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Labor Market Digest, February 2008

Maine Department of Labor

Maine Center for Workforce Research and Information

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MAINE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Center for Workforce
Research and Information

INSIDE . . .

Cumberland County recorded the lowest unemployment rate at 3.9 percent.....page 3

Adjusted statewide unemployment rate edged down from 4.9 percent in January to 4.8 percent in February.....page 4

Nonfarm employment increased by 1,000 over the year.....page 6

*A publication of
the*

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Center for Workforce
Research and Information

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of Labor provides equal
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LABOR MARKET DIGEST

February Data

April 2008

Jobs in Demand

Identification of jobs in demand is vital to Maine's strategy for investing limited resources in individuals to develop the skills necessary to succeed in the labor market of today and tomorrow. A report soon to be issued by the Maine Department of Labor focuses on high-wage jobs in demand to help guide Maine workers towards more prosperous working lives.

The Labor Market

The shape of Maine's labor market has changed radically in the last several decades. The emergence of new technologies, rise and decline of industry clusters, intensification of international competition, and shifting consumption patterns have kept the pace of change high. It has been crucial for businesses and organizations of all kinds to stay abreast of shifts occurring in their sector. Keeping pace with customer needs, developing new lines of products and services, maximizing efficiency through lean processes, and developing nimble, responsive operations has become more imperative than ever. Those that have not done so have been susceptible to the powerful forces of competition.

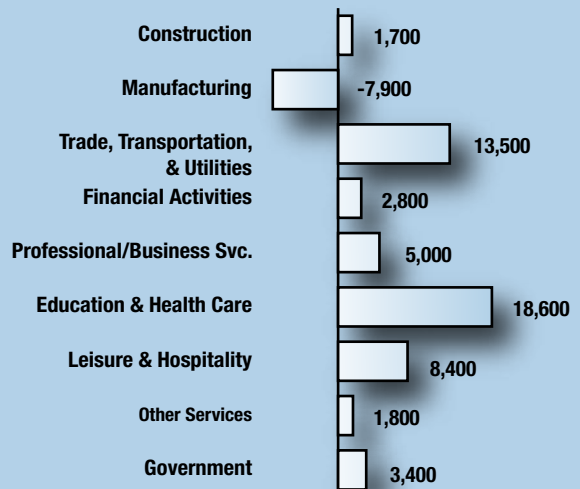
A host of industries such as footwear, apparel, and textile manufacturing have experienced a long-term pattern of job loss, while others, such as paper manufacturing, have

been in decline more recently. Meanwhile, health care, leisure and recreation, professional, business, and other types of service industries have grown rapidly. As the structure of employment continues to shift from goods-producing to service-providing industries and businesses in all sectors face pressures to find more efficient means of production and service delivery, individual workers must respond by enhancing their knowledge and skill sets to meet the changing needs of employers.

The on-going transition to a service-based economy amidst increasing global competition and management restructuring creates formidable challenges for workforce development. Making informed career decisions requires reliable information about opportunities in the future. Opportunities result from the relationships between population, labor force, and the demand for goods and services.

cont. on page 8

Most job growth is expected in the health care, trade, and leisure sectors between 2004 and 2014



Civilian Labor Force, Employed, and Unemployed by Labor Market Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted

AREA	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ¹			EMPLOYED ²			UNEMPLOYED ³			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE ⁴		
	Feb 08	Jan 08	Feb 07	Feb 08	Jan 08	Feb 07	Feb 08	Jan 08	Feb 07	Feb 08	Jan 08	Feb 07
LABOR MARKET AREAS⁵												
Augusta	43,600	42,920	43,380	41,170	40,570	41,110	2,430	2,350	2,270	5.6%	5.5%	5.2%
Augusta-Waterville Combined ⁶	66,020	65,440	65,680	62,260	61,760	62,120	3,760	3,680	3,560	5.7	5.6	5.4
Bangor	71,500	71,400	71,100	67,700	67,600	67,100	3,800	3,800	4,000	5.3	5.3	5.6
Belfast	12,890	12,920	12,910	11,860	11,930	12,010	1,030	990	900	8.0	7.7	7.0
Boothbay Harbor	3,780	3,790	3,760	3,480	3,520	3,470	300	280	300	7.9	7.3	7.8
Bridgton-Paris	14,270	14,450	14,220	13,190	13,440	13,190	1,080	1,010	1,030	7.6	7.0	7.2
Brunswick	34,740	35,070	34,550	33,070	33,400	32,920	1,670	1,660	1,640	4.8	4.7	4.7
Calais	6,040	6,040	5,950	5,320	5,350	5,370	720	690	580	11.8	11.4	9.7
Camden	7,520	7,520	7,450	7,040	7,060	7,030	490	460	420	6.5	6.1	5.7
Conway, NH-ME ⁷	3,850	3,900	3,860	3,670	3,700	3,680	180	190	180	4.6	4.9	4.6
Dover-Foxcroft	9,440	9,520	9,320	8,650	8,740	8,530	790	790	790	8.3	8.2	8.5
Ellsworth	27,350	27,240	27,520	24,890	24,870	25,220	2,450	2,370	2,300	9.0	8.7	8.4
Farmington	17,240	17,020	17,260	16,070	15,850	16,170	1,170	1,160	1,090	6.8	6.8	6.3
Houlton	8,520	8,590	8,440	7,920	7,980	7,870	600	610	560	7.1	7.1	6.7
Lewiston-Auburn	57,600	58,100	57,200	54,400	54,900	54,100	3,200	3,200	3,100	5.6	5.5	5.5
Lincoln	3,690	3,740	3,670	3,430	3,480	3,380	260	270	280	7.1	7.1	7.7
Machias	7,660	7,450	7,680	6,850	6,670	6,970	810	780	710	10.6	10.5	9.3
Madawaska	2,950	2,990	3,070	2,750	2,760	2,880	200	230	190	6.7	7.7	6.2
Millinocket	3,880	3,910	3,870	3,520	3,530	3,510	360	380	360	9.2	9.7	9.3
Pittsfield	7,850	7,890	7,720	7,150	7,180	7,050	700	710	680	8.9	9.0	8.8
Portland-South Portland-Biddeford	202,000	204,200	202,300	193,500	195,700	194,400	8,500	8,500	7,900	4.2	4.2	3.9
Portland-South Portland-Sanford Combined ⁶	213,400	215,700	213,700	204,000	206,300	205,000	9,400	9,400	8,600	4.4	4.4	4.0
Portsmouth, NH-ME ⁷	9,530	9,590	9,430	9,170	9,150	9,040	360	440	390	3.8	4.6	4.1
Presque Isle	25,060	24,900	24,900	23,240	23,070	23,270	1,810	1,820	1,630	7.2	7.3	6.5
Rochester-Dover, NH-ME ⁷	11,430	11,490	11,370	10,950	10,800	10,810	480	690	560	4.2	6.0	4.9
Rockland	12,170	12,080	12,200	11,380	11,370	11,490	800	710	710	6.5	5.9	5.8
Rumford	10,520	10,580	10,850	9,800	9,810	10,090	720	770	760	6.8	7.3	7.0
Saint George	1,380	1,390	1,400	1,320	1,320	1,330	60	70	70	4.5	4.8	4.7
Sanford	11,380	11,480	11,390	10,520	10,550	10,600	860	930	790	7.6	8.1	6.9
Skowhegan	14,700	14,760	14,820	13,340	13,430	13,510	1,350	1,340	1,300	9.2	9.1	8.8
Waldoboro	9,100	9,090	9,170	8,600	8,610	8,710	500	490	460	5.5	5.3	5.0
Waterville	22,410	22,520	22,300	21,080	21,200	21,010	1,330	1,330	1,290	5.9	5.9	5.8
York	16,300	16,420	16,090	15,410	15,420	15,290	890	1,000	800	5.5	6.1	5.0
MAINE	696,800	699,500	695,600	656,600	659,100	657,300	40,300	40,300	38,300	5.8	5.8	5.5
UNITED STATES (000)	152,503	152,828	151,879	144,550	144,607	144,479	7,953	8,221	7,400	5.2	5.4	4.9

¹ Civilian labor force, employed, and unemployed estimates are by place of residence. Current year estimates are preliminary; year-ago estimates are revised. Items may not add due to rounding. All data exclude members of the Armed Forces.

² Total employment includes nonfarm wage and salary workers, agricultural workers, unpaid family workers, domestics, the self employed, and workers involved in labor disputes.

³ People are classified as unemployed, regardless of their eligibility for unemployment benefits or public assistance, if they meet all of the following criteria: 1) they were not employed during the survey week; 2) they were available for work at that time; and 3) they made specific efforts to find employment some time during the prior four weeks. Persons laid off from their former jobs and awaiting recall and those expecting to report to a job within 30 days need not be looking for work to be counted as unemployed.

⁴ The unemployment rate is calculated by dividing the total number of unemployed by the total civilian labor force and is expressed as a percent.

⁵ Bangor; Lewiston-Auburn; Portland-South Portland-Biddeford; Portsmouth, NH-ME; and Rochester-Dover, NH-ME are Metropolitan Statistical Areas. Augusta, Brunswick, Rockland, Sanford, and Waterville are Micropolitan Statistical Areas.

⁶ Adjacent metropolitan and/or micropolitan statistical areas that have a specific level of economic integration, but still retain separate identities.

⁷ Maine portion of the area which includes towns in both Maine and New Hampshire.

Source: Maine Department of Labor, Center for Workforce Research and Information, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Civilian Labor Force, Employed, and Unemployed by County, Not Seasonally Adjusted¹

AREA	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYED			UNEMPLOYED			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	Feb 08	Jan 08	Feb 07	Feb 08	Jan 08	Feb 07	Feb 08	Jan 08	Feb 07	Feb 08	Jan 08	Feb 07
COUNTY												
Androscoggin	58,520	59,000	58,170	55,270	55,840	55,030	3,250	3,160	3,140	5.6%	5.4%	5.4%
Aroostook	35,570	35,550	35,480	33,040	32,930	33,150	2,520	2,610	2,320	7.1	7.4	6.5
Cumberland	154,970	156,650	155,150	148,870	150,580	149,460	6,090	6,070	5,690	3.9	3.9	3.7
Franklin	14,640	14,470	14,700	13,680	13,500	13,770	960	980	940	6.6	6.8	6.4
Hancock	27,560	27,460	27,740	25,120	25,110	25,430	2,430	2,350	2,310	8.8	8.6	8.3
Kennebec	63,290	62,700	63,010	59,750	59,230	59,630	3,540	3,470	3,380	5.6	5.5	5.4
Knox	20,470	20,390	20,470	19,190	19,200	19,320	1,280	1,180	1,160	6.3	5.8	5.7
Lincoln	17,310	17,350	17,330	16,260	16,310	16,330	1,050	1,040	1,000	6.1	6.0	5.7
Oxford	29,180	29,460	29,430	27,140	27,410	27,420	2,040	2,050	2,000	7.0	6.9	6.8
Penobscot	78,620	78,600	78,130	74,180	74,150	73,510	4,440	4,440	4,620	5.7	5.7	5.9
Piscataquis	7,550	7,630	7,460	6,920	6,990	6,820	630	640	640	8.3	8.4	8.6
Sagadahoc	18,950	19,130	18,840	18,000	18,190	17,920	950	940	910	5.0	4.9	4.9
Somerset	25,060	25,150	25,020	22,870	22,980	22,950	2,190	2,170	2,070	8.8	8.6	8.3
Waldo	18,680	18,680	18,650	17,210	17,280	17,330	1,460	1,400	1,320	7.8	7.5	7.1
Washington	14,470	14,250	14,390	12,860	12,710	13,040	1,610	1,540	1,350	11.1	10.8	9.4
York	112,010	113,000	111,670	106,190	106,740	106,180	5,810	6,260	5,490	5.2	5.5	4.9
MAINE	696,800	699,500	695,600	656,600	659,100	657,300	40,300	40,300	38,300	5.8	5.8	5.5
UNITED STATES (000)	152,503	152,828	151,879	144,550	144,607	144,479	7,953	8,221	7,400	5.2	5.4	4.9

¹ See page 2 for footnotes 1 through 4 and source.

Area Analyst's Corner

Central Maine Merrill Huhtala (207) 621-5196

A new **Hannaford Supermarket** will be built in South China. Once all permits are acquired, construction should be completed within a year. ♦ In Augusta, the sale of part of the former Cony High school to be developed as a **Hannaford Supermarket** is a done deal. Hannaford officials intend to have the new supermarket certified by the U.S. Green Building Council as a "platinum-level LEED building," its highest designation. Hannaford said it would be the first supermarket to meet that industry standard. ♦ **Rafting outfitters** in Central Maine say early bookings for the summer look positive, despite high gas prices and a sluggish economy.

Western Maine Gerard Dennison (207) 753-9045

Bath Iron Works laid off 63 people effective April 4. The layoffs affected pipefitters, tin-smiths, electricians, preservation technicians, and ship riggers. In February BIW was awarded a nearly \$1.4 billion construction contract for the first DDG-1000 destroyer. Both BIW and Northrop Grumman's Pascagoula, Miss., shipyard were awarded construction contracts for the new Elmo Zumwalt class of destroyers. The yards are slated to build the first and second ships in the state-of-the-art line, respectively, and the two contract agreements add up to around \$2.8 billion. ♦ The Auburn Planning Board unanimously approved a plan calling for a 300-space garage and a 110-room **Hampton Inn**.

North/East Maine Craig Holland (207) 941-3076

Employees at **Eastern Manufacturing** in Brewer have started constructing portions of about 70 building modules that have been ordered by a Texas refinery. Manufacturing began the first week of March with about 40 people. Once fully operational, the Brewer facility will employ at least 500 local welders, pipe fitters, electricians, and other skilled personnel. ♦ The 2007 **blueberry harvest** came in at 76.9 million pounds worth an estimated \$72.1 million, with a crop yield of three percent more berries than the 2006 harvest. The 2007 crop is the fourth largest on record.

Southern Maine Gerard Dennison (207) 753-9045

Flotation Technologies, located in Biddeford, is being purchased by Texas-based Deep Down, Inc., which makes heavy duty flotation systems for companies like Shell and Exxon-Mobil. ♦ **Cordija**, a privately held equity firm based in Maryland, has acquired **HCI Systems Management, LLC**, of Portland; HCI Systems develops proprietary software. The acquisition will aid in the growth into new markets and growth of staff. **Prime Tanning Company**, based in Berwick, is expanding for the second time in less than a year. The company is merging with the Chinese company Shanghai Richina Leather Company, Ltd. No workers in Maine will be affected by the merger; 90 workers in Wisconsin will be terminated.

Civilian Labor Force, Employed, and Unemployed in Maine, Seasonally Adjusted (in thousands)

ITEM	2008		2007										
	Feb	Jan	Dec	Nov	Oct	Sep	Aug	Jul	Jun	May	Apr	Mar	Feb
Civilian Labor Force	706.9	709.6	706.5	705.5	705.4	704.5	704.2	704.6	704.0	703.6	703.6	704.2	704.6
Employed	672.9	674.5	671.9	671.3	671.0	670.2	670.4	670.9	671.1	670.5	670.7	671.8	672.4
Unemployed	34.0	35.1	34.6	34.2	34.4	34.3	33.9	33.7	32.9	33.2	32.9	32.3	32.2
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.8	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.6

¹ See page 2 for footnotes 1 through 4 and source.

Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment in Maine, Seasonally Adjusted¹ (in thousands)

INDUSTRY	2008		2007										
	Feb	Jan	Dec	Nov	Oct	Sep	Aug	Jul	Jun	May	Apr	Mar	Feb
Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment	617.4	619.1	619.8	618.9	617.9	617.7	618.2	617.7	617.5	615.8	613.7	616.8	616.6
Natural Resources	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.8	2.7
Construction	29.9	30.6	31.0	30.8	30.8	30.9	30.8	30.7	30.9	30.6	30.5	30.9	30.7
Manufacturing	58.1	58.5	58.3	58.5	58.8	59.1	59.3	59.5	59.5	59.1	59.1	59.2	59.2
Durable Goods	30.7	31.1	30.7	31.0	31.3	31.3	31.4	31.5	31.5	31.4	31.3	31.3	31.4
Nondurable Goods	27.4	27.4	27.6	27.5	27.5	27.8	27.9	28.0	28.0	27.7	27.8	27.9	27.8
Trade, Transportation and Public Utilities	126.4	127.1	127.3	127.3	126.2	126.0	126.5	126.5	126.2	125.9	125.5	126.3	125.9
Wholesale Trade	21.0	21.1	21.2	21.1	21.1	21.2	21.2	21.3	21.2	21.2	21.2	21.3	21.2
Retail Trade	87.9	88.5	88.5	88.8	87.7	87.5	88.0	87.9	87.8	87.6	87.1	87.7	87.5
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	17.5	17.5	17.6	17.4	17.4	17.3	17.3	17.3	17.2	17.1	17.2	17.3	17.2
Information	11.3	11.2	11.3	11.2	11.2	11.1	11.3	11.3	11.4	11.4	11.5	11.4	11.4
Financial Activities	32.9	33.0	33.0	33.1	33.1	33.2	33.3	33.4	33.4	33.4	33.3	33.3	33.4
Finance and Insurance	25.8	25.9	25.9	25.9	26.0	26.1	26.1	26.2	26.2	26.2	26.2	26.2	26.2
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.2
Professional and Business Services	54.1	54.1	54.2	54.1	54.0	54.0	54.1	53.9	53.6	53.2	53.1	52.9	53.0
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Svcs.	23.7	23.8	23.8	23.7	23.7	23.7	23.8	23.8	23.6	23.5	23.6	23.4	23.6
Admin. & Support & Waste Mgmt. Svcs.	24.0	24.2	24.1	24.0	23.9	23.9	23.7	23.6	23.6	23.3	23.2	23.3	23.2
Educational and Health Services	117.3	116.8	116.7	116.3	116.0	116.2	116.2	115.9	116.0	116.0	115.5	115.9	116.1
Educational Services	19.7	19.8	19.5	19.5	19.4	19.5	19.5	19.4	19.4	19.5	19.4	19.4	19.5
Health Care and Social Assistance	97.6	97.0	97.2	96.8	96.6	96.7	96.7	96.5	96.6	96.5	96.1	96.5	96.6
Leisure and Hospitality Services	61.5	61.2	60.6	60.0	60.0	60.2	60.2	59.8	59.8	59.3	59.1	60.4	60.8
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	8.7	8.4	7.9	8.0	8.1	8.1	8.3	8.2	8.1	8.1	7.7	8.1	8.2
Accommodation and Food Services	52.8	52.8	52.7	52.0	51.9	52.1	51.9	51.6	51.7	51.2	51.4	52.3	52.6
Other Services	19.8	19.9	20.0	20.0	20.0	19.9	19.9	19.9	20.0	19.9	19.8	19.7	19.8
Government	103.5	104.0	104.7	104.9	105.1	104.4	103.9	104.1	104.0	104.4	103.7	104.0	103.6
Federal Government	13.9	14.0	14.1	14.2	14.2	14.3	14.2	14.2	14.2	14.2	14.1	14.2	14.1
State Government	27.9	27.6	27.9	28.3	28.2	27.6	27.4	27.6	27.5	28.0	27.6	27.7	27.7
Local Government	61.7	62.4	62.7	62.4	62.7	62.5	62.3	62.3	62.3	62.2	62.0	62.1	61.8

¹ See footnotes 1 and 2 on page 7. The Information industry is not suitable for seasonal adjustment because it has very little seasonal and irregular movement. Source: see page 2.

Maine Unemployment Rate 4.8 Percent in February

State Labor Commissioner Laura Fortman announced that the preliminary seasonally-adjusted February unemployment rate for Maine was 4.8 percent, down slightly from the revised rate of 4.9 percent for January. The national unemployment rate for February was 4.8 percent.

“While the Maine unemployment rate has been little changed recently, the Maine labor market, consistent with national trends, showed some signs of weakening in February,” said Commissioner Fortman. “The number of seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs fell by 1,700 between January and February. Despite the over-the-month job decline, the number of nonfarm jobs remained slightly above year-ago levels.”

The decline of 1,700 nonfarm wage and salary jobs over the month was due to losses in the private sector (-1,200) and government (-500). Within the private sector, gains by health care and social assistance and leisure and hospitality services were more than offset by losses in construction, manufacturing, and retail trade. The loss of government jobs was primarily temporary due to larger-than-normal seasonal job reductions in local government. Employment levels in local government should return to normal next month.

Between February 2007 and February 2008 the unemployment rate increased from 4.6 to 4.8 percent as employment growth slowed. The total number of seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs increased by 800. Over-the-year, the largest job gains were recorded in professional and business services, health care and social assistance; leisure and hospitality services; and retail trade. Job losses were registered in manufacturing, construction, and financial activities.

Other New England states reporting a seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for February include New Hampshire, 3.7 percent; Massachusetts, 4.5 percent; and Rhode Island, 5.8 percent. The adjusted national rate for February was 4.8 percent, down from 4.9 percent for December and up from 4.5 percent for February 2007.

The not-seasonally-adjusted Maine unemployment rate for February was 5.9 percent, up from 5.8 percent for January and 5.5 percent for February 2007. The unadjusted national rate was 5.2 percent for February, down from 5.4 percent for January and up from 4.9 percent for February 2007. Not-seasonally-adjusted February unemployment rates for Maine counties ranged from 3.9 percent for Cumberland County to 11.1 percent for Washington County.

Selected Regular Unemployment Compensation Program Indicators

Key Data	Feb 2008	Jan 2008	Feb 2007
Average Duration	14.1	14.0	13.8
Average Weekly Benefit Amount*	\$257.74	\$256.08	\$251.45
Exhaustees	802	750	776

* For totally unemployed claimants, excluding dependency allowances.

Weekly Initial Claims

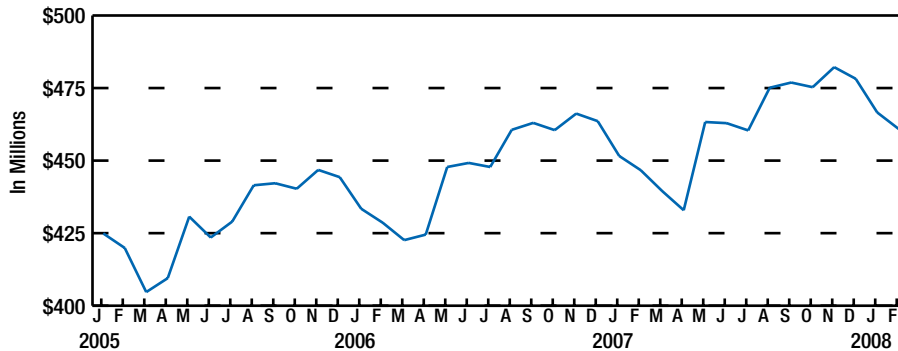
Week	3/1	2/23	2/16	2/9	2/2	1/26	1/19
2008	1,808	1,408	1,212	1,545	1,487	1,541	2,041
Week	3/3	2/24	2/17	2/10	2/3	1/27	1/20
2007	1,340	1,340	1,416	1,410	1,787	1,850	1,860

Continued Claims Less Partial*

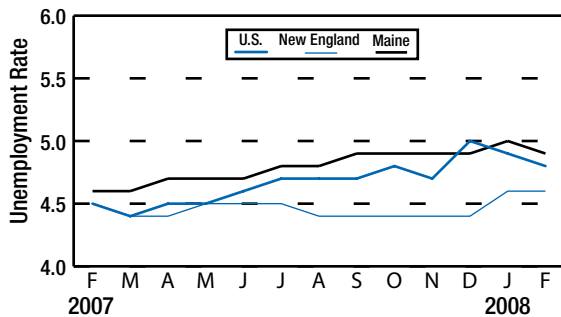
Feb 2008	Jan 2008	Feb 2007
15,317	13,627	14,045

* For the week including the 12th of the month.

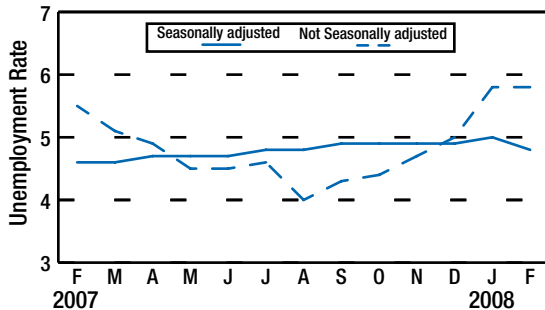
Monthly Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund Balance



Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted



Unemployment Rates for Maine



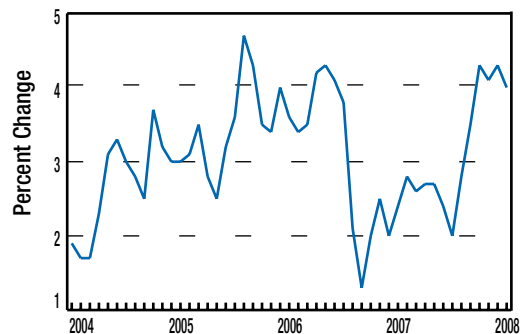
U.S. Consumer Price Index

for all urban consumers (CPI-U)

Item	Feb 08	Jan 08	Feb 07	Dec 07
(1982-1984 = 100) All Items	211.7	211.1	203.5	210.0

Percent Change from Prior Month +0.3%
 Percent Change from 12 Months Ago +4.0%
 Percent change from Last December +0.8%

Over-the-Year Change in CPI-U



Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment, Not Seasonally Adjusted (in thousands)

INDUSTRY	MAINE			PORTLAND- SO. PORTLAND MSA			LEWISTON- AUBURN MSA**			BANGOR MSA		
	Feb 08	Jan 08	Feb 07	Feb 08	Jan 08	Feb 07	Feb 08	Jan 08	Feb 07	Feb 08	Jan 08	Feb 07
Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment¹	597.2	597.0	596.2	189.4	190.7	189.0	48.2	48.5	48.0	64.8	64.8	65.1
Total Private	491.0	493.6	489.9	164.2	165.6	163.0	42.1	42.6	42.0	51.2	51.7	51.4
Goods Producing	86.1	87.9	87.7	23.2	23.5	23.6	7.9	8.0	8.2	5.8	6.1	5.6
Natural Resources and Mining	2.8	2.8	2.9	*	*	*	*	*	*	0.3	0.3	0.2
Logging	2.7	2.7	2.9	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Construction	26.2	27.5	26.9	*	*	*	*	*	*	2.6	2.8	2.5
Construction of Buildings	6.7	7.0	7.2	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	2.6	2.7	2.6	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Specialty Trade Contractors	16.9	17.8	17.1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Manufacturing	57.1	57.6	57.9	14.3	14.3	14.4	5.9	5.9	6.0	2.9	3.0	2.9
Durable Goods	30.2	30.6	30.7	6.9	6.9	7.2	*	*	*	*	*	*
Wood Product Manufacturing	5.2	5.4	5.7	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Computer and Electronic Product Mfg.	3.0	3.0	3.3	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	9.4	9.5	9.1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Nondurable Goods	26.9	27.0	27.2	7.4	7.4	7.2	*	*	*	*	*	*
Paper Manufacturing	8.2	8.2	8.5	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Service-Providing	511.1	509.1	508.5	166.2	167.2	165.4	40.3	40.5	39.8	59.0	58.7	59.5
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	121.2	124.6	120.7	40.8	42.0	40.0	10.1	10.5	9.8	15.4	15.7	15.2
Wholesale Trade	20.5	20.7	20.7	8.5	8.5	8.5	1.3	1.3	1.4	2.1	2.1	2.1
Retail Trade	83.5	86.6	83.1	26.7	27.9	26.1	6.4	6.8	6.2	10.3	10.6	10.1
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	10.0	10.1	10.2	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Food and Beverage Stores	17.9	18.1	17.5	5.8	5.8	5.6	*	*	*	*	*	*
General Merchandise Stores	12.3	12.6	12.2	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Nonstore Retailers	8.5	9.6	8.2	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	17.2	17.3	16.9	5.6	5.6	5.4	2.4	2.4	2.2	3.0	3.0	3.0
Utilities	1.9	1.9	1.9	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Transportation and Warehousing	15.3	15.4	15.0	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Information	11.3	11.2	11.4	5.1	5.1	5.1	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.4	1.4	1.5
Publishing Industries	3.6	3.5	3.7	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Financial Activities	32.6	32.7	33.0	15.5	15.5	15.4	3.1	3.1	3.2	2.3	2.3	2.2
Finance and Insurance	25.8	25.9	26.2	12.5	12.5	12.5	*	*	*	*	*	*
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	11.9	11.9	11.9	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	6.8	6.8	6.8	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Professional and Business Services	52.1	52.1	51.0	22.2	22.5	22.1	4.9	5.0	4.7	5.5	5.5	5.5
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Svcs.	23.8	23.7	23.7	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Mgmt. of Companies and Enterprises	6.4	6.4	6.2	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Admin. & Support & Waste Mgmt. Svcs.	21.9	22.0	21.1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Education and Health Services	117.1	115.1	116.5	34.8	34.3	34.4	10.7	10.6	10.6	13.7	13.6	14.0
Educational Services	20.5	18.6	20.3	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Health Care and Social Assistance	97.2	96.5	96.2	30.1	30.0	29.9	*	*	*	*	*	*
Ambulatory Health Care Services	26.3	26.0	25.9	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Hospitals	30.6	30.5	29.8	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Nursing and Residential Care	22.2	22.2	22.3	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Social Assistance	18.1	17.8	18.2	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Leisure and Hospitality	50.6	50.5	50.3	16.9	16.9	16.7	3.4	3.4	3.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	7.5	7.3	7.2	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Accommodation and Food Services	43.1	43.2	43.1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Accommodation	7.2	7.0	7.1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Food Services and Drinking Places	35.9	36.2	36.0	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Other Services	19.4	19.5	19.3	5.7	5.8	5.7	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.7	1.7	2.0
Government	106.2	103.4	106.3	25.2	25.1	26.0	6.1	5.9	6.0	13.6	13.1	13.7
Federal	13.9	14.0	14.1	2.3	2.4	2.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1.2	1.3	1.3
State	29.1	26.0	29.0	5.8	5.7	6.6	1.0	0.8	1.0	7.1	6.5	6.9
Local ²	63.2	63.4	63.2	17.1	17.0	17.1	4.8	4.8	4.7	5.3	5.3	5.5

* Where an employment estimate is not entered, either the data is not available in sufficient detail for publication or is nondisclosable by law.

** The 2008 estimates for this area are not validated or published by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Footnotes: See page 7

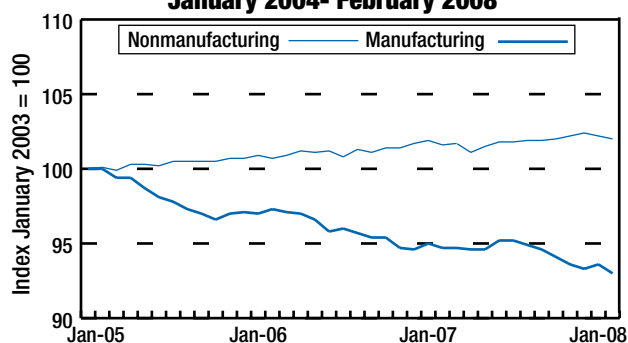
Earnings and Hours of Production Workers in Manufacturing Industries¹ Not Seasonally Adjusted

AREA AND INDUSTRY	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS			ANNUAL AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	Feb 08	Jan 08	Feb 07	Feb 08	Jan 08	Feb 07	Feb 08	Jan 08	Feb 07	2007	2006	2005
STATEWIDE												
Manufacturing	\$819.00	\$838.70	\$778.18	42.0	42.9	41.0	\$19.50	\$19.55	\$18.98	\$19.19	\$18.57	\$17.28
Durable Goods	801.63	820.20	788.66	41.3	42.3	40.8	19.41	19.39	19.33	19.51	19.01	16.77
Nondurable Goods	834.11	857.39	768.59	42.6	43.5	41.3	19.58	19.71	18.61	18.87	18.18	17.81

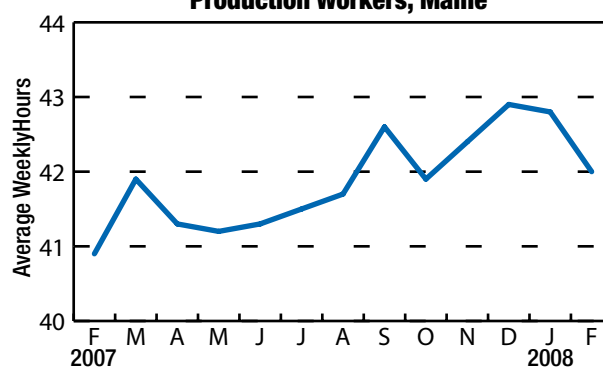
¹ Hours worked and earnings data are computed based on payroll figures for the week including the 12th of the month for manufacturing production workers. Average hourly earnings are calculated on a gross basis, and include such factors as premium pay for overtime and shift differential, as well as changes in basic hourly and incentive rates of pay. Average weekly earnings are the product of weekly hours worked and hourly earnings.

Source: See page 2.

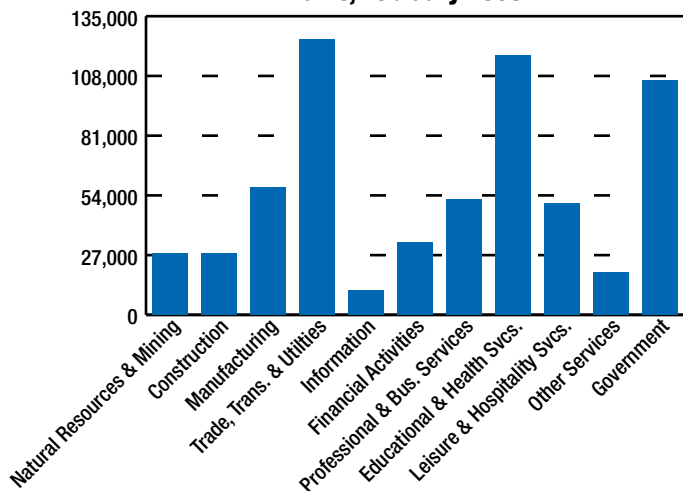
**Nonfarm Employment Trend by Sector
January 2004- February 2008¹**



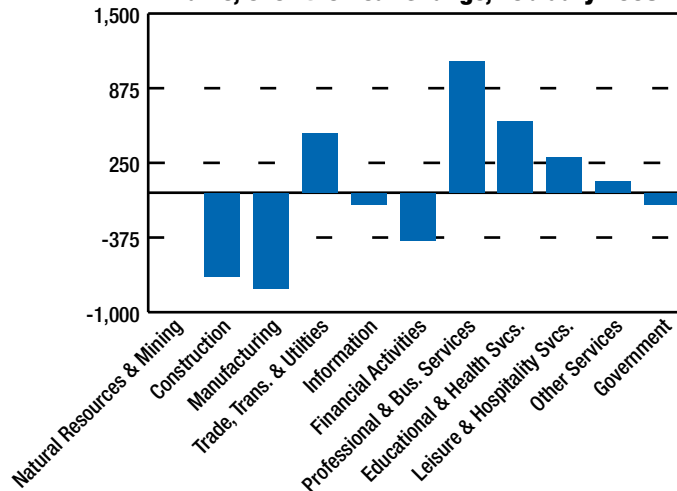
**Hours Worked by Manufacturing
Production Workers, Maine²**



**Nonfarm Employment by Industry Supersector
Maine, February 2008²**



**Nonfarm Employment by Industry Supersector
Maine, Over-the-Year Change, February 2008²**



¹ Seasonally Adjusted. ² Not Seasonally Adjusted.

Footnotes: From page 6.

¹ Nonfarm wage and salary employment estimates include all full- and part-time wage and salary workers who worked during or received pay for the pay period which includes the 12th of the month. Domestic workers in private households, proprietors, the self-employed, and unpaid family workers are excluded. Estimates measure the number of jobs by industry. Current month's estimates are preliminary; prior month and year-ago estimates are revised. These estimates are benchmarked to March 2007. As a measure of reliability, the March 2007 benchmark revision for total nonfarm wage and salary employment was 0.05 percent higher than the original sample-based estimate.

² Regular teachers are included in summer months whether or not specifically paid in those months.

Source: See page 2.

cont. from page 1

Jobs in Demand

A priority was articulated in Maine's Workforce Investment Act Strategic Plan of "...helping workers acquire the skills and supports they need to obtain jobs that pay livable wages so that they can achieve economic security." Although not addressing the issue of livable wages, jobs for which there is a demand and that pay wages above the statewide median can be focused on.

Job openings arise from two sources: growth and replacement. Between 2004 and 2014, an average of 21,800 job openings is expected each year; nearly 6,000 due to growth and 15,800 due to replacement needs. Replacement needs arise as workers leave occupations. Some transfer to other occupations, while others retire, return to school, or quit to assume household responsibilities.

High-Growth, High-Wage Occupations

Employment growth is projected at 7.2 percent for all occupations in Maine between 2004 and 2014. Occupations projected to grow at or above the 7.2 percent average are considered high-growth. Median earnings for all occupations combined were \$13.76 per hour (\$28,621 per year) in 2006. Occupations for which the median hourly wage is \$13.76 or higher meet the high-wage criteria. To be considered a high-growth, high-wage occupation, both criteria must be met.

There are 190 individual occupations that meet the definition of high-wage, high-growth occupations. Almost 30 percent of the high-wage, high-growth occupational openings is accounted for by five occupations: registered nurses,

general and operations managers, truck drivers, sales representatives, and automotive mechanics. In general, the occupations in most demand reflect the growth in service-producing industries, particularly health care.

High-Wage, In-Demand Occupations

The definition of a high-wage, in-demand occupation is based on projected job openings of 20 or more a year (based on growth and replacement) between 2004 and 2014. In addition, the occupation must have a median wage of \$13.76 or higher.

The high-wage high-growth definition focused specifically on occupations projected to grow at or above the 7.2 percent average for all occupations, with a median wage at or above the \$13.76 median for all Maine occupations. This does not address the 73 percent of projected job openings that will exist to meet replacement demand. By focusing on total demand (growth and replacement), an additional 2,080 annual job openings met the criteria, despite not including occupations with less than 20 annual job openings.

The top five occupations based on total openings are registered nurses, general and operations managers, truck drivers, supervisors/managers of retail sales workers, and sales representatives.

For More Information

Tables providing the high-growth, high-wage and high-demand, high-wage occupations are available on our website at www.state.me.us/labor/lmis/. A full report will soon be available at the same site.

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