

# New Hampshire

## Economic Conditions



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**Local Area Unemployment Statistics** .....5

**Current Employment Statistics** .....6

**Hospital Construction Projects in New Hampshire** ....8

**For Additional Information** .....8



### How many New Hampshire workers belong to a union?

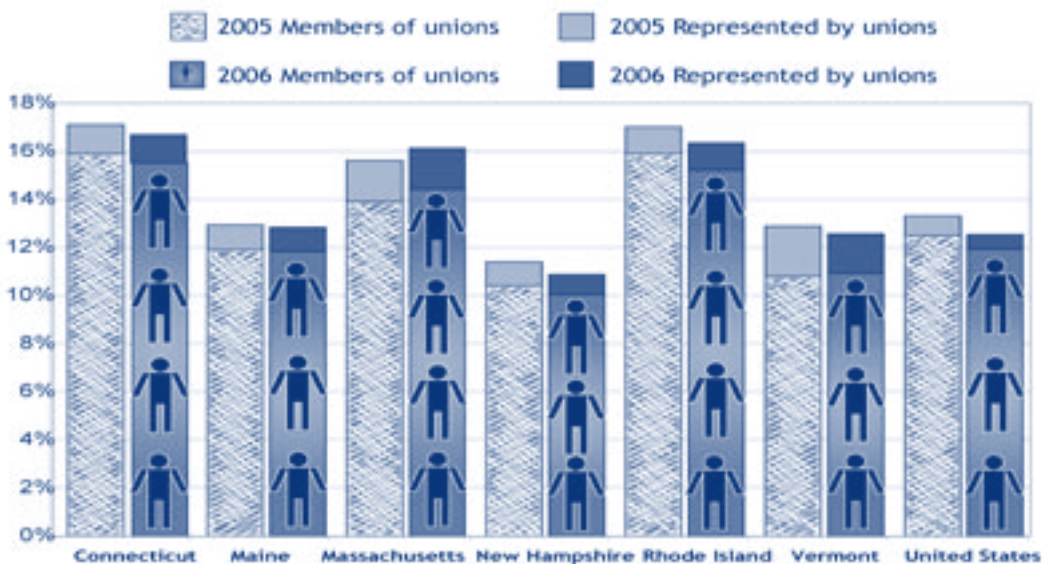
New Hampshire had the smallest share of union members among the New England states in 2006. The state had 10.1 percent of its employed workers reporting they were affiliated with a union. That was well below the national average of 12.0 percent. Like 30 other states, and the District of Columbia, the share of union workers in the state declined from 2005 to 2006.

Maine was one of only three states nationally, and the only New England state, to not have a change in its share of union workers over the year. In contrast, Massachusetts was the only New England state to increase its share of union workers over-the-year.<sup>1</sup>

Another side of the picture includes workers whose jobs are covered by a union or employee association's contract but who have no union affiliation. This averages to roughly an additional 1.3 percent of the total employed nationally. New Hampshire was the only state in New England to have an increase, of 0.1 percent, in this group over the year. All other states in the region went down, however marginally.

**Age and Gender demographics**  
 Nationally, older workers tend to have a higher affiliation with unions. Two of the oldest age groups reported, the 45 to 54 year and 55 to 64 year age brackets, have the highest union participation with a 16.5 percent union membership rate and another 1.5 percent of workers in these age groups covered by

**Share of unionized workers in the New England states and the nation.**



Published by the Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau



Characteristic	Total Employed	2006			
		Members of Union <sup>1</sup>		Represented by Unions <sup>2</sup>	
		Total	Percent of employed	Total	Percent of employed
<b>AGE AND SEX</b>					
Total, 18 years and over	128,237	15,359	12.0	16,860	13.1
18 to 24 years	19,538	857	4.4	978	5.0
25 years and over	108,699	14,502	13.3	15,881	14.6
25 to 34 years	28,805	2,899	10.1	3,195	11.1
35 to 44 years	30,526	3,997	13.1	4,356	14.3
45 to 54 years	29,401	4,710	16.0	5,131	17.5
55 to 64 years	16,005	2,568	16.0	2,832	17.6
65 years and over	3,872	328	8.5	370	9.5
<b>Men, 18 years and over</b>	66,811	8,657	13.0	9,340	14.0
18 to 24 years	10,130	543	5.4	608	6.0
25 years and over	56,681	8,114	14.3	8,732	15.4
25 to 34 years	15,677	1,650	10.5	1,793	11.4
35 to 44 years	16,159	2,309	14.3	2,488	15.4
45 to 54 years	14,867	2,617	17.6	2,827	18.9
55 to 64 years	7,990	1,370	17.1	1,474	18.4
65 years and over	1,989	167	8.4	190	9.6
<b>Women, 18 years and over</b>	61,426	6,702	10.9	7,520	12.2
18 to 24 years	9,408	315	3.3	370	3.9
25 years and over	52,018	6,386	12.3	7,151	13.7
25 to 34 years	13,127	1,249	9.5	1,401	10.7
35 to 44 years	14,368	1,667	11.7	1,867	13.0
45 to 54 years	14,534	2,093	14.4	2,325	16.0
55 to 64 years	8,106	1,198	14.8	1,358	16.8
65 years and over	1,881	160	8.5	180	9.5

those unions or employee associations. The age of these workers may be the explanation for their association to unions. They may be more likely to have experienced some of the improvements to the work environment that unions helped make possible over the years.

Typically the affiliation to a union is stronger for men than women, and that is most likely attributable to the type of jobs they have or the industry in which they are employed. The older age brackets having higher concentrations of membership is a shared commonality for both genders.

**Industries**

Among the industries, the public sector had by far the largest concentration of union membership, 36.2 percent in 2006. This was boosted by local government with 41.9 percent of its workers with a union membership. Protective agencies, like fire and police departments, are highly unionized and are part of local government, as are educators in the local school districts.

Within the private sector, Utilities industries and Telecommunications industries were also among the industries with almost a quarter of their workers belonging to a union. Construction and Educational services also have a high propensity of workers being unionized, with 13.0 and 13.5 percent respectively. The concentration of male workers in Construction can be considered a contributing factor to the higher share of male workers in unions.

**Occupations**

The concentration of union affiliation becomes more clear when these workers are sorted by occupation. One of every three workers in Protective service occupations was a union member in 2006. Many of these workers are employed by communities as fire fighters, police officers, sheriffs, and correctional officers, to name a few.

Education, training and library occupations were also among the occupations with high union membership. In 2006, 37.3 percent of these workers were members of a union and another 4.4 percent of these workers were covered by union contracts without being affiliated. Again, a lot of educators are employed by local school districts, or municipalities, providing more of an upward push to local government's union membership affiliation.

Other occupations with a high occurrence of union affiliation include Construction workers and Production workers and Transportation and material moving occupations. Again these occupations are dominated by males and may give further explanation to why men have a higher likelihood of being union members.

STATE	Total Employed	2005				2006				
		Members of Union <sup>1</sup>		Represented by Unions <sup>2</sup>		Members of Union <sup>1</sup>		Represented by Unions <sup>2</sup>		
		Total	Percent of employed	Total	Percent of employed	Total	Percent of employed	Total	Percent of employed	
United States	125,889	15,687	12.5%	17,223	13.7%	128,241	15,359	12.0%	16,857	13.1%
Connecticut	1,550	247	15.9	263	17.0	1,591	247	15.6	263	16.5
Maine	582	69	11.9	79	13.6	584	69	11.9	79	13.5
Massachusetts	2,886	402	13.9	431	14.9	2,859	414	14.5	438	15.3
New Hampshire	627	65	10.4	72	11.5	620	63	10.1	70	11.3
Rhode Island	494	79	15.9	83	16.8	498	76	15.3	79	16.0
Vermont	287	31	10.8	37	13.0	305	34	11.0	39	12.9

Source: Current Population Survey  
Population measured in thousands

1 Data refer to members of a labor union or an employee association similar to a union.  
2 Data refer to members of a labor union or an employee association similar to a union as well as workers who report no union affiliation but whose jobs are covered by a union or an employee association contract.

**Wages**

Typically, one of the benefits credited to working in a unionized environment is higher wages. Among the occupational groups there are few exceptions to that rule. However, occupations that are part of the Management, professional, and financial operators group are pri-

marily the jobs least likely to gain any wage benefits from a union or employee association membership. Most other occupational groups show a more substantial increase in wage levels based on union membership.

*Anita Josten*

<sup>1</sup>United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. NEWS January 25, 2007. <www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/union2.pdf>. Accessed January 25, 2007

OCCUPATION	2005				2006			
	Total	Members of unions <sup>1</sup>	Represented by unions <sup>2</sup>	Nonunion	Total	Members of unions <sup>1</sup>	Represented by unions <sup>2</sup>	Nonunion
Management, professional, and related occupations	5937	5942	5937	5937	5967	5966	5962	5968
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	997	1,015	1,029	995	1,045	1,042	1,060	1,044
Professional and related occupations	902	932	924	894	928	956	948	921
Service occupations	413	643	629	392	422	638	629	404
Sales and office occupations	575	681	675	562	589	706	697	578
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	623	910	903	585	653	934	925	608
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	540	709	704	510	557	741	733	519

<sup>1</sup>Data refer to members of a labor union or an employee association similar to a union.

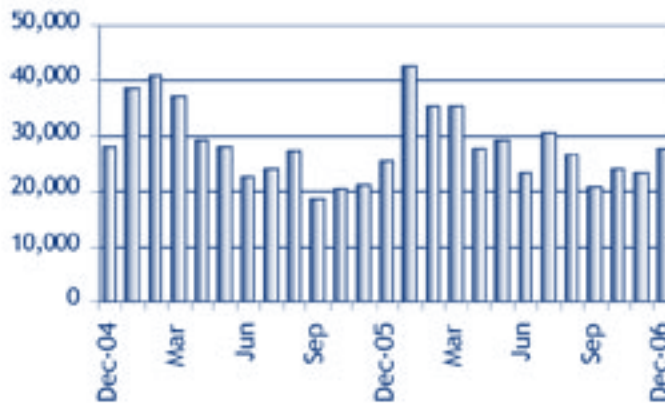
<sup>2</sup>Data refer to members of a labor union or an employee association similar to a union as well as workers who report no union affiliation but whose jobs are covered by a union or an employee association contract.

**Unemployment Compensation Claims Activity**

Total Regular Unemployment Compensation Programs:	Change from Previous										
	Dec-06		Nov-06		Dec-05		Month		Year		
	Net	Percent	Net	Percent	Net	Percent	Net	Percent	Net	Percent	
Initial Claims	6,592	4,265	7,329	2,327	54.6%	-737	-10.1%				
Continued Weeks	27,612	23,201	25,665	4,411	19.0%	1,947	7.6%				

**Unemployment Compensation Fund**

Unemployment compensation fund balance at the end of December	\$264,678,562.17
Average payment for a week of total unemployment:	\$262.53
Net benefits paid:	\$5,495,079.57
Net contributions received during the month:	\$81,639.78
Interest Received:	\$3,141,753.91
Reed Act Distribution:	\$0.00
Reed Act Withdrawn for Benefits:	-\$770.00



**Claims Activity**

**Trust Fund**

**Continued Weeks Claimed**

Dec 2004 - Dec 2006

Although December continued weeks claimed were almost 2,000 higher than last year, the over-the-month change was about 100 fewer than last year's over-the-month change.

			Change from Previous	
Dec-06	Nov-06	Dec-05	Month	Year
201.8	201.5	196.8	0.1%	2.5%

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

**Consumer Price Index**