

MAINE

DEPARTMENT OF

LABOR

Labor Market Information

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Adjusted statewide unemployment rate edged up from 4.5 percent in January to 4.6 percent in February.....page 4

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A publication of the

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Labor Market
Information Services

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Editor

The Maine Department of Labor provides equal opportunity employment and programs. Auxiliary aids and services provided to individuals with disabilities upon request

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LABOR MARKET DIGEST

February Data

April 2006

Eligible Labor Surplus Areas for Bidding on Federal Contracts

The U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, recently released a list of labor surplus areas. The list, which became effective October 1, 2005, and remains in effect through September 30, 2006, contains the Maine counties of Piscataquis, Somerset, and Washington.

An area is classified as a labor surplus area when its average unemployment rate was at least 20 percent above the average unemployment rate for all states (including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico) during the previous two calendar years.

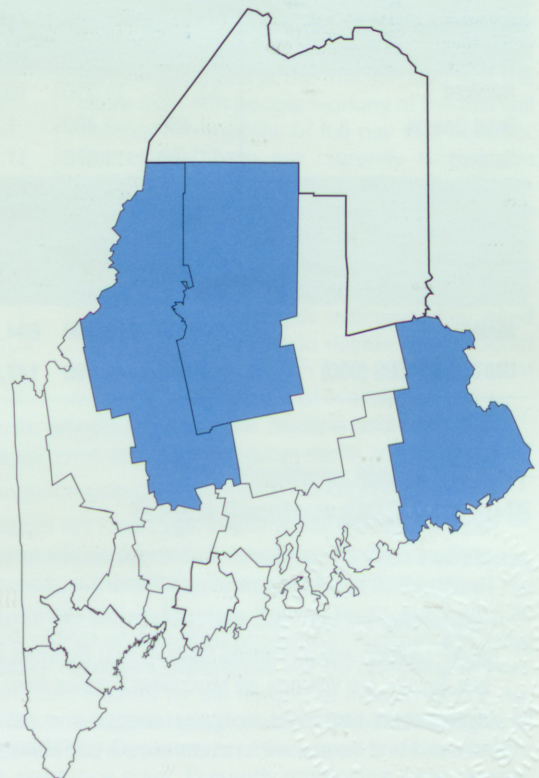
The national average unemployment rate during the period of January 2003 through December 2004 was 5.8 percent, making the qualifying rate for labor surplus area classification 7.0 percent (5.8 percent times 1.2).

Employers which are located in labor surplus areas can be given preference in bidding on federal procurement contracts. The purpose in providing such preference is to help direct government procurement dollars into areas where people are in the most severe economic need, i.e., areas with the highest rates of unemployment.

In addition to the basic labor surplus area classification criteria, the U.S. Department of Labor may also classi-

fy as surplus areas jurisdictions in which unemployment increases significantly due to "exceptional circumstances." Such circumstances result from major plant closings or cutbacks, contract cancellations, or such catastrophic events as fires, floods, and other major disasters.

In order for an area in Maine to be classified as an exception, a petition must be submitted by the Maine Department of Labor indicating that the area has had an increase in unemployment which was not temporary or seasonal and which was not adequately reflected in the previous two-year reference period used in preparation of the annual listing.



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

| AREA | CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ¹ | | | EMPLOYED ² | | | UNEMPLOYED ³ | | | UNEMPLOYMENT RATE ⁴ | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------------|------------|------------|
| | Feb 06 | Jan 06 | Feb 05 | Feb 06 | Jan 06 | Feb 05 | Feb 06 | Jan 06 | Feb 05 | Feb 06 | Jan 06 | Feb 05 |
| LABOR MARKET AREAS⁵ | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Augusta | 44,130 | 43,230 | 43,230 | 41,680 | 40,960 | 40,740 | 2,450 | 2,280 | 2,500 | 5.6% | 5.3% | 5.8% |
| Augusta-Waterville Combined ⁶ | 66,660 | 65,660 | 65,180 | 62,870 | 62,150 | 61,250 | 3,780 | 3,510 | 3,930 | 5.7 | 5.3 | 6.0 |
| Bangor | 73,300 | 72,700 | 71,200 | 69,400 | 69,000 | 67,200 | 3,800 | 3,700 | 4,000 | 5.3 | 5.1 | 5.6 |
| Belfast | 13,830 | 13,810 | 13,460 | 12,880 | 12,870 | 12,500 | 950 | 940 | 960 | 6.9 | 6.8 | 7.1 |
| Boothbay Harbor | 3,740 | 3,750 | 3,530 | 3,470 | 3,490 | 3,240 | 270 | 260 | 300 | 7.2 | 7.0 | 8.4 |
| Bridgton-Paris | 14,230 | 14,330 | 13,970 | 13,240 | 13,400 | 13,050 | 990 | 940 | 930 | 7.0 | 6.5 | 6.6 |
| Brunswick | 34,190 | 34,000 | 33,910 | 32,450 | 32,410 | 32,210 | 1,740 | 1,590 | 1,710 | 5.1 | 4.7 | 5.0 |
| Calais | 6,170 | 6,140 | 6,270 | 5,590 | 5,560 | 5,530 | 590 | 580 | 740 | 9.5 | 9.4 | 11.9 |
| Camden | 8,100 | 8,060 | 7,720 | 7,660 | 7,640 | 7,320 | 440 | 430 | 400 | 5.4 | 5.3 | 5.2 |
| Conway, NH-ME ⁷ | 3,770 | 3,790 | 3,750 | 3,650 | 3,670 | 3,590 | 120 | 120 | 160 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 4.2 |
| Dover-Foxcroft | 9,610 | 9,670 | 9,490 | 8,810 | 8,910 | 8,690 | 810 | 760 | 800 | 8.4 | 7.8 | 8.4 |
| Ellsworth | 28,280 | 27,950 | 27,710 | 25,870 | 25,640 | 25,340 | 2,410 | 2,310 | 2,370 | 8.5 | 8.3 | 8.5 |
| Farmington | 18,220 | 17,820 | 18,100 | 17,070 | 16,760 | 16,940 | 1,150 | 1,050 | 1,160 | 6.3 | 5.9 | 6.4 |
| Houlton | 8,520 | 8,550 | 8,500 | 7,900 | 7,930 | 7,860 | 630 | 630 | 640 | 7.4 | 7.3 | 7.5 |
| Lewiston-Auburn | 57,300 | 57,700 | 56,100 | 54,100 | 54,700 | 52,800 | 3,200 | 3,000 | 3,200 | 5.6 | 5.2 | 5.8 |
| Lincoln | 3,670 | 3,670 | 3,660 | 3,410 | 3,420 | 3,340 | 260 | 260 | 320 | 7.0 | 7.0 | 8.7 |
| Machias | 8,330 | 8,290 | 8,080 | 7,500 | 7,530 | 7,190 | 830 | 760 | 890 | 10.0 | 9.2 | 11.0 |
| Madawaska | 2,950 | 2,940 | 3,020 | 2,760 | 2,740 | 2,780 | 190 | 200 | 240 | 6.3 | 6.8 | 7.9 |
| Millinocket | 3,950 | 4,020 | 4,040 | 3,550 | 3,630 | 3,580 | 400 | 390 | 450 | 10.1 | 9.7 | 11.2 |
| Pittsfield | 7,750 | 7,840 | 7,570 | 7,040 | 7,110 | 6,820 | 710 | 730 | 740 | 9.2 | 9.3 | 9.8 |
| Portland-South Portland-Biddeford | 204,700 | 204,100 | 201,400 | 196,400 | 196,300 | 192,900 | 8,200 | 7,700 | 8,500 | 4.0 | 3.8 | 4.2 |
| Portland-South Portland-Sanford Combined ⁶ | 216,100 | 215,400 | 212,700 | 207,100 | 206,900 | 203,400 | 9,000 | 8,500 | 9,300 | 4.2 | 4.0 | 4.4 |
| Portsmouth, NH-ME ⁷ | 9,520 | 9,440 | 9,170 | 9,220 | 9,160 | 8,800 | 300 | 280 | 370 | 3.1 | 3.0 | 4.1 |
| Presque Isle | 25,350 | 25,180 | 25,120 | 23,620 | 23,430 | 23,350 | 1,740 | 1,750 | 1,770 | 6.8 | 6.9 | 7.0 |
| Rochester-Dover, NH-ME ⁷ | 11,220 | 11,190 | 11,100 | 10,810 | 10,800 | 10,500 | 410 | 400 | 590 | 3.7 | 3.5 | 5.3 |
| Rockland | 12,650 | 12,530 | 12,410 | 11,890 | 11,850 | 11,720 | 770 | 690 | 690 | 6.1 | 5.5 | 5.6 |
| Rumford | 11,110 | 11,210 | 10,840 | 10,350 | 10,470 | 10,110 | 760 | 740 | 730 | 6.8 | 6.6 | 6.7 |
| Saint George | 1,460 | 1,460 | 1,420 | 1,380 | 1,370 | 1,360 | 80 | 80 | 60 | 5.4 | 5.7 | 4.4 |
| Sanford | 11,460 | 11,370 | 11,310 | 10,660 | 10,550 | 10,450 | 810 | 820 | 860 | 7.0 | 7.2 | 7.6 |
| Skowhegan | 14,800 | 14,830 | 14,770 | 13,460 | 13,490 | 13,300 | 1,350 | 1,340 | 1,470 | 9.1 | 9.0 | 10.0 |
| Waldoboro | 9,680 | 9,650 | 9,410 | 9,200 | 9,190 | 8,980 | 480 | 460 | 440 | 5.0 | 4.8 | 4.6 |
| Waterville | 22,520 | 22,420 | 21,950 | 21,190 | 21,190 | 20,510 | 1,330 | 1,230 | 1,430 | 5.9 | 5.5 | 6.5 |
| York | 16,220 | 15,490 | 15,880 | 15,400 | 14,620 | 15,020 | 820 | 870 | 860 | 5.1 | 5.6 | 5.4 |
| MAINE | 707,000 | 703,400 | 694,300 | 667,700 | 665,800 | 653,800 | 39,400 | 37,600 | 40,600 | 5.6 | 5.3 | 5.8 |
| UNITED STATES (000) | 149,686 | 149,090 | 147,649 | 141,994 | 141,481 | 139,100 | 7,692 | 7,608 | 8,549 | 5.1 | 5.1 | 5.8 |

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, Labor Market Information Services, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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

| AREA | CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE | | | EMPLOYED | | | UNEMPLOYED | | | UNEMPLOYMENT RATE | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|------------|------------|
| | Feb 06 | Jan 06 | Feb 05 | Feb 06 | Jan 06 | Feb 05 | Feb 06 | Jan 06 | Feb 05 | Feb 06 | Jan 06 | Feb 05 |
| COUNTY | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Androscoggin | 58,320 | 58,620 | 57,130 | 55,060 | 55,600 | 53,840 | 3,260 | 3,020 | 3,300 | 5.6% | 5.1% | 5.8% |
| Aroostook | 35,880 | 35,710 | 35,690 | 33,390 | 33,220 | 33,120 | 2,490 | 2,500 | 2,580 | 6.9 | 7.0 | 7.2 |
| Cumberland | 157,130 | 156,610 | 154,640 | 150,980 | 150,940 | 148,410 | 6,150 | 5,670 | 6,230 | 3.9 | 3.6 | 4.0 |
| Franklin | 15,490 | 15,120 | 15,370 | 14,530 | 14,270 | 14,420 | 960 | 850 | 960 | 6.2 | 5.6 | 6.2 |
| Hancock | 28,490 | 28,170 | 27,880 | 26,070 | 25,850 | 25,530 | 2,410 | 2,330 | 2,360 | 8.5 | 8.3 | 8.4 |
| Kennebec | 64,020 | 63,010 | 62,600 | 60,410 | 59,670 | 58,890 | 3,610 | 3,340 | 3,720 | 5.6 | 5.3 | 5.9 |
| Knox | 21,570 | 21,410 | 20,960 | 20,330 | 20,260 | 19,840 | 1,240 | 1,150 | 1,120 | 5.8 | 5.4 | 5.3 |
| Lincoln | 17,710 | 17,690 | 17,250 | 16,750 | 16,730 | 16,250 | 970 | 960 | 1,000 | 5.4 | 5.4 | 5.8 |
| Oxford | 29,570 | 29,790 | 29,030 | 27,690 | 27,970 | 27,170 | 1,880 | 1,820 | 1,860 | 6.3 | 6.1 | 6.4 |
| Penobscot | 80,370 | 79,940 | 78,390 | 75,840 | 75,580 | 73,690 | 4,530 | 4,370 | 4,700 | 5.6 | 5.5 | 6.0 |
| Piscataquis | 7,650 | 7,700 | 7,560 | 7,020 | 7,100 | 6,930 | 630 | 600 | 630 | 8.3 | 7.8 | 8.4 |
| Sagadahoc | 18,710 | 18,570 | 18,560 | 17,730 | 17,710 | 17,600 | 980 | 860 | 960 | 5.3 | 4.6 | 5.2 |
| Somerset | 25,030 | 25,140 | 24,800 | 22,880 | 22,970 | 22,450 | 2,150 | 2,170 | 2,350 | 8.6 | 8.6 | 9.5 |
| Waldo | 19,740 | 19,710 | 19,280 | 18,390 | 18,360 | 17,840 | 1,350 | 1,350 | 1,430 | 6.9 | 6.8 | 7.4 |
| Washington | 15,320 | 15,230 | 15,140 | 13,810 | 13,810 | 13,430 | 1,510 | 1,420 | 1,710 | 9.9 | 9.3 | 11.3 |
| York | 112,050 | 110,990 | 110,090 | 106,790 | 105,790 | 104,390 | 5,260 | 5,200 | 5,700 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 5.2 |
| MAINE | 707,000 | 703,400 | 694,300 | 667,700 | 665,800 | 653,800 | 39,400 | 37,600 | 40,600 | 5.6 | 5.3 | 5.8 |
| UNITED STATES (000) | 149,686 | 149,090 | 147,649 | 141,994 | 141,481 | 139,100 | 7,692 | 7,608 | 8,549 | 5.1 | 5.1 | 5.8 |

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

Area Analyst's Corner

Central Maine Ken Bridges (207) 624-5199

Ocean State Job Lots, a discount retailer with 80 stores in New England, is opening its first Maine store in the former Ames building in Belfast. ♦ **The University of New England** is interested in building a College of Pharmacy in Camden. The college would invest nearly \$30 million in a new campus if \$10 million in local funding could be raised. ♦ **Inland Hospital** has canceled its plan to build a new \$120 million hospital in Waterville, while **MaineGeneral Medical Center** proceeds with plans for a \$100 million expansion at its Thayer unit. ♦ Freedom residents are debating a proposal by **Competitive Energy Systems** to build several electricity producing wind turbans.

Western Maine Gerard Dennison (207) 753-9045

Target built a new 124,000 square-foot retail store across from the Topsham Fair Mall. The store opened on March 1, 2006 and employs over 100. ♦ In Bridgton, **Hannaford Brothers** opened its new 36,000 square-foot supermarket on Route 302 with 100 jobs in early March. ♦ **Nichols Trailers** of Wilton was awarded a \$13 million two-year contract from the Department of Defense to produce more than 1,000 trailers to be shipped to Iraq. The trailers are made to be towed behind a pickup truck. The contract will mean 10-12 new jobs for welders, laborers, and fabricators.

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

Georgia-Pacific announced that it will cease pulp and tissue making operations at its mill in Old Town. The company indicated that over the next several weeks employees will wind down operations at the mill. GP said that the more than 400 people working at the mill will receive two months of full pay and benefits. Interested buyers are currently touring the mill for potential purchase. ♦ Plans by Dover-Foxcroft-based **Pleasant River Lumber Co.** to open a \$17 million spruce mill operation employing 70 people full time in Enfield will be delayed a year. Company officials indicated they need more time to decide what product lines match best with long term raw material availability.

Southern Maine Gerard Dennison (207) 753-9045

Colgate-Palmolive purchased 84 percent of **Tom's of Maine**, the natural healthcare products company, for \$100 million. No layoffs or job cuts are anticipated in the near future. Tom's employs 170 people in its Kennebunk offices and Sanford production facilities. ♦ Starting in May of this year, **JetBlue Airways Corporation** will be operating in Portland. JetBlue will fill the need created by the leaving of Independence Air. The number of jobs to be created is not yet available. ♦ **DM Technologies** of Sanford has received a \$400,000 Department of Economic and Community Development business assistance grant. Presently employing three people, the company plans to hire 28 new employees.

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

| ITEM | 2006 | | 2005 | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Feb | Jan | Dec | Nov | Oct | Sep | Aug | Jul | Jun | May | Apr | Mar | Feb |
| Civilian Labor Force | 717.4 | 715.3 | 717.4 | 717.1 | 716.9 | 716.1 | 714.8 | 713.4 | 711.5 | 710.7 | 708.4 | 706.5 | 705.6 |
| Employed | 684.7 | 683.1 | 683.8 | 683.1 | 681.7 | 680.4 | 679.2 | 678.3 | 677.2 | 675.8 | 674.4 | 672.3 | 671.8 |
| Unemployed | 32.7 | 32.2 | 33.7 | 34.0 | 35.1 | 35.7 | 35.6 | 35.0 | 34.3 | 34.9 | 34.0 | 34.2 | 33.8 |
| Unemployment Rate (%) | 4.6 | 4.5 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 4.9 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 4.9 | 4.8 | 4.9 | 4.8 | 4.8 | 4.8 |

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

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

| INDUSTRY | 2006 | | 2005 | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Feb | Jan | Dec | Nov | Oct | Sep | Aug | Jul | Jun | May | Apr | Mar | Feb |
| Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment ² | 611.4 | 611.3 | 612.3 | 612.1 | 610.9 | 611.6 | 611.5 | 611.6 | 611.9 | 612.0 | 612.2 | 609.7 | 611.2 |
| Natural Resources | 2.8 | 2.9 | 2.8 | 2.9 | 2.8 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.7 |
| Construction | 30.5 | 30.3 | 30.9 | 30.8 | 30.7 | 30.7 | 30.6 | 30.7 | 30.8 | 30.4 | 30.6 | 30.2 | 30.3 |
| Manufacturing | 59.5 | 59.6 | 59.8 | 59.8 | 59.8 | 60.4 | 60.8 | 61.5 | 61.4 | 61.8 | 62.2 | 62.3 | 62.6 |
| Trade, Transportation and Public Utilities | 125.7 | 125.9 | 126.1 | 125.7 | 125.3 | 125.1 | 124.9 | 124.9 | 124.9 | 125.0 | 125.5 | 125.4 | 125.8 |
| Financial Activities | 33.8 | 33.9 | 33.8 | 33.9 | 33.9 | 34.1 | 34.1 | 34.2 | 34.1 | 34.2 | 34.1 | 34.2 | 34.3 |
| Professional and Business Services | 50.5 | 50.5 | 50.5 | 50.6 | 50.4 | 50.4 | 50.4 | 50.4 | 50.1 | 49.9 | 49.6 | 49.5 | 49.6 |
| Educational and Health Services | 112.1 | 112.5 | 112.7 | 113.1 | 112.6 | 112.5 | 112.6 | 112.3 | 112.4 | 112.6 | 111.9 | 111.3 | 111.4 |
| Leisure and Hospitality Services | 58.7 | 58.7 | 59.5 | 58.9 | 58.3 | 59.0 | 59.0 | 58.9 | 59.1 | 59.0 | 59.3 | 58.9 | 59.0 |
| Government | 105.8 | 105.5 | 105.4 | 105.6 | 105.8 | 105.6 | 105.2 | 105.0 | 105.2 | 104.9 | 104.6 | 104.5 | 104.8 |

¹ See footnotes 1 and 2 on page 7. The nonfarm wage and salary estimate is seasonally adjusted independently. Not all supersectors are seasonally adjusted. Information and other services are not suitable for seasonal adjustment because they have very little seasonal and irregular movement. Source: see page 2.

Maine Unemployment Rate 4.6 Percent in February

State Labor Commissioner Laura Fortman announced that the preliminary seasonally-adjusted February unemployment rate for Maine was 4.6 percent. This compares to a January rate of 4.5 percent and a rate of 4.8 percent for February 2005. The national unemployment rate for February was 4.8 percent.

The slight increase in the seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate between January and February resulted from an increase in the number of active labor force participants, with both employment and unemployment increasing. The number of employed Maine residents increased by 1,700, while the number of unemployed Maine residents rose by 500.

Between February 2005 and February 2006, the unemployment rate edged downward from 4.8 percent to 4.6 percent. The number of Maine residents employed rose by 12,900, while the number unemployed fell by 1,100.

The number of seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs in Maine was 611,400 for February, compared to 611,300 for January and 611,200 for February 2005. Between February 2005 and February 2006, job gains were registered in professional and business services, local government, health care and social assistance, construction, and other services. Offsetting the job gains, losses were recorded in manufacturing, financial activities, and leisure and hospitality services.

"While the number of nonfarm wage and salary jobs in Maine was nearly unchanged over the past year, the number of Maine residents employed continued to grow," said Commissioner

Fortman. "In addition to nonfarm wage and salary jobs in Maine, resident employment includes the self employed, agricultural wage and salary workers, domestics, and Maine residents working for out-of-state firms."

Other New England states reporting their seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for February include Vermont, 3.5 percent; New Hampshire, 3.5 percent; Connecticut, 4.5 percent; Massachusetts, 5.0 percent; and Rhode Island, 5.1 percent. The adjusted national rate for February was 4.8 percent, up from 4.7 percent for January and down from 5.4 percent for February 2005.

The not-seasonally-adjusted Maine unemployment rate for February was 5.6 percent, up from 5.3 percent for January and down from 5.8 percent for February 2005. The unadjusted national rate was 5.1 percent for February, unchanged from January and down from 5.8 percent for February 2005. Not-seasonally-adjusted February unemployment rates for Maine counties ranged from 3.9 percent in Cumberland County to 9.9 percent in Washington County.

Not-seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs in Maine rose by 2,300 between January and February to 591,700. State and local government and private educational services jobs increased as nonprofessional school staff and college work-study students returned to work after the holiday break. These gains were partially offset by seasonal losses in retail trade and construction.

Selected Regular Unemployment Compensation Program Indicators

| Key Data | Feb 2006 | Jan 2006 | Feb 2005 |
|--------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Average Duration | 14.9 | 14.9 | 14.9 |
| Average Weekly Benefit Amount* | \$242.02 | \$241.31 | \$235.51 |
| Exhaustees | 717 | 783 | 834 |

* For totally unemployed claimants, excluding dependency allowances.

Weekly Initial Claims

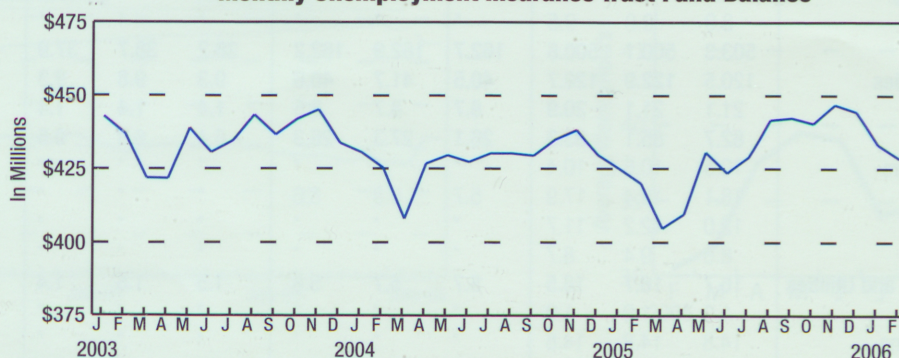
| Week | 3/18 | 3/11 | 3/4 | 2/25 | 2/18 | 2/11 | 2/4 |
|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 2006 | 1,201 | 1,217 | 1,557 | 1,088 | 1,178 | 1,418 | 1,545 |
| Week | 3/19 | 3/12 | 3/5 | 2/26 | 2/19 | 2/12 | 2/5 |
| 2005 | 1,338 | 1,173 | 1,315 | 1,114 | 1,348 | 1,351 | 1,629 |

Continued Claims Less Partial*

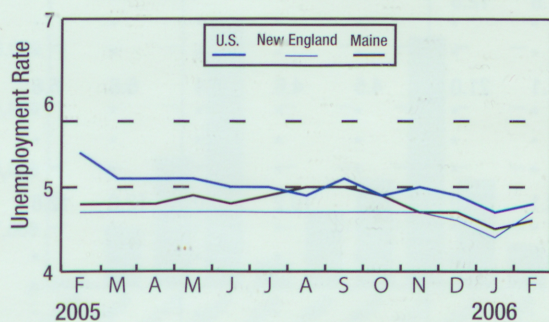
| Feb 2006 | Jan 2006 | Feb 2005 |
|----------|----------|----------|
| 13,311 | 12,493 | 12,728 |

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

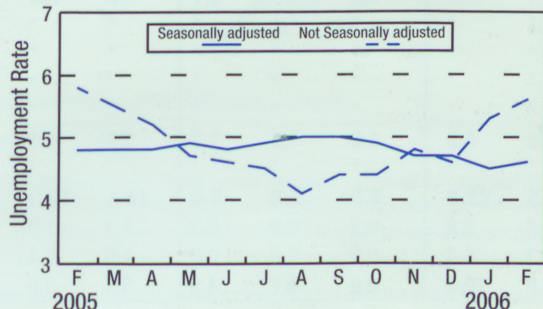
Monthly Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund Balance



Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted



Unemployment Rates for Maine



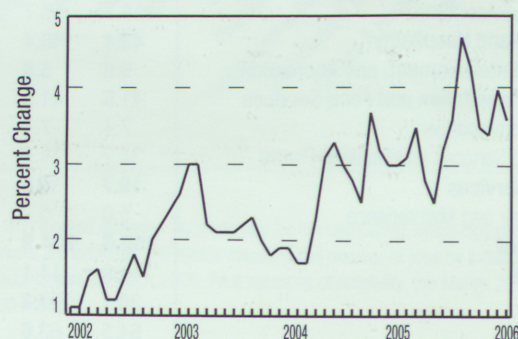
U.S. Consumer Price Index

for all urban consumers (CPI-U)

| Item | Feb 06 | Jan 06 | Feb 05 | Dec 05 |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| (1982-1984 = 100) All Items | 198.7 | 198.3 | 191.8 | 196.8 |

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Percent Change from Prior Month | +0.2% |
| Percent Change from 12 Months Ago | +3.6% |
| Percent change from Last December | +1.0% |

Over-the-Year Change in CPI-U



Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment, Not Seasonally Adjusted

(in thousands)

| INDUSTRY | MAINE | | | PORTLAND- SO. PORTLAND MSA | | | LEWISTON- AUBURN MSA | | | BANGOR MSA | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Feb 06 | Jan 06 | Feb 05 | Feb 06 | Jan 06 | Feb 05 | Feb 06 | Jan 06 | Feb 05 | Feb 06 | Jan 06 | Feb 05 |
| Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment¹ | 591.7 | 589.4 | 591.3 | 186.8 | 187.1 | 186.5 | 46.8 | 47.3 | 46.6 | 64.6 | 64.2 | 64.7 |
| Total Private | 483.1 | 484.5 | 483.7 | 160.7 | 161.6 | 160.7 | 40.8 | 41.5 | 40.6 | 50.5 | 50.9 | 50.7 |
| Goods Producing | 88.4 | 89.3 | 90.5 | 24.1 | 24.2 | 24.3 | 8.6 | 8.6 | 8.7 | 6.2 | 6.3 | 6.1 |
| Natural Resources and Mining | 3.0 | 3.0 | 2.9 | * | * | * | * | * | * | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 |
| Logging | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.8 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Construction | 26.9 | 27.4 | 26.5 | * | * | * | * | * | * | 2.5 | 2.6 | 2.4 |
| Construction of Buildings | 7.6 | 7.7 | 7.5 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction | 2.3 | 2.4 | 2.7 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Specialty Trade Contractors | 17.0 | 17.3 | 16.3 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Manufacturing | 58.5 | 58.9 | 61.1 | 14.7 | 14.7 | 15.2 | 6.2 | 6.2 | 6.4 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.4 |
| Durable Goods | 31.0 | 31.3 | 32.7 | 7.4 | 7.4 | 7.7 | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Wood Product Manufacturing | 6.3 | 6.3 | 6.6 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Computer and Electronic Product Mfg. | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.5 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Transportation Equipment Mfg. | 9.2 | 9.2 | 9.6 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Nondurable Goods | 27.5 | 27.6 | 28.4 | 7.3 | 7.3 | 7.5 | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Leather and Allied Product Mfg. | 2.3 | 2.2 | 2.2 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Paper Manufacturing | 8.9 | 9.0 | 9.5 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Service-Providing | 503.3 | 500.1 | 500.8 | 162.7 | 162.9 | 162.2 | 38.2 | 38.7 | 37.9 | 58.4 | 57.9 | 58.6 |
| Trade, Transportation, and Utilities | 120.5 | 122.9 | 120.7 | 40.5 | 41.7 | 40.6 | 9.3 | 9.8 | 9.3 | 14.8 | 15.1 | 14.9 |
| Wholesale Trade | 21.1 | 21.1 | 20.9 | 8.7 | 8.7 | 8.5 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.2 |
| Retail Trade | 82.7 | 85.1 | 83.3 | 26.1 | 27.3 | 26.3 | 6.4 | 6.8 | 6.5 | 9.7 | 9.8 | 9.7 |
| Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers | 10.5 | 10.6 | 10.4 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Food and Beverage Stores | 18.1 | 18.4 | 17.9 | 5.7 | 5.8 | 5.6 | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| General Merchandise Stores | 12.0 | 12.2 | 11.7 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Nonstore Retailers | 8.6 | 9.4 | 8.7 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities | 16.7 | 16.7 | 16.5 | 5.7 | 5.7 | 5.8 | 1.5 | 1.6 | 1.4 | 2.8 | 3.0 | 3.0 |
| Utilities | 1.9 | 1.9 | 1.9 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Transportation and Warehousing | 14.8 | 14.8 | 14.6 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Information | 11.2 | 11.2 | 11.1 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.5 |
| Publishing Industries | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Financial Activities | 33.5 | 33.4 | 33.9 | 15.6 | 15.6 | 15.5 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.2 |
| Finance and Insurance | 26.7 | 26.6 | 27.2 | 12.6 | 12.6 | 12.5 | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Insurance Carriers and Related Activities | 12.0 | 11.9 | 12.1 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Real Estate and Rental and Leasing | 6.8 | 6.8 | 6.7 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Professional and Business Services | 48.8 | 48.7 | 47.8 | 21.3 | 21.1 | 21.0 | 4.5 | 4.6 | 4.4 | 5.6 | 5.6 | 5.5 |
| Professional, Scientific, & Technical Svcs. | 23.6 | 23.4 | 22.9 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Mgmt. of Companies and Enterprises | 5.5 | 5.5 | 5.6 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Admin. & Support & Waste Mgmt. Svcs. | 19.7 | 19.8 | 19.3 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Education and Health Services | 112.6 | 111.0 | 111.6 | 33.2 | 33.1 | 32.9 | 10.1 | 10.2 | 10.0 | 12.8 | 12.8 | 13.1 |
| Educational Services | 18.7 | 16.8 | 18.8 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Health Care and Social Assistance | 93.9 | 94.2 | 92.8 | 29.3 | 29.5 | 28.9 | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Ambulatory Health Care Services | 24.2 | 24.3 | 24.0 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Hospitals | 29.2 | 29.3 | 28.4 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Nursing and Residential Care | 21.8 | 21.9 | 22.1 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Social Assistance | 18.7 | 18.7 | 18.3 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Leisure and Hospitality | 48.4 | 48.4 | 48.6 | 15.5 | 15.4 | 15.9 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 5.6 | 5.6 | 5.3 |
| Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation | 6.8 | 6.8 | 7.0 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Accommodation and Food Services | 41.6 | 41.6 | 41.6 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Accommodation | 7.4 | 7.4 | 7.3 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Food Services and Drinking Places | 34.2 | 34.2 | 34.3 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Other Services | 19.7 | 19.6 | 19.5 | 5.8 | 5.8 | 5.8 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 2.1 |
| Repair and Maintenance | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Government | 108.6 | 104.9 | 107.6 | 26.1 | 25.5 | 25.8 | 6.0 | 5.8 | 6.0 | 14.1 | 13.3 | 14.0 |
| Federal | 14.0 | 14.1 | 14.2 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.5 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 |
| State | 30.1 | 27.2 | 29.7 | 6.6 | 6.3 | 6.4 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 7.0 | 6.4 | 6.9 |
| Local ² | 64.5 | 63.6 | 63.7 | 17.1 | 16.8 | 16.9 | 4.8 | 4.7 | 4.8 | 5.8 | 5.6 | 5.8 |

Footnotes: See page 7

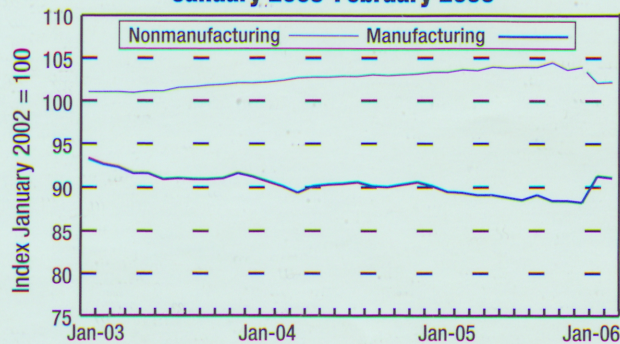
Earnings and Hours of Production Workers in Manufacturing Industries¹ Not Seasonally Adjusted

| AREA AND INDUSTRY | AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS | | | AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS | | | AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS | | | ANNUAL AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|----------|----------|----------------------|--------|--------|-------------------------|---------|---------|--------------------------------|---------|---------|
| | Feb 06 | Jan 06 | Feb 05 | Feb 06 | Jan 06 | Feb 05 | Feb 06 | Jan 06 | Feb 05 | 2005 | 2004 | 2003 |
| STATEWIDE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Manufacturing | \$723.65 | \$714.42 | \$655.70 | 40.7 | 40.5 | 38.1 | \$17.78 | \$17.64 | \$17.21 | \$17.28 | \$16.97 | \$16.28 |
| Durable Goods | 723.58 | 728.16 | 611.98 | 41.3 | 41.8 | 36.8 | 17.52 | 17.42 | 16.63 | 16.77 | 16.78 | 16.24 |
| Nondurable Goods | 724.61 | 697.71 | 700.93 | 40.1 | 39.0 | 39.4 | 18.07 | 17.89 | 17.79 | 17.81 | 17.17 | 16.31 |
| PORTLAND MSA | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Manufacturing | 566.00 | 585.57 | 556.99 | 40.4 | 41.5 | 39.7 | 14.01 | 14.11 | 14.03 | 14.10 | 13.88 | 13.18 |

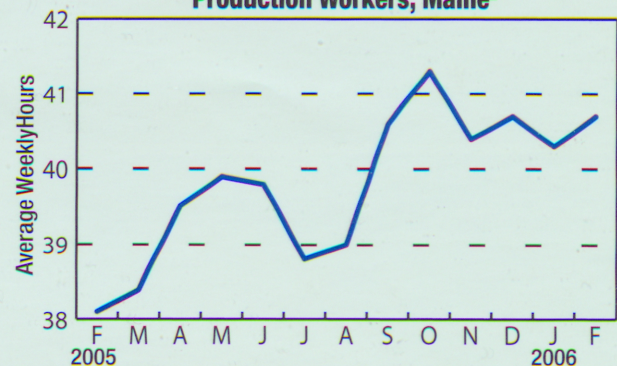
¹ Hours worked and earnings data are computed based on payroll figures for the week including the 12th of the month for manufacturing production workers. Average hourly earnings are calculated on a gross basis, and include such factors as premium pay for overtime and shift differential, as well as changes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

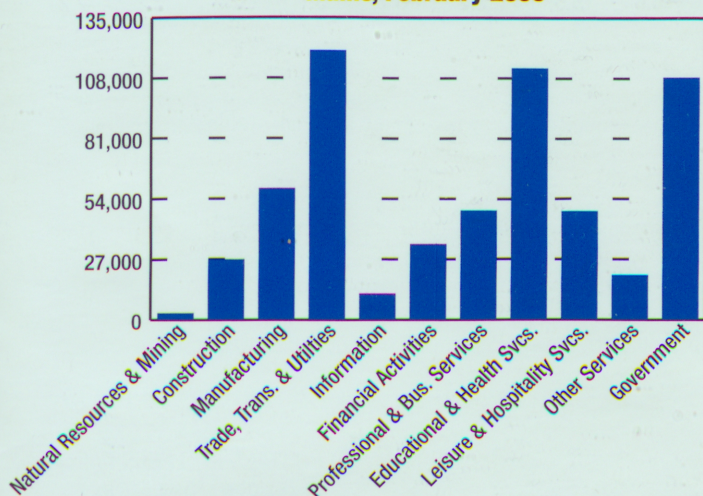
**Nonfarm Employment Trend by Sector
January 2003-February 2006¹**



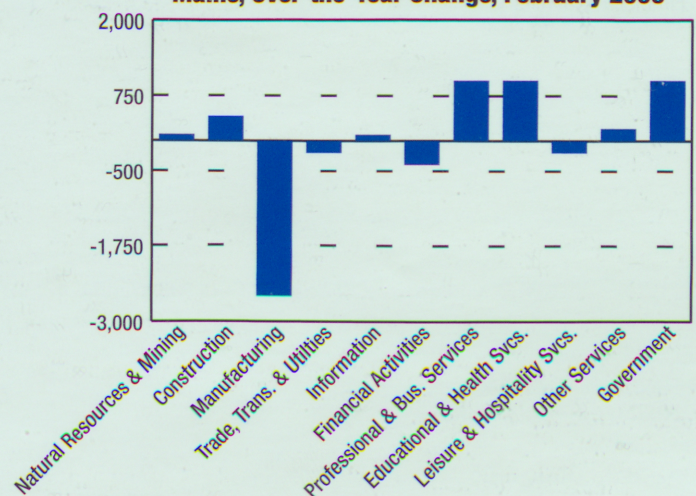
**Hours Worked by Manufacturing
Production Workers, Maine²**



**Nonfarm Employment by Industry Supersector
Maine, February 2006²**



**Nonfarm Employment by Industry Supersector
Maine, Over-the-Year Change, February 2006²**



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 2005. As a measure of reliability, the March 2005 benchmark revision for total nonfarm wage and salary employment was 1.2 percent lower 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.

Population, Total Personal Income, and Per Capita Personal Income

| Population (thousands of persons) | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| United States | 279,040 | 282,192 | 285,108 | 287,985 | 290,850 | 293,657 | 296,410 |
| New England | 13,838 | 13,953 | 14,043 | 14,126 | 14,194 | 14,222 | 14,240 |
| Connecticut | 3,386 | 3,412 | 3,432 | 3,458 | 3,486 | 3,499 | 3,510 |
| Maine | 1,267 | 1,277 | 1,286 | 1,297 | 1,308 | 1,315 | 1,322 |
| Massachusetts | 6,317 | 6,362 | 6,395 | 6,412 | 6,418 | 6,407 | 6,399 |
| New Hampshire | 1,222 | 1,241 | 1,259 | 1,275 | 1,288 | 1,299 | 1,310 |
| Rhode Island | 1,040 | 1,051 | 1,058 | 1,069 | 1,076 | 1,080 | 1,076 |
| Vermont | 605 | 610 | 613 | 616 | 619 | 621 | 623 |

| Total Personal Income (millions of dollars) | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| United States | \$7,796,137 | \$8,422,074 | \$8,716,992 | \$8,872,871 | \$9,157,257 | \$9,705,504 | \$10,251,639 |
| New England | 458,387 | 503,961 | 524,402 | 528,030 | 539,508 | 572,565 | 602,533 |
| Connecticut | 129,807 | 141,570 | 147,356 | 146,997 | 148,822 | 158,566 | 167,858 |
| Maine | 31,016 | 33,173 | 35,107 | 35,998 | 37,281 | 39,510 | 41,300 |
| Massachusetts | 216,221 | 240,209 | 249,095 | 249,954 | 255,403 | 270,236 | 283,391 |
| New Hampshire | 37,125 | 41,429 | 42,624 | 43,393 | 44,422 | 45,570 | 50,312 |
| Rhode Island | 28,568 | 30,697 | 32,478 | 33,635 | 34,917 | 36,940 | 38,907 |
| Vermont | 15,650 | 16,883 | 17,742 | 18,051 | 18,663 | 19,743 | 20,764 |

| Per Capita Personal Income (dollars) | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| United States | \$27,939 | \$29,845 | \$30,574 | \$30,810 | \$31,484 | \$33,050 | \$34,586 |
| New England | 33,126 | 36,118 | 37,342 | 37,379 | 38,009 | 40,260 | 42,314 |
| Connecticut | 38,332 | 41,489 | 42,930 | 42,505 | 42,693 | 45,318 | 47,819 |
| Maine | 24,484 | 25,969 | 27,292 | 27,756 | 28,497 | 30,046 | 31,252 |
| Massachusetts | 34,227 | 37,756 | 38,953 | 38,985 | 39,798 | 42,176 | 44,289 |
| New Hampshire | 30,380 | 33,396 | 33,868 | 34,043 | 34,500 | 36,616 | 38,408 |
| Rhode Island | 27,459 | 29,214 | 30,687 | 31,478 | 32,459 | 34,207 | 36,153 |
| Vermont | 25,881 | 27,680 | 28,951 | 29,291 | 30,146 | 31,780 | 33,327 |

Total personal income is the income received by all persons from all sources, that is, from participation in production, from government and business transfer payments, and from government interest. Personal income is the sum of net earnings by place of residence, rental income of persons, personal dividend income, personal interest income, and transfer payments. Net earnings by place of residence is earnings by place of work—the sum of wage and salary disbursements (payrolls), other labor income, and proprietors' income—less personal contributions for social insurance, plus an adjustment for residence. Personal income is measured before the deduction of personal income taxes and other personal taxes.

Per capita personal income is personal income divided by the resident population as of July 1.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis.

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