

# New Hampshire

## Economic Conditions



March 2008

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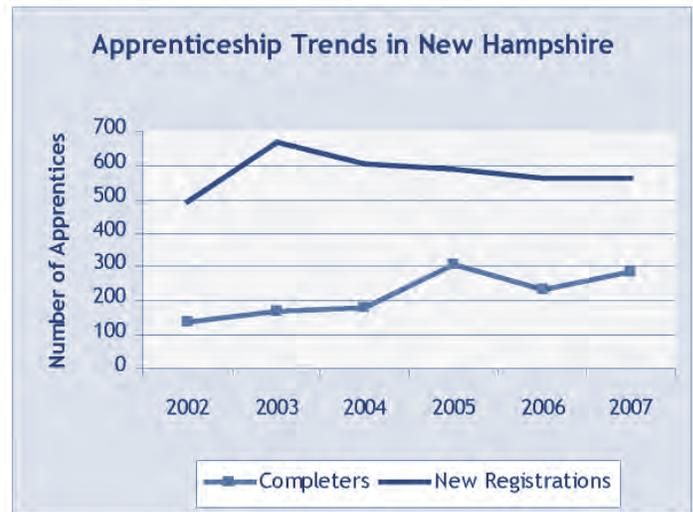


## Apprenticeships in New Hampshire

For nearly as long as humans have practiced organized trades, apprenticeships have been an essential form of training. Many of New Hampshire's earliest apprentices were legally bound to their masters, often living in the same home, sharing food, and working for little or no pay.<sup>1</sup> Many of the earliest "indentured" apprentices practiced trades that still exist today, including carpentry, masonry, and shipbuilding. Apprentices started young, usually around the age of 14.<sup>2</sup> Because of these difficult conditions, the National Apprenticeship Act was passed in 1937 to protect workers and ensure the continuation and usefulness of apprenticeship programs.<sup>3</sup> As a result of this legislation, modern apprentices are no longer indentured to their masters, and in nearly all cases receive pay for their services. A second by-product of the National Apprenticeship Act was the creation of a formalized system of apprenticeship administration. In New Hampshire,

the State Apprenticeship Council, working in tandem with the Office of Apprenticeship at the U.S. Department of Labor, oversees all apprenticeship programs.<sup>4</sup>

This improvement in both working conditions and administration has positioned apprenticeships as a vital means for people both young and old to learn the skills necessary for employment in well-paying trades. Currently, apprenticeship programs provide a comprehensive educational experience, combining classroom-acquired technical skills and knowledge with on-the-job training. Many apprenticeships require more



Source: U.S. Department of Labor

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

<sup>1</sup>Washington State Department of Labor and Industries: <http://www.lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/Apprenticeship/About/History/default.asp>. Accessed 3/21/08.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

<sup>3</sup>The Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training: <http://www.doleta.gov/OA/bat.cfm>. Accessed 3/24/08.

<sup>4</sup>New Hampshire RSA 278: <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/lsa/2007.pdf>. Accessed 3/27/08

than 4,000 hours of training and can take anywhere from two to five years to complete. Once workers have completed the requirements of a registered apprenticeship program, they are recognized as skilled journeyworkers and are ready to practice their trades independently.<sup>5</sup> This credential is portable, meaning that a worker’s skills will be recognized regardless of where the training took place.<sup>6</sup>

**Apprenticeship Trends**

With the exception of 2003, the number of new apprenticeship registrants in New Hampshire has remained essentially steady (between 500 and 600 individuals). Subsequently, the number of apprenticeship completers has grown, from a low of 138 in 2002 to a high of 307 in 2005. According to Jack Jarvis of the Office of Apprenticeship, “Many of the visible trends in apprenticeship completers are attributable to both changes in the local economy and training activities at larger employers such as the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.”

On the surface, the difference between the number of registrations and completers suggest that many individuals are not completing their apprenticeship programs. However, according to the

New Hampshire Department of Labor, the differences exist in part because of recent rule changes allowing many apprentices who have fulfilled their requirements to secure employment as journeyworkers without receiving a final certificate of completion. Through no fault of their own, these completed apprentices do not appear in state and federal tallies of apprenticeship completers.

**Occupations and Wages**

In New Hampshire, apprentices receive set wages that are pre-approved by the Office of Apprenticeship. In all cases, those wages will never fall below the state minimum. Often these wages are substantially higher, as apprenticeship regulations require inexperienced apprentices to receive at least half of the wages paid to a skilled worker.<sup>7</sup> For most apprentices, wages increase over time as skills are developed and courses completed. Some of the highest entry-level wages are paid to Refrigeration Mechanics (\$19.12 per hour) and Electronics Technicians (\$18.43 per hour), while some of the lowest wages are earned by cosmetologists (\$6.96 per hour) and childcare workers (\$7.28 per hour).

These wage figures do not necessarily explain the number of apprentices in each occupation. In 2007, a

large portion (60 percent) of the Granite State’s apprentices completed Electrician, Plumber, or Other Construction programs, even though those occupations pay entry-level wages between \$14 and \$18 per hour.<sup>8</sup> Another 18 percent of

*Continued on page 3*

**A Sampling of Recognized Apprenticeship Trades**

Required Training	Trade	SOC Code	Entry-level Wage in New Hampshire	Experienced Wage in New Hampshire
2,000 Hours	Bio-Manufacturing Technologist	19-4021	\$15.07	\$21.43
	Cosmetologist	39-5012	\$6.96	\$13.26
	Dental Assistant	31-9091	\$14.31	\$20.20
	Nurse Assistant	31-1012	\$10.55	\$14.02
4,000 Hours	Child Care Development Specialist	39-9011	\$7.28	\$10.18
	Cook (any industry)	35-2012	\$9.54	\$14.59
	Medical Laboratory Technician	29-2012	\$13.45	\$21.98
	Paramedic	29-2041	\$11.25	\$17.99
6,000 Hours	Dental Laboratory Technician	51-9081	\$11.11	\$19.18
	Fire Fighter	33-2011	\$14.81	\$22.44
	Painter (construction)	47-2141	\$12.48	\$16.66
	Refrigeration Mechanic (any industry)	49-9021	\$19.12	\$20.85
8,000 Hours	Automotive Mechanic	49-3023	\$12.63	\$20.09
	Bricklayer (brick & tile)	47-2021	\$17.47	\$23.54
	Cabinetmaker	51-7011	\$12.78	\$18.53
	Carpenter	47-2031	\$15.33	\$21.01
	Electrician	47-2111	\$13.97	\$19.96
	Electronics Technician	17-3023	\$18.43	\$24.84
	Plumber	47-2152	\$14.54	\$21.01
	Welder	51-4121	\$10.18	\$14.07

Source: New Hampshire Employment Security, Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau, Occupational Employment and Wages Survey, 2007.

<sup>5</sup>The National Apprenticeship system: <http://www.doleta.gov/OA/nas.cfm>. Accessed 3/21/08.

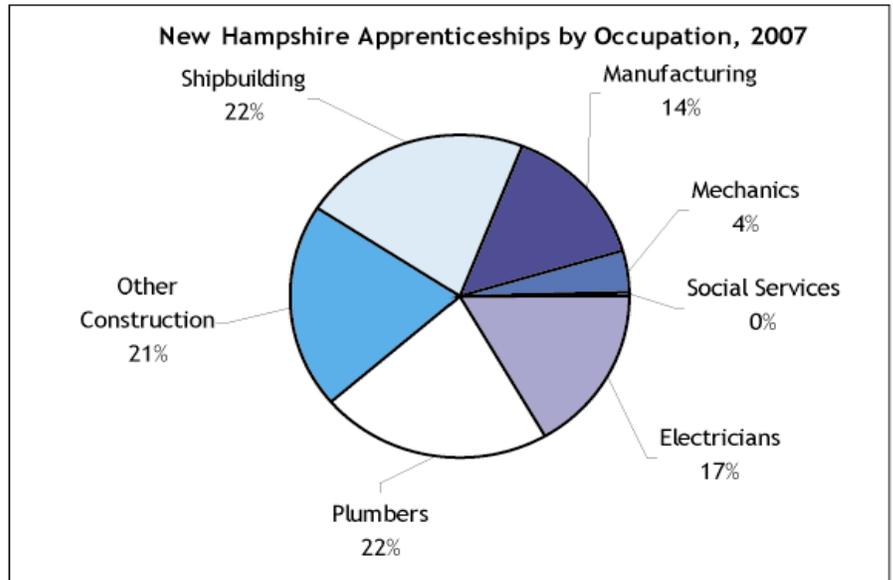
<sup>6</sup>The National Apprenticeship system: <http://www.doleta.gov/OA/inbenef.cfm>. Accessed 3/27/08.

<sup>7</sup>America’s Career InfoNet - Career Resource Library: [http://acinet.org/acinet/crl/CRL\\_RRSearch.aspx?docn=9483&strSword=eta&radioChoice=](http://acinet.org/acinet/crl/CRL_RRSearch.aspx?docn=9483&strSword=eta&radioChoice=). Accessed 4/1/08.

<sup>8</sup>Office of Apprenticeship, U.S. Department of Labor.

apprenticeship completers were trained in manufacturing and mechanics, which often command entry-level wages between \$10 and \$18 per hour. On the other hand, low wages may in fact explain the small number (less than one percent) of apprenticeships in the social service fields, such as childcare, cosmetology, or food preparation.

The term "apprentice" often conjures images of craftsmen practicing old-fashioned trades such as metal smithing or printing. However, viewing recent trends by occupation reveals the emergence of apprenticeship programs dominated by modern craftsmen and women practicing the trades of plumbers, carpenters, electricians, and



Source: U.S. Department of Labor

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### Unemployment Compensation Claims Activities

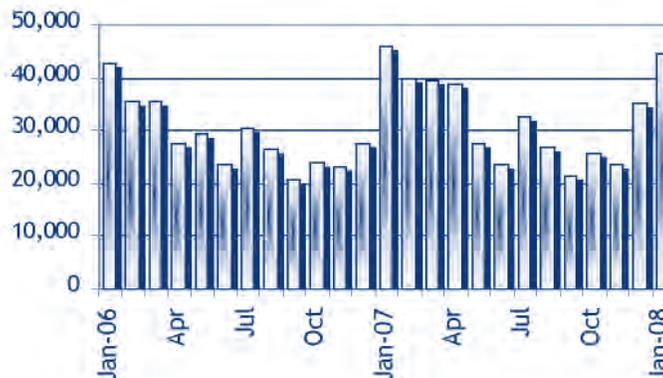
Total Regular Unemployment Compensation Programs:	Jan-08	Dec-07	Jan-07	Change from Previous			
				Month		Year	
				Net	Percent	Net	Percent
Initial Claims	6,680	7,536	6,600	-856	-11.4%	80	1.2%
Continued Weeks	44,650	35,069	46,112	9,581	27.3%	-1,462	-3.2%

### Claims Activity

### Unemployment Compensation Fund

Unemployment compensation fund balance at the end of January	\$231,961,683.53
Average payment for a week of total unemployment:	\$268.81
Net benefits paid:	\$10,062,821.75
Net contributions received during the month:	\$2,279,775.24
Interest Received:	\$0.00
Reed Act Distribution:	\$0.00
Reed Act Withdrawn for Administrative Costs:	\$0.00

### Trust Fund



### Continued Weeks Claimed

Jan 2006 - Jan 2008  
 January continued weeks claimed had a post holiday jump over the month, but not as high as last year.

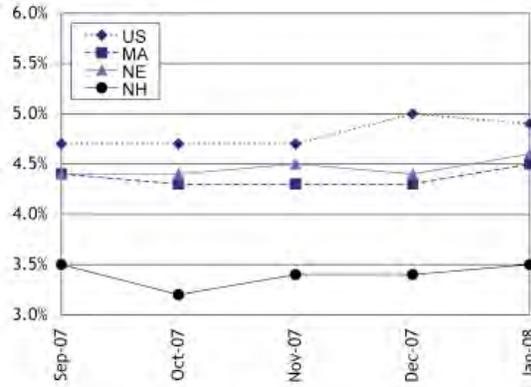
Jan-08	Dec-07	Jan-07	Change from Previous	
			Month	Year
211.1	201.8	202.4	0.5%	4.3%

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 January unemployment rate is trending upward, although not as high as the region.



### Unemployment Rates by Region

Seasonally Adjusted	Jan-08	Dec-07	Jan-07
United States	4.9%	5.0%	4.6%
Northeast	4.8%	4.5%	4.4%
New England	4.6%	4.4%	4.5%
Connecticut	4.8%	4.8%	4.4%
Maine	5.0%	4.9%	4.5%
Massachusetts	4.5%	4.3%	4.7%
New Hampshire	3.5%	3.4%	3.7%
Rhode Island	5.7%	5.2%	4.9%
Vermont	4.2%	3.9%	4.0%
Mid Atlantic	4.8%	4.5%	4.4%
New Jersey	4.5%	4.2%	4.3%
New York	5.0%	4.6%	4.4%
Pennsylvania	4.8%	4.4%	4.3%

### Sep-07 Oct-07 Nov-07 Dec-07 Jan-08

### Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Estimates

By Place of Residence

	Sep-07	Oct-07	Nov-07	Dec-07	Jan-08
<b>New Hampshire</b>					
Unemployment Rate	3.4%	3.3%	3.4%	3.4%	3.5%
Civilian Labor Force	738,454	738,784	739,777	740,557	742,562
Number Employed	713,534	714,134	714,701	715,265	716,806
Number Unemployed	24,920	24,650	25,076	25,292	25,756
<b>United States (in thousands)</b>					
Unemployment Rate	4.7%	4.8%	4.7%	5.0%	4.9%
Civilian Labor Force	153,506	153,306	153,828	153,866	153,824
Number Employed	146,260	146,016	146,647	146,211	146,248
Number Unemployed	7,246	7,291	7,181	7,655	7,576

### Supersector

### Sep-07 Oct-07 Nov-07 Dec-07 Jan-08

### Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment Estimates

By Place of Establishment

Supersector	Sep-07	Oct-07	Nov-07	Dec-07	Jan-08
Total Nonfarm	651,100	650,100	648,900	654,700	654,100
Construction	29,400	29,400	29,600	28,500	28,100
Manufacturing	75,400	75,300	75,200	77,800	77,800
Durable Goods	58,000	57,900	57,900	59,600	60,000
Non-Durable Goods	17,400	17,400	17,300	18,200	17,800
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	144,600	144,700	144,600	142,600	142,600
Wholesale Trade	28,800	28,800	28,800	28,400	28,600
Retail Trade	99,600	99,900	99,800	98,500	98,900
Transportation and Utilities	16,200	16,000	16,000	15,700	15,100
Information	12,800	12,600	12,600	12,200	12,200
Financial Activities	40,800	41,000	40,400	38,600	38,600
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	Data not available			7,800	7,900
Professional and Business Services	62,600	62,800	63,200	66,600	66,200
Administrative and Support	26,400	26,300	26,400	28,800	28,500
Education and health services	104,200	104,900	104,800	105,300	104,600
Educational Services	23,600	23,500	23,500	23,800	23,500
Health Care and Social Assistance	80,600	81,400	81,300	81,500	81,100
Leisure and Hospitality	66,200	64,300	64,000	64,500	64,100
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	12,200	11,800	11,600	10,400	10,200
Accommodation and Food Services	54,000	52,500	52,400	54,100	53,900
Other Services	21,800	21,800	22,000	22,300	22,300
Government	92,200	92,200	91,500	95,200	96,600
Federal Government	7,700	7,700	7,600	8,000	8,200
State Government	23,700	23,000	22,500	24,800	25,400
Local Government	60,800	61,500	61,400	62,400	63,000

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	Jan-08	Dec-07	Jan-07
Total Civilian Labor Force	739,320	736,710	735,870
Employed	710,060	712,500	704,290
Unemployed	29,260	24,210	31,580
Unemployment Rate (percent of labor force)	4.0%	3.3%	4.3%

Unemployment Rates by Area

Not Seasonally Adjusted	Jan-08	Dec-07	Jan-07
<b>U.S and Regional States</b>			
United States	5.4%	4.8%	5.0%
Northeast	5.4%	4.4%	5.0%
New England	5.3%	4.3%	5.2%
Connecticut	5.3%	4.5%	5.0%
Maine	5.9%	5.0%	5.4%
Massachusetts	5.2%	4.1%	5.5%
New Hampshire	4.0%	3.3%	4.3%
Rhode Island	7.0%	5.2%	5.8%
Vermont	5.0%	3.7%	4.8%
Mid Atlantic	5.5%	4.5%	5.0%
New Jersey	5.1%	4.1%	4.8%
New York	5.6%	4.7%	5.0%
Pennsylvania	5.5%	4.3%	5.0%

Map	Jan-08	Dec-07	Jan-07
<b>Key Labor Market Areas</b>			
1 Colebrook NH-VT LMA, NH Portion	5.6%	6.3%	6.3%
2 Berlin NH MicroNECTA	5.1%	4.4%	6.4%
3 Littleton NH-VT LMA, NH Portion	3.8%	3.3%	4.2%
4 Haverhill NH LMA	6.1%	4.3%	5.8%
5 Conway NH-ME LMA, NH Portion	3.7%	3.1%	4.6%
6 Plymouth NH LMA	4.0%	3.1%	4.3%
7 Moultonborough NH LMA	3.7%	2.9%	3.8%
8 Lebanon NH-VT MicroNECTA, NH Portion	2.8%	2.1%	2.9%
9 Laconia NH MicroNECTA	4.8%	3.7%	4.8%
10 Wolfeboro NH LMA	3.9%	3.1%	4.1%
11 Franklin NH MicroNECTA	5.1%	3.7%	5.1%
12 Claremont NH MicroNECTA	3.4%	2.8%	3.8%
13 Newport NH LMA	3.4%	2.8%	3.7%
14 New London NH LMA	3.2%	2.3%	3.6%
15 Concord NH MicroNECTA	4.0%	3.1%	4.2%
16 Rochester-Dover NH-ME MetroNECTA, NH Portion	3.8%	3.0%	4.0%
17 Charlestown NH LMA	4.3%	3.2%	4.9%
18 Hillsborough NH LMA	4.0%	3.3%	4.6%
19 Manchester NH MetroNECTA	3.8%	3.2%	4.3%
20 Keene NH MicroNECTA	3.7%	3.0%	4.1%
21 Peterborough NH LMA	4.4%	3.6%	4.5%
22 Nashua NH-MA NECTA Division, NH Portion	3.9%	3.3%	4.3%
23 Exeter Area, NH Portion, Haverhill-N. Andover-Amesbury MA-NH NECTA Division	4.6%	4.1%	4.9%
24 Portsmouth NH-ME MetroNECTA, NH Portion	3.4%	3.0%	3.8%
25 Hinsdale Town, NH Portion, Brattleboro VT-NH LMA	5.1%	3.7%	5.0%
26 Pelham Town, NH Portion, Lowell-Billerica-Chelmsford MA-NH NECTA Division	5.6%	5.1%	5.6%
27 Salem Town, NH Portion, Lawrence-Methuen-Salem MA-NH NECTA Division	5.2%	4.9%	5.1%

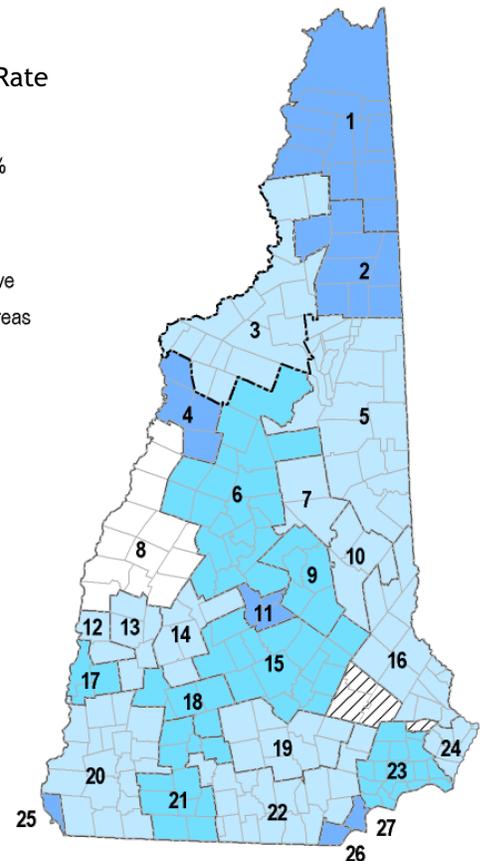
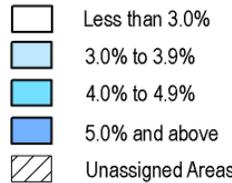
Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

Not Seasonally Adjusted

By Place of Residence

Counties	Jan-08	Dec-07	Jan-07
Belknap	4.7%	3.6%	4.8%
Carroll	3.9%	3.2%	4.3%
Cheshire	4.0%	3.2%	4.4%
Coos	5.0%	4.5%	5.9%
Grafton	3.5%	2.7%	3.7%
Hillsborough	3.9%	3.3%	4.3%
Merrimack	3.9%	3.0%	4.1%
Rockingham	4.2%	3.6%	4.4%
Strafford	3.7%	3.0%	4.0%
Sullivan	3.5%	2.7%	3.7%

January 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.

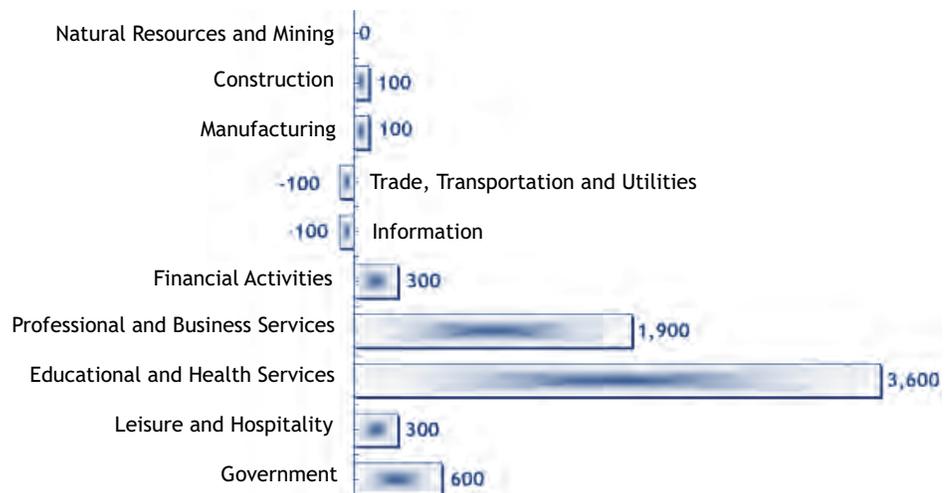
## Monthly Not Seasonally Adjusted New Hampshire Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment

None of the industry sectors escaped the job reductions from December to January.

Current Employment Statistics Employment by Supersector by place of establishment	Number of Jobs			Change from previous:	
	Jan-08 preliminary	Dec-07 revised	Jan-07	Month	Year
	Total All Supersectors	641,400	660,500	632,000	-19,100
Private Employment Total	546,600	562,000	539,900	-15,400	6,700
Natural Resources and Mining	1,000	1,100	1,000	-100	0
Construction	25,700	28,400	25,600	-2,700	100
Manufacturing	77,600	78,300	77,500	-700	100
Durable Goods	59,800	60,000	59,500	-200	300
Non-Durable Goods	17,800	18,300	18,000	-500	-200
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	141,400	148,000	141,500	-6,600	-100
Wholesale Trade	28,300	28,500	28,200	-200	100
Retail Trade	98,100	103,700	98,000	-5,600	100
Transportation and Utilities	15,000	15,800	15,300	-800	-300
Information	12,200	12,400	12,300	-200	-100
Financial Activities	38,400	38,600	38,100	-200	300
Professional and Business	64,300	66,600	62,400	-2,300	1,900
Educational and Health	104,600	105,500	101,000	-900	3,600
Leisure and Hospitality	59,500	61,000	59,200	-1,500	300
Other Services	21,900	22,100	21,300	-200	600
Government Total	94,800	98,500	92,100	-3,700	600

### Change in Nonfarm Employment

Jan 2007 to Jan 2008



### 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](http://www.nh.gov/nhes/elmi/nonfarm.htm)>

**Seasonally Adjusted:** Preliminary seasonally adjusted estimates for January 2008 showed that New Hampshire employers overall dropped 600 positions from their books. Education and health services (supersector 65) led the charge with a 700-job reduction. Construction (supersector 20), professional and business services (supersector 60), and leisure and hospitality (supersector 70) each joined in with a 400-job setback.

A 1,400-job increase in government (supersector 90) employment during the month offset some of the previously

mentioned job losses, as the remaining supersectors held employment totals at their revised December levels.

**Unadjusted:** All sectors of New Hampshire's economy contributed to the estimated 19,100 job reduction for January 2008 in the wake of the annual holiday shopping season.

As would be expected, trade, transportation, and utilities (supersector 40) headed up the list with a 6,600-job decrease, and government (supersector 90), with the university system between terms, had 3,700 fewer

## 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 Jan-08	Change from previous:		preliminary Jan-08	Change from previous:		preliminary Jan-08	Change from previous:		preliminary Jan-08	Change from previous:	
		Month	Year		Month	Year		Month	Year		Month	Year
Total All Sectors	101,200	-1,700	1,900	132,600	-3,400	800	55,000	-1,100	1,400	55,400	-3,300	1,300
Private Employment Total	89,100	-2,000	1,400	116,900	-3,400	400	45,600	-900	1,400	43,600	-1,100	1,300
Natural Resources and Construction	4,600	-300	-200	4,700	-500	-100	1,400	-200	-100	1,800	-200	0
Manufacturing	9,500	-200	100	25,300	-100	-100	3,900	0	0	6,800	-100	100
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	20,500	-900	100	30,200	-1,400	-500	11,400	-100	400	11,200	-500	-100
Wholesale Trade	4,700	-100	0	6,300	100	200	2,000	0	0	1,200	0	-100
Retail Trade	12,800	-600	100	20,000	-1,300	-600	8,200	-100	300	9,000	-500	0
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	Data not available			3,900	-200	-100	1,200	0	100	1,000	0	0
Information	3,300	0	0	2,200	0	0	1,900	0	100	1,100	0	0
Financial Activities	8,500	0	-100	8,800	-100	200	4,900	0	200	3,000	0	0
Professional and Business	12,900	-400	500	14,300	-600	400	8,900	-100	200	4,700	0	500
Educational and Health	17,000	0	500	17,000	-200	300	5,700	0	100	8,100	0	500
Leisure and Hospitality	8,300	-200	100	10,000	-500	100	6,100	-500	500	5,100	-300	300
Other Services	4,500	0	400	4,400	0	100	1,400	0	0	1,800	0	0
Government Total	12,100	300	500	15,700	0	400	9,400	-200	0	11,800	-2,200	0

## Average Earnings and Hours of Production Workers in Manufacturing

Sector	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Jan-08 preliminary	Dec-07 revised	Jan-07	Jan-08 preliminary	Dec-07 revised	Jan-07	Jan-08 preliminary	Dec-07 revised	Jan-07
<b>New Hampshire</b>									
All Manufacturing	\$681.23	\$697.82	\$696.28	39.4	40.5	41.2	\$17.29	\$17.23	\$16.90
Durable Goods	\$710.62	\$730.80	\$719.49	40.7	42.0	42.1	\$17.46	\$17.40	\$17.09
Nondurable Goods	\$586.78	\$592.98	\$624.38	35.2	35.2	38.4	\$16.67	\$16.61	\$16.26

workers on the job. The “red ink” continued as construction (supersector 20) pared 2,700 jobs, and professional and business services (supersector 65) dropped 2,300 jobs from the rolls in the preliminary unadjusted estimates. Following those job losses, leisure and hospitality (supersector 70) downsized by 1,500.

Those industrial groupings declining at a lesser rate included education and health services (supersector 65), which rolled back employment totals by 900, and manufacturing (supersector 30) which decreased its force by

700. Information (supersector 50), financial activities (supersector 55), and other services (supersector 80) each diminished their manpower numbers by 200. In wrapping up the month’s employment activity, natural resources and mining (supersector 10) trimmed payroll by 100 positions.

*B. G. McKay*

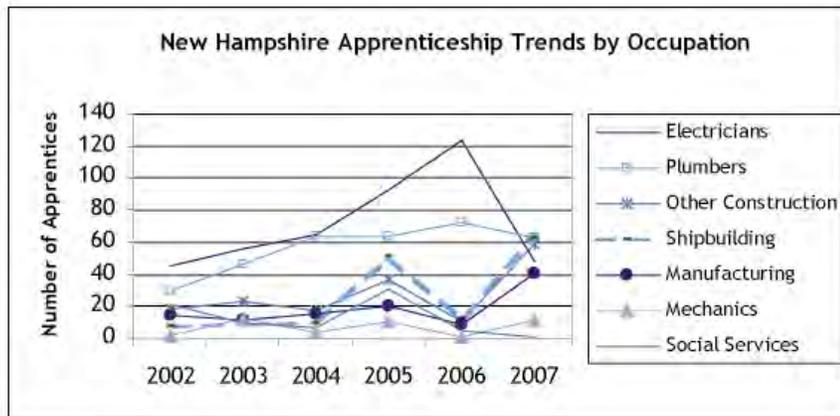
Continued from page 3

mechanics. In addition, New Hampshire is home to apprenticeship programs in the shipbuilding trades, which together have increased over 50 percent since 2004 after several years of limited growth. As new opportunities in advanced manufacturing and information technology arrive in New Hampshire over the next decade,

other occupations will undoubtedly be added to this mix.

The cost of participating in an apprenticeship varies depending on factors such as the trade, the type of courses taken, or the employer.<sup>9</sup> While some employers pay for costs such as tools or tuition, others require apprentices to finance these costs on their own.<sup>10</sup> Apprentices in some occupations, such as plumbing or electrical, are required to obtain an identification card from a state licensing board.<sup>11</sup> To help offset these expenses, financial aid may be available to eligible apprentices through community colleges, the state Department of Veterans Affairs, or the New Hampshire Higher Education Assistance Foundation.<sup>12</sup> For information on becoming an apprentice or starting a registered apprenticeship program, contact the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Apprenticeship at (603) 225-1444.

*Benoni Amsden*



Source: U.S. Department of Labor



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<sup>9</sup>New Hampshire Department of Education: Frequently asked questions about apprenticeships. <http://www.ed.state.nh.us/education/doe/organization/adultlearning/Career%20Development/FAQapp.htm>. Accessed 3/24/08.

<sup>10</sup>Ibid.

<sup>11</sup>Licensed, Certified, and Registered Occupations in New Hampshire. New Hampshire Employment Security, Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau

<sup>12</sup>Ibid.

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