%	2.5%
Rhode Island	12.1%	16.2%	3.3%
Vermont	9.4%	12.7%	2.5%
Mid Atlantic	15.0%	14.1%	3.9%
New Jersey	16.4%	15.1%	3.3%
New York	15.6%	14.2%	3.8%
Pennsylvania	13.1%	13.2%	4.4%

Current month is preliminary;
past months are revised

June 2020:
Unemployment
Rates by LMA

Unemployment Rate



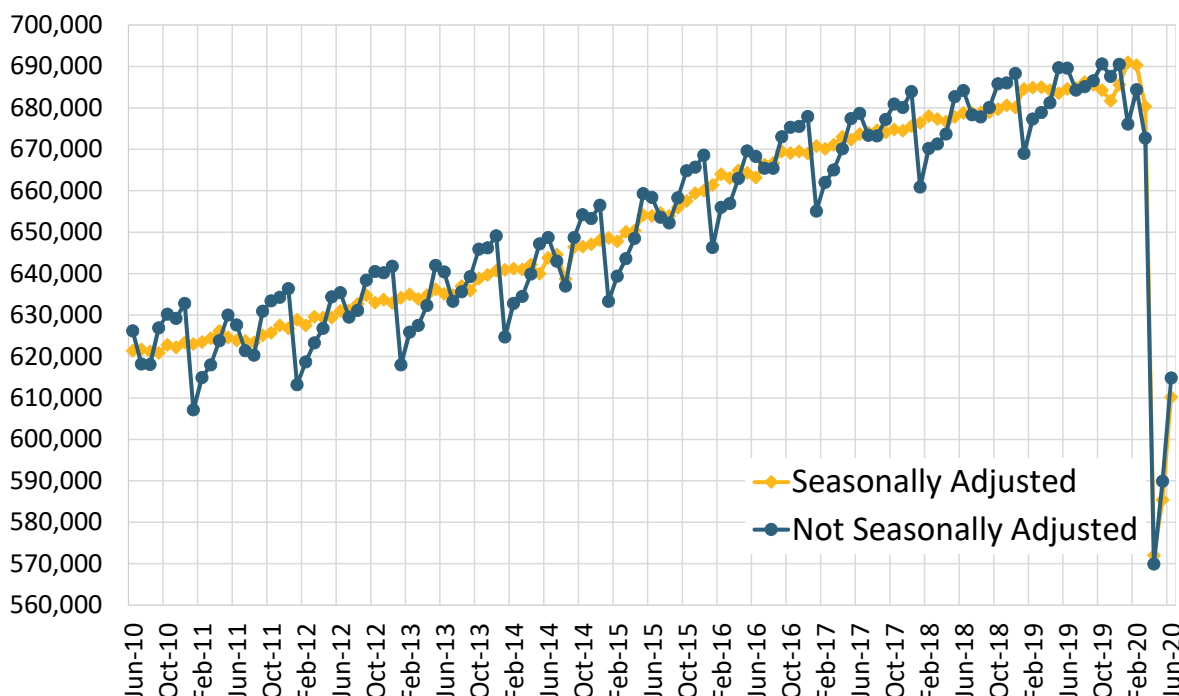
MONTHLY ESTIMATES BY PLACE OF ESTABLISHMENT

New Hampshire Nonfarm Employment Statewide
Not Seasonally Adjusted

*Current month
is preliminary;
past months
are revised*

	Number of Jobs			Change From Previous	
	Jun-20	May-20	Jun-19	Month	Year
Total Nonfarm	614,800	589,900	689,600	24,900	-74,800
Total Private	533,700	505,100	601,600	28,600	-67,900
Mining and Logging	1,000	900	1,000	100	0
Construction	27,900	27,100	28,800	800	-900
Manufacturing	65,700	66,100	72,200	-400	-6,500
Durable Goods	50,200	50,100	53,900	100	-3,700
Non-Durable Goods	15,500	16,000	18,300	-500	-2,800
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	123,400	115,400	140,500	8,000	-17,100
Wholesale Trade	26,000	25,800	28,400	200	-2,400
Retail Trade	81,200	74,400	94,800	6,800	-13,600
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	16,200	15,200	17,300	1,000	-1,100
Information	11,800	11,800	12,600	0	-800
Financial Activities	34,500	33,600	35,500	900	-1,000
Professional and Business Services	77,500	75,500	85,000	2,000	-7,500
Education and Health Services	116,700	114,800	120,000	1,900	-3,300
Leisure and Hospitality	50,500	36,400	79,700	14,100	-29,200
Other Services	24,700	23,500	26,300	1,200	-1,600
Government	81,100	84,800	88,000	-3,700	-6,900
Federal Government	8,300	8,100	7,900	200	400
State Government	19,600	22,400	21,700	-2,800	-2,100
Local Government	53,200	54,300	58,400	-1,100	-5,200

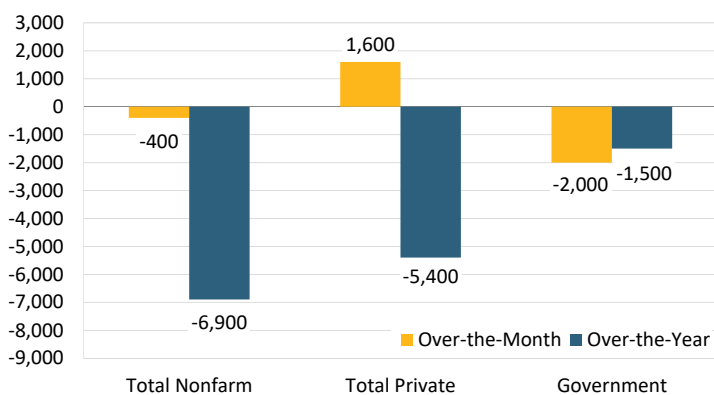
Total Nonfarm Employment Trend Through June 2020



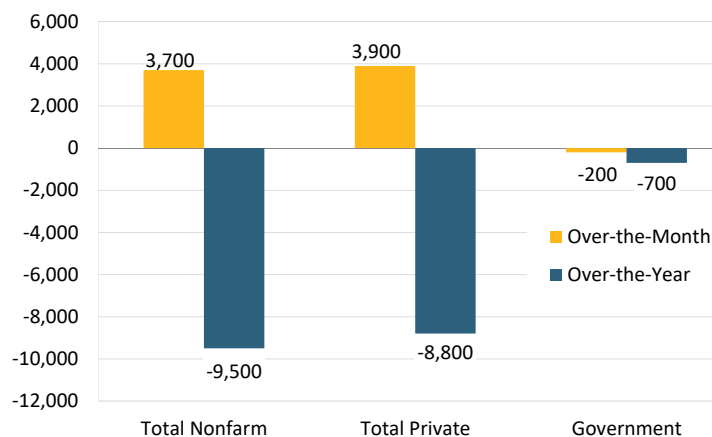
MONTHLY ESTIMATES BY PLACE OF ESTABLISHMENT

Nonfarm Employment by Metropolitan Statistical Areas - June 2020

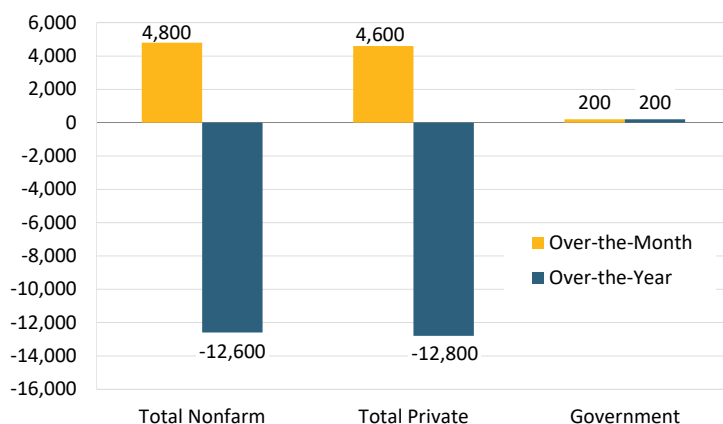
Dover-Durham NH-ME Metro NECTA



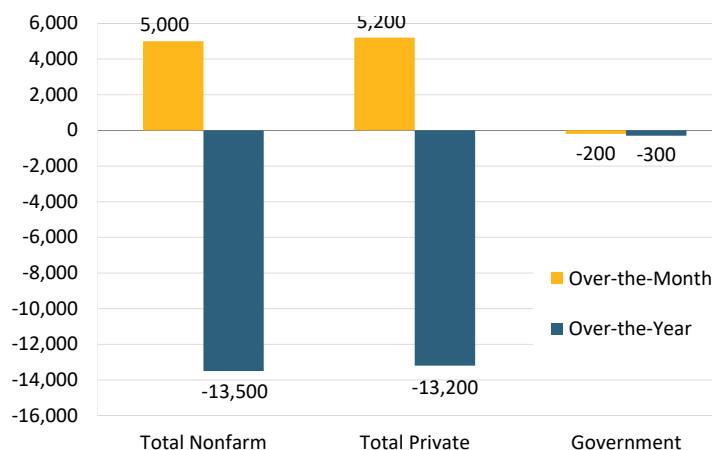
Manchester Metro NECTA



Portsmouth NH-ME Metro NECTA

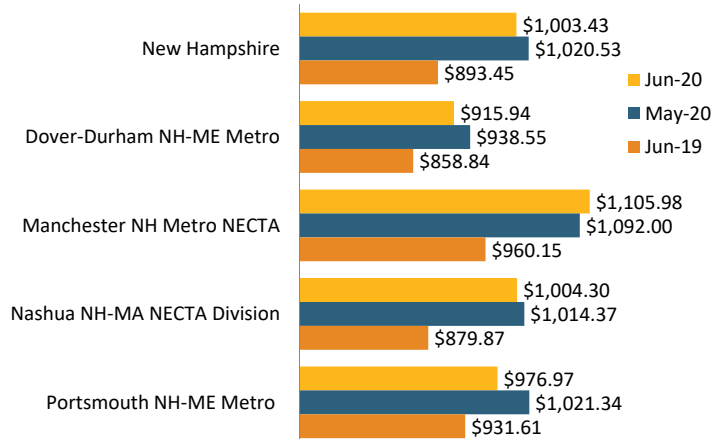


Nashua NH-MA NECTA Division



Total Private Average Weekly Earnings Data

All Employee Average Weekly Earnings



Production Workers Average Weekly Earnings

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 increased by 24,800 jobs in June, according to preliminary seasonally adjusted estimates. Five private industry supersectors experienced over-the-month employment gains in June, three supersectors experienced losses and two were unchanged. *Private Education and Health Services* expanded payrolls by 9,700 in June. *Leisure and Hospitality* gained 8,000 jobs, while *Trade, Transportation, and Utilities* added 5,800 positions. *Other Services* employment increased by 700 over-the-month and *Financial Activities* added 200 jobs.

Manufacturing lost 1,400 jobs in June, while *Professional and Business Services* and *Construction* each lost 200 positions. *Mining and Logging* and *Information* were unchanged from May. *Government* employment increased by 2,200 over-the-month.

Seasonally adjusted *Total Nonfarm* employment decreased by 74,400 jobs from June 2019 to June 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. *Leisure and Hospitality* suffered the greatest loss, with 28,500 fewer jobs than in June 2019. *Trade, Transportation, and Utilities* employment decreased by 18,100, while *Professional and Business Services* was down 8,200 positions.

Manufacturing shed 6,500 jobs and *Private Education and Health Services* cut payrolls by 3,200 positions. *Other Services* employment declined by 1,300, while *Financial Activities* and *Construction* each lost 800 jobs over-the-year. *Information* cut 600 positions, while *Mining and Logging* lost 100. *Government* employment decreased by 6,300 from June 2019 to June 2020.

Not Seasonally Adjusted

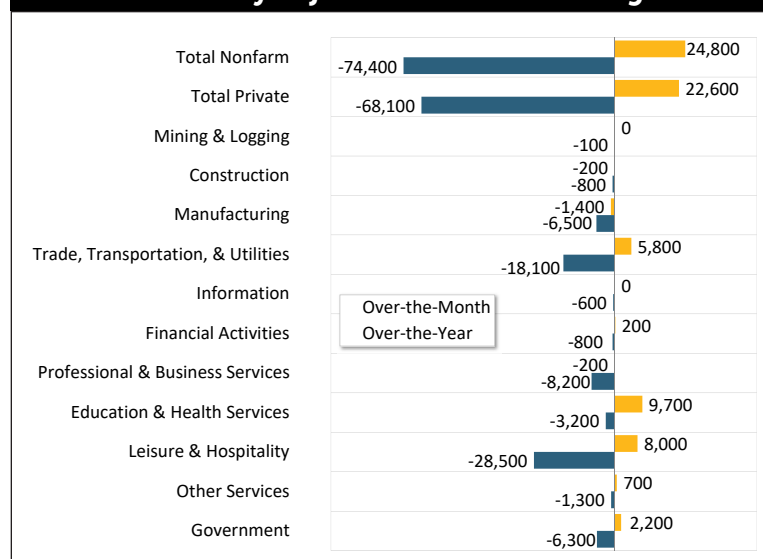
Preliminary unadjusted estimates for June show that *Total Nonfarm* employment decreased by 74,800 jobs over-the-year, reflecting the impact on employment due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and efforts to contain it. All industry supersectors experienced over-the-year employment losses in June, with the exception of *Mining and Logging*, which was unchanged over-the-year. *Leisure and Hospitality* experienced the largest decrease, with 29,200 fewer jobs than in June 2019. *Trade, Transportation, and Utilities* employment decreased by 17,100, while *Professional and Business Services* cut payrolls by 7,500 positions.

Manufacturing cut 6,500 jobs, while *Private Education and Health Services* lost 3,300 positions. *Other Services* employment declined by 1,600 and *Financial Activities* had 1,000 fewer positions. *Construction* cut 900 jobs over-the-year and *Information* shed 800 positions. *Government* employment decreased by 6,900 from June 2019 to June 2020.

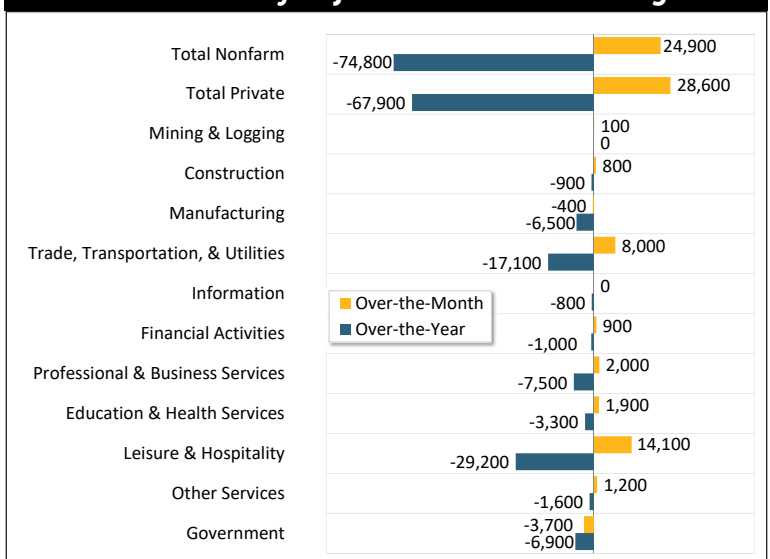
Unadjusted estimates provide a snapshot of the number of New Hampshire jobs by industry in any given month. However, over-the-month changes to unadjusted employment estimates reflect both changes in economic conditions and seasonal patterns of employment growth and decline. All industries experience 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 June 2020 Change



Not Seasonally Adjusted June 2020 Change



Consumer Price Index**United States, All Urban Consumers**

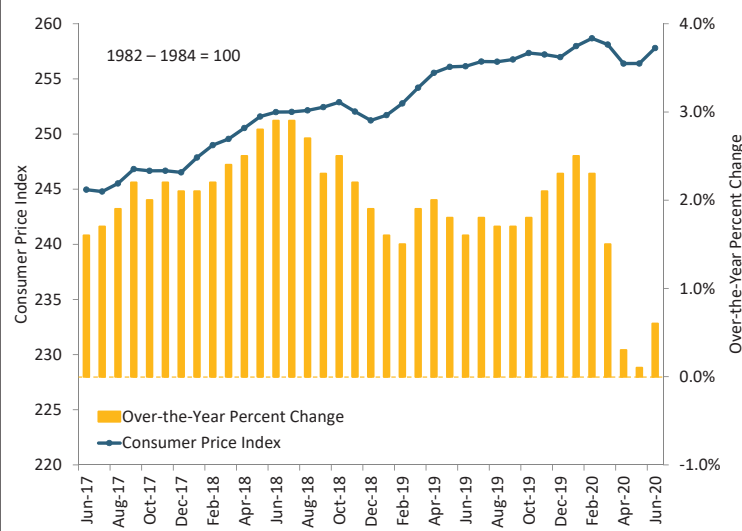
Not Seasonally Adjusted (CPI-U) (1982-1984=100)

			Change From Previous	
Jun-20	May-20	Jun-19	Month	Year
257.797	256.394	256.143	0.5%	0.6%

Northeast, All Urban Consumers

Not Seasonally Adjusted (CPI-U) (1982-1984=100)

			Change From Previous	
Jun-20	May-20	Jun-19	Month	Year
272.283	271.345	270.133	0.3%	0.8%

**Consumer Price Index
United States, All Urban Consumers**

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.

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 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



New Hampshire Employment Security Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau

General Information	(603) 228-4124
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