

INSIDE ...

Lincoln County recorded the lowest unemployment rate at 2.5 percent.....page 3

Adjusted statewide unemployment rate remains unchanged at 4.1 percent in June.....page

Nonfarm employment increased by 5,500 over the year.....page 6

A publication of the

Maine Department of Labor Labor Market Information Services

> John Dorrer Division Director

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Department rovides equal mployment and s. Auxiliary vices provided to individuals sabilities.

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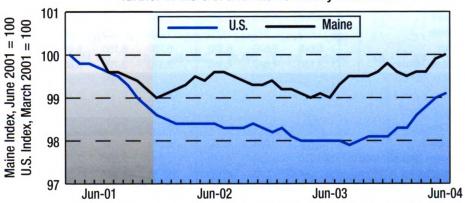
LABOR MARKET DIGEST

June Data August 2004

The Number of Nonfarm Wage and Salary Jobs in Maine Reaches Previous High

The number of seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs in Maine was 610,200 in June 2004, returning to the previous high of 610,200 recorded in June 2001. The only other New England state with jobs at or above the high point reached in 2000 or 2001, as of June 2004, was Rhode Island. Nationally, the number of jobs in June 2004 was still 1,206,000 below the high recorded in March 2001.

The number of nonfarm wage and salary jobs dropped further in the U.S. and has not totally recovered



Gray shaded area is National Bureau of Economic Research-defined national recession (March to November, 2001)

Recent Job Changes

Recent gains in seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs in Maine contributed to recovering the number of jobs lost since the national recession. Jobs in Maine reached 610,200 in June 2001, declining quickly to 603,800 in December 2001. Thereafter, there were slight gains and losses through the second quarter of 2003, with the number of jobs in June 2003 at 603,900. Between June of 2003 and June 2004, there was a gain of 6,300 jobs. Job gains were recorded in health care and social assistance, retail trade, leisure and hospitality services, other services, government, and construction. These gains were partially offset by a loss of 2,300 manufacturing jobs.

Changing Industrial Structure of Jobs

While the total number of seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs in June 2004 was equal to the number recorded in June 2001, the structure of industrial jobs continued to change in Maine. Service-producing jobs increased while manufacturing jobs declined.

Manufacturing jobs fell by 14,400 between June 2001 and June 2004. In June 2001, manufacturing jobs accounted for 12.4 percent of all seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs. By June 2004, manufacturing accounted for 10 percent of all jobs.

Construction and several service-producing industries recorded job gains. The largest increase was recorded by educational and health service jobs, rising by 7,700 between June 2001 and June 2004. This industry accounted for 17.8 percent of all seasonally-adjusted nonfarm jobs in June 2004, up from 16.5 percent in June 2001.



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

| AREA | CIVIL Jun 04 | AN LABOR May 04 | FORCE ¹ Jun 03 | Jun 04 | MPLOYED ² May 04 | Jun 03 | Jun 04 | NEMPLO' | YED³ Jun 03 | UNEMPLOYMENT RATE ⁴ Jun 04 May 04 Jun 03 | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------|---------|---------|----------|--|---|--------|---------|
| LABOR MARKET AREAS | Juli 04 | Way 04 | Juli 03 | Juli 04 | Way 04 | Juli 03 | Juli 04 | iviay 04 | Juli 03 | Juli 04 | Way 04 | Juli 03 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Augusta | 47,040 | 46,600 | 46,670 | 45,160 | 44,900 | 44,470 | 1,880 | 1,700 | 2,200 | 4.0% | 3.7% | 4.7% |
| Bangor MSA | 53,900 | 55,200 | 52,900 | 52,200 | 53,700 | 51,300 | 1,700 | 1,600 | 1,700 | 3.1 | 2.8 | 3.2 |
| Bath-Brunswick | 35,670 | 35,140 | 35,060 | 34,590 | 34,160 | 33,790 | 1,070 | 980 | 1,270 | 3.0 | 2.8 | 3.6 |
| Belfast | 19,010 | 18,600 | 18,850 | 18,400 | 18,060 | 18,120 | 610 | 540 | 730 | 3.2 | 2.9 | 3.9 |
| Biddeford | 46,400 | 44,060 | 45,790 | 45,080 | 42,840 | 44,250 | 1,320 | 1,220 | 1,550 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 3.4 |
| Boothbay Harbor | 10,930 | 9,710 | 10,740 | 10,750 | 9,520 | 10,530 | 190 | 190 | 210 | 1.7 | 1.9 | 1.9 |
| Bucksport | 5,100 | 5,070 | 5,080 | 4,850 | 4,830 | 4,850 | 260 | 240 | 230 | 5.0 | 4.8 | 4.5 |
| Calais | 4,900 | 4,950 | 4,920 | 4,410 | 4,460 | 4,290 | 490 | 490 | 630 | 9.9 | 9.8 | 12.7 |
| Dexter-Pittsfield | 12,280 | 12,270 | 12,300 | 11,290 | 11,330 | 11,240 | 1,000 | 950 | 1,070 | 8.1 | 7.7 | 8.7 |
| Dover-Foxcroft | 7,110 | 7,080 | 7,220 | 6,690 | 6,650 | 6,650 | 430 | 430 | 570 | 6.0 | 6.1 | 7.9 |
| Ellsworth-Bar Harbor | 23,750 | 19,870 | 23,300 | 22,810 | 18,910 | 22,370 | 940 | 970 | 940 | 4.0 | 4.9 | 4.0 |
| Farmington | 16,960 | 17,240 | 16,790 | 15,930 | 16,220 | 15,640 | 1,030 | 1,020 | 1,160 | 6.1 | 5.9 | 6.9 |
| Fort Kent | 4,060 | 4,160 | 4,020 | 3,660 | 3,590 | 3,570 | 400 | 560 | 450 | 9.9 | 13.6 | 11.3 |
| Greenville | 1,070 | 970 | 1,060 | 1,020 | 900 | 980 | 50 | 80 | 80 | 4.7 | 7.7 | 7.5 |
| Houlton | 6,640 | 6,570 | 6,520 | 6,280 | 6,150 | 6,100 | 360 | 410 | 420 | 5.4 | 6.3 | 6.4 |
| Jonesport-Milbridge | 4,180 | 4,040 | 4,150 | 3,930 | 3,790 | 3,850 | 250 | 250 | 290 | 5.9 | 6.1 | 7.1 |
| Kittery-York ⁵ | 22,720 | 23,030 | 23,030 | 22,270 | 22,480 | 21,810 | 450 | 550 | 1,230 | 2.0 | 2.4 | 5.3 |
| Lewiston-Auburn MSA | 55,600 | 55,400 | 54,700 | 53,600 | 53,500 | 52,100 | 2,100 | 1,900 | 2,600 | 3.7 | 3.4 | 4.7 |
| Lincoln-Howland | 6,280 | 5,950 | 6,310 | 5,630 | 5,100 | 5,760 | 650 | 860 | 550 | 10.3 | 14.4 | 8.7 |
| Machias-Eastport | 6,460 | 6,400 | 6,310 | 6,000 | 6,010 | 5,740 | 460 | 390 | 560 | 7.1 | 6.1 | 8.9 |
| Madawaska | 3,750 | 3,660 | 3,700 | 3,590 | 3,490 | 3,560 | 170 | 180 | 150 | 4.4 | 4.9 | 3.9 |
| Millinocket-East Millinocket | 4,270 | 4,230 | 4,770 | 3,640 | 3,550 | 3,120 | 630 | 680 | 1,650 | 14.8 | 16.2 | 34.5 |
| Norway-Paris | 12,260 | 12,020 | 12,320 | 11,550 | 11,380 | 11,550 | 710 | 640 | 770 | 5.8 | 5.3 | 6.3 |
| Outer Bangor | 10,370 | 10,230 | 10,160 | 9,830 | 9,740 | 9,590 | 530 | 490 | 560 | 5.1 | 4.8 | 5.6 |
| Patten-Island Falls | 1,810 | 1,820 | 1,880 | 1,660 | 1,620 | 1,640 | 160 | 200 | 240 | 8.7 | 11.2 | 12.6 |
| Portland MSA | 146,700 | 144,100 | 142,700 | 143,000 | 140,800 | 138,400 | 3,800 | 3,300 | 4,300 | 2.6 | 2.3 | 3.0 |
| Presque Isle-Caribou | 22,110 | 21,400 | 20,940 | 21,090 | 20,490 | 19,910 | 1,020 | 900 | 1,040 | 4.6 | 4.2 | 4.9 |
| Rockland | 25,470 | 24,370 | 25,290 | 24,790 | 23,740 | 24,350 | 690 | 630 | 940 | 2.7 | 2.6 | 3.7 |
| Rumford | 9,710 | 9,510 | 9,580 | 8,950 | 8,820 | 8,670 | 760 | 690 | 910 | 7.8 | 7.3 | 9.5 |
| Sanford | 21,890 | 21,930 | 22,980 | 20,830 | 20,910 | 21,070 | 1,060 | 1,010 | 1,910 | 4.8 | 4.6 | 8.3 |
| Sebago Lakes Region | 15,500 | 14,120 | 15,370 | 14,880 | 13,560 | 14,680 | 620 | 560 | 690 | 4.0 | 3.9 | 4.5 |
| Skowhegan | 16,270 | 15,820 | 16,540 | 15,000 | 14,620 | 15,110 | 1,270 | 1,200 | 1,430 | 7.8 | 7.6 | 8.6 |
| Stonington | 6,120 | 6,210 | 6,150 | 5,990 | 6,060 | 5,980 | 140 | 150 | 170 | 2.3 | 2.4 | 2.7 |
| Van Buren | 1,440 | 1,410 | 1,410 | 1,370 | 1,350 | 1,330 | 70 | 60 | 90 | 4.9 | 4.2 | 6.2 |
| Waterville | 24,760 | 24,760 | 24,600 | 23,490 | 23,580 | 23,130 | 1,270 | 1,190 | 1,470 | 5.1 | 4.8 | 6.0 |
| MAINE | 712,500 | 697,900 | 704,100 | 684,100 | 670,800 | 669,500 | 28,400 | 27,100 | Manager of the Party of the Par | 4.0 | 3.9 | 4.9 |
| UNITED STATES (000) | | 146,659 | | | 138,867 | | 8,616 | 7,792 | 9,649 | 5.8 | 5.3 | 6.5 |
| UNITED STATES (UUU) | 140,470 | 140,009 | 140,117 | 139,001 | 130,007 | 130,400 | 0,010 | 1,192 | 9,049 | 5.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

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.

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



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

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.

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

| AREA | CVIL | IAN LABOR | FORCE | | EMPLOYED | | ı | JNEMPLOY | ED | UNEM | PLOYMEN | T RATE |
|---------------------|---------|-----------|---------|---------|-----------------|---------|--------|----------|--------|--------|---------|--------|
| ANEA | Jun 04 | May 04 | Jun 03 | Jun 04 | May 04 | Jun 03 | Jun 04 | May 04 | Jun 03 | Jun 04 | May 04 | Jun 03 |
| COUNTY | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Androscoggin | 62,490 | 62,260 | 61,570 | 60,120 | 60,070 | 58,590 | 2,370 | 2,190 | 2,980 | 3.8% | 3.5% | 4.8% |
| Aroostook | 39,370 | 38,660 | 38,020 | 37,230 | 36,290 | 35,660 | 2,150 | 2,370 | 2,370 | 5.5 | 6.1 | 6.2 |
| Cumberland | 153,610 | 150,390 | 149,570 | 149,530 | 146,820 | 145,000 | 4,080 | 3,570 | 4,570 | 2.7 | 2.4 | 3.1 |
| Franklin | 14,200 | 14,460 | 14,060 | 13,370 | 13,610 | 13,120 | 840 | 840 | 940 | 5.9 | 5.8 | 6.7 |
| Hancock | 31,870 | 28,380 | 31,410 | 30,730 | 27,200 | 30,320 | 1,140 | 1,170 | 1,090 | 3.6 | 4.1 | 3.5 |
| Kennebec | 61,110 | 60,740 | 60,690 | 58,570 | 58,400 | 57,670 | 2,550 | 2,340 | 3,020 | 4.2 | 3.9 | 5.0 |
| Knox | 22,720 | 21,730 | 22,560 | 22,110 | 21,170 | 21,720 | 610 | 550 | 840 | 2.7 | 2.5 | 3.7 |
| Lincoln | 19,890 | 18,470 | 19,600 | 19,390 | 17,990 | 19,010 | 500 | 470 | 590 | 2.5 | 2.6 | 3.0 |
| Oxford | 27,310 | 26,320 | 27,230 | 25,660 | 24,830 | 25,290 | 1,650 | 1,490 | 1,940 | 6.0 | 5.7 | 7.1 |
| Penobscot | 81,910 | 82,320 | 81,390 | 77,780 | 78,230 | 76,200 | 4,120 | 4,100 | 5,180 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 6.4 |
| Piscataguis | 8,300 | 8,180 | 8,400 | 7,820 | 7,670 | 7,740 | 480 | 520 | 660 | 5.8 | 6.3 | 7.8 |
| Sagadahoc | 16,170 | 15,910 | 15,870 | 15,680 | 15,480 | 15,320 | 490 | 430 | 550 | 3.0 | 2.7 | 3.5 |
| Somerset | 25,930 | 25,420 | 26,020 | 23,840 | 23,490 | 23,870 | 2,090 | 1,930 | 2,150 | 8.0 | 7.6 | 8.3 |
| Waldo | 24,410 | 24,110 | 24,260 | 23,590 | 23,330 | 23,250 | 820 | 780 | 1,020 | 3.4 | 3.2 | 4.2 |
| Washington | 16,030 | 15,770 | 15,850 | 14,820 | 14,640 | 14,360 | 1,220 | 1,130 | 1,500 | 7.6 | 7.2 | 9.4 |
| York | 107,220 | 104,820 | 107,600 | 103,880 | 101,580 | 102,350 | 3,340 | 3,250 | 5,250 | 3.1 | 3.1 | 4.9 |
| MAINE | 712,500 | 697,900 | 704,100 | 684,100 | 670,800 | 669,500 | 28,400 | 27,100 | 34,600 | 4.0 | 3.9 | 4.9 |
| JNITED STATES (000) | 148,478 | 146,659 | 148,117 | 139,861 | 138,867 | 138,468 | 8,616 | 7,792 | 9,649 | 5.8 | 5.3 | 6.5 |

See page 2 for footnotes 1 through 4 and source.

Area Analyst's Corner

Central Maine Ken Bridges (207) 624-5199

The Mack Point Cargo Port in Searsport is receiving \$2.8 million in federal and state grants to build a new warehouse, which is expected to create nearly 300 new jobs. The warehouse will store merchandise that cannot be stored outdoors. The port facility recently completed a \$13 million renovation and expansion. Total spending on long-term development of \$26 million is expected. New businesses either open, under construction, or receiving final approval include China Buffet in Skowhegan; Left Bank Books in Searsmont, Cox's Hardware in Searsmont; Starbucks, Taco Bell, Blockbuster Video, and four other unnamed retail outlets at the Waterville Commons mall in Waterville: and Dunkin Donuts and All Pro Soccer and Sports Club, also in Waterville.

Western Maine Gerard Dennison (207) 753-9045

All **five labor market areas** in Western Maine experienced slightly higher unemployment rates in June. June is the month when students look for summer work, and high school and college graduates search for full-time employment. The labor force increases, and, although there are

more jobs, there usually aren't enough for everyone who is looking. As a result, the unemployment rate usually goes up in June. Ed Keiser opened a new modular home manufacturing plant in Waterford, called **Waterford Homes.** The new plant employs 30 and may employ up to 50.

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

Three **Dollar Tree Stores** opening soon are: at the site of the former Ames Department Store at the Airport Mall, in the Twin City Plaza in Brewer, and at the University Mall in Old Town next to Bell's IGA. **Bangor Hydro Electric broke ground for their new building on Union Street in Bangor. **The **Dollar Store** will occupy the former Rite Aid store at the corner of State Street and Broadway in Bangor. **The **Nyle Corp.**has plans for a new facility on Parkway South in Brewer. The facility will manufacture a newly designed heat pump made for cold climates, and is expected to create approximately 80 new jobs.

Southern Maine Paul Trahan (207) 822-0216

After 35 years, Portland is in danger of losing the Portland-to-Yarmouth N.S. ferry service. The owners of **Scotia Prince Cruises** are assessing economic indicators, particularly the decrease in passengers from 165,000 in 2001 to 153,000 in 2003. **Kohl's Department Store** on Route 111 in Biddeford is scheduled to open in October, generating approximately 100 new jobs. **Applied Thermal Sciences** of Sanford and **Technology Systems** of Wiscasset have developed a laser-welding technology applicable to the shipbuilding industry. The companies hope to build a \$20-\$50 million facility and employ up to 50 people in high-tech manufacturing and research and development positions.



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

| ITEM | 2004 | | | | | | | | 2003 | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--|
| I LW | Jul | Jun | May | Apr | Mar | Feb | Jan | Dec | Nov | Oct | Sep | Aug | Jul | |
| Civilian Labor Force | 697.6 | 699.9 | 700.8 | 695.5 | 693.7 | 698.1 | 699.0 | 699.4 | 697.9 | 696.0 | 696.6 | 695.6 | 693.8 | |
| Employed | 668.3 | 671.3 | 672.1 | 666.0 | 659.8 | 663.7 | 665.4 | 663.2 | 662.0 | 659.9 | 660.4 | 660.0 | 658.3 | |
| Unemployed | 29.3 | 28.6 | 28.7 | 29.5 | 33.9 | 34.4 | 33.7 | 36.2 | 35.9 | 36.2 | 36.1 | 35.7 | 35.5 | |
| Unemployment Rate (%) | 4.2 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.2 | 4.9 | 4.9 | 4.8 | 5.2 | 5.1 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 5.1 | 5.1 | |

See page 2 for footnotes 1 through 4 and source.

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

| INDUSTRY | | 2004 | | | | | | | 2003 | | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--|
| INDOSTNI | Jul | Jun | May | Apr | Mar | Feb | Jan | Dec | Nov | 0ct | Sep | Aug | Jul | |
| Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment ² | 611.5 | 610.1 | 609.9 | 607.6 | 607.5 | 607.3 | 607.7 | 609.1 | 608.0 | 607.2 | 607.0 | 607.0 | 605.9 | |
| Construction | 31.5 | 31.4 | 31.7 | 30.9 | 30.9 | 30.9 | 31.1 | 31.2 | 31.1 | 30.8 | 30.6 | 30.6 | 30.6 | |
| Manufacturing | 60.4 | 61.1 | 61.7 | 61.7 | 61.2 | 61.2 | 62.1 | 63.0 | 63.5 | 63.4 | 63.1 | 63.2 | 63.4 | |
| Trade, Transportation and Public Utilities | 124.5 | 124.4 | 123.6 | 123.0 | 123.7 | 123.9 | 123.7 | 124.7 | 124.3 | 123.8 | 123.2 | 123.6 | 122.9 | |
| Professional and Business Services | 51.0 | 50.8 | 50.4 | 50.2 | 49.8 | 50.2 | 50.8 | 51.3 | 51.5 | 51.5 | 51.0 | 50.7 | 50.3 | |
| Educational and Health Services | 109.1 | 108.5 | 108.3 | 108.1 | 108.0 | 107.9 | 107.7 | 107.5 | 107.8 | 107.3 | 107.5 | 107.2 | 107.2 | |
| Leisure and Hospitality Services | 59.2 | 58.8 | 59.3 | 58.5 | 59.2 | 59.4 | 59.2 | 59.1 | 58.2 | 58.7 | 58.2 | 58.5 | 58.4 | |
| Government | 104.5 | 104.3 | 103.8 | 104.1 | 104.0 | 103.8 | 104.1 | 103.8 | 103.5 | 103.2 | 103.2 | 103.2 | 103.6 | |

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 4.2 Percent in July

State Labor Commissioner Laura Fortman announced that the seasonally-adjusted July unemployment rate for Maine was 4.2 percent, well below the national July rate of 5.5 percent.

While the July rate for Maine of 4.2 percent was nearly unchanged from 4.1 percent for June, it has dropped by almost a full percentage point from the July 2003 rate of 5.1 percent, representing a decline of 6,200 in the number of unemployed to 29,300 in July 2004.

"Recent job gains continued in July, with an over-the-month increase of 1,400 seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs," said Commissioner Fortman. "The largest job gains were recorded in education and health services and leisure and hospitality services."

Between July 2003 and July 2004, seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs rose by 5,600 to 611,500. Job gains were recorded in retail trade, health care and social assistance, accommodation and food services. other services, construction, and professional and business services. Partly offsetting the job gains, there was a loss of 3,000 manufacturing jobs.

The July seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for New Hampshire was 3.9 percent. The adjusted national rate for July was 5.5 percent, down from 5.6 percent in June and 6.2 percent in July 2003.

The not-seasonally-adjusted Maine unemployment rate for

July was 3.5 percent, down from 4.0 percent for June and 4.4 percent for July 2003. The unadjusted national rate. was 5.7 percent for July, down from 5.8 percent in June and 6.3 percent in July 2003. Not-seasonally-adjusted July unemployment rates for Maine counties ranged from 2.0 percent in Lincoln County to 7.4 percent in Somerset County. Maine counties with rates at or below the statewide average of 3.5 percent include Lincoln, Knox, Cumberland, Sagadahoc, York, Hancock, Waldo, and Androscoggin. Maine counties with rates above the statewide average include Kennebec, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Aroostook, Franklin, Oxford, Washington, and Somerset.

Not-seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs in Maine fell by 2,300 between June and July to 621,300. Local government jobs declined by 13,400 due to seasonal reductions of nonprofessional employees in local schools. These declines were largely offset by seasonal gains in accommodation and food services, retail trade. and construction.

Between July 2003 and July 2004, not-seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs rose by 4,200. Job gains were recorded in retail trade, health care and social assistance, accommodation and food services, construction, and professional and business services. Losses were registered primarily in manufacturing, with the largest decline in paper manufacturing.



Selected Regular Unemployment Compensation Program Indicators

| Key Data | Jun 2004 | May 2004 | Jun 2003 |
|--------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Average Duration | 16.9 | 17.1 | 17.7 |
| Average Weekly Benefit Amount* | \$235.94 | \$235.37 | \$229.38 |
| Exhaustees | 921 | 1,129 | 952 |

^{*} For totally unemployed claimants, excluding dependency allowances.

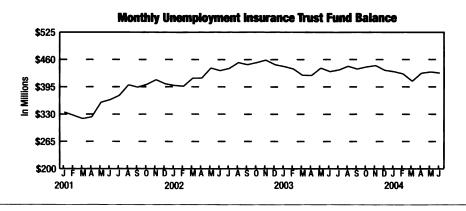
Weekly Initial Claims

| Week | 7/10 | 7/3 | 6/26 | 6/19 | 6/12 | 6/5 | 5/29 |
|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 2004 | 943 | 1,006 | 1,038 | 1,046 | 1,022 | 1,040 | 1,026 |
| | | 7/5 | | | | | |
| 2003 | 1,117 | 1,204 | 1,165 | 1,386 | 1,121 | 1,040 | 1,207 |

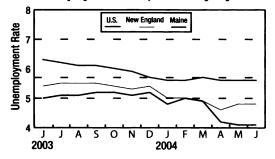
Continued Claims Less Partials*

| Jun 2004 | May 2004 | Jun 2003 |
|----------|----------|----------|
| 6,560 | 8,014 | 6,866 |

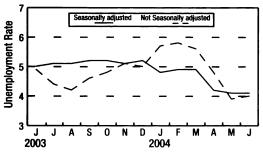
^{*} For the week including the 12th of the month.



Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted



Unemployment Rates for Maine



U.S. Consumer Price Index

| for | all | urban | consun | ners (CPI-l | J) |
|-----|-----|-------|--------|-------------|----|
| | | | Jun 04 | May 04 | J |

May 04

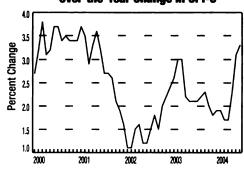
Jun 03

Dec 03

| $(1982 \cdot 1984 = 100)$ All Items | 189.7 | 189.1 | 183.7 | 184.3 |
|---|---------|-----------|-------------------------|-------|
| Percent Change from Percent Change from Percent change from | 12 Mont | ths Ago + | -0.3% -3.3% -2.9% | |

Item

Over-the-Year Change in CPI-U



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

| MID-HOTPH/ | | MAINE | | P0 | RTLAND MS | SA . | LEWIST | ON-AUBUR | N MSA |
|---|------------|-------------|--------------|--------|-------------|--------|--------|----------|-----------------|
| INDUSTRY | Jun 04 | May 04 | Jun 03 | Jun 04 | May 04 | Jun 03 | Jun 04 | May 04 | Jun 03 |
| lonfarm Wage and Salary Employment ¹ | 623.7 | 612.8 | 618.2 | 161.6 | 158.4 | 159.2 | 47.4 | 46.7 | 46.9 |
| Total Private | 518.5 | 505.5 | 513.7 | 140.9 | 137.6 | 138.8 | 41.9 | 41.1 | 41.3 |
| Goods Producing | 97.3 | 95.5 | 99.1 | 19.7 | 19.4 | 19.0 | 8.9 | 8.7 | 9.0 |
| Natural Resources and Mining | 2.4 | 1.9 | 2.4 | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Logging | 2.3 | 1.8 | 2.2 | * | * | * | | • | • |
| Construction | 33.4 | 32.4 | 32.6 | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Construction of Buildings | 8.5 | 8.2 | 8.3 | * | * | * | * | • | • |
| Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction | 4.1 | 4.0 | 4.6 | * | * | * | | | |
| Specialty Trade Contractors | 20.8 | 20.2 | 19.7 | | * | • | | | * |
| Manufacturing | 61.5 | 61.2 | 64.1 | 10.9 | 10.8 | 10.9 | 6.2 | 6.2 | 6.3 |
| Durable Goods | 33.0 | 32.8 | 33.7 | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Wood Product Manufacturing | 6.2 | 6.1 | 6.3 | | * | * | | | |
| Computer and Electronic Product Mfg. | 4.0 | 3.9 | 4.1 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.4 | | | |
| Transportation Equipment Mfg. | 10.2 | 10.1 | 10.0 | 2.5 | 2. 5 | 2.4 | * | | |
| Nondurable Goods | 28.5 | 28.4 | 30.4 | | * | * | | * | * |
| Leather and Allied Product Mfg. | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.5 | | * | | | | |
| Paper Manufacturing | 2.3 9.8 | 2.3 9.6 | 10.0 | | | * | | | |
| | 526.4 | | | 1410 | 120.0 | 140.0 | 20.5 | 20.0 | 27.0 |
| Service-Providing | | 517.3 | 519.1 | 141.9 | 139.0 | 140.2 | 38.5 | 38.0 | 37.9 |
| Trade, Transportation, and Utilities | 126.1 | 122.4 | 124.2 | 34.7 | 33.4 | 34.2 | 9.5 | 9.3 | 9.5 |
| Wholesale Trade | 21.2 | 20.8 | 21.1 | 7.7 | 7.6 | 7.5 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.4 |
| Retail Trade | 87.9 | 85.3 | 86.4 | 22.0 | 20.9 | 21.7 | 6.9 | 6.7 | 6.7 |
| Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers | 10.4 | 10.5 | 10.5 | | | | | • | |
| Food and Beverage Stores | 20.4 | 19.7 | 20.1 | 4.9 | 4.7 | 4.7 | | | <u>.</u> |
| General Merchandise Stores | 11.7 | 11.4 | 11.6 | | | | | | • |
| Nonstore Retailers | 7.3 | 6.9 | 6.9 | * | | - | _ | | • |
| Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities | 17.0 | 16.3 | 16.7 | 5.0 | 4.9 | 5.0 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.4 |
| Utilities | 2.1 | 2.0 | 2.0 | * | * | • | • | * | • |
| Transportation and Warehousing | 14.9 | 14.3 | 14.7 | * | • | * | • | * | • |
| Information | 11.3 | 11.1 | 11.2 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 4.2 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.7 |
| Publishing Industries | 3.5 | 3.4 | 3.4 | • | * | • | * | * | • |
| Financial Activities | 35.2 | 35.0 | 35.2 | 13.9 | 13.9 | 14.4 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 |
| Finance and Insurance | 28.3 | 28.3 | 28.3 | 11.6 | 11.6 | 11.8 | * | * | * |
| Insurance Carriers and Related Activities | 12.7 | 12.7 | 12.9 | * | * | * | * | • | • |
| Real Estate and Rental and Leasing | 6.9 | 6.7 | 6.9 | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Professional and Business Services | 52.1 | 51.0 | 51.2 | 18.9 | 18.7 | 19.3 | 5.8 | 5.7 | 5.7 |
| Professional, Scientific, & Technical Svcs. | 22.2 | 21.8 | 21.8 | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Mgmt. of Companies and Enterprises | 6.1 | 6.0 | 5.9 | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Admin. & Support & Waste Mgmt. Svcs. | 23.8 | 23.2 | 23.5 | * | * | * | * | * | |
| Education and Health Services | 107.3 | 108.7 | 105.6 | 26.4 | 26.3 | 25.3 | 9.1 | 9.0 | 8.7 |
| Educational Services | 16.7 | 18.1 | 16.6 | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Health Care and Social Assistance | 90.6 | 90.6 | 89.0 | 23.2 | 23.1 | 22.7 | * | * | • |
| Ambulatory Health Care Services | 23.7 | 23.6 | 23.6 | | * | * | * | | • |
| Hospitals | 27.5 | 27.1 | 26.3 | * | * | * | * | | |
| Nursing and Residential Care | 23.1 | 23.1 | 22.8 | * | * | * | | * | • |
| Social Assistance | 16.3 | 16.8 | 16.3 | | | * | | | |
| Leisure and Hospitality | 67.5 | 60.3 | 66.3 | 16.9 | 15.6 | 16.9 | 3.5 | 3.4 | 3.4 |
| Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation | 9.7 | 8.3 | 9.4 | * | * | * | * | * | J. T |
| Accommodation and Food Services | 57.8 | 52.0 | 56.9 | * | * | * | * | * | |
| Accommodation | 13.4 | 11.0 | 13.5 | | * | * | | * | |
| | 44.4 | | | | | | | | |
| Food Services and Drinking Places | | 41.0 | 43.4 20.0 | 6.1 | 6.0 | | 1.4 | | 4.0 |
| Other Services | 21.7 | 21.5 | 20.9 | 6.1 | 6.0 | 5.5 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.3 |
| Repair and Maintenance | 5.5 | 5.4 | 5.3 | 20.7 | 20.0 | 20.4 | E P | | |
| Government Fodoral | 105.2 | 107.3 | 104.5 | 20.7 | 20.8 | 20.4 | 5.5 | 5.6 | 5.6 |
| Federal | 14.5 | 14.4 | 14.2 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 |
| State | 25.7 | 28.3 | 25.5 | 4.9 | 5.4 | 4.9 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.9 |
| Local ² | 65.0 | 64.6 | 64.8 | 13.6 | 13.2 | 13.2 | 4.4 | 4.5 | 4.4 |

Footnotes: See page 7



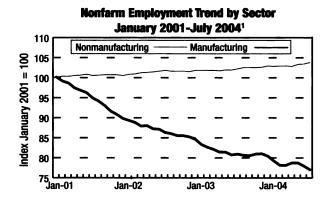
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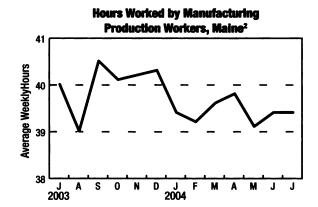
Earnings and Hours of Production Workers in Manufacturing Industries¹ Not Seasonally Adjusted

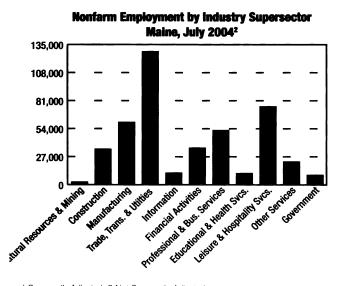
| AREA AND INDUSTRY | | AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS | | | AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS | | | AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS | | | ANNUAL AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS | | |
|-------------------|--------|-------------------------|--------|--------|-------------------------|--------|--------|-------------------------|--------|---------|-----------------------------------|---------|--|
| | Jul 04 | Jun 04 | Jul 03 | Jul 04 | Jun 04 | Jul 03 | Jul 04 | Jun 04 | Jul 03 | 2003 | 2002 | 2001 | |
| STATEWIDE | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Manufacturing | 669.80 | 657.98 | 648.40 | 39.4 | 39.4 | 40.0 | 17.00 | 16.70 | 16.21 | \$16.28 | \$ 15.55 | \$14.71 | |
| Durable Goods | 671.24 | 656.01 | 646.55 | 39.3 | 39.4 | 39.4 | 17.08 | 16.65 | 16.41 | 16.24 | 15.34 | 14.50 | |
| Nondurable Goods | 667.95 | 660.34 | 649.22 | 39.5 | 39.4 | 40.5 | 16.91 | 16.76 | 16.03 | 16.31 | 15.75 | 14.92 | |
| PORTLAND MSA | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Manufacturing | 547.42 | 548.06 | 563.68 | 40.4 | 40.9 | 42.8 | 13.55 | 13.40 | 13.17 | 13.06 | 12.92 | 12.52 | |

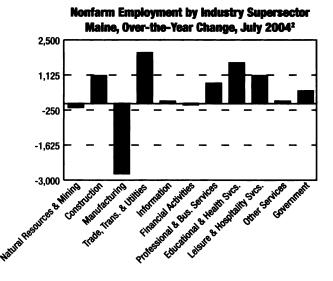
Hours worked and earnings data are computed based on payroll figures for the week including the 12th of the month for manufacturing production workers. Average hourly earnings are calculated on a gross basis, and include such factors as premium pay for overtime and shift differential, as well as changes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









Footnotes: From page 6.

- 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 2003. As a measure of reliability, the March 2003 benchmark revision for total nonfarm wage and salary employment was .02 percent lower than the original sample-based estimate.
- 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.



¹ Seasonally Adjusted. 2 Not Seasonally Adjusted.

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Private Employers and Jobs by Establishment Size in Maine March, 1996-2004

| | | | | Number o | of Employe | ers | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Size | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
| 0-4 | 22,363 | 24,039 | 23,801 | 25,266 | 25,065 | 25,966 | 26,565 | 26,342 | 27,494 |
| 5-9 | 6,892 | 6,772 | 7,183 | 7,389 | 7,460 | 7,498 | 7,521 | 7,779 | 7,884 |
| 10-19 | 4,225 | 4,226 | 4,204 | 4,427 | 4,540 | 4,656 | 4,762 | 4,832 | 4823 |
| 20-99 | 3,196 | 3,259 | 3,388 | 3,521 | 3,676 | 3,705 | 3,746 | 3,755 | 3,843 |
| 100-499 | 573 | 572 | 582 | 591 | 616 | 630 | 613 | 593 | 594 |
| 500+ | 57 | 61 | 60 | 58 | 62 | 63 | 54 | 50 | 50 |
| Total | 37,306 | 38,929 | 39,218 | 41,252 | 41,419 | 42,518 | 43,261 | 43,351 | 44,688 |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | Numb | er of Jobs | | | | |
| Size | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
| 0-4 | 33,221 | 32,504 | 35,313 | 36,891 | 37,243 | 38,422 | 38,829 | 38,703 | 39,447 |
| 5-9 | 45,493 | 44,906 | 47,465 | 48,770 | 49,194 | 49,660 | 49,980 | 51,541 | 52,271 |
| 10-19 | 56,628 | 56,730 | 56,191 | 59,187 | 60,913 | 62,563 | 63,852 | 65,029 | 65,073 |
| 20-99 | 128,398 | 129,944 | 135,566 | 141,775 | 147,522 | 148,442 | 147,388 | 147,234 | 149,422 |
| 100-499 | 96,209 | 102,775 | 105,843 | 108,344 | 113,115 | 112,617 | 112,357 | 110,130 | 111,179 |
| 500+ | 59,819 | 61,680 | 61,827 | 61,166 | 63,970 | 65,429 | 58,313 | 56,182 | 56,073 |
| Total - | 419,575 | 428,539 | 442,205 | 456,133 | 471,957 | 477,133 | 470,719 | 468,819 | 474,095 |
| | | | | | | | | | |

Note: Data for private establishments covered under the Maine Employment Security Law. See related graph on page 1.

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