

New Hampshire

Economic Conditions



March 2008

Volume 108, Number 03

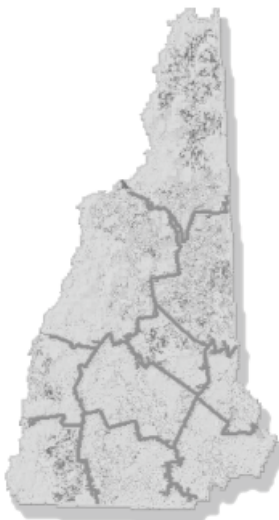
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www.nh.gov/nhes/elmi/

Local Area
 Unemployment
 Statistics5

Current
 Employment
 Statistics6

2007 Current
 Employment
 Statistics
 Benchmarkinsert

For Additional
 Information8

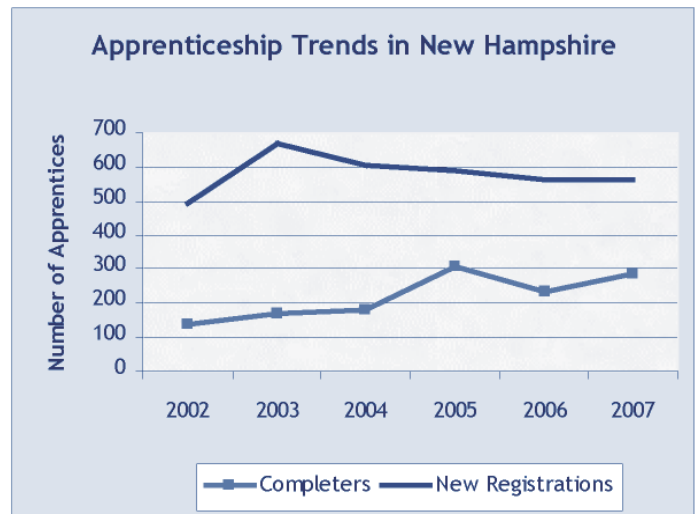


Apprenticeships in New Hampshire

For nearly as long as humans have practiced organized trades, apprenticeships have been an essential form of training. Many of New Hampshire's earliest apprentices were legally bound to their masters, often living in the same home, sharing food, and working for little or no pay.¹ Many of the earliest "indentured" apprentices practiced trades that still exist today, including carpentry, masonry, and shipbuilding. Apprentices started young, usually around the age of 14.² Because of these difficult conditions, the National Apprenticeship Act was passed in 1937 to protect workers and ensure the continuation and usefulness of apprenticeship programs.³ As a result of this legislation, modern apprentices are no longer indentured to their masters, and in nearly all cases receive pay for their services. A second by-product of the National Apprenticeship Act was the creation of a formalized system of apprenticeship administration. In New Hampshire,

the State Apprenticeship Council, working in tandem with the Office of Apprenticeship at the U.S. Department of Labor, oversees all apprenticeship programs.⁴

This improvement in both working conditions and administration has positioned apprenticeships as a vital means for people both young and old to learn the skills necessary for employment in well-paying trades. Currently, apprenticeship programs provide a comprehensive educational experience, combining classroom-acquired technical skills and knowledge with on-the-job training. Many apprenticeships require more



Source: U.S. Department of Labor

Published by New Hampshire
 Employment Security's Economic
 and Labor Market Information
 Bureau

¹Washington State Department of Labor and Industries: <http://www.lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/Apprenticeship/About/History/default.asp>. Accessed 3/21/08.

²Ibid.

³The Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training: <http://www.doleta.gov/OA/bat.cfm>. Accessed 3/24/08.

⁴New Hampshire RSA 278: <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/lsa/2007.pdf>. Accessed 3/27/08

than 4,000 hours of training and can take anywhere from two to five years to complete. Once workers have completed the requirements of a registered apprenticeship program, they are recognized as skilled journeyworkers and are ready to practice their trades independently.⁵ This credential is portable, meaning that a worker’s skills will be recognized regardless of where the training took place.⁶

Apprenticeship Trends

With the exception of 2003, the number of new apprenticeship registrants in New Hampshire has remained essentially steady (between 500 and 600 individuals). Subsequently, the number of apprenticeship completers has grown, from a low of 138 in 2002 to a high of 307 in 2005. According to Jack Jarvis of the Office of Apprenticeship, “Many of the visible trends in apprenticeship completers are attributable to both changes in the local economy and training activities at larger employers such as the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.”

On the surface, the difference between the number of registrations and completers suggest that many individuals are not completing their apprenticeship programs. However, according to the

New Hampshire Department of Labor, the differences exist in part because of recent rule changes allowing many apprentices who have fulfilled their requirements to secure employment as journeyworkers without receiving a final certificate of completion. Through no fault of their own, these completed apprentices do not appear in state and federal tallies of apprenticeship completers.

Occupations and Wages

In New Hampshire, apprentices receive set wages that are pre-approved by the Office of Apprenticeship. In all cases, those wages will never fall below the state minimum. Often these wages are substantially higher, as apprenticeship regulations require inexperienced apprentices to receive at least half of the wages paid to a skilled worker.⁷ For most apprentices, wages increase over time as skills are developed and courses completed. Some of the highest entry-level wages are paid to Refrigeration Mechanics (\$19.12 per hour) and Electronics Technicians (\$18.43 per hour), while some of the lowest wages are earned by cosmetologists (\$6.96 per hour) and childcare workers (\$7.28 per hour).

These wage figures do not necessarily explain the number of apprentices in each occupation. In 2007, a

large portion (60 percent) of the Granite State’s apprentices completed Electrician, Plumber, or Other Construction programs, even though those occupations pay entry-level wages between \$14 and \$18 per hour.⁸ Another 18 percent of

Continued on page 3

A Sampling of Recognized Apprenticeable Trades

| Required Training | Trade | SOC Code | Entry-level Wage in New Hampshire | Experienced Wage in New Hampshire |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2,000 Hours | Bio-Manufacturing Technologist | 19-4021 | \$15.07 | \$21.43 |
| | Cosmetologist | 39-5012 | \$6.96 | \$13.26 |
| | Dental Assistant | 31-9091 | \$14.31 | \$20.20 |
| | Nurse Assistant | 31-1012 | \$10.55 | \$14.02 |
| 4,000 Hours | Child Care Development Specialist | 39-9011 | \$7.28 | \$10.18 |
| | Cook (any industry) | 35-2012 | \$9.54 | \$14.59 |
| | Medical Laboratory Technician | 29-2012 | \$13.45 | \$21.98 |
| | Paramedic | 29-2041 | \$11.25 | \$17.99 |
| 6,000 Hours | Dental Laboratory Technician | 51-9081 | \$11.11 | \$19.18 |
| | Fire Fighter | 33-2011 | \$14.81 | \$22.44 |
| | Painter (construction) | 47-2141 | \$12.48 | \$16.66 |
| | Refrigeration Mechanic (any industry) | 49-9021 | \$19.12 | \$20.85 |
| 8,000 Hours | Automotive Mechanic | 49-3023 | \$12.63 | \$20.09 |
| | Bricklayer (brick & tile) | 47-2021 | \$17.47 | \$23.54 |
| | Cabinetmaker | 51-7011 | \$12.78 | \$18.53 |
| | Carpenter | 47-2031 | \$15.33 | \$21.01 |
| | Electrician | 47-2111 | \$13.97 | \$19.96 |
| | Electronics Technician | 17-3023 | \$18.43 | \$24.84 |
| | Plumber | 47-2152 | \$14.54 | \$21.01 |
| | Welder | 51-4121 | \$10.18 | \$14.07 |

Source: New Hampshire Employment Security, Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau, Occupational Employment and Wages Survey, 2007.

⁵The National Apprenticeship system: <http://www.doleta.gov/OA/nas.cfm>. Accessed 3/21/08.

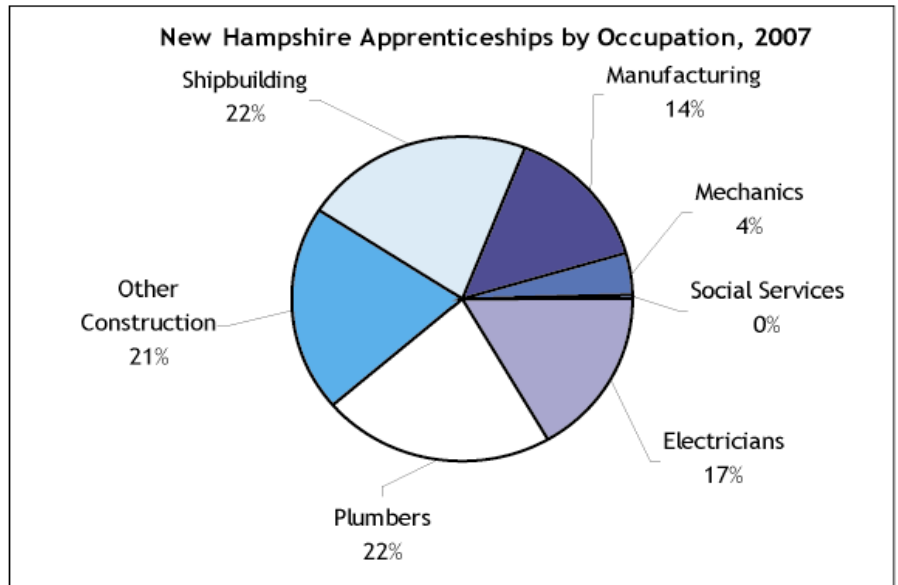
⁶The National Apprenticeship system: <http://www.doleta.gov/OA/inbenef.cfm>. Accessed 3/27/08.

⁷America’s Career InfoNet - Career Resource Library: http://acinet.org/acinet/crl/CRL_RRSearch.aspx?docn=9483&strSword=eta&radioChoice=. Accessed 4/1/08.

⁸Office of Apprenticeship, U.S. Department of Labor.

apprenticeship completers were trained in manufacturing and mechanics, which often command entry-level wages between \$10 and \$18 per hour. On the other hand, low wages may in fact explain the small number (less than one percent) of apprenticeships in the social service fields, such as childcare, cosmetology, or food preparation.

The term "apprentice" often conjures images of craftsmen practicing old-fashioned trades such as metal smithing or printing. However, viewing recent trends by occupation reveals the emergence of apprenticeship programs dominated by modern craftsmen and women practicing the trades of plumbers, carpenters, electricians, and



Source: U.S. Department of Labor

Continued on page 8

Unemployment Compensation Claims Activities

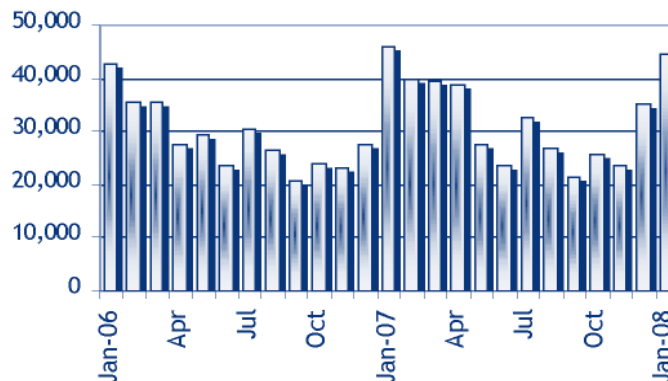
| Total Regular Unemployment Compensation Programs: | | | | Change from Previous | | | |
|---|--------|--------|--------|----------------------|---------|--------|---------|
| | Jan-08 | Dec-07 | Jan-07 | Month | | Year | |
| | | | | Net | Percent | Net | Percent |
| Initial Claims | 6,680 | 7,536 | 6,600 | -856 | -11.4% | 80 | 1.2% |
| Continued Weeks | 44,650 | 35,069 | 46,112 | 9,581 | 27.3% | -1,462 | -3.2% |

Claims Activity

Unemployment Compensation Fund

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Unemployment compensation fund balance at the end of January | \$231,961,683.53 |
| Average payment for a week of total unemployment: | \$268.81 |
| Net benefits paid: | \$10,062,821.75 |
| Net contributions received during the month: | \$2,279,775.24 |
| Interest Received: | \$0.00 |
| Reed Act Distribution: | \$0.00 |
| Reed Act Withdrawn for Administrative Costs: | \$0.00 |

Trust Fund



Continued Weeks Claimed

Jan 2006 - Jan 2008
January continued weeks claimed had a post holiday jump over the month, but not as high as last year.

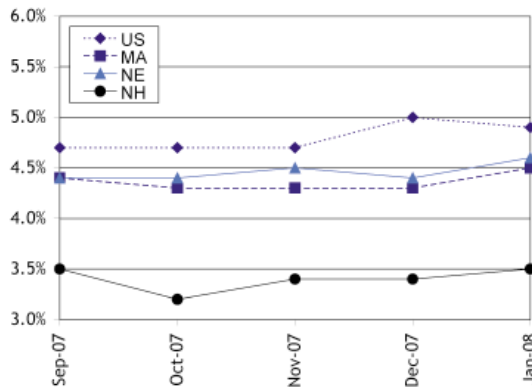
| | | | Change from Previous | |
|--------|--------|--------|----------------------|------|
| Jan-08 | Dec-07 | Jan-07 | Month | Year |
| 211.1 | 201.8 | 202.4 | 0.5% | 4.3% |

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

Consumer Price Index

N.H and U.S. Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

New Hampshire's January unemployment rate is trending upward, although not as high as the region.



Unemployment Rates by Region

| Seasonally Adjusted | Jan-08 | Dec-07 | Jan-07 |
|---------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| United States | 4.9% | 5.0% | 4.6% |
| Northeast | 4.8% | 4.5% | 4.4% |
| New England | 4.6% | 4.4% | 4.5% |
| Connecticut | 4.8% | 4.8% | 4.4% |
| Maine | 5.0% | 4.9% | 4.5% |
| Massachusetts | 4.5% | 4.3% | 4.7% |
| New Hampshire | 3.5% | 3.4% | 3.7% |
| Rhode Island | 5.7% | 5.2% | 4.9% |
| Vermont | 4.2% | 3.9% | 4.0% |
| Mid Atlantic | 4.8% | 4.5% | 4.4% |
| New Jersey | 4.5% | 4.2% | 4.3% |
| New York | 5.0% | 4.6% | 4.4% |
| Pennsylvania | 4.8% | 4.4% | 4.3% |

Sep-07 Oct-07 Nov-07 Dec-07 Jan-08

Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Estimates

By Place of Residence

| | Sep-07 | Oct-07 | Nov-07 | Dec-07 | Jan-08 |
|-------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| New Hampshire | | | | | |
| Unemployment Rate | 3.4% | 3.3% | 3.4% | 3.4% | 3.5% |
| Civilian Labor Force | 738,454 | 738,784 | 739,777 | 740,557 | 742,562 |
| Number Employed | 713,534 | 714,134 | 714,701 | 715,265 | 716,806 |
| Number Unemployed | 24,920 | 24,650 | 25,076 | 25,292 | 25,756 |
| United States (in thousands) | | | | | |
| Unemployment Rate | 4.7% | 4.8% | 4.7% | 5.0% | 4.9% |
| Civilian Labor Force | 153,506 | 153,306 | 153,828 | 153,866 | 153,824 |
| Number Employed | 146,260 | 146,016 | 146,647 | 146,211 | 146,248 |
| Number Unemployed | 7,246 | 7,291 | 7,181 | 7,655 | 7,576 |

Supersector

Sep-07 Oct-07 Nov-07 Dec-07 Jan-08

Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment Estimates

By Place of Establishment

| Supersector | Sep-07 | Oct-07 | Nov-07 | Dec-07 | Jan-08 |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Total Nonfarm | 651,100 | 650,100 | 648,900 | 654,700 | 654,100 |
| Construction | 29,400 | 29,400 | 29,600 | 28,500 | 28,100 |
| Manufacturing | 75,400 | 75,300 | 75,200 | 77,800 | 77,800 |
| Durable Goods | 58,000 | 57,900 | 57,900 | 59,600 | 60,000 |
| Non-Durable Goods | 17,400 | 17,400 | 17,300 | 18,200 | 17,800 |
| Trade, Transportation, and Utilities | 144,600 | 144,700 | 144,600 | 142,600 | 142,600 |
| Wholesale Trade | 28,800 | 28,800 | 28,800 | 28,400 | 28,600 |
| Retail Trade | 99,600 | 99,900 | 99,800 | 98,500 | 98,900 |
| Transportation and Utilities | 16,200 | 16,000 | 16,000 | 15,700 | 15,100 |
| Information | 12,800 | 12,600 | 12,600 | 12,200 | 12,200 |
| Financial Activities | 40,800 | 41,000 | 40,400 | 38,600 | 38,600 |
| Real Estate and Rental and Leasing | Data not available | | | 7,800 | 7,900 |
| Professional and Business Services | 62,600 | 62,800 | 63,200 | 66,600 | 66,200 |
| Administrative and Support | 26,400 | 26,300 | 26,400 | 28,800 | 28,500 |
| Education and health services | 104,200 | 104,900 | 104,800 | 105,300 | 104,600 |
| Educational Services | 23,600 | 23,500 | 23,500 | 23,800 | 23,500 |
| Health Care and Social Assistance | 80,600 | 81,400 | 81,300 | 81,500 | 81,100 |
| Leisure and Hospitality | 66,200 | 64,300 | 64,000 | 64,500 | 64,100 |
| Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation | 12,200 | 11,800 | 11,600 | 10,400 | 10,200 |
| Accommodation and Food Services | 54,000 | 52,500 | 52,400 | 54,100 | 53,900 |
| Other Services | 21,800 | 21,800 | 22,000 | 22,300 | 22,300 |
| Government | 92,200 | 92,200 | 91,500 | 95,200 | 96,600 |
| Federal Government | 7,700 | 7,700 | 7,600 | 8,000 | 8,200 |
| State Government | 23,700 | 23,000 | 22,500 | 24,800 | 25,400 |
| Local Government | 60,800 | 61,500 | 61,400 | 62,400 | 63,000 |

Please note that not all supersectors meet the statistical criteria for publication in this category. We seasonally adjust the total nonfarm data series and all the published supersectors independently. Therefore, the sum of the published parts will not equal the total.

Labor Force Estimates

| New Hampshire | Jan-08 | Dec-07 | Jan-07 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|
| Total Civilian Labor Force | 739,320 | 736,710 | 735,870 |
| Employed | 710,060 | 712,500 | 704,290 |
| Unemployed | 29,260 | 24,210 | 31,580 |
| Unemployment Rate (percent of labor force) | 4.0% | 3.3% | 4.3% |

Unemployment Rates by Area

| Not Seasonally Adjusted | Jan-08 | Dec-07 | Jan-07 |
|--------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| U.S and Regional States | | | |
| United States | 5.4% | 4.8% | 5.0% |
| Northeast | 5.4% | 4.4% | 5.0% |
| New England | 5.3% | 4.3% | 5.2% |
| Connecticut | 5.3% | 4.5% | 5.0% |
| Maine | 5.9% | 5.0% | 5.4% |
| Massachusetts | 5.2% | 4.1% | 5.5% |
| New Hampshire | 4.0% | 3.3% | 4.3% |
| Rhode Island | 7.0% | 5.2% | 5.8% |
| Vermont | 5.0% | 3.7% | 4.8% |
| Mid Atlantic | 5.5% | 4.5% | 5.0% |
| New Jersey | 5.1% | 4.1% | 4.8% |
| New York | 5.6% | 4.7% | 5.0% |
| Pennsylvania | 5.5% | 4.3% | 5.0% |

| Map | Jan-08 | Dec-07 | Jan-07 |
|--|--------|--------|--------|
| Key Labor Market Areas | | | |
| 1 Colebrook NH-VT LMA, NH Portion | 5.6% | 6.3% | 6.3% |
| 2 Berlin NH MicroNECTA | 5.1% | 4.4% | 6.4% |
| 3 Littleton NH-VT LMA, NH Portion | 3.8% | 3.3% | 4.2% |
| 4 Haverhill NH LMA | 6.1% | 4.3% | 5.8% |
| 5 Conway NH-ME LMA, NH Portion | 3.7% | 3.1% | 4.6% |
| 6 Plymouth NH LMA | 4.0% | 3.1% | 4.3% |
| 7 Moultonborough NH LMA | 3.7% | 2.9% | 3.8% |
| 8 Lebanon NH-VT MicroNECTA, NH Portion | 2.8% | 2.1% | 2.9% |
| 9 Laconia NH MicroNECTA | 4.8% | 3.7% | 4.8% |
| 10 Wolfeboro NH LMA | 3.9% | 3.1% | 4.1% |
| 11 Franklin NH MicroNECTA | 5.1% | 3.7% | 5.1% |
| 12 Claremont NH MicroNECTA | 3.4% | 2.8% | 3.8% |
| 13 Newport NH LMA | 3.4% | 2.8% | 3.7% |
| 14 New London NH LMA | 3.2% | 2.3% | 3.6% |
| 15 Concord NH MicroNECTA | 4.0% | 3.1% | 4.2% |
| 16 Rochester-Dover NH-ME MetroNECTA, NH Portion | 3.8% | 3.0% | 4.0% |
| 17 Charlestown NH LMA | 4.3% | 3.2% | 4.9% |
| 18 Hillsborough NH LMA | 4.0% | 3.3% | 4.6% |
| 19 Manchester NH MetroNECTA | 3.8% | 3.2% | 4.3% |
| 20 Keene NH MicroNECTA | 3.7% | 3.0% | 4.1% |
| 21 Peterborough NH LMA | 4.4% | 3.6% | 4.5% |
| 22 Nashua NH-MA NECTA Division, NH Portion | 3.9% | 3.3% | 4.3% |
| 23 Exeter Area, NH Portion, Haverhill-N. Andover-Amesbury MA-NH NECTA Division | 4.6% | 4.1% | 4.9% |
| 24 Portsmouth NH-ME MetroNECTA, NH Portion | 3.4% | 3.0% | 3.8% |
| 25 Hinsdale Town, NH Portion, Brattleboro VT-NH LMA | 5.1% | 3.7% | 5.0% |
| 26 Pelham Town, NH Portion, Lowell-Billerica-Chelmsford MA-NH NECTA Division | 5.6% | 5.1% | 5.6% |
| 27 Salem Town, NH Portion, Lawrence-Methuen-Salem MA-NH NECTA Division | 5.2% | 4.9% | 5.1% |

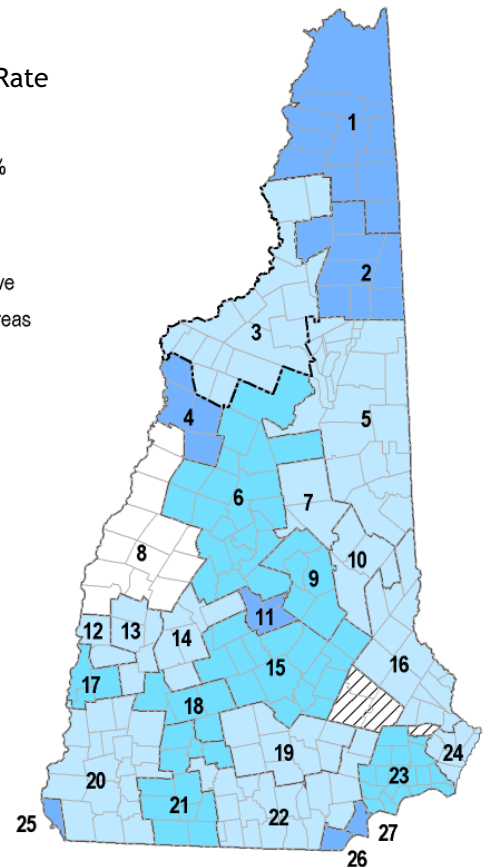
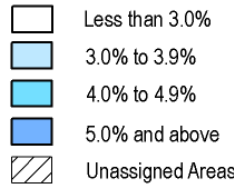
Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

Not Seasonally Adjusted

By Place of Residence

| Counties | Jan-08 | Dec-07 | Jan-07 |
|--------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Belknap | 4.7% | 3.6% | 4.8% |
| Carroll | 3.9% | 3.2% | 4.3% |
| Cheshire | 4.0% | 3.2% | 4.4% |
| Coos | 5.0% | 4.5% | 5.9% |
| Grafton | 3.5% | 2.7% | 3.7% |
| Hillsborough | 3.9% | 3.3% | 4.3% |
| Merrimack | 3.9% | 3.0% | 4.1% |
| Rockingham | 4.2% | 3.6% | 4.4% |
| Strafford | 3.7% | 3.0% | 4.0% |
| Sullivan | 3.5% | 2.7% | 3.7% |

January Unemployment Rate



New Hampshire unemployment and labor force estimates are calculated using a regression model which depends on Current Population Survey (CPS) estimates. Labor Market Area estimates are calculated using the Bureau of Labor Statistics "Handbook Method" and then adjusted to the State levels.

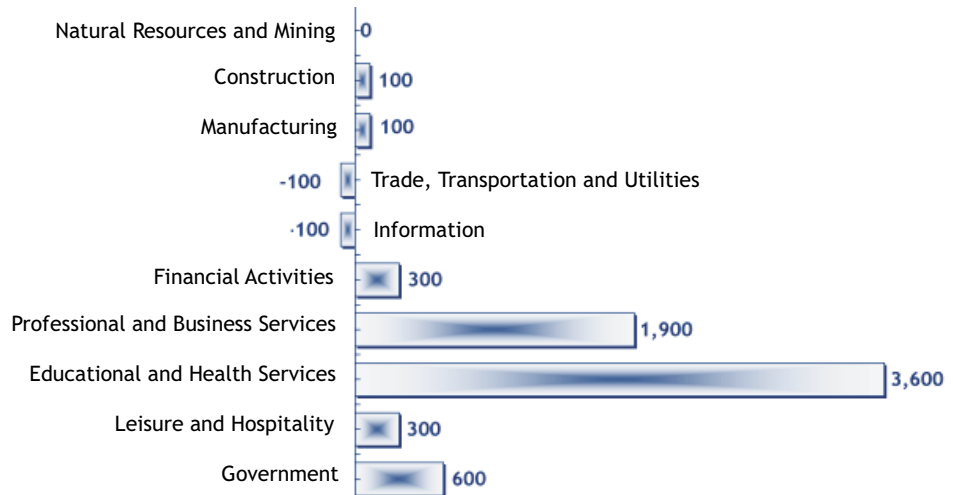
Monthly Not Seasonally Adjusted New Hampshire Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment

None of the industry sectors escaped the job reductions from December to January.

| Current Employment Statistics Employment by Supersector by place of establishment | Number of Jobs | | | Change from previous: | |
|---|------------------------|-------------------|---------|-----------------------|---------|
| | Jan-08 preliminary | Dec-07 revised | Jan-07 | Month | Year |
| | Total All Supersectors | 641,400 | 660,500 | 632,000 | -19,100 |
| Private Employment Total | 546,600 | 562,000 | 539,900 | -15,400 | 6,700 |
| Natural Resources and Mining | 1,000 | 1,100 | 1,000 | -100 | 0 |
| Construction | 25,700 | 28,400 | 25,600 | -2,700 | 100 |
| Manufacturing | 77,600 | 78,300 | 77,500 | -700 | 100 |
| Durable Goods | 59,800 | 60,000 | 59,500 | -200 | 300 |
| Non-Durable Goods | 17,800 | 18,300 | 18,000 | -500 | -200 |
| Trade, Transportation and Utilities | 141,400 | 148,000 | 141,500 | -6,600 | -100 |
| Wholesale Trade | 28,300 | 28,500 | 28,200 | -200 | 100 |
| Retail Trade | 98,100 | 103,700 | 98,000 | -5,600 | 100 |
| Transportation and Utilities | 15,000 | 15,800 | 15,300 | -800 | -300 |
| Information | 12,200 | 12,400 | 12,300 | -200 | -100 |
| Financial Activities | 38,400 | 38,600 | 38,100 | -200 | 300 |
| Professional and Business | 64,300 | 66,600 | 62,400 | -2,300 | 1,900 |
| Educational and Health | 104,600 | 105,500 | 101,000 | -900 | 3,600 |
| Leisure and Hospitality | 59,500 | 61,000 | 59,200 | -1,500 | 300 |
| Other Services | 21,900 | 22,100 | 21,300 | -200 | 600 |
| Government Total | 94,800 | 98,500 | 92,100 | -3,700 | 600 |

Change in Nonfarm Employment

Jan 2007 to Jan 2008



Monthly Analysis of Current Employment Statistics (CES) Data

For further analysis please read the *Detailed Monthly Analysis of Industry Employment Data* on our Web site at <www.nh.gov/nhes/elmi/nonfarm.htm>

Seasonally Adjusted: Preliminary seasonally adjusted estimates for January 2008 showed that New Hampshire employers overall dropped 600 positions from their books. Education and health services (supersector 65) led the charge with a 700-job reduction. Construction (supersector 20), professional and business services (supersector 60), and leisure and hospitality (supersector 70) each joined in with a 400-job setback.

A 1,400-job increase in government (supersector 90) employment during the month offset some of the previously

mentioned job losses, as the remaining supersectors held employment totals at their revised December levels.

Unadjusted: All sectors of New Hampshire’s economy contributed to the estimated 19,100 job reduction for January 2008 in the wake of the annual holiday shopping season.

As would be expected, trade, transportation, and utilities (supersector 40) headed up the list with a 6,600-job decrease, and government (supersector 90), with the university system between terms, had 3,700 fewer

Monthly Unadjusted Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment by Metropolitan Statistical Areas

| Employment by Sector number of jobs by place of establishment | Manchester NH MetroNECTA | | | Nashua NH-MA NECTA Division, NH Portion | | | Portsmouth NH-ME MetroNECTA, NH Portion | | | Rochester-Dover NH-ME MetroNECTA, NH Portion | | |
|---|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-------|--|--------------------------|------|---|--------------------------|-------|--|--------------------------|-------|
| | preliminary Jan-08 | Change from previous: | | preliminary Jan-08 | Change from previous: | | preliminary Jan-08 | Change from previous: | | preliminary Jan-08 | Change from previous: | |
| | | Month | Year | | Month | Year | | Month | Year | | Month | Year |
| Total All Sectors | 101,200 | -1,700 | 1,900 | 132,600 | -3,400 | 800 | 55,000 | -1,100 | 1,400 | 55,400 | -3,300 | 1,300 |
| Private Employment Total | 89,100 | -2,000 | 1,400 | 116,900 | -3,400 | 400 | 45,600 | -900 | 1,400 | 43,600 | -1,100 | 1,300 |
| Natural Resources and Construction | 4,600 | -300 | -200 | 4,700 | -500 | -100 | 1,400 | -200 | -100 | 1,800 | -200 | 0 |
| Manufacturing | 9,500 | -200 | 100 | 25,300 | -100 | -100 | 3,900 | 0 | 0 | 6,800 | -100 | 100 |
| Trade, Transportation and Utilities | 20,500 | -900 | 100 | 30,200 | -1,400 | -500 | 11,400 | -100 | 400 | 11,200 | -500 | -100 |
| Wholesale Trade | 4,700 | -100 | 0 | 6,300 | 100 | 200 | 2,000 | 0 | 0 | 1,200 | 0 | -100 |
| Retail Trade | 12,800 | -600 | 100 | 20,000 | -1,300 | -600 | 8,200 | -100 | 300 | 9,000 | -500 | 0 |
| Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities | Data not available | | | 3,900 | -200 | -100 | 1,200 | 0 | 100 | 1,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Information | 3,300 | 0 | 0 | 2,200 | 0 | 0 | 1,900 | 0 | 100 | 1,100 | 0 | 0 |
| Financial Activities | 8,500 | 0 | -100 | 8,800 | -100 | 200 | 4,900 | 0 | 200 | 3,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Professional and Business | 12,900 | -400 | 500 | 14,300 | -600 | 400 | 8,900 | -100 | 200 | 4,700 | 0 | 500 |
| Educational and Health | 17,000 | 0 | 500 | 17,000 | -200 | 300 | 5,700 | 0 | 100 | 8,100 | 0 | 500 |
| Leisure and Hospitality | 8,300 | -200 | 100 | 10,000 | -500 | 100 | 6,100 | -500 | 500 | 5,100 | -300 | 300 |
| Other Services | 4,500 | 0 | 400 | 4,400 | 0 | 100 | 1,400 | 0 | 0 | 1,800 | 0 | 0 |
| Government Total | 12,100 | 300 | 500 | 15,700 | 0 | 400 | 9,400 | -200 | 0 | 11,800 | -2,200 | 0 |

Average Earnings and Hours of Production Workers in Manufacturing

| Sector | Average Weekly Earnings | | | Average Weekly Hours | | | Average Hourly Earnings | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|----------|-----------------------|-------------------|--------|-------------------------|-------------------|---------|
| | Jan-08 preliminary | Dec-07 revised | Jan-07 | Jan-08 preliminary | Dec-07 revised | Jan-07 | Jan-08 preliminary | Dec-07 revised | Jan-07 |
| New Hampshire | | | | | | | | | |
| All Manufacturing | \$681.23 | \$697.82 | \$696.28 | 39.4 | 40.5 | 41.2 | \$17.29 | \$17.23 | \$16.90 |
| Durable Goods | \$710.62 | \$730.80 | \$719.49 | 40.7 | 42.0 | 42.1 | \$17.46 | \$17.40 | \$17.09 |
| Nondurable Goods | \$586.78 | \$592.98 | \$624.38 | 35.2 | 35.2 | 38.4 | \$16.67 | \$16.61 | \$16.26 |

workers on the job. The “red ink” continued as construction (supersector 20) pared 2,700 jobs, and professional and business services (supersector 65) dropped 2,300 jobs from the rolls in the preliminary unadjusted estimates. Following those job losses, leisure and hospitality (supersector 70) downsized by 1,500.

Those industrial groupings declining at a lesser rate included education and health services (supersector 65), which rolled back employment totals by 900, and manufacturing (supersector 30) which decreased its force by

700. Information (supersector 50), financial activities (supersector 55), and other services (supersector 80) each diminished their manpower numbers by 200. In wrapping up the month’s employment activity, natural resources and mining (supersector 10) trimmed payroll by 100 positions.

B. G. McKay

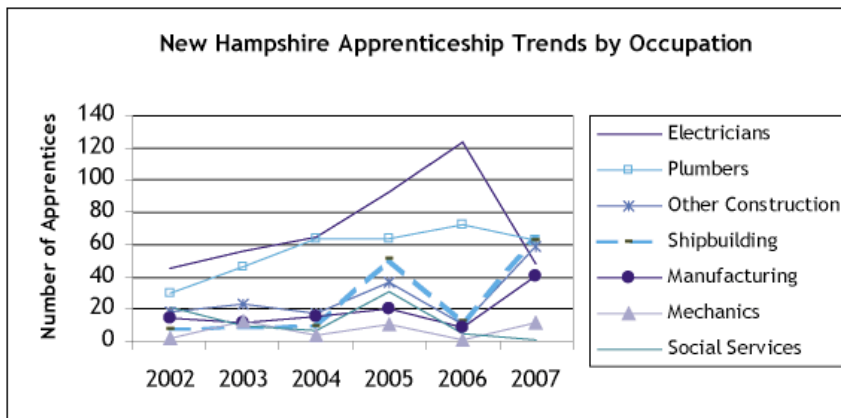
Continued from page 3

mechanics. In addition, New Hampshire is home to apprenticeship programs in the shipbuilding trades, which together have increased over 50 percent since 2004 after several years of limited growth. As new opportunities in advanced manufacturing and information technology arrive in New Hampshire over the next decade,

other occupations will undoubtedly be added to this mix.

The cost of participating in an apprenticeship varies depending on factors such as the trade, the type of courses taken, or the employer.⁹ While some employers pay for costs such as tools or tuition, others require apprentices to finance these costs on their own.¹⁰ Apprentices in some occupations, such as plumbing or electrical, are required to obtain an identification card from a state licensing board.¹¹ To help offset these expenses, financial aid may be available to eligible apprentices through community colleges, the state Department of Veterans Affairs, or the New Hampshire Higher Education Assistance Foundation.¹² For information on becoming an apprentice or starting a registered apprenticeship program, contact the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Apprenticeship at (603) 225-1444.

Benoni Amsden



Source: U.S Department of Labor



⁹New Hampshire Department of Education: Frequently asked questions about apprenticeships. <http://www.ed.state.nh.us/education/doe/organization/adultlearning/Career%20Development/FAQapp.htm>. Accessed 3/24/08.

¹⁰Ibid.

¹¹Licensed, Certified, and Registered Occupations in New Hampshire. New Hampshire Employment Security, Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau

¹²Ibid.

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