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Employment Situation, August 1983

Maine Department of Labor

Maine Bureau of Employment Security

Maine Division of Economic Analysis and Research

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BATH-BRUNSWICK LABOR MARKET AREA

Labor market conditions in the Bath-Brunswick Labor Market Area rebounded in August, following temporary plant shutdowns in the manufacturing sector in July. Between July and August, resident employment increased from 24,060 to 24,360, while unemployment declined from 2,010 to 1,250. As a result, the local unemployment rate dipped from 7.7 percent in July to 4.9 percent in August. Meanwhile, the state's unemployment rate fell from 10.0 percent to 7.4 percent, while the national rate dropped from 9.4 percent to 9.2 percent. Improvements in local labor market conditions in August were also due to seasonal employment gains in retail trade and services at the height of the tourist season. Last year at this time the local unemployment rate stood at 5.2 percent.

BIDDEFORD-SANFORD LABOR MARKET AREA

Economic conditions in the Biddeford-Sanford Labor Market Area improved substantially, as workers who were temporarily separated from the apparel and textile industries in July returned to work. Employment gains also occurred in rubber and miscellaneous plastics products and leather and leather products. Employment in the nonmanufacturing sector declined marginally due to job losses in services. The number unemployed dropped from 4,400 in July to 2,800 in August. The local unemployment rate plummeted from 12.6 percent in July to 8.3 percent in August, which placed the local rate between the state and national rates of 7.4 percent and 9.2 percent, respectively. Last year at this time, the unemployment rate in the Biddeford-Sanford LMA stood at 7.8 percent.

LEWISTON-AUBURN STANDARD METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA

After a temporary seasonal downturn in July, economic conditions in the Lewiston-Auburn SMSA improved considerably during August. An increase in resident employment from 34,400 to 36,600 combined with a decline in the number of unemployed persons from 6,200 to 3,200 resulted in the unemployment rate dropping from 15.3 percent in July to 8.0 percent in August. The corresponding state and national unemployment rates for August were 7.4 percent and 9.2 percent, respectively. Locally, nonfarm wage and salary employment increased by 2,200 in August. Most of this increase may be attributed to the manufacturing sector, where the end of temporary plant shutdowns resulted in leather and leather products gaining 900 jobs, textile mill products gaining 500, and rubber and miscellaneous plastics products and metals and machinery gaining 300 each. In the nonmanufacturing sector, contract construction paved the way with an increase of 200 jobs. Local economic conditions really improved over the past year with 2,000 more residents becoming employed.

PORTLAND STANDARD METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA

The unemployment rate in the Portland SMSA followed historical trends and fell in August. Workers in leather and leather products and textiles returned from temporary July layoffs, largely influencing the number of unemployed to drop from 6,900 in July to 6,100 in August. The local unemployment rate decreased from 6.8 percent in July to 6.0 percent in August. Last year at this time the local unemployment rate was 5.9 percent, with 5,500 persons unemployed. Nonfarm wage and salary employment fell from 97,400 in July to 97,200 in August. In the manufacturing sector leather and leather products employment increased 800 and textiles increased 100. Within nonmanufacturing a strike resulted in transportation and public utilities dropping 700. Wholesale and retail trade and state and local government fell 300 and 200, respectively. Services and mining increased 100. The August unemployment rate of 6.0 percent compares favorably to the state and national rates of 7.4 percent and 9.2 percent, respectively.

RUMFORD LABOR MARKET AREA

The unemployment rate in the Rumford Labor Market Area fell from 11.4 percent in July to 8.5 percent in August. This represents the lowest rate in the labor market area since October 1982 when the rate was 8.1 percent. Between July and August, resident employment rose from 18,230 to 18,890, with employment increases in lumber and wood products, leather and leather products, retail trade, and services. Total unemployment in the area declined from 2,340 in July to 1,760 in August. Last year at this time, an estimated 1,780 local residents were unemployed, and the unemployment rate was 8.6 percent.

WATERVILLE LABOR MARKET AREA

August marked the fifth consecutive month that the unemployment rate in the Waterville Labor Market Area evidenced a decline. The number unemployed fell from 2,190 in July to 1,810 in August, while resident employment rose from 21,450 to 21,620. The resulting August unemployment rate of 7.7 percent was below the national rate of 9.2 percent and slightly higher than the state rate of 7.4 percent. A year ago the local unemployment rate was 7.6 percent. At that time 1,670 persons were jobless and 20,240 residents were employed. This August, employment in the manufacturing sector returned to normal with employment gains in both textile mill products and apparel. These industries underwent temporary annual layoffs in July. Following historical trends, employment in nonmanufacturing evidenced little change from July to August.

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE BY MAINE LABOR MARKET AREA, NEW ENGLAND STATES, AND THE UNITED STATES¹

AREAS	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			UNEMPLOYMENT			RATE			RESIDENT EMPLOYED		
	Aug. 83 ²	July 83 ²	Aug. 82 ³	Aug. 83	July 83	Aug. 82	Aug. 83	July 83	Aug. 82	Aug. 83	July 83	Aug. 82
LABOR MARKET AREAS:												
AUGUSTA	29,980	30,360	28,620	1,960	2,940	2,010	6.5	9.7	7.0	28,020	27,420	26,610
BANGOR-BREWER	45,400	46,300	41,200	3,100	4,500	2,900	6.8	9.7	7.0	42,300	41,800	38,300
BATH-BRUNSWICK	25,610	26,070	25,220	1,250	2,010	1,320	4.9	7.7	5.2	24,360	24,060	23,900
BELFAST	12,260	12,000	10,700	1,380	1,720	1,120	11.3	14.3	10.4	10,880	10,280	9,650
BIDDEFORD-SANFORD	33,700	34,900	33,300	2,800	4,400	2,600	8.3	12.6	7.8	30,900	30,500	30,700
BOOTHBAY HARBOR-WISCASSET	10,210	10,170	9,580	510	680	460	5.0	6.7	4.8	9,700	9,490	9,120
CALAIS-EASTPORT	19,290	16,200	18,810	1,640	1,950	1,710	8.5	12.0	9.1	17,650	14,250	17,100
CARIBOU-PRESQUE ISLE	21,410	21,530	19,920	3,400	3,090	2,810	15.9	14.4	14.1	18,010	18,440	17,110
CENTRAL PENOBSCOT	3,760	3,920	3,540	210	340	230	5.6	8.7	6.5	3,550	3,580	3,310
DOVER-FOXCROFT	7,110	7,330	6,790	540	710	640	7.6	9.7	9.4	6,570	6,620	6,150
ELLSWORTH	26,410	25,080	25,000	1,200	1,700	1,170	4.5	6.8	4.7	25,210	23,380	23,830
FARMINGTON	13,520	13,520	12,580	960	1,470	970	7.1	10.9	7.7	12,560	12,050	11,610
FORT KENT-ALLAGASH	5,350	5,500	4,930	430	530	530	8.0	9.6	10.8	4,920	4,970	4,400
GREENVILLE	1,600	1,600	1,520	70	100	80	4.4	6.3	5.3	1,530	1,500	1,440
HOULTON	5,390	5,450	4,910	760	790	610	14.1	14.5	12.4	4,630	4,660	4,300
KITTERY-YORK	27,320	26,600	25,470	710	1,020	620	2.6	3.8	2.4	26,610	25,580	24,850
LEWISTON-AUBURN SMSA	39,800	40,600	38,000	3,200	6,200	3,400	8.0	15.3	8.9	36,600	34,400	34,600
LINCOLN-HOWLAND	5,820	5,890	5,550	440	620	530	7.6	10.5	9.5	5,380	5,270	5,020
LIVERMORE FALLS	6,020	6,600	5,840	610	1,170	660	10.1	17.7	11.3	5,410	5,430	5,180
MADAWASKA-VAN BUREN	4,650	4,850	4,430	490	550	540	10.5	11.3	12.2	4,160	4,300	3,890
MECHANIC FALLS	3,450	3,680	3,140	310	530	340	9.0	14.4	10.8	3,140	3,150	2,800
MILLINOCKET-EAST MILLINOCKET	5,420	5,620	5,300	360	560	300	6.6	10.0	5.7	5,060	5,060	5,000
PATTEN-ISLAND FALLS	2,540	2,730	2,450	220	290	270	8.7	10.6	11.0	2,320	2,440	2,180
PORTLAND SMSA	101,000	102,100	93,700	6,100	6,900	5,500	6.0	6.8	5.9	94,900	95,200	88,200
ROCKLAND	18,840	17,930	18,820	1,330	1,760	1,300	7.1	9.8	6.9	17,510	16,170	17,520
RUMFORD	20,650	20,570	20,770	1,760	2,340	1,780	8.5	11.4	8.6	18,890	18,230	18,990
SEBAGO LAKES REGION	13,210	13,500	12,540	800	970	860	6.1	7.2	6.9	12,410	12,530	11,680
SKOWHEGAN	23,010	22,500	20,860	2,310	3,340	2,320	10.0	14.8	11.1	20,700	19,160	18,540
SOUTHWEST PENOBSCOT	8,470	8,000	7,970	880	1,200	1,010	10.4	15.0	12.7	7,590	6,800	6,960
WATERVILLE	23,430	23,640	21,940	1,810	2,190	1,670	7.7	9.3	7.6	21,620	21,450	20,270
STATES:⁴												
MAINE	564.6	564.6	533.4	41.5	56.5	40.3	7.4	10.0	7.6	523.1	508.1	493.1
CONNECTICUT	N/A	1,632.9	1,604.0	N/A	103.2	107.3	N/A	6.3	6.7	N/A	1,529.7	1,496.7
MASSACHUSETTS	3,064.0	3,046.0	3,112.6	183.0	190.0	237.5	6.0	6.2	7.6	2,881.0	2,856.0	2,875.0
NEW HAMPSHIRE	N/A	512.2	497.7	N/A	28.8	33.5	N/A	5.6	6.7	N/A	483.4	464.2
RHODE ISLAND	483.0	480.8	489.6	37.5	44.5	53.4	7.8	9.3	10.9	445.5	436.3	436.2
VERMONT	N/A	266.3	268.2	N/A	16.9	17.4	N/A	6.3	6.5	N/A	249.4	250.9
NEW ENGLAND STATES⁴	N/A	6,502.8	6,505.5	N/A	439.9	489.4	N/A	6.8	7.5	N/A	6,062.9	6,016.1
UNITED STATES⁴	174,440	113,980	111,887	10,411	10,707	10,710	9.2	9.4	9.6	103,167	103,273	101,177

¹ All estimates shown are not seasonally adjusted. Estimates for the State and sub-State areas have been benchmarked to the latest Current Population Survey estimates for the State.

² Preliminary estimates.

³ Revised estimates.

⁴ In thousands.

n/a Not Available

Labor Market Information Services



EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

STATISTICAL
DATA
SERIES: ES 8-83

AUGUST 1983

SUPPLEMENT TO THE STATEWIDE MONTHLY NEWS RELEASE

A BRIEF ANALYSIS COVERING SELECTED MAINE LABOR MARKET AREAS

AUGUSTA LABOR MARKET AREA

Following historical trends, the unemployment rate in the Augusta Labor Market Area dropped considerably from July to August. A decrease in the number unemployed coupled with an increase in resident employment resulted in an unemployment rate of 6.5 percent, well below the 9.7 percent recorded in July. Resident employment rose to 28,020 in August from 27,420 in July, while the number unemployed fell to 1,960 from 2,940 in July. Employment gains were largely the result of the return to work of persons temporarily laid off from firms in leather and leather products, textile mill products, and apparel. Additionally, seasonal gains were evidenced in services. The July unemployment rate was well below both the state and national rates of 7.4 percent and 9.2 percent, respectively. A year ago the local unemployment rate was 7.0 percent and 2,010 persons were unemployed.

BANGOR-BREWER LABOR MARKET AREA

Economic conditions in the Bangor-Brewer Labor Market Area improved in August. The return to work of people who were on seasonal layoffs from the textile mill products and leather and leather products (nonrubber footwear) industries was primarily responsible for the drop in unemployment. An increase in resident employment from 41,800 to 42,300 in August, combined with a sharp decline in the number of unemployed from 4,500 to 3,100, resulted in an unemployment rate of 6.8 percent. Last year at this time 2,900 residents were unemployed, and the unemployment rate stood at 7.0 percent. Employment in manufacturing climbed 800 with the largest increases occurring in textile mill products and leather and leather products. In nonmanufacturing, employment gains in contract construction and wholesale and retail trade were largely offset by losses in transportation and public utilities and finance, insurance, and real estate.

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