

8-1-1949

## Labor Market News Letter, August 1949

Maine Employment Security Commission

Follow this and additional works at: [http://digitalmaine.com/cwri\\_docs](http://digitalmaine.com/cwri_docs)

---

### Recommended Citation

Maine Employment Security Commission, "Labor Market News Letter, August 1949" (1949). *Center for Workforce Research and Information Documents*. Paper 112.  
[http://digitalmaine.com/cwri\\_docs/112](http://digitalmaine.com/cwri_docs/112)

This Text is brought to you for free and open access by the Labor at Maine State Documents. It has been accepted for inclusion in Center for Workforce Research and Information Documents by an authorized administrator of Maine State Documents. For more information, please contact [statedocs@maine.gov](mailto:statedocs@maine.gov).

E 55,214  
949/6  
Copy 1

# LABOR MARKET

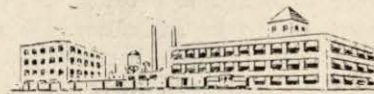


# NEWS LETTER

Maine Employment Security Commission 331 Water Street Augusta, Maine



**AUGUST - 1949**  
ISSUED BI-MONTHLY



## LABOR MARKET HIGHLIGHTS

THE SUMMER MONTHS have witnessed a marked increase in labor market activities in this State. Hirings in seasonal industries have been the primary cause for the generally improved employment picture, but there are indications also that downward pressures which have resulted in production curtailments in some of the State's larger non-seasonal manufacturing industries are beginning to ease.

There is still a sizeable surplus of labor in Maine, even though the volume of unemployment has shown a decline. It is expected that, following the close of the summer period, lay-offs in seasonal industries will throw additional workers into the labor market, but because many of the seasonally employed persons are in the labor force only temporarily the effects of such lay-offs should not be particularly severe. At the moment the employment outlook for the next two months is fairly promising.

### EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS IN MAINE CONTINUE TO IMPROVE

ALTHOUGH there are weak spots in the labor market picture in Maine, the general tenor of employment developments during the summer months has been quite favorable. Job opportunities, while somewhat lower in number than last summer, have become available in both seasonal and nonseasonal industries, and during the early part of this month increased hirings in some activities which had felt the full impact of declining economic conditions since last fall have been most encouraging.

### NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT SHOWED AN INCREASE IN JULY

THE NUMBER of persons employed on a full- or part-time basis in nonagricultural industries in this State increased by approximately 4,000 during the thirty-day period, June 15 to July 15. According to preliminary estimates prepared by the Maine Employment Security Commission in cooperation with the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, 258,200 persons were on the pay rolls of nonagricultural employers during pay periods ending nearest to July 15, whereas during the middle week of June nonagricultural employment totalled 254,200. July was the third consecutive month in which employment gains have been recorded.

### JULY PAY ROLL GAINS WERE FAIRLY GENERAL

PAY ROLL GAINS in July were fairly general, with only three major industrial groups showing declines. Manufacturing industries registered a net increase of 1,500 while employment in nonmanufacturing establishments rose by 2,500. Most of the employment expansions between June and July were seasonal in nature, and, therefore, were to be expected. However, some manufacturing plants which showed gains increased their production following the receipt of new orders.

### GAINS WERE MADE IN BOTH DURABLE AND NONDURABLE GOODS MANUFACTURING

HIGHER EMPLOYMENT was in evidence during July in both durable and nondurable goods manufacturing industries. Aggregate pay rolls in the durable goods field reached 28,100 which was 2.9 per cent above the June level. Nondurable goods producers had a net increase of 0.9 per cent to a July level of 76,200. In both instances the June-July increases were not as great as during the comparable period last year when the respective gains for the durable and nondurable goods groups were 5.5 and 4.4 per cent, but at least the trend directions were consistent with last year.

JUL 28 1950



## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS IN SOME MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES ARE STILL IRREGULAR

ALTHOUGH THERE WAS a net increase between June and July in the number of workers employed in manufacturing industries as a whole, employment within some industrial groups was either still on a downward trend or following a somewhat irregular pattern. It is noted, however, that even these groups are experiencing a leveling-off in their production curtailments and appear to be approaching a point at which their pay rolls will become more stable. Employment in the metal products and machinery industry group dropped by 400 last month as compared with a decline of 1,200 in the previous month. There was an over-all decline of around 1,600 in the number of workers engaged in the textile and apparel industries, but this was attributable in major part to pay roll separations while plants were closed for vacation periods. This same factor played an important part in accounting for a drop of 300 in other nondurable goods manufacturing.

## SHOE MANUFACTURING RUNNING AHEAD OF LAST YEAR

EMPLOYMENT in the shoe manufacturing industry is running far ahead of last year. In July approximately 17,100 workers were employed in this industry as compared to 15,500 in July 1948. Shoe production has been remarkably firm since the first of the year, and, as a matter of fact, the shoe industry is the only group (other than government) which is providing jobs for a larger number of persons this year than in 1948.

## ESTIMATED AVERAGE EARNINGS AND HOURS OF WORK

IN JULY various factors such as shortened work-weeks in fish processing activities, vacation periods in major manufacturing plants, and part-time employment in many industrial lines served to reduce the average earnings and hours of work of production workers employed in manufacturing industries in Maine. Following are State-wide estimates of average earnings and hours of work based upon data furnished by selected employers:

Item	Mid-month Weeks In:		
	July 1949	June 1949	July 1948
Average weekly hours worked.....	38.3	39.1	41.3
Average hourly earnings.....	\$ 1.138	\$ 1.14	\$ 1.16
Average weekly earnings.....	\$43.557	\$44.516	\$47.884

## EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK FOR NEXT TWO MONTHS IS FAVORABLE

JUDGING FROM INFORMATION obtained from employers contacted by representatives of this Commission's sixteen local employment offices, it appears that the general employment picture in Maine during the next two months will be favorable. Lay-offs will occur in various seasonal industries after the close of the summer season but many of the persons who will be affected will be youths and women who normally enter the labor market only for summer jobs. No large-scale employment expansions are anticipated in nonseasonal industries, according to the latest review of expected labor requirements, but, likewise, no extensive curtailments are looked for in such activities.

## EMPLOYMENT IN NONAGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AS A WHOLE IS 6.6 PER CENT UNDER LAST YEAR

DURING the twelve-month period from July 1948 to July 1949, employment in nonagricultural industries as a whole declined by 6.6 per cent, from 276,500 to 258,200. The decline of 18,300 during this period has been spread among most of the industries in the State (shoe manufacturing and government excluded). Industries which have had the sharpest curtailments include: lumber and wood products — 2,300; metal products and machinery — 3,300; textiles and apparel — 5,700; paper and allied products — 1,500; construction — 2,400; and wholesale and retail trade — 2,000.

## HARVESTING OPERATIONS HAVE PROVIDED JOBS FOR MANY PERSONS

HARVESTING OPERATIONS throughout the State have provided jobs for many persons this summer. Although most of the temporary farm work has been performed by youths who are in the labor market only for the summer months, more adults have been entering this employment field than in recent years. Drought conditions have caused crop losses in some areas and therefore have reduced the number of harvesting jobs. However, the potato crop which will be harvested next month and during the first part of October is expected to be extremely heavy, and for this reason labor requirements in the potato raising sections of the State should be nearly as extensive as last year.



**PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE**  
**OF NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT IN MAINE**  
**July, 1949<sup>1</sup> (In thousands)**

Compiled by the Maine Employment Security Commission in cooperation with the  
United States Bureau of Labor Statistics

INDUSTRY	July <sup>2</sup> 1949	June <sup>2</sup> 1949	July <sup>2</sup> 1948	Percentage Change	
				June 1949 to July 1949	July 1948 to July 1949
Total Nonagricultural Employment.....	258.2	254.2	276.5	1.6	-6.6
Total Manufacturing.....	104.3	102.8	117.1	1.5	-10.9
Durable Goods.....	28.1	27.3	34.1	2.9	-17.6
Lumber and Wood Products.....	18.2	17.5	20.5	4.0	-11.2
Primary and Fabricated Metal Products and Machinery.....	6.3	6.7	9.6	-6.0	-34.4
All Other.....	3.6	3.1	4.0	16.1	-10.0
Nondurable Goods.....	76.2	75.5	83.0	0.9	-8.2
Food and Kindred Products.....	14.1	11.6	14.9	21.6	-5.4
Textile-Mill Products and Apparel...	24.2	25.8	29.9	-6.2	-19.1
Paper and Allied Products.....	16.9	16.8	18.4	0.6	-8.2
Leather Products.....	17.1	17.1	15.5	0.0	10.3
All Other.....	3.9	4.2	4.3	-7.1	-9.3
Total Nonmanufacturing.....	153.9	151.4	159.4	1.7	-3.5
Mining and Quarrying.....	.6	.6	.7	0.0	-14.3
Contract Construction.....	11.3	10.3	13.7	9.7	-17.5
Transportation and Other Public Utilities.....	20.0	19.8	20.9	1.0	-4.3
Wholesale and Retail Trade.....	48.8	48.3	50.8	1.0	-3.9
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate...	6.6	6.5	6.8	1.5	-2.9
Business, Personal and Misc. Services	26.2	25.5	26.9	2.7	-2.6
Government <sup>3</sup> .....	40.4	40.4	39.6	0.0	2.0

<sup>1</sup> Data presented exclude domestics in private households, proprietors, self-employed, and unpaid family workers. Employment figures (except for government) relate to full- and part-time wage and salary workers in pay periods ending nearest the 15th of each month. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.

<sup>2</sup> Estimates corrected to August 17, 1949.

<sup>3</sup> June estimate used for July since complete information relative to the latter month was not available as of August 17, 1949.



## UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION HAS IMPROVED SINCE THE SPRING MONTHS

WHILE THE UNEMPLOYMENT insurance program of this Commission does not reach all persons who are unemployed in the State, unemployment insurance claims data offer an excellent means of measuring trends in the numbers out of work. It is apparent that the volume of unemployment in Maine has declined rather appreciably since spring when it is considered that at the beginning of May around 33,200 persons were filing claims under the Unemployment Compensation or Servicemen's Readjustment Allowance programs, whereas at the end of July the number of claimants totalled 23,100. Within the month of July there was a decrease of 3,580 in the number of claimants. Of those filing at the end of the month, 95 per cent were in an insured unemployment status. That is, this proportion

of the total number had been filing claims continuously for periods of two or more weeks.

## MAINE'S LABOR SUPPLY STILL FAR IN EXCESS OF EXISTING DEMAND

WHILE THE DEMAND for labor increased in June and July — local employment offices were requested by non-agricultural employers to refer workers to more than 13,400 job openings during the two month period — the State's supply of labor was still far in excess of existing demand at the first of this month. On August 1, over 29,600 persons were actively seeking work through the facilities of this Agency's local offices. Of those registered 874 were experienced in professional or managerial lines; 2,784 were clerical workers or salespersons; 1,585 were classified in occupations found in the various public and private service industries; 5,567 were skilled workers; 8,752 had prior experience in semiskilled jobs; and 10,053 were unskilled workers.

## Maine Employment Security Commission

### EMPLOYMENT OFFICES

<i>Location</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Telephone</i>
Augusta	331 Water Street	1200-41
Bangor	182 Harlow Street	6435
Bath	174 Front Street	1748
Biddeford	275 Main Street	2070
Calais	87 Main Street	427
Caribou	Main Street	3331
Ellsworth	City Hall, Room 7	333
Houlton	32 Bangor Street	3606
Lewiston	19 Park Street	4-6971
Machias	Main Street	167
Portland	615 Congress Street	2-0186
Rockland	437 Main Street	105
Rumford	244 Waldo Street	805
Sanford	25 Washington Street	1045
Skowhegan	29 Water Street	368
Waterville	79 Temple Street	1886

After Five Days Return To  
MAINE  
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION  
AUGUSTA MAINE  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY MAIL  
UNITED STATES POSTAGE  
ACCOUNTED FOR UNDER  
ACT OF CONGRESS  
(PAR. 13, SEC. 579, P. L. & R.)