

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Labor Market Information

INSIDE . . .

Cumberland County recorded the lowest unemployment rate at 2.8 percent page 3

Adjusted statewide unemployment rate increased slightly from 4.9 percent in November to 5.0 percent in December page 4

Nonfarm employment increased by 200 over the year page 6

A publication of
the

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Labor Market
Information Services

Raynold A. Fongemie
Division Director

Dana A. Evans
Editor

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

For information,
call (207) 287-2271
or (207) 287-2947
or (207) 794-1110

E-Mail: lmi.me@Maine.gov

Visit our Home Page at
www.Maine.gov/labor/lmis

LABOR MARKET DIGEST

December Data

February 2004

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, 2003, and remains in effect through September 30, 2004, 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.

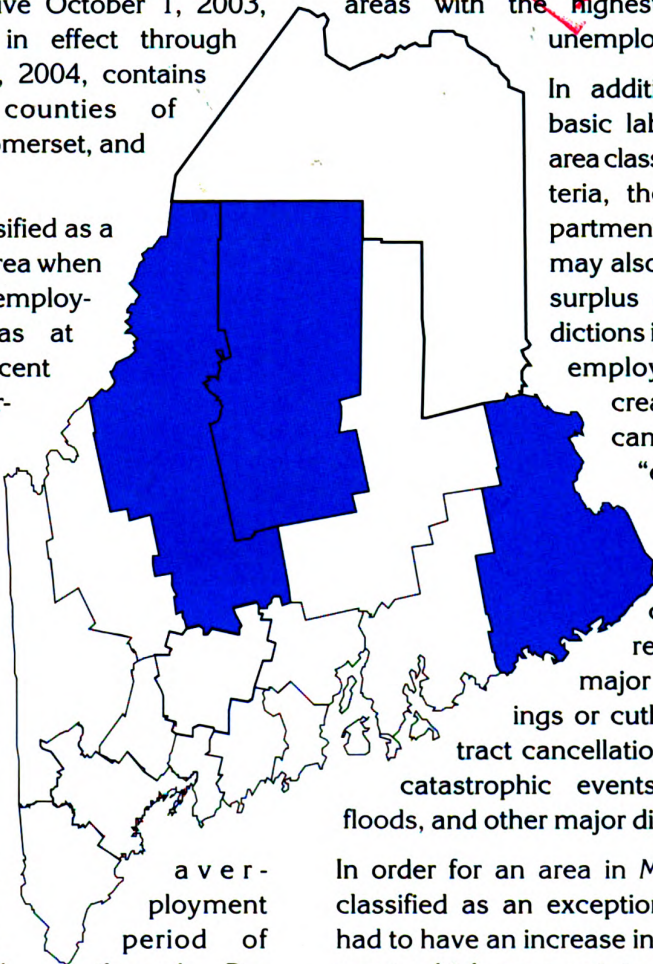
The national average unemployment rate during the period of January 2001 through December 2002 was 5.3 percent, making the qualifying rate for labor surplus area classification 6.4 percent (5.3 percent times 1.2).

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 classify 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, the area had to have 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. All areas are now under review using the exceptional circumstances criteria.



Generated on 2015-11-18 19:23 GMT / http://hdl.handle.net/2027/coo.31924082817002
Creative Commons Zero (CC0) / http://www.hathitrust.org/access_use#cc-zero

D
725
na
na
IN CIRC

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 03	Nov 03	Dec 02	Dec 03	Nov 03	Dec 02	Dec 03	Nov 03	Dec 02	Dec 03	Nov 03	Dec 02
LABOR MARKET AREAS												
Augusta	47,600	47,670	47,310	45,240	45,330	45,260	2,370	2,350	2,050	5.0%	4.9%	4.3%
Bangor MSA	55,100	55,000	53,600	53,300	53,200	51,900	1,800	1,800	1,700	3.3	3.3	3.1
Bath-Brunswick	34,280	34,810	33,320	33,030	33,550	32,130	1,250	1,260	1,190	3.6	3.6	3.6
Belfast	17,730	17,820	17,450	16,860	17,110	16,680	870	710	780	4.9	4.0	4.4
Biddeford	41,370	42,250	40,530	39,860	40,760	39,090	1,510	1,490	1,440	3.6	3.5	3.6
Boothbay Harbor	8,670	8,800	8,700	8,360	8,530	8,390	310	270	310	3.6	3.1	3.6
Bucksport	4,960	5,030	5,070	4,670	4,770	4,810	290	260	260	5.8	5.2	5.0
Calais	5,000	5,040	5,070	4,480	4,550	4,480	520	500	590	10.5	9.9	11.7
Dexter-Pittsfield	11,630	11,710	11,560	10,360	10,570	10,350	1,270	1,150	1,220	10.9	9.8	10.5
Dover-Foxcroft	6,960	7,070	6,950	6,390	6,500	6,380	570	560	580	8.1	8.0	8.3
Ellsworth-Bar Harbor	20,470	21,330	20,460	18,800	20,010	19,140	1,670	1,330	1,320	8.2	6.2	6.4
Farmington	17,470	17,130	17,180	16,330	15,930	16,190	1,130	1,200	990	6.5	7.0	5.8
Fort Kent	4,150	4,120	4,120	3,840	3,830	3,900	320	290	220	7.6	7.1	5.4
Greenville	1,130	1,110	1,060	1,010	1,030	970	120	90	90	10.8	8.0	8.7
Houlton	6,260	6,280	6,180	5,910	5,930	5,910	350	350	280	5.6	5.6	4.5
Jonesport-Milbridge	4,180	4,380	4,290	3,830	4,130	4,020	350	250	270	8.3	5.7	6.3
Kittery-York ⁵	21,270	21,740	21,560	20,570	20,640	20,480	700	1,110	1,070	3.3	5.1	5.0
Lewiston-Auburn MSA	54,900	55,200	54,100	52,500	52,700	51,800	2,400	2,500	2,300	4.3	4.6	4.2
Lincoln-Howland	5,870	5,840	6,090	5,360	5,350	5,680	510	490	410	8.7	8.3	6.8
Machias-Eastport	6,770	6,940	6,670	6,280	6,460	6,060	490	480	610	7.2	6.9	9.1
Madawaska	3,630	3,610	3,630	3,410	3,420	3,470	220	200	160	6.1	5.5	4.3
Millinocket-East Millinocket	4,720	5,030	4,920	3,740	3,840	4,380	980	1,190	540	20.8	23.6	10.9
Norway-Paris	11,810	11,890	11,640	10,970	11,110	10,850	840	780	790	7.1	6.6	6.8
Outer Bangor	10,310	10,220	9,690	9,700	9,620	9,180	600	600	500	5.8	5.9	5.2
Patten-Island Falls	1,750	1,770	1,750	1,560	1,580	1,620	190	190	140	10.9	10.5	7.8
Portland MSA	144,900	144,200	140,900	141,100	139,900	137,300	3,800	4,300	3,600	2.6	3.0	2.6
Presque Isle-Caribou	20,170	20,190	20,230	18,880	19,060	19,220	1,290	1,140	1,010	6.4	5.6	5.0
Rockland	23,840	24,230	23,330	22,960	23,410	22,580	880	820	760	3.7	3.4	3.2
Rumford	9,990	9,730	10,030	9,220	8,920	9,300	760	810	730	7.6	8.3	7.3
Sanford	22,170	22,640	22,550	20,650	20,910	20,580	1,520	1,730	1,970	6.8	7.7	8.7
Sebago Lakes Region	13,540	13,590	13,170	12,880	12,890	12,550	660	700	620	4.9	5.1	4.7
Skowhegan	15,410	15,510	15,460	13,960	14,050	14,150	1,440	1,460	1,310	9.4	9.4	8.5
Stonington	5,880	6,060	5,850	5,680	5,870	5,660	200	190	190	3.5	3.1	3.3
Van Buren	1,330	1,340	1,330	1,240	1,260	1,260	90	80	80	6.7	5.8	5.8
Waterville	24,930	25,050	25,060	23,310	23,450	23,470	1,620	1,600	1,590	6.5	6.4	6.4
MAINE	690,100	694,300	680,800	656,200	660,100	649,200	33,900	34,200	31,600	4.9	4.9	4.6
UNITED STATES (000)	146,501	146,969	144,807	138,556	138,700	136,599	7,945	8,269	8,209	5.4	5.6	5.7

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 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 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 03	Nov 03	Dec 02	Dec 03	Nov 03	Dec 02	Dec 03	Nov 03	Dec 02	Dec 03	Nov 03	Dec 02
COUNTY												
Androscoggin	61,320	61,560	60,420	58,590	58,720	57,790	2,730	2,840	2,630	4.5%	4.6%	4.4%
Aroostook	36,930	36,940	36,860	34,450	34,680	34,990	2,490	2,260	1,870	6.7	6.1	5.1
Cumberland	151,030	150,500	146,740	146,830	145,950	142,830	4,200	4,550	3,910	2.8	3.0	2.7
Franklin	14,680	14,430	14,430	13,790	13,450	13,670	890	990	760	6.1	6.8	5.3
Hancock	28,730	29,710	28,760	26,700	28,080	27,110	2,030	1,630	1,650	7.1	5.5	5.7
Kennebec	61,880	62,110	61,750	58,690	58,870	58,820	3,200	3,240	2,930	5.2	5.2	4.7
Knox	20,860	21,180	20,430	20,080	20,480	19,750	780	700	680	3.7	3.3	3.3
Lincoln	17,410	17,650	17,290	16,740	17,010	16,640	670	640	650	3.8	3.6	3.8
Oxford	26,370	26,200	26,110	24,510	24,320	24,330	1,860	1,880	1,770	7.0	7.2	6.8
Penobscot	82,260	82,550	80,520	77,650	77,830	76,820	4,600	4,720	3,700	5.6	5.7	4.6
Piscataquis	8,200	8,290	8,120	7,500	7,630	7,450	700	660	670	8.5	8.0	8.3
Sagadahoc	16,060	16,310	15,550	15,450	15,690	15,030	610	610	520	3.8	3.8	3.4
Somerset	24,380	24,510	24,500	22,060	22,260	22,270	2,310	2,250	2,230	9.5	9.2	9.1
Waldo	23,560	23,660	23,250	22,290	22,570	22,110	1,260	1,080	1,140	5.4	4.6	4.9
Washington	16,360	16,810	16,440	14,990	15,560	14,960	1,370	1,240	1,480	8.4	7.4	9.0
York	100,140	101,960	99,610	95,930	97,040	94,600	4,210	4,920	5,010	4.2	4.8	5.0
MAINE	690,100	694,300	680,800	656,200	660,100	649,200	33,900	34,200	31,600	4.9	4.9	4.6
UNITED STATES (000)	146,501	146,969	144,807	138,556	138,700	136,599	7,945	8,269	8,209	5.4	5.6	5.7

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

Area Analyst's Corner

Central Maine

Ken Bridges (207) 624-5199

A new **Home Depot** opened in Rockland. In Waterville, **Huhtamaki**, makers of **Chinet** dinnerware, is laying off 30 workers. Construction started on a new Super **Walmart** discount retail store in Waterville. In Belfast, a new **Family Dollar Store** opened. In Augusta, the **Capital Riverfront Improvement District** wants to raise at least \$1 million towards creating a community recreation site that would have a 500-seat amphitheater, walking trails, a museum, a café, and access to the Kennebec River. A separate development proposal calls for restoring the former Colonial Theater, building a parking garage, and adding retail shops and a restaurant.

Western Maine

Gerard Dennison (207) 753-9045

The jobless rate in the Lewiston-Auburn MSA dropped to 4.3 percent in December because of peak seasonal retail activity. Rates also dropped in the Farmington and Rumford LMAs due to the opening of the ski season at several Western Maine mountain resorts. The Norway-Paris area rate rose because of the closing of the Robinson textile mill in Oxford. The Bath-Brunswick rate was unchanged. In Portland will open a new campus in Lewiston on March 15 with 120 students and 15 employees. Officials hope to eventually enroll 500 students.

North/East Maine

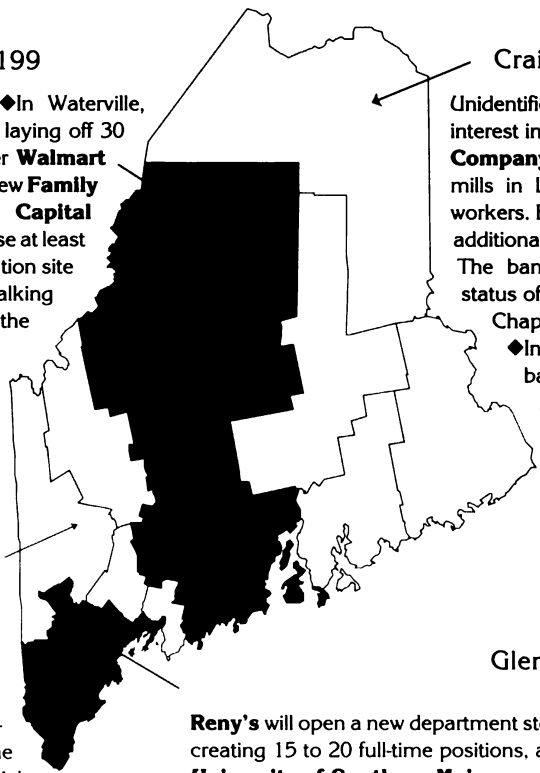
Craig Holland (207) 941-3076

Unidentified paper companies have expressed interest in the acquisition of **Eastern Fine Paper Company**. Eastern temporarily closed its two mills in Lincoln and Brewer earlier, idling 750 workers. Eastern officials cited the need to borrow additional working capital to continue operations. The bankruptcy court recently converted the status of Eastern Fine Paper from Chapter 11 to Chapter 7 of the Federal Bankruptcy Code. In Bangor, **Marshall's**, a New England-based clothing retailer, opened in the Airport Mall at the site that housed Ames Department Store. The store employs approximately 75 workers.

Southern Maine

Glenn Mills (207) 287-2859

Reny's will open a new department store in the Well's Plaza on Route 1 in May, creating 15 to 20 full-time positions, along with 30 to 40 seasonal jobs. The **University of Southern Maine** received accreditation for its undergraduate program in **Industrial Technology**—the only college in Maine to offer a baccalaureate degree in this area of study. **Partners in Caregiving, Inc.**, based in Biddeford, plans to increase its workforce by up to 60 full-and-part-time healthcare positions in the next 12 to 18 months.



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

ITEM	2003												2002
	Dec	Nov	Oct	Sep	Aug	Jul	Jun	May	Apr	Mar	Feb	Jan	Dec
Civilian Labor Force	697.7	698.0	696.5	700.7	694.4	692.8	690.8	692.9	697.5	695.5	700.0	697.9	687.7
Employed	662.9	663.5	661.0	665.8	660.6	658.6	660.0	661.7	664.0	664.2	668.1	666.2	654.8
Unemployed	34.8	34.5	35.4	34.9	33.7	34.1	30.8	31.2	33.4	31.2	31.9	31.7	32.9
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.0	4.9	5.1	5.0	4.9	4.9	4.5	4.5	4.8	4.5	4.6	4.5	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	2003												2002
	Dec	Nov	Oct	Sep	Aug	Jul	Jun	May	Apr	Mar	Feb	Jan	Dec
Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment ²	604.8	603.6	605.4	604.8	604.3	604.9	605.3	605.3	605.2	604.6	603.6	605.4	604.2
Construction	28.9	29.2	28.8	29.0	28.8	29.1	28.7	28.9	28.8	28.7	28.6	28.8	29.3
Manufacturing	63.8	64.3	63.4	63.0	62.6	63.4	63.1	64.5	64.7	64.5	64.6	65.1	67.2
Trade, Transportation and Public Utilities	125.7	125.9	126.1	125.5	124.8	124.3	122.8	121.8	121.7	121.8	122.7	123.5	124.9
Professional and Business Services	51.3	51.7	51.3	51.2	51.2	51.5	51.7	51.1	50.6	50.7	50.9	51.3	50.9
Educational and Health Services	107.9	108.1	107.4	107.4	107.2	107.2	107.0	106.8	107.0	106.7	106.4	106.3	105.6
Leisure and Hospitality Services	56.1	56.2	56.3	56.3	57.3	57.6	56.6	57.0	57.0	58.1	57.7	57.7	56.4
Government	103.6	102.9	103.0	103.0	103.5	103.9	104.6	104.1	104.0	103.5	103.5	103.2	103.1

¹ See footnotes 1 and 2 on page 7. ²The nonfarm wage and salary estimate is seasonally adjusted independently. Not all supersectors are seasonally adjusted. Natural resources, information, financial activities, 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 5.0 Percent in December

State Labor Commissioner Laura Fortman announced that the seasonally-adjusted December unemployment rate for Maine was 5.0 percent, up slightly from 4.9 percent in November and 4.8 percent a year ago. The Maine unemployment rate remained well below the national December rate of 5.7 percent.

"There was little change in overall labor market conditions between November and December," said Commissioner Fortman. "The seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate, which rose slightly from 4.9 percent in November to 5.0 percent in December, has ranged between 4.9 and 5.1 percent since July of this year."

Between December 2002 and December 2003, seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs edged up by 600 to 604,800. Job gains were recorded in educational and health services and retail trade. Mostly offsetting the job gains, losses were recorded primarily in the manufacturing sector, with the largest declines in paper manufacturing and computers and electronic equipment manufacturing.

Other New England states reporting their seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for December include Vermont, 4.0 percent, and New Hampshire, 4.1 percent. The adjusted national rate for December was

5.7 percent, down from 5.9 percent in November and 6.0 percent in December 2002.

The not-seasonally-adjusted Maine unemployment rate for December was 4.9 percent, unchanged from November and up from 4.6 percent for December 2002. The unadjusted national rate was 5.4 percent for December, down from 5.6 percent in November and 5.7 percent in December 2002. Not-seasonally-adjusted December unemployment rates for Maine counties ranged from 2.8 percent in Cumberland to 9.5 percent in Somerset.

Not-seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs in Maine declined by 3,000 between November and December to 607,800. There were seasonal losses in accommodations and food services as tourist-related activities slowed. Construction jobs also fell seasonally over the month.

Between December 2002 and December 2003, not-seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs rose by 200. Job gains were recorded in education and health services and general merchandise stores. Mostly offsetting the job gains, losses were registered primarily in manufacturing, with the largest declines in paper and computers and electronic equipment.

Selected Regular Unemployment Compensation Program Indicators

Key Data	Dec 2003	Nov 2003	Dec 2002
Average Duration	18.2	18.2	17.3
Average Weekly Benefit Amount*	\$227.82	\$229.31	\$220.95
Exhaustees	1,180	923	919

* For totally unemployed claimants, excluding dependency allowances.

Weekly Initial Claims

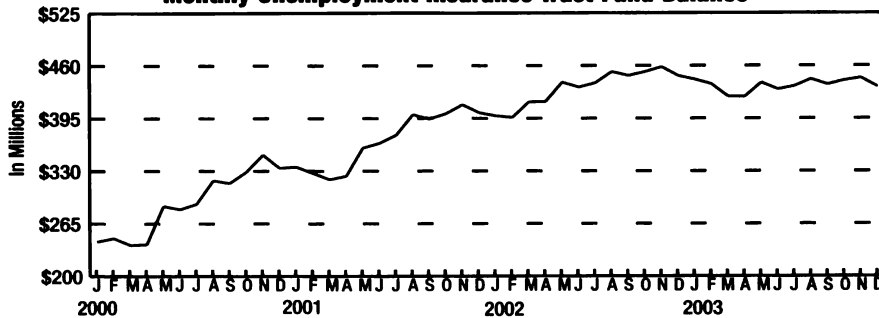
Week	1/17	1/10	1/3	12/27	12/20	12/13	12/6
2003	2,557	3,014	1,693	1,885	1,878	2,258	1,807
Week	1/19	1/12	1/5	12/29	12/22	12/15	12/8
2002	2,735	3,392	2,754	2,114	2,146	2,276	2,192

Continued Claims Less Partial*

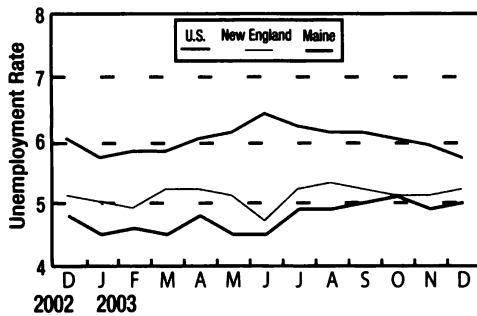
Dec 2003	Nov 2003	Dec 2002
9,906	7,536	10,010

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

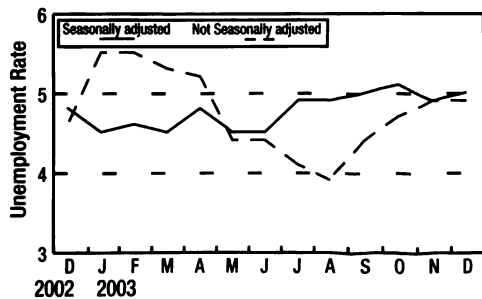
Monthly Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund Balance



Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted



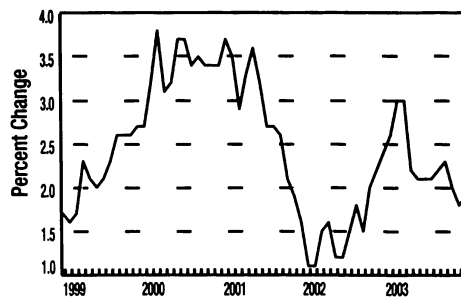
Unemployment Rates for Maine



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

Item	Dec 03	Nov 03	Dec 02
(1982-1984 = 100) All Items	184.3	184.5	180.9
Percent Change from Prior Month			-0.1%
Percent Change from 12 Months Ago			+1.9%
Percent change from Last December			+1.9%

Over-the-Year Change in CPI-U



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

INDUSTRY	MAINE			PORTLAND MSA			LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA		
	Dec 03	Nov 03	Dec 02	Dec 03	Nov 03	Dec 02	Dec 03	Nov 03	Dec 02
Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment	607.8	610.8	607.6	162.4	161.2	158.7	47.0	46.9	46.8
Total Private	499.6	503.0	499.9	140.4	139.1	137.0	41.5	41.4	41.2
Goods Producing	94.5	96.3	98.3	19.3	19.4	19.4	8.2	8.3	8.5
Natural Resources and Mining	2.7	2.7	2.7	*	*	*	*	*	*
Logging	2.5	2.4	2.5	*	*	*	*	*	*
Construction	28.1	29.7	28.5	*	*	*	*	*	*
Construction of Buildings	7.7	7.9	7.6	*	*	*	*	*	*
Heavy and Civil Engineering Const.	3.1	3.7	3.6	*	*	*	*	*	*
Specialty Trade Contractors	17.3	18.1	17.3	*	*	*	*	*	*
Manufacturing	63.7	63.9	67.1	11.2	11.1	11.3	6.2	6.2	6.5
Durable Goods	34.6	34.7	35.6	*	*	*	*	*	*
Wood Product Manufacturing	6.3	6.2	6.3	*	*	*	*	*	*
Computer and Electronic Product Mfg.	3.9	3.9	4.5	2.4	2.4	2.5	*	*	*
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	10.3	10.3	10.2	*	*	*	*	*	*
Nondurable Goods	29.1	29.2	31.5	*	*	*	*	*	*
Leather and Allied Product Mfg.	2.5	2.5	2.7	*	*	*	*	*	*
Paper Manufacturing	9.6	9.5	11.6	*	*	*	*	*	*
Service-Providing	513.3	514.5	509.3	143.1	141.8	139.3	38.8	38.6	38.3
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	129.3	128.8	128.5	37.8	36.9	36.3	10.5	10.4	10.2
Wholesale Trade	20.1	20.1	20.3	7.0	7.0	7.1	1.2	1.2	1.2
Retail Trade	92.2	91.9	91.0	25.5	24.7	24.2	7.7	7.6	7.4
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	10.6	10.6	10.7	*	*	*	*	*	*
Food and Beverage Stores	19.3	19.4	19.2	4.8	4.8	4.5	*	*	*
General Merchandise Stores	13.8	13.7	12.9	*	*	*	*	*	*
Nonstore Retailers	8.9	8.7	9.4	*	*	*	*	*	*
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	17.0	16.8	17.2	5.3	5.2	5.0	1.6	1.6	1.6
Utilities	2.2	2.1	2.2	*	*	*	*	*	*
Transportation and Warehousing	14.8	14.7	15.0	*	*	*	*	*	*
Information	11.5	11.5	11.6	4.5	4.3	4.4	0.6	0.6	0.6
Publishing Industries	3.4	3.4	3.4	*	*	*	*	*	*
Financial Activities	35.1	34.9	35.0	14.6	14.5	14.5	3.1	3.1	3.1
Finance and Insurance	28.6	28.5	28.5	11.9	11.8	11.8	*	*	*
Ins. Carriers & Related Activities	12.4	12.4	12.6	*	*	*	*	*	*
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	6.5	6.4	6.5	*	*	*	*	*	*
Professional and Business Services	51.3	51.5	50.9	19.6	19.3	19.1	5.7	5.6	5.8
Prof., Scientific, & Technical Svcs.	22.7	22.3	22.5	*	*	*	*	*	*
Mgmt. of Companies & Enterprises	6.1	6.1	6.3	*	*	*	*	*	*
Admin. & Support & Waste Mgmt. Svcs.	22.5	23.1	22.1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Education and Health Services	108.7	108.9	106.4	25.8	25.7	24.3	8.9	8.9	8.7
Educational Services	18.7	18.9	18.2	*	*	*	*	*	*
Health Care and Social Assistance	90.0	90.0	88.2	23.6	23.5	22.1	*	*	*
Ambulatory Health Care Services	23.8	23.7	27.0	*	*	*	*	*	*
Hospitals	27.0	26.9	25.7	*	*	*	*	*	*
Nursing and Residential Care	23.0	23.2	22.5	*	*	*	*	*	*
Social Assistance	16.2	16.2	16.0	*	*	*	*	*	*
Leisure and Hospitality	49.1	51.0	49.4	13.4	13.6	13.8	3.1	3.1	2.9
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	6.6	6.5	6.6	*	*	*	*	*	*
Accommodation and Food Services	42.5	44.5	42.8	*	*	*	*	*	*
Accommodation	7.7	8.6	7.8	*	*	*	*	*	*
Food Services and Drinking Places	34.8	35.9	35.0	*	*	*	*	*	*
Other Services	20.1	20.1	19.8	5.4	5.4	5.2	1.4	1.4	1.4
Repair and Maintenance	5.1	5.0	5.2	*	*	*	*	*	*
Government	108.2	107.8	107.7	22.0	22.1	21.7	5.5	5.5	5.6
Federal	14.2	14.0	14.0	2.6	2.5	2.5	0.3	0.3	0.3
State	30.1	30.2	29.7	5.0	4.9	5.2	0.9	0.9	0.9
Local²	63.9	63.6	64.0	14.4	14.7	14.0	4.3	4.3	4.4

Footnotes: See page 7.

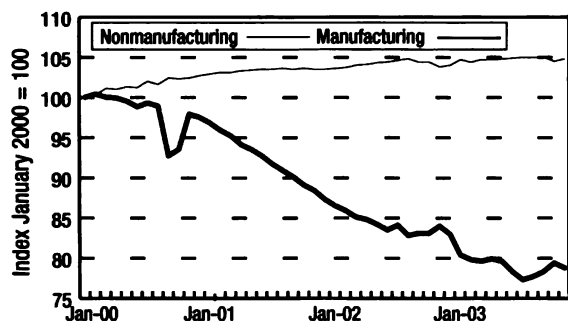
Earnings and Hours of Production Workers in Manufacturing Industries¹ Not Seasonally Adjusted

AREA AND INDUSTRY	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS			ANNUAL AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	Dec 03	Nov 03	Dec 02	Dec 03	Nov 03	Dec 02	Dec 03	Nov 03	Dec 02	2002	2001	2000
STATEWIDE												
Manufacturing	660.11	660.11	658.10	40.3	40.3	40.8	16.38	16.38	16.13	\$15.55	\$14.71	\$14.28
Durable Goods	664.51	661.48	631.33	40.2	39.8	40.6	16.53	16.62	15.55	15.34	14.50	13.50
Nondurable Goods	655.29	658.51	685.11	40.4	40.8	41.0	16.22	16.14	16.71	15.75	14.92	15.10
PORTLAND MSA												
Manufacturing	592.62	605.05	550.09	45.1	44.1	41.8	13.14	13.72	13.16	12.92	12.52	12.14

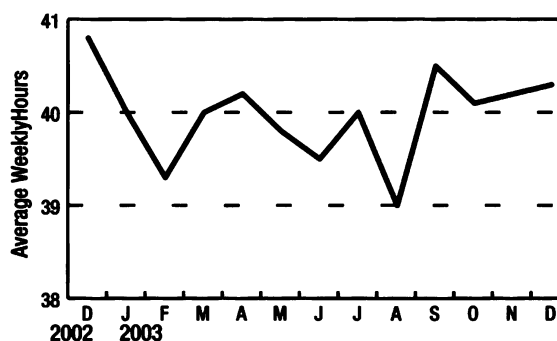
¹ Hours worked and earnings data are computed based on payroll figures for the week including the 12th of the month for manufacturing production workers. Average hourly earnings are calculated on a gross basis, and include such factors as premium pay for overtime and shift differential, as well as changes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

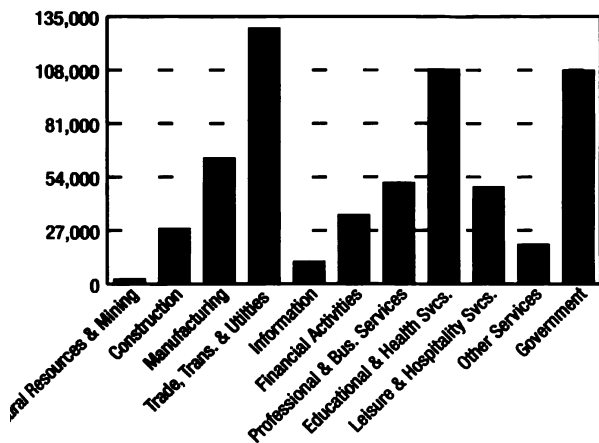
**Nonfarm Employment Trend by Sector
January 2000-December 2003¹**



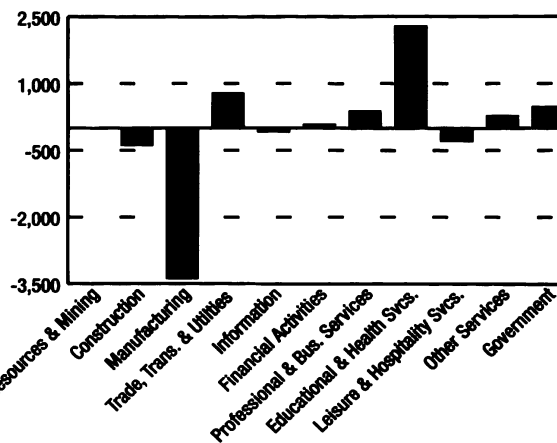
**Hours Worked by Manufacturing
Production Workers, Maine²**



**Nonfarm Employment by Industry Supersector
Maine, December 2003²**



**Nonfarm Employment by Industry Supersector
Maine, Over-the-Year Change, December 2003²**



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 2002. As a measure of reliability, the March 2002 benchmark revision for total nonfarm wage and salary employment was .08 percent higher than the original sample-based estimate.

² Regular teachers are included in summer months whether or not specifically paid in those months.

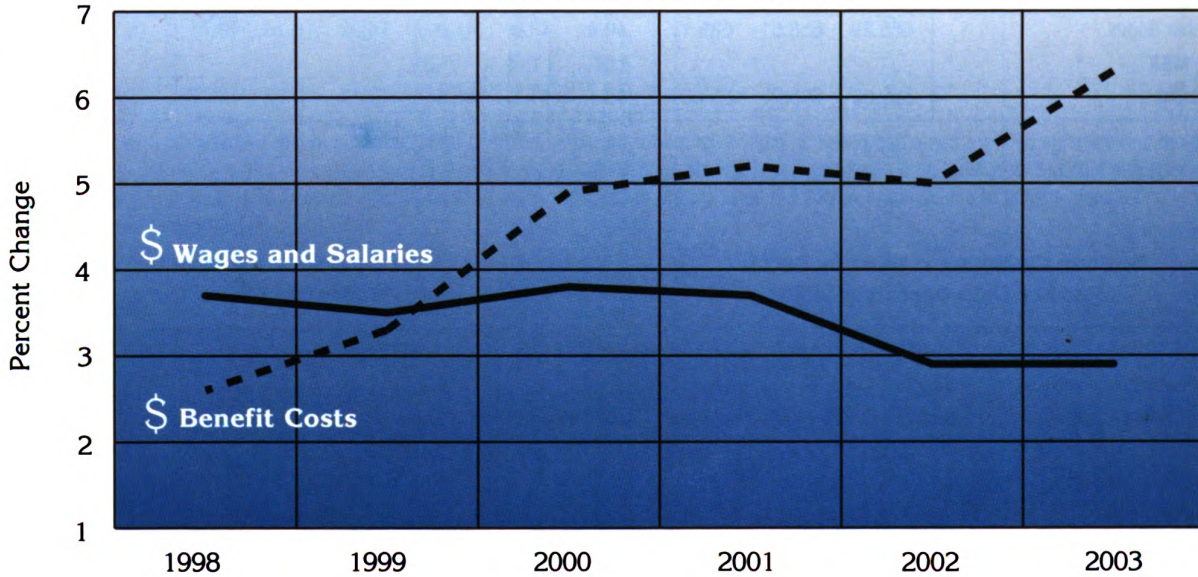
* Where an employment estimate is not entered, either the data is not available in sufficient detail for publication or is nondisclosable by law.

Source: See page 2.

Wages and Salaries Increasing at Slower Rate Than Benefits

Benefit costs for civilian workers in the United States rose more rapidly than wages and salaries for the fourth consecutive year.

Percent Changes in the Employment Cost Index for Wages and Salaries and Benefit Costs, Civilian Workers in the United States December to December, 1998-2003



The Employment Cost Index (ECI), a component of the National Compensation Survey, measures changes in compensation costs, which include wages, salaries, and employer costs for employee benefits.

While over-the-year compensation gains rose slightly from 3.4 percent for the year ending December 2002 to 3.8 percent for the year ending December 2003, the components of compensation showed significant differences. While increases in wages and salaries remained unchanged, benefit costs rose sharply during

the year. For civilian workers, wages and salaries were 2.9 percent in the year ending December 2003, compared with a gain of 6.3 percent for benefits.

These data are a product of the BLS *Employment Cost Trends* program. Annual changes are December to December. "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.

If you do **NOT** desire to continue receiving this publication, check here and return this cover to the address below. If your address has changed, please indicate change and return this cover to the address below.

Maine Department of Labor
Labor Market Information Services
19 Union Street
Augusta, Maine 04330-6826

PRESORTED FIRST CLASS MAIL
POSTAGE PAID
US DEPT. OF LABOR
PERMIT NO. G-12

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

55000203 *****SINGLE-PIECE
LYNN KING 40
MARTIN P. CATHERWOOD LIBRARY
INDUS & LABOR RELATIONS SCHOOL
CORNELL UNIVERSITY
ITHACA, NY 14853

