

2-1-2004

Labor Market Digest, February 2004

Maine Department of Labor

Maine Center for Workforce Research and Information

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MAINE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Labor Market Information

INSIDE...

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A publication of
the

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Labor Market
Information Services

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of Labor provides equal
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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.

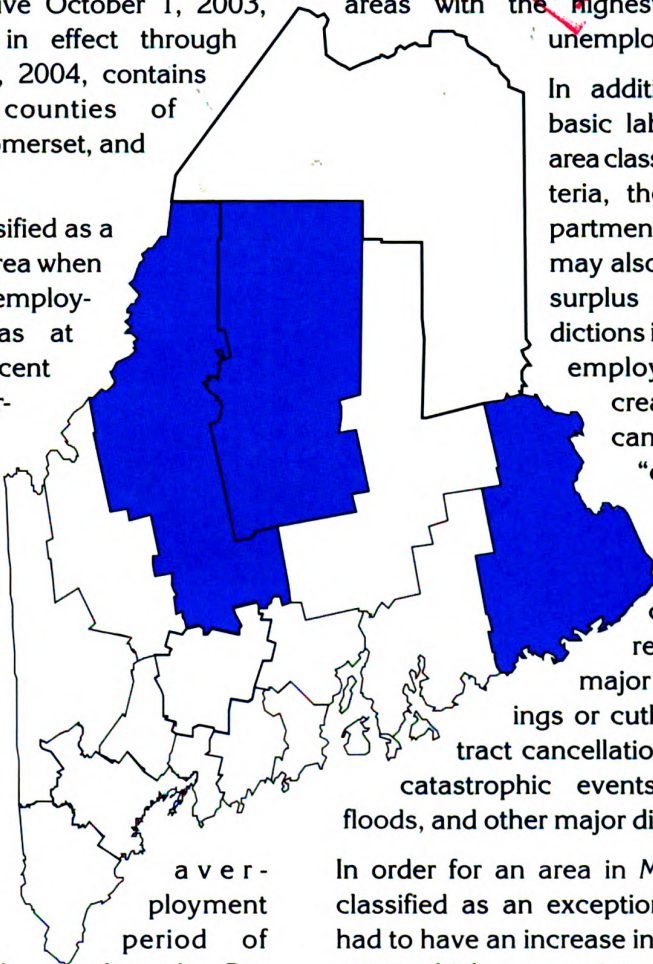
The national average unemployment rate during the period of January 2001 through December 2002 was 5.3 percent, making the qualifying rate for labor surplus area classification 6.4 percent (5.3 percent times 1.2).

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.



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 |
| Sebang 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. ♦ **Andover College** 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

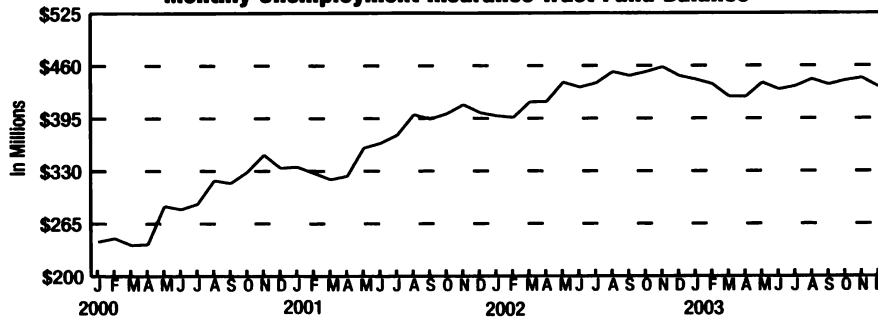
| Week | 1/17 | 1/10 | 1/3 | 12/27 | 12/20 | 12/13 | 12/6 |
|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 2003 | 2,557 | 3,014 | 1,693 | 1,885 | 1,878 | 2,258 | 1,807 |
| Week | 1/19 | 1/12 | 1/5 | 12/29 | 12/22 | 12/15 | 12/8 |
| 2002 | 2,735 | 3,392 | 2,754 | 2,114 | 2,146 | 2,276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

Continued Claims Less Partial*

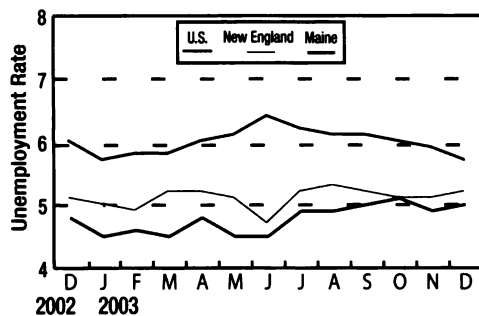
| Dec 2003 | Nov 2003 | Dec 2002 |
|----------|----------|----------|
| 9,906 | 7,536 | 10,010 |

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

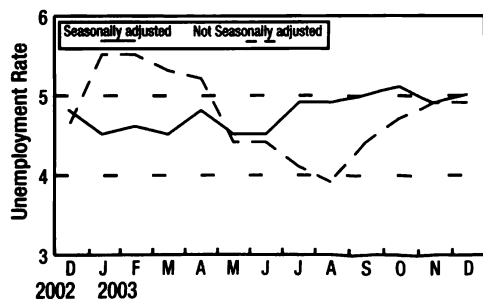
Monthly Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund Balance



Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted



Unemployment Rates for Maine

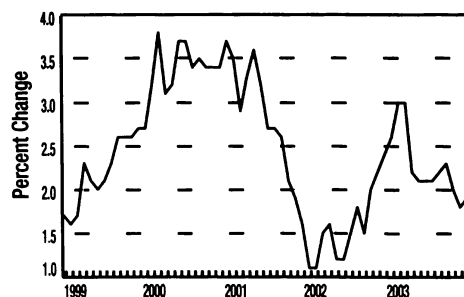


U.S. Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers (CPI-U)

| 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 | 498.9 | 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 |
| Local ² | 63.9 | 63.6 | 64.0 | 14.4 | 14.7 | 14.0 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 4.4 |

Footnotes: See page 7.

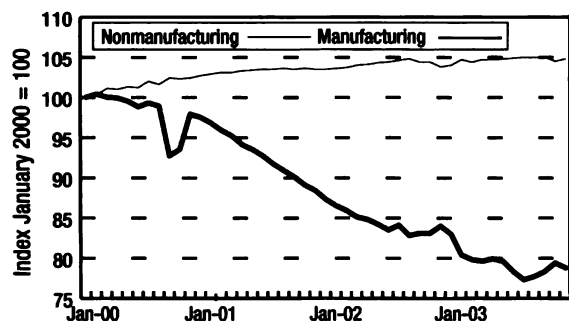
Earnings and Hours of Production Workers in Manufacturing Industries¹ Not Seasonally Adjusted

| 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.

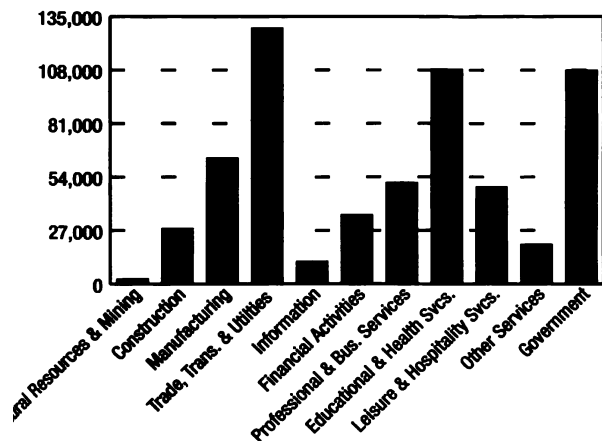
**Nonfarm Employment Trend by Sector
January 2000–December 2003¹**



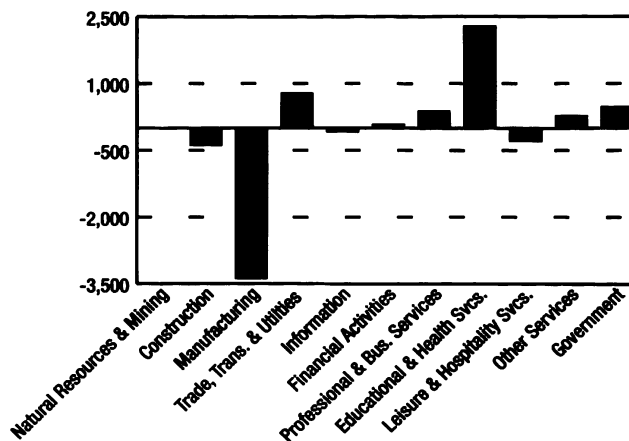
**Hours Worked by Manufacturing
Production Workers, Maine²**



**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.

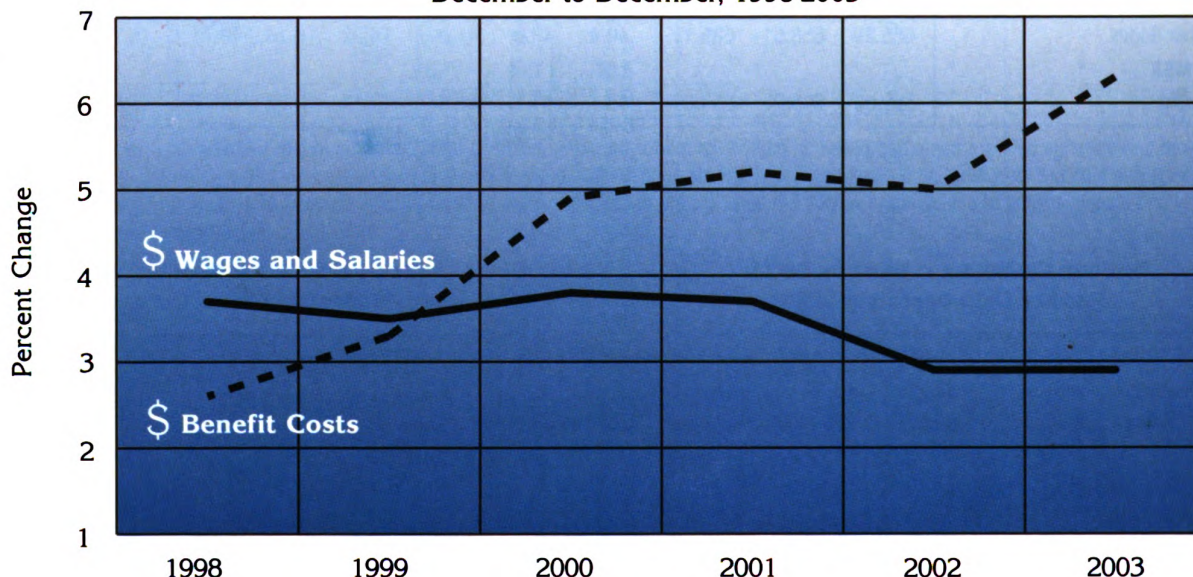
* Where an employment estimate is not entered, either the data is not available in sufficient detail for publication or is nondisclosable by law.

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.

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