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Labor Market Digest, December 2008

Maine Department of Labor

Maine Center for Workforce Research and Information

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INSIDE . . .

Cumberland County recorded the lowest unemployment rate at 5.2 percent..... page 3

Adjusted statewide unemployment rate increased from 6.3 percent in November to 7.0 percent in Decemberpage 4

Nonfarm employment declined by 11,600 over the year.....page 6

*A publication of
the*

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Center for Workforce
Research and Information

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Maine's Job Performance from the Beginning of the Recession Through December 2008

The National Bureau of Economic Research determined the U.S. entered a recession in December 2007. Failure of leading financial institutions, auto manufacturers seeking government bailouts, closure of national retail chains, and almost daily announcements of layoffs have prompted leading economists and politicians to compare the current situation to the 1930s Great Depression. Among the headlines and strong statements it can be difficult to discern the appropriate context of workforce conditions in Maine.

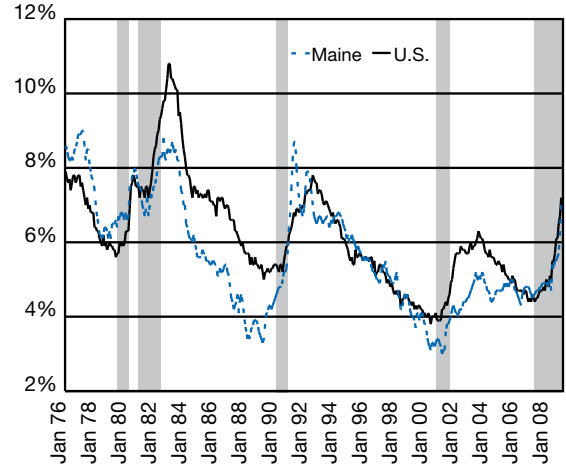
How deep and long the recession will be is a point of debate among economists. This space will not attempt to resolve that debate, but will provide context to the impact at this point in the downturn to previous downturns a similar number of months after the peak.

Unemployment and the Labor Force

Unemployment rates in Maine were lower than 5.5 percent every month from mid 1996 to mid 2008, and below 4.5 percent for 52 months of that period. Rates rose gradually through 2007, but remained below 5.0 percent until March 2008. Escalating energy costs in the spring and summer caused consumers to retrench, dampening the important tourism season, causing a moderate acceleration in the rise in unemployment to 5.5 percent in July. As the extent of the national financial crisis became more apparent in the fall, unemployment started to rise more rapidly, with the rate reaching 7.0 percent in December, the highest in Maine since June 1992. The national rate of 7.2 percent in December was the highest since January 1993.

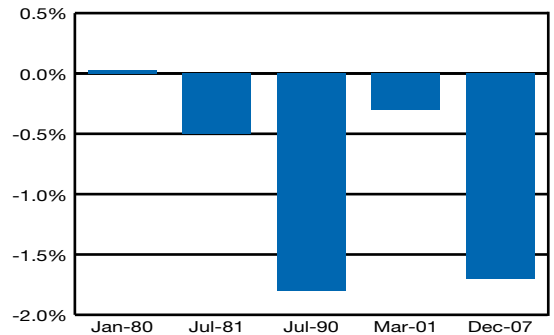
At 12 months the current downturn has eclipsed the 10-month average duration

Unemployment rates have risen to levels last reached in the early 1990s

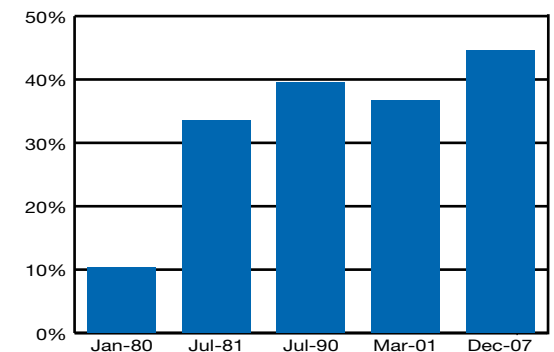


The decrease on the number of employed at this point in the recession has been greater than in three of the last four downturns and the increase in unemployment was the highest of the four

(Change in number of employed 12 months after beginning of recession)



(Change in number of unemployed 12 months after beginning of recession)



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 08	Nov 08	Dec 07	Dec 08	Nov 08	Dec 07	Dec 08	Nov 08	Dec 07	Dec 08	Nov 08	Dec 07
LABOR MARKET AREA												
Augusta	43,770	43,960	42,930	40,950	41,410	40,870	2,820	2,550	2,060	6.4%	5.8%	4.8%
Augusta-Waterville Combined ⁶	66,890	66,970	65,570	62,420	62,960	62,300	4,480	4,010	3,270	6.7	6.0	5.0
Bangor	72,200	72,600	71,300	67,600	68,400	68,000	4,600	4,100	3,300	6.4	5.7	4.6
Belfast	13,110	13,190	12,950	11,970	12,250	12,120	1,140	940	840	8.7	7.1	6.4
Boothbay Harbor	4,110	4,120	4,080	3,800	3,850	3,830	310	270	250	7.5	6.6	6.1
Bridgton-Paris	14,490	14,380	14,290	13,180	13,200	13,450	1,310	1,180	830	9.0	8.2	5.8
Brunswick	34,750	35,050	34,720	32,750	33,210	33,310	1,990	1,840	1,410	5.7	5.3	4.1
Calais	5,920	5,960	6,100	5,300	5,380	5,510	620	570	590	10.5	9.6	9.7
Camden	7,830	7,740	7,700	7,280	7,290	7,330	550	450	370	7.0	5.9	4.7
Conway, NH-ME ⁷	3,850	3,790	3,820	3,660	3,570	3,650	190	220	170	4.9	5.8	4.4
Dover-Foxcroft	9,560	9,530	9,490	8,430	8,510	8,730	1,130	1,020	760	11.8	10.7	8.0
Ellsworth	28,490	28,490	28,010	25,800	26,270	26,080	2,690	2,220	1,930	9.4	7.8	6.9
Farmington	16,900	16,660	17,140	15,420	15,250	16,040	1,490	1,410	1,100	8.8	8.5	6.4
Houlton	8,790	8,720	8,630	7,920	7,990	8,020	870	730	610	9.9	8.3	7.0
Lewiston-Auburn	57,700	58,200	58,000	53,400	54,500	55,200	4,300	3,800	2,800	7.4	6.5	4.8
Lincoln	3,730	3,760	3,670	3,380	3,460	3,430	350	310	250	9.4	8.2	6.8
Machias	8,310	8,510	8,150	7,590	7,940	7,610	720	570	540	8.7	6.7	6.6
Madawaska	2,920	2,870	2,930	2,680	2,670	2,740	240	200	200	8.2	7.0	6.6
Millinocket	4,100	4,020	3,980	3,490	3,510	3,590	610	510	390	14.8	12.7	9.7
Pittsfield	7,910	7,850	7,720	7,010	7,090	7,120	900	750	610	11.4	9.6	7.8
Portland-South Portland-Biddeford	203,700	205,700	205,000	192,600	195,500	197,500	11,200	10,200	7,500	5.5	5.0	3.7
Portland-South Portland-Sanford Combined ⁶	215,200	217,100	216,400	203,000	206,000	208,100	12,200	11,100	8,300	5.7	5.1	3.8
Portsmouth, NH-ME ⁷	9,520	9,680	9,420	9,140	9,260	9,100	380	430	320	3.9	4.4	3.4
Presque Isle	25,160	24,800	24,960	23,230	23,040	23,250	1,930	1,760	1,710	7.7	7.1	6.9
Rochester-Dover, NH-ME ⁷	11,540	11,770	11,420	10,900	11,070	10,920	640	700	500	5.6	6.0	4.3
Rockland	12,610	12,610	12,250	11,700	11,830	11,640	900	780	610	7.2	6.2	5.0
Rumford	10,060	9,640	10,140	8,980	8,690	9,380	1,090	950	770	10.8	9.9	7.6
Saint George	1,440	1,450	1,420	1,360	1,370	1,350	80	80	70	5.6	5.4	4.7
Sanford	11,500	11,450	11,330	10,450	10,540	10,610	1,050	910	730	9.1	8.0	6.4
Skowhegan	14,960	14,770	14,670	13,430	13,450	13,480	1,530	1,320	1,190	10.2	8.9	8.1
Waldoboro	9,470	9,530	9,220	8,840	8,960	8,810	630	570	420	6.6	6.0	4.5
Waterville	23,120	23,010	22,630	21,460	21,560	21,430	1,660	1,450	1,210	7.2	6.3	5.3
York	16,920	17,320	16,830	15,900	16,440	16,110	1,020	890	720	6.0	5.1	4.3
MAINE	705,000	707,700	701,400	655,700	663,600	666,400	49,300	44,100	35,100	7.0	6.2	5.0
UNITED STATES (000)	154,349	154,624	153,705	143,350	144,609	146,334	10,999	10,015	7,371	7.1	6.5	4.8

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 08	Nov 08	Dec 07	Dec 08	Nov 08	Dec 07	Dec 08	Nov 08	Dec 07	Dec 08	Nov 08	Dec 07
COUNTY												
Androscoggin	58,600	59,170	58,940	54,310	55,340	56,120	4,290	3,830	2,810	7.3%	6.5%	4.8%
Aroostook	35,900	35,450	35,560	32,950	32,820	33,130	2,950	2,630	2,430	8.2	7.4	6.8
Cumberland	156,270	157,830	157,260	148,110	150,280	151,770	8,160	7,560	5,490	5.2	4.8	3.5
Franklin	14,330	14,160	14,570	13,120	12,970	13,640	1,220	1,190	920	8.5	8.4	6.3
Hancock	28,700	28,690	28,200	26,000	26,470	26,280	2,700	2,230	1,920	9.4	7.8	6.8
Kennebec	64,080	64,170	62,850	59,820	60,340	59,740	4,260	3,830	3,110	6.6	6.0	5.0
Knox	21,230	21,190	20,750	19,770	19,930	19,750	1,460	1,260	1,010	6.9	5.9	4.8
Lincoln	18,000	18,090	17,690	16,770	16,990	16,820	1,230	1,100	870	6.8	6.1	4.9
Oxford	28,900	28,340	28,790	26,250	25,980	26,970	2,650	2,370	1,820	9.2	8.3	6.3
Penobscot	79,490	79,800	78,520	73,920	74,850	74,530	5,570	4,960	3,990	7.0	6.2	5.1
Piscataquis	7,660	7,630	7,600	6,740	6,810	6,980	920	820	620	12.0	10.8	8.1
Sagadahoc	18,940	19,090	18,940	17,830	18,080	18,140	1,110	1,010	800	5.8	5.3	4.2
Somerset	25,510	25,200	24,930	22,890	22,980	23,040	2,620	2,220	1,890	10.3	8.8	7.6
Waldo	18,990	19,060	18,690	17,350	17,680	17,530	1,640	1,380	1,160	8.6	7.3	6.2
Washington	15,020	15,260	15,060	13,600	14,050	13,850	1,420	1,210	1,210	9.4	7.9	8.0
York	113,360	114,560	113,120	106,250	108,050	108,110	7,110	6,510	5,010	6.3	5.7	4.4
MAINE	705,000	707,700	701,400	655,700	663,600	666,400	49,300	44,100	35,100	7.0	6.2	5.0
UNITED STATES (000)	154,349	154,624	153,705	143,350	144,609	146,334	10,999	10,015	7,371	7.1	6.5	4.8

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

Regional News

Western Maine

NewPage Corp. will permanently lay off 130 employees due to the worsening economy. The mill also has instigated rolling temporary layoffs on a weekly basis. These latest round of layoffs come after an earlier shutdown for 200 employees from Dec. 8 to Jan. 2. ♦ **True Textiles** will permanently lay off 90 employees at their Guildford and Newport plants. True Textiles stated that other plants across the nation will be affected as well. ♦ **The Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railroad Co. Ltd.** has laid off 75 of its 315 employees over the past six months.

Central Maine

Geiger has laid off 30 of its 400 workers in Lewiston due to the downturn in the national economy. The company publishes the Farmers' Almanac as well as several promotional products. ♦ The high-end furniture maker **Thos. Moser Cabinetmakers of Auburn** will lay off about 35 people. The layoffs are due to the downturn in the housing and credit markets causing a decrease in orders.

Southern Maine

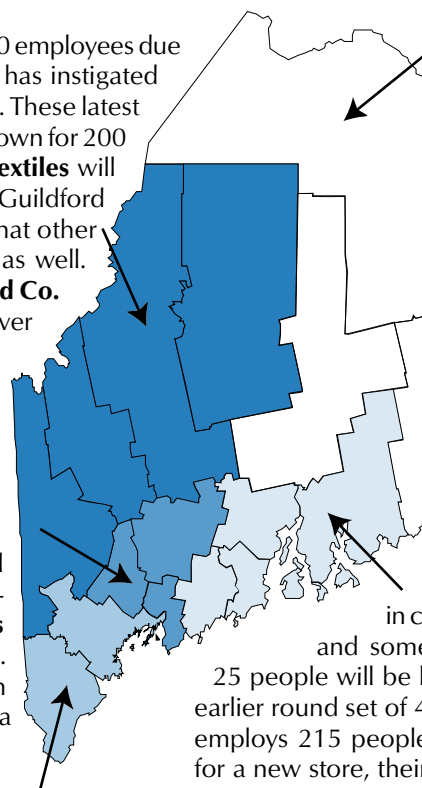
Pratt & Whitney will lay off 55 workers due to a drop in orders for aircraft engines. ♦ **Famous Dave's** will be opening a new restaurant near Cabela's in Scarborough. They expect to employ nearly 100 people, and have already hired 50 workers. ♦ **Fairchild Semiconductor** laid off 50 to 70 employees from their two South Portland sites. ♦ **Circuit City** will close their South Portland store.

North/East Maine

Circuit City will close their Bangor store. ♦ **KB Toys** in the Bangor Mall closed. ♦ **Eastern Maine Medical Center** in Bangor will eliminate 52 vacant positions and 24 positions that now are filled. ♦ **First Wind** has begun commercial operations at their wind farm near Danforth in Washington County. The farm will produce the equivalent power needs of 23,500 homes and surpasses the Mars Hill wind project in Aroostook County as New England's largest. ♦ **Fraser Papers Inc.** temporarily shut down its No. 6 machine and as many as 30 workers went on temporary layoff. The machine was shut down for seven to 10 days.

Coastal Maine

Blue Hill Memorial Hospital laid off 15 workers due to an ongoing financial crisis. The layoffs were in conjunction with 34 open positions being eliminated and some staff reassignments. ♦ **Hinckley Co.** announced 25 people will be laid off from their Trenton facility. This follows an earlier round set of 49 employees in October. The company currently employs 215 people in Maine. ♦ **Hannaford Supermarkets** has plans for a new store, their second, on Mount Desert Island.



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

ITEM	2008												2007
	Dec	Nov	Oct	Sep	Aug	Jul	Jun	May	Apr	Mar	Feb	Jan	Dec
Civilian Labor Force	710.7	711.9	710.9	711.7	711.0	712.0	710.0	708.9	708.8	707.9	706.4	709.6	706.5
Employed	660.7	667.0	670.6	671.8	671.6	673.1	672.6	670.7	675.2	672.3	672.8	674.5	671.9
Unemployed	50.0	44.9	40.3	39.9	39.4	38.9	37.5	38.3	35.6	35.7	33.6	35.1	34.6
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.0	6.3	5.7	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.3	5.4	4.7	5.0	4.8	4.9	4.9

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
	Dec	Nov	Oct	Sep	Aug	Jul	Jun	May	Apr	Mar	Feb	Jan	Dec
Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment	608.1	611.5	614.2	614.8	616.1	616.9	617.1	616.1	615.1	618.2	617.3	619.1	619.8
Natural Resources	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.7
Construction	27.8	28.6	28.9	29.6	29.4	29.4	29.6	29.6	29.5	30.1	30.0	30.6	31.0
Manufacturing	57.1	57.8	58.4	58.5	58.7	59.2	59.1	58.5	58.4	58.3	58.1	58.5	58.3
Durable Goods	30.4	30.7	31.1	31.1	31.2	31.3	31.4	31.1	31.0	30.9	30.7	31.1	30.7
Nondurable Goods	26.7	27.1	27.3	27.4	27.5	27.9	27.7	27.4	27.4	27.4	27.4	27.4	27.6
Trade, Transportation and Public Utilities	121.8	122.9	124.0	124.8	125.2	125.4	125.8	126.0	125.6	126.8	126.5	127.1	127.3
Wholesale Trade	20.3	20.2	20.4	20.7	20.8	20.9	21.0	21.1	21.0	21.1	21.0	21.1	21.2
Retail Trade	84.4	85.5	86.4	86.9	87.4	87.5	87.7	87.7	87.3	88.2	88.0	88.5	88.5
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	17.1	17.2	17.2	17.2	17.0	17.0	17.1	17.2	17.3	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.6
Information	10.8	10.8	10.9	10.8	11.0	11.0	11.2	11.2	11.2	11.2	11.3	11.2	11.3
Financial Activities	31.9	32.2	32.4	32.4	32.7	32.6	32.7	33.0	32.9	32.7	32.9	33.0	33.0
Finance and Insurance	25.1	25.3	25.5	25.4	25.6	25.5	25.5	25.7	25.7	25.7	25.8	25.9	25.9
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	6.8	6.9	6.9	7.0	7.1	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.2	7.0	7.1	7.1	7.1
Professional and Business Services	54.8	55.4	55.7	55.5	55.7	55.7	55.1	54.3	54.2	54.0	54.1	54.1	54.2
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Svcs.	23.8	24.1	24.1	24.2	24.2	24.0	23.6	23.4	23.6	23.5	23.7	23.8	23.8
Admin. & Support & Waste Mgmt. Svcs.	24.6	24.8	25.1	24.8	24.9	25.1	24.7	24.3	24.0	24.3	24.0	24.2	24.1
Educational and Health Services	118.5	118.2	117.6	117.5	117.6	117.0	117.1	117.3	116.9	117.0	117.0	116.8	116.7
Educational Services	19.7	19.7	19.7	19.7	19.8	19.4	19.5	19.7	19.5	19.4	19.6	19.8	19.5
Health Care and Social Assistance	98.8	98.5	97.9	97.8	97.8	97.6	97.6	97.6	97.4	97.6	97.4	97.0	97.2
Leisure and Hospitality Services	58.8	59.1	59.3	59.4	59.6	59.9	60.2	59.5	60.1	61.5	61.4	61.2	60.6
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	8.2	8.3	8.2	8.1	8.3	8.5	8.4	8.3	8.1	8.6	8.6	8.4	7.9
Accommodation and Food Services	50.6	50.8	51.1	51.3	51.3	51.4	51.8	51.2	52.0	52.9	52.8	52.8	52.7
Other Services	19.6	19.8	19.9	20.0	20.1	20.0	19.9	19.9	19.8	19.8	19.8	19.9	20.0
Government	104.6	104.2	104.6	103.7	103.5	104.1	103.8	104.3	104.0	104.1	103.6	104.0	104.7
Federal Government	14.5	14.3	14.5	14.4	14.3	14.3	14.3	14.3	14.3	14.2	13.9	14.0	14.1
State Government	28.1	28.5	28.4	27.5	27.6	27.7	27.3	28.0	28.1	27.9	27.9	27.6	27.9
Local Government	62.0	61.4	61.7	61.8	61.6	62.1	62.2	62.0	61.6	62.0	61.8	62.4	62.7

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 7.0 Percent in December

State Labor Commissioner Laura Fortman announced that the preliminary seasonally-adjusted December unemployment rate for Maine was 7.0 percent, up from 6.3 percent for November and 4.9 percent for December 2007. The national unemployment rate was 7.2 percent for December, up from 6.8 percent for November and 4.9 percent for December 2007.

"The deepening national recession made December a very difficult month for Maine workers and employers," said Fortman. "As economic conditions deteriorated this year, Maine's unemployment rate has trended steadily upward, mirroring the national average."

Fortman noted that unlike many other states, Maine had adequate funding on-hand to continue paying unemployment benefits to laid-off workers. "At a time when nearly 20 other states are faced with cutting unemployment benefits or increasing employer taxes to deal with insolvent unemployment trust funds, Maine's Unemployment Trust Fund is ranked sixth in the nation for its ability to pay benefits in the months ahead," Fortman said.

Nonfarm wage and salary employment fell by 3,400 between November and December, with the most substantial declines reported by the retail trade and construction industries. Over the year, employment

dropped by 11,700, with job losses registered in trade, transportation, and utilities; construction; leisure and hospitality services; manufacturing; financial activities; and information. Partially offsetting these losses, job gains were recorded in educational and health services and professional and business services.

An information brief tracking workforce trends since the start of the recession is available at the Maine Department of Labor website at: www.maine.gov/labor/lmis/recession.html.

The not-seasonally-adjusted Maine unemployment rate for December was 7.0 percent, up from 6.2 percent for November and 5.0 percent for December 2007. The unadjusted national rate was 7.1 percent for December, up from 6.5 percent for November and 4.8 percent for December 2007. Not-seasonally-adjusted December unemployment rates for Maine counties ranged from 5.2 percent for Cumberland County to 12.0 percent for Piscataquis County.

The number of not-seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs in Maine fell by 5,100 between November and December. As a result of the economic recession larger-than-normal seasonal losses were recorded by construction and leisure and hospitality services. Professional and business services and manufacturing also recorded job declines.

Selected Regular Unemployment Compensation Program Indicators

Key Data	Dec 2008	Nov 2008	Dec 2007
Average Duration	14.1	14.2	14.1
Average Weekly Benefit Amount*	\$268.37	\$268.22	\$254.85
Exhaustees	1,455	956	833

* For totally unemployed claimants, excluding dependency allowances.

Weekly Initial Claims

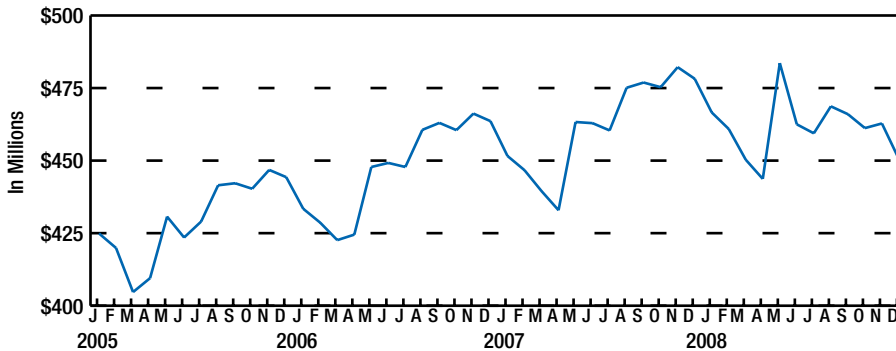
Week	1/3	12/27	12/20	12/13	12/6	11/29	11/22
2008	3,617	2,646	2,623	3,625	2,918	2,309	2,607
Week	1/5	12/29	12/22	12/15	12/8	12/1	11/24
2007	2,820	1,674	1,956	2,160	1,770	2,424	1,454

Continued Claims Less Partial*

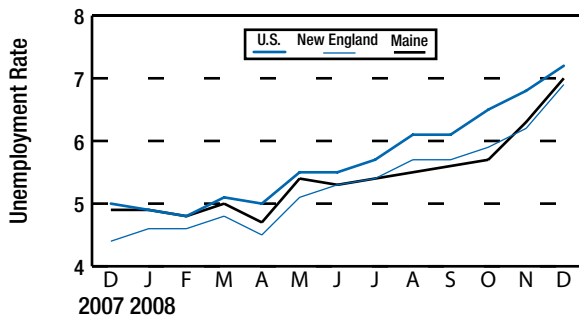
Dec 2008	Nov 2008	Dec 2007
15,778	11,201	9,206

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

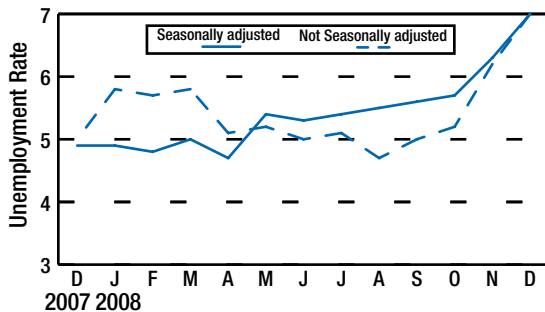
Monthly Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund Balance



Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted



Unemployment Rates for Maine



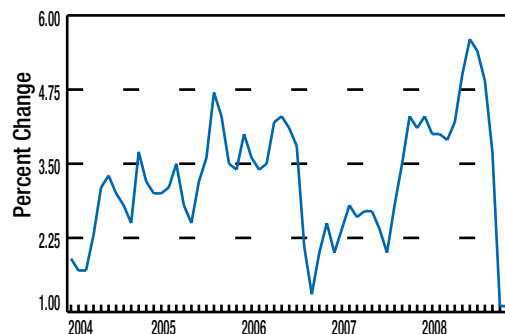
U.S. Consumer Price Index

for all urban consumers (CPI-U)

Item	Dec 08	Nov 08	Dec 07
(1982-1984 = 100) All Items	210.2	212.4	210.0

Percent Change from Prior Month	-1.0%
Percent Change from 12 Months Ago	+0.1%
Percent change from Last December	+0.1%

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 08	Nov 08	Dec 07	Dec 08	Nov 08	Dec 07	Dec 08	Nov 08	Dec 07	Dec 08	Nov 08	Dec 07
Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment¹	612.4	617.5	624.0	194.7	195.6	198.3	49.1	49.8	50.2	67.1	67.0	67.4
Total Private	503.7	508.9	515.2	169.3	169.9	172.5	43.0	43.6	44.1	53.1	53.0	53.3
Goods Producing	87.7	90.5	92.4	23.7	24.0	24.4	7.7	8.1	8.3	6.6	6.8	6.4
Natural Resources and Mining	2.6	2.6	2.9	*	*	*	*	*	*	0.3	0.3	0.3
Logging	2.5	2.5	2.7	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Construction	27.1	29.2	30.3	*	*	*	*	*	*	3.1	3.3	3.1
Construction of Buildings	6.8	6.9	7.4	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	2.5	3.2	3.1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Specialty Trade Contractors	17.8	19.1	19.8	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Manufacturing	58.0	58.7	59.2	14.4	14.4	14.6	5.7	5.9	6.0	3.2	3.2	3.0
Durable Goods	31.2	31.5	31.5	7.1	7.1	7.0	*	*	*	*	*	*
Wood Product Manufacturing	5.1	5.2	5.6	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Computer and Electronic Product Mfg.	3.0	3.0	3.0	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	8.9	9.0	9.5	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Nondurable Goods	26.8	27.2	27.7	7.3	7.3	7.6	*	*	*	*	*	*
Paper Manufacturing	7.8	8.0	8.3	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	524.7	527.0	531.6	171.0	171.6	173.9	41.4	41.7	41.9	60.5	60.2	61.0
Wholesale Trade	20.4	20.3	21.3	8.3	8.4	8.5	1.3	1.3	1.4	2.1	2.1	2.1
Retail Trade	89.7	89.9	94.0	29.8	29.6	31.3	6.8	6.8	7.2	10.6	10.5	11.3
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	9.8	9.9	10.2	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Food and Beverage Stores	18.0	18.1	18.3	5.9	5.9	5.9	*	*	*	*	*	*
General Merchandise Stores	13.3	13.1	13.8	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Nonstore Retailers	10.6	11.0	12.6	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	17.3	17.3	17.8	5.6	5.6	5.7	2.3	2.3	2.5	3.0	3.0	3.1
Utilities	1.9	1.9	1.9	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Transportation and Warehousing	15.4	15.4	15.9	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Information	10.8	10.8	11.3	4.9	4.9	5.1	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.4	1.4	1.5
Publishing Industries	3.3	3.3	3.5	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Financial Activities	32.0	32.1	33.1	15.1	15.1	15.6	3.1	3.0	3.1	2.4	2.3	2.3
Finance and Insurance	25.2	25.3	26.0	12.2	12.2	12.5	*	*	*	*	*	*
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	11.8	11.8	11.9	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	6.8	6.8	7.1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Professional and Business Services	54.5	55.5	53.9	23.0	23.4	22.8	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.6	5.5	5.5
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Svcs.	24.0	24.1	24.0	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Mgmt. of Companies and Enterprises	6.5	6.5	6.4	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Admin. & Support & Waste Mgmt. Svcs.	24.0	24.9	23.5	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Education and Health Services	119.2	119.3	117.3	35.3	35.2	34.8	11.2	11.3	10.8	13.7	13.7	13.7
Educational Services	20.4	20.7	20.2	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Health Care and Social Assistance	98.8	98.6	97.1	31.1	30.9	30.0	*	*	*	*	*	*
Ambulatory Health Care Services	26.2	26.1	26.2	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Hospitals	31.9	31.7	30.8	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Nursing and Residential Care	22.5	22.5	22.2	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Social Assistance	18.2	18.3	17.9	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Leisure and Hospitality	52.6	53.5	54.2	17.8	18.0	18.4	3.1	3.2	3.4	5.9	5.9	5.6
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	7.3	6.7	7.0	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Accommodation and Food Services	45.3	46.8	47.2	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Accommodation	7.8	8.8	8.4	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Food Services and Drinking Places	37.5	38.0	38.8	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Other Services	19.5	19.7	19.9	5.8	5.7	5.9	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.8	1.8	1.8
Government	108.7	108.6	108.8	25.4	25.7	25.8	6.1	6.2	6.1	14.0	14.0	14.1
Federal	14.5	14.3	14.2	2.4	2.4	2.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	1.3	1.2	1.3
State	29.4	29.9	29.1	6.1	6.2	6.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	7.0	7.1	7.1
Local ²	64.8	64.4	65.5	16.9	17.1	17.4	4.8	4.9	4.8	5.7	5.7	5.7

* 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

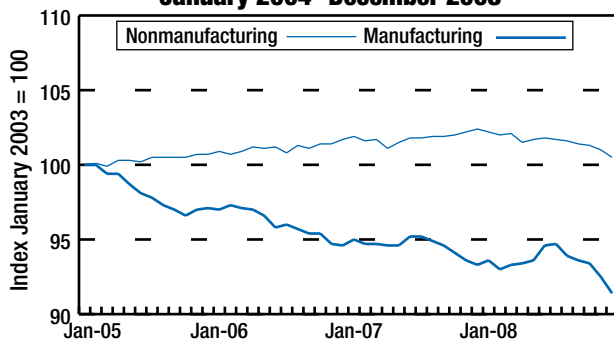
Earnings and Hours of Production Workers in Manufacturing Industries¹ Not Seasonally Adjusted

AREA AND INDUSTRY	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS			ANNUAL AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	Dec 08	Nov 08	Dec 07	Dec 08	Nov 08	Dec 07	Dec 08	Nov 08	Dec 07	2007	2006	2005
STATEWIDE												
Manufacturing	\$818.06	\$820.46	\$825.16	41.4	41.5	42.6	\$19.76	\$19.77	\$19.37	\$19.19	\$18.57	\$17.28
Durable Goods	810.38	830.96	793.23	40.6	41.3	41.1	19.96	20.12	19.30	19.51	19.01	16.77
Nondurable Goods	825.85	808.29	856.86	42.2	41.6	44.1	19.57	19.43	19.43	18.87	18.18	17.81

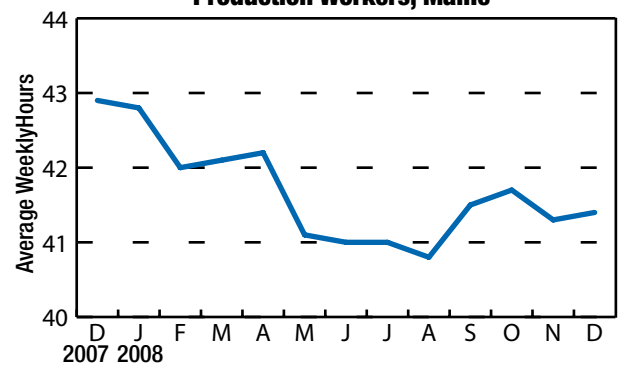
¹ Hours worked and earnings data are computed based on payroll figures for the week including the 12th of the month for manufacturing production workers. Average hourly earnings are calculated on a gross basis, and include such factors as premium pay for overtime and shift differential, as well as changes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

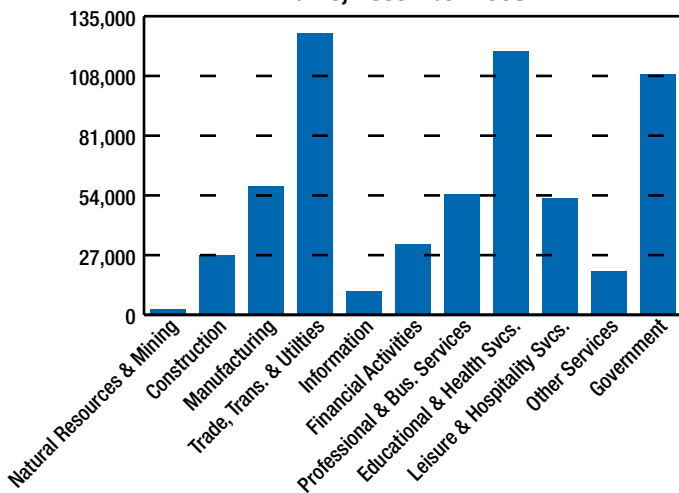
**Nonfarm Employment Trend by Sector
January 2004- December 2008¹**



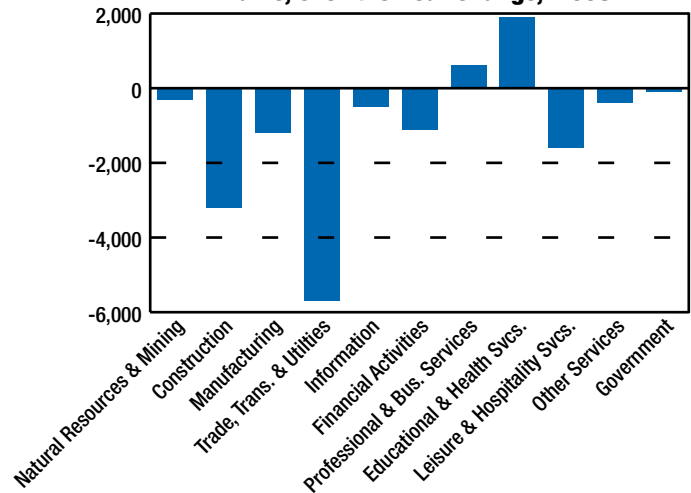
**Hours Worked by Manufacturing
Production Workers, Maine²**



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



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

of the nine national recessions since 1950, with only the 1973-75 and 1981-82 recessions, each 16 months, lasting longer. In the four recessions since the 1970s (prior comparable data is not available) Maine's unemployment rate increased an average of 1.6 points in the first 12 months following the peak. The 2.1 point rise through December was eclipsed only by the 2.6 point rise in the first 12 months of recession from 1981 to 1982. While the current recession has been longer and the rise in unemployment rates larger than the average of the most recent downturns, the 7.0 percent unemployment rate in December was lower than at the same point in the cycle in two of the four previous recessions.

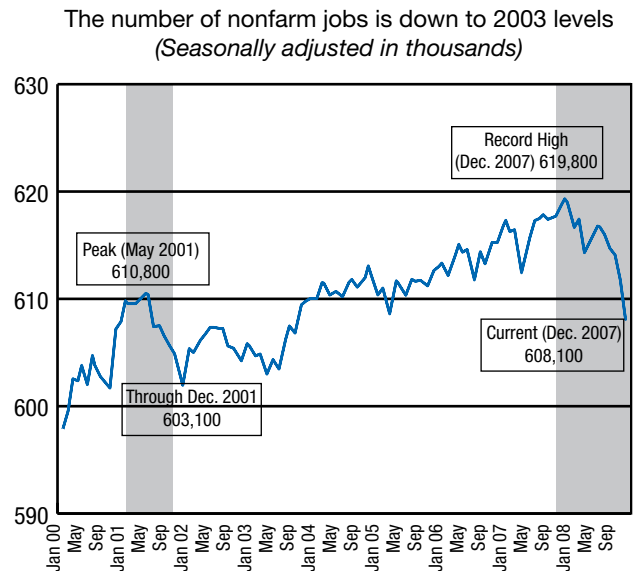
In the first 12 months of the recession the number of employed people declined 11,200 (2 percent) to 660,700 and the number of unemployed increased 15,400 (44 percent) to 50,000 – the highest number since March 1992. The larger rise in the number of unemployed than the decline in employed people reflects 4,200 net new labor force entrants. In the last four recessions the 12 month rate of decline in employment was larger only in the 1990 downturn.

Nonfarm Job Performance by Industry

Nonfarm wage and salary jobs peaked in December 2007 both nationally and in Maine. Through December 2008 the number of jobs in Maine was down 11,700, or 1.9 percent. Nationally, job losses totaled 2.6 million, also 1.9 percent. The rate of job loss accelerated significantly after the summer, with 68 percent of net job losses in Maine and 75 percent in the nation occurring from September through December.

Among the 17 industry sectors, 12 had net job losses totaling 14,400, with four sectors – retail trade (-4,100 jobs), construction (-3,200), accommodation & food services (-2,100), and manufacturing (-1,200) – accounting for 91 percent of net job loss. The five sectors that were up or unchanged created 2,600 net new jobs, led by health care & social assistance (+1,600) and administrative support & waste management (+500).

The direction of job gain or loss in Maine was generally similar to the nation in the first full year of recession with a few exceptions. Maine outperformed in the manufacturing; administrative support & waste management; and arts, entertainment & recreation sectors. Maine underperformed in the natural resources & mining; construction; real estate, rental & leasing; and accommodation & food services sectors.



For a monthly update of this article and additional data, charts and links to information on the impact of the recession on Maine's workforce, go to www.maine.gov/labor/lmis/recession.html.

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