

# ECONOMIC CONDITIONS



## in New Hampshire

July 2006

Volume 106, Number 07

Local Area  
Unemployment  
Statistics .....5

Current  
Employment  
Statistics .....6

For Additional  
Information .....8

## Newest Occupational Employment and Wages Released

### New Hampshire mean hourly wage above national average

New Hampshire workers earned, on average, \$18.30 an hour in May 2005, according to the latest Occupational Employment Statistics estimates. This mean hourly wage was slightly higher than the national average. In New England, Massachusetts led the states with the highest mean hourly wage, followed closely by Connecticut. Rhode Island followed in third place while New Hampshire landed in fourth. Vermont and Maine had

the lowest wages in the region and were the only two New England states to have mean hourly wages lower than the national average.

Geographically speaking, mean hourly wages for all occupations ranged from a low of \$14.38 in the Northern NH Area to a high of \$20.77 in the Portsmouth Area. Four of the sixteen substate wage areas had mean hourly wages higher than the statewide average.

**New Hampshire's mean hourly wage of \$18.30 for all occupations was slightly higher than the national average and fourth highest in New England in May 2005**

Visit our Web site at:  
[www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/](http://www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/)



Published by the Economic and  
Labor Market Information Bureau

New Hampshire  
**ELMIB**  
Economic & Labor Market Information Bureau



## Highest and Lowest Paid Jobs

Healthcare Practitioners and Technical occupations claimed the top ten highest paying jobs in New Hampshire. Most of these jobs require a First-professional degree (medical degree). Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons topped the

Top 10 Occupations by Mean Wage			
SOC Code	Occupation	Estimated Employment	Mean (Average) Wage
29-1022	Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons	NP	\$94.04
29-1067	Surgeons	100	\$93.04
29-1061	Anesthesiologists	NP	\$89.73
29-1064	Obstetricians and Gynecologists	170	\$89.40
29-1063	Internists, General	110	\$87.81
29-1021	Dentists, General	350	\$75.56
29-1069	Physicians and Surgeons, All Other	1,560	\$74.49
29-1062	Family and General Practitioners	400	\$70.63
29-1066	Psychiatrists	80	\$69.72
29-1065	Pediatricians, General	NP	\$64.40

NP= Not Publishable

list of highest paying jobs in May 2005 with a mean hourly wage of \$94.04. Surgeons followed, making an average of one dollar less an hour than their counterparts in the dental field.

Bottom 10 Occupations by Mean Wage			
SOC Code	Occupation	Estimated Employment	Mean (Average) Wage
39-3031	Ushers, Lobby Attendants, and Ticket Takers	460	\$7.39
35-9011	Dining Room and Cafeteria Attendants and Bartender Helpers	1,580	\$7.71
35-3031	Waiters and Waitresses	11,500	\$7.92
35-9021	Dishwashers	3,280	\$8.11
35-3021	Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food	10,930	\$8.23
37-2019	Building Cleaning Workers, All Other	NP	\$8.46
35-3022	Counter Attendants, Cafeteria, Food Concession, and Coffee Shop	2,900	\$8.57
53-3099	Motor Vehicle Operators, All Other	470	\$8.64
41-2011	Cashiers	20,740	\$8.66
45-2092	Farmworkers and Laborers, Crop, Nursery, and Greenhouse	310	\$8.76

NP= Not Publishable

At the other end of the pay scale, Ushers/Lobby Attendants/Ticket Takers came in with the lowest mean hourly wage, \$7.39. Five of the ten lowest paid jobs in the state are Food Preparation

and Serving related. Jobs like Waiters and Waitresses (\$7.92) and Dishwashers (\$8.11) typically don't require much prior work experience so many young people choose these types of occupations as their first job. Cashiers were also in the ten lowest paid jobs with a mean hourly wage of \$8.66.

## Occupational Groups

The Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey classifies workers into more than 600 specific detailed occupations such as accountants, cashiers, computer programmers, and carpenters. These detailed occupations are grouped into 22 major occupational groups based on job similarity.

Among the occupational groups, Management occupations had the highest mean hourly wage in New Hampshire in May 2005, \$41.57. This was about one dollar lower than the national average for this occupational group and ranked New Hampshire fourth highest in New England. Jobs in this group generally require more education and experience and are made up of managers of various types and levels, including chief executives whose salaries help to boost the mean wage.

Food Preparation and Serving Related occupations had the lowest mean wage with \$9.32 an hour. Although this was higher than the national average for this occupational group, every state in the region, except Maine, had higher mean hourly wages. Many occupations in this group have lower skill and experience requirements than most jobs, which helps to explain the lower pay scale. This occupational group also includes jobs that are traditionally tipped, such as waiters and waitresses, and bartenders. Employers are asked to include these tips in the wages that they report on the OES Survey form.

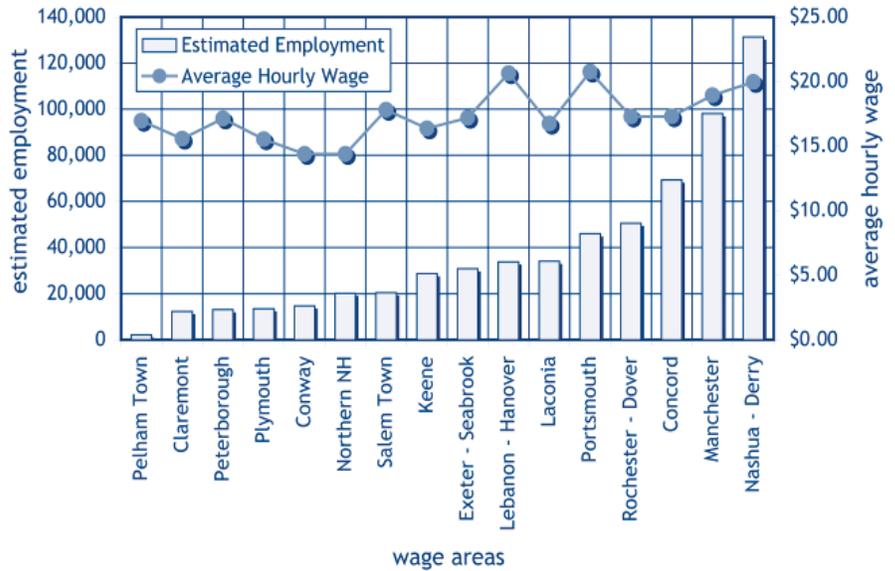
### Occupational Employment and Wages by Area

Jobs in two of the sixteen wage areas in the state paid, on average, more than \$20 an hour in May 2005 – the Portsmouth Area (\$20.77) and the Lebanon-Hanover Area (\$20.64). Employees in jobs with the lowest average hourly wages in May 2005 worked in the northernmost part of the state, specifically the Conway Area (\$14.39) and the Northern NH Area (\$14.38).

When it came to estimated employment, the Nashua-Derry Area, which includes 19 cities and towns, topped the list of wage areas in New Hampshire with 131,350 jobs. The mean hourly

*Continued on page 8*

### Estimated Employment vs Average Hourly Wage by Wage Area in New Hampshire - May 2005

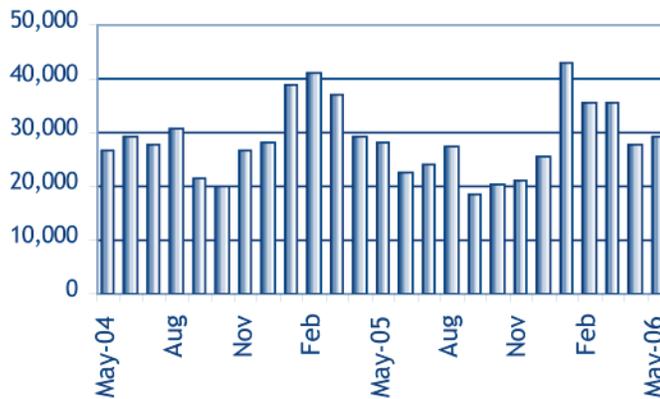


### Unemployment Compensation Claims Activity

Total Regular Unemployment Compensation Programs:	Change from Previous					
	May-06		Apr-06		May-05	
	Net	Percent	Net	Percent	Net	Percent
Initial Claims	3,570	-6.9%	3,836	15.6%	3,088	482
Continued Weeks	29,238	5.8%	27,642	3.8%	28,160	1,078

### Unemployment Compensation Fund

Unemployment compensation fund balance at the end of May	\$271,469,651.97
Average payment for a week of total unemployment:	\$254.27
Net benefits paid:	\$5,748,258.19
Net contributions received during the month:	\$26,846,761.71
Interest Received:	\$0.00
Reed Act Distribution:	\$0.00
Reed Act Withdrawal for Administrative Costs:	\$47,319.23



### Claims Activity

### Trust Fund

### Continued Weeks Claimed

May 2004 - May 2006

Continued weeks claimed rose by almost 1,600 over-the-month, the largest April to May increase since 1998.

			Change from Previous	
May-06	Apr-06	May-05	Month	Year
202.5	201.5	194.4	0.5%	4.2%

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

### Consumer Price Index

Continued from page 3

wage for this area was \$19.97 in May 2005. The Manchester Area followed as second largest with 98,130 jobs in nine cities and towns. Workers in jobs in this area made an average of \$18.93 an hour, about one dollar less than their counterparts to the south.

Not counting the individual town of Pelham, the Claremont Area came in at the other end of the employment scale with 12,410 jobs in its ten cities and towns. Workers in these jobs made an average of \$15.57 an hour in May 2005.

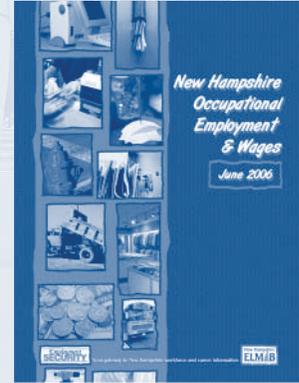
### Background

The Occupational Employment Statistics program is based on a semiannual survey administered by State Employment Security Agencies in all 50 states. The New Hampshire survey was conducted by New Hampshire Employ-

ment Security's Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau (ELMIB), in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The survey is designed to collect data on occupational employment and wage rates of workers in all nonfarm industries.

*Elisabeth Picard*

New Hampshire Occupational Employment Statistics, June 2006 is available on our Web site at [www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/oesfiles.htm](http://www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/oesfiles.htm).



## Employment SECURITY

NH Employment Security  
Economic and Labor Market  
Information Bureau:

### General Information

(603) 228-4124  
[elmi@nhes.state.nh.us](mailto:elmi@nhes.state.nh.us)  
<[www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/](http://www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/)>

### Research Unit

228-4173  
Economist  
228-4122  
Covered Employment & Wages  
228-4177  
Current Employment Statistics  
228-4127  
Local Area Unemployment  
Statistics  
228-4175  
Occupational Employment  
Statistics  
229-4315

*Economic Conditions in New Hampshire* is published monthly in coordination with the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Employment and Training Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor.

*To Order Publications:* Visit our Web site at <[www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/](http://www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/)>; call (603) 228-4124; or send a written request to the following address:

ELMI Publications, NH Employment Security  
32 South Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301-4857

NH Employment Security is a proud member of America's Workforce Network and NH WORKS. NHES is an Equal Opportunity Employer and complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. TDD ACCESS: RELAY NH 1-800-735-2964.

NH EMPLOYMENT SECURITY  
32 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
CONCORD NH 03301-4857

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

New Hampshire  
**ELMIB**  
Economic & Labor Market Information Bureau