

New Hampshire

Economic Conditions



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Which of New Hampshire's jobs have better chances of survival in this tight economic environment?

(This is the third of a three-part series discussing the economic situation in New Hampshire.)

Which occupational groups are weathering the current economic crisis and which ones have proven to be vulnerable? The effect of the current economic situation on occupational groups may be gauged using counts from a representative week of monthly continued claims for unemployment compensation benefits.¹ Employment estimates for occupational groups are based on May survey data from the New Hampshire Occupational Employment Statistics Program.

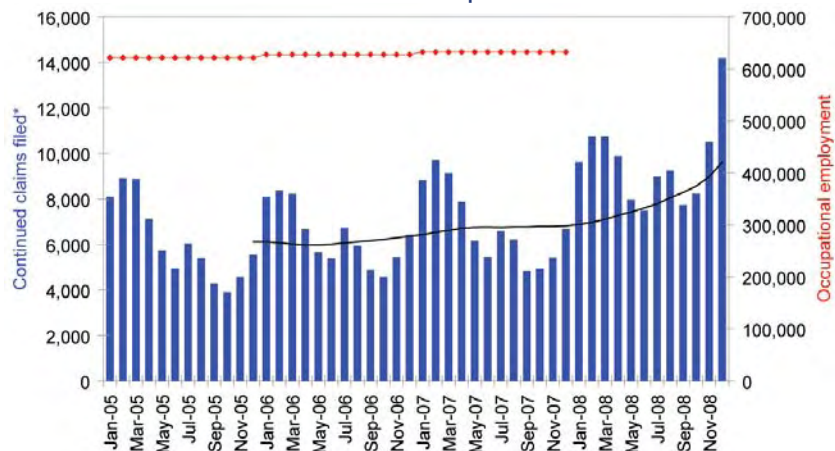
Occupational Employment
 New Hampshire Employment Security's Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau conducts surveys of businesses

to obtain detailed information about the labor market, including the employment level for specific occupations. There are over 600 specific detailed occupations grouped into 22 major occupational groups based on job similarities. Occupational employment levels for New Hampshire are estimated each year.

The comparison of the occupational employment level to the continued claims filed (based on counts from a representative week each month) provides a look at the trends of claims in the occupational group to the estimated employment of that occupational group in the state. For example, since 2005, the total occupational employment in New Hampshire hovered between 620,000 and 630,000. Monthly continued claims filed (for unemployment compensation)



Total All Occupations



* Based on counts from the same representative week each month

¹ United States Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, ETA 203 – Distribution of Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, New Hampshire (Data compiled by New Hampshire Employment Security and reported on the ETA 203)

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

illustrate the seasonal nature of unemployment claims in the state. Adding a 12-month moving average to the monthly continued claims filed gives a clearer picture of the annual trend. With the trend line it becomes more evident that continued claims filed was fairly steady through 2006 and 2007, then started to climb throughout 2008.

Management Occupations

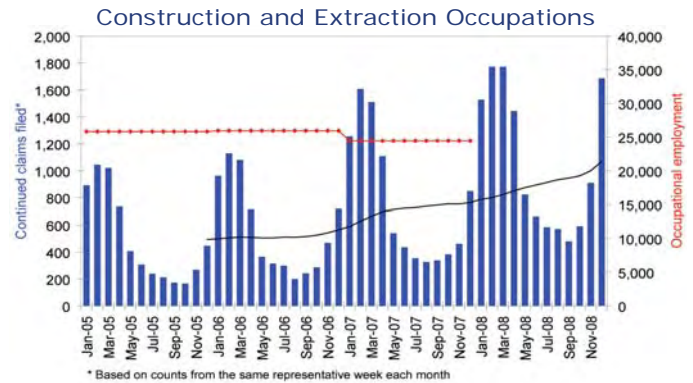
Management occupations account for over 32,000 jobs in the state. Typically occupations in this group require a college degree or experience, or both, therefore wages are higher. The average hourly wage for occupations in this group in 2007 was \$47.32. The monthly continued claims filed indicate some regular turnover among the positions in 2005 and 2006. Beginning in January 2007, continued claims filed began to increase on a monthly basis. The continued claims filed trended more steeply upward during 2008. Though statistics support the idea that those in occupations requiring more education have a lower chance of becoming unemployed, these data demonstrate that even well-educated workers are not totally immune to the effects of this economic downturn.²



Construction and Extraction Occupations

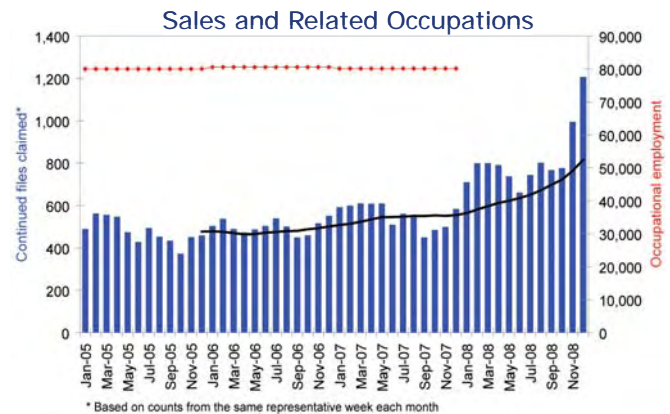
Occupations in this group are the tradesmen and women mainly associated with the *Construction* industry. Employment in this occupational group shrank to 24,450 between 2006 and 2007, the first indication of the effects of the impending financial crisis. The average hourly wage for workers in this group was \$19.24, about a dollar shy of the statewide average. Continued claims filed by workers in this occupational group have a seasonal flow, typically peaking in the winter months and receding with the return of warm weather. That trend held steady until mid 2006 when continued claims filed were higher each month compared to the corresponding month

of the previous year. This group was among those occupational groups with the largest number of continued claims filed.



Sales and Related Occupations

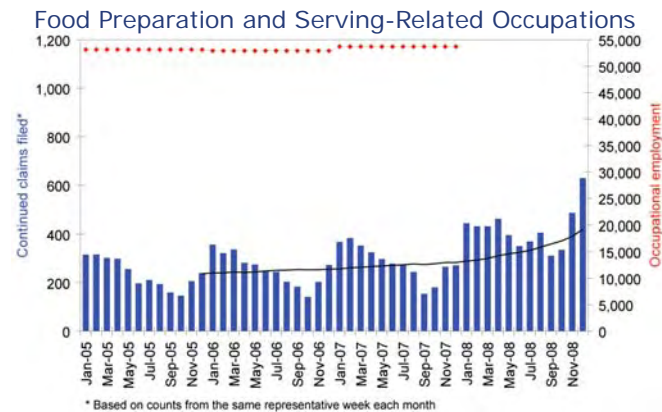
A significant number of workers, 80,100 as of May 2007, fall into this occupational group, understandable since the *Retail trade* industry sector has the largest employment in the state. The average wage of \$17.15 per hour falls below the state average of \$20.22. Even so, continued claims filed (based on counts from a representative week each month) by workers in related occupations averaged around 500 until the end of 2007. Starting with January 2008, continued claims filed jumped past 700 and stayed much higher through the end of the year, with the exception of June when 661 claims were filed. This gives credence to anecdotal information that people are tightening their purse strings and not purchasing as much. An unfortunate side effect of reduced spending is that as sales and profits decrease, so do the number of jobs an employer can sustain.



² US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Current Population Survey. www.bls.gov/emp/emptab7.htm. Accessed February 23, 2009.

Food Preparation and Serving-Related Occupations

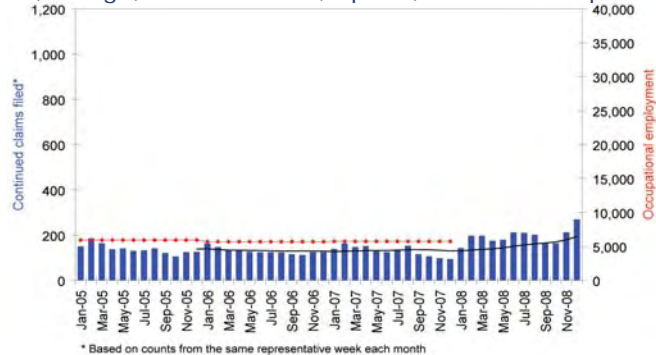
Unlike the 2001 recession period, in the current economic downturn public willingness to spend is slowing. The reduction in consumer spending is especially felt by those in restaurant and hospitality related services. More than 50,000 workers in New Hampshire hold jobs in the Food Preparation and Serving-Related occupational group. Because the wages of many of the workers included in this occupational group are supplemented with tips, the average hourly wage for workers in this group is significantly lower, \$10.30. That is slightly more than half the statewide average for all occupations. Continued claims filed by workers in these occupations also followed typical seasonal trends from 2005 through the end of 2007, increasing during non-tourist dominated seasons and receding again. The change came during months in 2008 when continued claims filed increased more in January than in the corresponding month of previous years. The continued claims filed during the rest of 2008 remained elevated and sustained increased levels.



Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations

New Hampshire, unlike Hollywood, doesn't have an overwhelming share of celebrity occupations. There are fewer than 6,000 jobs in this occupational group in the state. The average hourly wage of designers, sports competitors and media specialists included in this group is \$20.75. An interesting aspect of the data for this group is that even though the number of jobs is a small part of overall employment, since January 2008 over-the-year change in continued claims filed increased every month. This indicates that these jobs are becoming even more competitive than in previous years.

Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, & Media Occupations



Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations

Recent news stories have stated that even auto repair shops are experiencing a decline in demand in the current economy.³ Car mechanics are just one of the occupations included in this group. In 2007, New Hampshire had over 27,700 Installation, Maintenance, and Repair workers with an average hourly wage just over \$20. From 2005 through 2006, continued claims filed from workers in this group followed a seasonal pattern, increasing during the colder months each year. In the early months of 2007, the number of continued claims filed in this group increased more each month, and the number of continued claims filed further elevated throughout 2008.

Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations

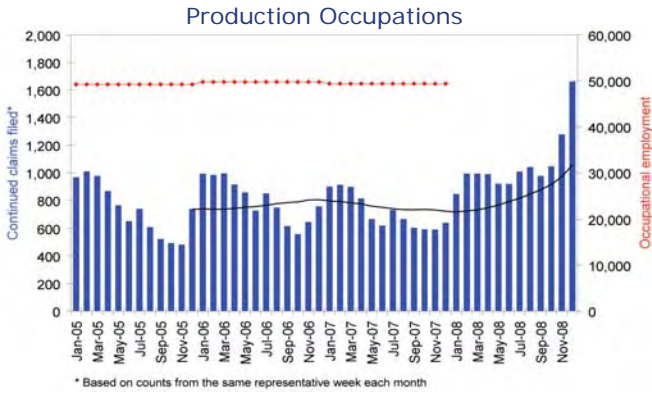


Production Occupations

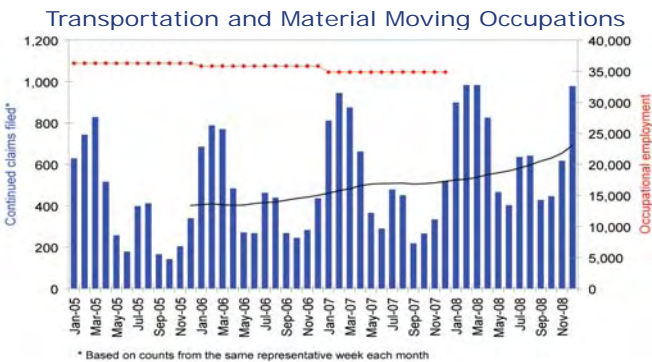
Because Production workers are largely associated with the *Manufacturing* industry, their numbers have been declining in recent years. The average hourly pay was \$15.81 for the 49,400 individuals included in this occupational group. But during 2005, 2006, and most of 2007, continued claims filed by workers in these occupations had been fairly stable, following a typical seasonal pattern. Starting with the latter

³ Ouellette, Mark. New Hampshire Union Leader. Even car repairs see a slowdown. February 23, 2009. www.unionleader.com/article.aspx?articleId=6083bf55-907a-47ce-ab6f-72209427a006&headline=Even+car+repairs+see+a+slowdown. Accessed February 24, 2009.

months of 2007, the seasonal ebb in the number of continued claims filed did not drop as low as in previous years. That number continued to increase through 2008, spiking in December 2008.

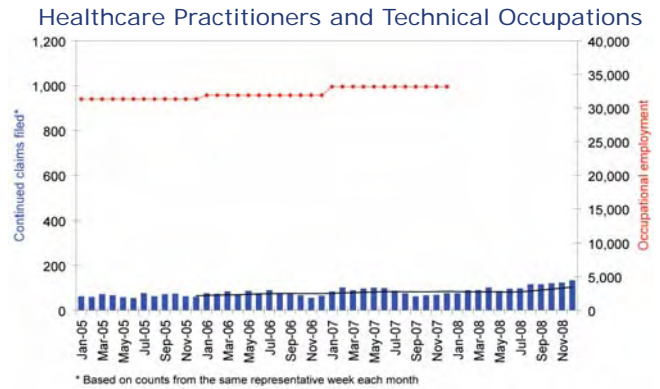


Transportation and Material Moving Occupations
 Many Transportation and Material Moving jobs are associated with *Transportation and warehousing*. Others are associated with *Manufacturing*. Almost 35,000 workers in New Hampshire have jobs in this occupational group. Occupations in this group had an average hourly wage of \$15.29. The monthly changes in continued claims filed in this group show a seasonal pattern affected by a combination of the academic calendar and *Manufacturing* schedules. The continued claims filed by workers in these occupations started to grow during the summer of 2006, when they were higher than continued claims filed during the corresponding month of the previous year. During first quarter 2007 continued claims filed reached new highs for each month, receded again in the summer months, only to hit new highs during every month of 2008.

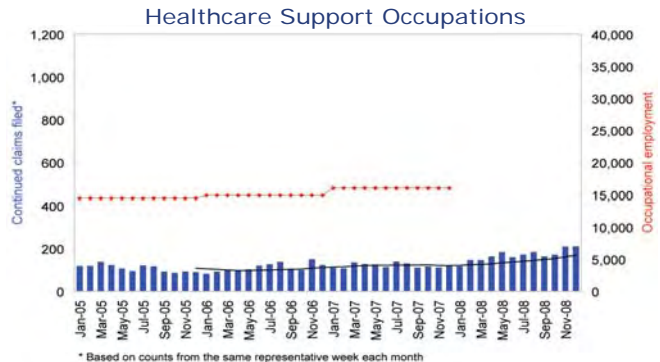


Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations and Healthcare Support Occupations

The *Health care and social assistance* industry has the second largest employment among all industries in the state. Healthcare Practitioners and Technical occupations is one of the two groups that are most likely to be employed in that industry. Occupations in this group usually require extensive educational preparation and state licensure applies to nearly all. These workers number more than 33,000 in New Hampshire and have an average hourly wage of \$33.07.



Jobs in the Healthcare Support Occupations
 group include the assistants and aides of health practitioners. Many of these jobs also require state licensure. In New Hampshire, these occupations number about 16,000 with an average hourly wage of \$14.18. There are far smaller numbers of continued claims filed by workers of these two occupational groups than other groups, and the trend of claims filed had been generally flat. During the last part of 2008 the numbers tick upwards, indicating that even this traditionally strong group is feeling the pinch of the current economic downturn.



Other Occupational Groups

There are other occupational groups that are not detailed here. What the remaining occupational groups have in common is that they have steady trends of continued claims filed in each group. The continued claims filed in these occupational groups have generally maintained lower levels, even though some show signs of trending upwards. That may indicate that these occupational groups are faring better in the current economic situation. These groups include:

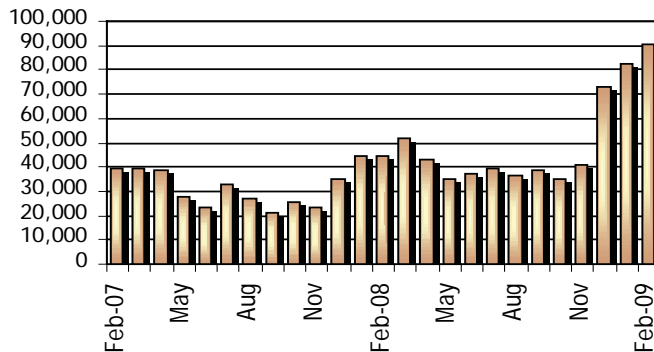
- » *Office and Administrative Support Occupations*, 110,700 workers, continued claims filed slightly up, average weekly wage, \$15.38
- » *Legal Occupations*, 3,190 workers, flat continued claims filed, average weekly wage, \$35.83
- » *Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations*, 19,910 workers, continued claims filed increasing during 2008, average weekly wage, \$12.51

- » *Business and Finance Occupations*, 28,090 workers, continued claims filed slightly up, average weekly wage, \$28.86
- » *Computer and Mathematical Occupations*, 17,070 workers, continued claims filed slightly up, average weekly wage, \$35.49
- » *Architecture and Engineering Occupations*, 12,000 workers, continued claims filed mostly flat, average weekly wage, \$33.40
- » *Life, Physical, and Science Occupations*, 4,000 workers, flat continued claims filed, average weekly wage, \$27.54
- » *Community and Social Services Occupations*, 7,300 workers, slight increase in continued claims filed, average weekly wage, \$18.64

Continued on page 10

Unemployment Compensation Claims Activity

Total Regular Unemployment Compensation Programs:				Change from Previous			
	Feb-09	Jan-09	Feb-08	Month		Year	
				Net	Percent	Net	Percent
Initial Claims	10,190	11,534	5,260	-1,344	-11.7%	4,930	93.7%
Continued Weeks	90,728	82,696	44,391	8,032	9.7%	46,337	104.4%



Claims Activity

Continued Weeks Claimed

February 07 to February 09

Unemployment Compensation Fund

Unemployment compensation fund balance at the end of February	\$140,653,769.55
Average payment for a week of total unemployment:	\$273.30
Net benefits paid:	\$20,471,726.52
Net contributions received during the month:	\$2,725,985.64
Interest Received:	\$0.00
Reed Act Distribution:	\$0.00
Reed Act Withdrawn for Administrative Costs:	\$0.00

Trust Fund

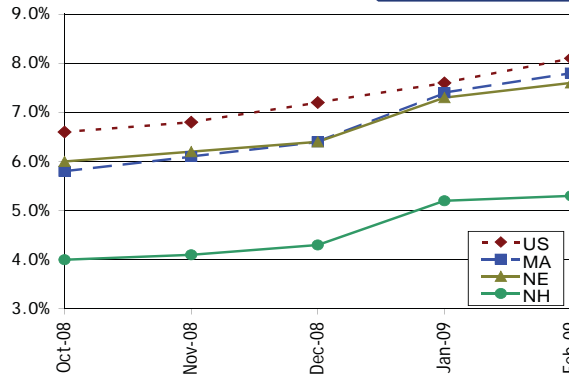
			Change from Previous	
Feb-09	Jan-09	Feb-08	Month	Year
212.193	211.143	211.693	0.5%	0.2%

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

Consumer Price Index

Seasonally Adjusted Estimates

Unemployment Rates by Region



Seasonally Adjusted	Feb-09	Jan-09	Feb-08
United States	8.1%	7.6%	4.8%
Northeast	7.7%	7.1%	4.8%
New England	7.6%	7.3%	4.8%
Connecticut	7.4%	7.3%	5.2%
Maine	8.0%	7.7%	4.9%
Massachusetts	7.8%	7.4%	4.6%
New Hampshire	5.3%	5.2%	3.7%
Rhode Island	10.5%	10.3%	6.5%
Vermont	7.0%	6.8%	4.4%
Mid Atlantic	7.8%	7.1%	4.8%
New Jersey	8.2%	7.3%	4.7%
New York	7.8%	7.0%	4.6%
Pennsylvania	7.5%	7.0%	4.8%

Oct-08 Nov-08 Dec-08 Jan-09 Feb-09

Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) By Place of Residence

New Hampshire					
Unemployment Rate	4.0%	4.1%	4.3%	5.2%	5.3%
Civilian Labor Force	738,170	738,460	738,870	739,720	739,170
Number Employed	709,010	708,250	707,430	701,450	699,880
Number Unemployed	29,160	30,210	31,440	38,270	39,290
United States (in thousands)					
Unemployment Rate	6.6%	6.8%	7.2%	7.6%	8.1%
Civilian Labor Force	154,878	154,620	154,447	153,716	154,214
Number Employed	144,657	144,144	143,338	142,099	141,748
Number Unemployed	10,221	10,476	11,108	11,616	12,467

Current Employment Statistics (CES) By Place of Establishment

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.

Supersector Oct-08 Nov-08 Dec-08 Jan-09 Feb-09

Total Nonfarm	644,800	643,100	638,800	641,800	639,500
Construction	25,300	24,100	23,100	23,200	22,700
Manufacturing	74,300	73,100	72,300	71,700	70,800
Durable Goods	56,500	55,400	55,400	55,400	54,300
Non-Durable Goods	17,800	17,700	16,900	16,300	16,500
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	139,400	139,400	139,000	142,500	142,200
Wholesale Trade	27,500	27,600	27,600	27,900	27,800
Retail Trade	96,900	96,900	96,400	100,100	99,900
Transportation and Utilities	15,000	14,900	15,000	14,500	14,500
Information	12,600	12,000	11,900	12,100	12,200
Financial Activities	37,600	37,600	37,700	37,700	37,900
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	7,600	7,400	7,400	7,400	7,400
Professional and Business Services	65,900	68,000	65,900	66,000	64,400
Administrative and Support	27,200	28,800	27,400	27,700	27,100
Education and Health Services	107,000	107,500	107,200	106,100	107,200
Educational Services	24,100	24,000	23,900	23,100	23,500
Health Care and Social Assistance	82,900	83,500	83,300	83,000	83,700
Leisure and Hospitality	64,000	62,300	62,500	63,400	63,500
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	10,400	9,000	9,400	9,500	9,600
Accommodation and Food Services	53,600	53,300	53,100	53,900	53,900
Other Services	22,300	22,200	21,800	21,900	23,100
Government	95,300	95,900	96,500	96,400	94,700
Federal Government	7,600	7,600	7,900	7,900	7,900
State Government	25,400	25,700	26,400	26,100	24,100
Local Government	62,300	62,600	62,200	62,400	62,700
Manchester NH MetroNECTA	101,300	101,200	100,900	100,900	100,900
Nashua NH-MA NECTA Division	131,300	131,700	131,600	131,900	131,000
Portsmouth NH-ME MetroNECTA	55,100	55,300	55,000	55,000	54,500
Rochester-Dover NH-ME MetroNECTA	57,700	57,800	57,500	58,700	57,500

Current month is Preliminary
Past months are Revised

Not Seasonally Adjusted Estimates

Labor Force Estimates

New Hampshire	Feb-09	Jan-09	Feb-08
Total Civilian Labor Force	735,430	736,900	735,000
Employed	691,760	694,750	705,760
Unemployed	43,670	42,150	29,240
Unemployment Rate	5.9%	5.7%	4.0%

United States (# in thousands)	Feb-09	Jan-09	Feb-08
Total Civilian Labor Force	153,804	153,445	152,503
Employed	140,105	140,436	144,550
Unemployed	13,699	13,009	7,953
Unemployment Rate	8.9%	8.5%	5.2%

Unemployment Rates by Area

Counties	Feb-09	Jan-09	Feb-08
Belknap	6.3%	6.8%	4.7%
Carroll	5.6%	5.7%	4.0%
Cheshire	5.7%	5.3%	3.9%
Coos	9.1%	7.3%	5.2%
Grafton	4.8%	4.7%	3.2%
Hillsborough	6.0%	5.6%	3.9%
Merrimack	5.2%	5.3%	4.0%
Rockingham	6.4%	6.1%	4.3%
Strafford	5.7%	5.6%	3.6%
Sullivan	5.1%	5.2%	3.6%

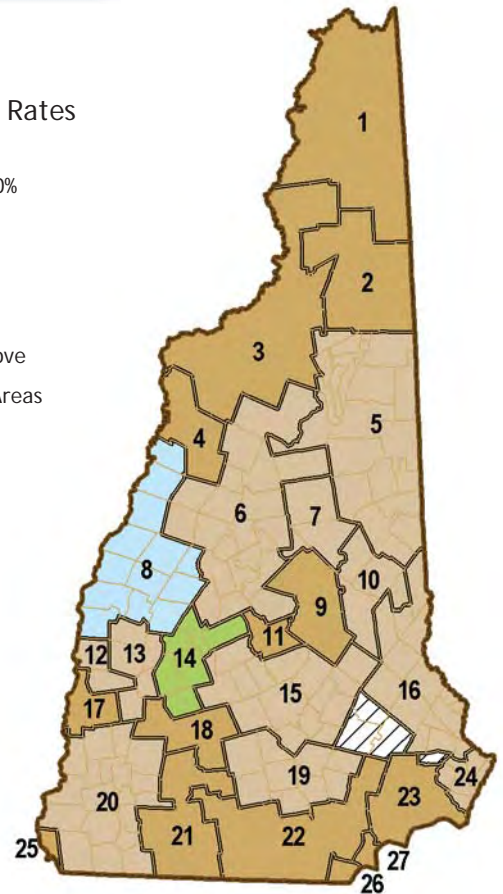
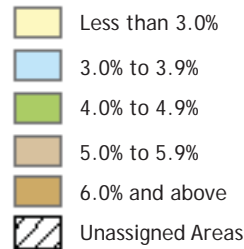
Map	Feb-09	Jan-09	Feb-08
Key Labor Market Areas			
1 Colebrook NH-VT LMA, NH Portion	14.0%	5.9%	5.4%
2 Berlin NH MicroNECTA	7.5%	7.7%	5.4%
3 Littleton NH-VT LMA, NH Portion	7.1%	6.3%	4.1%
4 Haverhill NH LMA	8.5%	7.5%	5.4%
5 Conway NH-ME LMA, NH Portion	5.5%	5.4%	3.8%
6 Plymouth NH LMA	5.4%	5.8%	3.8%
7 Moultonborough NH LMA	5.1%	5.4%	3.9%
8 Lebanon NH-VT MicroNECTA, NH Portion	3.5%	3.4%	2.6%
9 Laconia NH MicroNECTA	6.3%	6.9%	4.9%
10 Wolfeboro NH LMA	5.3%	5.8%	3.9%
11 Franklin NH MicroNECTA	7.2%	7.6%	5.1%
12 Claremont NH MicroNECTA	5.9%	5.8%	3.5%
13 Newport NH LMA	5.0%	5.1%	3.6%
14 New London NH LMA	4.2%	4.2%	3.3%
15 Concord NH MicroNECTA	5.2%	5.4%	4.1%
16 Rochester-Dover NH-ME MetroNECTA, NH Portion	5.8%	5.7%	3.6%
17 Charlestown NH LMA	6.5%	6.8%	4.5%
18 Hillsborough NH LMA	6.1%	5.9%	4.0%
19 Manchester NH MetroNECTA	5.8%	5.5%	3.9%
20 Keene NH MicroNECTA	5.3%	4.9%	3.6%
21 Peterborough NH LMA	6.3%	6.0%	4.4%
22 Nashua NH-MA NECTA Division, NH Portion	6.1%	5.6%	3.9%
23 Exeter Area, NH Portion, Haverhill-N. Andover-Amesbury MA-NH NECTA Division	7.6%	7.3%	5.0%
24 Portsmouth NH-ME MetroNECTA, NH Portion	5.0%	5.0%	3.5%
25 Hinsdale Town, NH Portion, Brattleboro VT-NH LMA	8.2%	7.0%	5.0%
26 Pelham Town, NH Portion, Lowell-Billerica-Chelmsford MA-NH NECTA Division	8.2%	7.8%	5.0%
27 Salem Town, NH Portion, Lawrence-Methuen-Salem MA-NH NECTA Division	7.6%	7.1%	5.1%

Unemployment Rates by States

Not Seasonally Adjusted U.S and Regional States	Feb-09	Jan-09	Feb-08
United States	8.9%	8.5%	5.2%
Northeast	8.4%	7.8%	5.1%
New England	8.3%	8.1%	5.1%
Connecticut	8.0%	7.9%	5.4%
Maine	9.1%	8.7%	5.5%
Massachusetts	8.3%	8.1%	4.9%
New Hampshire	5.9%	5.7%	4.0%
Rhode Island	11.4%	11.4%	6.9%
Vermont	7.7%	7.6%	4.8%
Mid Atlantic	8.4%	7.7%	5.1%
New Jersey	8.8%	7.9%	5.1%
New York	8.4%	7.6%	5.0%
Pennsylvania	8.2%	7.8%	5.3%

Current month is Preliminary
Past months are Revised

February - 09 Unemployment Rates



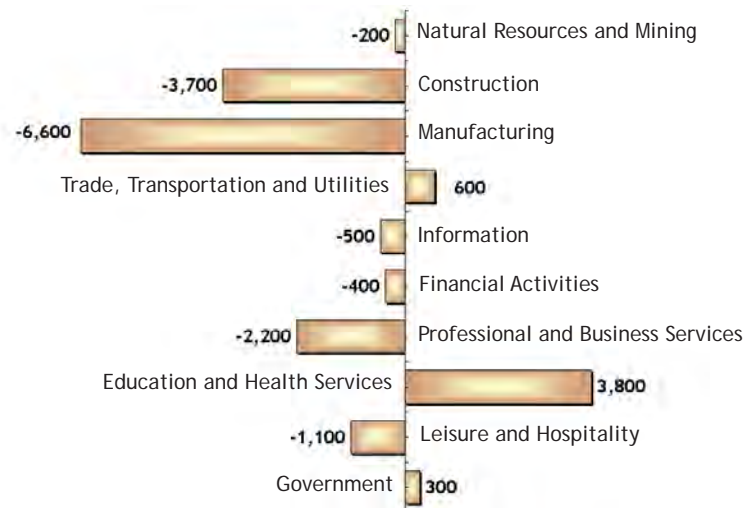
New Hampshire unemployment and labor force estimates are calculated using a regression model which depends on Current Population Survey (CPS) estimates. Labor Market Area estimates are calculated using the Bureau of Labor Statistics "Handbook Method" and then adjusted to the State levels.

Monthly Not Seasonally Adjusted New Hampshire Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment

Current Employment Statistics Employment by Supersector by place of establishment	Number of Jobs			Change from previous:	
	Feb-09 preliminary	Jan-09 revised	Feb-08	Month	Year
	Total All Supersectors	627,600	629,000	636,700	-1,400
Private Employment Total	530,200	534,000	539,600	-3,800	-9,400
Mining and Logging	800	800	1,000	0	-200
Construction	19,900	21,000	23,600	-1,100	-3,700
Manufacturing	70,100	71,300	76,700	-1,200	-6,600
Durable Goods	53,800	55,100	58,400	-1,300	-4,600
Non-Durable Goods	16,300	16,200	18,300	100	-2,000
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	138,200	141,300	137,600	-3,100	600
Wholesale Trade	27,400	27,600	27,900	-200	-500
Retail Trade	96,600	99,400	95,000	-2,800	1,600
Transportation and Utilities	14,200	14,300	14,700	-100	-500
Information	12,100	12,100	12,600	0	-500
Financial Activities	37,600	37,500	38,000	100	-400
Professional and Business	62,800	64,000	65,000	-1,200	-2,200
Education and Health	107,600	106,000	103,800	1,600	3,800
Leisure and Hospitality	58,400	58,500	59,500	-100	-1,100
Other Services	22,700	21,500	21,800	1,200	900
Government Total	97,400	95,000	97,100	2,400	300

Change in Nonfarm Employment

Feb. 08 - Feb. 09



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: From January to February preliminary seasonally adjusted employment decreased by 2,300 jobs. Over-the-year, New Hampshire employers reduced their workforce by 9,000 jobs.

Over-the-month, government (supersector 90) lost 1,700 jobs. State government accounted for this loss with a drop of 2,000 jobs, from January to February. Employers in professional and business services (supersector 60) followed with a decrease of 1,600 jobs, over-the-month. Employment in manufacturing (supersector 30), construction (supersector 20), and

trade, transportation, and utilities (supersector 40) fell from January to February, down 900, 500, and 300, respectively.

On a more positive note, other services (supersector 80) gained 1,200 jobs. Employers in education and health services (supersector 65) expanded their organizations by adding 1,100 jobs. Employment in financial activities (supersector 55), information (supersector 50), and leisure and hospitality (supersector 70) rose over-the-month, up 200, 100, and 100 jobs, in turn.

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			Portsmouth NH-ME MetroNECTA			Rochester-Dover NH-ME MetroNECTA		
	preliminary Feb-09	Change from previous:		preliminary Feb-09	Change from previous:		preliminary Feb-09	Change from previous:		preliminary Feb-09	Change from previous:	
		Month	Year		Month	Year		Month	Year		Month	Year
Total All Sectors	99,800	-400	100	129,200	-1,400	-1,500	53,100	-500	100	57,600	400	-700
Private Employment Total	88,100	-500	200	113,900	-1,700	-1,600	43,600	-500	0	44,100	-400	-500
Mining & Logging and Construction	4,200	-100	-200	4,000	-200	-500	1,300	-100	-200	1,500	-100	-100
Manufacturing	8,600	-100	-600	23,400	-500	-1,600	3,900	0	-100	6,700	-100	-200
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	19,600	-300	-100	30,200	-1,000	400	10,700	-200	-100	11,000	-200	0
Wholesale Trade	4,400	-100	-400	5,800	-100	-100	2,000	0	0	1,200	0	0
Retail Trade	12,200	-300	200	20,600	-800	500	7,800	-200	100	8,800	-200	0
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	Data not available			3,800	-100	0	900	0	-200	1,000	0	0
Information	3,100	0	0	2,400	0	100	1,800	0	-100	1,100	0	0
Financial Activities	8,000	-100	0	8,500	0	-300	4,100	0	0	4,300	0	0
Professional and Business	14,000	-100	200	13,800	-200	-100	8,900	-100	-100	4,500	-100	-400
Education and Health	18,300	300	700	17,200	200	300	5,600	0	200	8,100	100	200
Leisure and Hospitality	8,100	-100	200	10,000	0	100	5,800	-100	400	5,100	0	0
Other Services	4,200	0	0	4,400	0	0	1,500	0	0	1,800	0	0
Government Total	11,700	100	-100	15,300	300	100	9,500	0	100	13,500	800	-200

Average Earnings and Hours of Production Workers in Manufacturing

Sector	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Feb-09	Jan-09	Feb-08	Feb-09	Jan-09	Feb-08	Feb-09	Jan-09	Feb-08
	preliminary	revised		preliminary	revised		preliminary	revised	
New Hampshire									
All Manufacturing	\$661.04	\$646.50	\$685.79	38.1	37.5	39.3	\$17.35	\$17.24	\$17.45
Durable Goods	\$675.00	\$646.29	\$713.46	37.9	36.7	40.4	\$17.81	\$17.61	\$17.66
Nondurable Goods	\$620.02	\$648.82	\$604.68	38.8	40.1	36.1	\$15.98	\$16.18	\$16.75

Seasonally Unadjusted: Over-the-month, preliminary not seasonally adjusted employment declined, down 1,400 jobs. From February 2008 to February 2009, employers cut their workforce by 9,100 jobs.

Typical of this time of the year, trade, transportation, and utilities (supersector 40) lost 3,100 jobs. Over-the-month, employers in retail trade continued reducing its holiday staff, down 2,800 jobs. Manufacturing (supersector 30) and professional and business services (supersector 60) each experienced a drop of 1,200 jobs from January to February. Over-the-month, employers in construction (supersector 20) decreased their payroll by 1,100 jobs. Employment in leisure and hospitality (supersector 70) fell slightly, down 100 jobs from January to February.

Mining and logging (supersector 10) and information (supersector 50) each remained unchanged over-the-month.

On a more positive note, government (supersector 90) added 2,400 jobs from January to February. Three-fourths of this growth was in state government, up 1,800 jobs. Employment in educational and health services (supersector 65) increased over-the-month, up 1,600 jobs. Most of this gain can be attributed to colleges, universities, and professional schools (industry group 6113), which added 1,000 jobs during this time period. Employers in other services (supersector 80) posted an over-the-month increase of 1,200 jobs. Financial activities (supersector 55) grew slightly, up 100 jobs from January to February.

Gail Clay

Continued from page 5

- » *Education, Training, and Library Occupations*, 46,330 workers, continued claims filed up slightly, average weekly wage, \$21.28
- » *Protective Service Occupations*, 10,710 workers, flat continued claims filed, average weekly wage, \$18.60
- » *Personal Care and Service Occupations*, 14,500 workers, continued claims filed mostly flat, average weekly wage, \$11.23

Recap

The first installment in this series on the effect of the economic downturn examined the trend of unemployment claims filed in each industry compared to the total employment of that industry in the state. It provided an indication of the industries that may be reducing staff as a result of the current economy as well as how important, in terms of employment numbers, each industry is to the state's overall economic health. In New Hampshire, we found that claims filed had increased in the fourth quarter of 2008 in almost all industries.

Secondly, we explored the gross job gains and gross job losses in each industry. This helped provide a more detailed understanding of how net employment levels may be showing little to no change, while there are dynamics of job gains and losses constantly occurring within the industry. In the latest quarters with New Hampshire data available (3Q2008) it was discovered that many industries were starting to experience more job losses than gains, dragging down the net employment change.

This final installment of the series focused on occupational employment, providing a detailed investigation of those occupational groups that are weathering the current economic crisis and those proving to be vulnerable. One unusual outcome of the recession in New Hampshire, compared to previous recessions, is the effect on occupational groups typically resistant to downturns, such as Management Occupations. And although continued claims filed by workers in Business and Finance Occupations had been relatively stable, they are starting to trend upwards as well.

Anita Josten

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