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Labor Market Digest, October 1999

Maine Department of Labor

Maine Center for Workforce Research and Information

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MAINE

DEPARTMENT OF

LABOR

Labor Market Information

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Lincoln County records lowest unemployment rate page 3

Adjusted statewide unemployment rate remains unchanged between July and August page 4

Nonfarm employment rises by 14,600 over the year, led by services industries page 6

Average hourly earnings of manufacturing production workers rise by 3.2 percent over the year page 7

A publication of the

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Labor Market
Information Services

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LABOR MARKET DIGEST

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August Data

October 1999

Nonfarm Wage and Salary Job Gains Continue

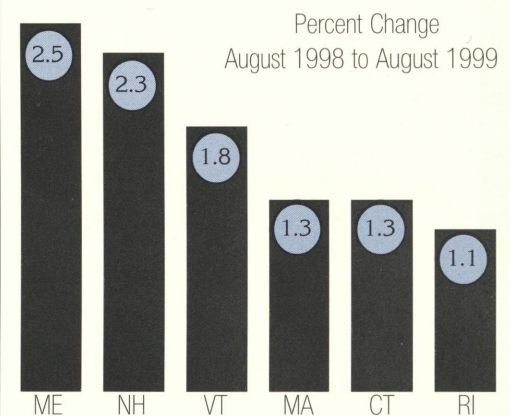
Nonfarm wage and salary jobs in Maine increased by 2.8 percent between 1997 and 1998 compared to the national growth rate of 2.6 percent. The Maine rate of growth ranked 16th among all states. Of the New England states, only New Hampshire's growth rate of 3.0 percent surpassed the increase of 2.8 percent in Maine.

Nonfarm jobs in Maine continued to increase in 1999, with the rate of job growth in Maine exceeding gains in most states and the nation. Between August 1998 and August 1999, seasonally-adjusted nonfarm jobs in Maine grew by 14,400—an increase of 2.5 percent compared to the national growth rate of 2.2 percent. The increase in Maine of 2.5 percent was 10th among all states and fastest of the New England states.

The two fastest growing industrial divisions in Maine between August 1998 and August 1999 were construction and services. There was an increase of 1,900 construction jobs in Maine over the past year. This increase of 7.6 percent compared favorably to 4.0 percent nationally, and ranked 6th among all states. Construction job gains were recorded by all types of construction in Maine, with the strongest increase recorded by nonbuilding construction (roads, bridges, pipeline, etc.).

Services industries accounted for a gain of 7,900 jobs, increasing by 4.7 percent in Maine compared to a national growth rate of 3.9 percent. The Maine growth rate for services jobs of 4.7 percent ranked 5th among all states. Over the past year social, business, and health services contributed substantially to services job growth in Maine, with the Maine growth rate surpassing the national growth rate in each of these services industries.

Rate of Nonfarm Job Growth in Maine Leads New England States



Job Change, August 1998 to August 1999

	Number	Percent	Rank of Percent Change Among the States
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary*	14,400	2.5	10
Construction	1,900	7.6	6
Services	7,900	4.7	5
Transportation and Public Utilities	800	3.4	16
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	900	3.0	19
Wholesale and Retail Trade	3,200	2.2	14
Government	1,200	1.3	26
Manufacturing	-1,500	-1.7	40

* Seasonally adjusted

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		
	Aug 99	July 99	Aug 98	Aug 99	July 99	Aug 98	Aug 99	July 99	Aug 98	Aug 99	July 99	Aug 98
LABOR MARKET AREAS												
Augusta	46,700	47,190	45,810	44,940	45,450	44,070	1,760	1,750	1,750	3.8%	3.7%	3.8%
Bangor MSA	50,900	51,300	49,100	49,700	50,100	47,900	1,200	1,100	1,200	2.3	2.2	2.4
Bath-Brunswick	34,390	34,680	33,590	33,460	33,810	32,820	930	870	770	2.7	2.5	2.3
Belfast	16,000	15,840	15,360	15,530	15,330	14,890	470	510	470	3.0	3.2	3.1
Biddeford	42,350	42,790	41,330	41,650	42,080	40,540	700	710	790	1.7	1.7	1.9
Boothbay Harbor	10,650	10,840	10,280	10,530	10,710	10,150	120	130	130	1.1	1.2	1.3
Bucksport	5,430	5,190	5,410	5,200	4,970	5,210	230	210	210	4.2	4.1	4.0
Calais	5,190	5,240	4,950	4,750	4,800	4,570	440	440	380	8.5	8.4	7.6
Dexter-Pittsfield	12,440	12,120	12,430	11,570	11,230	11,610	860	890	820	6.9	7.3	6.6
Dover-Foxcroft	7,310	7,190	7,210	6,850	6,750	6,730	450	440	480	6.2	6.1	6.7
Ellsworth-Bar Harbor	24,580	24,410	23,140	23,920	23,710	22,590	660	700	550	2.7	2.9	2.4
Farmington	16,370	16,630	16,350	15,310	15,560	15,320	1,060	1,070	1,030	6.5	6.4	6.3
Fort Kent	3,690	3,690	3,650	3,430	3,390	3,400	260	300	250	6.9	8.2	6.9
Greenville	1,080	1,080	1,070	1,030	1,020	1,020	50	60	50	4.2	5.3	4.4
Houlton	6,830	6,690	6,550	6,510	6,350	6,190	320	340	350	4.6	5.0	5.4
Jonesport-Milbridge	4,620	4,280	4,570	4,360	3,970	4,330	260	310	230	5.7	7.2	5.1
Kittery-York ⁵	20,340	20,570	19,860	20,080	20,270	19,680	260	300	180	1.3	1.5	0.9
Lewiston-Auburn MSA	52,500	52,600	51,600	50,800	50,800	49,700	1,800	1,800	1,900	3.3	3.5	3.7
Lincoln-Howland	5,780	5,900	5,770	5,470	5,560	5,450	310	340	310	5.4	5.7	5.4
Machias-Eastport	6,950	6,790	7,050	6,560	6,380	6,570	390	400	490	5.6	5.9	6.9
Madawaska	4,090	4,170	4,060	3,950	4,020	3,890	140	150	170	3.4	3.7	4.1
Millinocket-East Millinocket	5,340	5,390	5,280	5,040	5,090	4,960	300	310	320	5.7	5.7	6.0
Norway-Paris	11,480	11,620	11,500	10,820	10,980	10,840	660	650	660	5.8	5.6	5.7
Outer Bangor	7,380	7,470	6,730	6,960	7,060	6,370	420	410	360	5.7	5.5	5.3
Patten-Island Falls	2,010	1,990	1,900	1,840	1,830	1,740	170	160	160	8.4	8.2	8.3
Portland MSA	141,400	143,000	133,600	138,600	140,400	131,100	2,700	2,600	2,500	1.9	1.8	1.9
Presque Isle-Caribou	20,550	20,440	19,790	19,660	19,620	18,690	890	820	1,110	4.4	4.0	5.6
Rockland	24,490	24,950	24,090	23,970	24,380	23,560	520	570	530	2.1	2.3	2.2
Rumford	9,930	9,850	9,700	9,210	9,140	9,140	720	700	550	7.2	7.1	5.7
Sanford	23,480	23,620	23,190	22,570	22,660	21,820	910	970	1,360	3.9	4.1	5.9
Sebago Lakes Region	15,000	14,720	14,970	14,410	14,170	14,380	590	560	590	3.9	3.8	3.9
Skowhegan	17,080	16,890	16,890	16,100	15,890	15,890	980	1,000	1,010	5.8	5.9	5.9
Stonington	5,890	5,950	5,570	5,760	5,810	5,460	130	150	110	2.2	2.5	2.0
Van Buren	1,510	1,570	1,380	1,430	1,490	1,300	70	80	80	4.8	5.0	5.7
Waterville	23,630	23,560	23,520	22,570	22,520	22,320	1,060	1,040	1,210	4.5	4.4	5.1
MAINE	687,300	690,100	667,300	664,600	667,300	644,100	22,800	22,800	23,100	3.3	3.3	3.5
UNITED STATES (000)	140,090	141,119	138,379	134,264	134,800	132,206	5,826	6,319	6,173	4.2	4.5	4.5

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

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

³ People are classified as unemployed, regardless of their eligibility for unemployment benefits or public assistance, if they meet all of the following: they were not employed during the survey week; they were available for work at that time; and they made specific efforts to find employment some time during the prior four weeks. Persons laid off from their former jobs and awaiting recall and those expecting to report to a job within 30 days need not be looking for work to be counted as unemployed.

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

⁵ Kittery-York is the five-town Maine portion of the Portsmouth-Rochester PMSA which includes towns in both Maine and New Hampshire.

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

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

AREA	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYED			UNEMPLOYED			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	Aug 99	July 99	Aug 98	Aug 99	July 99	Aug 98	Aug 99	July 99	Aug 98	Aug 99	July 99	Aug 98
COUNTY												
Androscoggin	58,480	58,700	57,550	56,450	56,570	55,330	2,030	2,130	2,220	3.5%	3.6%	3.9%
Aroostook	38,230	38,120	36,920	36,380	36,260	34,810	1,850	1,860	2,120	4.8	4.9	5.7
Cumberland	148,840	150,200	141,530	145,740	147,310	138,630	3,100	2,890	2,910	2.1	1.9	2.1
Franklin	13,830	14,030	13,750	12,930	13,140	12,940	900	890	810	6.5	6.3	5.9
Hancock	32,810	32,500	31,130	31,900	31,580	30,390	910	920	740	2.8	2.8	2.4
Kennebec	60,290	60,720	59,450	57,960	58,380	56,960	2,330	2,340	2,480	3.9	3.9	4.2
Knox	21,490	21,900	21,140	21,040	21,400	20,680	450	500	460	2.1	2.3	2.2
Lincoln	19,250	19,520	18,680	18,870	19,160	18,330	380	350	350	2.0	1.8	1.9
Oxford	26,740	26,730	26,470	25,120	25,100	25,060	1,620	1,630	1,410	6.1	6.1	5.3
Penobscot	76,790	77,170	74,120	73,990	74,390	71,410	2,800	2,780	2,710	3.6	3.6	3.7
Piscataquis	8,510	8,380	8,400	8,000	7,880	7,870	510	500	530	6.0	5.9	6.3
Sagadahoc	16,110	16,260	15,740	15,660	15,830	15,360	450	440	380	2.8	2.7	2.4
Somerset	26,260	25,910	26,100	24,740	24,380	24,510	1,520	1,530	1,590	5.8	5.9	6.1
Waldo	21,350	21,140	20,610	20,680	20,460	19,950	680	680	660	3.2	3.2	3.2
Washington	17,300	16,840	17,070	16,210	15,690	15,980	1,090	1,150	1,090	6.3	6.8	6.4
York	101,070	102,010	98,590	98,910	99,760	95,950	2,160	2,250	2,640	2.1	2.2	2.7
MAINE	687,300	690,100	667,300	664,600	667,300	644,100	22,800	22,800	23,100	3.3	3.3	3.5
UNITED STATES (000)	140,090	141,119	138,379	134,264	134,800	132,206	5,826	6,319	6,173	4.2	4.5	4.5

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

Area Analyst's Corner

Central Area

Ken Bridges (207) 624-5199

The **Giffords Ice Cream** Skowhegan plant is undergoing a major expansion. ♦ Wiscasset planners are looking into replacing the closed nuclear plant with a 600-acre marine research and development park. ♦ A **new entertainment complex** will be built near the Augusta Civic Center and include a restaurant, movie theatre, and game center. ♦ Phase II of the development plan for the **Marketplace at Augusta** is moving forward. Shell retail space will be built to attract future tenants.

Western Area

Gerard Dennison (207) 783-5314

Cole Haan Shoe in Livermore Falls will close on October 29th putting about 255 people out of work. ♦ **MBNA** in Farmington opened a new call center and is expected to employ 150 full- and part-time workers by the end of 1999. ♦ **Tambrands** in Auburn is expanding and has hired over 120 people at an entry level wage of \$10.17 per hour for 40 hours a week with full fringe benefits. ♦ **Gates Formed Fibre** in Auburn is expanding and plans to hire 30 workers.

North/East Area

Craig Holland (207) 941-3076

The **Lemforder Corp.**, a German-owned automobile parts manufacturer, and the City of Brewer have reached an agreement on amending a 1997 tax increment financing plan. This will result in the company investing \$10 million in precision equipment creating approximately 106 new jobs over the next year. ♦ A call center firm, **ICT**, is investigating the possibility of opening a satellite operation in Calais. The company has located an operations site and would like to be in operation in October employing in excess of 100 area residents.

Southern Area

Eva Smith (207) 775-5891

Home Quarters announced all 117 of their stores will close by December. The South Portland store closure will affect around 150 employees. ♦ **Aetna U.S. Healthcare** plans to expand the managed-care claims division and develop a new disability claims center in downtown Portland, creating about 160 jobs. ♦ **Idexx Laboratories** and **Caprion Pharmaceuticals Inc.** of Canada have formed a partnership to develop diagnostic products for cattle diseases. ♦ **Food Lion Inc.** of North Carolina has bought Hannaford Bros. of Scarborough for \$3.6 billion. Headquarters will not be relocated and layoffs are not expected.

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

ITEM	1999								1998				
	Aug	Jul	Jun	May	Apr	Mar	Feb	Jan	Dec	Nov	Oct	Sep	Aug
Civilian Labor Force	669.4	670.0	668.5	668.1	663.0	662.8	663.8	660.5	664.7	662.2	658.6	653.1	650.4
Employed	641.5	642.2	639.1	639.4	639.4	640.2	641.8	637.7	639.5	635.5	630.1	624.7	621.4
Unemployed	27.9	27.8	29.4	28.7	23.6	22.6	22.0	22.8	25.2	26.7	28.5	28.3	29.0
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.2	4.2	4.4	4.3	3.6	3.4	3.3	3.5	3.8	4.0	4.3	4.3	4.4

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

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

INDUSTRY	1999								1998				
	Aug	Jul	Jun	May	Apr	Mar	Feb	Jan	Dec	Nov	Oct	Sep	Aug
Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment ²	584.6	583.5	583.8	581.6	581.4	580.8	579.9	578.6	577.1	576.1	574.7	573.0	572.2
Construction	26.9	26.9	26.9	27.3	27.4	26.7	26.6	26.2	25.1	25.0	25.1	25.1	25.0
Manufacturing	84.7	84.7	84.9	84.7	84.6	85.7	86.4	86.6	85.4	85.9	85.9	86.9	86.2
Durable Goods	42.2	42.3	42.0	42.2	42.2	42.7	42.9	43.0	42.5	42.6	42.5	42.2	42.2
Nondurable Goods	42.5	42.4	42.9	42.5	42.4	43.0	43.5	43.6	42.9	43.3	43.4	44.7	44.0
Transportation and Public Utilities	24.4	24.3	24.3	24.4	24.1	24.2	24.2	24.2	24.0	23.9	23.9	23.6	23.9
Wholesale Trade	27.1	26.8	27.1	27.1	27.2	27.1	27.1	27.0	27.0	27.1	27.1	26.9	26.8
Retail Trade	119.1	118.5	119.1	118.8	118.3	118.7	117.8	118.2	119.1	119.1	118.1	117.0	116.5
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	30.6	30.9	31.1	31.1	31.0	30.7	30.8	30.7	30.3	30.2	30.0	29.7	29.7
Services	177.0	176.5	176.1	174.5	174.5	173.2	172.7	172.1	172.5	171.9	171.4	170.4	169.1
Government	94.7	94.8	94.2	93.6	94.2	94.4	94.2	93.5	93.6	92.9	93.1	93.3	93.5

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

August Unemployment Rate Unchanged at 4.2 Percent

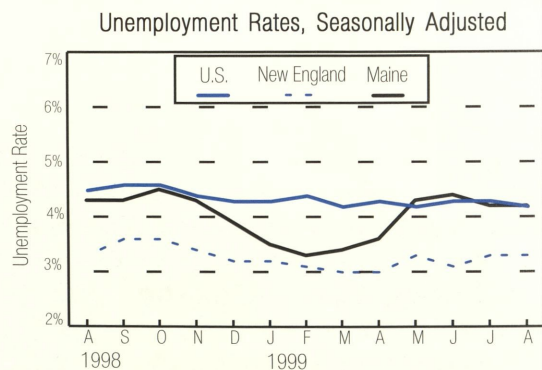
State Labor Commissioner Valerie Landry announced that the August seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for Maine was unchanged from July at 4.2 percent.

"The seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate remained at 4.2 percent, with little change in the number of employed and unemployed between July and August," said Commissioner Landry. "The unemployment rate fell over the past year, from 4.4 percent in August 1998 to the current rate of 4.2 percent."

Between August 1998 and August 1999 seasonally-adjusted nonfarm jobs rose by 14,400 to 584,600. More than half the job gain was recorded by services industries. Additional job growth was registered by retail trade; construction; government; transportation, communication, and public utilities; and finance, insurance, and real estate.

Other New England states reporting seasonally-adjusted August unemployment rates include New Hampshire, 2.3 percent, and Vermont, 2.9 percent. The adjusted national rate for August was 4.2 percent.

The Maine not-seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for August was 3.3 percent, unchanged from July and down from 3.5 percent in August 1998. The unadjusted national rate was 4.2 percent in August, down from 4.5



percent in July and 4.5 percent in August 1998. Not-seasonally-adjusted August unemployment rates for Maine counties ranged from 2.0 percent in Lincoln County to 6.5 percent in Franklin County.

Not-seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary employment rose seasonally by 2,900 between July and August. Manufacturing rose by 2,100, largely due to shoe and textile workers returning to work after temporary seasonal plant shutdowns and an increased number of workers involved in processing fruits and vegetables. Retail trade and services added jobs to meet peak summer demand.

Between August 1998 and August 1999, not-seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary employment rose by

Selected Regular Unemployment Compensation Program Indicators

Key Data	Aug 1999	July 1999	Aug 1998
Average Duration	13.0	13.2	16.3
Average Weekly Benefit Amount*	\$186.63	\$186.27	\$135.73
Exhaustees	629	844	1,133

* For totally unemployed claimants, excluding dependency allowances.

Weekly Initial Claims

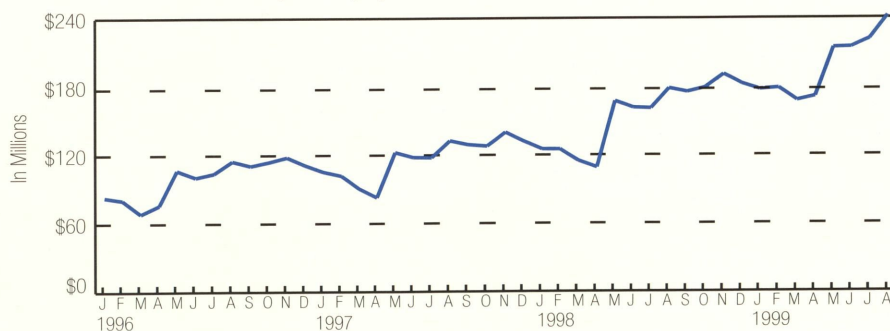
Week	9/4	8/28	8/21	8/14	8/7	7/31	7/24
1999	940	841	844	944	868	1,143	1,230
Week	9/5	8/29	8/22	8/15	8/8	8/1	7/25
1998	977	878	949	952	1,302	1,203	1,306

Continued Claims Less Partial*

Aug 1999	July 1999	Aug 1998
4,424	4,653	7,174

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

Monthly Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund Balance

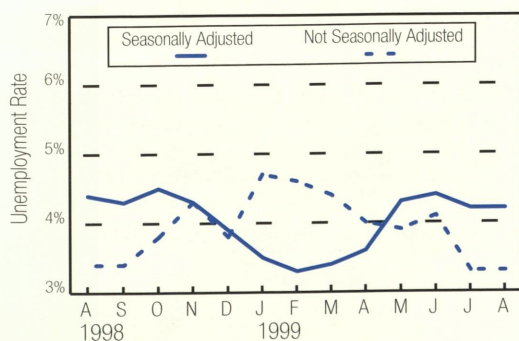


14,600. Services rose by 7,900, largely in social services, business services, health services, and other services. Retail trade rose by 3,100, with the largest gains in food stores and general merchandise stores. Construction; government; finance, insurance, and real estate; and transportation and public utilities also increased. Manufacturing jobs fell by 1,600, with the largest losses in paper and allied products, textile mill products, and leather and leather products.

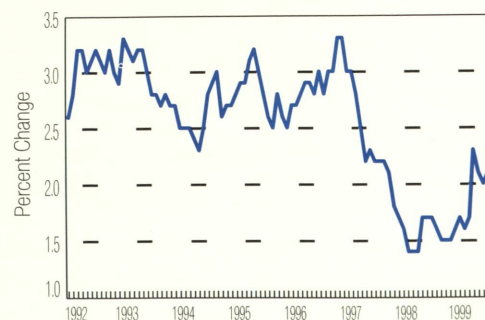
U.S. Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers (CPI-U)

Item	Aug 99	July 99	Aug 98	Dec 98
(1982-1984 = 100) All Items	167.1	166.7	163.4	163.9
Percent Change from Prior Month	+0.2%			
Percent Change from 12 Months Ago	+2.3%			
Percent change from Last December	+2.0%			

Unemployment Rates for Maine



Over-the-Year Change in CPI-U



Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment, Not Seasonally Adjusted

(in thousands)

INDUSTRY	MAINE			PORTLAND MSA			LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA		
	Aug 99	July 99	Aug 98	Aug 99	July 99	Aug 98	Aug 99	July 99	Aug 98
Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment¹	594.4	591.5	579.8	151.7	151.7	145.7	43.1	42.9	42.5
Goods Producing	115.9	113.6	115.4	23.5	23.7	21.7	9.6	9.4	9.6
Mining	0.1	0.1	0.1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Construction	29.6	29.4	27.5	8.4	8.3	7.2	1.8	1.7	1.7
Building Construction	6.6	6.5	6.2	1.5	1.5	1.2	*	*	*
Heavy Construction	5.9	5.9	4.8	*	*	*	*	*	*
Special Trade Contractors	17.1	17.0	16.5	6.4	6.3	5.5	*	*	*
Manufacturing	86.2	84.1	87.8	15.1	15.4	14.5	7.8	7.7	7.9
Durable Goods	42.2	42.2	42.2	7.4	7.6	6.8	2.2	2.2	2.3
Lumber and Wood Products	10.7	10.3	10.9	*	*	*	*	*	*
Primary and Fabricated Metals	3.7	3.7	3.6	*	*	*	*	*	*
Industrial Machinery and Equipment	4.7	4.7	4.6	1.7	1.7	1.6	*	*	*
Electronic and Other Electrical Equipment	6.8	6.7	7.1	2.7	2.7	2.3	*	*	*
Transportation Equipment	11.4	11.7	11.3	*	*	*	*	*	*
Other Durable Goods	4.9	5.1	4.7	3.0	3.2	2.9	*	*	*
Nondurable Goods	44.0	41.9	45.6	7.7	7.8	7.7	5.6	5.5	5.6
Food and Kindred Products	6.8	6.1	6.8	2.4	2.4	2.2	*	*	*
Textile Mill Products	3.4	2.9	4.0	*	*	*	*	*	*
Apparel and Other Textile Products	2.6	2.4	2.4	*	*	*	*	*	*
Paper and Allied Products	13.6	13.7	14.3	*	*	*	*	*	*
Printing and Publishing	6.0	5.9	5.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	*	*	*
Rubber and Misc. Plastic Products	2.8	2.8	2.9	*	*	*	*	*	*
Leather and Leather Products	6.5	5.8	7.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8	1.0
Other Nondurable Goods	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.5	2.6	2.8	4.7	4.7	4.6
Service Producing	478.5	477.9	464.4	128.2	128.0	124.0	33.5	33.5	32.9
Transportation and Public Utilities	24.5	24.6	23.8	7.2	7.2	6.9	1.7	1.7	1.7
Wholesale Trade	27.6	27.4	27.3	9.2	9.2	9.4	2.3	2.3	2.3
Retail Trade	127.7	126.8	124.6	34.6	34.5	32.4	8.8	8.6	8.7
General Merchandise Stores	12.5	12.3	11.7	*	*	*	*	*	*
Food Stores	24.4	24.2	23.1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Automotive Sales and Services	13.7	13.9	13.2	*	*	*	*	*	*
Eating and Drinking Places	42.6	42.4	42.0	9.8	9.9	9.5	*	*	*
Other Retail Trade	34.5	34.0	34.6	*	*	*	*	*	*
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	31.2	31.6	30.3	13.2	13.2	13.2	2.4	2.4	2.3
Banking	9.3	9.4	8.8	*	*	*	*	*	*
Insurance Carriers, Brokers and Agents	12.9	13.0	12.5	*	*	*	*	*	*
Other Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	9.0	9.2	9.0	*	*	*	*	*	*
Services	185.4	184.6	177.5	46.9	46.4	45.6	14.6	14.8	13.8
Hotels and Other Lodging Places	15.5	15.2	15.4	*	*	*	*	*	*
Business Services	26.0	25.7	24.7	*	*	*	*	*	*
Health Services	56.8	56.6	55.6	*	*	*	*	*	*
Educational Services	12.8	13.1	12.7	*	*	*	*	*	*
Social Services	24.2	23.9	21.5	*	*	*	*	*	*
Other Services	50.1	50.1	47.6	*	*	*	*	*	*
Government	82.1	82.9	80.9	17.1	17.5	16.5	3.7	3.7	4.1
Federal	13.4	13.5	13.4	2.5	2.5	2.5	0.3	0.3	0.3
State	23.6	23.8	23.2	4.3	4.4	4.1	0.6	0.6	0.6
Local ²	45.1	45.6	44.3	10.3	10.6	9.9	2.8	2.8	3.2

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 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.

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

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

Source: See page 2.

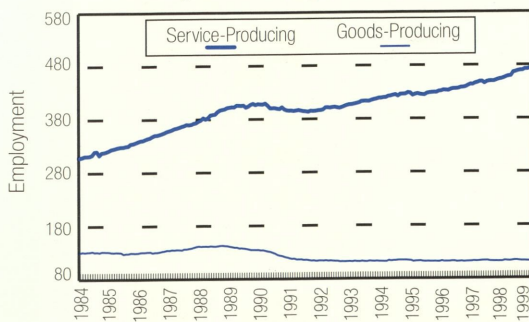
Earnings and Hours of Production Workers in Manufacturing Industries¹ Not Seasonally Adjusted

AREA AND INDUSTRY	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS			ANNUAL AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	Aug 99	July 99	Aug 98	Aug 99	July 99	Aug 98	Aug 99	July 99	Aug 98	1998	1997	1996
STATEWIDE												
Manufacturing	\$562.55	\$559.80	\$539.75	40.5	39.9	40.1	\$13.89	\$14.03	\$13.46	\$13.50	\$13.12	\$12.71
Durable Goods	\$547.72	\$536.83	\$524.96	41.4	40.7	40.6	13.23	13.19	12.93	12.99	12.72	12.23
Lumber and Wood Products	467.21	460.12	443.50	43.3	44.2	42.4	10.79	10.41	10.46	10.45	10.32	10.10
Primary and Fabricated Metals	548.69	525.00	525.30	42.6	42.0	42.5	12.88	12.50	12.36	12.33	11.55	11.31
Industrial Machinery and Equipment	651.04	643.36	640.76	43.9	44.4	45.9	14.83	14.49	13.96	14.33	14.66	14.17
Electronic and Other Electric Equipment	522.64	510.94	452.78	44.9	42.9	38.6	11.64	11.91	11.73	11.48	11.13	10.94
Transportation Equipment	650.32	624.53	640.29	36.7	34.6	37.4	17.72	18.05	17.12	17.60	16.77	15.49
Other Durable Goods	422.22	434.02	441.80	38.7	39.6	40.2	10.91	10.96	10.99	10.40	10.27	10.08
Nondurable Goods	\$577.37	\$582.66	\$554.00	39.6	39.0	39.6	14.58	14.94	13.99	14.04	13.50	13.17
Food and Kindred Products	391.43	387.73	385.14	38.3	38.2	39.1	10.22	10.15	9.85	10.00	9.85	10.00
Textile Mill Products	411.06	474.47	441.32	37.2	42.9	41.4	11.05	11.06	10.66	10.49	9.97	10.27
Apparel and Other Textile Products	401.58	352.59	368.81	39.8	36.5	38.1	10.09	9.66	9.68	9.57	9.52	9.00
Paper and Allied Products	865.26	875.60	823.35	39.6	39.3	40.4	21.85	22.28	20.38	20.23	19.44	18.84
Leather and Leather Products	409.08	363.85	368.78	41.7	38.3	39.4	9.81	9.50	9.36	9.31	8.88	8.71
Other Nondurable Goods	509.12	494.62	475.01	39.9	39.1	38.4	12.76	12.65	12.37	12.12	11.65	11.20
PORTLAND MSA												
Manufacturing	498.80	489.83	485.62	43.0	42.3	41.4	11.60	11.58	11.73	11.86	11.28	11.22
LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA												
Manufacturing	532.99	507.53	504.42	42.1	40.7	42.0	12.66	12.47	12.01	11.40	11.13	11.13

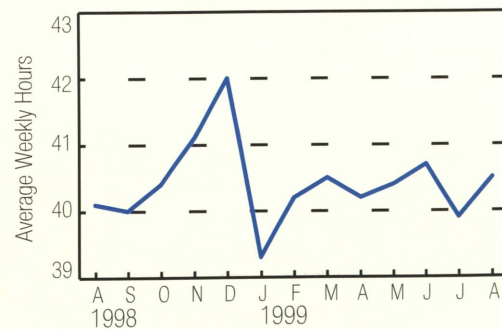
Hours worked and earnings data are computed based on payroll figures for the week including the 12th of the month for manufacturing production workers. Average hourly earnings are calculated on a gross basis, and include such factors as premium pay for overtime and shift differential, as well as changes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

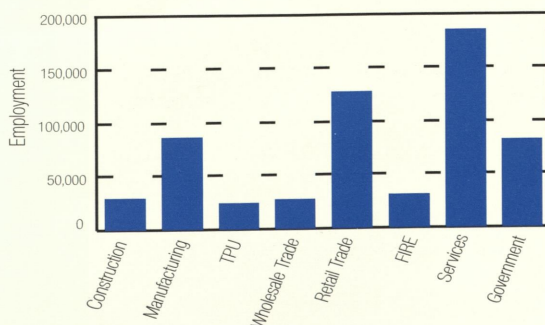
Nonfarm Employment by Sector
January 1984-August 1999, Maine¹



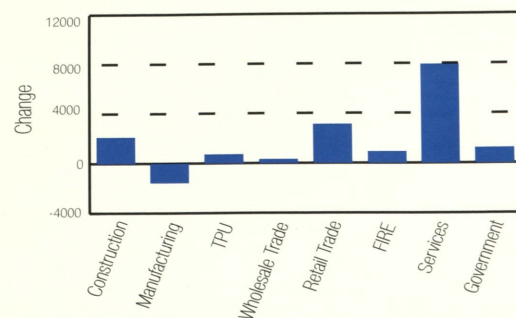
Hours Worked by Manufacturing
Production Workers, Maine²



Nonfarm Employment by Industry Division
Maine, August 1999²



Nonfarm Employment by Industry Division
Maine, Over-the-Year Change, August 1999²



¹ Seasonally Adjusted. ² Not Seasonally Adjusted.

Seasonal Adjustment Makes Labor Market Trends Easier to Follow

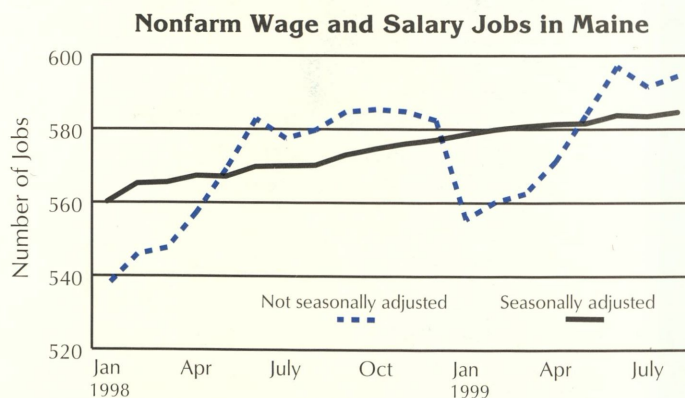
Over the course of a year, the levels of employment and unemployment undergo sharp fluctuations due to seasonal events such as changes in weather, reduced or expanded production, harvests, major holidays, and the opening and closing of schools.

These seasonal fluctuations make it difficult to track trends in employment and unemployment from month to month. Because these seasonal events follow a more or less regular pattern each year, their influence on statistical trends can be eliminated by mathematically adjusting the statistics from month to month in an effort to remove these seasonal patterns. These adjustments make it easier to observe the longer-term trends and other nonseasonal movements in the monthly data.

The two seasonally-adjusted Maine labor market data series are the civilian labor force estimates, including total employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate; and the nonfarm wage and salary employment estimates (see tables on page 4). Unadjusted, both unemployment and the two measures of employment have a highly seasonal pattern in Maine. Peaks in unemployment occur in the winter and lows occur in summer or early fall. Employment estimates display the reverse pattern.

The graph below presents seasonally-adjusted and unadjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs for Maine from January 1998 through August 1999. The number of unadjusted nonfarm jobs has its ups and downs during the course of a year, peaking in the fall. At that time, construction jobs reach the highest level for the year, job in tourist-related industries start to fall but remain high relative to winter months, and schools are back in session resulting in higher government employment.

Adjusting for seasonally yields a more visible long-run trend. For example, while the number of unadjusted jobs dropped substantially between November 1998 and January 1999 due to seasonal influences, there was a seasonally-adjusted gain of 2,500. Between January 1998 and August 1999 adjusted nonfarm jobs have been increasing steadily, extending a trend that started in 1992.



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