

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS in New Hampshire



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Your gateway to New Hampshire workforce and career information

New Hampshire's average hourly wage increased faster than the rate of inflation

Occupational Employment Statistics estimates from November 2003 released

The Occupational Employment Statistics Program estimated the average hourly wage for all occupations in New Hampshire was \$17.27 in November 2003. This was an increase of 4.2 percent from the November 2002 estimate. Survey results showed Grafton and Coos Counties had the fastest growth over-the-year while Cheshire and Merrimack Counties had the slowest growth.

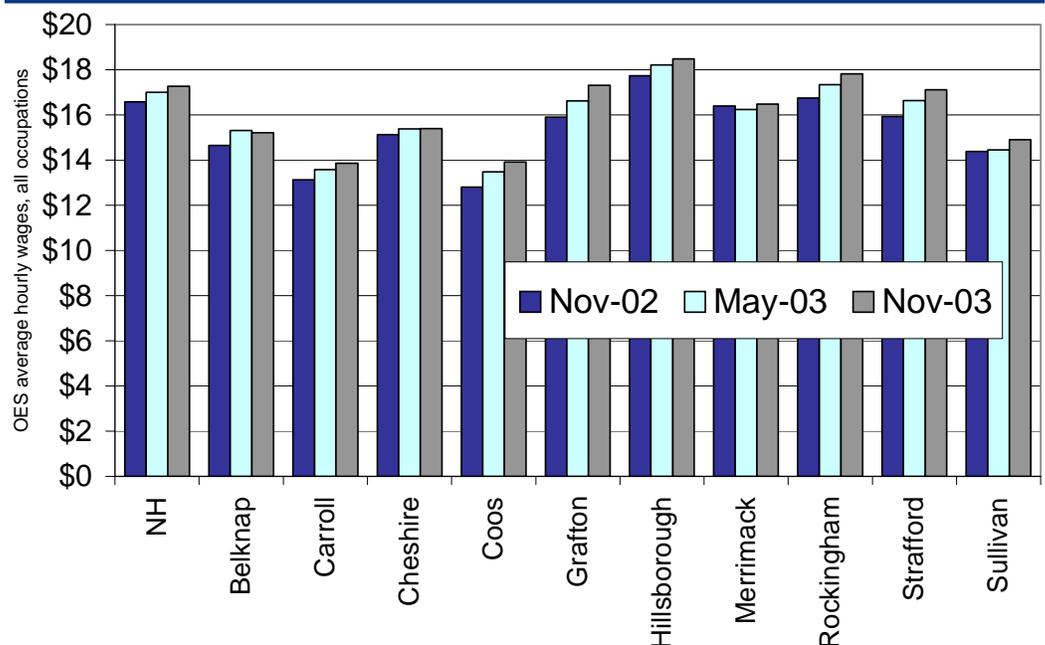
To put the 4.2 percent growth for all occupations in the state in perspective, the consumer price index (typically

considered a gauge of inflation) increased 1.8 percent nationally during this same time.

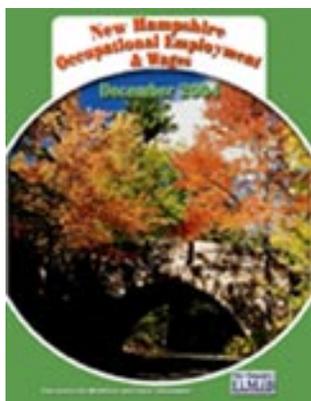
The November 2003 survey is the third to be conducted using the new semiannual method. The semiannual survey allows employment and wage estimates to be published more often than before.

Average hourly wage by county
In all three of the semiannual surveys (November 2002, May 2003, and November 2003) workers in Hillsborough County made, on average, more per

Wage estimates showed Hillsborough and Rockingham counties had higher average hourly wages for all occupations than the statewide average



www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/



For more wage data, visit our Web site at www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/oesfiles.htm. Wage data for New Hampshire and its 14 wages areas are also available in hard copy in *New Hampshire Occupational Employment & Wages*. (see page eight for ordering information)

hour than workers in any other county. With an average hourly wage ranging from \$17.74 in November 2002 to \$18.49 in November 2003, these workers surpassed the statewide average each year by about \$1.20 per hour.

Among the counties, Rockingham had the second highest average hourly wage in each of the three semi-annual surveys. Although they trailed workers in Hillsborough County by roughly one dollar an hour in November 2002 and about \$0.67 in November 2003, Rockingham County employees still surpassed the statewide average hourly wage by about \$0.20 to \$0.50.

According to the November 2002 and May 2003 surveys, workers in Coos County were paid less per hour, on average, than those in any other county. These two surveys showed that workers in Carroll County made slightly more per hour than those in Coos County.

This changed with the November 2003 estimates as Carroll County dropped to the bottom of the list with workers making, on average, about a nickel less than workers in Coos County did. Overall, November 2003 estimates for workers in both these counties were about \$3.40 below the statewide average for all occupations.

Elisabeth Picard



This publication is now available on our Web site at www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/econanals.htm

Recent trends in economic and social indicators for New Hampshire now available in *Vital Signs 2005*

How well has New Hampshire done economically and socially since 2000? No single indicator can, by itself, describe the State's economic and social well being. However, a look at many of the key indicators can give a better prognosis. The following are some highlights from the publication:

- * In 2003 New Hampshire's labor force climbed to an annual average of about 719,000, the highest average in the state's history.
- * New Hampshire's median household income of \$55,166 put it at the top of the list with five other states for highest income in 2003
- * The trend over the last four years has been that the Goods producing domain saw large losses while the Service-provid-

ing domain portrayed strength, dampening the effects of the downturn.

- * New Hampshire's commercial banks weathered the 2001 recession fairly well, but 2003 saw a record high number of consumer bankruptcy filings.
- * The State's NHEIAP test scores showed New Hampshire students performed better in math in 2004 than in 2001.

Vital Signs 2005: Economic and Social Indicators for New Hampshire, 2000-2003 reviews hundreds of indicators over the four-year period. From economic indicators like employment, wages, and gross state product to social indicators like population, poverty, and crime, this publication is a one-stop source for current trends.