

# MAINE

## DEPARTMENT OF

# LABOR

*Labor Market Information*

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Five counties record unemployment rates below 2.0 percent ..... page 3

Adjusted statewide unemployment rate rises from 3.2 percent in August to 3.4 percent in September ..... page 4

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Nationally, the increase in benefit costs outpaced wage and salary growth .... page 8

# LABOR MARKET DIGEST

September Data

November 2000

## Average Annual Wages in 1999

Average annual wages of all workers covered by state and federal unemployment insurance programs in Maine rose 3.9 percent, from \$25,884 in 1998 to \$26,888 in 1999. Wages increased 4.2 percent in the private sector and 2.3 percent in government. Among broad industry divisions in Maine, 1999 annual average wages were highest in finance, insurance, and real estate and lowest in retail trade.

### Average Annual Wages by Major Industry in Maine

| Industry                          | 1998     | 1999     | Percent Change |
|-----------------------------------|----------|----------|----------------|
| Total                             | \$25,884 | \$26,888 | 3.9            |
| Private                           | 25,454   | 26,530   | 4.2            |
| Construction                      | 28,595   | 30,495   | 6.6            |
| Manufacturing                     | 33,227   | 34,563   | 4.0            |
| Transportation & Public Utilities | 31,842   | 32,256   | 1.3            |
| Wholesale Trade                   | 32,830   | 34,684   | 5.7            |
| Retail Trade                      | 15,607   | 16,144   | 3.4            |
| Finance, Insurance & Real Estate  | 37,165   | 39,245   | 5.6            |
| Services                          | 23,833   | 24,931   | 4.6            |
| Government                        | 28,110   | 28,762   | 2.3            |

|              |          |
|--------------|----------|
| Cumberland   | \$30,415 |
| Sagadahoc    | \$30,270 |
| Kennebec     | \$26,714 |
| York         | \$26,499 |
| Penobscot    | \$26,221 |
| Androscoggin | \$25,365 |
| Franklin     | \$24,655 |
| Somerset     | \$24,014 |
| Oxford       | \$23,660 |
| Hancock      | \$23,475 |
| Knox         | \$23,384 |
| Waldo        | \$22,019 |
| Aroostook    | \$21,999 |
| Washington   | \$21,938 |
| Lincoln      | \$21,687 |
| Piscataquis  | \$21,319 |

### Average Annual Wages by County in 1999

Cumberland County recorded the highest annual average wage in 1999, followed closely by Sagadahoc County. Wages were lowest in Piscataquis County, followed by Lincoln and Washington counties.

#### For more information, call

Telephone (207) 287-2271  
FAX (207) 287-2947  
TTY 1-800-794-1110  
E-Mail - [Imi.me@state.me.us](mailto:Imi.me@state.me.us)

Visit our Home Page at  
<http://janus.state.me.us/labor/Imis/frdef.htm>



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

| AREA                         | CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE <sup>1</sup> |         |         | EMPLOYED <sup>2</sup> |         |         | UNEMPLOYED <sup>3</sup> |        |         | UNEMPLOYMENT RATE <sup>4</sup> |        |         |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|-----------------------|---------|---------|-------------------------|--------|---------|--------------------------------|--------|---------|
|                              | Sept 00                           | Aug 00  | Sept 99 | Sept 00               | Aug 00  | Sept 99 | Sept 00                 | Aug 00 | Sept 99 | Sept 00                        | Aug 00 | Sept 99 |
| LABOR MARKET AREAS           |                                   |         |         |                       |         |         |                         |        |         |                                |        |         |
| Augusta                      | 46,280                            | 47,400  | 46,590  | 44,760                | 46,100  | 44,930  | 1,520                   | 1,300  | 1,670   | 3.3%                           | 2.7%   | 3.6%    |
| Bangor MSA                   | 53,300                            | 53,100  | 51,400  | 52,200                | 52,200  | 50,300  | 1,000                   | 900    | 1,100   | 2.0                            | 1.8    | 2.1     |
| Bath-Brunswick               | 35,890                            | 36,530  | 35,230  | 35,100                | 35,880  | 34,290  | 790                     | 650    | 940     | 2.2                            | 1.8    | 2.7     |
| Belfast                      | 17,640                            | 18,080  | 16,950  | 17,230                | 17,700  | 16,500  | 410                     | 390    | 450     | 2.3                            | 2.1    | 2.7     |
| Biddeford                    | 43,710                            | 46,910  | 40,620  | 43,090                | 46,300  | 39,870  | 610                     | 610    | 750     | 1.4                            | 1.3    | 1.8     |
| Boothbay Harbor              | 10,140                            | 11,100  | 9,910   | 10,040                | 11,000  | 9,790   | 100                     | 100    | 120     | 0.9                            | 0.9    | 1.2     |
| Bucksport                    | 5,350                             | 5,470   | 5,130   | 5,200                 | 5,310   | 4,940   | 150                     | 160    | 190     | 2.7                            | 2.9    | 3.7     |
| Calais                       | 5,260                             | 5,290   | 5,170   | 4,860                 | 4,870   | 4,740   | 400                     | 410    | 440     | 7.6                            | 7.8    | 8.4     |
| Dexter-Pittsfield            | 12,140                            | 12,020  | 12,130  | 11,510                | 11,480  | 11,290  | 630                     | 540    | 850     | 5.2                            | 4.5    | 7.0     |
| Dover-Foxcroft               | 7,400                             | 7,330   | 7,320   | 6,940                 | 6,960   | 6,890   | 470                     | 370    | 430     | 6.3                            | 5.0    | 5.9     |
| Ellsworth-Bar Harbor         | 22,870                            | 24,930  | 22,240  | 22,380                | 24,450  | 21,650  | 490                     | 480    | 590     | 2.1                            | 1.9    | 2.7     |
| Farmington                   | 17,340                            | 17,150  | 17,490  | 16,290                | 16,150  | 16,370  | 1,050                   | 1,000  | 1,120   | 6.0                            | 5.8    | 6.4     |
| Fort Kent                    | 3,920                             | 3,880   | 3,700   | 3,780                 | 3,730   | 3,450   | 140                     | 160    | 250     | 3.6                            | 4.1    | 6.8     |
| Greenville                   | 920                               | 1,000   | 900     | 890                   | 970     | 860     | 30                      | 30     | 50      | 3.4                            | 3.0    | 5.2     |
| Houlton                      | 6,310                             | 6,500   | 6,300   | 6,150                 | 6,320   | 6,050   | 160                     | 180    | 250     | 2.6                            | 2.8    | 4.0     |
| Jonesport-Milbridge          | 4,540                             | 4,920   | 4,670   | 4,370                 | 4,750   | 4,400   | 160                     | 170    | 280     | 3.6                            | 3.4    | 5.9     |
| Kittery-York <sup>5</sup>    | 20,710                            | 21,290  | 20,420  | 20,460                | 21,030  | 20,170  | 260                     | 260    | 250     | 1.2                            | 1.2    | 1.2     |
| Lewiston-Auburn MSA          | 54,400                            | 54,300  | 53,700  | 52,800                | 53,000  | 52,000  | 1,600                   | 1,300  | 1,700   | 2.9                            | 2.4    | 3.2     |
| Lincoln-Howland              | 6,070                             | 6,110   | 6,050   | 5,780                 | 5,840   | 5,730   | 300                     | 270    | 320     | 4.9                            | 4.3    | 5.2     |
| Machias-Eastport             | 6,930                             | 6,910   | 6,790   | 6,600                 | 6,630   | 6,410   | 330                     | 280    | 390     | 4.8                            | 4.0    | 5.7     |
| Madawaska                    | 3,920                             | 4,060   | 3,770   | 3,830                 | 3,990   | 3,640   | 90                      | 70     | 140     | 2.2                            | 1.8    | 3.6     |
| Millinocket-East Millinocket | 5,220                             | 5,250   | 5,380   | 4,970                 | 5,000   | 5,060   | 250                     | 260    | 320     | 4.9                            | 4.9    | 5.9     |
| Norway-Paris                 | 11,790                            | 11,780  | 11,590  | 11,310                | 11,380  | 10,930  | 480                     | 400    | 660     | 4.1                            | 3.4    | 5.7     |
| Outer Bangor                 | 9,020                             | 8,390   | 8,550   | 8,670                 | 8,060   | 8,190   | 350                     | 330    | 370     | 3.9                            | 3.9    | 4.3     |
| Patten-Island Falls          | 1,830                             | 1,870   | 1,840   | 1,750                 | 1,790   | 1,690   | 80                      | 90     | 150     | 4.4                            | 4.7    | 8.4     |
| Portland MSA                 | 139,600                           | 142,600 | 136,400 | 137,500               | 140,600 | 133,700 | 2,200                   | 2,000  | 2,700   | 1.5                            | 1.4    | 2.0     |
| Presque Isle-Caribou         | 21,400                            | 21,660  | 21,260  | 20,870                | 21,060  | 20,560  | 530                     | 600    | 700     | 2.5                            | 2.8    | 3.3     |
| Rockland                     | 23,680                            | 24,430  | 23,210  | 23,280                | 24,030  | 22,740  | 400                     | 400    | 470     | 1.7                            | 1.6    | 2.0     |
| Rumford                      | 9,710                             | 9,980   | 9,810   | 9,090                 | 9,370   | 9,180   | 620                     | 610    | 630     | 6.4                            | 6.1    | 6.4     |
| Sanford                      | 22,580                            | 23,050  | 22,380  | 21,870                | 22,390  | 21,520  | 720                     | 660    | 860     | 3.2                            | 2.9    | 3.8     |
| Sebago Lakes Region          | 12,700                            | 13,940  | 13,590  | 12,360                | 13,630  | 13,000  | 340                     | 310    | 580     | 2.7                            | 2.3    | 4.3     |
| Skowhegan                    | 17,390                            | 17,510  | 17,090  | 16,530                | 16,740  | 16,090  | 850                     | 770    | 1,000   | 4.9                            | 4.4    | 5.8     |
| Stonington                   | 6,050                             | 5,980   | 6,070   | 5,950                 | 5,880   | 5,920   | 100                     | 100    | 150     | 1.7                            | 1.7    | 2.4     |
| Van Buren                    | 1,450                             | 1,530   | 1,460   | 1,410                 | 1,480   | 1,390   | 40                      | 50     | 70      | 2.9                            | 3.2    | 4.7     |
| Waterville                   | 24,870                            | 23,850  | 24,320  | 24,050                | 23,120  | 23,310  | 820                     | 730    | 1,010   | 3.3                            | 3.1    | 4.2     |
| MAINE                        | 692,300                           | 706,100 | 679,500 | 673,900               | 689,100 | 657,600 | 18,400                  | 17,000 | 21,900  | 2.7                            | 2.4    | 3.2     |
| UNITED STATES (000)          | 140,357                           | 141,425 | 139,217 | 135,033               | 135,601 | 133,555 | 5,324                   | 5,824  | 5,661   | 3.8                            | 4.1    | 4.1     |

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Total employment includes nonfarm wage and salary workers, agricultural workers, unpaid family workers, domestics, the self employed, and workers involved in labor disputes.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> The unemployment rate is calculated by dividing the total number of unemployed by the total civilian labor force, and is expressed as a percent.

<sup>5</sup> 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 Adjusted<sup>1</sup>

| AREA                | CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE |         |         | EMPLOYED |         |         | UNEMPLOYED |        |         | UNEMPLOYMENT RATE |        |         |
|---------------------|----------------------|---------|---------|----------|---------|---------|------------|--------|---------|-------------------|--------|---------|
|                     | Sept 00              | Aug 00  | Sept 99 | Sept 00  | Aug 00  | Sept 99 | Sept 00    | Aug 00 | Sept 99 | Sept 00           | Aug 00 | Sept 99 |
| COUNTY              |                      |         |         |          |         |         |            |        |         |                   |        |         |
| Androscoggin        | 60,860               | 60,810  | 60,140  | 59,020   | 59,230  | 58,130  | 1,840      | 1,580  | 2,020   | 3.0%              | 2.6%   | 3.4%    |
| Aroostook           | 38,420               | 39,080  | 37,940  | 37,410   | 37,950  | 36,410  | 1,010      | 1,140  | 1,520   | 2.6               | 2.9    | 4.0     |
| Cumberland          | 146,500              | 150,000 | 143,760 | 144,100  | 147,810 | 140,690 | 2,390      | 2,190  | 3,070   | 1.6               | 1.5    | 2.1     |
| Franklin            | 14,600               | 14,460  | 14,770  | 13,750   | 13,640  | 13,820  | 850        | 820    | 940     | 5.8               | 5.7    | 6.4     |
| Hancock             | 31,270               | 33,250  | 30,610  | 30,690   | 32,610  | 29,790  | 580        | 640    | 820     | 1.8               | 1.9    | 2.7     |
| Kennebec            | 60,750               | 61,080  | 60,690  | 58,800   | 59,330  | 58,410  | 1,950      | 1,750  | 2,280   | 3.2               | 2.9    | 3.8     |
| Knox                | 20,680               | 21,320  | 20,330  | 20,360   | 21,010  | 19,890  | 320        | 310    | 440     | 1.5               | 1.4    | 2.1     |
| Lincoln             | 19,000               | 20,150  | 18,550  | 18,620   | 19,820  | 18,240  | 380        | 330    | 310     | 2.0               | 1.7    | 1.7     |
| Oxford              | 25,700               | 26,450  | 25,990  | 24,460   | 25,310  | 24,480  | 1,240      | 1,140  | 1,510   | 4.8               | 4.3    | 5.8     |
| Penobscot           | 80,560               | 79,850  | 78,360  | 78,130   | 77,690  | 75,660  | 2,430      | 2,160  | 2,700   | 3.0               | 2.7    | 3.4     |
| Piscataquis         | 8,440                | 8,440   | 8,340   | 7,940    | 8,040   | 7,850   | 500        | 400    | 490     | 6.0               | 4.7    | 5.9     |
| Sagadahoc           | 16,720               | 17,060  | 16,500  | 16,420   | 16,790  | 16,040  | 300        | 270    | 450     | 1.8               | 1.6    | 2.8     |
| Somerset            | 26,490               | 26,400  | 26,090  | 25,250   | 25,300  | 24,600  | 1,240      | 1,090  | 1,490   | 4.7               | 4.1    | 5.7     |
| Waldo               | 23,400               | 23,710  | 22,500  | 22,780   | 23,170  | 21,870  | 620        | 540    | 630     | 2.7               | 2.3    | 2.8     |
| Washington          | 17,210               | 17,650  | 17,110  | 16,320   | 16,800  | 16,010  | 900        | 850    | 1,100   | 5.2               | 4.8    | 6.4     |
| York                | 101,730              | 106,390 | 97,840  | 99,860   | 104,600 | 95,720  | 1,870      | 1,790  | 2,120   | 1.8               | 1.7    | 2.2     |
| MAINE               | 692,300              | 706,100 | 679,500 | 673,900  | 689,100 | 657,600 | 18,400     | 17,000 | 21,900  | 2.7               | 2.4    | 3.2     |
| UNITED STATES (000) | 140,357              | 141,425 | 139,217 | 135,033  | 135,601 | 133,555 | 5,324      | 5,824  | 5,661   | 3.8               | 4.1    | 4.1     |

<sup>1</sup> See page 2 for footnotes 1 through 4 and source.

### Area Analyst's Corner

#### Central Maine

Ken Bridges (207) 624-5199

**Apparel Associates** in Belmont won a \$20.4 million contract to make chemical protective clothing for military use. The plant employs 275 workers. ♦Efforts are being made to convert the former **Etonic** plant in Richmond into an incubator center for fledgling high-technology companies. Bath Iron Works and an unnamed Connecticut technology company are said to be interested in the project. ♦**Maine Coast Railroad** plans to cease operation of the Rockland and Brunswick. The Maine Department of Transportation has assured area businesses it will find a replacement operator.

#### Western Maine

Gerard Dennison (207) 753-9045

Lewiston's **Central Maine Medical** will move ahead with a planned \$6.5 million expansion, with a new heart surgery wing, which will create 40 to 50 new jobs in about 18 months. ♦**Eastland Shoe** announced the manufacturing plant in Lisbon will close in November with a loss of 70 jobs. ♦**Poland Spring Bottling** laid off about 60 workers at the end of October. ♦**Bath Iron Works** announced the temporary layoff of 135 Local S7 union members due to lack of work.

#### North/East Maine

Craig Holland (207) 941-3076

The **Loring Development Commission** has announced that two pieces of real estate will be purchased by the local businesses operating on them. A woodworking shop and the golf course will be the first properties on the former Loring Air Force Base to be converted to private ownership. ♦**Dexter Shoe Co.** will permanently shut down its Newport plant at the end of December. More than 60 workers will lose their jobs, with some being offered positions at the Dexter or Skowhegan facilities. ♦Maine's 2000 **wild blueberry** harvest was 100 million pounds, 15 million pounds more than the previous record set in 1992.

#### Southern Maine

Merrill Huhtala (207) 822-0216

The **Thomas & Betts Corporation** in Sanford began the first round of layoffs, and is scheduled to be shut down by the end of the year. ♦Low levels of unemployment in Southern Maine are impacting local employers, particularly those engaged in retail trade and services. ♦Employers at the **Maine Mall** in South Portland will be closing their stores an hour earlier than usual during the holiday shopping season due to the unavailability of workers to fill seasonal vacancies paying between \$7.00 - \$10.00 per hour.

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

| ITEM                  | 2000  |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |  | 1999  |       |       |       |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|                       | Sept  | Aug   | Jul   | Jun   | May   | Apr   | Mar   | Feb   | Jan   |  | Dec   | Nov   | Oct   | Sept  |
| Civilian Labor Force  | 691.0 | 689.3 | 691.0 | 697.4 | 700.4 | 698.4 | 696.0 | 695.3 | 692.1 |  | 686.9 | 683.7 | 680.9 | 678.3 |
| Employed              | 667.2 | 667.0 | 667.1 | 673.5 | 675.8 | 675.3 | 671.5 | 671.8 | 667.8 |  | 661.8 | 658.3 | 654.5 | 650.8 |
| Unemployed            | 23.8  | 22.3  | 23.9  | 23.8  | 24.7  | 23.1  | 24.5  | 23.6  | 24.3  |  | 25.1  | 25.5  | 26.4  | 27.5  |
| Unemployment Rate (%) | 3.4   | 3.2   | 3.5   | 3.4   | 3.5   | 3.3   | 3.5   | 3.4   | 3.5   |  | 3.7   | 3.7   | 3.9   | 4.1   |

<sup>1</sup> See page 2 for footnotes 1 through 4 and source.

**Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment in Maine, Seasonally Adjusted<sup>1</sup> (in thousands)**

| INDUSTRY  | 2000  |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |  | 1999  |       |       |       |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|   | Sept  | Aug   | Jul   | Jun   | May   | Apr   | Mar   | Feb   | Jan   |  | Dec   | Nov   | Oct   | Sept  |
| Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment <sup>2</sup> | 595.2 | 598.2 | 599.8 | 596.8 | 600.8 | 601.3 | 599.2 | 597.7 | 593.1 |  | 593.1 | 591.8 | 590.2 | 588.8 |
| Construction                                    | 30.4  | 30.8  | 30.2  | 30.4  | 29.4  | 31.0  | 30.7  | 30.8  | 29.7  |  | 29.4  | 29.1  | 28.8  | 28.6  |
| Manufacturing                                   | 80.0  | 85.6  | 85.6  | 85.4  | 85.6  | 85.9  | 86.0  | 86.4  | 86.2  |  | 86.2  | 86.2  | 85.9  | 86.0  |
| Durable Goods                                   | 38.2  | 43.1  | 43.7  | 43.1  | 43.2  | 43.4  | 43.3  | 43.4  | 43.3  |  | 43.2  | 43.2  | 42.9  | 43.0  |
| Nondurable Goods                                | 41.8  | 42.5  | 41.9  | 42.3  | 42.4  | 42.5  | 42.7  | 43.0  | 42.9  |  | 43.0  | 43.0  | 43.0  | 43.0  |
| Transportation and Public Utilities             | 24.7  | 23.3  | 24.8  | 24.3  | 24.3  | 24.3  | 24.0  | 23.8  | 23.8  |  | 23.9  | 23.9  | 24.0  | 24.0  |
| Wholesale Trade                                 | 28.6  | 28.2  | 28.3  | 27.9  | 28.0  | 28.1  | 28.0  | 28.1  | 28.1  |  | 27.9  | 27.8  | 27.6  | 27.6  |
| Retail Trade                                    | 122.0 | 121.6 | 121.3 | 120.5 | 121.6 | 122.5 | 121.8 | 121.7 | 120.9 |  | 120.9 | 120.6 | 119.8 | 118.9 |
| Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate             | 30.8  | 30.8  | 30.6  | 30.3  | 30.6  | 31.1  | 31.1  | 31.1  | 31.1  |  | 31.1  | 31.2  | 31.1  | 31.0  |
| Services  | 180.4 | 180.7 | 180.8 | 179.7 | 180.5 | 180.6 | 178.6 | 178.0 | 176.2 |  | 176.9 | 176.3 | 176.1 | 175.6 |
| Government                                      | 98.2  | 97.1  | 98.1  | 98.2  | 100.7 | 97.7  | 98.9  | 97.7  | 97.0  |  | 96.7  | 96.6  | 96.8  | 97.0  |

<sup>1</sup> See footnotes 1 and 2 on page 6. <sup>2</sup> 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.

**September Unemployment Rate Rises to 3.4 Percent**

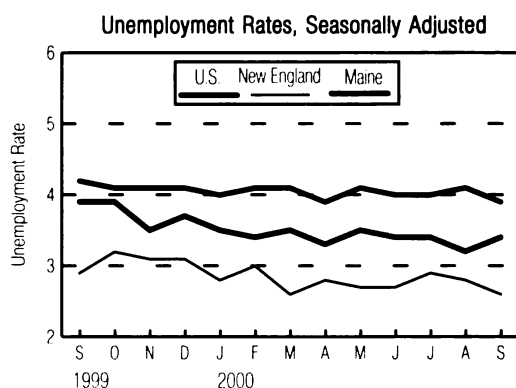
State Labor Commissioner Valerie Landry announced that the seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for Maine rose slightly to 3.4 percent in September from 3.2 percent in August.

The seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate dropped from 4.1 percent in September 1999 to 3.4 percent in September 2000 and the number of unemployed fell by 3,700 to 23,800.

Between September 1999 and September 2000, seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs rose by 6,400 to 595,200, after accounting for a strike-related loss of 4,800 jobs at Bath Iron Works. Job gains were recorded in services; retail trade; construction; government; wholesale trade; and transportation, communications, and public utilities.

Other New England states reporting seasonally-adjusted unemployment rates for September include New Hampshire, 2.4 percent, and Vermont, 2.8 percent.

The not-seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for September was 2.7 percent, up from 2.4 percent in August and down from 3.2 percent in September 1999. The unadjusted national rate was 3.8 percent, down from 4.1 percent in August and 4.1 percent in September 1999. Not-seasonally-adjusted unemployment rates in



Maine counties ranged from 1.5 percent in Knox County to 6.0 percent in Piscataquis County.

Not-seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs were largely unchanged between August and September. Local government jobs increased seasonally by 10,500 as nonprofessional school employees returned to work after the summer break. State government rose by 2,500 as nonprofessional staff and work-study students returned to college and university payrolls. A decline of 4,800 was recorded in manufacturing due to the Bath Iron Works (BIW) labor dispute. Restaurant and lodging places jobs fell as tourist-related activities recorded a seasonal decline.

### Selected Regular Unemployment Compensation Program Indicators

| Key Data                       | Sept 2000 | Aug 2000 | Sept 1999 |
|--------------------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Average Duration               | 14.3      | 14.3     | 12.9      |
| Average Weekly Benefit Amount* | \$202.30  | \$195.38 | \$191.07  |
| Exhaustees                     | 393       | 530      | 590       |

\* For totally unemployed claimants, excluding dependency allowances.

#### Weekly Initial Claims

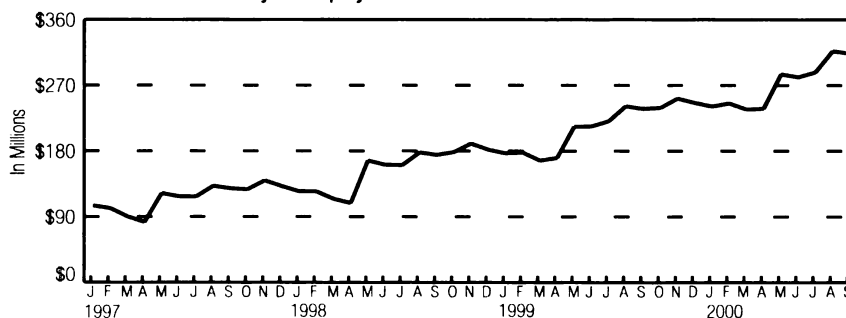
| Week | 10/7  | 9/30 | 9/23 | 9/16  | 9/9   | 9/2   | 8/26 |
|------|-------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| 2000 | 984   | 889  | 902  | 1,415 | 1,775 | 1,258 | 816  |
| Week | 10/9  | 10/2 | 9/25 | 9/18  | 9/11  | 9/4   | 8/24 |
| 1999 | 1,029 | 816  | 776  | 811   | 727   | 843   | 841  |

#### Continued Claims Less Partial\*

| Sept 2000 | Aug 2000 | Sept 1999 |
|-----------|----------|-----------|
| 3,680     | 4,553    | 3,438     |

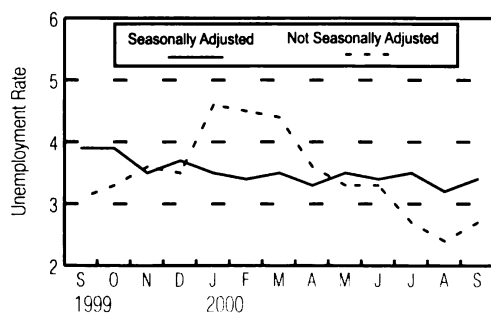
\* For the week including the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Monthly Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund Balance



Between September 1999 and September 2000, not-seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs increased by 6,800. Services rose by 4,800, mainly in social services, business services, health services, educational services, and other services. Retail trade increased by 3,200, mostly in general merchandise stores, food stores, and other retail stores. Construction rose by 2,000 jobs and wholesale trade added 1,000 jobs. Manufacturing fell by 5,900 over the year due primarily to the labor dispute at BIW.

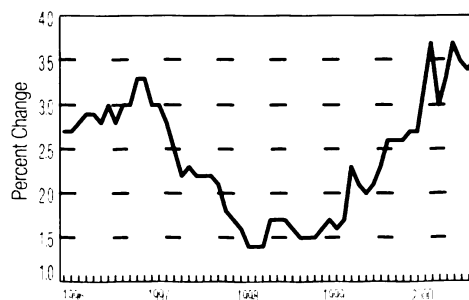
Unemployment Rates for Maine



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

| Item                              | Sept 00 | Aug 00 | Sept 99 | Dec 99 |
|-----------------------------------|---------|--------|---------|--------|
| (1982-1984 = 100) All Items       | 173.7   | 172.8  | 167.8   | 168.3  |
| Percent Change from Prior Month   | +0.5%   |        |         |        |
| Percent Change from 12 Months Ago | +3.5%   |        |         |        |
| Percent change from Last December | +3.2%   |        |         |        |

Over-the-Year Change in CPI-U





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

| INDUSTRY  | MAINE        |              |              | PORTLAND MSA |              |              | LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA |             |             |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------|
|   | Sept 00      | Aug 00       | Sept 99      | Sept 00      | Aug 00       | Sept 99      | Sept 00             | Aug 00      | Sept 99     |
| <b>Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment<sup>1</sup></b> | <b>607.6</b> | <b>607.5</b> | <b>600.8</b> | <b>153.4</b> | <b>153.1</b> | <b>149.8</b> | <b>45.7</b>         | <b>44.8</b> | <b>45.2</b> |
| <b>Goods Producing</b>                                | <b>113.8</b> | <b>120.3</b> | <b>117.7</b> | <b>23.0</b>  | <b>23.1</b>  | <b>22.1</b>  | <b>9.4</b>          | <b>9.7</b>  | <b>9.8</b>  |
| <b>Mining</b>   | <b>0.1</b>   | <b>0.1</b>   | <b>0.1</b>   | *            | *            | *            | *                   | *           | *           |
| <b>Construction</b>                                   | <b>33.2</b>  | <b>33.6</b>  | <b>31.2</b>  | <b>7.9</b>   | <b>8.0</b>   | <b>7.3</b>   | <b>1.7</b>          | <b>1.8</b>  | <b>1.8</b>  |
| Building Construction                                 | 7.4          | 7.6          | 7.1          | 1.6          | 1.7          | 1.4          | *                   | *           | *           |
| Heavy Construction                                    | 6.0          | 6.0          | 5.9          | *            | *            | *            | *                   | *           | *           |
| Special Trade Contractors                             | 19.8         | 20.0         | 18.2         | 5.8          | 5.8          | 5.4          | *                   | *           | *           |
| <b>Manufacturing</b>                                  | <b>80.5</b>  | <b>86.6</b>  | <b>86.4</b>  | <b>15.1</b>  | <b>15.1</b>  | <b>14.8</b>  | <b>7.7</b>          | <b>7.9</b>  | <b>8.0</b>  |
| <b>Durable Goods</b>                                  | <b>38.2</b>  | <b>43.0</b>  | <b>42.9</b>  | <b>7.6</b>   | <b>7.6</b>   | <b>7.4</b>   | <b>2.3</b>          | <b>2.4</b>  | <b>2.4</b>  |
| Lumber and Wood Products                              | 11.0         | 11.0         | 10.8         | *            | *            | *            | *                   | *           | *           |
| Primary and Fabricated Metals                         | 3.8          | 3.9          | 3.8          | *            | *            | *            | *                   | *           | *           |
| Industrial Machinery and Equipment                    | 4.6          | 4.6          | 4.5          | 1.6          | 1.6          | 1.6          | *                   | *           | *           |
| Electronic and Other Electrical Equipment             | 7.7          | 7.7          | 7.1          | 2.9          | 2.9          | 2.8          | *                   | *           | *           |
| Transportation Equipment                              | 6.0          | 10.8         | 11.3         | *            | *            | *            | *                   | *           | *           |
| Other Durable Goods                                   | 5.1          | 5.0          | 5.4          | 3.1          | 3.1          | 3.0          | *                   | *           | *           |
| <b>Nondurable Goods</b>                               | <b>42.3</b>  | <b>43.6</b>  | <b>43.5</b>  | <b>7.5</b>   | <b>7.5</b>   | <b>7.4</b>   | <b>5.4</b>          | <b>5.5</b>  | <b>5.6</b>  |
| Food and Kindred Products                             | 6.7          | 7.3          | 6.5          | 2.5          | 2.4          | 2.2          | *                   | *           | *           |
| Textile Mill Products                                 | 3.4          | 3.4          | 3.3          | *            | *            | *            | *                   | *           | *           |
| Apparel and Other Textile Products                    | 2.5          | 2.6          | 2.5          | *            | *            | *            | *                   | *           | *           |
| Paper and Allied Products                             | 13.1         | 13.3         | 13.8         | *            | *            | *            | *                   | *           | *           |
| Printing and Publishing                               | 6.3          | 6.2          | 6.2          | 1.6          | 1.6          | 1.7          | *                   | *           | *           |
| Rubber and Misc. Plastic Products                     | 2.7          | 2.9          | 3.0          | *            | *            | *            | *                   | *           | *           |
| Leather and Leather Products                          | 5.4          | 5.6          | 6.1          | 0.8          | 0.8          | 0.8          | 0.8                 | 0.8         | 0.9         |
| Other Nondurable Goods                                | 2.2          | 2.3          | 2.1          | 2.6          | 2.7          | 2.7          | 4.6                 | 4.7         | 4.7         |
| <b>Service Producing</b>                              | <b>493.8</b> | <b>487.2</b> | <b>483.1</b> | <b>130.4</b> | <b>130.0</b> | <b>127.7</b> | <b>36.3</b>         | <b>35.1</b> | <b>35.4</b> |
| <b>Transportation and Public Utilities</b>            | <b>25.0</b>  | <b>23.6</b>  | <b>24.3</b>  | <b>7.9</b>   | <b>7.1</b>   | <b>6.8</b>   | <b>2.0</b>          | <b>1.9</b>  | <b>2.0</b>  |
| <b>Wholesale Trade</b>                                | <b>28.8</b>  | <b>28.8</b>  | <b>27.8</b>  | <b>9.7</b>   | <b>9.7</b>   | <b>9.1</b>   | <b>2.5</b>          | <b>2.6</b>  | <b>2.5</b>  |
| <b>Retail Trade</b>                                   | <b>127.1</b> | <b>130.1</b> | <b>123.9</b> | <b>33.4</b>  | <b>34.1</b>  | <b>33.0</b>  | <b>8.7</b>          | <b>8.7</b>  | <b>8.7</b>  |
| General Merchandise Stores                            | 12.9         | 12.7         | 11.9         | *            | *            | *            | *                   | *           | *           |
| Food Stores   | 23.5         | 24.3         | 22.9         | *            | *            | *            | *                   | *           | *           |
| Automotive Sales and Services                         | 14.2         | 14.2         | 14.0         | *            | *            | *            | *                   | *           | *           |
| Eating and Drinking Places                            | 39.2         | 42.0         | 39.3         | 9.9          | 10.5         | 9.1          | *                   | *           | *           |
| Other Retail Trade                                    | 37.3         | 36.9         | 35.8         | *            | *            | *            | *                   | *           | *           |
| <b>Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate</b>            | <b>30.9</b>  | <b>31.2</b>  | <b>31.1</b>  | <b>13.2</b>  | <b>13.4</b>  | <b>13.9</b>  | <b>2.6</b>          | <b>2.6</b>  | <b>2.4</b>  |
| Banking   | 9.4          | 9.6          | 9.2          | *            | *            | *            | *                   | *           | *           |
| Insurance Carriers, Brokers and Agents                | 12.2         | 12.2         | 12.8         | *            | *            | *            | *                   | *           | *           |
| Other Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate             | 9.3          | 9.4          | 9.1          | *            | *            | *            | *                   | *           | *           |
| <b>Services</b>                                       | <b>184.7</b> | <b>189.2</b> | <b>179.9</b> | <b>47.2</b>  | <b>48.5</b>  | <b>46.9</b>  | <b>15.2</b>         | <b>15.1</b> | <b>14.8</b> |
| Hotels and Other Lodging Places                       | 14.0         | 16.9         | 13.6         | *            | *            | *            | *                   | *           | *           |
| Business Services                                     | 24.7         | 24.8         | 24.1         | *            | *            | *            | *                   | *           | *           |
| Health Services                                       | 57.3         | 57.5         | 56.7         | *            | *            | *            | *                   | *           | *           |
| Educational Services                                  | 15.4         | 15.2         | 14.8         | *            | *            | *            | *                   | *           | *           |
| Social Services                                       | 25.2         | 24.8         | 23.3         | *            | *            | *            | *                   | *           | *           |
| Other Services  | 48.1         | 50.0         | 47.4         | *            | *            | *            | *                   | *           | *           |
| <b>Government</b>                                     | <b>97.3</b>  | <b>84.3</b>  | <b>96.1</b>  | <b>19.0</b>  | <b>17.2</b>  | <b>18.0</b>  | <b>5.3</b>          | <b>4.2</b>  | <b>5.0</b>  |
| Federal   | 13.5         | 13.5         | 13.4         | 2.6          | 2.7          | 2.3          | 0.4                 | 0.4         | 0.3         |
| State   | 27.2         | 24.7         | 26.5         | 4.9          | 4.4          | 4.3          | 0.8                 | 0.7         | 0.7         |
| Local <sup>2</sup>                                    | 56.6         | 46.1         | 56.2         | 11.5         | 10.1         | 11.4         | 4.1                 | 3.1         | 4.0         |

<sup>1</sup> 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 1998. As a measure of reliability, the March 1998 benchmark revision for total nonfarm wage and salary employment was .07 percent higher than the original sample-based estimate.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

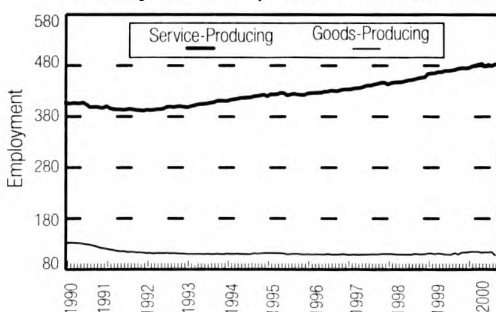
## Earnings and Hours of Production Workers in Manufacturing Industries<sup>1</sup> Not Seasonally Adjusted

| AREA AND INDUSTRY                       | AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS |                 |                 | AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS |             |             | AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS |                |                | ANNUAL AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS |                |                |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
|   | Sept 00                 | Aug 00          | Sept 99         | Sept 00              | Aug 00      | Sept 99     | Sept 00                 | Aug 00         | Sept 99        | 1999                           | 1998           | 1997           |
| <b>STATEWIDE</b>                        |                         |                 |                 |                      |             |             |                         |                |                |                                |                |                |
| <b>Manufacturing</b>                    | <b>\$591.14</b>         | <b>\$590.60</b> | <b>\$579.27</b> | <b>41.6</b>          | <b>40.9</b> | <b>41.2</b> | <b>\$14.21</b>          | <b>\$14.67</b> | <b>\$14.03</b> | <b>\$13.97</b>                 | <b>\$13.49</b> | <b>\$13.12</b> |
| <b>Durable Goods</b>                    | <b>552.72</b>           | <b>558.09</b>   | <b>544.19</b>   | <b>42.0</b>          | <b>40.5</b> | <b>41.7</b> | <b>13.16</b>            | <b>13.82</b>   | <b>13.27</b>   | <b>13.12</b>                   | <b>12.99</b>   | <b>12.72</b>   |
| Lumber and Wood Products                | 498.23                  | 486.75          | 462.24          | 43.4                 | 42.4        | 42.8        | 11.48                   | 11.48          | 10.80          | 10.84                          | 10.46          | 10.32          |
| Primary and Fabricated Metals           | 517.69                  | 495.09          | 549.11          | 40.1                 | 38.8        | 43.0        | 12.91                   | 12.76          | 12.77          | 12.52                          | 12.33          | 11.55          |
| Industrial Machinery and Equipment      | 695.07                  | 704.03          | 679.32          | 44.3                 | 44.9        | 44.4        | 15.69                   | 15.68          | 15.30          | 14.67                          | 14.33          | 14.66          |
| Electronic and Other Electric Equipment | 527.66                  | 530.37          | 530.65          | 43.5                 | 41.5        | 45.2        | 12.13                   | 12.78          | 11.74          | 11.65                          | 11.48          | 11.13          |
| Transportation Equipment                | 685.39                  | 657.75          | 639.91          | 37.7                 | 36.2        | 37.4        | 18.18                   | 18.17          | 17.11          | 17.78                          | 17.60          | 16.77          |
| Other Durable Goods                     | 450.06                  | 458.61          | 408.91          | 40.4                 | 40.3        | 39.7        | 11.14                   | 11.38          | 10.30          | 10.53                          | 10.40          | 10.27          |
| <b>Nondurable Goods</b>                 | <b>624.72</b>           | <b>624.73</b>   | <b>617.30</b>   | <b>41.1</b>          | <b>41.4</b> | <b>40.8</b> | <b>15.20</b>            | <b>15.09</b>   | <b>15.13</b>   | <b>14.87</b>                   | <b>14.01</b>   | <b>13.50</b>   |
| Food and Kindred Products               | 433.36                  | 491.16          | 404.54          | 40.2                 | 46.6        | 39.7        | 10.78                   | 10.54          | 10.19          | 10.19                          | 10.03          | 9.85           |
| Textile Mill Products                   | 508.65                  | 489.83          | 514.58          | 43.4                 | 42.3        | 46.4        | 11.72                   | 11.58          | 11.09          | 10.98                          | 10.50          | 9.97           |
| Apparel and Other Textile Products      | 417.60                  | 411.46          | 398.11          | 40.0                 | 40.3        | 37.7        | 10.44                   | 10.21          | 10.56          | 10.02                          | 9.57           | 9.52           |
| Paper and Allied Products               | 947.84                  | 937.30          | 943.17          | 43.3                 | 41.4        | 41.9        | 21.89                   | 22.64          | 22.51          | 21.94                          | 20.23          | 19.44          |
| Leather and Leather Products            | 417.48                  | 416.16          | 398.77          | 39.2                 | 39.9        | 39.6        | 10.65                   | 10.43          | 10.07          | 9.78                           | 9.31           | 8.88           |
| Other Nondurable Goods                  | 518.08                  | 504.45          | 510.15          | 39.1                 | 37.9        | 39.7        | 13.25                   | 13.31          | 12.85          | 12.66                          | 12.12          | 11.65          |
| <b>PORTLAND MSA</b>                     |                         |                 |                 |                      |             |             |                         |                |                |                                |                |                |
| <b>Manufacturing</b>                    | <b>537.15</b>           | <b>541.12</b>   | <b>534.99</b>   | <b>43.6</b>          | <b>44.5</b> | <b>45.3</b> | <b>12.32</b>            | <b>12.16</b>   | <b>11.81</b>   | <b>11.63</b>                   | <b>11.42</b>   | <b>11.28</b>   |
| <b>LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA</b>              |                         |                 |                 |                      |             |             |                         |                |                |                                |                |                |
| <b>Manufacturing</b>                    | <b>528.78</b>           | <b>531.62</b>   | <b>555.62</b>   | <b>41.9</b>          | <b>41.5</b> | <b>44.7</b> | <b>12.62</b>            | <b>12.81</b>   | <b>12.43</b>   | <b>12.33</b>                   | <b>11.86</b>   | <b>11.13</b>   |

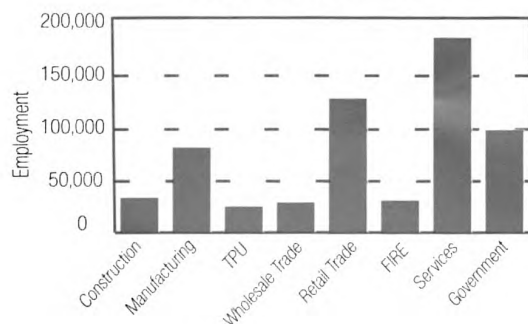
<sup>1</sup> Hours worked and earnings data are computed based on payroll figures for the week including the 12th of the month for manufacturing production workers. Average hourly earnings are calculated on a gross basis, and include such factors as premium pay for overtime and shift differential, as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

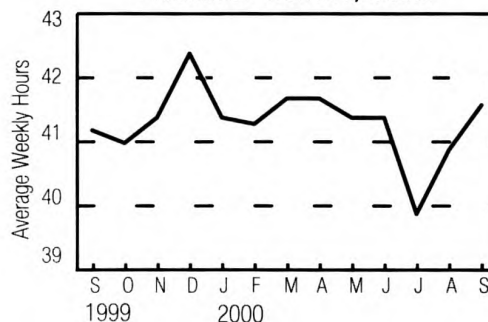
Nonfarm Employment by Sector  
January 1990-September 2000, Maine<sup>1</sup>



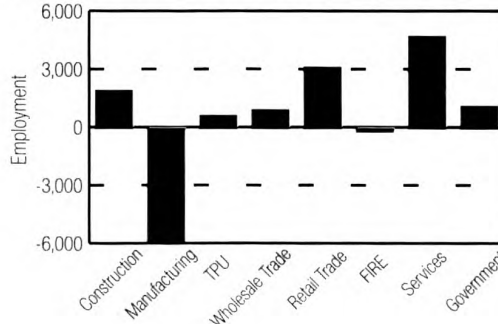
Nonfarm Employment by Industry Division  
Maine, September 2000<sup>2</sup>



Hours Worked by Manufacturing  
Production Workers, Maine<sup>2</sup>



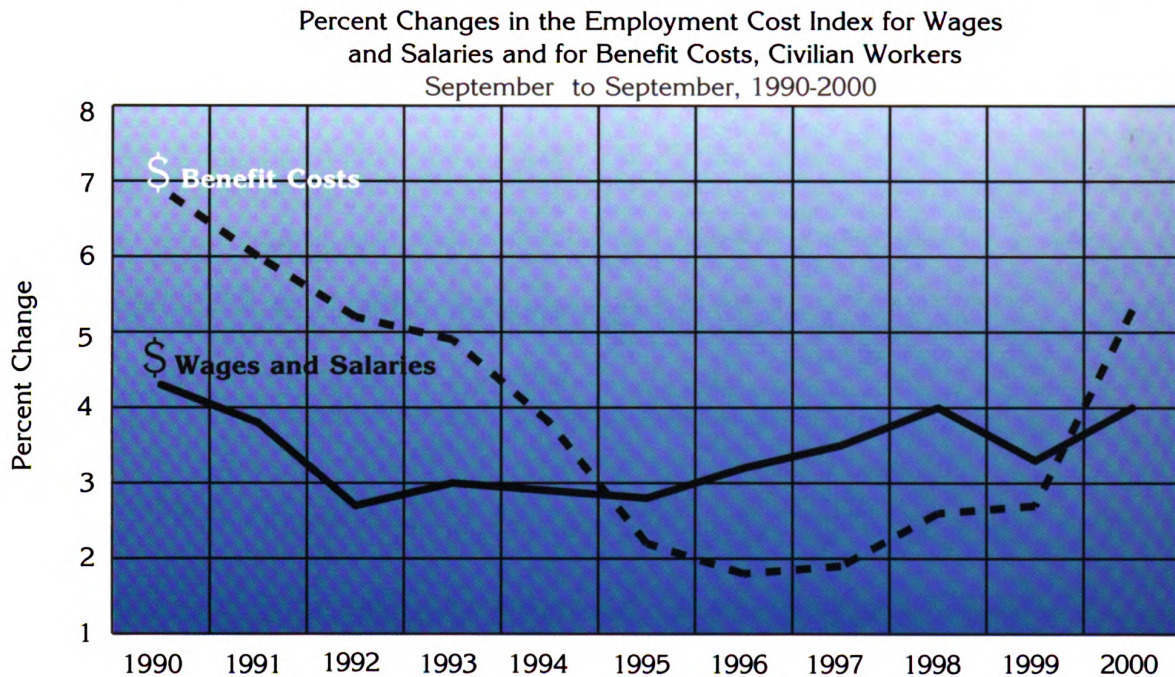
Nonfarm Employment by Industry Division  
Maine, Over-the-Year Change, September 2000<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Seasonally Adjusted. <sup>2</sup> Not Seasonally Adjusted.

## Wages and Salaries Now Increasing at Slower Rate Than Benefits

Benefit costs for civilian workers in the United States rose more rapidly than wages and salaries for the year ending September 2000. This follows five years of wage and salary growth outpacing benefit costs growth.



The Employment Cost Index (ECI) for benefit costs grew by 5.3 percent from September 1999 to September 2000. Wages and salaries increased by 4.0 percent over the same period.

At the beginning of the 1990s, benefits were climbing much more quickly than wages—for example, benefit costs increased by 6.9 percent in 1990, compared to 4.3 percent for wages and salaries. Between 1995 and 1999, wages and salaries rose more rapidly than benefits each year.

These data are a product of the BLS *Employment Cost Trends* program. Annual changes are September to September. “Civilian workers” include those in private industry and State and local government. The ECI excludes the self-employed and farm, private household, and Federal Government employees.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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