

New Hampshire

Economic Conditions



February 2008

Volume 108, Number 02

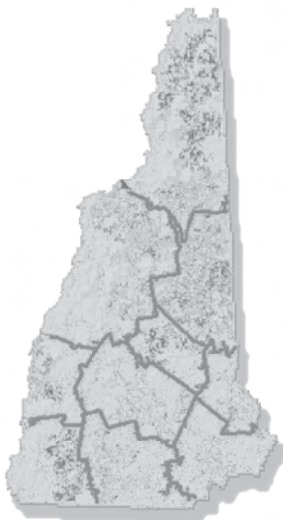
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Published by New Hampshire
 Employment Security's Economic
 and Labor Market Information
 Bureau

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.

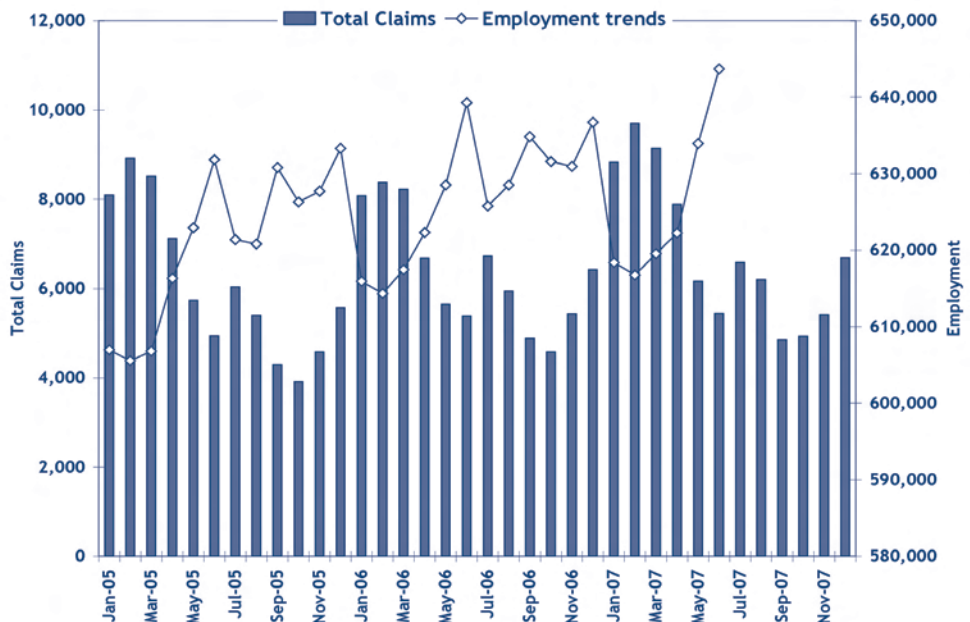
► January follows as having the next highest number of initial claims – that may be attributable in part to the reduction in retail staff after the holiday employment buildups.

► 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

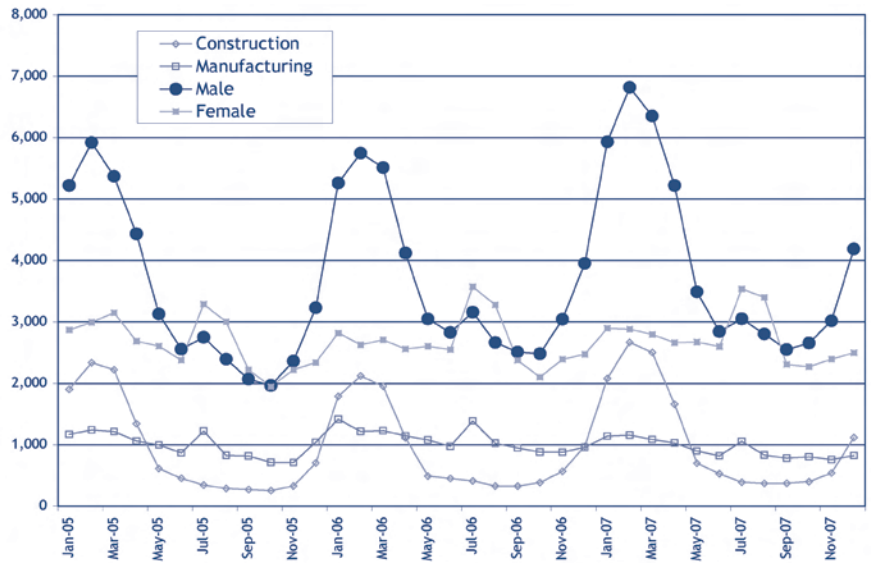


instead define recession and recovery periods. Structural economic changes are those of a more permanent nature, reflecting complex shifts in technology and population changes.

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.

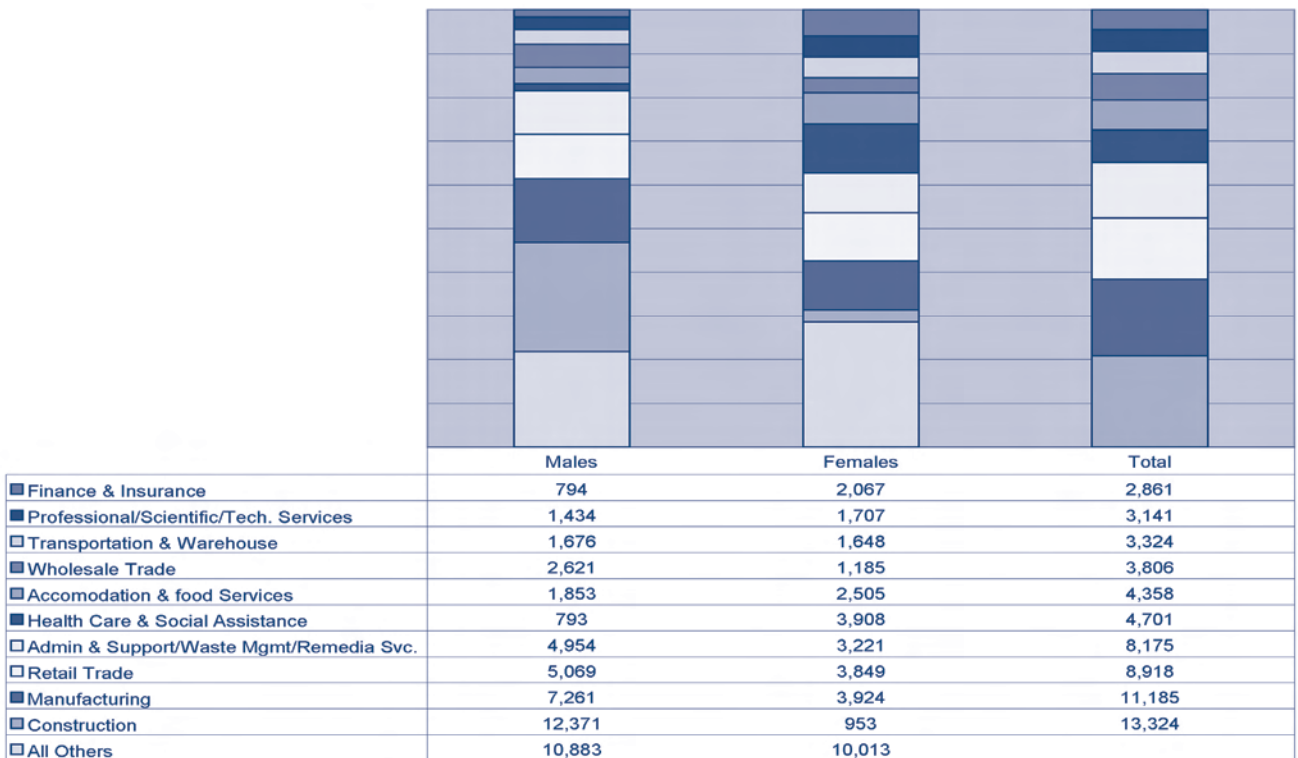
Another indicator of the strength of the economy is the "average duration." For the twelve months prior to September 2007, the average duration in New Hampshire was 12.5 weeks compared to 15.2 weeks for the nation. That represents the average length of time that claimants received unemployment benefit 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



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

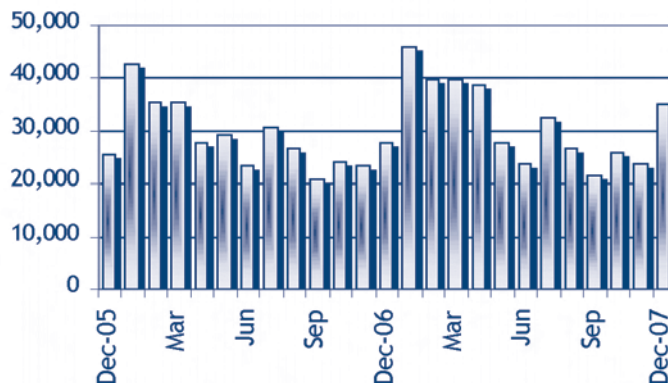
Total Regular Unemployment Compensation Programs:				Change from Previous			
				Month		Year	
	Dec-07	Nov-07	Dec-06	Net	Percent	Net	Percent
Initial Claims	7,536	4,255	6,592	3,281	77.1%	944	14.3%
Continued Weeks	35,069	23,684	27,612	11,385	48.1%	7,457	27.0%

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.

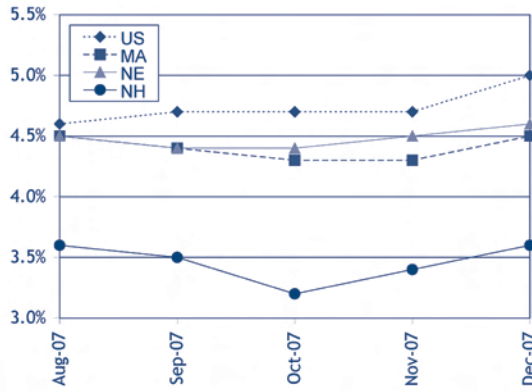
			Change from Previous	
Dec-07	Nov-07	Dec-06	xMonth	Year
210.0	210.2	201.8	-0.1%	4.1%

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

Consumer Price Index

N.H and U.S. Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

New Hampshire's unemployment rate was a full percent below the New England average.



Unemployment Rates by Region

Seasonally Adjusted	Dec-07	Nov-07	Dec-06
United States	5.0%	4.7%	4.4%
Northeast	4.7%	4.4%	4.4%
New England	4.6%	4.5%	4.6%
Connecticut	5.0%	5.0%	4.1%
Maine	5.1%	4.9%	4.6%
Massachusetts	4.5%	4.3%	5.2%
New Hampshire	3.6%	3.4%	3.5%
Rhode Island	5.5%	5.2%	5.1%
Vermont	4.0%	3.9%	3.8%
Mid Atlantic	4.7%	4.4%	4.3%
New Jersey	4.5%	4.2%	4.3%
New York	4.9%	4.6%	4.1%
Pennsylvania	4.7%	4.2%	4.7%

Aug-07 Sep-07 Oct-07 Nov-07 Dec-07

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Estimates

By Place of Residence

	Aug-07	Sep-07	Oct-07	Nov-07	Dec-07
New Hampshire					
Unemployment Rate	3.6%	3.5%	3.2%	3.4%	3.6%
Civilian Labor Force	744,677	747,751	747,206	748,497	747,879
Number Employed	717,579	721,561	723,137	723,158	721,245
Number Unemployed	27,098	26,190	24,069	25,339	26,634
United States (in thousands)					
Unemployment Rate	4.7%	4.7%	4.8%	4.7%	5.0%
Civilian Labor Force	152,886	153,506	153,306	153,828	153,866
Number Employed	145,753	146,260	146,016	146,647	146,211
Number Unemployed	7,133	7,246	7,291	7,181	7,655

Supersector

Aug-07 Sep-07 Oct-07 Nov-07 Dec-07

Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment Estimates

By Place of Establishment

Supersector	Aug-07	Sep-07	Oct-07	Nov-07	Dec-07
Total Nonfarm	652,700	651,100	650,100	648,900	648,100
Construction	29,200	29,400	29,400	29,600	29,600
Manufacturing	75,500	75,400	75,300	75,200	74,800
Durable Goods	58,000	58,000	57,900	57,900	57,500
Non-Durable Goods	17,500	17,400	17,400	17,300	17,300
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	145,100	144,600	144,700	144,600	144,600
Wholesale Trade	28,800	28,800	28,800	28,800	28,700
Retail Trade	100,100	99,600	99,900	99,800	99,900
Transportation and Utilities	16,200	16,200	16,000	16,000	16,000
Information	12,800	12,800	12,600	12,600	12,600
Financial Activities	40,100	40,800	41,000	40,400	40,400
Professional and Business Services	62,900	62,600	62,800	63,200	63,000
Administrative and Support	26,400	26,400	26,300	26,400	25,900
Education and health services	103,600	104,200	104,900	104,800	104,900
Educational Services	23,500	23,600	23,500	23,500	23,700
Health Care and Social Assistance	80,100	80,600	81,400	81,300	81,200
Leisure and Hospitality	65,900	66,200	64,300	64,000	63,800
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	11,800	12,200	11,800	11,600	11,200
Accommodation and Food Services	54,100	54,000	52,500	52,400	52,600
Other Services	21,900	21,800	21,800	22,000	21,900
Government	94,600	92,200	92,200	91,500	91,600
Federal Government	7,700	7,700	7,700	7,600	7,600
State Government	23,900	23,700	23,000	22,500	22,500
Local Government	63,000	60,800	61,500	61,400	61,500

Please note that not all supersectors meet the statistical criteria for publication in this category. We seasonally adjust the total nonfarm data series and all the published supersectors independently. Therefore, the sum of the published parts will not equal the total.

Labor Force Estimates

New Hampshire	Dec-07	Nov-07	Dec-06
Number of workers			
Total Civilian Labor Force	744,350	747,100	739,520
Employed	719,860	723,270	715,300
Unemployed	24,490	23,830	24,220
Unemployment Rate (percent of labor force)	3.3%	3.2%	3.3%

Unemployment Rates by Area

Not Seasonally Adjusted	Dec-07	Nov-07	Dec-06
U.S and Regional States			
United States	4.8%	4.5%	4.3%
Northeast	4.4%	4.2%	4.0%
New England	4.3%	4.2%	4.3%
Connecticut	4.5%	4.8%	3.7%
Maine	5.0%	4.8%	4.5%
Massachusetts	4.1%	3.9%	4.9%
New Hampshire	3.3%	3.2%	3.3%
Rhode Island	5.2%	4.7%	4.6%
Vermont	3.7%	3.7%	3.5%
Mid Atlantic	4.5%	4.2%	3.9%
New Jersey	4.1%	3.9%	3.9%
New York	4.7%	4.4%	3.8%
Pennsylvania	4.3%	3.9%	4.1%

Map Key Labor Market Areas	Dec-07	Nov-07	Dec-06
1 Colebrook NH-VT LMA, NH Portion	6.3%	5.2%	5.6%
2 Berlin NH MicroNECTA	4.4%	4.3%	5.7%
3 Littleton NH-VT LMA, NH Portion	3.2%	3.4%	3.4%
4 Haverhill NH LMA	4.1%	3.9%	3.9%
5 Conway NH-ME LMA, NH Portion	3.2%	3.3%	3.4%
6 Plymouth NH LMA	3.2%	3.1%	3.0%
7 Moultonborough NH LMA	3.1%	3.1%	2.9%
8 Lebanon NH-VT MicroNECTA, NH Portion	2.1%	2.2%	2.1%
9 Laconia NH MicroNECTA	3.8%	3.5%	3.4%
10 Wolfeboro NH LMA	3.1%	3.1%	3.0%
11 Franklin NH MicroNECTA	3.6%	3.0%	3.8%
12 Claremont NH MicroNECTA	2.9%	2.9%	3.0%
13 Newport NH LMA	2.8%	3.1%	2.6%
14 New London NH LMA	2.3%	2.7%	2.5%
15 Concord NH MicroNECTA	3.1%	2.9%	2.9%
16 Rochester-Dover NH-ME MetroNECTA, NH Portion	3.0%	2.9%	2.9%
17 Charlestown NH LMA	3.4%	3.0%	3.4%
18 Hillsborough NH LMA	3.3%	3.4%	3.4%
19 Manchester NH MetroNECTA	3.3%	3.2%	3.3%
20 Keene NH MicroNECTA	3.1%	2.9%	3.0%
21 Peterborough NH LMA	3.5%	3.4%	3.3%
22 Nashua NH-MA NECTA Division, NH Portion	3.3%	3.1%	3.4%
23 Exeter Area, NH Portion, Haverhill-N. Andover-Amesbury MA-NH NECTA Division	4.1%	3.9%	4.0%
24 Portsmouth NH-ME MetroNECTA, NH Portion	2.9%	3.0%	3.0%
25 Hinsdale Town, NH Portion, Brattleboro VT-NH LMA	3.1%	3.0%	2.6%
26 Pelham Town, NH Portion, Lowell-Billerica-Chelmsford MA-NH NECTA Division	5.0%	4.5%	4.7%
27 Salem Town, NH Portion, Lawrence-Methuen-Salem MA-NH NECTA Division	5.0%	5.0%	4.6%

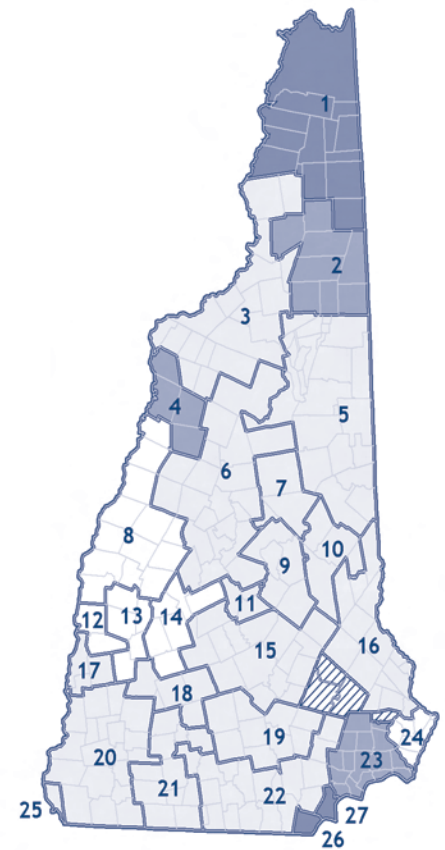
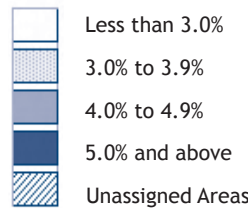
Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

Not Seasonally Adjusted

By Place of Residence

Counties	Dec-07	Nov-07	Dec-06
Belknap	3.7%	3.4%	3.4%
Carroll	3.2%	3.3%	3.2%
Cheshire	3.2%	3.1%	3.2%
Coos	4.4%	4.2%	5.1%
Grafton	2.7%	2.8%	2.6%
Hillsborough	3.3%	3.2%	3.3%
Merrimack	3.0%	2.9%	3.0%
Rockingham	3.6%	3.5%	3.6%
Strafford	3.0%	2.9%	2.9%
Sullivan	2.7%	2.8%	2.8%

December Unemployment Rate



New Hampshire unemployment and labor force estimates are calculated using a regression model which depends on Current Population Survey (CPS) estimates. Labor Market Area estimates are calculated using the Bureau of Labor Statistics "Handbook Method" and then adjusted to the State levels.

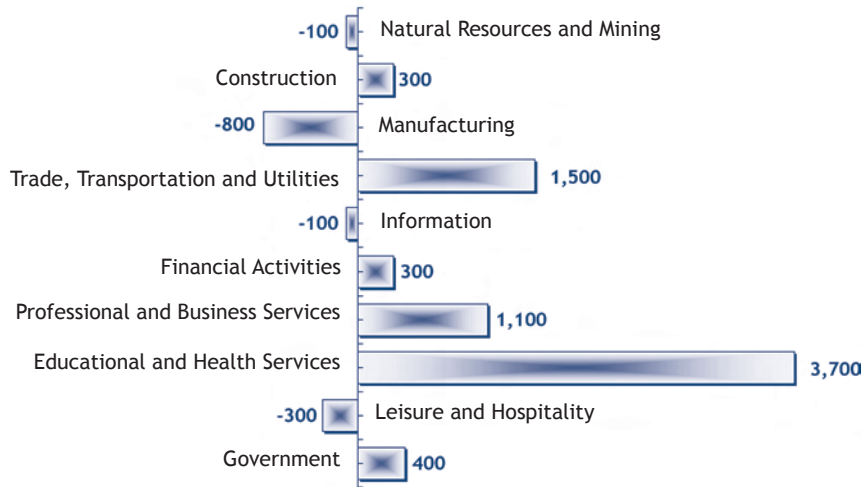
The seasons directed the job increase of 3,000 jobs over-the-month.

Monthly Not Seasonally Adjusted New Hampshire Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment

Current Employment Statistics Employment by Supersector by place of establishment	Number of Jobs			Change from previous:	
	Dec-07 preliminary	Nov-07 revised	Dec-06	Month	Year
	Total All Supersectors	654,900	651,900	649,100	3,000
Private Employment Total	559,700	556,900	553,700	2,800	6,000
Natural Resources and Mining	900	1,000	1,000	-100	-100
Construction	29,400	30,000	29,100	-600	300
Manufacturing	75,300	75,500	76,100	-200	-800
Durable Goods	57,900	58,100	58,200	-200	-300
Non-Durable Goods	17,400	17,400	17,900	0	-500
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	150,100	147,800	148,600	2,300	1,500
Wholesale Trade	28,800	28,800	28,300	0	500
Retail Trade	105,200	102,900	104,200	2,300	1,000
Transportation and Utilities	16,100	16,100	16,100	0	0
Information	12,800	12,700	12,900	100	-100
Financial Activities	40,300	40,200	40,000	100	300
Professional and Business	63,300	63,300	62,200	0	1,100
Educational and Health	105,300	105,200	101,600	100	3,700
Leisure and Hospitality	60,500	59,400	60,800	1,100	-300
Other Services	21,800	21,800	21,400	0	400
Government Total	95,200	95,000	95,400	200	400

Change in Nonfarm Employment

Dec 2006 to Dec 2007



Monthly Analysis of Current Employment Statistics (CES) Data

For further analysis please read the *Detailed Monthly Analysis of Industry Employment Data* on our Web site at <www.nh.gov/nhes/elmi/nonfarm.htm>

Seasonally Adjusted:

In total, New Hampshire employers ended 2007 by reducing their ranks by 800 jobs according to the preliminary seasonally adjusted estimates for December.

Manufacturing (supersector 30) with its 400 fewer jobs in December proved to be the loss leader. Professional and business services (supersector 60) and leisure and hospitality (supersector 70) each followed that with a 200-job drop.

Finally, other services (supersector 80) trimmed 100 jobs from its rolls to close out the downside of the ledger.

Education and health services (supersector 65) and government (supersector 90) each increased staffing by 100, as the remaining supersectors held the December employment totals at the November level.

Unadjusted:

Seasonal events played a significant role in the 3,000-job increase in December's unadjusted employment estimates for New Hampshire's economy. Trade, transportation, and utilities (supersector 40) led December's pack with a 2,300-job addition. Then came leisure and hospitality (supersector 70) with a 1,100-job gain Government (supersector

Monthly Unadjusted Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment by Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Employment by Sector number of jobs by place of establishment	Manchester NH MetroNECTA			Nashua NH-MA NECTA Division, NH Portion			Portsmouth NH-ME MetroNECTA, NH Portion			Rochester-Dover NH-ME MetroNECTA, NH Portion		
	preliminary Dec-07	Change from previous:		preliminary Dec-07	Change from previous:		preliminary Dec-07	Change from previous:		preliminary Dec-07	Change from previous:	
		Month	Year		Month	Year		Month	Year		Month	Year
Total All Sectors	100,200	200	-700	135,500	200	300	57,500	200	800	58,700	0	1,200
Private Employment Total	88,700	300	-800	122,400	300	2,100	48,100	200	1,100	44,200	200	400
Natural Resources and Construction	5,300	-100	-100	5,800	-200	0	1,500	0	-100	2,000	0	-100
Manufacturing	9,600	0	0	25,900	100	900	3,800	0	-100	6,800	100	100
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	20,700	300	-300	32,800	400	200	11,600	0	200	12,000	100	300
Wholesale Trade	4,900	0	100	6,100	0	200	2,000	0	0	1,300	0	0
Retail Trade	13,500	400	100	22,400	400	200	8,300	0	200	9,600	100	300
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	Data not available			4,300	0	-200	1,300	0	0	1,100	0	0
Information	3,000	0	-300	2,100	0	-100	1,800	0	100	1,400	0	0
Financial Activities	8,100	0	-400	10,000	0	300	5,200	200	200	2,900	0	0
Professional and Business	12,900	100	300	14,100	100	600	9,600	0	200	4,400	0	200
Educational and Health	16,600	0	100	17,000	0	200	6,000	0	100	7,800	0	100
Leisure and Hospitality	8,500	0	-100	10,300	-200	-100	7,100	0	500	5,100	0	-200
Other Services	4,000	0	0	4,400	100	100	1,500	0	0	1,800	0	0
Government Total	11,500	-100	100	13,100	-100	-1,800	9,400	0	-300	14,500	-200	800

Average Earnings and Hours of Production Workers in Manufacturing

Sector	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Dec-07 preliminary	Nov-07 revised	Dec-06	Dec-07 preliminary	Nov-07 revised	Dec-06	Dec-07 preliminary	Nov-07 revised	Dec-06
New Hampshire									
All Manufacturing	\$697.82	\$699.80	\$704.99	40.5	40.9	41.3	\$17.23	\$17.11	\$17.07
Durable Goods	\$730.80	\$731.43	\$729.68	42.0	42.5	42.3	\$17.40	\$17.21	\$17.25
Nondurable Goods	\$596.30	\$596.90	\$630.04	35.9	35.9	38.3	\$16.61	\$16.72	\$16.45
Manchester NH MetroNECTA									
All Manufacturing	\$862.72	\$862.72	\$803.60	42.9	42.9	41.0	\$20.11	\$20.11	\$19.60
Nashua NH-MA NECTA Division, NH Portion									
All Manufacturing	\$875.77	\$848.25	\$825.03	45.9	45.0	44.5	\$19.08	\$18.85	\$18.54

Note: Production workers and information for Portsmouth and Rochester are not currently available.

90) bumped up its employment totals by 200, as information (supersector 50), financial activities (supersector 55), and education and health services (supersector 65) each boosted their respective total number of jobs by 100 during the month.

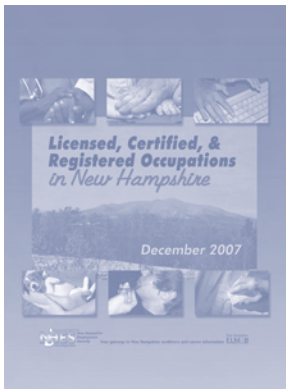
Employers in professional and business services (supersector 60) and other services (supersector 80) each sustained their employment level in December at the total set in November.

On the other side of the ledger, construction (supersector 20) cut back its force by 600, while manufacturing

(supersector 30) employed 200 fewer persons during the month.

In a rare shift in employment totals, natural resources and mining (supersector 10) pared its ranks by 100 jobs to conclude New Hampshire's employment activity for December.

B. G. McKay



Licensed, Certified, and Registered Occupations in New Hampshire

This publication provides information about occupational licenses, certifications, or registrations issued by state boards, commissions, and departments. This handbook is the only compilation of information on occupational licensing in New Hampshire, which is intended to be used as a reference guide. Detailed information should be obtained directly from the regulatory authorities.

This publication is available on our web page at www.nh.gov/nhes/elmi/licertreg/.



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