

CEFC/RFC Joint Meeting Economic Update

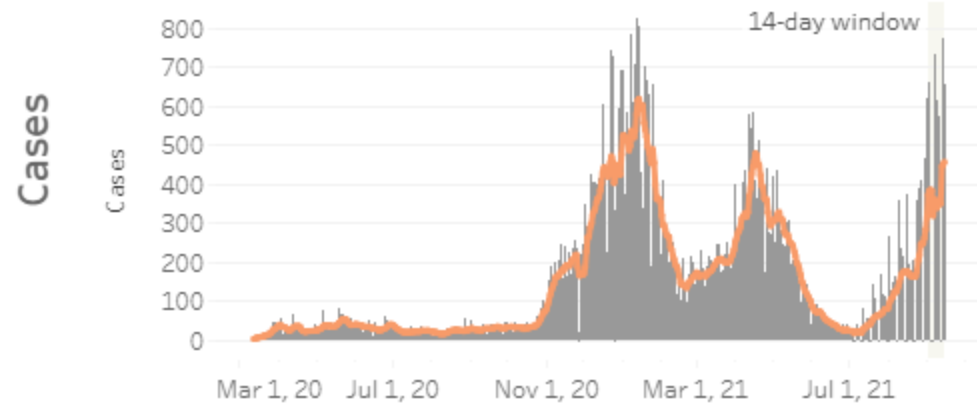
September 17, 2021

Cases are rising despite vaccine rollout

- As of September 15th, 1.68 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in Maine. 73% of Maine's 12+ population has received their final dose, or 64% of the total population
- Maine administered over 25,000 doses per day at the peak of vaccinations (in April 2021), and recently administers around 2,500 doses per weekday.
- In recent weeks cases have increased rapidly, with daily new cases reaching heights of last winter's wave. The number of COVID-19 patients in the ICU has reached the highest number throughout the entire pandemic in early September.
- The Maine CDC notes that Variants of Concern have increased transmission

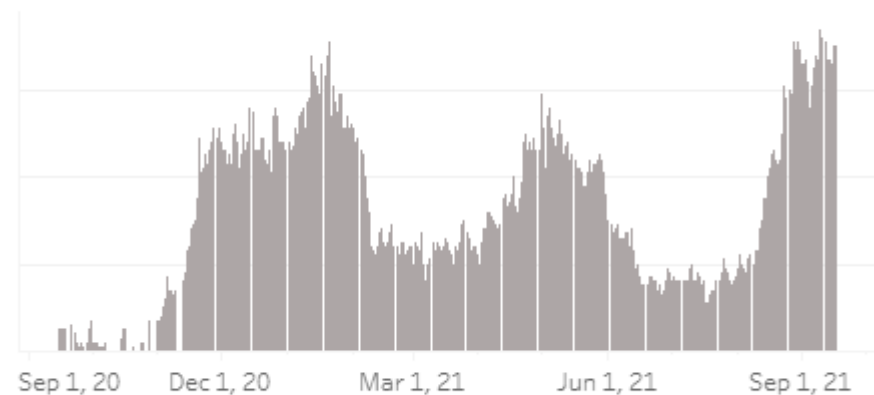
New cases

Purpose: Measure incidence of new COVID-19 cases

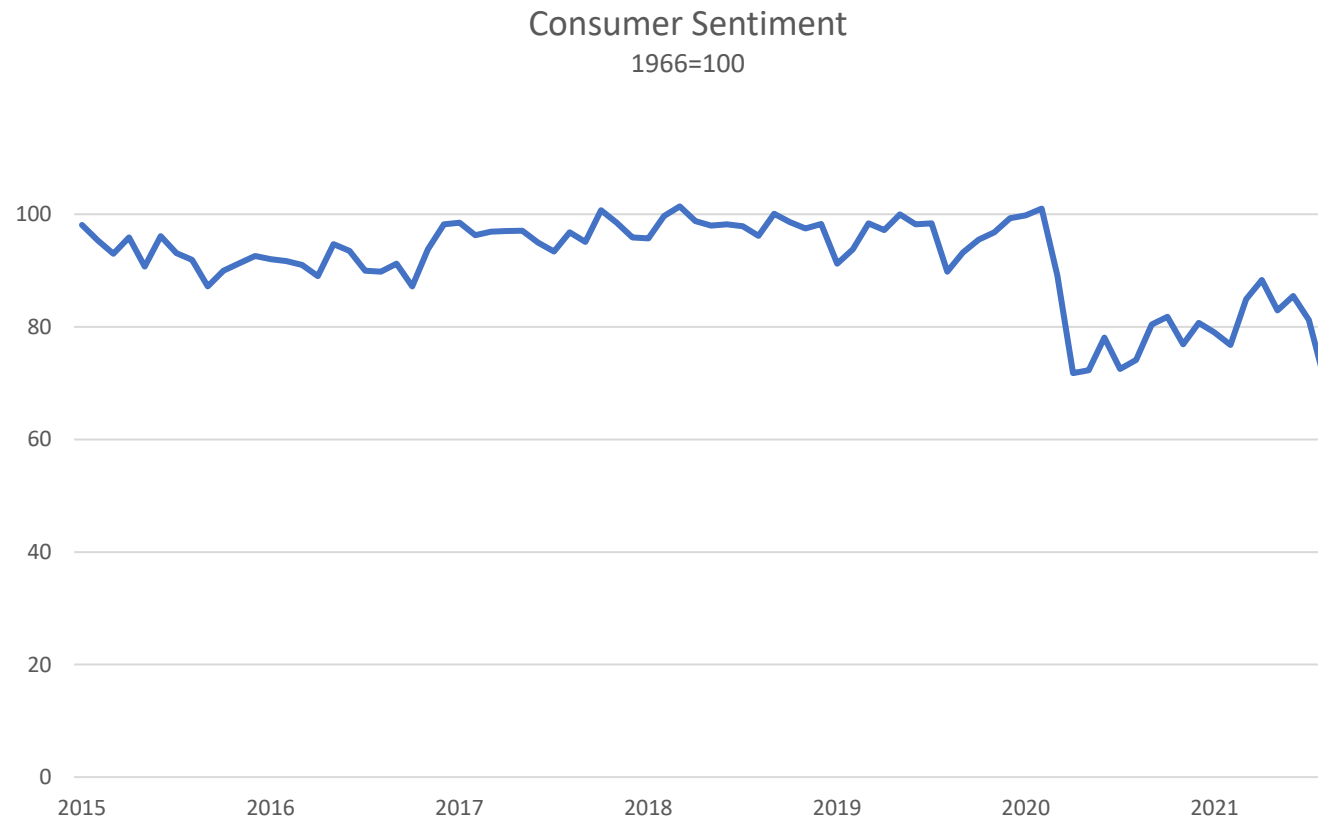


COVID-19 Patients in Critical Care

Hospital Capacity



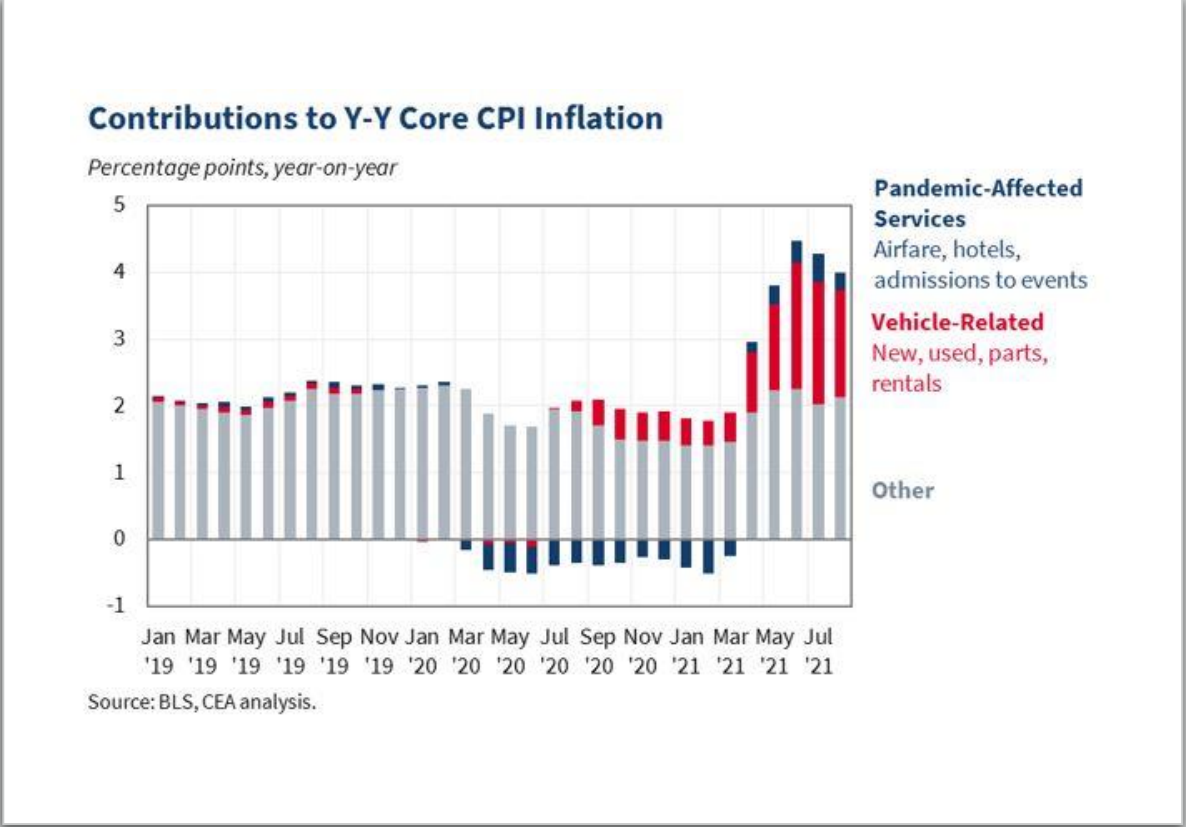
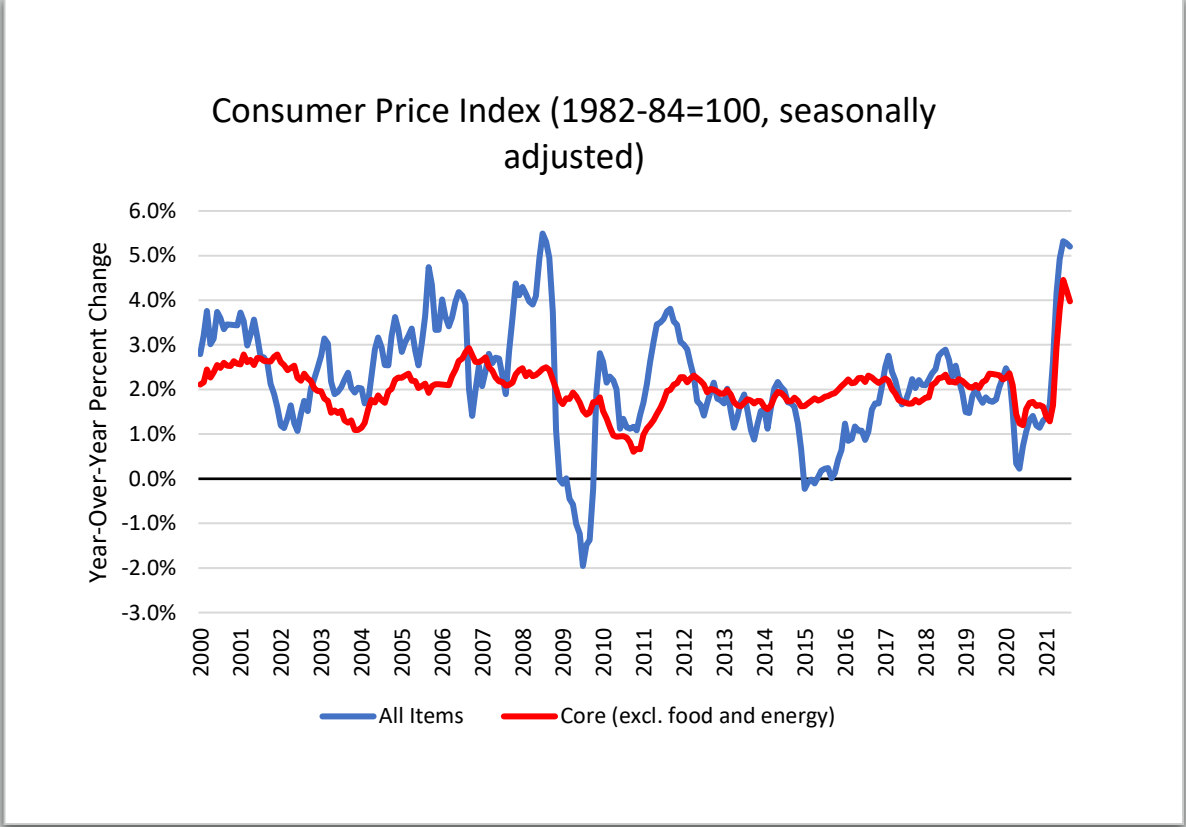
Consumer sentiment dips below April 2020 levels



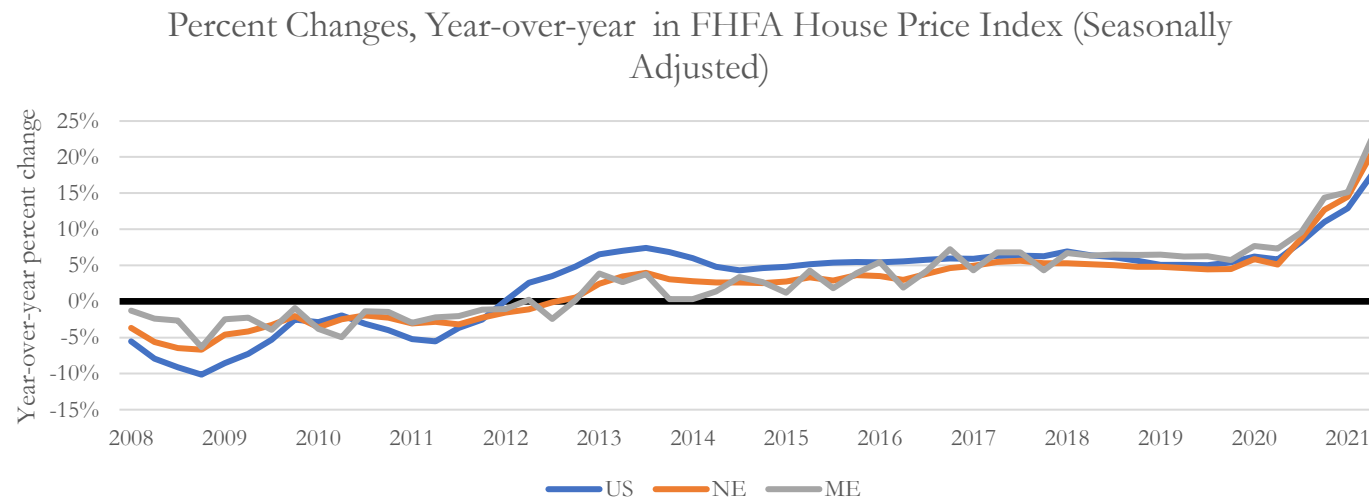
- The rise in the Delta variant has hampered consumer sentiment
- August sentiment fell by 13.4% from July as the survey recorded its least favorable prospects since 2011
- While this may not necessarily signal a downturn in the economy, it may be indicative of behavioral and spending changes that could persist through the end of the year

Inflation remains high; decelerating slightly

- The all-items index rose 5.3% year-over-year, slightly down from 5.4% in July, while core CPI grew by 4.0% year-over-year.
- Food and energy prices have grown faster relative to the all-items index, with energy being up 25.0% year-over-year and food up 3.7% (both higher than in July)
- CPI Inflation remains high though it has decelerated in August, primarily reflecting a drop in vehicle-related and pandemic-affected services prices



House price index



- The second quarter of 2021 was record-breaking growth in house prices
- Maine was up 22.4% over the year, higher than the US and New England average
- July sales data show some early evidence that the number of sales have slowed in Maine, though sales were still higher than 2019 and the median sales price (MSP) continues to climb sharply
- The past three months on record (May, June, and July) had year-over-year growth in MSP well over 20% in Maine

Housing inventory began to rebound over the summer; still meager compared to recent years



Commercial Real Estate Landscape varies in Maine's metros

Downward
Trending
Momentum

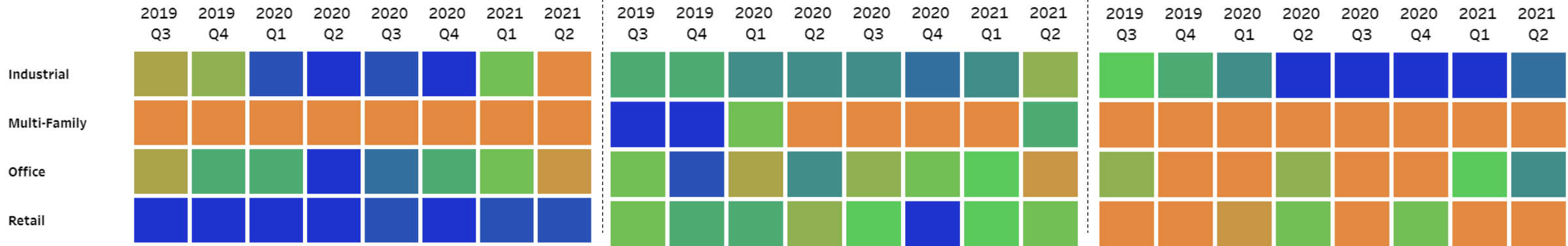


Upward
Trending
Momentum

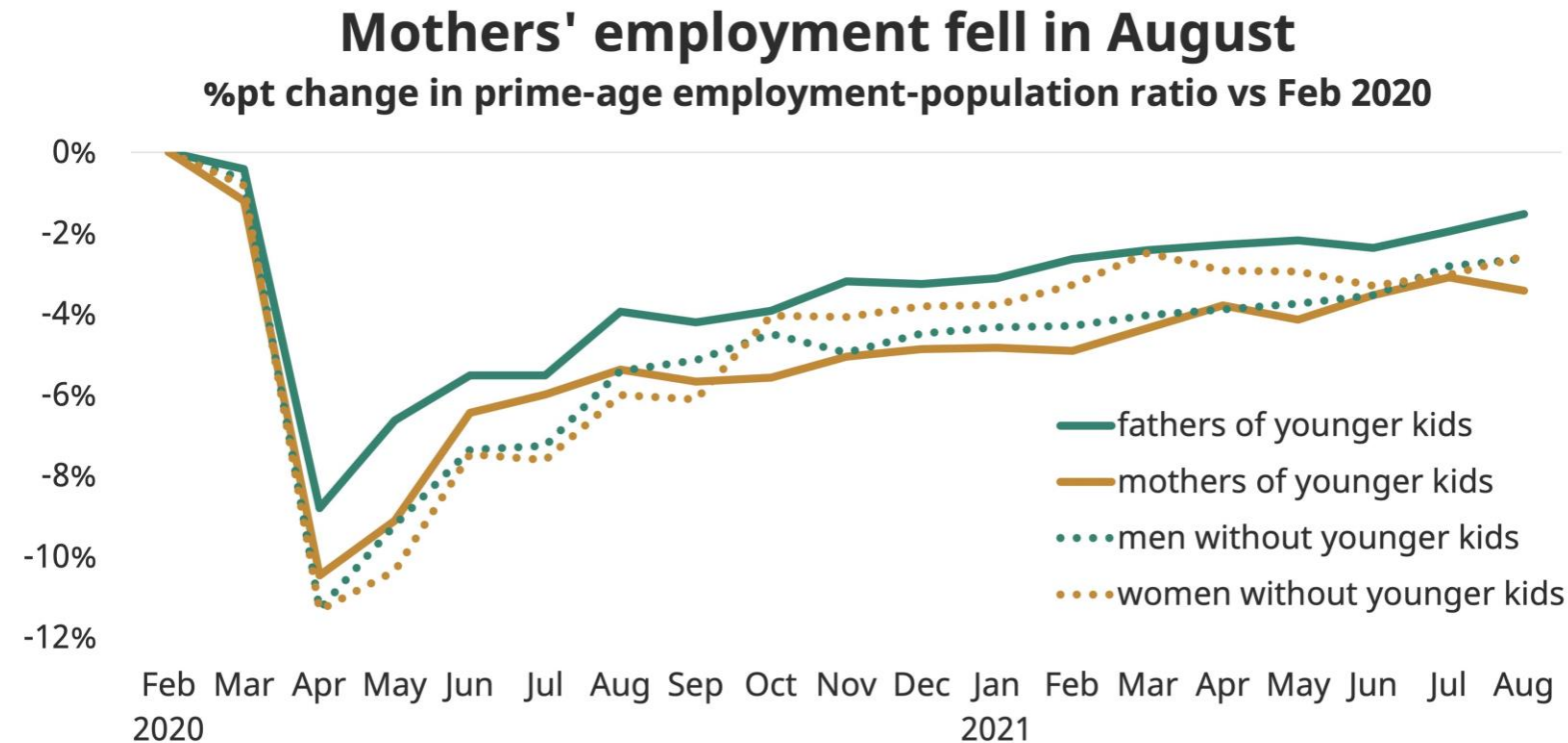
Portland, ME

Lewiston-Auburn, ME

Bangor, ME



Delta continues to impact parents



- Slow reopening of school and daycare centers have affected mothers of young children
- This pattern is similar to that seen in the Fall of 2020
- This impact is greater for mothers of young (<13 years old) children than for mothers of older children

Source: CPS microdata, seasonally adjusted
Adults age 25-54; kids = any 13 or younger

