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Labor Market Digest, April 1991

Maine Bureau of Employment Security

Maine Division of Manpower Research

Maine Labor Market Research

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BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
Division of Economic Analysis and Research

LABOR MARKET DIGEST

April 1991

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The Labor Market Information Newsletter on Maine Economic Activity

Maine Tourist Industry Optimistic About Summer of 1991

The summer tourism impacts the entire State...from inland parks and sporting camps to coastal campgrounds and resorts, with the largest share of tourist-related activity being concentrated along the coast. The effect of summer tourism in Maine is most directly associated with seasonal growth in the following industries: eating and drinking places; hotels, rooming houses, camps, and other lodging places; museums and art galleries; and establishments in miscellaneous retail trade (i.e., gift, novelty, and souvenir shops, etc.).

The current overall assessment of these industries, which might be identified as the group comprising the "tourist industry," reveals conditions that are cautiously optimistic for the summer of 1991. After years of demonstrated employment growth, the summer of "90" found the tourist industry decreasing somewhat. Between 1988 and 1989, annual average employment in the industry increased 6 percent. Such aggregate growth was mostly attributable to increasing numbers of or expansions within eating and drinking places. However, between 1989 and 1990, employment in the industry decreased by 4 percent with the largest employment decrease occurring in eating and drinking places.

Attendance at state parks is expected to increase for 1991, as advance reservations are up 12.5 percent over 1990. The weather is an

important factor for state parks and other major tourist areas, often having an impact as great as the overall economic conditions.

Along the coast, in the Old Orchard Beach area, expectations are for at least as good a year as last year, possibly better. Decreased advertising by the town, along with poor economic conditions in Massachusetts, may dampen a strong recovery in this area.

Moving up the coast slightly into the Portland area, activity in the tourist industry should be better than last year. Telephone inquiries about the area are up over last year, while mail inquiries are running at about the same pace.

The Sebago Lake/Naples/Bridgton region is expecting a better year this year. Many motels are booked throughout the summer and fall, and inquiries from other states are up over last year.

Moving back toward the coast, the Waldoboro area, with increased inquiries about cottages and other lodging, is expected to increase over last year.

Advance reservations are also strong in the Rockland region. Bus tours and windjammer reservations are up over last year, while general inquiries are running about the same.

(continued on page 6)

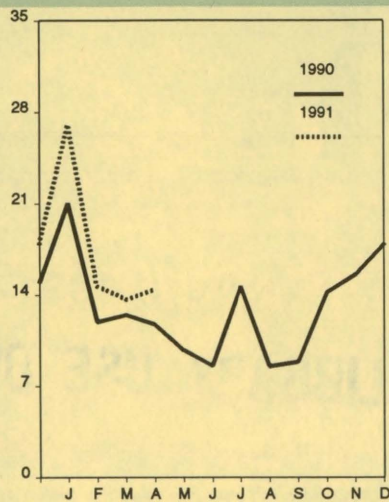
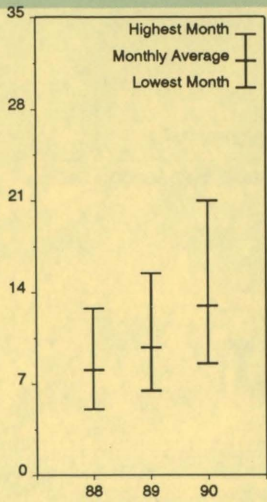
Labor Market Information Services



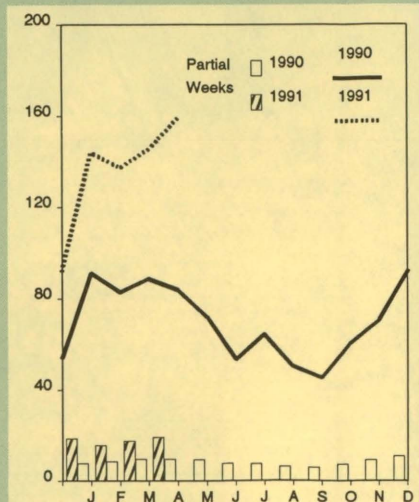
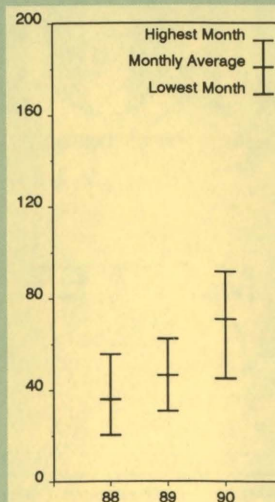
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UI Initial Claims in Thousands



UI Intrastate Weeks Claimed in Thousands



Unemployment Insurance Quality Control

The Maine Department of Labor operates a Quality Control Program which audits the payment of unemployment compensation benefits to determine the accuracy of those payments. Each week eight payments are randomly selected as an audit sample, and approximately 20 hours are devoted to reviewing every aspect of a single payment. The investigators interview the claimant and his or her last employer, audit all payroll records which affect the claim, verify documentation relative to issues such as pension receipt and dependency allowance, and conduct in-person interviews with each employer that the claimant listed as a work search contact.

The vast majority of benefit overpayments was related to work search issues. The Employment Security Law requires that an individual be actively seeking work to qualify for unemployment compensation, and claimants list their work search contacts on their weekly claim forms. An overpayment is established by the Quality Control Unit when an investigator determines that the individual did not make an adequate search for work, did not contact one or more of the employers listed, or did not contact them during the week being audited. During CY 1990, 82 percent of the work search related overpayments involved fraud, and these accounted for all of the fraud determinations made by the Quality Control Unit.

Summary of Quality Control Investigations, CY 1990

Item	Number of Payments	Dollars Paid	Item	Percentage of Dollars	95% Confidence Interval (+/-)
Population	729,626	\$110,248,002	Proper Payments	87.1%	3.3%
Sample	403	61,084	Overpayments	12.9	3.3
			Underpayments	0.7	0.4



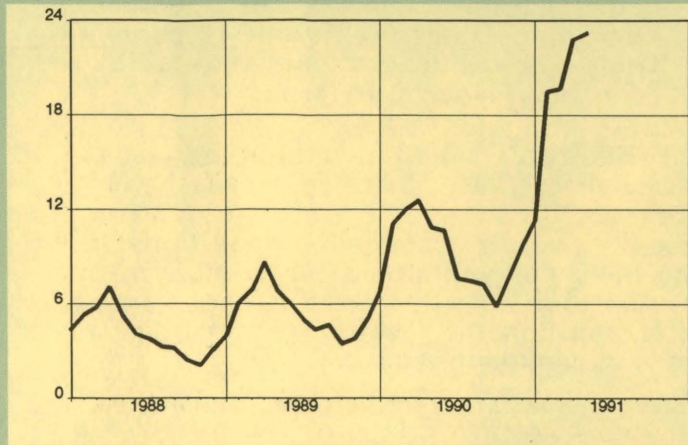
Selected Employment Security Activities



Unemployment Insurance Benefit Payments

in Millions

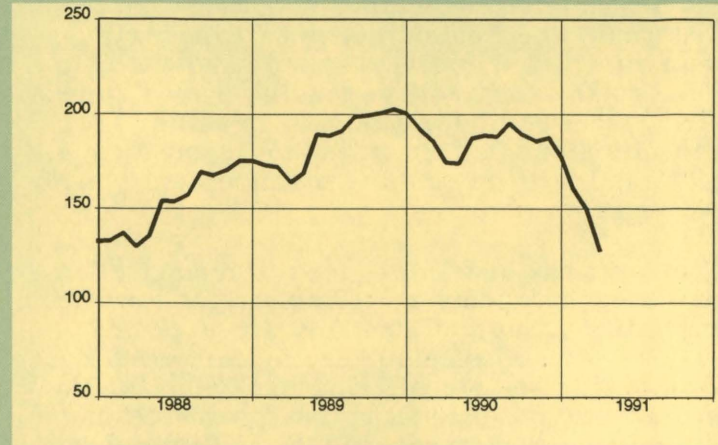
(Total includes Maine's Portion of Extended Benefits)



Unemployment Compensation Fund Balance

in Millions

(End of Month)



Earnings and Workweek of Production Workers in Manufacturing Industries

AREA AND INDUSTRY	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS			ANNUAL AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	1988	1989	1990
STATEWIDE												
Manufacturing-----	\$433.32	\$441.90	\$420.55	39.5	40.1	39.6	\$10.97	\$11.02	\$10.62	\$9.31	\$9.89	\$10.58
Durable Goods-----	425.72	430.44	403.97	40.2	40.8	39.8	10.59	10.55	10.15	9.00	9.59	10.20
Lumber and Wood Products-----	359.51	364.42	365.62	40.9	40.9	41.5	8.79	8.91	8.81	8.60	8.85	9.10
Primary and Fabricated Metals-----	420.58	418.76	410.55	41.6	42.6	42.5	10.11	9.83	9.66	8.79	9.31	9.98
Industrial Machinery and Equipment-----	533.66	548.60	491.62	43.6	44.1	43.2	12.24	12.44	11.38	9.49	11.03	11.63
Electronic and Other Electric Equipment--	376.84	386.69	347.87	37.2	38.4	35.9	10.13	10.07	9.69	8.51	9.02	9.69
Transportation Equipment-----	495.16	494.91	466.48	39.9	40.7	39.2	12.41	12.16	11.90	9.82	10.80	11.68
Other Durable Goods-----	344.73	347.58	320.39	40.7	40.7	40.2	8.47	8.54	7.97	7.43	7.80	8.11
Nondurable Goods-----	439.96	451.88	434.58	38.9	39.5	39.4	11.31	11.44	11.03	9.60	10.16	10.93
Food and Kindred Products-----	311.87	316.46	289.91	35.4	36.5	33.4	8.81	8.67	8.68	7.30	8.01	8.56
Textile Mill Products-----	344.74	351.92	320.42	39.9	39.9	37.0	8.64	8.82	8.66	7.66	8.22	8.82
Apparel and Other Textile Products-----	242.31	244.55	272.84	32.7	33.5	35.9	7.41	7.30	7.60	6.43	7.04	7.38
Paper and Allied Products-----	654.80	682.78	694.60	42.3	43.6	44.9	15.48	15.66	15.47	13.93	14.51	15.16
Leather and Leather Products-----	287.12	294.20	278.23	37.0	37.1	36.9	7.76	7.93	7.54	6.59	6.92	7.44
Other Nondurable Goods-----	376.00	367.64	364.49	37.6	37.4	38.9	10.00	9.83	9.37	8.62	9.10	9.62
PORTLAND MSA												
Manufacturing-----	389.24	387.76	406.35	37.0	37.0	38.7	10.52	10.48	10.50	9.58	10.53	10.63
LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA												
Manufacturing-----	361.90	375.31	332.51	38.5	37.4	36.3	9.40	9.91	9.16	8.08	8.50	9.26

Female Labor Force in Maine in Thousands

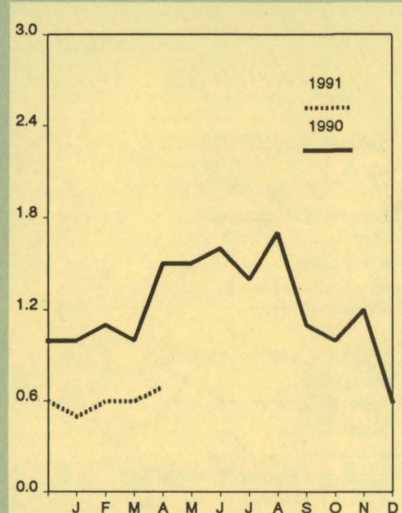
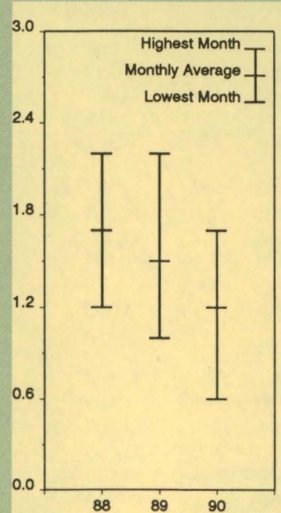
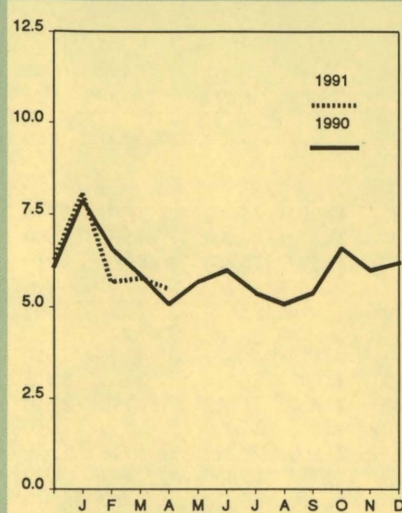
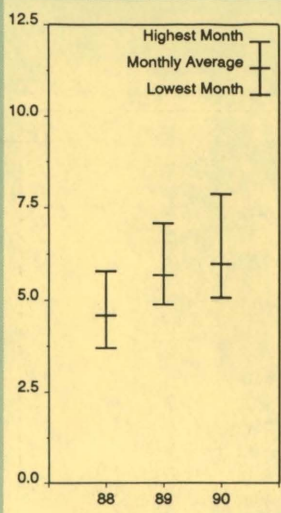
ITEM ^{1/}	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago
Labor Force	297.4	299.7	287.4
Unemployment (Percent)	16.9	17.8	18.8
Resident Employed	280.5	281.9	268.5

U.S. Consumer Price Index

BASE PERIOD (1982-1984 = 100) All Items (CPI-U)	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	Last Dec.
	135.2	135.0	128.9	133.8
Percent Change for Past Month				+0.1%
Percent Change from Last December				+1.0%
Percent Change from 12 Months Ago				+4.9%

^{1/} Current figures preliminary; last month and year ago figures revised.
Source: Female labor force estimates are developed by, and solely the responsibility of, the Maine Bureau of Employment Security.

New Applications For Work in Thousands



Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment by Place of Work (in Thousands)

ITEM	STATEWIDE			PORTLAND MSA			LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA		
	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago
Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment 1/-----	505.7	507.2	530.6	122.5	122.8	129.3	38.1	37.7	39.7
Goods Producing-----	117.3	117.3	128.7	20.9	20.8	23.0	9.9	9.5	10.8
Construction and Mining-----	22.8	21.9	27.6	5.0	4.6	6.5	1.7	1.6	1.8
Building Construction-----	7.1	7.1	9.0	1.2	1.2	1.7	n/a	n/a	n/a
Special Trade Contractors-----	12.3	11.8	14.4	3.5	3.2	4.3	n/a	n/a	n/a
Manufacturing-----	94.5	95.4	101.1	15.9	16.2	16.5	8.2	7.9	9.0
Durable Goods-----	43.3	43.9	46.6	7.2	7.5	7.9	2.2	2.1	2.3
Lumber and Wood Products-----	9.6	10.0	9.8	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Primary and Fabricated Metals-----	3.2	3.3	3.4	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Industrial Machinery and Equipment-----	4.5	4.5	4.9	1.6	1.6	2.1	n/a	n/a	n/a
Electronic and Other Electric Equipment-----	7.4	7.4	8.4	2.6	2.6	2.9	n/a	n/a	n/a
Transportation Equipment-----	14.5	14.7	15.5	(d)	(d)	(d)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Other Durable Goods 2/-----	4.1	4.0	4.6	3.0	3.3	2.9	n/a	n/a	n/a
Nondurable Goods-----	51.2	51.5	54.5	8.7	8.7	8.6	6.0	5.8	6.7
Food and Kindred Products-----	6.4	6.5	6.8	2.3	2.3	2.2	n/a	n/a	n/a
Textile Mill Products-----	5.1	5.2	5.7	(d)	(d)	(d)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Apparel and Other Textile Products-----	2.5	2.7	2.9	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Paper and Allied Products-----	17.4	17.4	17.4	(d)	(d)	(d)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Printing and Publishing-----	5.4	5.6	5.8	1.5	1.5	1.6	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rubber and Miscellaneous Plastic Products-----	3.4	3.4	3.7	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.1	1.1	1.7
Leather and Leather Products-----	9.8	9.6	10.9	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.8	1.6	1.8
Footwear (except Rubber)-----	8.1	8.0	9.1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Other Nondurable Goods 3/-----	1.2	1.1	1.3	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.1	3.1	3.2
Service Producing-----	388.4	389.9	401.9	101.6	102.0	106.3	28.2	28.2	28.9
Transportation and Public Utilities-----	21.5	21.4	21.8	7.0	6.7	6.3	1.3	1.3	1.4
Wholesale Trade-----	23.7	23.7	25.1	9.0	9.0	9.5	2.1	2.1	2.2
Retail Trade-----	98.1	98.5	105.1	26.4	26.4	27.6	7.7	7.7	7.9
Food Stores-----	18.6	18.7	18.7	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Eating and Drinking Places-----	29.4	29.4	33.0	7.9	7.9	8.0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate-----	24.7	24.8	25.0	12.3	12.4	12.0	2.1	2.1	2.3
Banking-----	10.0	10.0	10.2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Insurance Carriers, Brokers and Agents-----	10.8	10.8	10.3	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Services-----	125.1	125.0	125.7	31.2	31.2	34.0	10.7	10.6	10.6
Hotels and Other Lodging Places-----	6.9	6.6	7.3	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Business Services-----	14.4	14.1	14.2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Health Services-----	45.1	45.1	44.7	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Federal Government-----	17.8	18.2	20.3	1.9	1.9	2.8	0.3	0.3	0.3
State and Local Government 4/-----	77.5	78.3	78.9	13.8	14.4	14.1	4.0	4.1	4.2
Involved in Labor-Management Disputes-----	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

1/ Employment figures relate to full- and part-time wage and salary workers in pay periods including the 12th of the month. Domestic workers in private households, proprietors, self-employed, and unpaid family workers are excluded. 2/ Includes Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes: Statewide - 25, 32, 38, 39; Portland - 24, 25, 32, 33, 34, 37, 38, 39. 3/ Includes SIC codes: Statewide - 28, 29; Portland - 20, 22, 23, 26, 30; Lewiston - 20, 22, 23, 26, 27. 4/ Regular teachers are included in summer months whether or not specifically paid in those months. n/a - data not available in sufficient detail for publication. * Less than 50. (d) Nondisclosure item. Source: Nonfarm wage and salary employment by place of work and earnings, and workweek of production workers in manufacturing industries are developed by the Maine Bureau of Employment Security in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment

AREA 1/	LABOR FORCE 2/			RESIDENT EMPLOYED			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT		
	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	Number			Percent of Labor Force		
							This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago
MAINE-STATEWIDE (000).....	638.0	637.2	626.1	584.0	580.2	596.2	53.9	57.0	29.9	8.5	8.9	4.8
MAJOR LABOR MARKETS												
Bangor MSA.....	47,800	47,200	46,700	44,700	43,900	45,200	3,200	3,300	1,600	6.6	6.9	3.3
Lewiston-Auburn MSA.....	43,200	43,400	42,700	38,700	38,300	40,200	4,500	5,000	2,500	10.5	11.6	5.9
Portland MSA.....	130,700	131,300	132,700	122,700	122,700	128,800	8,000	8,500	3,900	6.1	6.5	3.0
Portsmouth-Dover Rochester MSA.....	n/a	n/a	138,000	n/a	n/a	133,000	n/a	n/a	5,100	n/a	n/a	3.7
OTHER LABOR MARKETS												
Augusta.....	37,260	37,430	37,060	34,800	34,690	35,620	2,460	2,730	1,440	6.6	7.3	3.9
Bath-Brunswick.....	31,210	30,870	31,940	29,360	28,860	31,010	1,850	2,010	940	5.9	6.5	2.9
Belfast.....	12,890	12,800	12,200	11,230	10,890	11,290	1,650	1,910	910	12.8	14.9	7.4
Biddeford.....	28,880	29,020	28,690	26,170	26,100	27,220	2,710	2,920	1,470	9.4	10.1	5.1
Boothbay Harbor-Wiscasset.....	16,330	15,900	15,930	15,470	14,960	15,480	860	940	450	5.3	5.9	2.8
Calais-Eastport.....	15,430	15,250	14,870	13,180	13,010	13,430	2,250	2,240	1,440	14.6	14.7	9.7
Caribou-Presque Isle.....	22,640	22,510	20,940	20,340	20,180	19,570	2,300	2,330	1,370	10.1	10.3	6.5
Central Penobscot.....	3,160	3,200	3,040	2,780	2,840	2,820	380	370	220	12.0	11.4	7.3
Dover-Foxcroft.....	7,430	7,520	7,120	6,610	6,620	6,650	810	890	470	11.0	11.9	6.5
Ellsworth.....	26,410	25,910	25,280	24,110	23,080	24,000	2,300	2,840	1,280	8.7	10.9	5.1
Farmington.....	13,940	14,290	13,540	12,480	13,010	12,710	1,460	1,290	830	10.5	9.0	6.1
Fort Kent-Allagash.....	5,390	5,540	5,150	4,660	4,900	4,550	730	640	610	13.6	11.6	11.8
Greenville.....	1,240	1,360	1,180	1,060	1,220	1,040	180	140	150	14.5	10.4	12.3
Houlton.....	6,820	6,770	6,450	6,270	6,320	6,010	550	450	440	8.1	6.6	6.8
Kittery-York 3/.....	29,970	30,200	29,840	28,740	28,670	29,120	1,230	1,530	720	4.1	5.1	2.4
Lincoln-Howland.....	5,620	5,790	5,460	4,830	5,100	4,920	790	680	540	14.0	11.8	9.9
Livermore Falls.....	5,210	5,220	4,750	4,630	4,580	4,460	580	640	290	11.1	12.3	6.1
Madawaska-Van Buren.....	4,240	4,170	4,060	3,750	3,660	3,730	490	510	330	11.6	12.2	8.1
Millinocket-East Millinocket.....	4,500	4,440	4,200	3,960	3,960	3,920	540	480	280	11.9	10.8	6.6
Norway-Paris.....	12,060	11,980	11,750	10,490	10,350	10,870	1,570	1,630	880	13.1	13.6	7.5
Patten-Island Falls.....	2,560	2,610	2,400	2,110	2,240	2,100	450	370	300	17.6	14.1	12.5
Rockland.....	19,670	19,350	19,480	17,970	17,540	18,340	1,700	1,810	1,140	8.6	9.4	5.8
Rumford.....	9,170	9,390	9,260	8,090	8,360	8,560	1,070	1,040	700	11.7	11.0	7.5
Sanford.....	17,190	17,190	16,600	15,480	15,300	15,730	1,710	1,900	870	10.0	11.0	5.2
Sebago Lakes Region.....	13,320	13,300	12,510	12,200	12,150	11,870	1,120	1,150	640	8.4	8.7	5.1
Skowhegan.....	24,720	24,300	23,090	21,810	21,450	21,570	2,900	2,850	1,520	11.7	11.7	6.6
Southwest Penobscot.....	11,950	12,120	10,880	10,390	10,470	10,100	1,560	1,650	770	13.1	13.6	7.1
Waterville.....	27,030	26,940	26,320	24,980	24,740	25,370	2,050	2,210	940	7.6	8.2	3.6
OTHER												
NEW ENGLAND STATES (000)												
Connecticut.....	n/a	n/a	1,793.2	n/a	n/a	1,700.1	n/a	n/a	93.1	n/a	n/a	5.2
Massachusetts.....	3,111.4	3,136.0	3,160.4	2,851.8	2,814.0	2,987.3	259.6	322.0	173.1	8.3	10.3	5.5
New Hampshire.....	n/a	n/a	622.7	n/a	n/a	588.6	n/a	n/a	34.1	n/a	n/a	5.5
Rhode Island.....	512.7	520.6	518.9	470.8	476.4	481.3	41.9	44.2	37.6	8.2	8.5	7.2
Vermont.....	301.4	307.6	307.7	279.2	285.4	293.9	22.2	22.3	13.8	7.4	7.2	4.5
NEW ENGLAND STATES (000)----	n/a	n/a	7,029.0	n/a	n/a	6,647.4	n/a	n/a	381.6	n/a	n/a	5.4
UNITED STATES (000)-----	124,727	124,443	123,816	116,678	115,639	117,359	8,049	8,804	6,457	6.5	7.1	5.2

Footnotes

- 1/ Labor force, employment, and unemployment data for all areas are by place of residence and are not seasonally adjusted. Estimates made independently for each labor market area have been benchmarked to and extrapolated from the Current Population Survey estimates for the state. All data exclude members of the Armed Forces. Data are rounded for publishing purposes. Employment and unemployment may not add to labor force due to rounding. MSA - Metropolitan Statistical Area. n/a indicates that the information was not available at the time of printing.
 - 2/ Current figures preliminary; last month and year ago figures revised.
 - 3/ Kittery-York is the eight-town Maine portion of the Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester MSA which includes towns in both Maine and New Hampshire.
- Source: These data are developed by the Maine Bureau of Employment Security in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Mid-Month Insured Unemployment

ITEM	STATEWIDE			PORTLAND MSA			LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA		
	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago
Number of continued-week claimants*	28,928	31,738	17,015	4,474	4,864	2,328	2,491	2,911	1,528

Continued-week claimants are less partials for week including the 12th of the month.

(continued from page 2)

The Camden area, with heavy inquiries from out of state, is expecting a better year than last year. The Seabourn Cruise Lines will be docking for a tentative 11 stops and the Clipper Cruise Lines will be making 3 or 4 stops. Also, the Center for Creative Imaging, a Kodak Division, had an open house on May 4, 1991 and will be running a school every two weeks year round.

Searsport has also had a record number of inquiries and expects a better year for tourism. In addition, more Canadians are expected to visit as a result of monetary incentives. Some area businesses are offering par value for Canadian dollars. All Canadian provinces have their own sales taxes and New Brunswick's

rate is presently 11 percent. Canada has just instituted a national sales tax of 7 percent. With a combined sales tax rate of 18 percent, New Brunswick residents should find Maine's rate of 5 percent much more attractive.

In the Ellsworth and Bar Harbor regions inquiries and reservations are up over last year.

Although overall economic conditions in Maine have not yet turned the corner, it appears that tourism will have a strong showing in 1991 and hopefully be the precursor of an impending economic recovery.

This report was prepared by Bill Curran, Economic Research Analyst, based on a survey of industry representatives.

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