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# Labor Market Digest, May 1995

Maine Bureau of Employment Security

Maine Division of Manpower Research

Maine Labor Market Research

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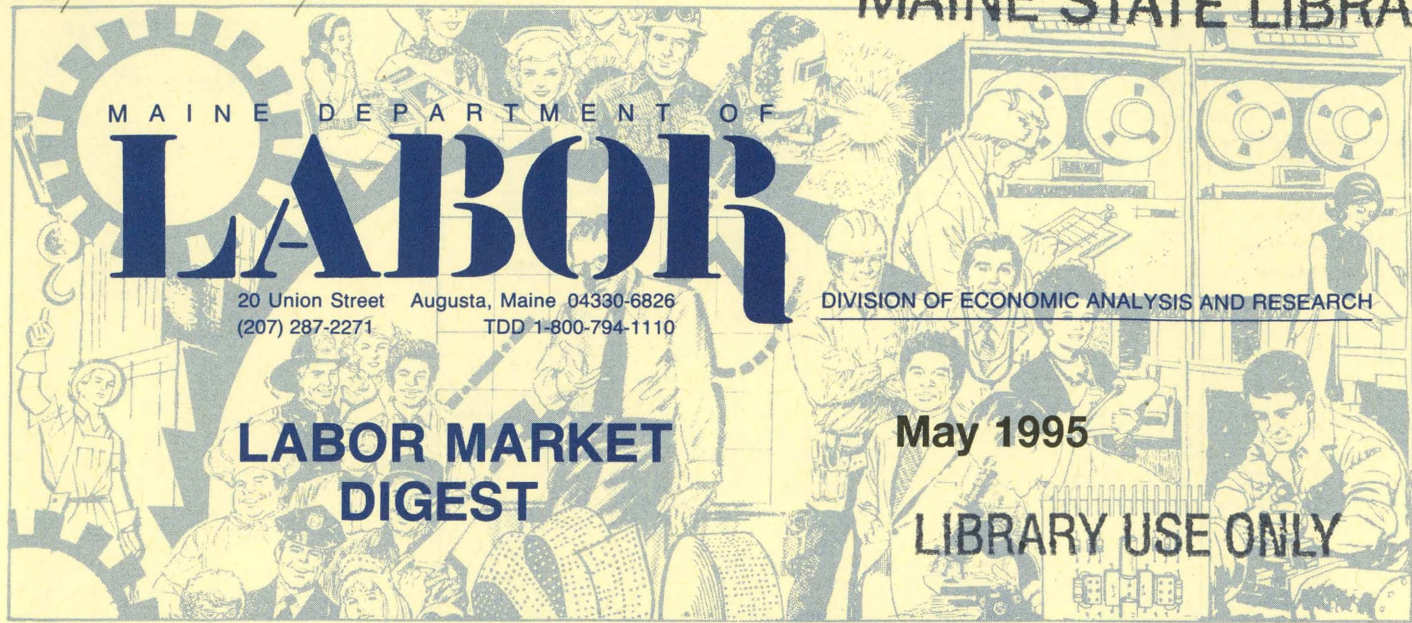
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DIVISION OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH

**LABOR MARKET  
DIGEST**

May 1995

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*The Labor Market Information Newsletter on Maine Economic Activity*

## Maine's Labor Market Undergoes Change in the 1990s

During the economic boom of the 1980s, employment in Maine expanded in all occupational groups, creating job opportunities for people across the spectrum of education and skill levels. Widespread occupational job growth resulted from most industries posting job gains. Several high-paying manufacturing industries increased employment despite overall manufacturing job losses.

Since 1989 net job growth has been limited to professional and technical, and service occupations. Employment in managerial, sales, and clerical jobs has declined slightly, and the number of blue-collar production, construction, operating, maintenance, and material moving jobs has plummeted. This new dynamic is mainly due to reduced defense-related shipbuilding and submarine repair following the end of the cold war; the construction downturn; and continued restructuring in several industries, including paper manufacturing and wholesale and retail trade.  
*(See related graph on page 2.)*

This labor market trend presents a new reality for workers displaced from good-paying construction, manufacturing, or wholesale trade industries. Skills developed through years of experience in carpentry, plumbing, welding, or machine operating often are not directly transferrable to growing industries such as health or business services. Furthermore, many of these workers lack the education or background for entry into high-paying professional or technical occupations. As a result, employment alternatives for many individuals are limited to service occupations which have relatively low skill requirements and low pay, and often offer only part-time work schedules.

The table below presents occupations with the largest job losses and the largest job gains between 1989 and 1994, with the employment change in the 1983 to 1989 cycle:

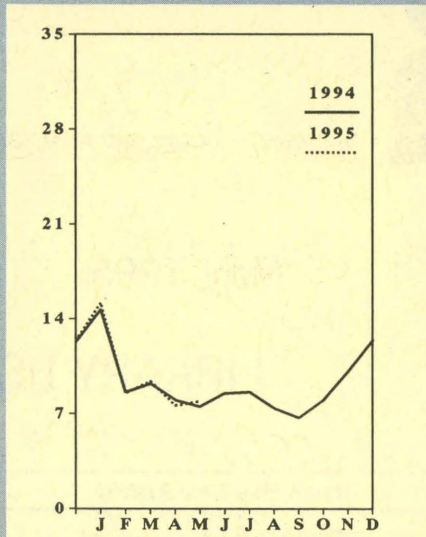
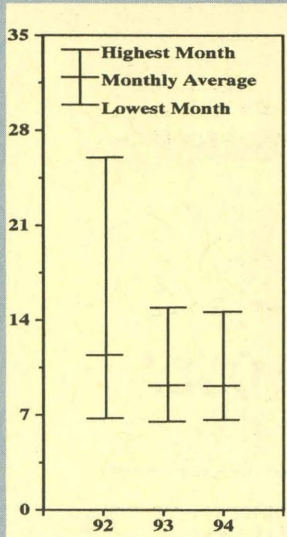
<i>Largest Job Losses</i>		
Occupation	Employment Change	
	1983-89	1989-94
Carpenters	3,386	-3,267
Retail Salespersons	6,773	-2,006
Electricians	1,051	-1,724
Electrical & Electronic Assemblers	978	-1,410
Nonelectrical Assemblers & Fabricators	515	-1,385
Cashiers	5,908	-1,310
Financial Managers	1,370	-954
Plumbers & Pipefitters	815	-867
Painters & Paperhangers	748	-836
Bookkeeping, Accounting, & Auditing Clerks	2,220	-803

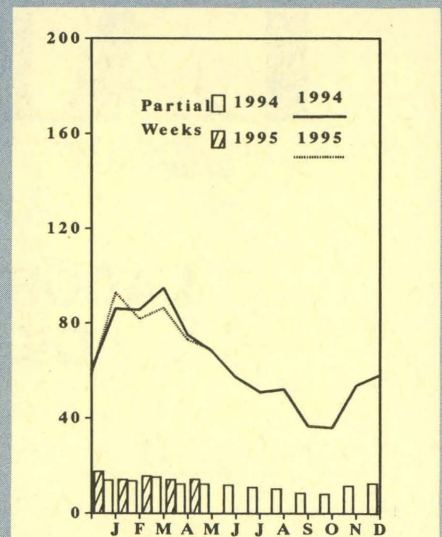
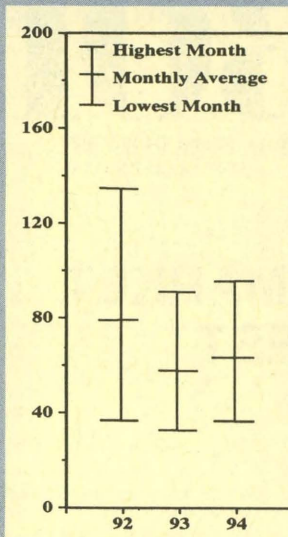
<i>Largest Job Gains</i>		
Occupation	Employment Change	
	1983-89	1989-94
Registered Nurses	1,382	1,593
Nursing Aides & Orderlies	1,472	1,464
Home Health Aides	731	1,243
Housekeepers & Maids	1,290	862
Elementary School Teachers	2,736	698
Counter & Rental Clerks	208	671
Light Truck Drivers	1,229	469
Teacher's Aides	193	446
Preschool & Kindergarten Teachers	240	429
Secondary School Teachers	764	380

By Glenn Mills  
Statewide Economic Analyst

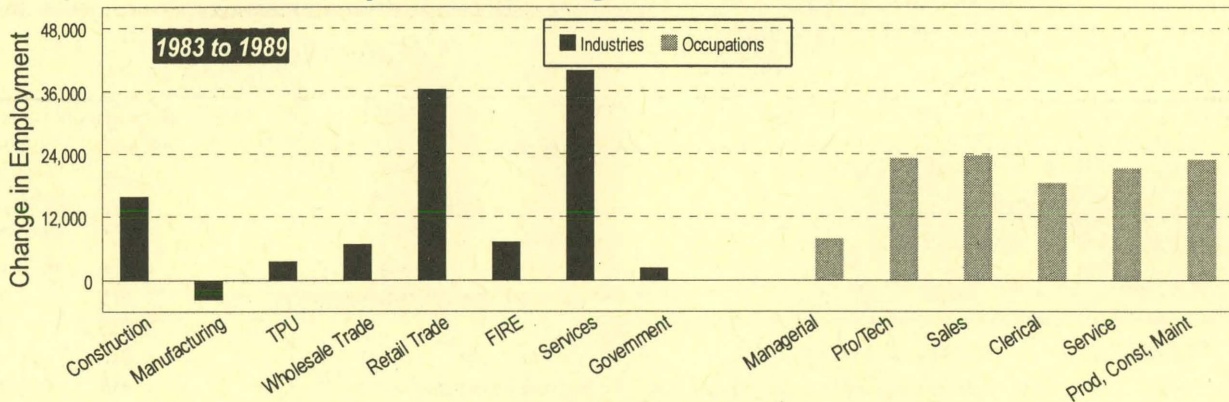
## UI Initial Claims in Thousands



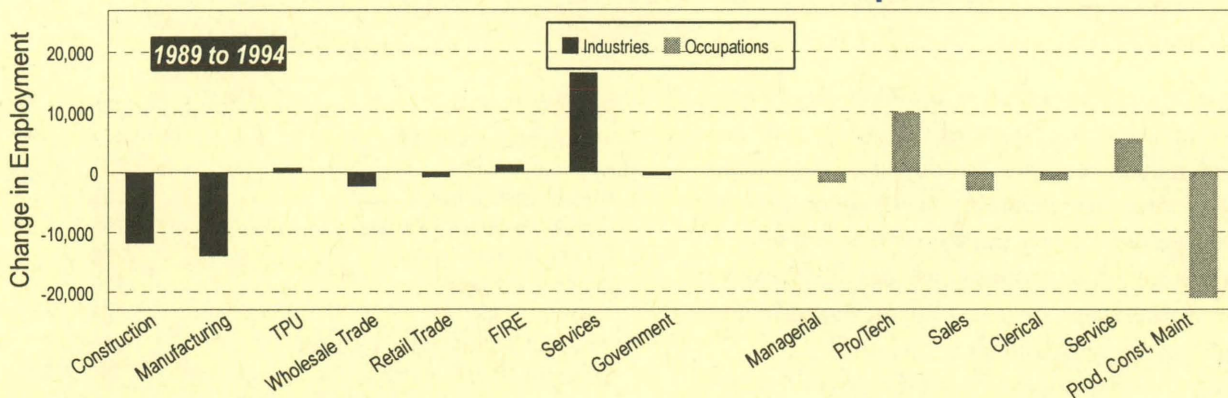
## UI Intrastate Weeks Claimed in Thousands



## Employment in Maine increased in most industries and occupations during the 1980s economic boom



## Since 1989 job growth has been isolated to a small number of industries and occupations



TPU: Transportation, Communication, & Public Utilities.  
FIRE: Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate.

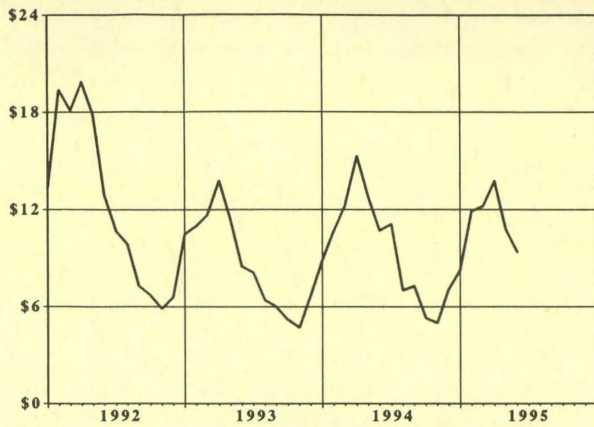


# Selected Employment Security Activities



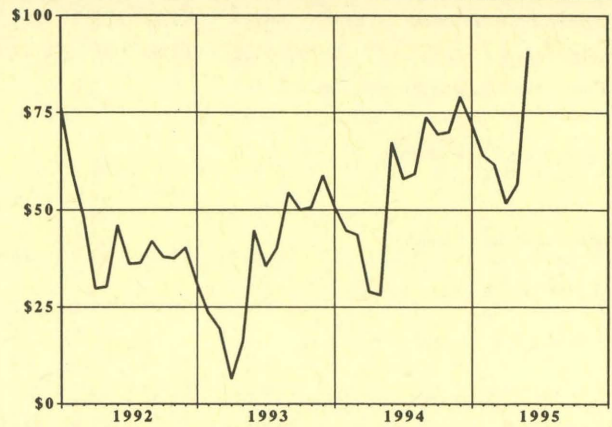
## Unemployment Insurance Benefit Payments

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	1992	1993	1994
<b>STATEWIDE</b>												
Manufacturing.....	\$487.48	\$485.89	\$477.46	39.6	39.6	40.6	\$12.31	\$12.27	\$11.76	\$11.38	\$11.63	\$11.95
Durable Goods.....	484.00	481.59	465.16	40.0	39.9	40.1	12.10	12.07	11.60	11.14	11.43	11.88
Lumber and Wood Products.....	397.99	397.63	385.02	41.5	41.9	41.4	9.59	9.49	9.30	9.25	9.33	9.56
Primary and Fabricated Metals.....	438.31	443.37	442.40	39.1	39.8	40.0	11.21	11.14	11.06	10.45	11.00	10.97
Industrial Machinery and Equipment.....	577.23	569.78	622.17	42.6	42.3	44.6	13.55	13.47	13.95	12.82	13.32	13.89
Electronic and Other Electric Equipment.....	416.81	412.54	401.32	39.1	38.7	38.7	10.66	10.66	10.37	10.02	10.33	10.71
Transportation Equipment.....	620.37	614.38	552.96	38.2	37.6	37.9	16.24	16.34	14.59	14.09	14.64	15.18
Other Durable Goods.....	387.44	384.06	389.37	40.4	40.3	40.9	9.59	9.53	9.52	8.86	8.89	9.35
Nondurable Goods.....	490.46	489.74	486.30	39.3	39.4	40.9	12.48	12.43	11.89	11.57	11.79	12.01
Food and Kindred Products.....	320.13	332.22	346.65	32.7	33.9	35.7	9.79	9.80	9.71	9.15	9.34	9.55
Textile Mill Products.....	426.28	432.63	422.40	42.5	41.8	44.0	10.03	10.35	9.60	9.03	9.49	9.33
Apparel and Other Textile Products.....	307.01	303.21	287.07	36.9	36.4	36.2	8.32	8.33	7.93	7.65	7.95	8.08
Paper and Allied Products.....	779.06	776.99	743.16	42.9	43.7	44.0	18.16	17.78	16.89	16.25	16.63	17.02
Leather and Leather Products.....	325.85	318.85	320.19	38.2	37.6	39.0	8.53	8.48	8.21	7.92	8.00	8.32
Other Nondurable Goods.....	408.50	411.00	424.27	38.0	37.5	40.6	10.75	10.96	10.45	10.07	10.28	10.62
<b>PORTLAND MSA</b>												
Manufacturing.....	419.62	423.94	414.95	37.6	38.4	38.6	11.16	11.04	10.75	10.55	10.68	10.78
<b>LEWISTON/AUBURN MSA</b>												
Manufacturing.....	385.30	406.38	388.85	38.3	39.0	39.8	10.06	10.42	9.77	9.53	9.82	9.76

## Female Labor Force in Maine

in Thousands

ITEM <sup>1/</sup>	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago
Labor Force	294.3	299.0	294.3
Unemployment (Percent)	15.0	12.1	18.4
Resident Employed	279.3	286.9	276.0

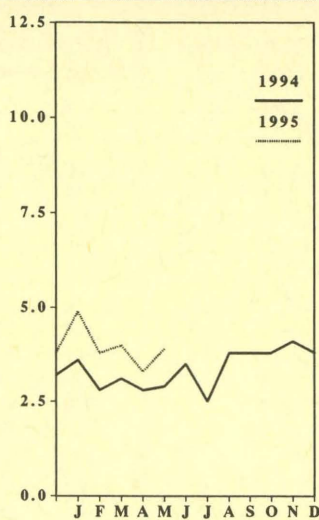
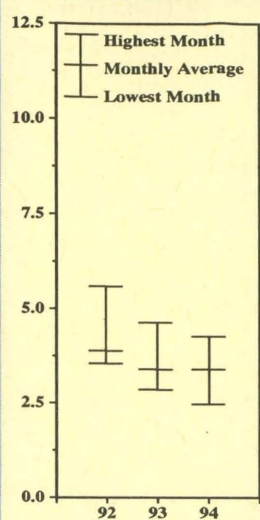
## U.S. Consumer Price Index

BASE PERIOD (1982-1984 = 100) All Items (CPI-U)	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	Last Dec.
	152.2	151.9	147.5	149.7
Percent Change for Past Month .....				+0.2%
Percent Change from 12 Months Ago .....				+3.2%
Percent Change from Last December .....				+1.7%

<sup>1/</sup> 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 Division of Economic Analysis and Research.

## New Applications For Work

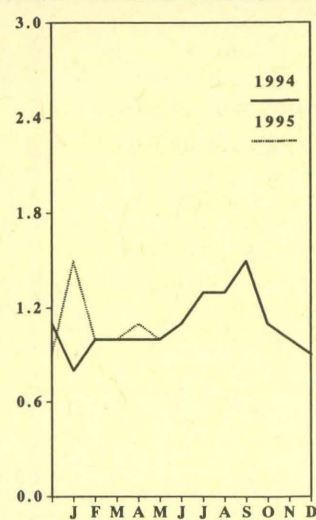
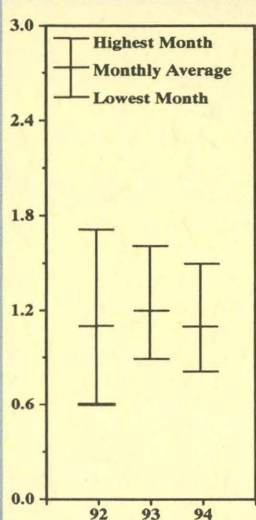
in Thousands



## Nonfarm Placements

in Thousands

(Excludes Placements of Less than Three Days Duration)



## 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/.....	542.8	530.7	531.8	127.9	127.5	130.3	41.2	40.8	40.7
Goods Producing.....	113.8	110.5	112.0	18.6	17.9	18.8	10.4	10.3	10.2
Construction and Mining.....	22.7	19.9	21.5	5.5	4.9	5.4	1.8	1.6	1.6
Building Construction.....	5.2	4.6	5.0	1.0	0.9	1.1	n/a	n/a	n/a
Special Trade Contractors.....	13.8	12.3	12.8	4.2	3.8	4.1	n/a	n/a	n/a
Manufacturing.....	91.1	90.6	90.5	13.1	13.0	13.4	8.6	8.7	8.6
Durable Goods.....	40.7	40.7	39.8	5.5	5.5	5.9	2.3	2.3	2.2
Lumber and Wood Products.....	9.5	9.6	9.4	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Primary and Fabricated Metals.....	3.4	3.4	3.5	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Industrial Machinery and Equipment.....	4.5	4.5	4.0	1.2	1.2	1.2	n/a	n/a	n/a
Electronic and other Elect. Equip.....	7.5	7.4	6.9	2.1	2.1	1.9	n/a	n/a	n/a
Transportation Equipment.....	11.6	11.7	12.0	(d)	(d)	(d)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Other Durable Goods 2/.....	4.2	4.1	4.0	2.2	2.2	2.8	n/a	n/a	n/a
Nondurable Goods.....	50.4	49.9	50.7	7.6	7.5	7.5	6.3	6.4	6.4
Food and Kindred Products.....	6.5	6.5	6.4	2.1	2.1	2.0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Textile Mill Products.....	5.4	5.4	5.6	(d)	(d)	(d)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Apparel and Other Textile Products.....	2.5	2.4	2.6	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Paper and Allied Products.....	14.8	14.6	15.7	(d)	(d)	(d)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Printing and Publishing.....	5.8	5.7	5.5	1.8	1.7	1.7	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rubber and Misc. Plastic Products.....	3.3	3.3	3.2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Leather and Leather Products.....	10.5	10.6	10.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.9	2.0	2.1
Footwear (except Rubber).....	8.7	8.7	8.2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Other Nondurable Goods 3/.....	1.6	1.4	1.6	2.6	2.6	2.7	4.4	4.4	4.3
Service Producing.....	429.0	420.2	419.8	109.3	109.6	111.5	30.8	30.5	30.5
Transportation and Public Utilities.....	23.0	22.4	22.6	5.7	5.7	6.3	1.7	1.7	1.6
Wholesale Trade.....	24.3	24.0	23.5	8.6	8.6	8.7	2.0	2.0	1.9
Retail Trade.....	111.9	107.5	108.5	29.9	30.1	29.5	8.1	8.0	8.1
General Merchandise Stores.....	12.3	11.9	12.0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Food Stores.....	19.6	19.1	18.8	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Eating and Drinking Places.....	35.0	32.2	34.9	9.0	8.8	8.8	n/a	n/a	n/a
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate.....	26.7	26.6	26.5	12.1	12.1	12.4	1.9	1.9	1.9
Banking.....	9.6	9.5	9.4	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Insurance Carriers, Brokers and Agents.....	11.2	11.3	11.6	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Services.....	147.7	144.5	141.0	36.0	36.0	37.9	12.3	12.1	12.1
Hotels and Other Lodging Places.....	9.3	7.5	9.2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Business Services.....	18.6	18.0	15.3	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Health Services.....	50.6	50.5	50.4	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Federal Government.....	13.3	13.3	14.8	2.0	2.0	2.1	0.3	0.3	0.3
State Government.....	27.0	27.4	26.9	4.6	4.7	3.9	0.7	0.7	0.7
Local Government.....	55.1	54.5	56.0	10.4	10.4	10.7	3.8	3.8	3.9
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 Division of Economic Analysis and Research in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment

Area 1/	LABOR FORCE 2/			RESIDENT EMPLOYED			UNEMPLOYMENT Number			UNEMPLOYMENT Percent of Labor Force		
	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago
MAINE-STATEWIDE (000).....	631.4	617.8	609.8	593.7	576.8	568.7	37.7	41.0	41.1	6.0	6.6	6.7
<b>MAJOR LABOR MARKETS</b>												
Bangor MSA.....	48,300	48,000	46,100	46,100	45,700	43,700	2,100	2,400	2,400	4.4	4.9	5.2
Lewiston-Auburn MSA.....	50,000	49,400	48,400	47,100	46,500	45,000	2,900	2,900	3,400	5.8	5.9	7.0
Portland MSA.....	118,300	117,900	115,900	113,600	113,000	110,700	4,700	4,900	5,200	4.0	4.2	4.5
Portsmouth-Rochester PMSA.....	121,900	123,050	102,900	117,850	118,450	98,700	4,060	4,600	4,300	3.3	3.8	4.1
<b>OTHER LABOR MARKETS</b>												
Augusta.....	44,710	43,740	43,390	41,840	40,750	40,880	2,860	2,990	2,520	6.4	6.8	5.8
Bath-Brunswick.....	35,040	34,660	33,540	33,580	33,130	32,070	1,460	1,530	1,470	4.2	4.4	4.4
Belfast.....	12,530	12,050	11,630	11,680	11,090	10,740	840	960	890	6.7	7.9	7.6
Biddeford.....	34,180	31,890	33,960	32,710	30,170	32,230	1,470	1,720	1,730	4.3	5.4	5.1
Boothbay Harbor.....	7,920	7,270	7,770	7,560	6,830	7,420	370	440	360	4.7	6.1	4.6
Bucksport.....	5,140	4,970	4,980	4,850	4,620	4,670	290	350	320	5.7	7.1	6.3
Calais.....	5,200	5,090	5,120	4,570	4,410	4,390	630	690	730	12.1	13.5	14.2
Dexter-Pittsfield.....	13,020	12,590	12,590	11,930	11,420	11,310	1,090	1,170	1,270	8.4	9.3	10.1
Dover-Foxcroft.....	7,190	7,090	7,030	6,640	6,520	6,440	550	570	600	7.6	8.0	8.5
Ellsworth-Bar Harbor.....	19,660	18,080	19,110	18,520	16,520	17,840	1,140	1,560	1,270	5.8	8.6	6.7
Farmington.....	18,580	18,300	17,320	17,070	16,890	15,750	1,520	1,410	1,570	8.2	7.7	9.1
Fort Kent.....	3,800	3,770	3,710	3,190	3,130	3,030	620	640	680	16.2	16.9	18.4
Greenville.....	1,100	1,040	1,070	970	890	930	130	150	140	11.5	14.8	13.0
Houlton.....	6,980	6,740	6,640	6,370	6,100	6,010	610	650	620	8.8	9.6	9.4
Jonesport-Milbridge.....	3,790	3,620	3,440	3,380	3,130	3,050	410	490	390	10.7	13.4	11.4
Kittery-York.....	19,220	19,220	18,860	18,760	18,660	18,240	460	570	620	2.4	3	3.3
Lincoln-Howland.....	5,560	5,540	5,470	5,060	4,960	4,820	500	580	650	8.9	10.5	11.8
Machias-Eastport.....	6,580	6,450	6,370	5,940	5,700	5,630	640	750	730	9.7	11.6	11.5
Madawaska.....	4,190	4,060	4,040	3,890	3,720	3,680	300	350	350	7.2	8.5	8.8
Millinocket-East Millinocket.....	5,220	5,240	5,390	4,680	4,610	4,720	540	640	660	10.4	12.1	12.3
Norway-Paris.....	10,680	10,380	10,020	9,890	9,530	9,030	790	860	990	7.4	8.3	9.8
Outer Bangor.....	7,700	7,330	7,250	7,170	6,730	6,580	530	600	670	6.8	8.2	9.2
Patten-Island Falls.....	2,270	2,180	2,180	2,040	1,940	1,920	230	240	270	10.0	10.9	12.2
Presque Isle-Caribou.....	20,830	20,410	20,330	18,590	17,940	17,910	2,250	2,470	2,420	10.8	12.1	11.9
Rockland.....	22,460	21,410	20,930	21,540	20,280	19,990	920	1,130	940	4.1	5.3	4.5
Rumford.....	9,680	9,830	9,320	8,690	8,820	8,250	990	1,010	1,070	10.2	10.3	11.5
Sanford.....	21,330	21,210	19,970	20,190	19,840	18,680	1,140	1,370	1,290	5.3	6.5	6.4
Sebago Lakes Region.....	12,720	12,150	12,190	12,050	11,440	11,410	670	720	780	5.3	5.9	6.4
Skowhegan.....	16,140	15,610	15,530	14,460	13,970	13,850	1,670	1,640	1,680	10.4	10.5	10.8
Stonington.....	5,320	5,080	4,990	5,110	4,770	4,760	210	310	230	4.0	6.1	4.7
Van Buren.....	1,590	1,590	1,480	1,390	1,370	1,300	200	220	180	12.4	13.8	12.4
Waterville.....	24,480	23,910	23,840	22,550	21,830	21,800	1,930	2,080	2,040	7.9	8.7	8.5
<b>NEW ENGLAND STATES (000)</b>												
Connecticut.....	n/a	n/a	1,727.4	n/a	n/a	1,631.3	n/a	n/a	96.2	n/a	n/a	5.6
Massachusetts.....	3,134.0	3,121.0	3,161.0	2,991.0	2,945.0	2,989.0	143.0	177.0	172.0	4.6	5.7	5.4
New Hampshire.....	629.3	636.8	621.2	606.6	609.5	592.8	22.7	27.3	28.4	3.6	4.3	4.6
Rhode Island.....	n/a	n/a	501.4	n/a	n/a	468.0	n/a	n/a	33.4	n/a	n/a	6.7
Vermont.....	320.3	321.6	318.4	308.1	306.7	303.7	12.3	14.9	14.7	3.8	4.6	4.6
UNITED STATES(000).....	131,739	131,657	130,602	124,554	124,278	122,946	7,185	7,378	7,656	5.5	5.6	5.9

### 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 estimates preliminary. Last month and year ago estimates revised.
- 3/ Kittery-York is the five-town Maine portion of the Portsmouth-Rochester PMSA which includes towns in both Maine and New Hampshire.
- Source: These data are developed by the Maine Division of Economic Analysis and Research 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*	11,431	15,711	13,794	1,526	1,903	1,890	914	1,138	1,197

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

**Civilian Labor Force and Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment in Maine**  
**Seasonally Adjusted in Thousands**

ITEM	1994								1995				
	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Civilian Labor Force 1/ .....	609.6	610.1	609.9	609.2	608.7	609.1	608.8	609.2	619.7	623.4	621.5	623.1	631.2
Resident Employment .....	567.1	566.3	565.6	564.7	564.3	564.8	566.1	567.1	584.9	588.9	587.3	586.8	592.0
Unemployment .....	42.5	43.8	44.3	44.5	44.4	44.4	42.8	42.1	34.8	34.5	34.2	36.4	39.4
Percent of Labor Force .....	7.0	7.2	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.0	6.9	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.8	6.2
<b>Nonfarm Wage and Salary</b>													
Employment 2/ .....	530.7	530.7	533.9	534.2	534.8	535.4	535.3	537.3	539.0	541.1	541.7	542.3	541.7
Construction .....	20.8	20.5	21.2	21.3	21.5	22.0	21.9	22.0	21.8	21.7	21.8	22.3	22.0
Manufacturing, Durable Goods .....	40.9	41.0	40.9	40.8	41.0	41.2	41.4	41.6	41.7	42.0	41.9	42.1	41.8
Manufacturing, Nondurable Goods .....	50.5	50.4	50.8	50.9	50.8	50.9	51.0	51.2	51.5	51.1	50.5	50.4	50.1
Transportation and Public Utilities .....	22.8	22.8	22.8	22.5	22.8	23.3	22.9	22.9	22.7	22.7	22.8	23.0	23.2
Wholesale Trade .....	23.6	23.5	23.7	23.8	23.8	23.8	23.7	23.8	23.8	23.9	24.1	24.4	24.4
Retail Trade .....	109.9	110.5	112.9	113.2	112.8	111.6	111.7	112.4	112.9	113.6	113.5	113.5	113.4
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate .....	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.7	26.8	26.8	26.9	26.8	26.7	26.8	26.7	26.7
Services .....	140.7	140.5	141.9	142.6	142.7	142.9	143.2	143.6	146.1	147.0	147.9	147.6	147.6
Government .....	94.9	94.9	93.0	92.4	92.5	92.7	92.6	92.8	91.6	92.3	92.3	92.2	92.4

1/ Place of residence.      2/ Place of work.

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