

# ECONOMIC CONDITIONS in New Hampshire



**June 2000**

Volume 100, Number 06

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## Covered Employment Up Over 15,000 Jobs In 1999

### Average Weekly Wage Rose 3.9 Percent

**A**fter soaring out of the recession in the early 90s New Hampshire's employment growth has fluctuated between 14,500 and 20,500 jobs each year. In 1999 total employment grew by 15,257, lower than the 17,936 increase recorded during 1998.

Private industries added 14,078 jobs, accounting for almost 90 percent of the new jobs. The only division that did not contribute to this gain was Manufacturing, which posted a loss of 2,136 jobs. The major decreases were in Durable goods industries, which lost more than 1,700 jobs.

Services and Retail trade had by far the largest gains in employment. Each division added slightly more than 6,000 jobs in 1999. Retail trade posted a significant growth of 4.9 percent, making it 22 percent of total statewide employment. Services grew by 3.8 percent, and had just over 28 percent of New Hampshire's total employment.

In 1999 Construction continued to grow, adding 1,159 jobs. This is not surprising, considering all the residential and business developments that have been occurring in the state. Government had a growth of 1.6 percent or 1,178 jobs, with the largest gain being in Local government, which added 1,228 jobs.

New Hampshire's average weekly wage grew 3.9 percent bringing the total to \$618.27. Private average weekly wage gained \$24.44, slightly more than the total increase of \$23.15. Finance, insurance, and real estate had the largest jump in average weekly wage, \$65.06. This was slightly less than the increase in 1998.

Government average weekly wage had a growth of 2.4 percent, slightly below the statewide increase of 3.9 percent. No division posted a drop in average weekly wage. Not surprisingly, Retail trade recorded the smallest increase, \$11.19.

*Gail Houston*

### Employment and Wages in New Hampshire

Divisions	1998		1999	
	Employment	Average Weekly Wage	Employment	Average Weekly Wage
Total Private & Government	575,919	\$595.12	591,176	\$618.27
Private	502,641	598.92	516,719	623.37
Agriculture, Forstry, and Fishing	5,110	405.21	5,485	421.62
Mining	430	696.77	452	744.75
Construction	24,646	667.65	25,817	693.87
Manufacturing	108,663	778.35	106,529	797.02
Transportation and Public Utilities	25,575	702.87	25,824	720.10
Wholesale Trade	30,425	905.67	31,803	965.60
Retail Trade	123,121	337.21	129,202	348.35
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	31,136	811.62	31,782	879.25
Services	198,275	555.92	204,364	587.19
Government	73,278	568.99	74,456	582.89

Published by the Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau

*Employment*  
**SECURITY**

## New Hampshire is Healthiest

State rated best in nation

New Hampshire was first among all states in an April 2000 national ranking of health related factors. This was according to Morgan Quitno Press, a Lawrence, Kansas based independent research and publishing company.

The eighth annual Healthiest State Award is based on 21 health-related factors chosen from *Health Care State Rankings*, an annual reference book by Morgan Quitno Press that compares the 50 states in more than 500 health care categories. Factors considered include infant mortality rates, the percent of population not covered by health insurance, per capita expenditures for health care, percent of population lacking access to primary medical care, childhood immunization rates, and percent of adults who smoke. The 2000 award is based on the same 21 factors as the 1999 award.

According to Scott Morgan, president of Morgan Quitno Press, “our award reflects which states’ citizens have the best access to health care providers, affordable health care services and generally healthy population.” Further, Morgan said, “New Hampshire does well in a number of reproductive health areas, has good access to primary care physicians and a high level of health care insurance coverage.”

New Hampshire has annually placed well in the eight-year rankings. Previous-

ly, New Hampshire won the award in 1995 and has ranked in the top ten for all but one year of the series. To achieve the number one ranking in 2000, New Hampshire jumped from the number four ranking in 1999.

All New England states placed in the top 10 except Rhode Island, which ranked number 13.

Given the 21 factors considered, New Hampshire had the healthiest overall profile. The state ranked fairly well (among the top ten states) in these nine factors:

- sexually transmitted disease
- births of low birthweight as a percent of all births
- births to teenage mothers as a percent of live births
- percent of mothers receiving late or no prenatal care
- infant mortality rate
- percent of children aged 19-35 months fully immunized
- percent of population lacking access to primary care
- percent of adults overweight
- aids rate

Not surprisingly, New Hampshire did not rank in the bottom 10 in any of the factors.

*Henry Goode*

### Healthiest State Ranking Based on 21 Health Related Factors

State	National Ranking (1= best)							
	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993
NH	1	4	3	4	7	1	3	12
CT	9	20	9	3	6	4	8	19
ME	6	7	14	27	21	7	17	43
MA	8	8	16	10	20	15	9	34
RI	13	21	22	30	29	22	11	43
VT	2	3	4	6	2	2	2	15

### Unemployment Compensation Claims Activity

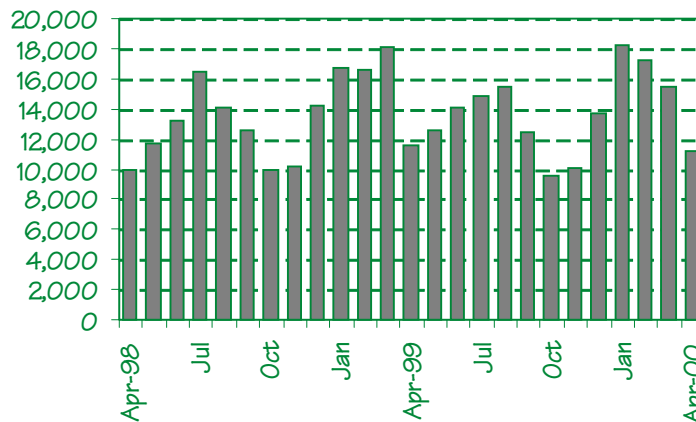
Total Regular Unemployment Compensation Programs:				Change from Previous			
	Apr-00	Mar-00	Apr-99	Month		Year	
				Net	Percent	Net	Percent
Initial Claims	2,467	2,467	3,342	0	0.0%	(875)	-26.2%
Continued Weeks	11,245	15,528	11,622	(4,283)	-27.6%	(377)	-3.2%

### Claims Activity

### Unemployment Compensation Fund, April 2000

Unemployment compensation fund balance at the end of April:	\$307,130,877.38
Average payment for a week of total unemployment:	\$209.38
Net benefits paid:	\$1,773,639.02
Net contributions received during the month:	\$3,922,281.67
Interest Received:	\$0.00

### Trust Fund



### Continued Weeks Claimed

Apr-98 through Apr-00

The drop in continued weeks claimed in April marked the fourth consecutive month of declines.

Apr-00	Mar-00	Apr-99	change from previous	
			Month	Year
171.2	171.1	166.2	0.1%	3.0%

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

### Consumer Price Index

*1998 New Hampshire Occupational Employment and Wages: 114 pages, March 2000.*

Are you starting a new business and wondering what you should pay each employee? Do you want to know what the 25<sup>th</sup> – 75<sup>th</sup> percentile range is for your occupation? Do you want to know the estimated number of employees in a labor market area for a particular occupation? These answers can be found in our *1998 New Hampshire Occupational Employment and Wages* publication featuring the latest OES employment and wage data collected from 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 1998 payroll data. Occupations are listed in tables for New Hampshire and its 14 wage areas. This publication can be an important asset for employers, economists, and anyone who needs/wants to know about New Hampshire's occupational employment and wages.

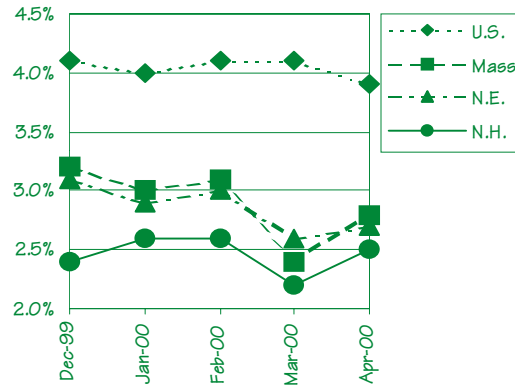
### Occupational Employment and Wages is released

This and other ELMI publications are available by calling (603) 228-4124; by accessing our Web site at <[www.nhes.state.nh.us/lmipage.htm](http://www.nhes.state.nh.us/lmipage.htm)>; or by sending a request to:

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

## N.H. and U.S. Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate

The seasonally adjusted April unemployment rate increased in both new Hampshire and Massachusetts.



## Unemployment Rates by Region

	preliminary	revised	
	Apr-00	Mar-00	Mar-99
United States	3.9%	4.1%	4.3%
Northeast	3.8%	3.7%	4.4%
New England	2.7%	2.6%	3.3%
Connecticut	2.3%	2.3%	3.3%
Maine	3.3%	3.5%	4.2%
Massachusetts	2.8%	2.4%	3.1%
New Hampshire	2.5%	2.2%	2.8%
Rhode Island	3.7%	3.8%	4.0%
Vermont	2.4%	2.4%	2.8%
Mid Atlantic	4.2%	4.2%	4.8%
New Jersey	3.8%	3.7%	4.6%
New York	4.6%	4.6%	5.2%

## Labor Force Estimates

by Place of Residence

	Dec-99	Jan-00	Feb-00	revised	preliminary
				Mar-00	Apr-00
<b>New Hampshire</b>					
Unemployment Rate	2.7%	2.4%	2.6%	2.2%	2.5%
Civilian Labor Force	673,150	677,320	681,710	678,970	680,670
Number Employed	655,310	661,140	664,060	664,360	663,950
Number Unemployed	17,840	16,180	17,650	14,610	16,720
United States (in thousands)					
Unemployment Rate	4.1%	4.0%	4.1%	4.1%	3.9%
Civilian Labor Force	140,108	140,910	141,165	140,867	141,230
Number Employed	134,420	135,221	135,362	135,159	135,706
Number Unemployed	5,688	5,689	5,804	5,708	5,524

## Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment

By Place of Establishment

Industry	Dec-99	Jan-00	Feb-00	revised	preliminary
				Mar-00	Apr-00
<b>TOTAL ALL INDUSTRIES</b>	610,700	614,300	612,400	612,400	613,200
Mining*	400	300	300	400	400
Construction	24,800	26,100	26,300	26,300	26,300
Manufacturing	106,200	105,700	105,300	104,600	105,100
Durable Goods	75,900	75,500	75,300	74,500	74,800
Nondurable Goods	30,300	30,200	30,000	30,100	30,300
Transportation and Public Utilities	21,600	21,400	21,800	21,800	21,700
Trade	161,200	163,700	162,400	162,900	162,800
Wholesale Trade	32,200	32,300	32,300	32,200	32,200
Retail Trade	129,000	131,400	130,100	130,700	130,600
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	33,100	32,600	32,900	32,800	32,800
Services	180,800	180,500	180,000	180,200	180,300
Government	82,600	84,000	83,400	83,400	83,800

\* Since N.H. mining employment exhibits no clear seasonal pattern, these estimates are not adjusted.

### Labor Force Estimates

New Hampshire	Apr-00	Mar-00	Apr-99
Number of Workers	preliminary	revised	
Total Civilian Labor Force	676,950	675,370	658,490
Employed	659,160	658,160	638,990
Unemployed	17,790	17,210	19,500
Unemployment Rate (% of labor force)	2.6%	2.5%	3.0%

### Unemployment Rates by Area

	Apr-00	Mar-00	Apr-99
	preliminary	revised	

#### U.S. and Regional States

United States	3.7%	4.3%	4.1%
Northeast	3.6%	4.1%	4.2%
New England	2.6%	3.0%	3.1%
Connecticut	2.1%	2.5%	3.1%
Maine	3.6%	4.4%	4.6%
Massachusetts	2.5%	2.9%	2.8%
New Hampshire	2.6%	2.5%	3.0%
Rhode Island	3.3%	4.1%	3.6%
Vermont	2.5%	2.7%	2.9%
Mid Atlantic	4.0%	4.5%	4.6%
New Jersey	3.5%	3.9%	4.3%
New York	4.4%	5.0%	5.0%
Pennsylvania	3.6%	4.3%	4.3%

#### Labor Market Areas (NH Portions Only)

Berlin LMA	6.4%	4.8%	6.4%
Seabrook-South Hampton, NH			
Portion Boston MA-NH PMSA	5.5%	4.6%	5.0%
Claremont LMA	2.4%	1.9%	2.5%
Colebrook LMA	9.2%	4.2%	9.6%
Concord LMA	2.1%	2.2%	1.8%
Conway LMA	2.9%	2.9%	2.8%
NH Portion Hartford-Lebanon			
VT-NH LMA	1.3%	1.1%	1.2%
NH Portion Keene-Brattleboro			
NH-VT LMA	2.7%	2.3%	2.4%
Laconia LMA	2.3%	2.6%	2.1%
Lancaster LMA	6.5%	4.9%	5.9%
Salem-Derry, NH Portion Lawrence			
MA-NH PMSA	3.7%	3.6%	3.8%
Littleton LMA	5.0%	2.7%	4.3%
Pelham, NH Portion Lowell MA-NH			
PMSA	3.2%	4.3%	3.6%
Manchester LMA	2.2%	2.3%	2.3%
Nashua LMA	2.6%	2.6%	2.7%
Peterborough LMA	2.4%	2.3%	2.4%
Plymouth LMA	2.6%	2.4%	2.8%
NH Portion Portsmouth-Rochester,			
NH-ME PMSA	2.1%	2.1%	2.2%

#### Counties

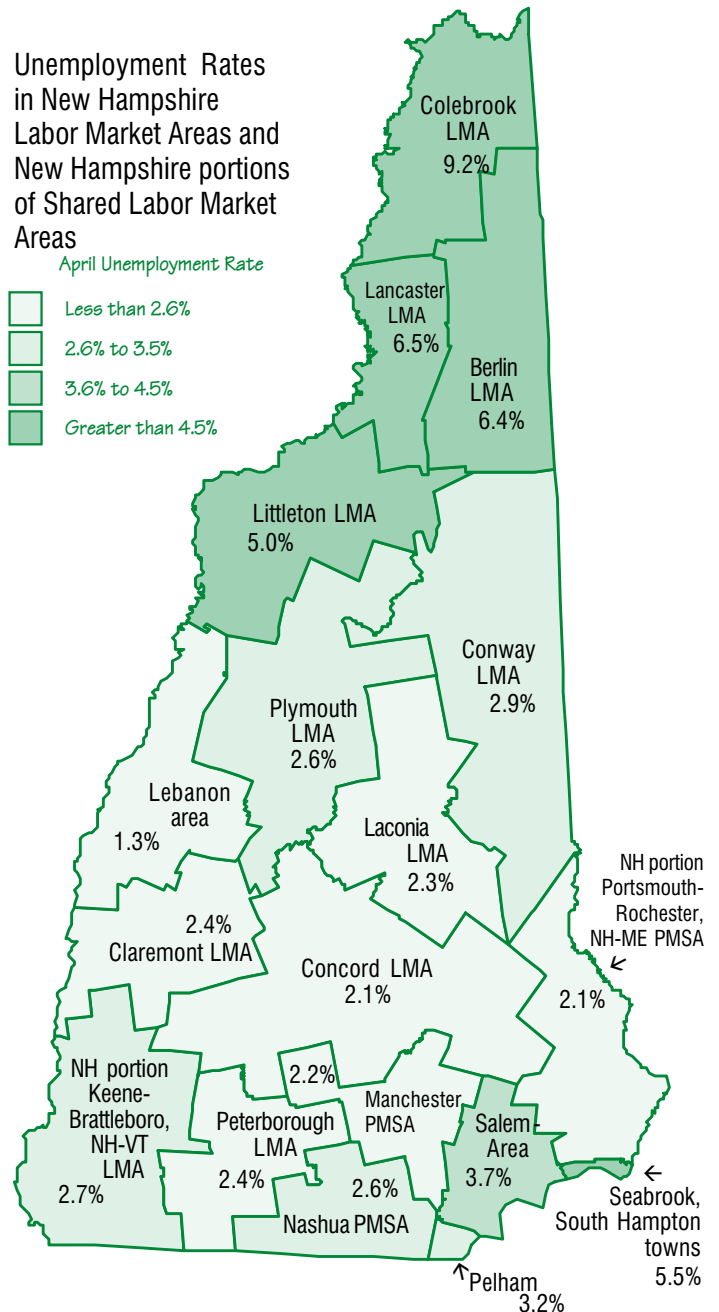
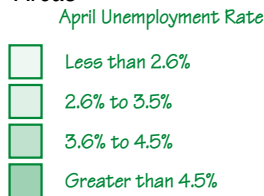
Belknap	2.3%	2.6%	2.2%
Carroll	2.9%	2.9%	2.8%
Cheshire	2.8%	2.4%	2.5%
Coos	7.3%	4.6%	6.8%
Grafton	2.3%	1.8%	2.3%
Hillsborough	2.4%	2.5%	2.5%
Merrimack	2.2%	2.2%	1.8%
Rockingham	2.9%	3.0%	3.1%
Strafford	2.2%	2.3%	2.3%
Sullivan	2.4%	1.9%	2.7%

## Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

### Not Seasonally Adjusted

By Place of Residence

Unemployment Rates  
in New Hampshire  
Labor Market Areas and  
New Hampshire portions  
of Shared Labor Market  
Areas



Nonfarm construction employment increased 1,700 over-the-month while Services employment dropped by 300.

**More detailed industry information is available at our Web site**

### Monthly Not Seasonally Adjusted New Hampshire Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment

Current Employment Statistics Employment by Industry - Number of Jobs by place of establishment	Number of Jobs			Net Change	
	Apr-00 (preliminary)	Mar-00 (revised)	Apr-99	From Previous Month	Year
Total All Industries	607,400	604,900	599,700	2,500	7,700
Private Employment Total	520,800	518,500	515,900	2,300	4,900
Mining	400	400	500	0	-100
Construction	25,600	23,900	23,800	1,700	1,800
Manufacturing	105,400	105,200	107,200	200	-1,800
Durable Goods Total	75,100	74,900	76,500	200	-1,400
Nondurable Goods Total	30,300	30,300	30,700	0	-400
Transportation & Public Utilities	21,600	21,500	21,200	100	400
Trade Total	158,300	157,800	155,600	500	2,700
Wholesale Trade	31,900	31,800	32,000	100	-100
Retail Trade	126,400	126,000	123,600	400	2,800
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	32,800	32,700	32,300	100	500
Services	176,700	177,000	175,300	-300	1,400
Government Total	86,600	86,400	83,800	200	2,800

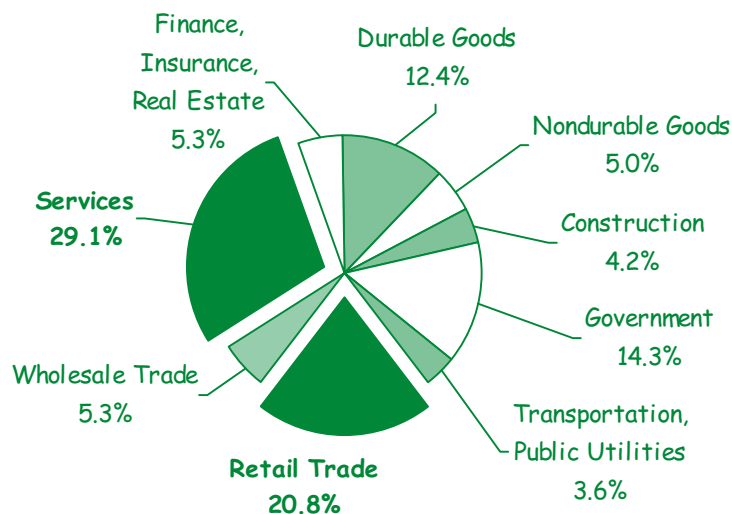
Note: Totals are rounded to hundreds

Construction and Mining employment in the Manchester PMSA increased 400 over-the-month, offsetting the loss of 400 jobs in Retail trade.

### Current Employment Statistics (CES) Manchester PMSA

Employment by Industry Number of jobs by place of establishment	Number of Jobs			Change from previous:	
	Apr-00 (preliminary)	Mar-00 (revised)	Apr-99	Month	Year
Total All Industries	104,200	104,100	103,300	100	900
Private Employment Total	93,000	92,800	92,100	200	900
Construction & Mining	5,200	4,800	4,800	400	400
Manufacturing	15,300	15,200	14,600	100	700
Durable Goods	10,700	10,700	10,000	0	700
Transportation & Public Utilities	6,400	6,500	6,200	-100	200
Trade Total	25,200	25,700	24,600	-500	600
Wholesale Trade	6,500	6,600	6,700	-100	-200
Retail Trade	18,700	19,100	17,900	-400	800
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	7,700	7,500	7,800	200	-100
Services	33,200	33,100	34,100	100	-900
Government Total	11,200	11,300	11,200	-100	0

**Divisional Percentages of Nonfarm Employment**



### Current Employment Statistics Nashua PMSA

Employment by Industry Number of jobs by place of establishment	Apr-00 (preliminary)	Mar-00 (revised)	Apr-99	from previous:	
				Month	Year
Total All Industries	95,900	94,600	96,200	1,300	-300
Private Employment Total	87,100	85,800	87,400	1,300	-300
Construction & Mining	3,300	3,200	3,100	100	200
Manufacturing	27,300	27,200	27,600	100	-300
Durable Goods	21,300	21,200	21,400	100	-100
Nondurable Goods	6,000	6,000	6,200	0	-200
Transportation & Public Utilities	3,300	3,300	3,100	0	200
Trade Total	24,600	23,800	24,400	800	200
Wholesale Trade	4,700	4,600	4,600	100	100
Retail Trade	19,900	19,200	19,800	700	100
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	4,300	4,400	5,100	-100	-800
Services	24,300	23,900	24,100	400	200
Government Total	8,800	8,800	8,800	0	0

Retail Trade within the Nashua PMSA gained 700 jobs over-the-month. Finance, insurance, and real estate was the only division to lose employment.

### Current Employment Statistics Portsmouth-Rochester, NH-ME PMSA

Employment by Industry Number of jobs by place of establishment	Apr-00 (preliminary)	Mar-00 (revised)	Apr-99	from previous:	
				Month	Year
Total All Industries	120,300	118,700	118,600	1,600	1,700
Private Employment Total	97,500	96,100	96,200	1,400	1,300
Construction & Mining	3,800	3,700	3,900	100	-100
Manufacturing	18,400	18,400	18,200	0	200
Durable Goods	11,700	11,700	11,400	0	300
Nondurable Goods	6,700	6,700	6,800	0	-100
Transportation & Public Utilities	3,800	3,700	3,800	100	0
Trade Total	32,600	32,000	31,500	600	1,100
Wholesale Trade	5,900	5,800	5,800	100	100
Retail Trade	26,700	26,200	25,700	500	1,000
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	6,700	6,600	6,500	100	200
Services	32,200	31,700	32,300	500	-100
Government Total	22,800	22,600	22,400	200	400

Retail trade and Services each gained 500 jobs from March to April in this PMSA. No losses were recorded in any division; Manufacturing employment remained unchanged over-the-month.

### Average Earnings and Hours of Production Workers in Manufacturing

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Apr-00 (prelim.)	Mar-00 (revised)	Apr-99	Apr-00 (prelim.)	Mar-00 (revised)	Apr-99	Apr-00 (prelim.)	Mar-00 (revised)	Apr-99
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>									
All Manufacturing	\$540.09	\$545.99	\$531.77	40.7	41.3	40.5	\$13.27	\$13.22	\$13.13
Durable Goods	537.51	543.77	532.27	41.0	41.7	40.6	13.11	13.04	13.11
Nondurable Goods	547.77	552.27	530.64	40.1	40.4	40.2	13.66	13.67	13.20
<b>MANCHESTER PMSA</b>									
All Manufacturing	\$586.58	\$588.38	\$555.59	39.5	40.3	39.6	\$14.85	\$14.60	\$14.03
Durable Goods	581.08	584.86	565.73	39.8	40.7	40.7	14.60	14.37	13.90
<b>NASHUA PMSA</b>									
All Manufacturing	\$561.66	\$558.55	\$603.61	40.7	40.8	41.4	\$13.80	\$13.69	\$14.58
Durable Goods	540.19	535.46	585.98	40.8	41.0	41.5	13.24	13.06	14.12
Nondurable Goods	632.31	630.80	658.08	40.3	40.0	40.9	15.69	15.77	16.09
<b>PORTSMOUTH-ROCHESTER, NH-MA PMSA</b>									
All Manufacturing	\$558.45	\$549.61	\$534.78	41.8	41.2	41.2	\$13.36	\$13.34	\$12.98
Durable Goods	600.23	604.34	567.59	42.6	42.8	41.1	14.09	14.12	13.81
Nondurable Goods	482.38	446.94	480.73	40.4	38.2	41.3	11.94	11.70	11.64

An over-the-month increase in average hourly earnings in New Hampshire's Manufacturing division resulted in a slight increase in the average weekly earnings. Average weekly hours for the state dropped slightly over-the-month.

## For Additional Information



**New Hampshire Employment Security**  
Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau:

General Information .....	228-4124
Research Unit .....	228-4173
Economist .....	228-4122
Covered Employment and Wages (ES-202) .....	228-4177
Current Employment Statistics (790) .....	228-4127
Local Area Unemployment Statistics .....	228-4175
Mass Layoff Statistics (MLS) .....	228-4175
Occupational Employment Statistics .....	229-4315
TDD Access: .....	Relay NH 1 800 735-2964

**Internet address: [www.nhes.state.nh.us/lmipage.htm](http://www.nhes.state.nh.us/lmipage.htm)**

**US Department of Labor Boston Regional Office:**  
Bureau of Labor Statistics Information ..... (617)565-2327

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