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E-Newsletter **2/5/10**

State Issues:

Economic News

The Maine Department of Labor recently announced that the state's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 8.3% in December, up from 8.0% in November. This is lower than the national rate, which was 10.0% in December.

In December 2008 the state's unemployment rate was 6.5%. Over the past year approximately 16,000 non-farm jobs have been lost. Over 80% of net job losses were in the manufacturing, construction, retail trade, and government sectors.

State Park Campground Reservations Available Soon

Officials with the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL) announced that the reservation system for state park campgrounds will soon be active for the 2010 season. Reservations are now available for Sebago Lake State Park; and reservations will become available for the entire state park system beginning Monday, February 8.

There are four ways to make reservations at Maine state campgrounds:

- Online at <http://www.campwithme.com>;
- By calling 1-800-332-1501 from within Maine or 207-624-9950 from out of state;
- By mailing reservations to: Bureau of Parks and Lands, ATTN: Reservations, 22 SHS, Augusta, ME 04333; or
- By dropping off completed reservations at the Augusta office.

The 2010 camping season runs from May 24 through September 12. Some state parks are open for camping at other times, but no reservations are required. For more information on Maine state parks, beaches, and historic sites, visit the BPL website at <http://www.maine.gov/doc/parks/>.