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Dana Evans

Maine Center for Workforce Research and Information, Dana.A.Evans@Maine.gov

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State Labor Commissioner Valerie Landry announced that the seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for Maine was 2.8 percent in December, up from 2.6 percent in November.

"The seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for Maine rose slightly between November and December, but remained well below the rate of 3.7 percent for December 1999," said Commissioner Landry.

Between November and December, seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs rose by 1,400 to 603,700, with most of the gain in construction, government, and services. Between December 1999 and December 2000, seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs rose by 10,500, with gains in services, retail trade, construction, and government.

Other New England states reporting seasonally-adjusted unemployment rates for December include New Hampshire, 2.3 percent, and Vermont, 2.5 percent. The adjusted national rate was 4.0 percent in December, unchanged from November and down from 4.1 percent in December 1999.

The not-seasonally-adjusted Maine unemployment rate for December was 2.6 percent, unchanged from November and down from 3.5 percent in December 1999. The unadjusted national rate was 3.7 percent, down from 3.8 percent in November and unchanged from December 1999. Not-seasonally-adjusted unemployment rates for Maine counties ranged from 1.3 percent in Cumberland and Sagadahoc counties to 5.5 percent in Piscataquis County.

Not-seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs fell by 1,400 between November and December. There was a seasonal loss of 1,000 construction jobs. Seasonal declines were also recorded in lodging services and eating and drinking places.

Between December 1999 and December 2000, not-seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs increased by 10,700. Services rose by 5,300, with the largest gains in social services, health services, and business services. Retail trade increased by 2,300, mainly in food stores and other retail trade. Construction rose by 2,100 and wholesale trade increased by 1,000. Manufacturing fell by 1,800, with losses in transportation equipment, paper and allied products, and leather and leather products.
FEBRUARY 28, 2001

JANUARY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FALLS TO 2.5 PERCENT

State Labor Commissioner Valerie Landry announced that the seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for Maine fell to 2.5 percent in January, the lowest seasonally-adjusted rate on record. Record low statewide unemployment rates have been recorded for five out of the last six months. Seasonally-adjusted rates for Maine are available back to January 1978.

"Reflecting continued job growth and a low supply of labor, seasonally adjusted unemployment rates dropped steadily last year, from 4.1 percent in January to 2.7 percent in December," said Commissioner Landry. "That trend continued in January 2001, with the unemployment rate falling from 2.7 percent in December 2000 to 2.5 percent in January 2001."

Between December and January, seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs rose by 1,500 to 611,800, with most of the gain in services and wholesale trade. Between January 2000 and January 2001, seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs rose by 14,800, with more than half of the gain in services industries.

Other New England states reporting seasonally-adjusted unemployment rates for January include New Hampshire, 2.1 percent, and Vermont, 2.7 percent. The adjusted national rate was 4.2 percent in January, up from 4.0 percent in December and 4.0 percent in January 2000.

The not-seasonally-adjusted Maine unemployment rate for January was 3.6 percent, up from 2.6 percent in December and down from 5.3 percent in January 2000. The unadjusted national rate was 4.7 percent, up from 3.7 percent in December and 4.5 percent in December 2000. Not-seasonally-adjusted unemployment rates for Maine counties ranged from 1.7 percent in Cumberland County to 9.7 percent in Washington County.

Not-seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary employment fell seasonally by 23,000 between December and January. Retail trade jobs dropped seasonally after the peak holiday shopping season. State and local government and private educational services jobs declined due primarily to winter vacation breaks in schools and the University system. Construction also recorded seasonal job losses.

Between January 2000 and January 2001, not-seasonally adjusted nonfarm wage and salary employment rose by 14,500. Services increased by 7,900, with gains in business services, social services, health services, educational services, and other services. Retail trade increased by 2,800, mainly in food stores, eating and drinking places, and other retail trade. Wholesale trade increased by 1,600 and construction rose by 1,200. Manufacturing jobs fell by 1,800 over the year.
FEBRUARY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE REMAINS AT 2.4 PERCENT

State Labor Commissioner Valerie Landry announced that the seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for Maine remained at a record low 2.4 percent in February, unchanged from January. Seasonally-adjusted rates for Maine are available back to January 1978.

"Jobs continued to increase in Maine between January and February," said Commissioner Landry. "As a result, unemployment stayed at record low levels."

Between January and February, seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs rose by 1,600 to 613,400, with gains outweighing losses. The largest increases were in services and retail trade. Manufacturing jobs declined by 600.

Between February 2000 and February 2001, the seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate fell from 4.0 percent to 2.4 percent. Coincident with the drop in unemployment, seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs rose by 14,500, with almost two-thirds of the gain in services industries. Job increases also were recorded in retail trade; wholesale trade; government; construction; and finance, insurance, and real estate. Manufacturing jobs declined by 2,600.

Other New England states reporting seasonally adjusted unemployment rates for February include New Hampshire, 2.0 percent, and Vermont, 2.8 percent. The adjusted national rate was 4.2 percent in February, unchanged from January and up from 4.1 percent in February 2000.

The not-seasonally-adjusted Maine unemployment rate for February was 3.5 percent, down from 3.6 percent in January and 5.2 percent in February 2000. Not-seasonally-adjusted unemployment rates for Maine counties ranged from 1.7 percent for Cumberland County to 9.0 percent for Washington County.

Not-seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs rose by 4,000 between January and February. State government and private educational services jobs rose seasonally as winter vacation breaks ended in colleges and schools. Retail trade fell by 1,400 due to the end of the holiday shopping season. Construction jobs dropped by 600 as winter weather reduced building activity.

Between February 2000 and February 2001, not-seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs rose by 14,300. Services increased by 8,300, with growth in business, social, health, educational, and other services. Retail trade rose by 3,300, mainly in food stores, eating and drinking places, and other retail trade. Wholesale trade rose by 1,400 and construction added 1,000 jobs. Manufacturing jobs fell by 2,300 over the year.
MAINE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AT RECORD LOW OF 2.4 PERCENT AGAIN

State Labor Commissioner Valerie Landry announced that the seasonally-adjusted March unemployment rate for Maine was 2.4 percent, the lowest seasonally-adjusted rate on record. The rate was also 2.4 percent in January before rising to 2.7 percent in February. Seasonally-adjusted rates for Maine are available back to January 1978.

"The seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate fell between February and March due to the combination of a low supply of labor and continued job growth," said Commissioner Landry. "Between February and March, seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs rose by 600."

Between March 2000 and March 2001, the seasonally-adjusted Maine unemployment rate fell from 3.9 percent to 2.4 percent. Nonfarm wage and salary jobs rose by 11,700, with over three-quarters of the gain in services industries. Retail trade; wholesale trade; construction; and finance, insurance, and real estate also added jobs. Manufacturing jobs fell by 2,700.

Other New England states reporting their seasonally-adjusted unemployment rates for March include New Hampshire, 2.6 percent, and Vermont, 2.9 percent. The adjusted national rate was 4.3 percent in March, up from 4.2 percent in February and 4.0 percent in March 2000.

The not-seasonally-adjusted Maine unemployment rate for March was 3.3 percent, down from 3.8 percent in February and 4.9 percent in March 2000. Not-seasonally-adjusted unemployment rates for Maine counties ranged from 1.6 percent in Cumberland County to 8.1 percent in Washington County.

Not-seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs in Maine rose by 4,100 between February and March. Services rose by 2,500, with the largest gains in business, health, and other services. Government added 700 jobs. Seasonal gains were recorded in construction (+700) and eating and drinking places (+500).

Between March 2000 and March 2001, not-seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs rose by 11,900. Services increased by 8,800, with growth in business, social, health, and other services. Retail trade rose by 2,700, with gains in food stores, miscellaneous retail trade, and eating and drinking places. Construction and wholesale trade each added 1,200 jobs. Finance, insurance, and real estate rose by 700. Manufacturing jobs declined by 2,600 over the year, with losses recorded by lumber and wood products, leather and leather products, transportation equipment, and textile mill products.
MAINE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE RISES TO 3.1 PERCENT

State Labor Commissioner Valerie Landry announced that the seasonally-adjusted April unemployment rate for Maine was 3.1 percent, up from 2.4 percent in March. Despite the increase, Maine’s unemployment rate remains low by historical standards and well below the national April rate of 4.5 percent.

"The Maine labor market is feeling the effects of the national slowdown, with nonfarm wage and salary job losses between March and April concentrated in manufacturing and wholesale trade," said Commissioner Landry. "In addition, poor weather conditions in April resulted in a late start for many of the outdoor spring activities."

Between March and April seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs recorded a decline of 600, with losses in manufacturing and wholesale trade more than offsetting gains in other industries.

Between April 2000 and April 2001, the seasonally-adjusted Maine unemployment rate fell from 3.8 percent to 3.1 percent. Nonfarm wage and salary employment jobs rose by 9,300. Eighty percent of the job growth was recorded in services industries. Gains also were recorded in retail trade, construction, government, and wholesale trade. Manufacturing employment fell by 3,800.

Other New England states reporting their seasonally-adjusted unemployment rates for April include Vermont, 3.1 percent, and New Hampshire, 3.9 percent. The adjusted national rate was 4.5 percent in April, up from 4.3 percent in March and 4.0 percent in April 2000.

The not-seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for April was 3.4 percent, up from 3.3 percent in March, and down from 4.2 percent in April 2000. Not-seasonally-adjusted unemployment rates for Maine counties ranged from 1.7 percent in Cumberland County to 8.1 percent in Washington County.

Not-seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs in Maine rose seasonally by 6,200 between March and April. Eating and drinking places and lodging establishments added jobs as they began to gear up for the summer season. Construction recorded a seasonal gain of 2,700 jobs. These gains were partially offset by a loss of 1,500 in manufacturing.

Between April 2000 and April 2001, not-seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs rose by 9,600. Services increased by 7,600, mainly in business services, social services, and other services. Retail trade increased by 2,600, largely in food stores and other retail trade. Construction increased by 1,400. Wholesale trade added 500 jobs. Manufacturing fell by 3,800, with losses of 1,000 in lumber and wood products, 700 in both textile mill products and leather and leather products, and 400 each in electronic and other electrical equipment, paper and allied products, and transportation equipment.
MAINE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE RISES TO 3.5 PERCENT IN MAY

State Labor Commissioner Valerie Landry announced that the seasonally-adjusted May unemployment rate for Maine was 3.5 percent, up from 3.1 percent in April. Despite the increase, Maine’s unemployment rate remains well below the national May rate of 4.4 percent.

"Seasonally-adjusted unemployment rose for a second consecutive month, while seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs fell by 1,700 between April and May," said Commissioner Landry. "Job losses were recorded in construction, retail trade, and manufacturing."

Between May 2000 and May 2001, the seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate fell from 3.8 percent to 3.5 percent. Concurrently, nonfarm wage and salary jobs rose by 6,200. Services industries recorded a gain of 6,900 jobs over the year, with smaller increases registered in retail trade; construction; wholesale trade; and finance, insurance, and real estate. These gains were partially offset by a loss of 4,500 manufacturing jobs.

Other New England states reporting their seasonally-adjusted unemployment rates for May include New Hampshire, 2.8 percent, and Vermont, 3.0 percent. The adjusted national rate was 4.4 percent in May, down from 4.5 percent in April and up from 4.1 percent in May 2000.

The not-seasonally-adjusted Maine unemployment rate for May was 3.3 percent, down from 3.4 percent in April and 3.6 percent in May 2000. The unadjusted national rate was 4.1 percent, down from 4.2 percent in April and up from 3.9 percent in May 2000. Not-seasonally-adjusted unemployment rates for Maine counties ranged from 1.9 percent in Cumberland County to 7.3 percent in Piscataquis County.

Not-seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs in Maine rose seasonally by 9,900 between April and May. Eating and drinking places and lodging establishments added jobs as they geared up for summer tourism. Construction rose seasonally by 1,600.

Between May 2000 and May 2001, not-seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs rose by 6,300. Services rose by 7,000, mainly in business services, social services, and other services. Retail trade increased by 2,400, largely in food stores and other retail trade. Construction rose by 1,000 and wholesale trade added 600 jobs. Manufacturing jobs fell by 4,500 over the year, with the largest losses recorded in lumber and wood products, electronic and other electrical equipment, leather and leather products, and textile mill products.
MAINE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FALLS TO 3.3 PERCENT IN JUNE

State Labor Commissioner Valerie Landry announced that the seasonally adjusted June unemployment rate for Maine was 3.3 percent, down from 3.5 percent in May. Maine's unemployment rate remains well below the national June rate of 4.5 percent.

"Seasonally-adjusted unemployment in Maine edged downward over the month as a result of slight gains in employment," said Commissioner Valerie Landry. "The seasonally-adjusted rate also declined over the past year, from 3.6 percent for June 2000 to the current rate of 3.3 percent."

Between June 2000 and June 2001, seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs increased by 6,400 to 610,000. The largest job gains were recorded by services, 6,600, and retail trade, 2,000. Additional increases were recorded in construction, wholesale trade, and government. These increases were partially offset by a loss of 4,600 manufacturing jobs.

Other New England states reporting their seasonally adjusted unemployment rates for June include New Hampshire, 3.0 percent, and Vermont, 3.0 percent. The adjusted national rate for June was 4.5 percent, up from 4.4 percent in May and 4.0 percent in June 2000.

The not-seasonally-adjusted Maine unemployment rate for June was 3.3 percent, unchanged from May and down from 3.6 percent from June 2000. The unadjusted national rate was 4.7 percent in June, up from 4.1 percent in May and 4.2 percent in June 2000. Not-seasonally-adjusted unemployment rates for Maine counties ranged from 1.9 percent in Lincoln County to 6.9 percent in Franklin County.

Not-seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs in Maine rose by 11,100 between May and June as employers geared up for the summer season. Eating and drinking places and lodging services recorded the largest gains. State government fell by 2,700, as nonprofessional staff and work study students left at the end of the school year.

Between June 2000 and June 2001, not-seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs increased by 6,500. Services increased by 6,800, largely in business services, social services, and other services. Retail trade added 2,000, mainly in other retail trade. Local government rose by 1,200 and construction increased by 1,000 over the year. Manufacturing fell by 4,600, with the largest losses in electronic and other electrical equipment, leather and leather products, and textile mill products.
MAINE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE RISES TO 3.8 PERCENT IN JULY

State Labor Commissioner Valerie Landry announced that the seasonally-adjusted July unemployment rate for Maine was 3.8 percent, up from 3.5 percent in June. The Maine unemployment rate remains well below the national July rate of 4.5 percent.

"Seasonally-adjusted unemployment rose between June and July as an increase in the number of people looking for work outweighed slight employment gains," said Commissioner Landry. "Job gains were led by an increase in retail trade."

Between July 2000 and July 2001, seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary employment increased by 6,400 to 614,800. Services industries recorded a job gain of 6,400. Other industry divisions adding jobs were retail trade, construction, wholesale trade, and government. These gains were partially offset by a loss of 4,400 in manufacturing.

Other New England states reporting their seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for July include Vermont, 3.3 percent, and New Hampshire, 3.4 percent. The adjusted national rate for July was 4.5 percent, unchanged from June and up from 4.0 percent in July 2000.

The not-seasonally-adjusted Maine unemployment rate for July was 3.0 percent, down from 3.5 percent in June and up from 2.6 percent in July 2000. The unadjusted national rate was 4.7 percent for July, unchanged from the rate of 4.7 percent for June and up from 4.2 percent for July 2000. Not-seasonally-adjusted unemployment rates in Maine counties ranged from 1.6 percent in Lincoln County to 5.8 percent in Franklin County.

Not-seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs in Maine fell seasonally by 2,800 between June and July, due primarily to nonprofessional staff leaving local schools for the summer break. Eating and drinking places and lodging services recorded tourist-related seasonal gains.

Between July 2000 and July 2001, not-seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs increased by 6,900. Services rose by 6,800, largely in business services, social services, and other services. Retail trade increased by 1,600, mainly in other retail trade. Job gains also were recorded by local government, construction, and wholesale trade. Manufacturing jobs fell by 4,300, with the largest losses in electronic and other electrical equipment and leather and leather products.
MAINE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE RISES TO 4.0 PERCENT IN AUGUST

State Labor Commissioner Valerie Landry announced that the seasonally-adjusted August unemployment rate for Maine was 4.0 percent, up from 3.8 percent in July. The Maine unemployment rate remains well below the national August rate of 4.9 percent.

"The seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate has been rising steadily since the all-time low of 2.4 percent recorded in March of this year," said Commissioner Landry. "During this same time period, the number of nonfarm wage and salary jobs has dropped 2,000, from 612,500 in March to 610,500 in August."

Despite the decline in the number of seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs between March and August this year, there were 5,200 more nonfarm jobs in August 2001 than in August 2000. Services; government; transportation, communication, and public utilities; construction; and wholesale and retail trade have added jobs over the year. These gains were partially offset by a loss of 4,900 jobs in manufacturing.

Other New England states reporting their seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for August include Vermont, 3.3 percent, and New Hampshire, 3.8 percent. The adjusted national rate for August was 4.9 percent, up from 4.5 percent in July and 4.1 percent in August 2000.

The not-seasonally-adjusted Maine unemployment rate for August was 3.1 percent, up from 3.0 percent in July and 2.4 percent in August 2000. The unadjusted national rate was 4.9 percent for August, up from 4.7 percent for July and 4.1 percent for August 2000. Not-seasonally-adjusted August unemployment rates for Maine counties ranged from 1.7 percent for Lincoln County to 6.1 percent for Somerset County.

Not-seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs in Maine declined by 900 between July and August, due primarily to losses in business services and other services, and a seasonal decline in state and local government.

Between August 2000 and August 2001, not-seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs increased by 7,600. Services rose by 6,500, largely in business, social, educational, health, and other services. Job gains also were recorded by local government; retail trade; transportation, communication, and public utilities; construction; and wholesale trade. Manufacturing jobs fell by 4,900, with the largest losses in electronic and other electrical equipment, lumber and wood products, and leather and leather products.
MAINE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE RISES TO 4.3 PERCENT IN SEPTEMBER

State Labor Commissioner Valerie Landry announced that the seasonally-adjusted September unemployment rate for Maine was 4.3 percent, up from 4.0 percent in August. The Maine unemployment rate remains below the national September rate of 4.9 percent.

"The seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for Maine continued to rise in September, primarily reflecting the national economic slowdown which was in place prior to the events of September 11," said Commissioner Landry. "Because our surveys collect information for the week which includes the 12th of the month, anyone working at all during that week was counted as employed for the month of September. Job loss related directly or indirectly to the events of September 11 should begin to be reflected in the October data."

Other New England states reporting their seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for September include Vermont, 3.2 percent, and New Hampshire, 4.1 percent. The adjusted national rate for September was 4.9 percent, unchanged from August and up from 3.9 percent in September 2000.

The not-seasonally-adjusted Maine unemployment rate for September was 3.6 percent, up from 3.1 percent in August and 2.5 percent in September 2000. The unadjusted national rate was 4.7 percent for September, down from 4.9 percent for August and up from 3.8 percent for September 2000. Not-seasonally-adjusted September unemployment rates for Maine counties ranged from 2.0 percent in Lincoln County to 7.0 percent in Somerset County.

Not-seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs in Maine rose by 3,400 between August and September. Local government jobs increased seasonally by 11,700 as nonprofessional school employees returned to work after the summer break. State government rose by 2,400 as nonprofessional staff and work-study students returned to college and university payrolls. These gains were partially offset by seasonal losses in restaurants and lodging services as tourist-related activities recorded a seasonal decline. Manufacturing jobs also fell over the month.

Between September 2000 and September 2001, not-seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs increased by 4,800 (after adjustment for a strike a year ago). Services, local government, construction, wholesale trade, and retail trade registered job gains. Manufacturing job losses were recorded in electronic and other electrical equipment, leather and leather products, and lumber and wood products. Transportation equipment increased by 4,500 due to comparison with a strike period last year. Individuals on strike at Bath Iron Works in September 2000 were considered not job-attached and excluded from the job count for that month.
MAINE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE UNCHANGED AT 4.3 PERCENT IN OCTOBER

State Labor Commissioner Valerie Landry announced that the seasonally-adjusted October unemployment rate for Maine was 4.3 percent, unchanged from September and up from 3.1 percent a year ago. The Maine unemployment rate remained below the national rate of 5.4 percent for October.

"While the seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for Maine remained stable, there was a loss of 1,700 nonfarm wage and salary jobs between September and October," said Commissioner Landry. "The job changes in October include the impact of the events of September 11. The attack’s impact, however, cannot be separated from other influences on the job market.”

Between September and October, declines in manufacturing, services, and government contributed to the loss of 1,700 seasonally-adjusted nonfarm jobs. Between October 2000 and October 2001, seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs increased by 600 to 609,300. Gains over the past year in services, government, construction, and trade were largely offset by a drop in manufacturing jobs.

Other New England states reporting their seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for October include Vermont, 3.2 percent; New Hampshire, 3.8 percent; and Massachusetts, 4.2 percent. The adjusted national rate for October was 5.4 percent, up from 4.9 percent in September and 3.9 percent in October 2000.

The not-seasonally-adjusted Maine unemployment rate for October was 3.8 percent, up from 3.6 percent in September and 2.6 percent in October 2000. The unadjusted national rate was 5.0 percent for October, up from 4.7 percent in September and 3.6 percent in October 2000. Not-seasonally-adjusted October unemployment rates for Maine counties ranged from 2.1 percent in Lincoln County to 7.4 percent in Somerset County.

Not-seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs in Maine fell 2,700 between September and October. There were seasonal job losses, primarily in eating and drinking places and lodging services as tourist-related activities slowed. These losses were partially offset by a seasonal increase in government as state and local educational institutions geared up.

Between October 2000 and October 2001, not-seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs increased by 400 (after adjustment for a strike a year ago). Services increased by 3,300, mainly in social, business, and educational services. Job gains were also recorded in local government, construction, and retail and wholesale trade. Manufacturing jobs losses were recorded in electronic and other electrical equipment, leather and leather products, and lumber and wood products. Transportation equipment increased by 4,600 due to a comparison with a strike period a year ago. Individuals on strike at Bath Iron Works in October 2000 were considered not-job-attached and excluded from the job count for that month.
MAINE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AT 4.2 PERCENT IN NOVEMBER

State Labor Commissioner Valerie Landry announced that the seasonally-adjusted November unemployment rate for Maine was 4.2 percent, down slightly from 4.3 percent in October. The Maine unemployment rate remained below the national rate of 5.7 percent for November.

"Overall, there was not much change in Maine labor market conditions between October and November," said Commissioner Landry. "However, the seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for November 2001 of 4.2 percent is well above the rate for November 2000 of 2.9 percent."

Between October and November, seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs dropped slightly by 500 to 609,200. The total number of nonfarm jobs did not change substantially as a loss of 1,400 manufacturing jobs was mostly offset by gains in services and wholesale trade.

Between November 2000 and November 2001, seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs fell by 1,300. Manufacturing jobs declined by 7,200, with losses in electronic and other electric equipment, leather and leather products, lumber and wood products, paper, and textile mill products. Partially offsetting the drop in manufacturing jobs were gains in services, government, trade, and construction.

Other New England states reporting their seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for November include Vermont, 3.7 percent, and New Hampshire, 3.9 percent. The adjusted national rate for November was 5.7 percent, up from 5.4 percent in October and 4.0 percent in November 2000.

The not-seasonally-adjusted Maine unemployment rate for November was 4.0 percent, up from 3.8 percent in October and 2.8 percent in November 2000. The unadjusted national rate was 5.3 percent for November, up from 5.0 percent in October and 3.8 percent in November 2000. Not-seasonally-adjusted November unemployment rates for Maine counties ranged from 2.7 percent in Cumberland County to 7.4 percent in Somerset County.

Not-seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs in Maine fell 7,100 between October and November. Normal seasonal losses were recorded in eating and drinking places, lodging services, and construction. These losses were partially offset by gains in local government due to temporary hiring for elections and miscellaneous retail trade establishments gearing up for the holidays.

Between November 2000 and November 2001, not-seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs declined by 1,300. Manufacturing jobs declined by 7,200. Services increased by 2,700, mainly in educational, social, and business services. Job gains were also recorded in local government, construction, and retail and wholesale trade.