

New Hampshire

Economic Conditions



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Visit our Web site at:
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Claims Activity3

Local Area
 Unemployment
 Statistics5

Current
 Employment
 Statistics6

For Additional
 Information8



Preparing for the Workforce

How did program graduates match up to projected occupational demand?

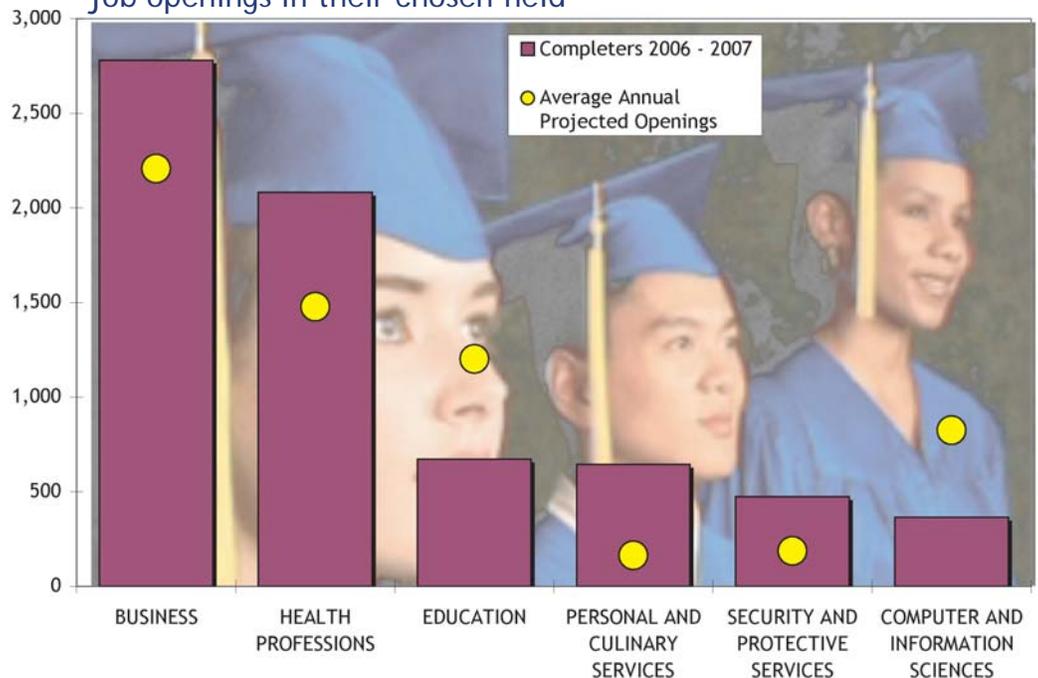
The state's graduating class of 2007 produced many potential workers. These students entered the world of work hoping to find a good fit for their chosen area of study. Will they be successful? A look at the numbers reveals that they very well might.

From data compiled by the United States Department of Education (see sidebar next page), *Business management, marketing, and related support services* programs had the most graduates in the 2006 to 2007 academic year, with 2,780

completers of programs in *Business, Accounting, Marketing, Finance,* and other programs related to the operation of commercial and non-profit entities.

How did that compare with the projected demand for workers in this field? The number of average annual openings in *Management occupations* and *Business and financial occupations* for those jobs requiring a bachelor's or associate's degree totaled 2,207. This total includes some occupations that may require additional work experience.

New Hampshire graduates in 2007 compared to projected job openings in their chosen field



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While the number of completers exceeds the number of projected openings, it does not mean that there is an excess of business grads. Some students may be planning to continue their education at the master's level and will not be entering the workforce immediately. Other students may already be employed and will use their degree to refine their skills in their current position. Another explanation may be the simplest: graduates are using their business degree or certificate in an occupation that falls outside of the *Business* or *Management* major groups.

Health professions are among the fastest growing occupations and are expected to generate many openings, 1,477 for those occupations requiring a bachelor's degree, associate's degree, or a postsecondary certificate over the 2006 to 2016 time frame. There should be many opportunities for employers to fill these positions because there were 2,082 completers in *Health professions and related clinical sciences*. Included in this field are occupations such as *Registered nurses*; *Physical therapists*; *Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants*; and *Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses*.

Does this mean that there is an excess supply of graduates in health professions? No, it may simply be a case of a current worker upgrading skills for another job, or perhaps students are returning to their home state to work.

Education presents an interesting set of numbers. There were 671 completers of programs related to *Education* in the 2006 to 2007 academic year, mostly in programs to prepare students for jobs as preschool, kindergarten, elementary, or secondary school teachers. That number is short of the average annual openings projected of 1,202. To meet the projected demand, teachers will have to be recruited from other fields. Some of the demand can be met by graduates with master's degrees, which were not included in the numbers for this article. The rest of the demand might be filled by graduates with bachelor's degrees in other programs such as *Psychology* or *History*. These graduates would have to become certified through one of the accepted credentialing pathways before taking over a classroom.

New Hampshire will need more than 160 *Personal care workers* such as *Barbers* and *Hairdressers, Hairstylists, and Cosmetologists* each year, on average, during the 2006 to 2016 time frame. Completer data indicate that this demand will be well met, as more than 500 potential workers graduated from *Cosmetology*-related programs in 2007.

How the Comparisons Were Made

Data on states' graduating students are compiled by the U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) and reported under a Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code that identifies the instructional program in which the student received a degree, diploma or certificate, or otherwise completed. Codes are very specific at the six-digit level – code 51.1601 refers to programs that prepare individuals to be *Registered nurses*, for example.

Preliminary data for students completing a degree or certificate program at a New Hampshire educational institution during the 2006 to 2007 academic year were summarized at the two-digit Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) code level to allow comparison to occupational data. To further simplify matters, only bachelor's and associate's degrees were counted, along with postsecondary certificates, as these are some of the most common ways to prepare for entry into the workforce. These three training levels were then combined for the total completers number.

Average annual openings for a specific occupation are based on the long-term New Hampshire projections for the 2006 to 2016 time frame. *Openings* indicate employment increases in an occupation due to growth in the industries where those workers are employed and also for the need to replace workers that retire or otherwise move on to other occupations. Projections are made individually for approximately 700 occupations and aggregated to 22 major occupational groups. Average annual openings for these occupational groups are used for comparison to completers in like programs.

By comparing the number of completers in a summary group of related programs with the projected number of openings for an occupational group requiring that field of study, it shows where there may be potential "gaps" between projected openings and current graduates in those postsecondary programs.

Graduates of programs in *Security and protective services* can work in many related occupations such as *Forensic technicians, Probation officers, or with additional training, as Police officers.* The 474 completers in *Protective services* programs will be more than enough to fill the expected number of openings.

Computer and information sciences and support services completers appear to be short of projected demand for

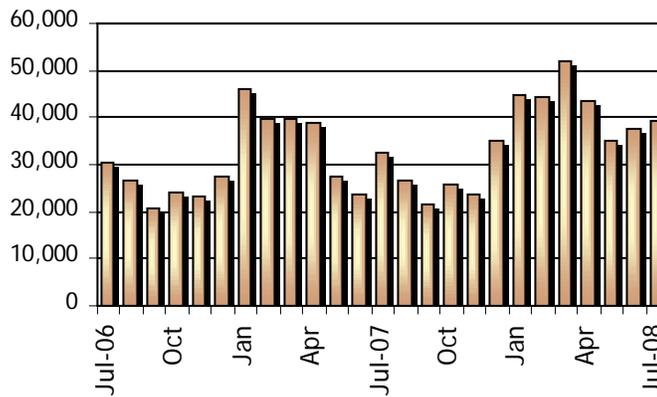
computer-related occupations, with 364 completers and 825 projected openings in occupations such as *Computer software engineers, either applications or systems software, Computer support specialists, and Database administrators.*

There are many more completers in other program areas such as *Social sciences, Psychology, and History* that do not translate directly to a specific occupational group.

Michael Argiropolis

Unemployment Compensation Claims Activity

Total Regular Unemployment Compensation Programs:	July-08	June-08	July-07	Change from Previous			
				Month		Year	
				Net	Percent	Net	Percent
Initial Claims	5,569	5,145	4,582	424	8.2%	987	21.5%
Continued Weeks	39,151	37,474	32,633	1,677	4.5%	6,518	20.0%



Claims Activity

Continued Weeks Claimed

July 06 - July 08

Unemployment Compensation Fund

Unemployment compensation fund balance at the end of July	\$212,818,469.68
Average payment for a week of total unemployment:	\$265.20
Net benefits paid:	\$8,809,825.24
Net contributions received during the month:	\$4,325,537.59
Interest Received:	\$0.00
Reed Act Distribution:	\$0.00
Reed Act Withdrawn for Administrative Costs:	\$0.00

Trust Fund

Jul-08	Jun-08	Jul-07	Change from Previous	
			Month	Year
219.964	218.815	208.299	0.5%	5.6%

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

Consumer Price Index