

# New Hampshire

## ECONOMIC CONDITIONS



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New Hampshire  
**ELM**B  
Economic & Labor Market Information Bureau

## Looking for a career in science? Check out the projections for STEM occupations in New Hampshire for 2006Q2 - 2008Q2

**T**hirty years ago this summer, *Star Wars* opened in theaters across the country. We are still waiting for light sabers, warp speed, and really cool robots. Until then, students will be making decisions to prepare for jobs that may make those dreams a reality.

The Commission on Professionals in Science and Technology, an independent organization that promotes the study of the science and engineering workforce in the United States has identified nearly 100 different occupations that require training in these specialties. Employment analysts refer to the broad spectrum of jobs that require education in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics as "STEM" occupations.

The latest short-term projections for 2006 second quarter to 2008 second

quarter in New Hampshire will focus on these STEM occupations. Many people are interested in specialized science and technology occupations and would like an idea of where future growth will be. Students can look at the list of occupations and see the wide variety of occupational choices available for those interested in a science-related career. School curriculum planners want an idea of what courses and academic programs to offer students. Businesses are interested in the projected need for workers in occupations they may employ. Economists, teachers, job seekers, and job counselors can also use STEM projections in tandem with projections for other occupations.

STEM occupations are identified in only five out of 22 major occupational groups: *Management; Computer and mathematical; Architecture and engineering; Life, physical science, and social science; and Sales and related occupations.*

### Most STEM employment in New Hampshire (2006Q2) is concentrated in two major occupational groups



More than 78 percent of STEM employment is concentrated in *Computer and mathematical and Architecture and engineering occupations*.

While STEM occupations account for only 5.3 percent of the state's total employment, they provide the intellectual capital that the economy needs to drive the innovations of the future. Generally, employment in STEM is small in number compared to occupations in *Education, Health care and social services, or Retail trade*.

The technology of *Star Wars* may be decades from reality, but these occupations are valuable right now.

### Projections for STEM occupations, 2006Q2 - 2008Q2

STEM occupations in New Hampshire are projected to grow faster than the average for all jobs during the projections period. In the latest round of short-term projections, the change in employment is 3.1 percent over two years for STEM occupations, compared to 2.4 percent for all occupations (which include STEM). These occupations are projected to add 1,132 new jobs, nearly seven percent of the net change.

Computer-related occupations dominate the list of fastest growing STEM occupations with at least 100 workers in 2006Q2. *Network systems and data communications analysts* top the list with a 9.5 percent increase over two years. *Medical scientists, Computer applications software engineers, Database administrators, and Network and computer systems administrators* round out the top five occupations.

Another way of looking at growing occupations is to note the number of new jobs created over a period of time. Again, computer-related occupations will dominate. *Computer software engineers*, both in applications and in systems software will lead the list with 308 and 99 new jobs respectively. Other computer-related jobs follow. Also on the list are *Civil engineers* and *Clinical, counseling, and school psychologists*.

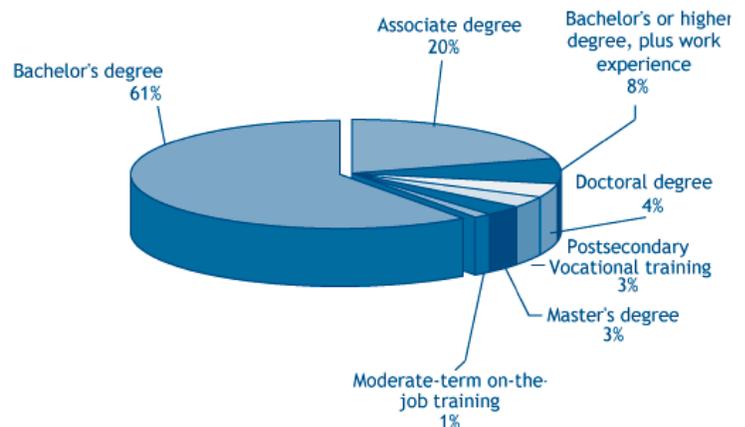
Job openings during the two-year projection period in STEM occupations are another consideration in identifying jobs with employment potential. Once more, computer-related occupations dominate: *Com-*

*puter software applications engineers* top the list with 187 openings and *Computer support specialists* are next with 70.

STEM occupations exclude *Healthcare practitioners and support occupations*, an occupational group that includes some of the fastest growing jobs in this round of projections (and also in long-term projections). Most STEM occupations are expected to show positive growth prospects, too. Other occupation groups excluded from the STEM designation are *Education, training, and library occupations* (even if the occupation involves teaching a STEM-related subject, such as mathematics) and *Production occupations*.

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics disciplines generally require education and training beyond the postsecondary level. More than 60 percent of STEM employment in 2006Q2 was in occupations that required at least a bachelor's degree. Another 20 percent needed an associate's degree to get a foot in the door.

**A bachelor's degree is the most common key to entry for STEM occupations (employment of STEM occupations by training category)**



Which industries employ most of the workers in STEM occupations? It depends on the specific occupation, but in general, the predominate employer of many STEM occupations is the *Computer systems design and related services* industry group (NAICS code 5415). Other industries that hire a substantial number of workers in STEM occupations include *Publishing* (a subsector that includes software publishing, among other industries), *Computer and electronic product manufacturing, Telecommunications, and Machinery manufacturing*.

### Comparison of STEM Occupations with All Occupations

	2006Q2	2008Q2	Net Change	Annual Change	% Change
Total Employment	696,847	713,493	16,646	1.2%	2.4%
STEM Employment	36,682	37,814	1,132	1.5%	3.1%
STEM as % of Total	5.3%	5.3%	6.8%		

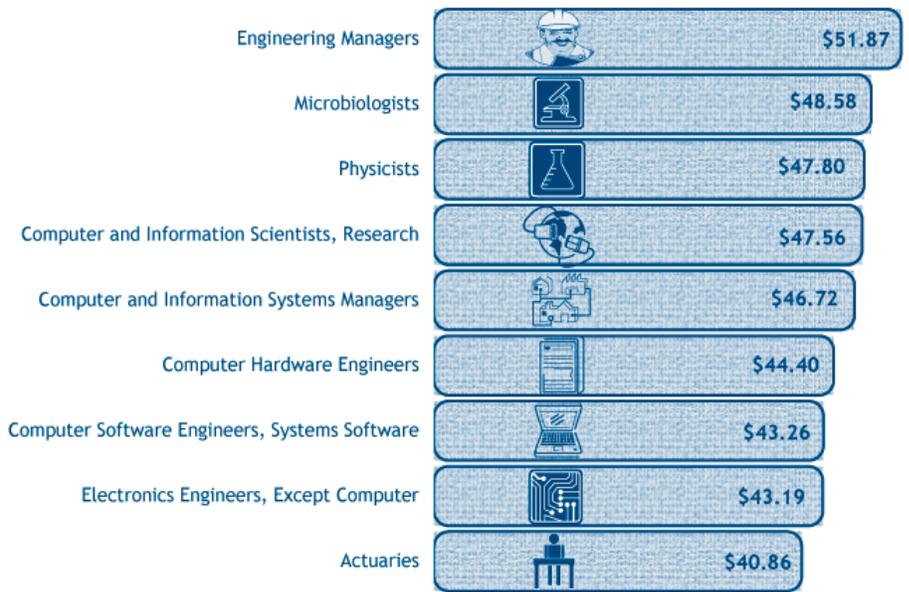
Wages for STEM occupations tend to be higher than the average for all other occupations in New Hampshire. Part of the reason for that is these jobs often require higher levels of education, with at least a bachelor's degree needed at the entry level. *Engineering managers* earned a median hourly wage of \$51.87, the highest for STEM occupation where data is available.

*Michael Argiopolis*

Projections for STEM occupations and all other occupations can be found on the ELMIB web site: <http://www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/projections.htm>

More information about STEM occupations can be found at: <http://www.CPST.org>

**Workers in STEM occupations tend to earn a high median wage (2005)**



**Unemployment Compensation Claims Activities**

**Claims Activity**

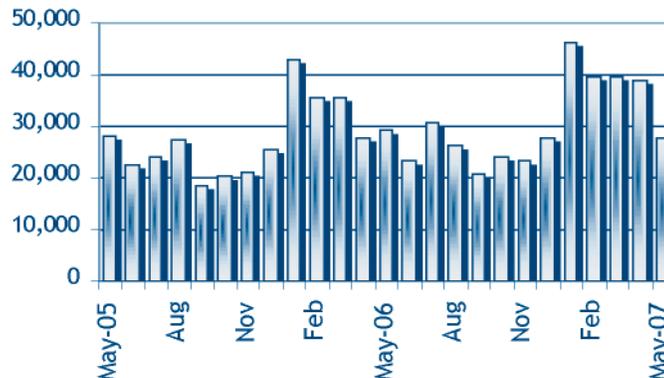
Total Regular Unemployment Compensation Programs:				Change from Previous			
				Month		Year	
	May-07	April-07	May-06	Net	Percent	Net	Percent
Initial Claims	3,140	4,740	3,570	-1,600	-33.8%	-430	-12.0%
Continued Weeks	27,651	38,868	29,238	-11,217	-28.9%	-1,587	-5.4%

**Unemployment Compensation Fund**

**Trust Fund**

Unemployment compensation fund balance at the end of May	\$260,850,029.53
Average payment for a week of total unemployment:	\$258.76
Net benefits paid:	\$5,736,664.77
Net contributions received during the month:	\$17,267,397.28
Interest Received:	\$0.00
Reed Act Distribution:	\$0.00
Reed Act Withdrawn for Administrative Costs:	\$16,729.00

**Continued Weeks Claimed**



May 2005 - May 2007  
Continued weeks claimed in May for New Hampshire dropped over 11,000 claims over the month.

			Change from Previous	
			Month	Year
May-07	Apr-07	May-06	0.6%	2.7%
208.0	206.7	202.5		

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

**Consumer Price Index**