

New Hampshire

Economic Conditions



September 2009

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 Employment Security's Economic
 and Labor Market Information
 Bureau

Measuring Unemployment

Each month New Hampshire announces the current unemployment rate representing the share of the labor force that is unemployed and looking for work. The unemployment rate is one of the measuring sticks used to gauge the health of the economy. The importance of the "official" measure is that by all states using the same measuring stick comparisons can be made between states, and over time.

Given the depth of the current recession and the increase in the unemployment rate, frequently the question arises as to when was the last time this happened in New Hampshire.

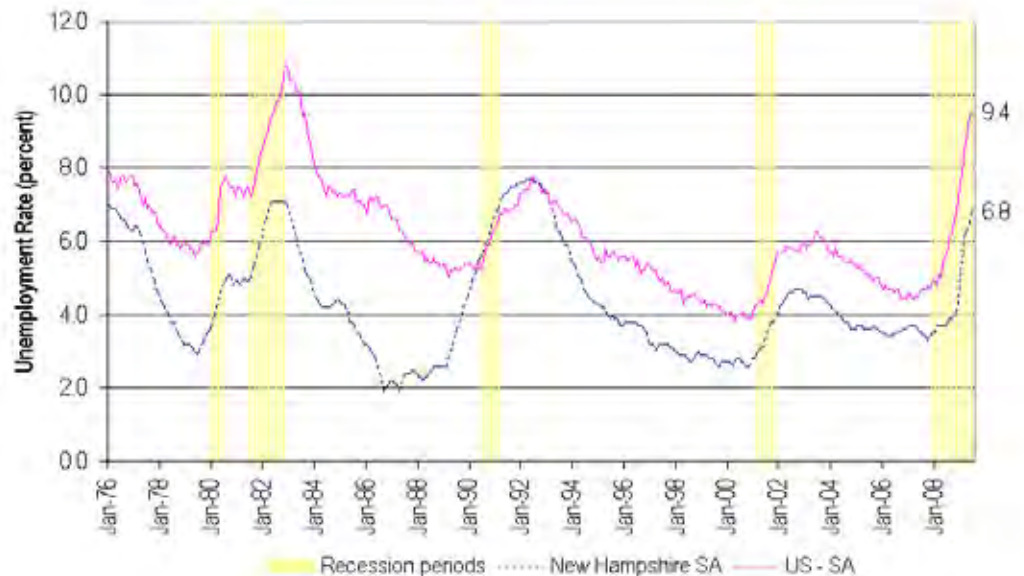
New Hampshire's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate from June to July was unchanged at

6.8 percent. This was 3.0 percentage points higher than the state's unemployment rate in July 2008. The last time New Hampshire's unemployment rate was that high was in March 1993 when the state was recovering from the recession of the 1990s.

New Hampshire's unemployment rate has increased 3.3 percentage points since the beginning of the current recession (December 2007). The change in the state's total unemployment rate was from 3.5 percent in December 2007 to 6.8 percent in both June and July 2009. About two-thirds of the state's unemployment rate increase took place between December 2008 and March 2009 when the rate went from 4.3 percent to 6.2 percent.

Though the unemployment rate in New Hampshire is lower than that

New Hampshire's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is at its highest level since the 1990s when the state was recovering from that recession



of the nation, that is of little comfort to the 18,900 additional residents counted as unemployed since December 2007. Nationally the unemployment rate shot up 4.6 percentage points since the beginning of the recession, from 4.9 percent in December 2007 to 9.5 percent in June 2009. The national unemployment rate registered slightly lower, 9.4 percent, in July 2009.

Preliminary July unemployment rates in the New England region showed Rhode Island had the highest unemployment rate at 12.7 percent. That was the second highest in the nation. Vermont's unemployment rate of 6.8 percent matched New Hampshire. The remaining New England states had unemployment rates higher than New Hampshire, but were below the national rate of 9.4 percent. Massachusetts was 8.8 percent, followed by Maine with 8.4 percent and Connecticut with 7.8 percent.

Information used to calculate the unemployment rate

The official definition is the unemployment rate represents the number of unemployed as a share of the labor force.

The labor force includes all persons classified as employed or unemployed. Employed persons, according to the Current Population Survey, are 16 years and over in the civilian noninstitutional population. They are counted as employed if, during the reference week, (a) they did any work at all (at least one hour) as paid employees; worked in their own business, profession, or on their own farm, or worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers in an enterprise operated by a member of the family; or (b) they were not working but had jobs or businesses from which they were temporarily absent because of vacation, illness, bad weather, childcare problems, maternity or paternity leave, labor-management dispute, job training, or other family or personal reasons, whether or not they were paid for the time off or were seeking other jobs. Each employed person is counted only once, even if he or she holds more than one job. Excluded are persons whose only activity consisted of work around their own house (painting, repairing, or own home housework) or volunteer work for religious, charitable, and other organizations.

Unemployed persons include those aged 16 years and older who had no employment during the reference week, were available for work, except for temporary illness, and had made specific efforts to

find employment sometime during the four-week period ending with the reference week. Persons waiting to be recalled to a job from which they had been laid off need not have been looking for work to be classified as unemployed.

Questions asked about unemployment statistics

There are a number of questions about what the official unemployment rate measures. Some commonly asked questions include:

1. If an individual is not collecting benefits are they counted as unemployed?
2. If an individual had been self employed, are they included?
3. After an individual collects the maximum benefits for which they are eligible, are they still counted as unemployed?
4. If people leave their home state in search of work, are they still counted as unemployed?
5. Are those who have given up looking for work counted as unemployed?

#1. The number of unemployed residents in New Hampshire is determined by the results of a survey, and not simply the result of adding up the number of people who have filed claims for unemployment benefits. State-specific data provided by the Current Population Survey, a household survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau each month, is used to estimate the total number of unemployed workers in the state. Persons who are able to work and are actively looking for work, but do not have a job are counted as unemployed. This includes eligible claimants, new graduates who are looking for their first job, those reentering the labor market after being absent for several years, and persons who have been self-employed but are no longer, as a few examples.

The claims statistics are used to help determine where unemployed residents are located in the state.

#2. Self-employed individuals who go out of business and are looking for work are counted by the Current Population Survey as unemployed even if they have not paid into the unemployment insurance system. Eligibility for unemployment compensation does not determine whether someone is counted as unemployed.

#3. Collecting benefits is not a prerequisite to being counted as unemployed. Unemployment is determined by the willingness to work, the ability to work, and the active involvement in searching for

a job. If all three conditions are met, and someone is not employed, then that person is counted as unemployed.

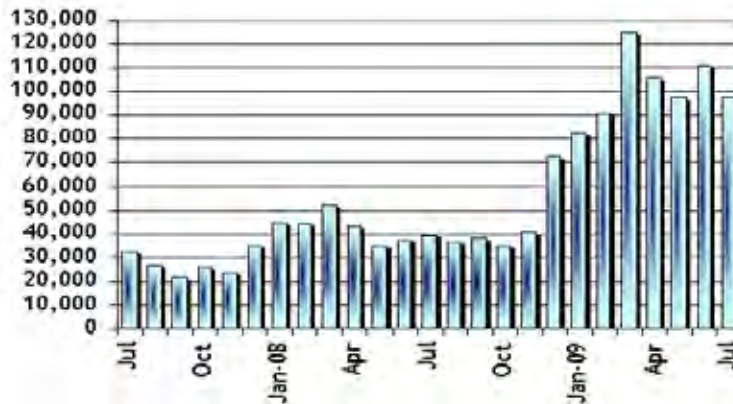
#4. Employment and unemployment statistics are estimated for geographic areas, and are based on residence. If a person leaves the state because they were unemployed in New Hampshire then that person would no longer be counted as part of the New Hampshire labor force. They would, however, be counted as unemployed in their new state of residence when they begin actively searching for work, or counted as employed when they begin work.

#5. Individuals who stop looking for work would not be counted as unemployed because they are not part of the labor force. They would not meet the requirement of "willing and able to work, and looking for a job." These workers fall in a category called discouraged workers, which is difficult to measure. As the time of unemployment lengthens, some individuals become discouraged and drop out of the labor force. The U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics has developed an alternative measure of labor underutilization to gauge this population. Information on this measure for New Hampshire is on our web site, at <http://www.nh.gov/nhes/elmi/laus.htm>.

Anita Josten

Unemployment Compensation Claims Activity

Total Regular Unemployment Compensation Programs:				Change from Previous			
				Month		Year	
	Jul-09	Jun-09	Jul-08	Net	Percent	Net	Percent
Initial Claims	9,318	9,422	5,569	-104	-01.1%	3,749	98.3%
Continued Weeks	97,257	110,387	39,151	-13,130	-11.9%	58,106	197.5%



Claims Activity

Continued Weeks Claimed

July 07 to July 09

Trust Fund

Unemployment Compensation Fund

Unemployment compensation fund balance at the end of July	\$82,537,965.25
Average payment for a week of total unemployment:	\$282.85
Net benefits paid:	\$22,531,554.09
Net contributions received during the month:	\$9,065,047.18
Interest Received:	\$0.00
Reed Act Withdrawn for Administrative Costs:	\$116,108.00

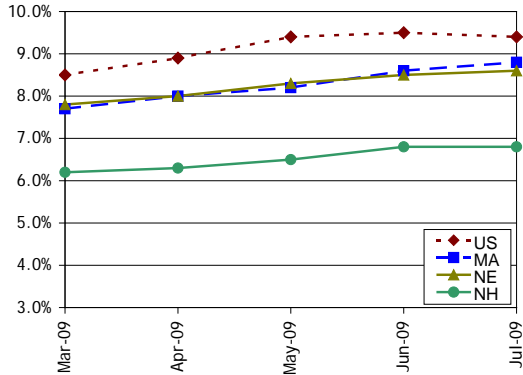
			Change from Previous	
Jul-09	Jun-09	Jul-08	Month	Year
215.351	215.693	219.964	-0.2%	-2.1%

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

Consumer Price Index

Seasonally Adjusted Estimates

Unemployment Rates by Region



Seasonally Adjusted	Jul-09	Jun-09	Jul-08
United States	9.4%	9.5%	5.8%
Northeast	8.7%	8.6%	5.4%
New England	8.6%	8.5%	5.4%
Connecticut	7.8%	8.0%	5.8%
Maine	8.4%	8.6%	5.4%
Massachusetts	8.8%	8.6%	5.2%
New Hampshire	6.8%	6.8%	3.8%
Rhode Island	12.7%	12.4%	7.9%
Vermont	6.8%	7.3%	4.6%
Mid Atlantic	8.7%	8.7%	5.4%
New Jersey	9.3%	9.2%	5.5%
New York	8.6%	8.7%	5.4%
Pennsylvania	8.5%	8.4%	5.4%

Mar-09 Apr-09 May-09 Jun-09 Jul-09

Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) By Place of Residence

New Hampshire					
Unemployment Rate	6.2%	6.3%	6.6%	6.8%	6.8%
Civilian Labor Force	743,790	744,180	742,190	738,500	741,280
Number Employed	697,670	697,010	693,500	688,000	690,740
Number Unemployed	46,120	47,170	48,690	50,500	50,540
United States (in thousands)					
Unemployment Rate	8.5%	8.9%	9.4%	9.5%	9.4%
Civilian Labor Force	154,048	154,731	155,081	154,926	154,504
Number Employed	140,887	141,007	140,570	140,196	140,041
Number Unemployed	13,161	13,724	14,511	14,729	14,462

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	Mar-09	Apr-09	May-09	Jun-09	Jul-09
Total Nonfarm	636,500	631,500	632,800	632,700	630,100
Construction	23,300	21,700	21,400	21,300	21,300
Manufacturing	69,900	69,200	69,100	68,300	68,700
Durable Goods	53,600	53,100	52,700	52,000	52,200
Non-Durable Goods	16,300	16,100	16,400	16,300	16,500
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	141,800	139,400	139,700	139,700	139,500
Wholesale Trade	27,200	26,900	26,800	26,900	27,000
Retail Trade	100,200	98,300	98,700	98,700	97,800
Transportation and Utilities	14,400	14,200	14,200	14,100	14,700
Information	12,100	12,100	12,100	12,200	12,300
Financial Activities	37,800	37,400	37,000	37,200	36,900
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	7,300	7,200	7,100	7,200	7,200
Professional and Business Services	64,400	64,400	65,000	64,600	65,700
Administrative and Support	26,300	26,300	26,900	27,000	28,000
Education and Health Services	106,400	107,100	106,900	106,900	106,500
Educational Services	23,200	23,500	23,600	23,700	23,300
Health Care and Social Assistance	83,200	83,600	83,300	83,200	83,200
Leisure and Hospitality	63,000	63,000	62,400	62,000	62,300
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	9,600	9,800	9,700	9,600	9,800
Accommodation and Food Services	53,400	53,200	52,700	52,400	52,500
Other Services	22,300	21,600	22,600	21,900	22,800
Government	94,700	94,800	95,600	97,600	93,100
Federal Government	7,600	7,700	7,600	7,600	7,600
State Government	23,700	23,600	24,200	25,200	23,400
Local Government	63,400	63,500	63,800	64,800	62,100
Manchester NH MetroNECTA	100,300	100,100	100,600	101,000	100,200
Nashua NH-MA NECTA Division	130,100	129,100	129,600	129,600	130,700
Portsmouth NH-ME MetroNECTA	55,000	54,700	54,700	54,400	53,900
Rochester-Dover NH-ME MetroNECTA	57,100	57,200	57,100	58,400	58,200

Current month is Preliminary
Past months are Revised

Not Seasonally Adjusted Estimates

Labor Force Estimates

New Hampshire	Jul-09	Jun-09	Jul-08
Total Civilian Labor Force	755,100	745,270	751,700
Employed	705,170	694,470	724,250
Unemployed	49,930	50,800	27,450
Unemployment Rate	6.6%	6.8%	3.7%
United States (# in thousands)	Jul-09	Jun-09	Jul-08
Total Civilian Labor Force	156,255	155,921	156,300
Employed	141,055	140,826	146,867
Unemployed	15,201	15,095	9,433
Unemployment Rate	9.7%	9.7%	6.0%

Unemployment Rates by Area

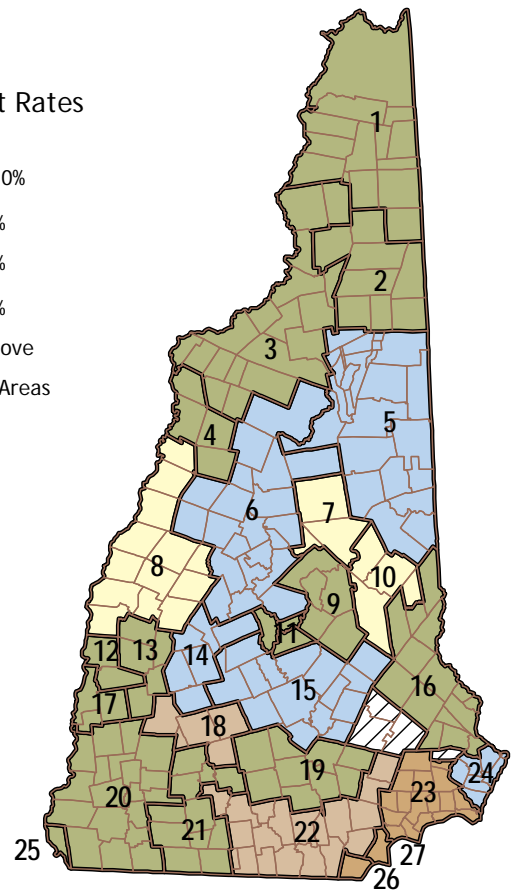
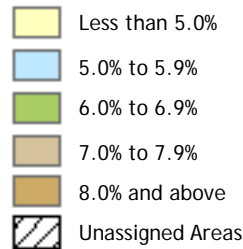
Counties	Jul-09	Jun-09	Jul-08
Belknap	6.0%	6.7%	3.4%
Carroll	4.8%	5.7%	2.9%
Cheshire	6.3%	6.4%	3.7%
Coos	7.2%	8.4%	4.6%
Grafton	5.0%	5.5%	2.9%
Hillsborough	7.1%	7.2%	3.7%
Merrimack	5.8%	6.2%	3.4%
Rockingham	7.2%	7.2%	4.1%
Strafford	6.9%	6.8%	3.6%
Sullivan	5.8%	6.1%	3.1%
Map	Jul-09	Jun-09	Jul-08
Key Labor Market Areas	Jul-09	Jun-09	Jul-08
1 Colebrook NH-VT LMA, NH Portion	6.8%	7.8%	3.7%
2 Berlin NH MicroNECTA	6.8%	8.4%	4.9%
3 Littleton NH-VT LMA, NH Portion	6.5%	7.3%	3.6%
4 Haverhill NH LMA	6.8%	7.1%	4.0%
5 Conway NH-ME LMA, NH Portion	5.1%	5.9%	3.0%
6 Plymouth NH LMA	5.7%	6.6%	3.2%
7 Moultonborough NH LMA	3.8%	4.8%	2.3%
8 Lebanon NH-VT MicroNECTA, NH Portion	3.9%	4.2%	2.4%
9 Laconia NH MicroNECTA	6.2%	6.8%	3.4%
10 Wolfeboro NH LMA	4.0%	4.9%	2.7%
11 Franklin NH MicroNECTA	6.8%	7.5%	4.0%
12 Claremont NH MicroNECTA	6.6%	6.8%	3.2%
13 Newport NH LMA	6.0%	6.5%	3.2%
14 New London NH LMA	5.0%	5.3%	3.1%
15 Concord NH MicroNECTA	5.8%	6.2%	3.3%
16 Rochester-Dover NH-ME MetroNECTA, NH Portion	6.9%	6.8%	3.6%
17 Charlestown NH LMA	6.4%	7.0%	3.7%
18 Hillsborough NH LMA	7.7%	8.1%	4.2%
19 Manchester NH MetroNECTA	6.8%	7.0%	3.7%
20 Keene NH MicroNECTA	6.1%	6.2%	3.5%
21 Peterborough NH LMA	6.6%	6.9%	4.2%
22 Nashua NH-MA NECTA Division, NH Portion	7.2%	7.1%	3.7%
23 Exeter Area, NH Portion, Haverhill-N. Andover-Amesbury MA-NH NECTA Division	8.2%	8.0%	4.8%
24 Portsmouth NH-ME MetroNECTA, NH Portion	5.6%	5.8%	3.3%
25 Hinsdale Town, NH Portion, Brattleboro VT-NH LMA	6.4%	6.5%	3.6%
26 Pelham Town, NH Portion, Lowell-Billerica-Chelmsford MA-NH NECTA Division	9.3%	9.1%	4.7%
27 Salem Town, NH Portion, Lawrence-Methuen-Salem MA-NH NECTA Division	9.3%	8.9%	4.9%

Unemployment Rates by States

Not Seasonally Adjusted	Jul-09	Jun-09	Jul-08
United States	9.7%	9.7%	6.0%
Northeast	8.7%	8.6%	5.6%
New England	8.5%	8.5%	5.5%
Connecticut	8.0%	8.1%	6.1%
Maine	8.0%	8.3%	5.1%
Massachusetts	8.9%	8.7%	5.4%
New Hampshire	6.6%	6.8%	3.7%
Rhode Island	12.9%	12.2%	8.2%
Vermont	6.5%	7.2%	4.4%
Mid Atlantic	8.8%	8.7%	5.6%
New Jersey	9.6%	9.2%	5.8%
New York	8.6%	8.6%	5.5%
Pennsylvania	8.5%	8.5%	5.5%

Current month is Preliminary
Past months are Revised

July - 09 Unemployment Rates



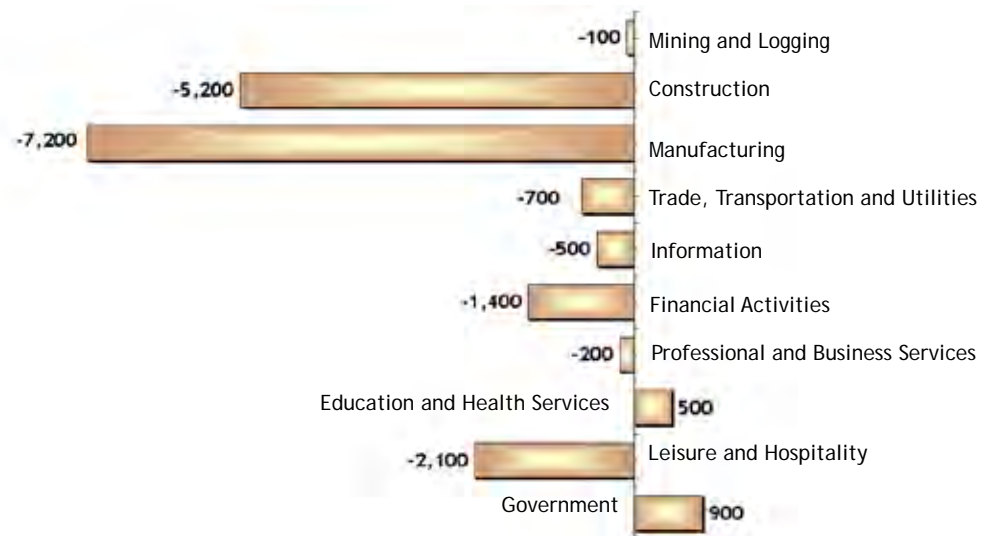
New Hampshire unemployment and labor force estimates are calculated using a regression model which depends on Current Population Survey (CPS) estimates. Labor Market Area estimates are calculated using the Bureau of Labor Statistics "Handbook Method" and then adjusted to the State levels.

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:	
	Jul-09 preliminary	Jun-09 revised	Jul-08	Month	Year
Total All Supersectors	633,900	641,700	649,100	-7,800	-15,200
Private Employment Total	550,200	545,300	566,300	4,900	-16,100
Mining and Logging	1,000	1,000	1,100	0	-100
Construction	22,900	22,500	28,100	400	-5,200
Manufacturing	68,700	68,600	75,900	100	-7,200
Durable Goods	52,200	52,200	58,000	0	-5,800
Non-Durable Goods	16,500	16,400	17,900	100	-1,400
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	140,300	141,000	141,000	-700	-700
Wholesale Trade	27,400	27,200	28,300	200	-900
Retail Trade	98,500	99,300	97,800	-800	700
Transportation and Utilities	14,400	14,500	14,900	-100	-500
Information	12,300	12,300	12,800	0	-500
Financial Activities	37,200	37,500	38,600	-300	-1,400
Professional and Business	67,000	65,800	67,200	1,200	-200
Education and Health	105,400	106,800	104,900	-1,400	500
Leisure and Hospitality	72,000	67,500	74,100	4,500	-2,100
Other Services	23,400	22,300	22,600	1,100	800
Government Total	83,700	96,400	82,800	-12,700	900

Change in Nonfarm Employment

July 08 - July 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:

Preliminary seasonally adjusted employment decreased by 2,600 jobs, over-the-month. The bulk of this loss can be attributed to the employment drop in Government (supersector 90), down 4,500 jobs from June to July. Private sector Education and health services (supersector 65) lost 400 jobs over-the-month. This loss was principally due to the drop in educational services (sector 61), down 400 jobs. Employment in trade, transportation, and utilities (supersector 40) declined by 200 jobs, over-the-month. Employers in retail trade decreased their workforce by 900 jobs.

Professional and business services (supersector 60) added 1,100 jobs over-the-month. Other services (supersector 80) increased by 900 jobs. From June to July, employment in manufacturing (supersector 30) rose by 400 jobs. Leisure and hospitality (supersector 70) gained 300 jobs over-the-month.

Over-the-year, seasonally adjusted employment lost 15,600 jobs. From July 2008 to July 2009, manufacturing lost 7,400 jobs. The bulk of this loss was in Durable goods, down 5,900 jobs. Employment in construction (supersector 20) decreased by 4,700 jobs, over-the-year. From July 2008

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 Jul-09	Change from previous:		preliminary Jul-09	Change from previous:		preliminary Jul-09	Change from previous:		preliminary Jul-09	Change from previous:	
		Month	Year		Month	Year		Month	Year		Month	Year
Total All Sectors	99,400	-2,500	-1,500	128,600	-2,900	-2,800	55,400	-600	-2,400	56,000	-1,600	-700
Private Employment Total	89,600	-300	-1,300	115,400	-300	-2,600	46,400	200	-1,900	45,300	200	-100
Mining and Logging and Construction	4,800	100	-200	4,700	100	-500	1,500	0	-100	1,700	0	-100
Manufacturing	8,500	0	-600	22,900	0	-1,800	3,800	-100	-200	6,500	0	-300
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	19,800	-100	-200	30,400	-100	0	11,000	-100	-400	11,000	-100	100
Wholesale Trade	4,500	0	-300	6,000	0	0	2,000	0	-100	1,200	0	0
Retail Trade	12,300	-100	-100	20,600	0	100	8,100	0	-100	8,800	-100	0
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	Data not available			3,800	-100	-100	900	-100	-200	1,000	0	100
Information	3,000	-100	-100	2,400	0	0	1,800	0	-100	1,100	0	-100
Financial Activities	7,900	-100	-300	8,500	0	-200	4,200	0	0	4,300	0	-100
Professional and Business	14,400	-100	100	14,200	0	100	9,200	-100	0	4,600	0	-100
Education and Health	18,000	-100	100	16,600	-400	200	5,600	0	200	8,000	-100	0
Leisure and Hospitality	8,900	100	-100	11,000	0	-500	7,700	500	-1,300	6,200	400	500
Other Services	4,300	0	0	4,700	100	100	1,600	0	0	1,900	0	0
Government Total	9,800	-2,200	-200	13,200	-2,600	-200	9,000	-800	-500	10,700	-1,800	-600

Average Earnings and Hours of Production Workers in Manufacturing

Sector	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Jul-09 preliminary	Jun-09 revised	Jul-08	Jul-09 preliminary	Jun-09 revised	Jul-08	Jul-09 preliminary	Jun-09 revised	Jul-08
New Hampshire									
All Manufacturing	\$675.87	\$660.27	\$668.91	39.0	38.1	38.8	\$17.33	\$17.33	\$17.24
Durable Goods	\$705.87	\$676.89	\$703.90	39.5	37.9	40.2	\$17.87	\$17.86	\$17.51
Nondurable Goods	\$595.41	\$609.84	\$565.26	37.9	38.5	34.7	\$15.71	\$15.84	\$16.29

to July 2009, employers in leisure and hospitality reduced their workforce by 1,500 jobs. Government and financial activities (supersector 55) each lost 1,100 jobs, over-the-year.

On a positive note, education and health services and other services each gained 900 jobs from July 2008 to July 2009.

Seasonally Unadjusted:

Preliminary not seasonally adjusted employment decreased over-the-month, down 7,800 jobs. Government (supersector 90) contributed to this drop, losing 12,700 jobs from June to July. This employment drop can be attributed to the decline in local government, down 11,000 jobs. With the 2008-2009 school year ending later in June, the normal over-the-month employment drop we usually see in June held off until July. Employment in education and health services (supersector 65) contracted from June to July, down 1,400 jobs.

Employers in leisure and hospitality (supersector 70) gained 4,500 jobs over-the-month. Professional and

business services (supersector 60) increased by 1,200 jobs from June to July. Employment in other services (supersector 80) grew over-the-month, up 1,100 jobs. Information (supersector 50) and mining and logging (supersector 10) each remained unchanged from June to July.

Over-the-year, New Hampshire lost 15,200 jobs. Much of this loss was felt in manufacturing (supersector 30), which lost 7,200 jobs from July 2008 to July 2009. Employers in construction (supersector 20) reduced their payroll over-the-year, down 5,200 jobs.

Employment in government rose by 900 jobs from July 2008 to July 2009. Other services increased by 800 jobs over-the-year. During this same time period, employers in private education and health services added 500 jobs to their payroll.

Gail Clay

New on the Web



Green Economy: The current status of green jobs in New Hampshire

What is a green job? How many workers hold green jobs in New Hampshire? What industries are considered green? What occupations are considered green? These questions are explored in *Green Economy: The current status of green jobs in New Hampshire*.

Quantifying green jobs has proven to be difficult, since standardized coding systems for industries and occupations limit the ability to measure green jobs. Research for this publication found that neither industries nor occupations can be painted with a single green brush. "Shades of green" can be applied to both business activity and workers, depending on materials, processes, and technology used, or resulting energy and resource conservation.



Where Are We Now? New Hampshire's Economy in 2009 is a detailed state economic analysis intended to inform workforce decision and policy makers. The information will also be useful to anyone with a stake in New Hampshire's economy, whether they are involved in business or career planning, or general economic research and analysis.

This report provides a mid-year look at New Hampshire's economic situation. It includes the most recent data describing key economic indicators such as gross domestic product, employment, personal income, housing, and exports. In addition, the report looks forward, considering occupational employment projections and recent population trends.

Green Economy and *Where Are We Now?* are available on our web page, along with all other publications and additional information produced by the Bureau.

The web address is: www.nh.gov/nhes/elmi

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