

# ECONOMIC CONDITIONS in New Hampshire



March 2004  
Volume 104, Number 03

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## Which occupations increased the most in pay from 2001 to 2002?

Every year the Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau, in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), conducts an employer based survey to determine wages and employment levels for roughly 600 occupations in New Hampshire. Recently, the *2002 New Hampshire Occupational Employment & Wages* publication was published based on the November 2002 survey.

As we still are trying to understand the economic effect of the recession, it is interesting to compare the wage data from the 2001 and 2002 surveys.

Can occupational pay increases be determined by comparing occupational wages and employment for 2001 and 2002? Is there a correlation between high demand

for a specific occupation and increase in pay or between a decrease in a specific occupation's employment and no pay increase? Have wages for the health care related occupations gone up and have wages in manufacturing and computer related occupations gone down?

### Pay increases for the major occupational groups

Overall, the major occupational group where hourly wages increased the most was Legal occupations, 14.9 percent from 2001 to 2002. Legal occupations include *Lawyers, Paralegals, Law clerks,* and *Title examiners* among others. The average hourly wage for this major occupational group was \$27.28 in 2001, exceeded only by Management occupations and Computer and mathematical occupations. In the 2002 wage survey,

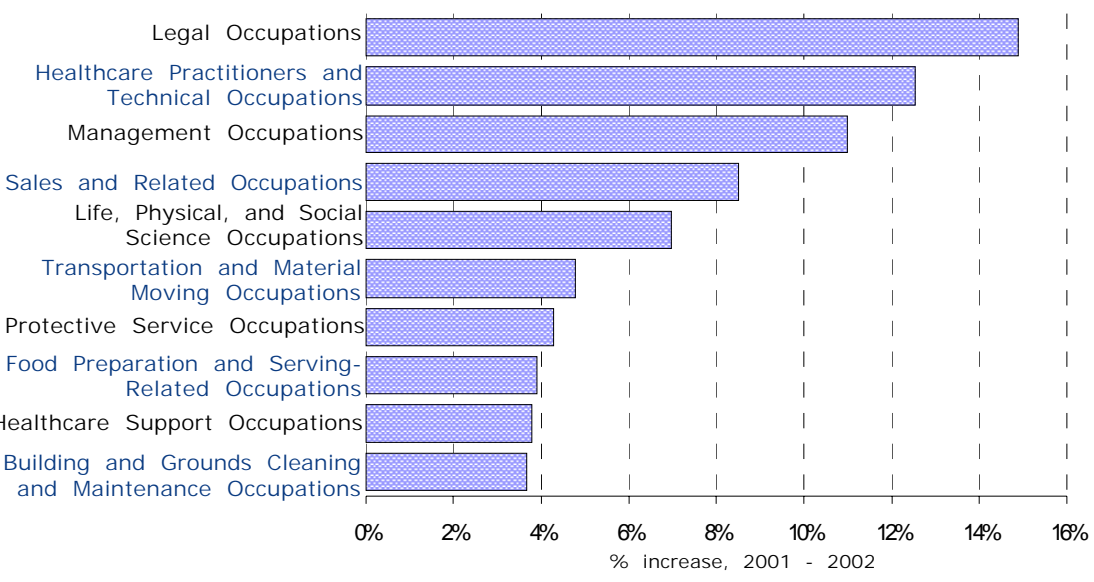
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Published by the Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau



**Hourly wage increases for top 10 major occupational groups**



Continued from page 1



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Legal occupations exceeded Computer and mathematical occupations with an average hourly wage of \$31.34. From 2001 to 2002 the average hourly wage for Computer and mathematical occupations only increased by 1.2 percent, going from \$27.96 in 2001 to \$28.29 in 2002. This group includes many of the high tech related occupations hit hard by the recession such as *Computer Programmers* and *Computer Software Engineers (Applications or System software)*. For example, *Computer Software Engineers (Applications)* estimates showed 450 fewer jobs in 2002 than 2001.

In comparing the wage increases for the major occupational groups it is interesting that Healthcare practitioner and technical occupations increased 12.5 percent whereas Healthcare support occupations only increased 3.8 percent. A rough distinction between the two groups is that the first major group contains occupations with a higher level of education and more

responsibility than the support oriented occupations in the latter group. So although healthcare related occupations are in demand, recent increases in pay seem to have benefited the highest educated the most. A possible explanation is that the positions in Healthcare practitioner and technical occupations are harder to replace.

Even though the overall estimated loss of employment in the major occupational group Sales and related occupations was 3,700 jobs, average hourly wages increased by 8.5 percent from

2001 to 2002. Another major occupational group hit hard was the Production occupations, resulting in 3,600 fewer estimated jobs. About 1,000 of the lost jobs in this major occupational group were *Electrical and electronic equipment assemblers* and about another 500 were jobs lost in *Computer-controlled machine tool operators, metal and plastic*. In general, occupations belonging to the Production occupations group are related to the Manufacturing industry, which over the same time period lost 12,600 jobs. Despite the huge job losses in Production occupations, those average hourly wages increased 3.4 percent. In comparison the consumer price index (CPI) for the northeast increased 2.4 percent from December 2001 to December 2002.

#### Change in hourly wage for specific occupations

The wage for *Personal financial advisors* increased the most, 42.4 percent between 2001 and 2002. This increased the average hourly rate from \$37.06 to \$52.77. Second, third and fourth were *Dentists, Family and General Practitioners, and Internist (general)*, all belonging to the same major occupational group, Healthcare practitioner and technical occupations. These three healthcare-related occupations increased on average about twenty dollars an hour, increasing from an average of \$55 in 2001 to \$75 in 2002. *Physicians and surgeons (all other)*, also belonging to this major occupational group, ranked sixth increasing 25.3 percent from an average hourly wage of \$62.50 to \$78.32. Some of the fluctuations in hourly wages from one year to the other may be explained by some changes in the program (see sidebar).

The occupation decreasing the most in average hourly pay is *Baggage Porters and Bellhops*, losing 28 percent of its average hourly wage, decreasing from \$10.81 to \$7.78 per hour. It is somewhat

#### Methodology:

The Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) program surveys a different set of companies in each survey. Companies with 250 or more employees are sampled with certainty over a three-year survey cycle. In this recent survey two major changes occurred:

- The OES program changed its method of conducting the survey from an annual survey with reference dates of October, November, and December to a new semi-annual method. This means that the sample size was divided in half, and that the OES program now conducts two surveys annually, one in May and another in November.
- The survey switched industry coding from using the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) to using the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

Only occupations with employment of more than 100 people have been selected for this comparison.

Continued on page 3

surprising that *Real estate brokers* ranked second among occupations losing the most in average hourly wage, as the housing market boomed, even through the recession. A possible explanation could be that the estimated number of brokers more than doubled from 2001 to 2002, thereby deflating the average pay by 21.9 percent. The same mechanism can probably explain why *Carpet installer*'s average hourly pay decreased by 14.4 percent, as estimated occupational employment increased by 50 percent over-the-year in response to the increased demand for home renovations.

The 2001 to 2002 wage and employment comparison showed no correlation between lost occupational employment and decrease in wages. *Insurance claims and policy processing clerks* is the only occupation among the top ten occupations losing employment that also decreased substantially in pay. *Retail Salespersons, Cooks (short order), Cashiers, Telemarketers, and Electrical and electronic equipment assemblers* each lost more than 1,000 jobs from 2001 to 2002, but hourly wage rates increased from three to more than six percent.

Annette Nielsen

Continued from page 2

### Unemployment Compensation Claims Activity

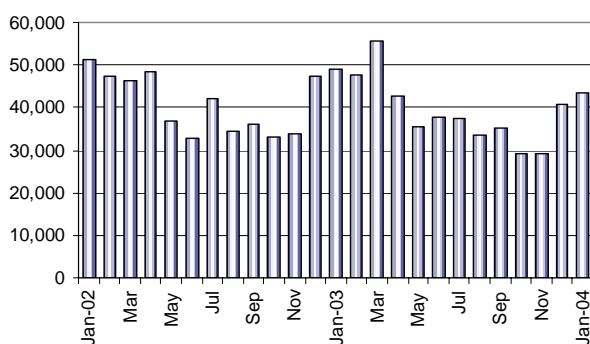
Total Regular Unemployment Compensation Programs:	Change from Previous								
				Month		Year			
	Jan-04	Dec-03	Jan-03	Net	Percent	Net	Percent		
Initial Claims	6,093	6,874	6,543	-781	-11.4%	-450	-6.9%		
Continued Weeks	43,486	40,917	49,002	2,569	6.3%	-5,516	-11.3%		

### Claims Activity

### Unemployment Compensation Fund

Unemployment compensation fund balance at the end of January	\$223,914,825.77
Average payment for a week of total unemployment:	\$250.96
Net benefits paid:	\$8,701,704.72
Net contributions received during the month:	\$2,428,753.42
Interest Received:	\$0.00
Reed Act Distribution:	\$0.00
Reed Act Withdrawal for Administrative Costs:	\$51,294.65

### Trust Fund



### Continued Weeks Claimed

#### Jan. 2002 - Jan. 2004

Although the number of continued weeks claimed in January 2004 showed an increase over-the-month, it was still down more than 5,500 over-the-year.

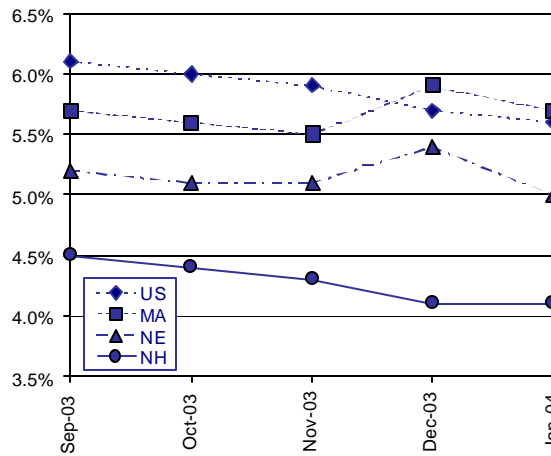
Jan-04	Dec-03	Jan-03	Change from Previous	
			Month	Year
185.2	184.3	181.7	0.5%	1.9%

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

### Consumer Price Index

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

The unemployment rate for New Hampshire in January 2004 stayed the same, where as New England's unemployment rate declined 0.5 percent after an increase in December 2003.



### Unemployment Rates by Region

	preliminary Jan-04	revised Dec-03	Jan-03
United States	5.6%	5.7%	5.8%
Northeast	5.7%	5.7%	5.9%
New England	5.0%	5.4%	5.3%
Connecticut	4.7%	5.5%	5.2%
Maine	4.9%	5.2%	4.8%
Massachusetts	5.6%	5.9%	5.6%
New Hampshire	4.1%	4.1%	4.5%
Rhode Island	5.2%	5.1%	5.4%
Vermont	3.8%	4.7%	4.2%
Mid Atlantic	5.9%	5.8%	6.1%
New Jersey	5.5%	5.6%	6.0%
New York	6.5%	6.3%	6.3%
Pennsylvania	5.3%	5.2%	5.9%

### Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Estimates

By Place of Residence

	Sep-03	Oct-03	Nov-03	revised Dec-03	preliminary Jan-04
<b>New Hampshire</b>					
Unemployment Rate	4.5%	4.4%	4.3%	4.1%	4.1%
Civilian Labor Force	720,370	719,650	717,890	716,000	725,310
Number Employed	688,200	688,240	687,010	686,580	695,710
Number Unemployed	32,170	31,410	30,880	29,420	29,600
<b>United States (in thousands)</b>					
Unemployment Rate	6.1%	6.0%	5.9%	5.7%	5.6%
Civilian Labor Force	146,545	146,793	147,277	146,878	146,863
Number Employed	137,573	138,014	138,603	138,479	138,566
Number Unemployed	8,973	8,779	8,674	8,398	8,297

### Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment

By Place of Establishment

Supersector	Sep-03	Oct-03	Nov-03	revised Dec-03	preliminary Jan-04
Total Nonfarm	621,600	619,200	617,600	622,300	615,400
Construction	26,500	26,200	26,000	29,000	28,400
Manufacturing	82,000	81,700	81,100	78,700	77,700
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	140,000	139,900	139,700	140,500	139,900
Leisure and Hospitality	63,400	62,300	61,300	63,300	62,900
Government	92,600	90,900	91,000	92,000	89,900

**Labor Force Estimates**

New Hampshire	Jan-04	Dec-03	Jan-03
Number of workers	preliminary	revised	
Total Civilian Labor Force	720,330	714,370	714,080
Employed	687,680	685,830	677,770
Unemployed	32,650	28,540	36,310
Unemployment Rate (percent of labor force)	4.5%	4.0%	4.5%

**Unemployment Rates by Area**

	preliminary Jan-04	revised Dec-03	Jan-03
<b>U.S. and Regional States</b>			
United States	6.3%	5.4%	6.5%
Northeast	6.3%	5.4%	6.5%
New England	5.7%	5.1%	5.9%
Connecticut	5.2%	5.0%	5.7%
Maine	5.8%	5.0%	5.7%
Massachusetts	6.2%	5.4%	6.2%
New Hampshire	4.5%	4.0%	5.0%
Rhode Island	6.1%	4.9%	6.4%
Vermont	4.8%	4.4%	5.3%
Mid Atlantic	6.5%	5.5%	6.7%
New Jersey	5.8%	5.2%	6.3%
New York	7.2%	6.2%	7.0%
Pennsylvania	6.1%	4.7%	6.6%
<b>Labor Market Areas</b>			
Berlin LMA	5.0%	5.7%	7.7%
Seabrook-South Hampton NH Portion Boston MA-NH PMSA	8.5%	7.8%	10.1%
Claremont LMA	3.3%	2.6%	2.9%
Colebrook LMA	3.7%	6.5%	5.6%
Concord LMA	3.6%	3.1%	3.9%
Conway LMA	3.5%	2.9%	4.2%
NH Portion Hartford-Lebanon, VT-NH LMA	1.5%	1.2%	1.5%
NH Portion Keene-Brattleboro, NH-VT LMA	3.5%	2.7%	3.4%
Laconia LMA	4.2%	3.5%	4.4%
Lancaster LMA	4.5%	3.9%	6.1%
Salem-Derry, NH Portion Lawrence, MA-NH PMSA	7.1%	6.2%	7.5%
Littleton LMA	3.9%	3.2%	3.4%
Pelham, NH Portion Lowell, MA-NH PMSA	6.5%	5.8%	8.6%
Manchester PMSA	4.3%	3.9%	5.2%
Nashua PMSA	5.4%	5.1%	6.3%
Peterborough LMA	4.1%	3.6%	4.6%
Plymouth LMA	3.1%	2.8%	3.6%
NH Portion Portsmouth- Rochester, NH-ME PMSA	4.4%	3.6%	4.7%
<b>Counties</b>			
Belknap	4.4%	3.6%	4.8%
Carroll	3.4%	2.8%	4.0%
Cheshire	3.7%	3.0%	3.7%
Coos	4.5%	5.2%	6.6%
Grafton	2.4%	2.0%	2.4%
Hillsborough	4.9%	4.5%	5.7%
Merrimack	3.4%	3.0%	3.7%
Rockingham	5.9%	5.1%	6.4%
Strafford	4.1%	3.6%	4.8%
Sullivan	3.4%	2.6%	2.9%

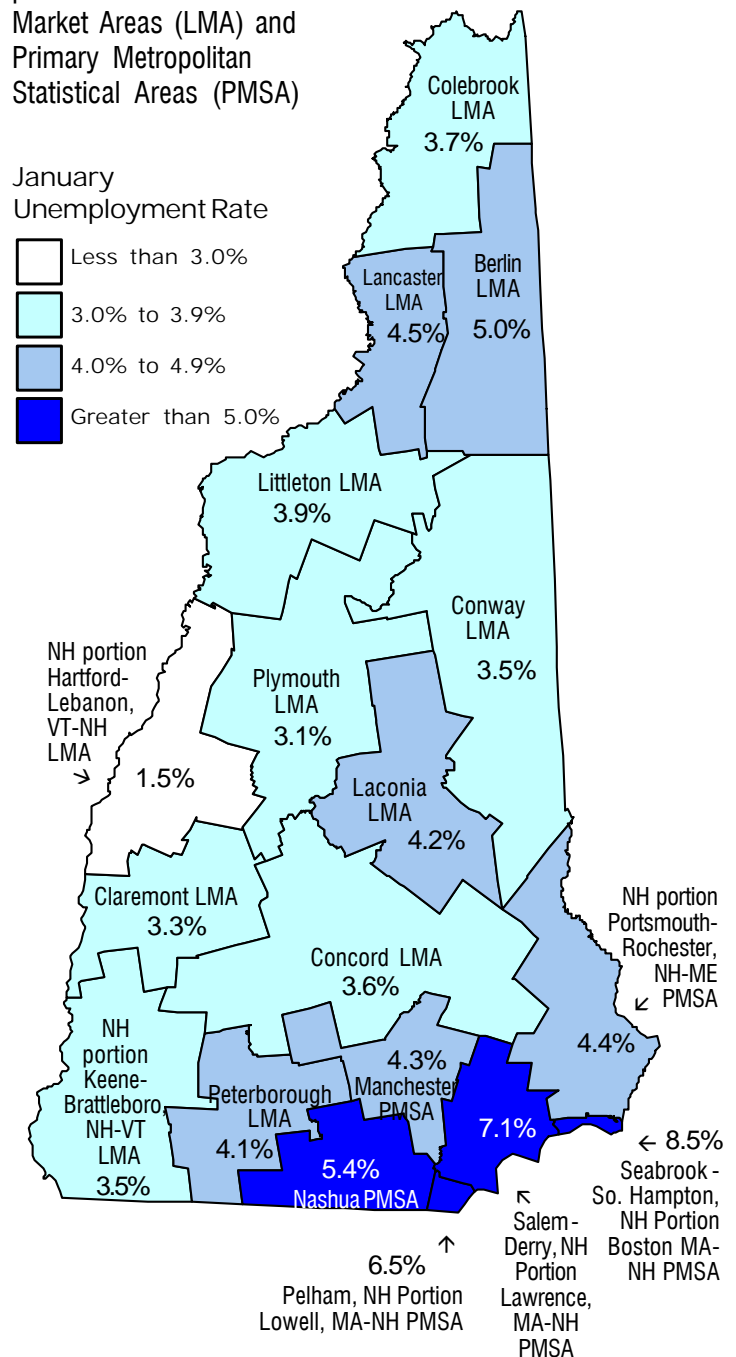
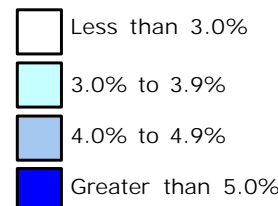
Local Area  
Unemployment  
Statistics  
(LAUS)

Not Seasonally  
Adjusted

By Place of Residence

Unemployment rates in the New Hampshire portion of its Labor Market Areas (LMA) and Primary Metropolitan Statistical Areas (PMSA)

January  
Unemployment Rate



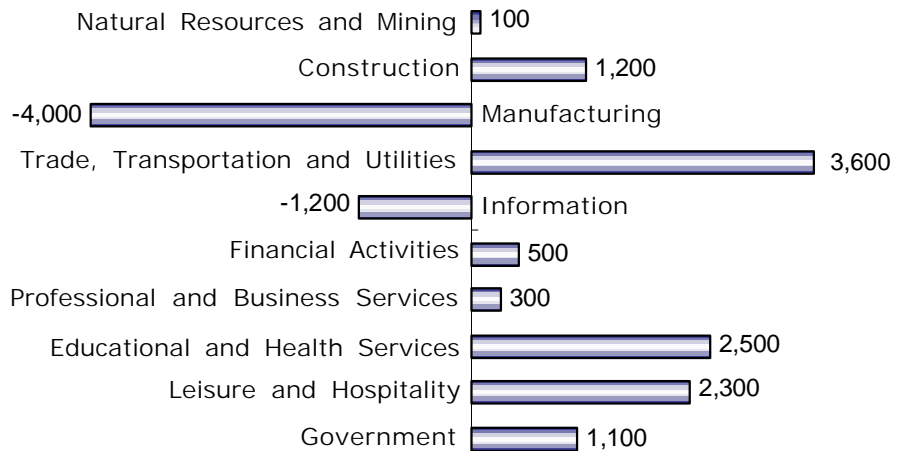
**Monthly Not Seasonally Adjusted New Hampshire Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment**

Employment by Super Sector by place of establishment	Jan-04 (preliminary)	Dec-03 (revised)	Jan-03	from previous:	
				Month	Year
Total All Super Sectors	608,900	627,600	603,600	-18,700	5,300
Private Employment Total	519,100	533,200	514,900	-14,100	4,200
Natural Resources & Mining	1,000	1,000	900	0	100
Construction	26,900	29,100	25,700	-2,200	1,200
Manufacturing	77,700	79,000	81,700	-1,300	-4,000
Durable Goods	58,000	58,900	60,500	-900	-2,500
Non-Durable Goods	19,700	20,100	21,200	-400	-1,500
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	139,600	146,400	136,000	-6,800	3,600
Wholesale Trade	27,300	27,500	26,200	-200	1,100
Retail Trade	96,500	103,000	94,100	-6,500	2,400
Transportation and Utilities	15,800	15,900	15,700	-100	100
Information	11,500	11,700	12,700	-200	-1,200
Financial Activities	37,300	37,400	36,800	-100	500
Professional and Business	52,600	54,400	52,300	-1,800	300
Educational and Health	94,600	94,800	92,100	-200	2,500
Leisure and Hospitality	58,600	59,800	56,300	-1,200	2,300
Other Services	19,300	19,600	20,400	-300	-1,100
Government Total	89,800	94,400	88,700	-4,600	1,100

Despite seasonal over-the-month declines in Construction, Retail trade, and Government, total employment in January 2004 still showed an over-the-year increase of 5,300.

**Change in Nonfarm Employment**

Jan 03 to Jan 04



**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.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/nonfarm.htm](http://www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/nonfarm.htm)>

**Seasonally Adjusted:** The preliminary seasonally adjusted estimates for January 2004 showed that total nonfarm employment in New Hampshire declined by 6,900 jobs. All published supersectors in this data series posted negative numbers for the month.

Leading the way, government (supersector 90) contributed 2,100 jobs to that decline, while manufacturing (supersector 30) dropped 1,000 jobs. Construction (supersector 20) and trade,

transportation, and utilities (supersector 40) each found it necessary to reduce its ranks by 600 jobs. Finally, employment in leisure and hospitality (supersector 70) fell by 400 jobs.

**Unadjusted:** January 2004 preliminary estimates in this data series showed that New Hampshire’s total nonfarm employment dropped 18,700 jobs in the aftermath of December’s holiday season. Like the seasonally adjusted component,

*Continued on page 7*

### Monthly Unadjusted Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment by Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area

Employment by Sector number of jobs by place of establishment	Manchester PMSA			Nashua PMSA			Portsmouth-Rochester NH-ME PMSA		
	Preliminary Jan-04	Change from previous:		Preliminary Jan-04	Change from previous:		Preliminary Jan-04	Change from previous:	
		Month	Year		Month	Year		Month	Year
Total All Sectors	109,700	-2,200	2,400	94,500	-2,100	100	120,100	-6,300	600
Private Employment Total	97,200	-1,900	2,100	84,200	-2,100	0	96,900	-4,000	700
Natural Resources and Construction	5,900	-300	300	4,000	-200	200	4,300	-200	300
Manufacturing	11,400	-100	-300	21,300	0	-800	11,700	-400	-1,100
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	25,200	-500	1,300	21,600	-1,100	200	25,000	-1,700	300
Wholesale Trade	6,300	100	100	3,600	-100	0	4,300	-100	200
Retail Trade	15,100	-700	1,200	16,100	-900	300	18,400	-1,500	200
Transportation and Utilities	3,800	100	0	1,900	-100	-100	2,300	-100	-100
Information	3,100	0	100	1,900	0	0	3,000	100	-300
Financial Activities	8,700	0	-100	6,400	-100	-300	7,600	0	100
Professional and Business	13,700	-600	400	8,100	-100	400	12,300	-300	800
Educational and Health	16,600	0	200	11,200	-100	300	18,500	0	800
Leisure and Hospitality	8,300	-400	100	6,600	-500	-100	10,700	-1,400	-300
Services	4,300	0	100	3,100	0	100	7,900	-800	-500
Government Total	12,500	-300	300	10,300	0	100	23,200	-2,300	-100

### Average Earnings and Hours of Production Workers in Manufacturing

Sector	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Jan-04 prelim.	Dec-03 revised	Jan-03	Jan-04 prelim.	Dec-03 revised	Jan-03	Jan-04 prelim.	Dec-03 revised	Jan-03
<b>New Hampshire</b>									
All Manufacturing	\$614.98	\$613.47	\$597.60	40.7	40.6	40.0	\$15.11	\$15.11	\$14.94
Durable Goods	643.67	631.89	627.35	41.5	41.3	41.3	15.51	15.30	15.19
Nondurable Goods	538.86	562.40	517.57	38.6	38.6	36.5	13.96	14.57	14.18
<b>Manchester PMSA</b>									
All Manufacturing	\$611.23	\$603.10	\$602.55	37.8	37.6	38.6	\$16.17	\$16.04	\$15.61
<b>Nashua PMSA</b>									
All Manufacturing	\$666.69	\$674.36	\$579.68	42.6	42.2	40.2	\$15.65	\$15.98	\$14.42
<b>Portsmouth-Rochester, NH-MA PMSA</b>									
All Manufacturing	\$597.12	\$590.20	\$680.85	38.4	38.3	42.5	\$15.55	\$15.41	\$16.02

all supersectors experienced a reduction in employment totals, except natural resources and mining (supersector 10). The number of jobs in this supersector stayed at the December level in the current month's totals.

As would be expected for January, trade, transportation, and utilities (supersector 40) sustained the largest job loss with a 6,800-job reduction. The holiday hiatus in Government's (supersector 90) educational services resulted in a 4,600

job contraction. Construction (supersector 20) pared its ranks by 2,200 jobs, which has been a normal event for this time of year over the past ten years. There were three other major contributors to the January slide. Professional and business services (supersector 60) cut 1,800 jobs, manufacturing (supersector 30) employed 1,300 fewer workers, and leisure and hospitality (supersector 70) dropped 1,200 jobs from its ranks.

*B. G. McKay*

## New Publications Released

### Vital Signs 2004

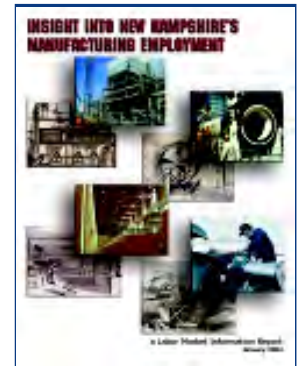
*Vital Signs 2004* is a one-stop data source at its best. Whether you are looking for New Hampshire's unemployment rate, the number of housing permits issued in the state, the number of people living below the poverty rate, energy costs, or even expenditures per pupil, you will find it here. With more than 800 indicators in 18 areas of New Hampshire's economy, *Vital Signs 2004* is a valuable tool for anyone looking for economic and social indicators about the Granite State.



### Insight into New Hampshire's Manufacturing Employment

For decades Manufacturing had been New Hampshire's prominent industry. That is no longer the case. An in depth look at this industry using location quotient and shift-share analysis is now available.

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228-4175

#### Occupational Employment

Statistics

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