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Labor Market Digest, December 2007

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 3.5 percent..... page 3

Adjusted statewide unemployment rate rose from 4.9 percent in November to 5.1 percent in December.....page 4

Nonfarm employment increased by 4,200 over the year.....page 6

A publication of
the

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Center for Workforce
Research and Information

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LABOR MARKET DIGEST

December Data

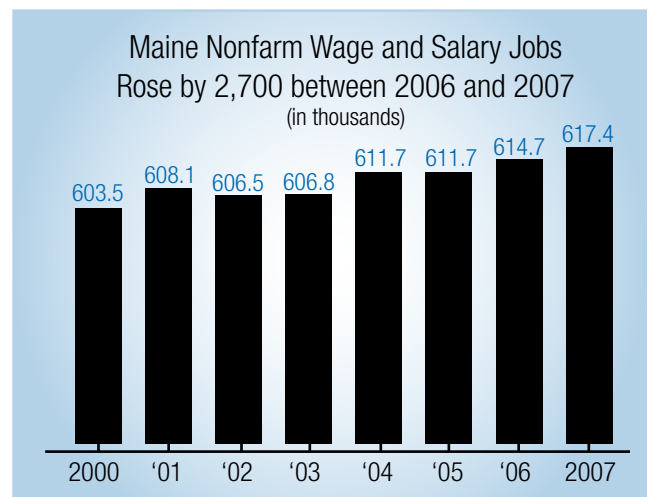
February 2008

Year-End Labor Market Review

The Maine economy has experienced relatively slow growth since 2000. Maine gross state product (the most comprehensive measure of economic activity) increased by 12.7 percent between 2000 and 2006. This was a faster rate of growth than the increase of 10.8 percent for New England but below the national growth rate of 15.8 percent. Between 2005 and 2006, the Maine growth rate slipped to 1.9 percent, below the New England (2.5 percent) and national (3.4 percent) growth rates.

Nonfarm Jobs Up 2,700 Between 2006 and 2007

Reflecting slow economic growth in Maine, nonfarm wage and salary jobs increased by 0.5 percent between 2005 and 2006 compared to a national growth rate of 1.8 percent. Jobs increased slowly again in Maine between 2006 and 2007, up 0.4 percent compared to a national growth rate of 1.3 percent.



- ◆ **Job gains** by industry sector between 2006 and 2007: education and health services (2,000); professional and business services (1,600); trade transportation, and utilities (800); other services (200); and leisure and hospitality services (200).
- ◆ **Job losses** by industry sector between 2006 and 2007: manufacturing (-900), construction (-500), and financial activities (-300).
- ◆ **Largest employers** during the third quarter of 2007: Hannaford Brothers, Wal Mart, LL Bean, Inc., Maine Medical Center, Bath Iron Works, and Eastern Maine General Medical Center.
- ◆ **Net job change** between 2006 and 2007 for Maine Metropolitan Statistical Areas: Portland-South Portland (1,700), Lewiston-Auburn (700), Bangor (-200).

Civilian Labor Force Participation Little Changed

Overall, there was little change in labor force participation between 2006 and 2007, with the number of Maine residents working or looking for work edging up by 1,500. The number of Maine residents employed increased by 600 between 2006 and 2007. The number of unemployed also rose slightly, up 900. The unemployment rate for Maine rose from 4.6 percent in 2006 to 4.7 percent in 2007.

Nonfarm wage and salary employment estimates are revised in the first quarter of each year for the previous two years. The final 2006 and revised 2007 estimates by month are available on our website at www.maine.gov/labor/lmis

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		
	Dec 07	Nov 07	Dec 06	Dec 07	Nov 07	Dec 06	Dec 07	Nov 07	Dec 06	Dec 07	Nov 07	Dec 06
LABOR MARKET AREA												
Augusta	43,240	43,520	43,720	41,140	41,550	41,890	2,110	1,980	1,830	4.9%	4.5%	4.2%
Augusta-Waterville Combined ⁶	66,190	66,520	66,900	62,850	63,400	63,980	3,340	3,130	2,910	5.0	4.7	4.4
Bangor	73,000	72,700	72,300	69,700	69,300	69,000	3,400	3,300	3,300	4.6	4.6	4.6
Belfast	13,110	13,220	13,370	12,270	12,520	12,650	850	690	710	6.5	5.2	5.3
Boothbay Harbor	4,070	4,110	4,100	3,810	3,880	3,860	260	230	240	6.4	5.6	5.8
Bridgton-Paris	14,390	14,250	14,570	13,550	13,480	13,770	840	770	800	5.9	5.4	5.5
Brunswick	34,530	34,890	34,470	33,100	33,520	33,140	1,430	1,370	1,330	4.1	3.9	3.8
Calais	6,110	6,010	6,200	5,490	5,520	5,700	610	490	510	10.0	8.2	8.2
Camden	7,760	7,810	7,920	7,390	7,460	7,610	370	350	320	4.8	4.4	4.0
Conway, NH-ME ⁷	3,770	3,690	3,800	3,620	3,540	3,670	150	160	140	4.0	4.2	3.7
Dover-Foxcroft	9,710	9,650	9,660	8,930	8,960	8,980	780	690	680	8.0	7.1	7.0
Ellsworth	28,300	28,630	28,970	26,290	26,990	27,160	2,010	1,640	1,810	7.1	5.7	6.2
Farmington	17,130	16,710	17,500	16,010	15,600	16,480	1,120	1,110	1,020	6.5	6.6	5.8
Houlton	8,610	8,570	8,760	7,990	7,990	8,130	620	580	630	7.2	6.8	7.2
Lewiston-Auburn	58,100	58,100	58,200	55,200	55,400	55,600	2,900	2,700	2,600	4.9	4.7	4.4
Lincoln	3,820	3,850	3,860	3,570	3,610	3,590	250	240	270	6.5	6.2	7.1
Machias	8,860	8,990	9,230	8,320	8,510	8,730	540	480	500	6.1	5.3	5.4
Madawaska	2,900	2,880	2,950	2,700	2,690	2,790	200	190	160	7.0	6.7	5.5
Millinocket	4,200	4,220	4,360	3,810	3,840	3,960	390	390	400	9.3	9.1	9.2
Pittsfield	7,750	7,670	7,800	7,130	7,140	7,220	630	530	580	8.1	6.9	7.5
Portland-South Portland-Biddeford	205,600	206,700	207,900	198,000	198,900	201,200	7,700	7,800	6,800	3.7	3.8	3.2
Portland-South Portland-Sanford Combined ⁶	217,000	218,100	219,300	208,600	209,600	211,900	8,400	8,500	7,400	3.9	3.9	3.4
Portsmouth, NH-ME ⁷	9,630	9,730	9,700	9,340	9,420	9,390	290	300	310	3.0	3.1	3.2
Presque Isle	25,090	24,840	25,640	23,350	23,310	24,060	1,750	1,530	1,570	7.0	6.2	6.1
Rochester-Dover, NH-ME ⁷	11,530	11,670	11,530	11,140	11,230	11,120	390	440	400	3.4	3.8	3.5
Rockland	12,570	12,740	12,570	11,950	12,160	12,000	620	590	570	4.9	4.6	4.6
Rumford	10,360	9,690	10,410	9,570	8,950	9,670	790	740	740	7.6	7.7	7.1
Saint George	1,460	1,470	1,440	1,390	1,410	1,390	70	60	50	4.9	4.1	3.3
Sanford	11,340	11,350	11,410	10,610	10,680	10,750	730	670	660	6.4	5.9	5.8
Skowhegan	14,800	14,840	15,060	13,590	13,790	13,880	1,210	1,060	1,180	8.2	7.1	7.8
Waldoboro	9,370	9,580	9,570	8,950	9,160	9,180	420	420	390	4.5	4.4	4.1
Waterville	22,950	23,000	23,180	21,720	21,850	22,090	1,230	1,150	1,080	5.4	5.0	4.7
York	16,810	17,120	16,900	16,100	16,410	16,250	720	710	650	4.3	4.1	3.8
MAINE	707,300	708,600	713,600	671,700	674,900	681,100	35,500	33,700	32,400	5.0	4.8	4.5
UNITED STATES (000)	153,705	154,035	152,571	146,334	147,118	146,081	7,371	6,917	6,491	4.8	4.5	4.3

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		
	Dec 07	Nov 07	Dec 06	Dec 07	Nov 07	Dec 06	Dec 07	Nov 07	Dec 06	Dec 07	Nov 07	Dec 06
COUNTY												
Androscoggin	59,010	59,060	59,210	56,150	56,300	56,630	2,850	2,760	2,580	4.8%	4.7%	4.4%
Aroostook	35,640	35,340	36,350	33,150	33,110	34,090	2,490	2,230	2,260	7.0	6.3	6.2
Cumberland	157,780	158,890	159,560	152,220	153,020	154,520	5,570	5,870	5,040	3.5	3.7	3.2
Franklin	14,550	14,210	14,880	13,610	13,250	14,000	940	960	880	6.5	6.7	5.9
Hancock	28,510	28,810	29,140	26,500	27,170	27,330	2,010	1,640	1,810	7.0	5.7	6.2
Kennebec	63,420	63,710	64,100	60,240	60,740	61,340	3,180	2,970	2,770	5.0	4.7	4.3
Knox	21,180	21,410	21,320	20,150	20,460	20,410	1,030	960	910	4.9	4.5	4.3
Lincoln	17,780	18,050	18,040	16,890	17,210	17,200	890	840	840	5.0	4.6	4.7
Oxford	28,960	28,070	29,130	27,140	26,410	27,490	1,820	1,650	1,640	6.3	5.9	5.6
Penobscot	80,520	80,260	80,130	76,460	76,250	76,040	4,060	4,020	4,090	5.0	5.0	5.1
Piscataquis	7,770	7,720	7,730	7,140	7,170	7,190	630	550	540	8.1	7.2	7.0
Sagadahoc	18,890	19,050	18,830	18,080	18,310	18,100	810	740	730	4.3	3.9	3.9
Somerset	25,070	25,070	25,400	23,140	23,360	23,570	1,930	1,710	1,830	7.7	6.8	7.2
Waldo	18,960	19,040	19,230	17,790	18,060	18,220	1,170	970	1,010	6.2	5.1	5.2
Washington	15,780	15,800	16,250	14,540	14,770	15,180	1,240	1,030	1,070	7.9	6.5	6.6
York	113,450	114,150	114,270	108,520	109,360	109,830	4,930	4,790	4,440	4.3	4.2	3.9
MAINE	707,300	708,600	713,600	671,700	674,900	681,100	35,500	33,700	32,400	5.0	4.8	4.5
UNITED STATES (000)	153,705	154,035	152,571	146,334	147,118	146,081	7,371	6,917	6,491	4.8	4.5	4.3

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

Area Analyst's Corner

Central Maine Merrill Huhtala (207) 621-5196

Hannaford Bros. purchased Winthrop's **Mister Market** and plans to replace it with a new, larger store. Mister Market will remain open while Hannaford obtains the required permits.

◆**Dennison Lubricants** of Lakeville, MA, will build a motor oil manufacturing and distribution facility in Gardiner, creating seven new jobs.◆**Camden National Corp** eliminated 45 positions following their acquisition of Union Bankshares. Affected employees may apply for 25 positions unfilled before the merger.◆**McGraw-Hill** closed its Rockport office, eliminating five full-time jobs as part of a corporate-wide restructuring.◆**T.J. Maxx** will open a new store in Waterville by May. Typically these stores employ about 75 full- and part-time workers.

Western Maine Gerard Dennison (207) 753-9045

Retailer **Steve and Barry** opened a new store in the Auburn Mall in December filling the anchor space left when Porteous closed in 2002. The Long Island-based department store offers clothes, shoes, jewelry, and accessories for the entire family.◆**Walgreens Pharmacy** opened a new store Bath.◆**Bath Iron Works** announced 73 layoffs effective February 1. The layoffs included 20 shipfitters, 16 insulators, 15 preservation technicians, 12 welders, and 10 machine operators.◆**NewPage Corp.** announced that it will permanently close the Number 11 paper machine at its Rumford mill by the end of February resulting in a loss of 60 jobs.

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

San Antonio Shoe will close its only Maine factory in Pittsfield, resulting in 145 employees losing their jobs by the end of summer.◆A Virginia-based telemarketing firm has chosen Pittsfield as the site for a call center that could employ up to 200 people. **GCS** provides telephone communications services to major national corporations in the fields of insurance, financial, telecom, and politics.◆**Maine Coast Memorial Hospital** announced a \$10 million expansion that will include relocating its emergency room and moving its maternity ward to the same floor as the operating room. The hospital, which has a staff of 711, will also expand its laboratory, consolidate administrative offices, and relocate the registration lobby. Work is expected to begin next July.

Southern Maine Gerard Dennison (207) 753-9045

The Village Café in Portland closed in early December 2007. Thirty to forty workers were affected, some having left before the restaurant officially closed.◆The new owner of the former Sheraton Hotel in South Portland, now a **Wyndham** hotel, will be investing \$4.5 million into renovations. These changes include upgrading the lobby and redoing guest and meeting rooms.◆Chicago-based **General Growth Properties** is revising its plans for land development across the street from the Maine Mall's Best Buy in South Portland. The new plan calls for an unnamed national bookstore chain, restaurants, and a bank. The development would cost in the vicinity of \$6.5 million. No timetable was announced.

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

ITEM	2007												2006
	Dec	Nov	Oct	Sep	Aug	Jul	Jun	May	Apr	Mar	Feb	Jan	Dec
Civilian Labor Force	712.5	712.4	710.7	709.1	707.1	710.8	712.3	713.8	714.3	714.4	713.5	719.6	716.7
Employed	675.9	677.7	676.3	674.7	673	676.8	680.6	681.4	683.9	683.9	682.3	687.9	683.6
Unemployed	36.6	34.7	34.4	34.4	34.1	34.1	31.7	32.4	30.4	30.4	31.3	31.7	33.1
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.1	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.4	4.5	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.4	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	2007												2006
	Dec	Nov	Oct	Sep	Aug	Jul	Jun	May	Apr	Mar	Feb	Jan	Dec
Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment	619.6	618.6	617.0	617.8	618.1	618.1	619.7	617.3	618.5	617.1	615.7	617.0	615.2
Natural Resources	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.8
Construction	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.4	31.2	31.6	32.1	31.8	32.1	31.7	31.8	31.8	31.5
Manufacturing	57.8	58.1	58.2	58.7	59.2	60.0	59.3	59.7	59.7	59.6	59.5	59.4	59.3
Durable Goods	30.9	31.1	31.2	31.2	31.5	31.8	31.9	32.1	32.1	32.0	31.7	31.7	31.9
Nondurable Goods	26.9	27.0	27.0	27.5	27.7	28.2	27.4	27.6	27.6	27.6	27.8	27.7	27.4
Trade, Transportation and Public Utilities	127.1	127.0	126.4	126.2	125.7	125.8	126.3	126.3	126.9	126.6	125.8	127.0	125.5
Wholesale Trade	21.5	21.6	21.8	21.7	21.7	21.8	22.0	21.9	21.9	21.7	21.6	21.6	21.6
Retail Trade	88.1	87.9	87.3	87.2	86.7	86.6	87.1	87.2	87.8	87.7	87.0	88.2	87.0
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	17.5	17.5	17.3	17.3	17.3	17.4	17.2	17.2	17.2	17.2	17.2	17.2	16.9
Information	11.4	11.3	11.3	11.3	11.4	11.4	11.4	11.4	11.3	11.3	11.3	11.4	11.4
Financial Activities	33.3	33.2	33.2	33.0	32.9	33.0	33.2	33.0	33.0	33.3	33.4	33.6	33.5
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.9	7.1	7.0	6.9	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.0
Professional and Business Services	53.1	52.9	52.8	52.8	52.8	52.6	53.1	52.7	52.8	52.3	52.3	51.8	51.9
Admin. & Support & Waste Mgmt. Svcs.	23.5	23.4	23.3	23.1	23.1	23.0	23.4	23.0	23.2	23.1	23.1	22.8	23.0
Educational and Health Services	117.6	117.4	117.1	117.0	116.6	116.4	116.4	115.8	115.9	115.6	115.2	114.9	114.5
Educational Services	18.8	18.8	18.7	18.6	18.8	18.3	18.6	18.7	18.7	18.6	18.6	18.5	18.4
Leisure and Hospitality Services	60.9	60.1	59.7	59.8	59.6	59.7	61.0	59.5	60.6	60.3	60.0	60.0	60.5
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	8.1	8.0	8.1	8.0	8.1	8.1	8.0	7.7	8.0	7.9	8.1	8.1	7.8
Accommodation and Food Services	52.8	52.1	51.6	51.8	51.5	51.6	53.0	51.8	52.6	52.4	51.9	51.9	52.7
Other Services	19.9	20.1	19.9	19.7	19.6	19.5	19.6	19.3	19.2	19.4	19.2	19.1	19.4
Government	105.2	105.2	105.1	106.1	106.4	105.3	104.5	105.1	104.4	104.3	104.4	105.2	104.9
State Government	28.3	28.4	28.3	28.7	28.5	28.5	28.4	28.5	28.0	28.0	27.9	28.7	28.6
Local Government	62.5	62.5	62.5	63.1	64.0	62.7	61.8	62.3	62.3	62.2	62.1	62.3	62.1

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

Maine Unemployment Rate 5.1 Percent in December

State Labor Commissioner Laura Fortman announced that the preliminary seasonally-adjusted December unemployment rate for Maine was 5.1 percent. The national unemployment rate for December was 5.0 percent.

“Reflecting national trends, seasonally-adjusted resident employment declined and unemployment rose in Maine between November and December,” said Commissioner Fortman. “Nationally, the rate rose from 4.7 percent to 5.0 percent, while in Maine the rate increased from 4.9 percent to 5.1 percent.”

The number of seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs, one component of total resident employment, increased by 1,000 between November and December. This gain was primarily the result of an increase of 700 in the accommodation and food services industry. It is likely that increased demand for these services was driven in large part by the best conditions in years for winter sports enthusiasts.

Between December 2006 and December 2007, the total number of seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs increased by 4,400. Over-the-year, the largest job gains were recorded in health care and social assistance; trade, transportation, and utilities; professional and business services; other services; and leisure and hospitality services.

Job losses were registered in manufacturing, construction, and financial activities.

Other New England states reporting a seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for December include New Hampshire, 3.6 percent; Massachusetts, 4.5 percent; and Connecticut, 5.0 percent. The adjusted national rate for December was 5.0 percent, up from 4.7 percent for November and 4.4 percent for December 2006.

The not-seasonally-adjusted Maine unemployment rate for December was 5.0 percent, up from 4.8 percent for November and 4.5 percent for December 2006. The unadjusted national rate was 4.8 percent for December, up from 4.5 percent for November and 4.3 percent for December 2006. Not-seasonally-adjusted December unemployment rates for Maine counties ranged from 3.5 percent for Cumberland County to 8.1 percent for Piscataquis County (see graph).

Not-seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs in Maine declined by 700 between November and October. Seasonal job losses were recorded by construction and accommodation and food services. Partially offsetting those losses, retail trade establishments geared up for the holidays.

Selected Regular Unemployment Compensation Program Indicators

Key Data	Dec 2007	Nov 2007	Dec 2006
Average Duration	14.1	14.3	14.1
Average Weekly Benefit Amount*	\$254.85	\$253.74	\$248.23
Exhaustees	833	658	712

* For totally unemployed claimants, excluding dependency allowances.

Weekly Initial Claims

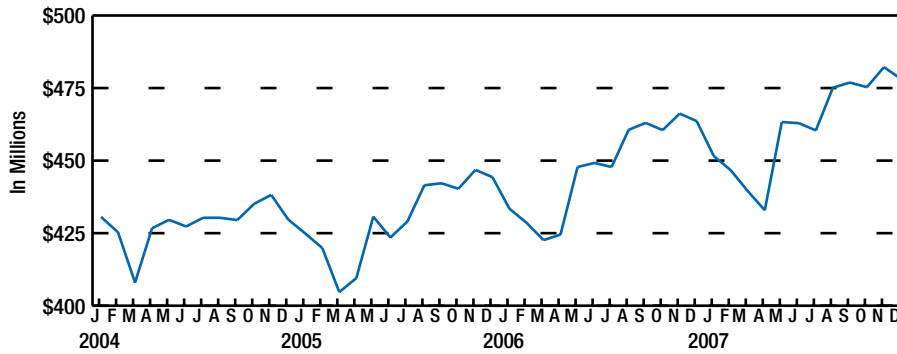
Week	12/29	12/22	12/15	12/8	12/1	11/24	11/17
2007	1,674	1,956	2,160	1,770	2,424	1,454	1,490
Week	12/30	12/23	12/16	12/9	12/2	11/25	11/18
2006	1,809	1,788	1,960	2,197	1,786	1,451	1,879

Continued Claims Less Partial*s

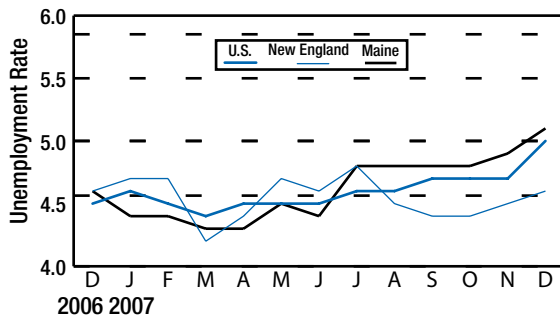
Dec 2007	Nov 2007	Dec 2006
9,083	6,573	9,192

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

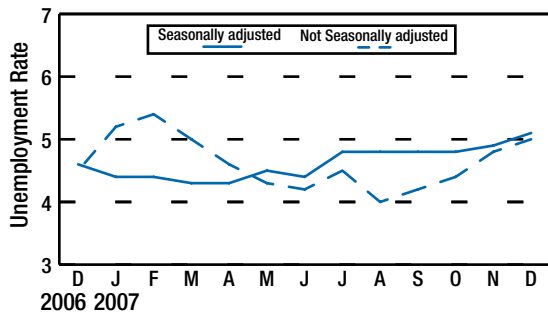
Monthly Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund Balance



Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted



Unemployment Rates for Maine



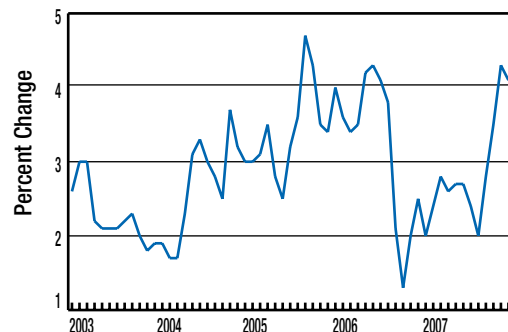
U.S. Consumer Price Index

for all urban consumers (CPI-U)

Item	Dec 07	Nov 07	Dec 06
(1982-1984 = 100) All Items	210.2	208.9	201.8

Percent Change from Prior Month	-0.1%
Percent Change from 12 Months Ago	+4.1%
Percent change from Last December	+4.1%

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		
	Dec 07	Nov 07	Dec 06	Dec 07	Nov 07	Dec 06	Dec 07	Nov 07	Dec 06	Dec 07	Nov 07	Dec 06
Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment¹	624.2	624.9	620.0	197.3	196.3	197.0	50.0	49.8	49.4	67.8	67.9	66.0
Total Private	514.5	515.2	510.6	171.2	170.1	170.7	43.8	43.6	43.4	53.7	53.8	52.1
Goods Producing	91.9	93.6	94.5	25.0	25.2	25.5	8.5	8.7	8.8	6.8	6.9	6.1
Natural Resources and Mining	2.9	2.9	3.0	*	*	*	*	*	*	0.3	0.3	0.3
Logging	2.8	2.8	2.8	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Construction	29.9	31.3	30.9	*	*	*	*	*	*	3.2	3.2	3.0
Construction of Buildings	7.6	7.8	8.3	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	2.9	3.4	2.8	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Specialty Trade Contractors	19.4	20.1	19.8	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Manufacturing	59.1	59.4	60.6	14.6	14.6	14.9	6.0	6.0	6.2	3.3	3.4	2.8
Durable Goods	31.9	32.1	32.9	7.5	7.5	7.7	*	*	*	*	*	*
Wood Product Manufacturing	5.5	5.5	6.0	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Computer and Electronic Product Mfg.	3.5	3.5	3.5	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	9.3	9.2	9.2	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Nondurable Goods	27.2	27.3	27.7	7.1	7.1	7.2	*	*	*	*	*	*
Paper Manufacturing	8.4	8.3	8.8	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	532.3	531.3	525.5	172.3	171.1	171.5	41.5	41.1	40.6	61.0	61.0	59.9
Wholesale Trade	21.7	21.7	21.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	1.4	1.4	1.4	2.1	2.1	2.3
Retail Trade	93.4	92.3	92.2	31.0	30.0	30.3	7.5	7.4	7.3	11.6	11.6	10.7
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	10.4	10.5	10.4	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Food and Beverage Stores	18.4	18.3	17.5	5.7	5.6	5.5	*	*	*	*	*	*
General Merchandise Stores	13.9	13.8	13.6	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Nonstore Retailers	13.0	12.9	12.9	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	17.8	17.6	17.2	5.6	5.5	5.6	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.8	2.7	3.0
Utilities	2.0	2.0	1.9	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Transportation and Warehousing	15.8	15.6	15.3	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Information	11.4	11.3	11.4	5.0	4.9	4.9	0.9	0.8	0.7	1.5	1.5	1.5
Publishing Industries	3.6	3.6	3.6	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Financial Activities	33.2	33.0	33.5	15.4	15.3	15.4	3.2	3.2	3.2	2.2	2.1	2.2
Finance and Insurance	26.3	26.2	26.5	12.2	12.2	12.3	*	*	*	*	*	*
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	12.1	12.0	12.1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	6.9	6.8	7.0	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Professional and Business Services	53.0	53.0	51.8	21.5	21.5	21.6	4.9	4.9	5.0	6.1	6.1	5.7
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Svcs.	24.2	23.8	23.6	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Mgmt. of Companies and Enterprises	5.8	5.8	5.7	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Admin. & Support & Waste Mgmt. Svcs.	23.0	23.4	22.5	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Education and Health Services	118.3	118.7	115.2	35.3	35.2	34.9	10.6	10.5	10.2	13.2	13.4	13.2
Educational Services	19.4	19.9	19.0	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Health Care and Social Assistance	98.9	98.8	96.2	30.9	30.8	30.6	*	*	*	*	*	*
Ambulatory Health Care Services	26.2	26.0	25.1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Hospitals	30.8	30.9	30.0	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Nursing and Residential Care	22.7	22.7	22.6	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Social Assistance	19.2	19.2	18.5	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Leisure and Hospitality	54.1	54.2	53.8	18.1	18.2	18.0	3.5	3.4	3.3	5.6	5.6	5.5
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	7.2	6.5	7.0	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Accommodation and Food Services	46.9	47.7	46.8	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Accommodation	8.3	8.7	8.5	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Food Services and Drinking Places	38.6	39.0	38.3	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Other Services	19.7	19.8	19.2	5.5	5.5	5.7	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.8	1.8	1.9
Government	109.7	109.7	109.4	26.1	26.2	26.3	6.2	6.2	6.0	14.1	14.1	13.9
Federal	14.4	14.3	14.2	2.5	2.4	2.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	1.2	1.2	1.2
State	29.8	29.8	30.1	6.5	6.5	6.6	1.0	0.9	0.9	7.1	7.2	6.8
Local ²	65.5	65.6	65.1	17.1	17.3	17.2	4.9	5.0	4.8	5.8	5.7	5.9

Footnotes: See page 7

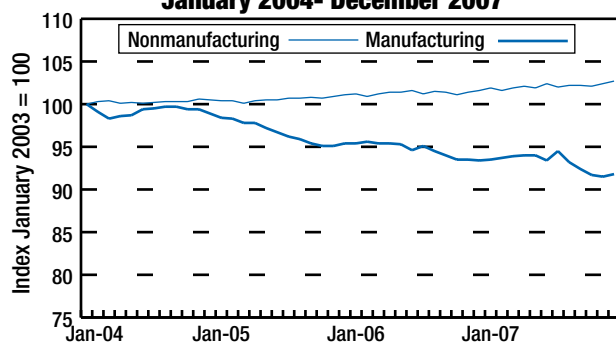
Earnings and Hours of Production Workers in Manufacturing Industries¹ Not Seasonally Adjusted

AREA AND INDUSTRY	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS			ANNUAL AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	Dec 07	Nov 07	Dec 06	Dec 07	Nov 07	Dec 06	Dec 07	Nov 07	Dec 06	2006	2005	2004
STATEWIDE												
Manufacturing	\$833.55	\$823.83	\$802.01	42.9	42.4	42.3	\$19.43	\$19.43	\$18.96	\$18.57	\$17.28	\$16.97
Durable Goods	785.83	819.10	786.46	41.1	41.6	41.7	19.12	19.69	18.86	18.18	16.77	16.78
Nondurable Goods	881.93	827.71	818.53	44.7	43.2	42.9	19.73	19.16	19.08	19.01	17.81	17.17
PORTLAND MSA												
Manufacturing	699.54	685.10	705.32	44.9	44.2	45.8	15.58	15.50	15.40	14.77	14.10	13.88

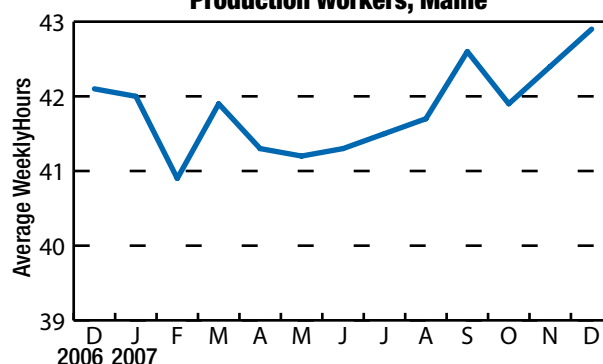
¹ Hours worked and earnings data are computed based on payroll figures for the week including the 12th of the month for manufacturing production workers. Average hourly earnings are calculated on a gross basis, and include such factors as premium pay for overtime and shift differential, as well as changes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

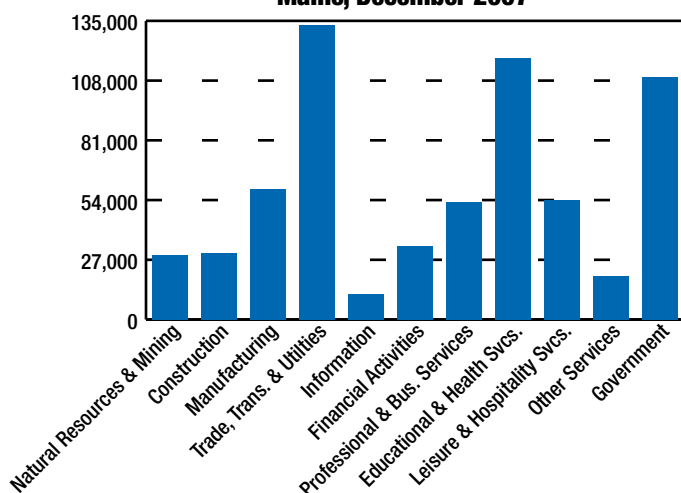
**Nonfarm Employment Trend by Sector
January 2004- December 2007¹**



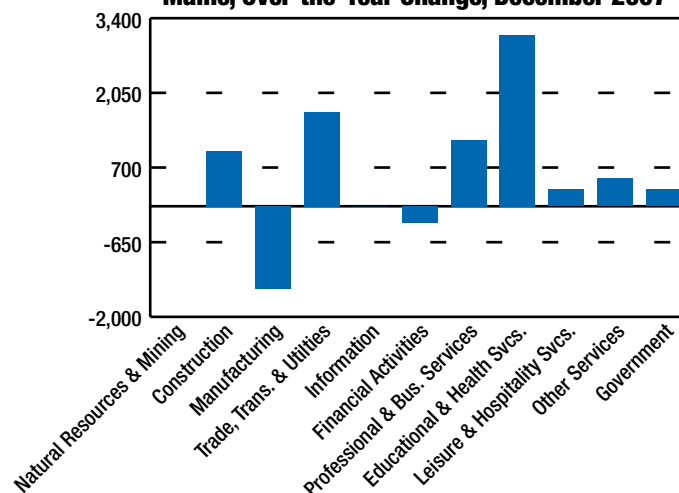
**Hours Worked by Manufacturing
Production Workers, Maine²**



**Nonfarm Employment by Industry Supersector
Maine, December 2007²**



**Nonfarm Employment by Industry Supersector
Maine, Over-the-Year Change, December 2007²**



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 2006. As a measure of reliability, the March 2006 benchmark revision for total nonfarm wage and salary employment was 0.4 percent higher than the original sample-based estimate.

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

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

Source: See page 2.

Production Worker Skill Shortages

In addition to worldwide competition, the nation and Maine are currently caught up in an economic slowdown. Unemployment is rising and employment growth has slowed.

However, many employers are seeking workers, particularly skilled workers - and in unexpected industry sectors such as manufacturing and construction. Both of these industry sectors registered net job declines in 2007. Yet, heavy construction employers, boat builders, and others indicate a need for skilled workers.

While skill shortages in many services occupations have been well publicized, with openings in health care, computer-related, and other occupations, there is also a need for production workers in Maine. This stems from new initiatives in several industries, a perceived lack of opportunity in industries that have experienced some employment declines, and a loss of experienced workers as baby boomers retire. A case in point is the need for welders. Welders are found most frequently in manufacturing industries, a sector that has been in a long-term job decline. This is an occupation which pays a median hourly wage of \$15.82 in Maine compared to the all-occupations median wage of \$13.76. According to reports published in several newspapers, Cianbro Corp. needs welders to fill some of the 500 jobs it expects to have in its new Eastern Manufacturing Facility in Brewer.

Many of the relatively small shipbuilding employers in Maine are expanding and looking for carpenters, finish workers, welders, and other skilled workers. Despite employment declines over the past few years, paper companies are concerned about maintaining a skilled workforce as baby-boomers retire.

The need for skilled production workers is not a problem in Maine alone. The Associated Press recently published an article titled "Shipyards Fight Shortage of Workers." A labor crunch in U.S. commercial shipyards was discussed, with many of them citing shortages in several occupations such as welders and shipfitters. According to the Skills Gap Survey-A Survey of the American Manufacturing Workforce, "...90 percent of respondents indicated a moderate to severe shortage of qualified skilled production employees, including front-line workers, such as machinists, operators, craft workers, distributors, and technicians."

If the current economic slowdown deepens, the demand for workers in general will likely weaken. However, projects currently underway and employers' future needs in light of expected slow labor force growth ensure the demand for skilled production workers will continue in the long run.

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