

New Hampshire Economic Conditions

July 2013

New Hampshire Residents At Work in 2012

There was an average of 698,000 New Hampshire residents who worked for pay at some time during 2012, according to data compiled from the Current Population Survey (CPS). CPS statistics on work status include the number of employed and unemployed, full-time and part-time employment status, hours at work, occupation, and industry. The Current Population Survey is a monthly household survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics that provides labor force statistics and demographics for the population of United States.¹

Full-Time or Part-Time Hours

In any given week, among all employed residents (the total number working full-time or part-time), the majority usually worked full-time.

In fact, 77.8 percent of employed New Hampshire residents usually worked full-time in 2012.

However, not everyone who usually works a full-time job is available to work full-time each week. Of all employed persons, in a typical week, 68.6 percent usually worked full-time and had worked 35 or more hours. On average, 1.1 percent of all employed persons usually worked full-time but worked less than 35 hours due to slack work, inability to find full-time work, seasonal declines in demand, or other economic reasons. Another 5.5 percent of all employed persons normally worked full-time but had worked less than 35 hours due to illness, childcare problems, other family responsibilities, or other non-economic reasons.² On average, 2.6 percent of all employed persons normally worked full-time but were

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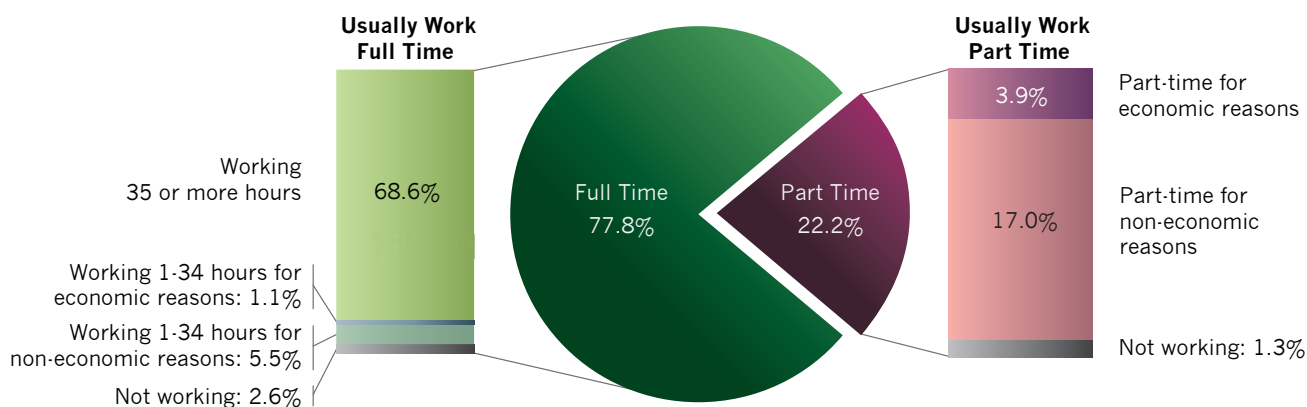
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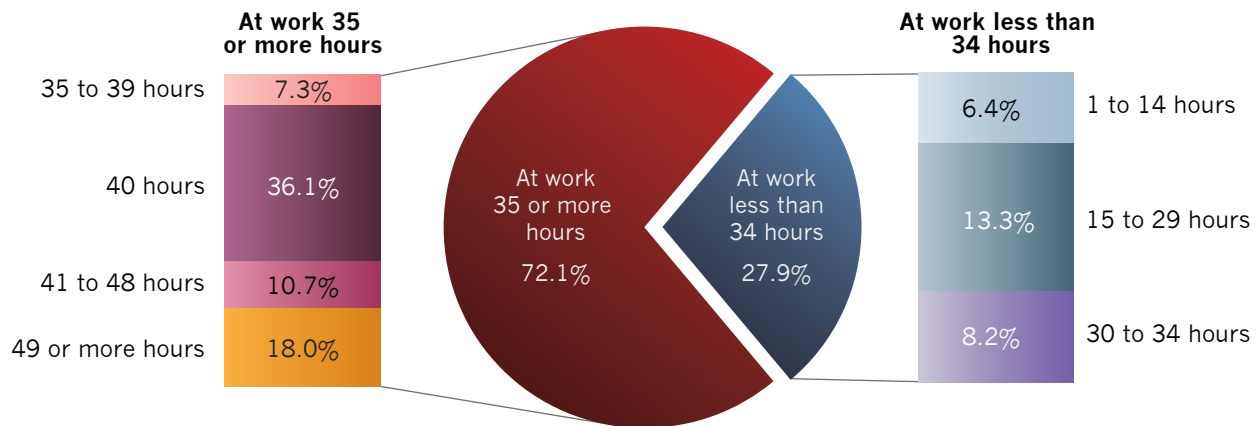
1. Current Population Survey. U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. <www.census.gov/cps/>. These numeric results may differ from Local Area Unemployment Statistics, which use CPS data as part of the calculation.
2. When employed persons work fewer than 35 hours each week, the reason is categorized as economic or non-economic. Economic reasons include slack work or unfavorable business conditions, inability to find full-time work, or seasonal declines in demand. Non-economic reasons encompass all other reasons, including illness or medical obligations, childcare problems or other family responsibilities, and school or training.

Share of Usual Work Hours, Full-Time vs. Part-Time, Annual 2012



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey

Share of Actual Total Hours at Work, Annual 2012



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey

temporarily absent from their job for reasons such as vacation, illness, or weather conditions.

The remaining 22.2 percent of New Hampshire’s employed residents usually worked part-time. Of all employed persons, 3.9 percent usually worked part-time for economic reasons. The survey captures those who, though they usually worked part-time, would have preferred to work full-time had it not been for reasons such as slack work, unfavorable business conditions, or seasonal declines in demand. Another 17.0 percent of employed residents usually worked part-time for non-economic reasons such as family responsibilities, or school and training. The remaining 1.3 percent of employed residents usually worked part-time, but were temporarily absent from their job for reasons such as vacation, illness, or weather conditions.

Interestingly, even though persons usually working full-time outnumber those usually working part-time by a

ratio of over three-to-one, there were over three times as many residents usually working part-time who were part-time for economic reasons as there were residents usually working full-time who worked part-time for economic reasons. This may serve to demonstrate the role that part-time workers’ hours play in some business staffing decisions.

Combining regularly scheduled full-time and part-time residents working fewer than 35 hours, 5.0 percent worked fewer than 35 hours because of economic reasons. The national average of all those working less than 35 hours for economic reasons in 2012 was 5.9 percent.

Actual Time at Work

Although employed residents usually have full-time or part-time hours to work, they may actually spend a different number of hours at work in any given week. New Hampshire’s employed residents spent an average of 38.0 hours per week at work in 2012. This was slightly lower than the U.S. average of 38.5 hours at work for

all workers. The Current Population Survey instrument asks specifically about the number of hours individuals actually spent at work during the reference week. These data reflect only the number of hours at work, and excludes persons who are temporarily absent from work for reasons such as illness or labor dispute, as they would have been at work zero hours for the week.⁴ Employed persons are those who work for pay or profit, or performed at least 15 hours of unpaid work at a family business, and include the self-employed.

Among New Hampshire’s employed residents, 72.1 percent were at work 35 hours or more each week. This group of workers spent an average of 42.8 hours at work each week, slightly above the U.S. average of 42.5 hours.

Over a third, 36.1 percent, of New Hampshire’s employed residents

⁴ Employment and Earnings, February 2006. Household Data (“A” tables, monthly; “D” tables, quarterly). Bureau of Labor Statistics. <www.bls.gov/cps/eetech_methods.pdf>.

spent exactly 40 hours at work, while 18.0 percent were at work 49 or more hours in any given week. Just shy of 11 percent spent between 41 and 48 hours at work. Only 7.3 percent of employed residents spent between 35 and 39 hours at work.

About 28 percent of employed residents in New Hampshire were at work fewer than 35 hours in any given week. The largest share of this group, 13.3 percent of the employed, was at work between 15 and 29 hours. Another 8.2 percent were at work between 30 and 34 hours, and the smallest share, 6.4 percent, were at work between 1 and 14 hours.

Type of Job — Occupational Groups

The Current Population Survey also asks residents about the type of occupation they held. The results are then grouped into ten different occupational groups according to related occupations.

The majority of employed New Hampshire residents worked in service providing, office, and sales related occupations. More than one of every four employed residents, 26.2 percent, was in a professional and related occupation.⁵ The next largest share was in management, business, and financial operations occupations, 17.2 percent, followed by service occupations with 15.0 percent, office and administrative support occupations, with 11.7 percent, and sales and related occupations, with 11.2 percent.

Share of New Hampshire Residents in Occupational Groups



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey

Less than 20 percent of employed residents worked in natural resource, construction, and maintenance occupations or production, transportation, and material moving occupations. The largest shares were in production occupations, 5.4 percent of employed residents, and construction occupations, 5.0 percent of employed residents. Occupations in these groups are commonly associated with goods-producing industries.

⁵ The professional and related occupations group includes: computer and math occupations, architecture and engineering occupations, life, physical, and social science occupations, community and social services occupations, legal occupations, education, training and library occupations, art, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations, and health practitioners and technical occupations.