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Cumberland County records the lowest unemployment rate in the state page 3

Adjusted unemployment falls between November and December page 4

Nonfarm employment rises by 10,000 over the year page 6

A publication of the
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YEAR-END NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT REVIEW

Nonfarm wage and salary jobs in Maine increased from 553,700 in 1997 to 569,600 in 1998—an increase of 15,900 new jobs, the largest one-year increase since 1988.

Service-Producing Industries were the Engine of Job Growth

Of the 15,900 new jobs, 15,200 were in the service-producing sector. This continues a long-term trend in a sector that includes trade; services; government; transportation and public utilities; and finance, insurance, and real estate.

The biggest gains in the service-producing sector were in *business, health, and social services*. Business services growth was influenced by the increasing use of temporary workers. A growing elderly population and the aging of the “baby boomers” increased the demand for health services. And, rising use of child day care, residential care, and job training services helped to fuel social services growth.

Of note in the service-producing sector is the emergence of *telemarketing and customer service Call Centers*. Call Centers related to credit cards and other financial services drove job growth in nondepository credit institutions. Contributing to growth in business services are Call Centers which handle customer service inquiries or sell products for other firms.

Call Centers will continue to create jobs in 1999 with expansions announced by ICT in Wilton and MBNA in Fort Kent, Farmington, Presque Isle, Belfast, and Rockland.

Other service-producing industries reporting gains included amusement and recreation services, engineering and management services, auto repair, food stores, eating and drinking places, and insurance firms.

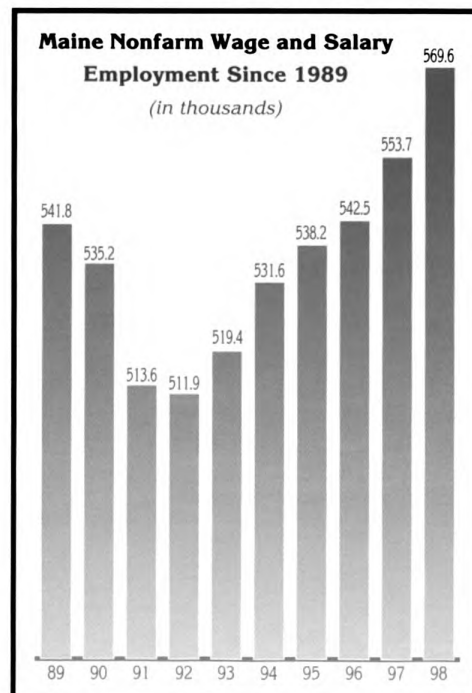
Jobs in the Goods-Producing Sector Rose Slightly

In contrast to the service-producing sector, the goods-producing sector recorded an increase of 600 jobs between 1997 and 1998. This is only the third annual gain since 1988.

Within the goods-producing sector, jobs increased by 1,500 in construction and declined by 900 in manufacturing. Construction growth likely stems from relatively low interest rates and development of the natural gas pipeline. Manufacturing losses were mostly in paper, textiles, and shoes. A few manufacturing industries registered gains, with the most substantial increase in transportation equipment.

Nonfarm employment estimates are revised in the first quarter of each year for the previous two years. Final 1997 and revised 1998 estimates by month are available by contacting Jim Raymond at 287-5590.

See page 8 for final 1997 and revised 1998 annual average nonfarm wage and salary employment estimates.



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 98	Nov 98	Dec 97	Dec 98	Nov 98	Dec 97	Dec 98	Nov 98	Dec 97	Dec 98	Nov 98	Dec 97
LABOR MARKET AREAS												
Augusta	45,780	46,180	44,890	43,610	43,690	42,440	2,170	2,490	2,450	4.7%	5.4%	5.5%
Bangor MSA	52,300	53,000	50,700	51,000	51,500	48,700	1,300	1,500	2,000	2.5	2.8	3.9
Bath-Brunswick	32,880	32,990	31,690	32,130	32,090	30,490	750	900	1,200	2.3	2.7	3.8
Belfast	14,580	14,910	14,810	14,050	14,280	13,890	530	630	920	3.6	4.2	6.2
Biddeford	35,540	36,120	34,600	34,540	34,990	33,160	1,000	1,130	1,440	2.8	3.1	4.2
Boothbay Harbor	7,800	7,910	7,780	7,540	7,630	7,410	260	280	370	3.3	3.6	4.7
Bucksport	5,030	5,170	5,020	4,800	4,900	4,670	230	270	350	4.6	5.2	7.0
Calais	5,030	5,170	5,090	4,590	4,650	4,550	440	520	540	8.7	10.0	10.6
Dexter-Pittsfield	12,250	12,310	12,050	11,250	11,170	10,840	1,000	1,140	1,210	8.1	9.3	10.0
Dover-Foxcroft	7,130	7,250	7,350	6,740	6,780	6,810	400	460	540	5.6	6.4	7.4
Ellsworth-Bar Harbor	18,280	18,790	17,960	17,190	17,600	16,470	1,080	1,190	1,490	5.9	6.3	8.3
Farmington	16,950	16,950	17,550	15,690	15,530	16,320	1,260	1,420	1,230	7.5	8.4	7.0
Fort Kent	3,720	3,680	3,520	3,440	3,340	3,110	280	340	410	7.6	9.3	11.7
Greenville	980	1,020	1,030	920	940	900	70	80	140	6.6	7.6	13.3
Houlton	6,440	6,550	5,580	6,150	6,210	5,250	280	340	330	4.4	5.2	5.9
Jonesport-Milbridge	4,430	4,570	4,240	4,180	4,270	3,920	250	310	320	5.5	6.7	7.5
Kittery-York ⁵	19,380	19,330	19,380	19,170	19,070	19,050	210	260	330	1.1	1.3	1.7
Lewiston-Auburn MSA	53,300	53,200	52,800	51,500	51,000	50,400	1,800	2,200	2,500	3.4	4.1	4.7
Lincoln-Howland	5,660	5,740	5,740	5,350	5,360	5,330	320	380	410	5.6	6.7	7.1
Machias-Eastport	6,870	7,060	6,830	6,380	6,490	6,200	490	570	630	7.1	8.1	9.2
Madawaska	3,980	4,040	4,050	3,800	3,830	3,760	180	210	290	4.5	5.3	7.2
Millinocket-East Millinocket	5,130	5,210	5,120	4,800	4,820	4,650	330	380	480	6.4	7.4	9.3
Norway-Paris	11,180	11,250	11,380	10,590	10,550	10,650	590	700	740	5.3	6.2	6.5
Outer Bangor	7,610	7,700	7,350	7,190	7,220	6,830	420	480	520	5.5	6.2	7.0
Patten-Island Falls	1,950	1,970	1,950	1,760	1,750	1,760	200	220	190	10.0	11.3	9.8
Portland MSA	134,000	133,500	135,500	131,600	130,800	132,200	2,400	2,800	3,300	1.8	2.1	2.4
Presque Isle-Caribou	19,640	20,080	19,830	18,540	18,790	18,060	1,100	1,290	1,770	5.6	6.4	8.9
Rockland	22,820	23,140	22,630	22,310	22,510	21,610	510	630	1,020	2.2	2.7	4.5
Rumford	10,790	10,200	10,910	10,120	9,430	10,210	670	770	700	6.2	7.5	6.4
Sanford	23,250	23,550	23,040	22,170	22,330	21,880	1,090	1,230	1,170	4.7	5.2	5.1
Sebago Lakes Region	12,600	12,880	13,740	12,010	12,220	13,280	590	660	460	4.7	5.1	3.3
Skowhegan	16,680	17,110	16,630	15,610	15,870	15,250	1,070	1,240	1,390	6.4	7.3	8.3
Stonington	5,390	5,570	5,230	5,250	5,420	5,030	140	160	200	2.5	2.8	3.8
Van Buren	1,450	1,500	1,550	1,360	1,390	1,420	90	100	140	6.1	6.9	8.8
Waterville	24,750	25,010	24,700	23,560	23,590	23,050	1,190	1,420	1,650	4.8	5.7	6.7
MAINE	655,500	660,600	652,200	630,900	632,100	619,500	24,600	28,600	32,700	3.8	4.3	5.0
UNITED STATES (000)	138,297	138,288	136,742	132,732	132,577	130,785	5,565	5,711	5,957	4.0	4.1	4.4

¹ Civilian labor force, employed, and unemployed estimates are by place of residence. Current month estimates are preliminary; prior month and year-ago estimates are revised. Items may not add due to rounding. All data exclude members of the Armed Forces. MSA stands for Metropolitan Statistical Area.

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: they were not employed during the survey week; they were available for work at that time; and 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 Kittery-York is the five-town Maine portion of the Portsmouth-Rochester PMSA 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		
	Dec 98	Nov 98	Dec 97	Dec 98	Nov 98	Dec 97	Dec 98	Nov 98	Dec 97	Dec 98	Nov 98	Dec 97
COUNTY												
Androscoggin	59,300	59,210	58,820	57,120	56,650	56,000	2,180	2,570	2,820	3.7%	4.3%	4.8%
Aroostook	36,750	37,400	36,080	34,640	34,900	32,930	2,110	2,500	3,150	5.7	6.7	8.7
Cumberland	140,380	140,100	141,730	137,720	137,020	138,180	2,660	3,080	3,550	1.9	2.2	2.5
Franklin	14,230	14,220	14,800	13,270	13,120	13,790	970	1,090	1,010	6.8	7.7	6.8
Hancock	26,220	26,980	25,770	24,890	25,510	23,900	1,330	1,470	1,870	5.1	5.5	7.3
Kennebec	60,230	60,760	59,370	57,480	57,570	56,020	2,740	3,190	3,350	4.6	5.2	5.6
Knox	20,040	20,320	19,900	19,590	19,770	18,970	450	560	930	2.3	2.8	4.7
Lincoln	16,010	16,200	15,840	15,490	15,600	15,070	530	600	780	3.3	3.7	4.9
Oxford	26,360	25,960	27,100	24,820	24,190	25,500	1,540	1,770	1,600	5.8	6.8	5.9
Penobscot	77,340	78,400	75,470	74,410	75,010	71,460	2,940	3,390	4,010	3.8	4.3	5.3
Piscataquis	8,230	8,380	8,500	7,760	7,830	7,810	470	550	690	5.7	6.5	8.1
Sagadahoc	15,370	15,410	14,790	15,040	15,020	14,270	330	390	520	2.1	2.5	3.5
Somerset	26,030	26,530	25,880	24,260	24,490	23,640	1,760	2,040	2,240	6.8	7.7	8.6
Waldo	20,150	20,570	20,300	19,320	19,580	18,980	840	990	1,330	4.2	4.8	6.5
Washington	16,680	17,170	16,510	15,520	15,780	15,020	1,170	1,390	1,490	7.0	8.1	9.0
York	92,210	93,030	91,380	89,560	90,020	87,970	2,650	3,020	3,410	2.9	3.2	3.7
MAINE	655,500	660,600	652,200	630,900	632,100	619,500	24,600	28,600	32,700	3.8	4.3	5.0
UNITED STATES (000)	138,297	138,288	136,742	132,732	132,577	130,785	5,565	5,711	5,957	4.0	4.1	4.4

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

Area Analyst's Corner

Central Area

Ken Bridges (207) 624-5199

The Samoset Resort in Rockland has been purchased by Ocean Properties, which owns 85 other resort hotels. The company has requested permission to increase the number of hotel rooms by 50 percent. The company also wants to build 72 condo units that were approved in the past. ♦ In Winthrop, Carleton Woolen has laid off an additional 100 workers, bringing to 375 the number laid off from the mill. These 100 workers are expecting to be called back.

Western Area

Gerard Dennison (207) 783-5314

The number of nonfarm jobs in the Lewiston-Auburn MSA hit a new all-time high of 43,900 in December. ♦ In Lewiston, officials at St. Mary's Hospital announced plans to build the \$4.9 million Corinne Croteau Lepage Women's Health Pavilion. ♦ Diamond Phoenix in Lewiston, which produces and installs automated materials handling systems, announced plans to move to Lewiston's Turnpike Industrial Park and build a new \$5 million 100,000 square-foot plant. Diamond Phoenix plans to add 30 to 75 jobs to their current workforce. ♦ Armed with new long-term contracts from the U.S. Navy, Bath Iron Works added 450 new jobs in 1998.

North/East Area

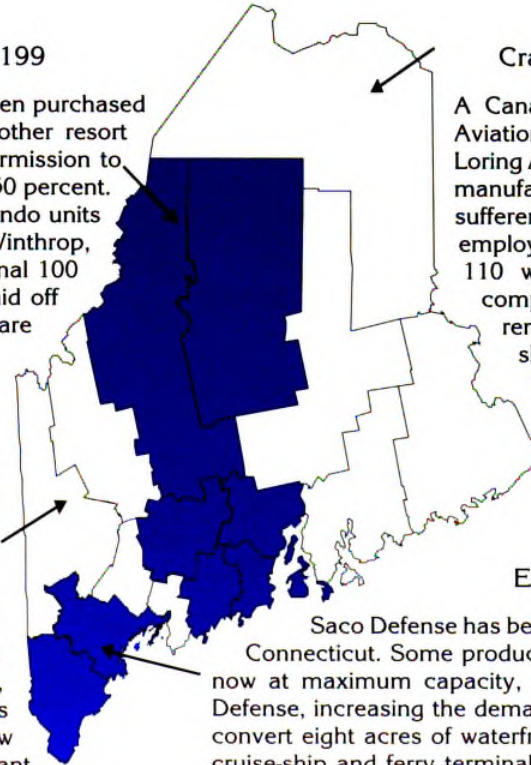
Craig Holland (207) 941-3076

A Canadian firm, Marine, Industrial, and Aviation, will open a facility at the former Loring Air Force Base. The company, which manufactures ventilating units for asthma sufferers, anticipates a spring opening with employment levels eventually reaching 110 workers. ♦ The Bangor Mall has completed their facilities expansion and renovation in time for the holiday shopping season. Anchored by a new Filenes Department Store, this addition will result in over 100 new jobs for area residents in the retail trade sector.

Southern Area

Eva Smith (207) 775-5891

Saco Defense has been sold to New Colt Holding Corp. in Connecticut. Some production from the plant in Connecticut, now at maximum capacity, is expected to be shifted to Saco Defense, increasing the demand for workers. ♦ Portland plans to convert eight acres of waterfront property into a publicly owned cruise-ship and ferry terminal. The property is now occupied by Bath Iron Works and will become available in two years. ♦ Falmouth, Cumberland, Yarmouth, and Freeport are considering growth control laws to help combat the suburban sprawl caused by rapid economic development.



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

ITEM	1998											1997	
	Nov	Oct	Sep	Aug	Jul	Jun	May	Apr	Mar	Feb	Jan	Dec	
Civilian Labor Force	666.4	661.0	649.6	654.1	652.2	650.6	654.1	653.3	655.0	657.9	660.9	661.1	
Employed	637.8	631.2	621.5	625.3	622.1	624.4	629.0	627.1	626.6	627.6	627.7	626.3	
Unemployed	28.6	29.7	28.1	28.8	30.2	26.1	25.1	26.2	28.4	30.3	33.1	34.9	
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.3	4.5	4.3	4.4	4.6	4.0	3.8	4.0	4.3	4.6	5.0	5.3	

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

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

INDUSTRY	1998											1997	
	Nov	Oct	Sep	Aug	Jul	Jun	May	Apr	Mar	Feb	Jan	Dec	
Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment ²	570.3	569.3	567.9	564.9	564.1	562.3	560.9	561.0	561.0	560.8	558.1	561.4	
Construction	25.6	25.4	25.4	25.0	24.6	24.4	24.2	24.1	24.2	24.4	24.4	24.4	
Manufacturing	86.1	86.6	87.2	86.1	86.5	86.8	87.0	87.3	87.4	88.2	88.1	88.1	
Durable Goods	42.4	42.5	42.0	41.6	41.9	41.7	42.0	42.0	41.9	42.3	42.1	42.1	
Nondurable Goods	43.7	44.1	45.2	44.5	44.6	45.1	45.0	45.3	45.5	45.9	46.0	46.0	
Transportation and Public Utilities	23.9	23.9	24.0	23.7	24.1	24.1	24.0	23.8	23.8	23.9	23.5	23.5	
Wholesale Trade	27.3	27.4	27.0	26.8	26.6	26.6	26.7	26.6	26.4	26.3	26.4	26.4	
Retail Trade	117.4	116.3	115.5	115.1	114.8	114.6	114.0	114.3	114.2	113.5	114.1	116.0	
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	31.2	31.2	30.8	30.8	30.6	30.1	30.4	30.2	30.2	29.7	29.4	29.2	
Services	166.8	166.3	165.3	164.7	164.3	163.0	163.2	162.4	162.0	161.6	160.6	160.7	
Government	91.9	92.1	92.5	92.4	92.3	92.6	91.4	92.1	92.5	93.0	91.6	93.0	

¹ See footnotes 1 and 2 on page 6. ² Mining employment is not suitable for seasonal adjustment because it has very little seasonal and irregular movement. Thus, the not-seasonally-adjusted series is used as a component of the seasonally adjusted total nonfarm wage and salary employment estimate. Source: See page 2.

November Unemployment Rate Fell to 4.3 Percent

State Labor Commissioner Valerie Landry announced that Maine's seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate fell slightly to 4.3 percent in November from 4.5 percent in October.

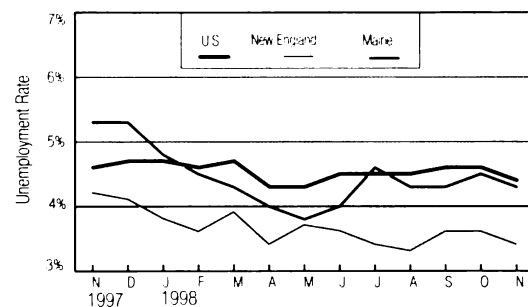
"Seasonally-adjusted unemployment fell by 1,100 between October and November," said Commissioner Landry. "Unemployment also was down from November 1997, with an over-the-year drop in unemployment of 6,400 and a decline in the unemployment rate from 5.3 percent to 4.3 percent."

Between October and November, seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs increased by 1,000, with most of the gain in retail trade and services. Over the year, nonfarm jobs rose by 9,500, with the majority of job growth in services industries. Additional job gains were recorded over the year in finance, insurance, and real estate; construction; retail and wholesale trade; and transportation, communication, and public utilities.

Other New England states which have reported their seasonally-adjusted unemployment rates for November include Vermont, 2.9 percent, and New Hampshire, 3.1 percent. The adjusted national rate for November was 4.4 percent.

Maine's not-seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate increased in a normal seasonal pattern in November, rising to

Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted



4.3 percent from 3.8 percent in October. The November rate of 4.3 percent remained well below the year-ago rate of 5.2 percent. Not-seasonally-adjusted November unemployment rates in Maine counties ranged from 2.2 percent in Cumberland County to 8.1 percent in Washington County.

Not-seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs recorded a small seasonal loss of 400 between October and November. Miscellaneous retail trade and general merchandise stores geared up for the holidays and there was an increase in local government jobs due to temporary hiring for elections. These gains were offset by normal seasonal losses in lodging services and eating and drinking places.

Selected Regular Unemployment Compensation Program Indicators

Key Data	Nov 1998	Oct 1998	Nov 1997
Average Duration	16.2	16.2	16.5
Average Weekly Benefit Amount*	\$139.93	\$138.17	\$141.57
Exhaustees	1,051	839	1,117

* For totally unemployed claimants, excluding dependency allowances.

Weekly Initial Claims

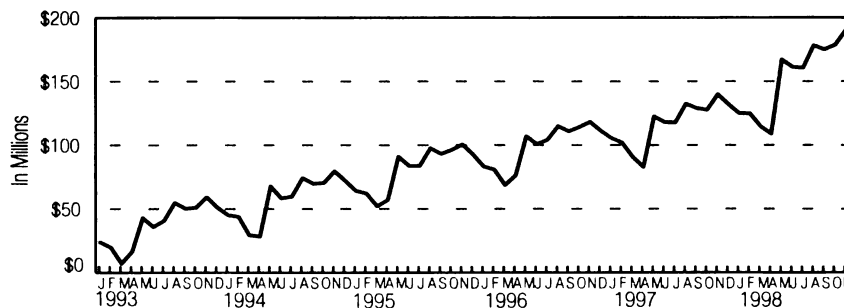
Week	12/5	11/28	11/21	11/14	11/7	10/31	10/24
1998	2,992	1,617	1,645	1,305	1,485	1,752	1,346
Week	12/6	11/29	11/22	11/15	11/8	11/1	10/25
1997	2,233	1,786	1,776	1,548	1,551	1,865	1,455

Continued Claims Less Partials*

Nov 1998	Oct 1998	Nov 1997
7,001	5,591	7,919

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

Monthly Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund Balance

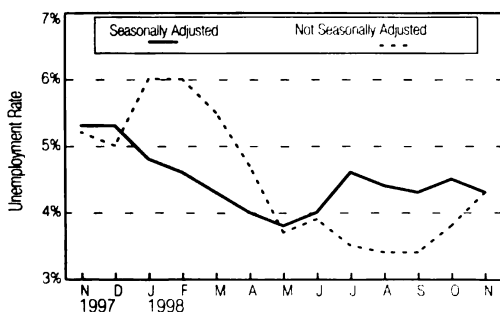


Between November 1997 and November 1998, not-seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs rose by 9,600. Services rose by 6,400, with gains in social, business, health, educational, and other services. Finance, insurance, and real estate rose by 2,200; construction added 1,200; and retail trade increased by 1,100 jobs. Wholesale trade and transportation, communication, and public utilities also added jobs. Job losses were recorded in manufacturing and government.

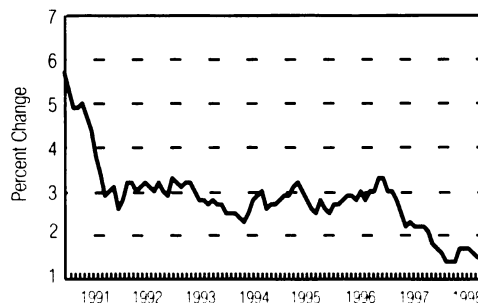
U.S. Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers (CPI-U)

Item	Nov 98	Oct 98	Nov 97	Dec 97
(1982-1984 = 100) All Items	164.0	164.0	161.5	161.3
Percent Change from Prior Month			+0.0%	
Percent Change from 12 Months Ago			+1.5%	
Percent change from Last December			+1.7%	

Unemployment Rates for Maine



Over-the-Year Change in CPI-U



Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment, Not Seasonally Adjusted (in thousands)

INDUSTRY	MAINE			PORTLAND MSA			LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA		
	Nov 98	Oct 98	Nov 97	Nov 98	Oct 98	Nov 97	Nov 98	Oct 98	Nov 97
Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment¹	579.5	579.9	569.9	143.6	142.1	144.9	43.7	43.4	43.6
Goods Producing	115.1	115.1	115.6	22.3	23.3	22.3	9.5	9.7	9.8
Mining	0.1	0.1	0.1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Construction	27.5	28.0	26.3	7.4	8.2	7.1	1.7	1.7	1.9
Building Construction	6.3	6.4	6.1	1.3	1.2	1.2	.	.	.
Heavy Construction	4.1	4.2	4.0	.	.	.	.	.	.
Special Trade Contractors	17.1	17.4	16.2	5.7	6.5	5.4	.	.	.
Manufacturing	87.5	87.0	89.2	14.9	15.1	15.2	7.8	8.0	7.9
Durable Goods	43.6	42.8	43.4	7.3	7.5	7.3	2.2	2.3	2.2
Lumber and Wood Products	11.2	11.2	11.1	.	.	.	.	.	.
Primary and Fabricated Metals	3.5	3.5	3.5	.	.	.	.	.	.
Industrial Machinery and Equipment	4.5	4.6	4.4	1.5	1.6	1.5	.	.	.
Electronic and Other Electrical Equipment	6.9	6.8	7.8	2.5	2.5	2.5	.	.	.
Transportation Equipment	11.5	11.5	10.8	.	.	.	.	.	.
Other Durable Goods	6.0	5.2	5.8	3.3	3.4	3.3	.	.	.
Nondurable Goods	43.9	44.2	45.8	7.6	7.6	7.9	5.6	5.7	5.7
Food and Kindred Products	6.2	6.2	6.3	2.5	2.4	2.4	.	.	.
Textile Mill Products	3.5	3.6	4.3	.	.	.	.	.	.
Apparel and Other Textile Products	2.3	2.3	2.2	.	.	.	.	.	.
Paper and Allied Products	14.1	14.1	14.4	.	.	.	.	.	.
Printing and Publishing	5.9	5.8	5.7	1.6	1.6	1.6	.	.	.
Rubber and Misc. Plastic Products	3.0	3.0	2.9	.	.	.	.	.	.
Leather and Leather Products	6.8	7.0	7.8	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1
Other Nondurable Goods	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.7	2.8	2.9	4.6	4.6	4.6
Service Producing	464.4	464.8	454.3	121.3	118.8	122.6	34.2	33.7	33.8
Transportation and Public Utilities	24.1	24.3	23.6	6.2	6.6	6.4	1.8	1.8	1.8
Wholesale Trade	27.2	27.4	26.3	10.0	10.0	9.6	2.3	2.3	2.2
Retail Trade	120.1	118.9	119.0	33.1	31.6	35.0	9.2	8.9	9.3
General Merchandise Stores	12.7	12.0	12.7	.	.	.	.	.	.
Food Stores	20.6	20.7	20.3	.	.	.	.	.	.
Automotive Sales and Services	13.8	13.6	13.2	.	.	.	.	.	.
Eating and Drinking Places	32.7	34.8	32.8	7.9	8.5	8.7	.	.	.
Other Retail Trade	40.3	37.8	40.0	.	.	.	.	.	.
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	31.0	31.0	28.8	13.0	12.7	12.4	2.3	2.3	2.1-
Banking	9.5	9.4	8.7	.	.	.	.	.	.
Insurance Carriers, Brokers and Agents	12.7	12.7	11.9	.	.	.	.	.	.
Other Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	8.8	8.9	8.2	.	.	.	.	.	.
Services	165.3	168.2	158.9	40.3	40.2	40.3	13.6	13.5	13.4
Hotels and Other Lodging Places	7.8	10.3	7.8	.	.	.	.	.	.
Business Services	24.3	23.8	22.7	.	.	.	.	.	.
Health Services	53.3	53.3	52.3	.	.	.	.	.	.
Educational Services	15.5	15.3	15.0	.	.	.	.	.	.
Social Services	22.9	22.6	21.1	.	.	.	.	.	.
Other Services	41.5	42.9	40.0	.	.	.	.	.	.
Government	96.7	95.0	97.7	18.7	17.7	18.9	5.0	4.9	5.0
Federal	12.9	12.8	12.9	2.2	2.2	2.4	0.3	0.3	0.3
State	26.7	26.9	26.7	5.2	4.5	5.0	0.8	0.7	0.7
Local ²	57.1	55.3	58.1	11.3	11.0	11.5	3.9	3.9	4.0

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 1995. As a measure of reliability, the March 1995 benchmark revision for total nonfarm wage and salary employment was .04 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.

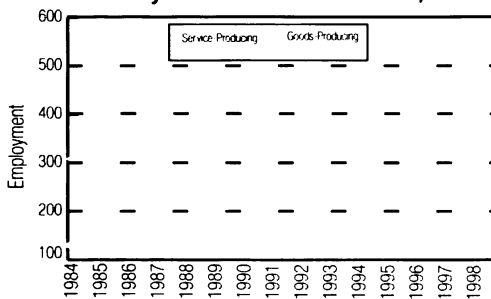
Earnings and Hours of Production Workers in Manufacturing Industries¹ Not Seasonally Adjusted

AREA AND INDUSTRY	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS			ANNUAL AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	Nov 98	Oct 98	Nov 97	Nov 98	Oct 98	Nov 97	Nov 98	Oct 98	Nov 97	1997	1996	1995
STATEWIDE												
Manufacturing	\$542.52	\$551.86	\$535.92	41.1	40.4	40.6	\$13.20	\$13.66	\$13.20	\$13.10	\$12.71	\$12.42
Durable Goods	532.90	534.80	509.85	41.6	40.7	40.4	12.81	13.14	12.62	12.70	12.23	12.22
Lumber and Wood Products	438.26	442.02	437.75	42.1	41.7	42.5	10.41	10.60	10.30	10.31	10.10	9.80
Primary and Fabricated Metals	495.69	545.31	477.16	40.3	41.5	39.5	12.30	13.14	12.08	11.55	11.31	11.07
Industrial Machinery and Equipment	633.70	638.22	678.30	45.2	45.2	45.1	14.02	14.12	15.04	14.65	14.17	13.67
Electronic and Other Electric Equipment	534.25	483.49	400.01	46.7	42.3	36.2	11.44	11.43	11.05	11.13	10.94	10.76
Transportation Equipment	652.99	657.75	655.92	36.5	36.2	39.3	17.89	18.17	16.69	16.77	15.49	16.43
Other Durable Goods	426.54	434.48	418.81	41.9	41.3	41.1	10.18	10.52	10.19	10.27	10.08	9.67
Nondurable Goods	551.61	570.44	562.22	40.5	40.2	40.8	13.62	14.19	13.78	13.48	13.17	12.61
Food and Kindred Products	420.58	418.78	369.02	42.1	41.3	37.2	9.99	10.14	9.92	9.85	10.00	9.75
Textile Mill Products	436.40	452.28	457.62	40.9	41.8	45.9	10.67	10.82	9.97	9.97	10.27	10.17
Apparel and Other Textile Products	396.32	373.41	419.32	40.4	39.1	42.1	9.81	9.55	9.96	9.52	9.00	8.32
Paper and Allied Products	804.13	870.32	870.01	41.6	42.6	42.9	19.33	20.43	20.28	19.44	18.84	18.22
Leather and Leather Products	370.15	350.17	348.30	38.8	36.4	38.7	9.54	9.62	9.00	8.88	8.71	8.54
Other Nondurable Goods	466.02	471.55	460.14	38.9	38.4	38.7	11.98	12.28	11.89	11.64	11.20	10.88
PORTLAND MSA												
Manufacturing	498.61	498.31	427.13	44.4	42.7	35.8	11.23	11.67	11.27	11.10	11.22	11.02
LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA												
Manufacturing	506.09	501.03	497.34	42.6	40.9	42.8	11.88	12.25	11.62	11.30	11.13	10.11

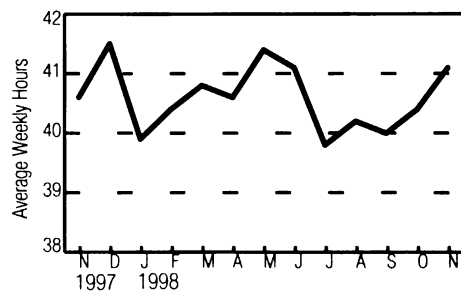
¹ Hours worked and earnings data are computed based on payroll figures for the week including the 12th of the month for manufacturing production workers. Average hourly earnings are calculated on a gross basis, and include such factors as premium pay for overtime and shift differential, as well as changes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

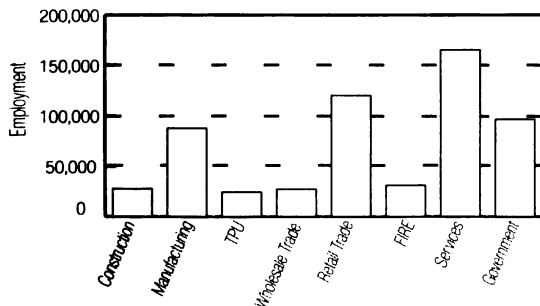
**Nonfarm Employment by Sector
January 1983-November 1998, Maine¹**



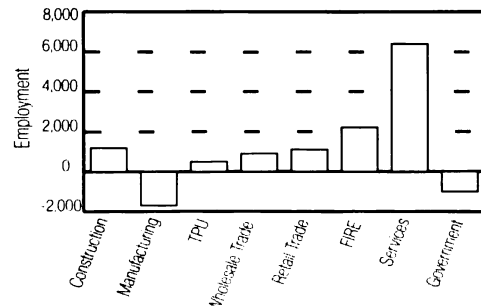
**Hours Worked by Manufacturing
Production Workers, Maine²**



**Nonfarm Employment by Industry Division
Maine, November 1998²**



**Nonfarm Employment by Industry Division
Maine, Over-the-Year Change, November 1998²**



¹ Seasonally Adjusted. ² Not Seasonally Adjusted.

Population Change of the New England States

The demographic components of population change consist of natural change and net migration. Natural change is defined as births minus deaths. Net migration is the difference between all forms of migration into and out of an area.

The U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, recently released state population estimates for 1998. In Maine, the 1998 population was 1,244,250, an increase of 2,355 over 1997. Contributing to this increase in population was a natural change of 1,659 and a net immigration of 705.

More people moved into Maine than left Maine between 1995 and 1998, which is a reversal of the previous five years. Between 1990 and 1995 more people left Maine than moved into Maine each year. One possible reason for this reversal is an improved economic climate.

Of the six New England states, the 1998 population of Rhode Island and Connecticut was below the 1990 population. In both cases, the net outmigration of people outweighed the natural increase. Although Maine and Massachusetts also had a net outmigration of people over this eight-year period, it was more than offset by the natural increase in the population.

Population and Components of Change, July, 1997 to 1998

Area	Year		Change		Components of Change		
	1997	1998	Net	Percent	Births	Deaths	Net Migration ¹
New England	13,371,610	13,429,862	58,252	0.4	171,721	122,013	9,365
Maine	1,241,895	1,244,250	2,355	0.2	13,747	12,088	705
New Hampshire	1,172,140	1,185,048	12,908	1.1	14,616	9,473	7,818
Vermont	588,632	590,883	2,251	0.4	6,645	5,083	722
Massachusetts	6,114,440	6,147,132	32,692	0.5	80,715	55,865	8,409
Rhode Island	987,263	988,480	1,217	0.1	12,724	9,667	-1,838
Connecticut	3,267,240	3,274,069	6,829	0.2	43,274	29,837	-6,451

Population and Components of Change, April 1990 to July 1998

Area	Year		Change		Components of Change		
	1990	1998	Net	Percent	Births	Deaths	Net Migration ¹
New England	13,206,943	13,429,862	222,919	1.7	1,502,089	979,444	-275,634
Maine	1,227,928	1,244,250	16,322	1.3	123,985	95,492	-11,324
New Hampshire	1,109,252	1,185,048	75,796	6.8	127,566	74,039	24,725
Vermont	562,758	590,883	28,125	5.0	60,524	39,982	9,047
Massachusetts	6,016,425	6,147,132	130,707	2.2	696,907	451,808	-101,594
Rhode Island	1,003,464	988,480	-14,984	-1.5	112,748	79,160	-47,509
Connecticut	3,287,116	3,274,069	-13,047	-0.4	380,359	238,963	-148,979

¹Includes net domestic migration and net international migration..

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. Note: Components of change may not add to change due to statistical residual which is not shown in this table.

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