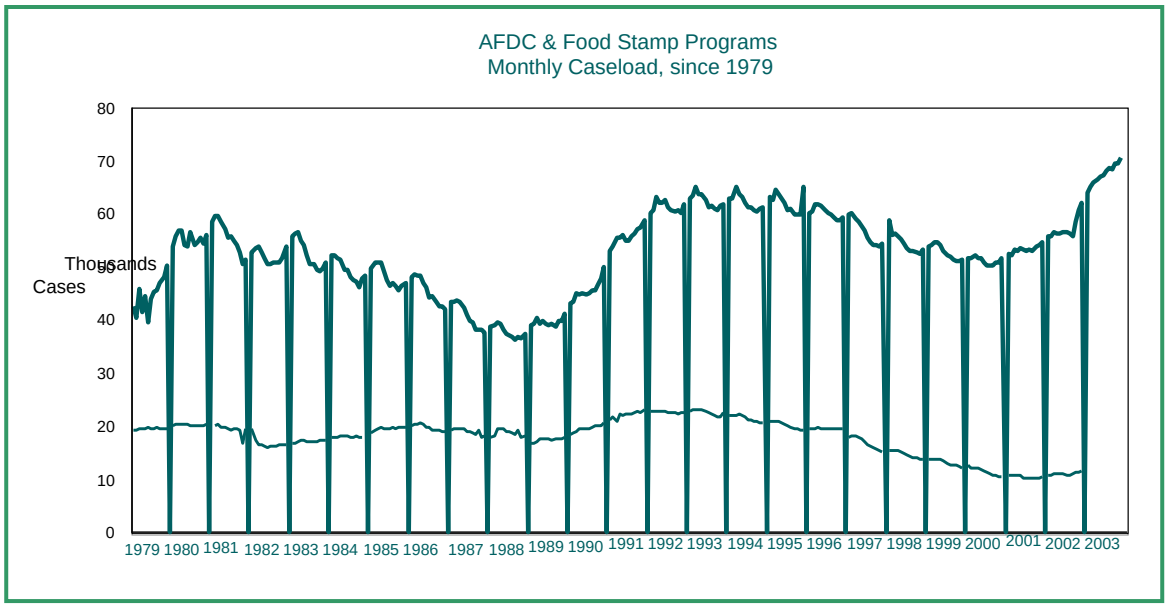
2003
Annual
Report Card on Poverty

in Maine

SUMMARY



May 2004
Maine State Planning Office

Resolves

CHAPTER 36

H.P. 270 - L.D. 334

Resolve, to Implement the Recommendations of the Commission to Study Poverty Among Working Parents with Regard to an Annual Report Card on Poverty

Sec. 1. Report on poverty. Resolved: That the State Planning Office shall report annually to the Legislature, beginning on January 1, 1998, on the subject of poverty in this State. The report must include information on poverty among children and adults, regional differences in poverty rates and indicators, conditions responsible for changes from the prior year, expectations for the coming year and the economic condition of the State's communities.

Effective September 19, 1997, unless otherwise indicated.

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Federal Poverty Guideline

Family Size	1980	1985	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
1	4,210	5,250	6,280	7,470	7,740	7,890	8,050	8,240	8,350	8,590	8,860	8,980	9,310
2	5,590	7,050	8,420	10,030	10,360	10,610	10,850	11,060	11,250	11,610	11,940	12,120	12,490
3	6,970	8,850	10,560	12,590	12,980	13,330	13,650	13,880	14,150	14,630	15,020	15,260	15,670
4	8,350	10,650	12,700	15,150	15,600	16,050	16,450	16,700	17,050	17,650	18,100	18,400	18,850
5	9,730	12,450	14,840	17,710	18,220	18,770	19,250	19,520	19,950	20,670	21,180	21,540	22,030
6	11,110	14,250	16,980	20,270	20,840	21,490	22,050	22,340	22,850	23,690	24,260	24,680	25,210
7	12,280	16,050	19,120	22,830	23,460	24,210	24,850	25,160	25,750	26,710	27,340	27,820	28,390
8								27,980	28,650	29,730	30,420	30,960	31,570
For each additional member:													
Add:	1,170	1,800	2,140	2,560	2,620	2,720	2,800	2,820	2,900	3,020	3,080	3,140	3,180

Data Note:

This 2004 ReportCard on Poverty (covering 2003) is presented as a summary report because it is somewhat shorter than previous ReportCards and contains a larger than usual amount of charts for which new data was not available. Many federal statistics were late this year, and others that were anticipated had not been updated as of the end of April. Several federal measures that have been included in the ReportCard over the past several years have changed, such as the measure of food insecurity, so that comparisons between new data and historical data cannot be made.

At the state level, figures on enrollment rates in the Food Stamp and TANF programs were only sporadically available. These figures are of greatest importance since they are usually the most current (up to the previous month) indicators of households experiencing difficulty making ends meet. Enrollment data is especially valuable to regional comparisons, as many other state and federal statistics for counties have not been as available in recent years.

Not all changes in the available data were bad, however. The Census Bureau has begun released an estimate of persons according to the ratio of income to the poverty level with comparisons for various age groups and household types. As the American Community Survey (a new approach to collecting data constantly throughout the decade rather than relying on the "long form" every 10 years) begins to yield results, it is anticipated that many data items that had previously been available only when the decennial censuses are conducted will now become available in interim years and in some cases, at county and municipal levels.

1. Key Trends

Poverty Level: The poverty rate in Maine rose above the national average in 2002 after remaining slightly below the national average for several years. The Census Bureau estimates that 170,000 Maine residents were living below the poverty line in 2002, up 35,000 from when the 2000 census was taken.

Food Stamp Program Enrollment: Statewide food stamp program enrollment grew significantly for a second year in a row. The average annual enrollment increased by nearly 12,000 individuals (over 6,600 households) in 2003. Food Stamps purchased over $11 million in food for Maine households in December, 2003, or $82 per person for the more than 138,000 receiving the benefits.

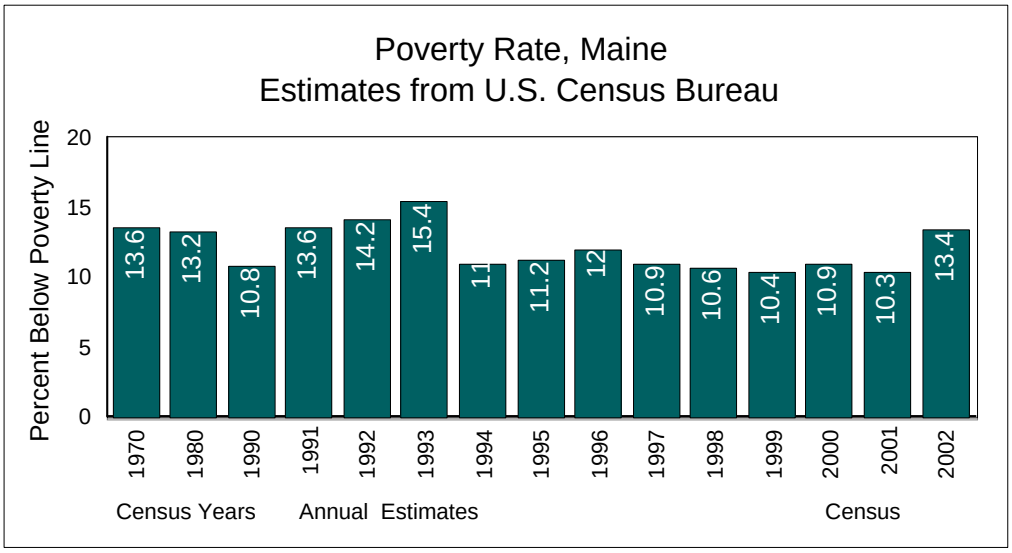
Transfer Payments: The portion of household income derived from transfer payments rose in 2000 but the 2001 figure has not been computed for states. In 2001 the national average increased. Increases in food stamps, unemployment and medical programs in Maine suggest that Maine's reliance on transfer payments is also rising. Though a greater portion of income in Maine is typically from transfer payments due to the larger portion of elderly in the population (hence a higher portion receiving social security, railroad retirement, and other benefits), Maine's dependence on transfer payments accelerated in the mid 1990's and has remained much higher than the national average since.

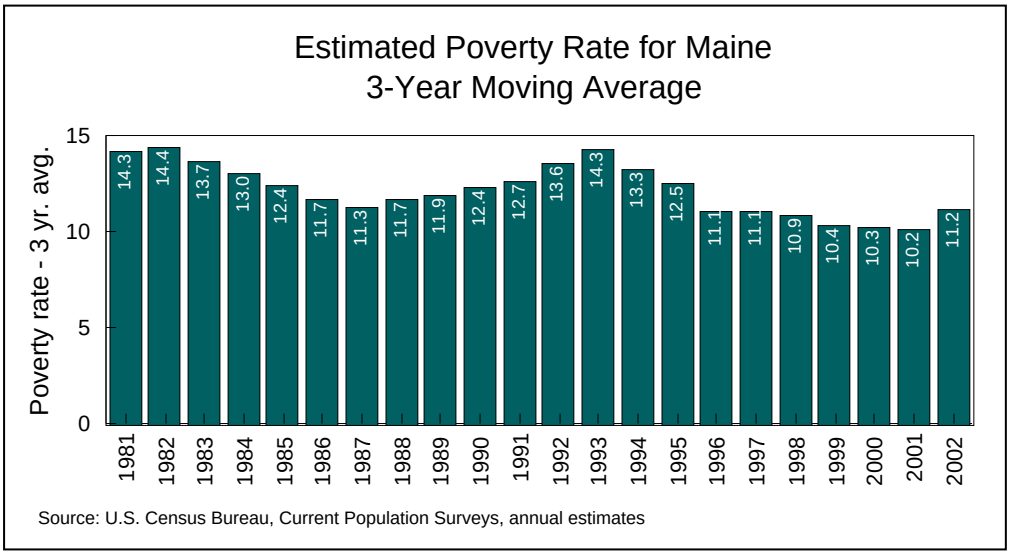
Employment, Income & Earnings: Maine's relative position compared to the national average improved some but largely because the nation has lagged while Maine's income and earnings continued to grow at a more constant pace. Job growth has was up slightly in 2003 after two years of decline, but unemployment also grew, rising from 4..4% to 5%.

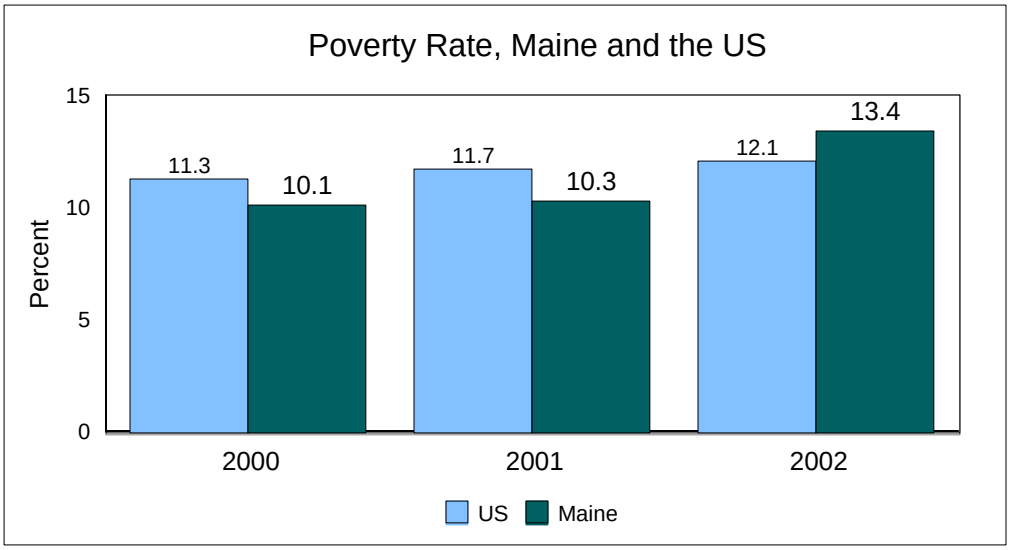
2. Measures of the Extent of Poverty

A. Poverty Estimates

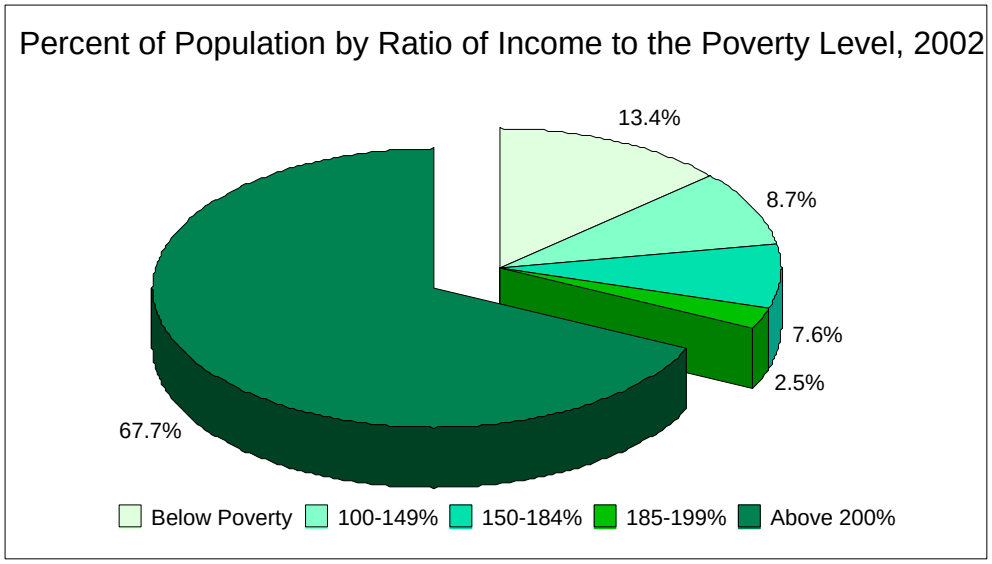
The latest estimates of poverty released by the Census Bureau for 2002 shows the poverty rate in Maine rising above the national average (13.4% compared to 12.1% nationally) . Since the 2000 census was conducted, Maine's poverty rate has risen faster than the national average.





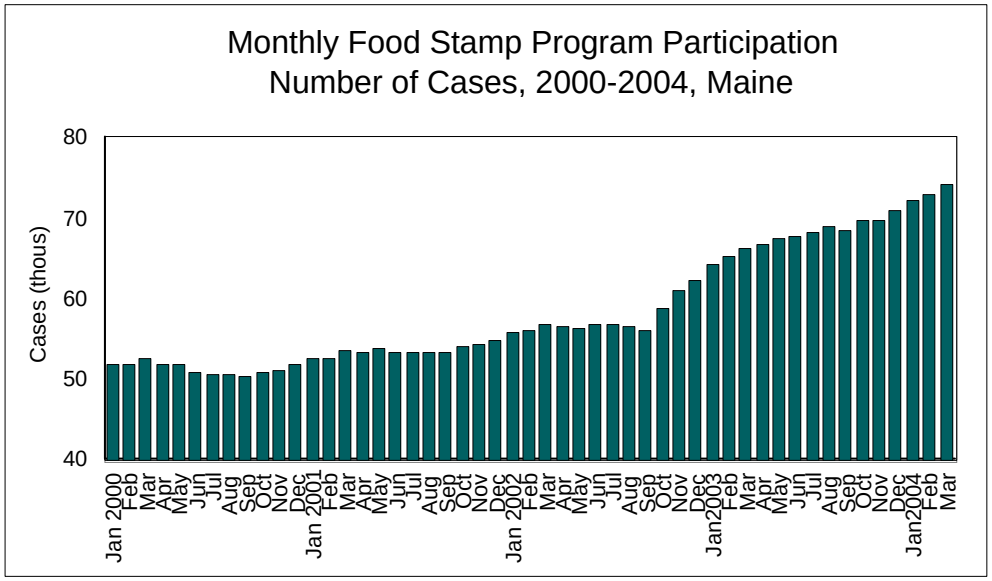


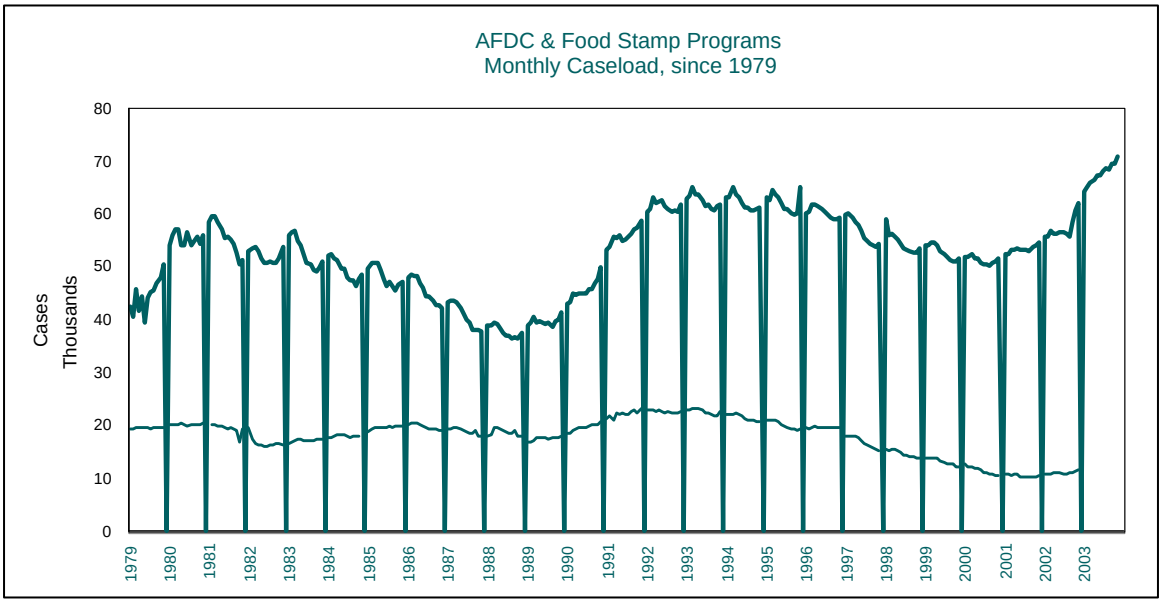
The federal poverty level itself is a "bare bones" income figure below which individuals will have difficulty achieving even the most basic "lower level standard of living." In general, most persons with income that is below 185 – 200% of the poverty level have inadequate resources to meet basic needs. The number of individuals in Maine who live in households with income below 200% of the poverty level increased from 367,000 in 1999 (2000 Census) to 408,000 in 2002 according to census estimates, an increase from 30% to 32.2% of the state's population.



B. Food Stamp Program Enrollment

Food Stamp Program Participation continued to increase in 2003. Enrollment grew by more than 6600 new households, amounting to over 13,000 individuals. Since January 2000, more than 20,000 households have been added to the list of food stamp program recipients, a 39% increase in 4 years' time.

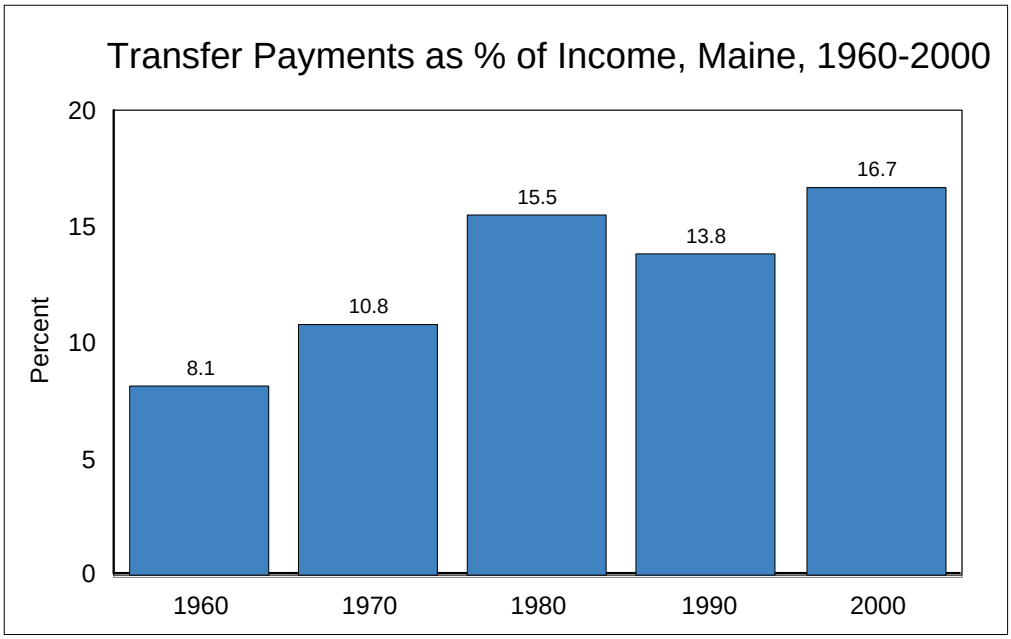




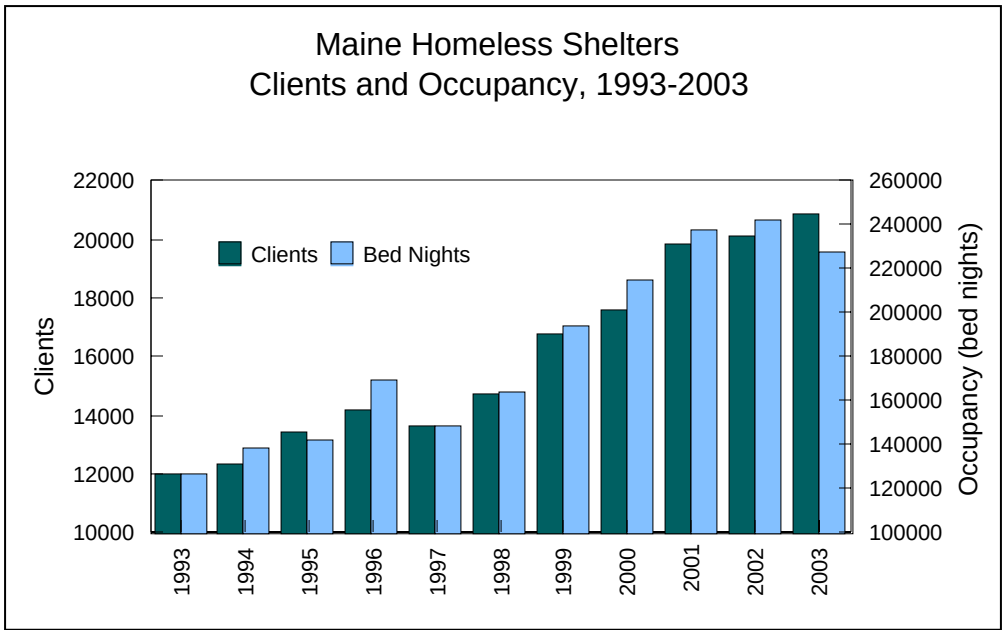
Note: Historic data in this graph for the AFDC program was replaced by TANF in more recent years and became unavailable on a steady basis in 2003.

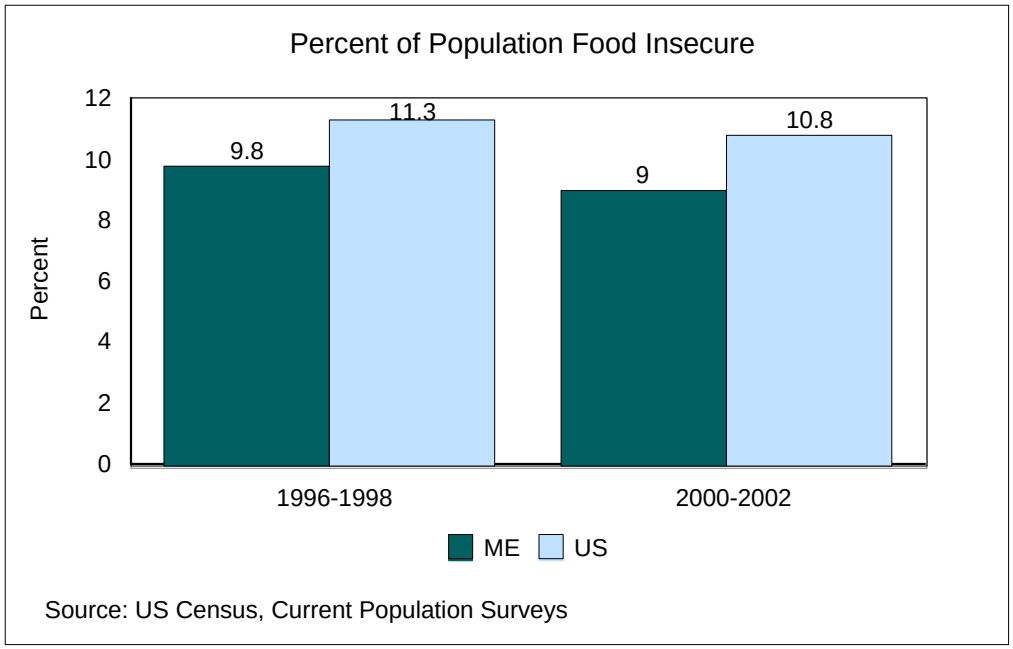
C. Portion of Income derived from Transfer Payments

Transfer Payment data has not been updated. No new data is available.

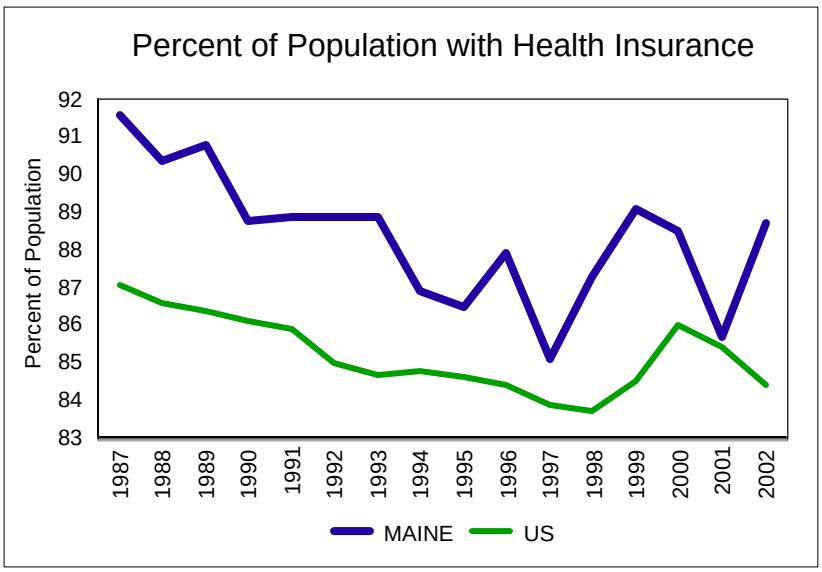


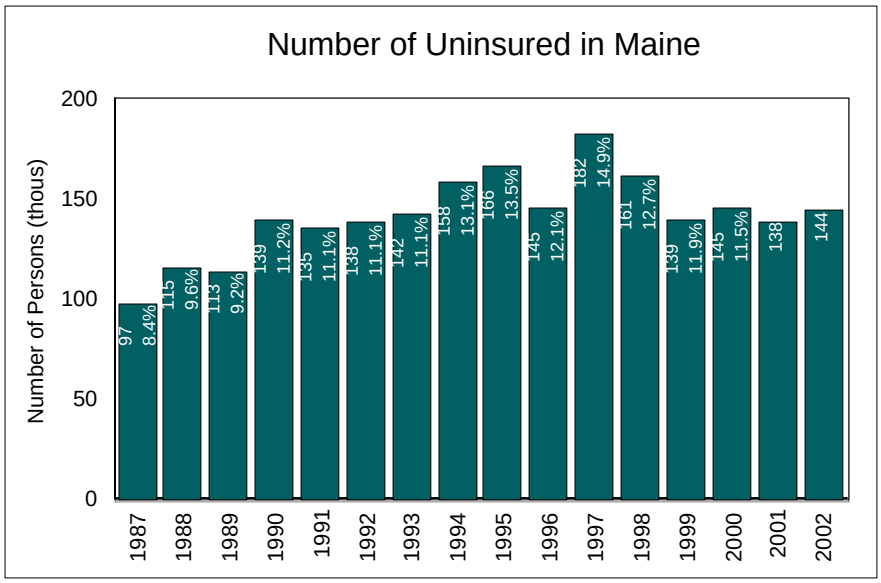
D. Other indicators of Need

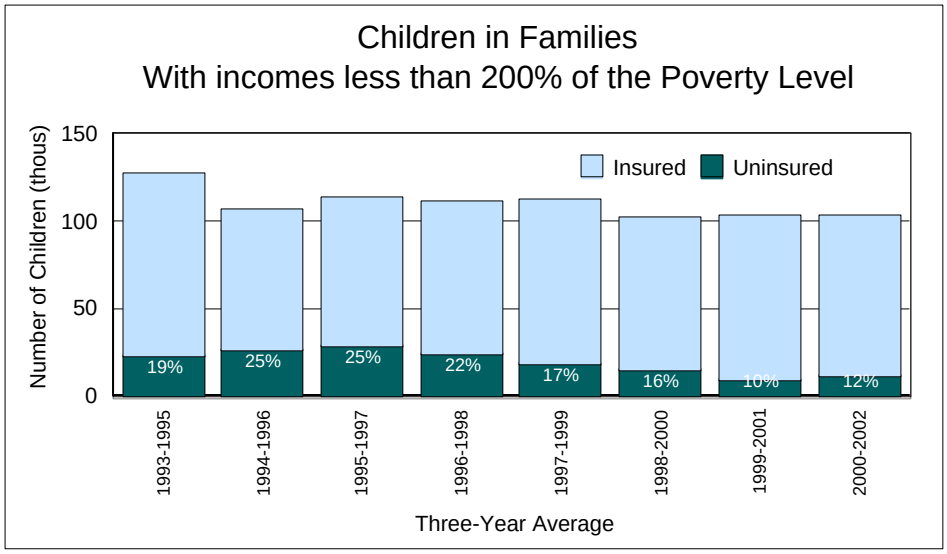




NOTE: New data does not correspond with data for previous years. The system of measuring food security has changed. The Census Bureau now computes 3-year averages. 1996-1998 have been adjusted to the reflect the revised methodology.


Percent of Population with Health Insurance
Percent of Population
92
91
90
89
88
87
86
85
84
83
1987
1988
1989
1990
1991
1992
1993
1994
1995
1996
1997
1998
1999
2000
2001
2002
MAINE
US


Number of Uninsured in Maine
Number of Persons (thous)
200
150
100
50
0
97 8.4%
115 9.6%
113 9.2%
139 11.2%
135 11.1%
138 11.1%
142 11.1%
158 13.1%
166 13.5%
145 12.1%
182 14.9%
161 12.7%
139 11.9%
145 11.5%
138
144
1987
1988
1989
1990
1991
1992
1993
1994
1995
1996
1997
1998
1999
2000
2001
2002


Children in Families
With incomes less than 200% of the Poverty Level
Number of Children (thous)
150
100
50
0
Insured
Uninsured
19%
25%
25%
22%
17%
16%
10%
12%
1993-1995
1994-1996
1995-1997
1996-1998
1997-1999
1998-2000
1999-2001
2000-2002
Three-Year Average

E. Special Populations and Poverty

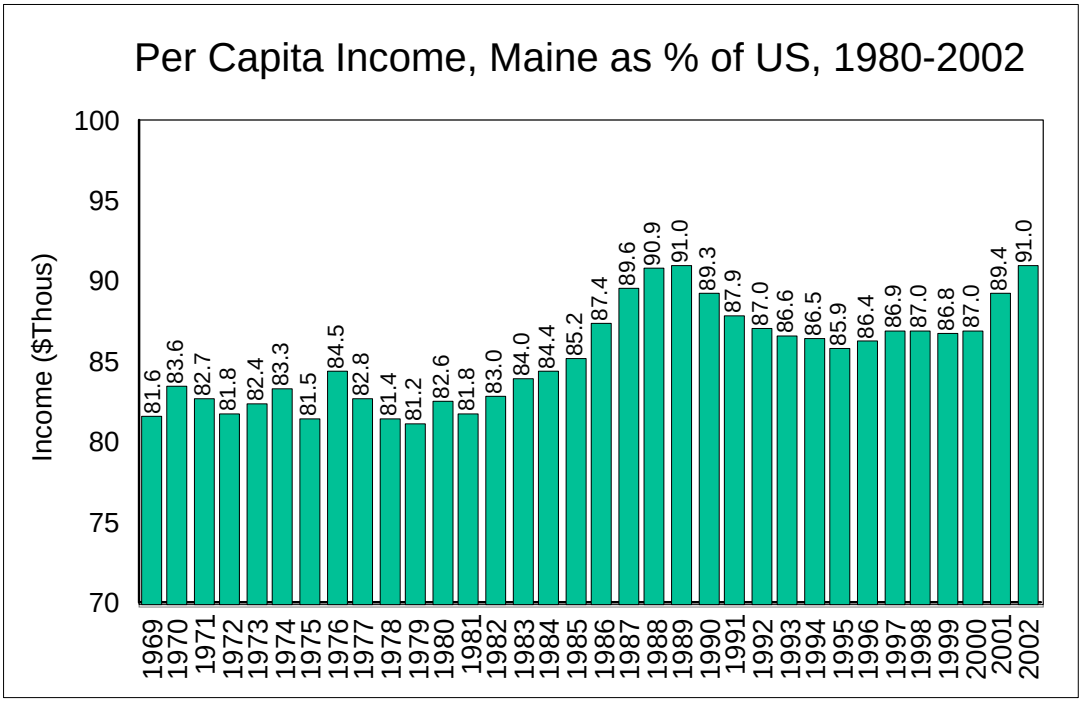
2002 Estimtes of Poverty among selected Populations

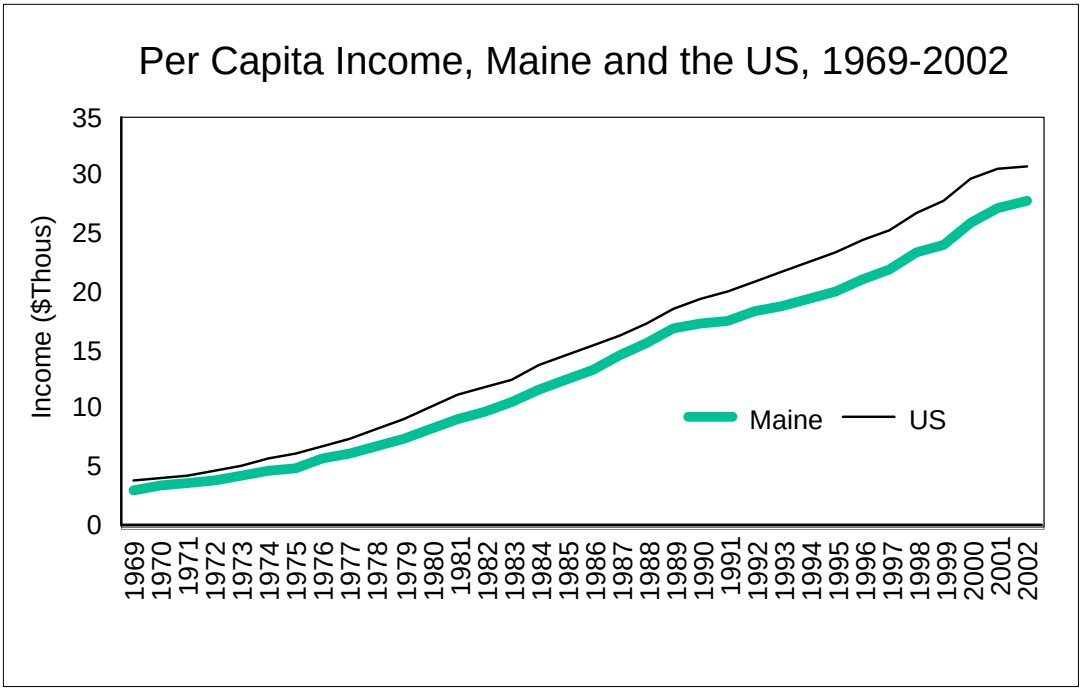
	Number of Persons (in thousands) Below Poverty	Ratio to: 100-149%	150-184%	185-199%	Total < 200%	Above 200%	Total Pop
Total Population	170	110	96	32	408	857	1,265
Children 5-17	35	16	18	5	74	129	203
All Persons under 18	51	21	25	8	105	164	269
Related Children <18	50	20	23	9	102	160	262
Adults 18-64	95	55	46	13	209	591	800
Age 65+	24	35	25	10	94	102	196
All Families	37	23	28	9	97	248	345
Persons in Fem Hd Hsd	51	11	10	4	76	27	103

	Percent of Population Below Poverty	100-149%	150-184%	185-199%	Total <200%
Total Population	13.4	8.7	7.6	2.5	32.3
Children 5-17	17.2	7.9	8.9	2.5	36.5
All Persons under 18	19.0	7.8	9.3	3.0	39.0
Related Children <18	19.1	7.6	8.8	3.4	38.9
Adults 18-64	11.9	6.9	5.8	1.6	26.1
Age 65+	12.2	17.9	12.8	5.1	48.0
All Families	10.7	6.7	8.1	2.6	28.1
Persons in Fem Hd Hsd	49.5	10.7	9.7	3.9	73.8

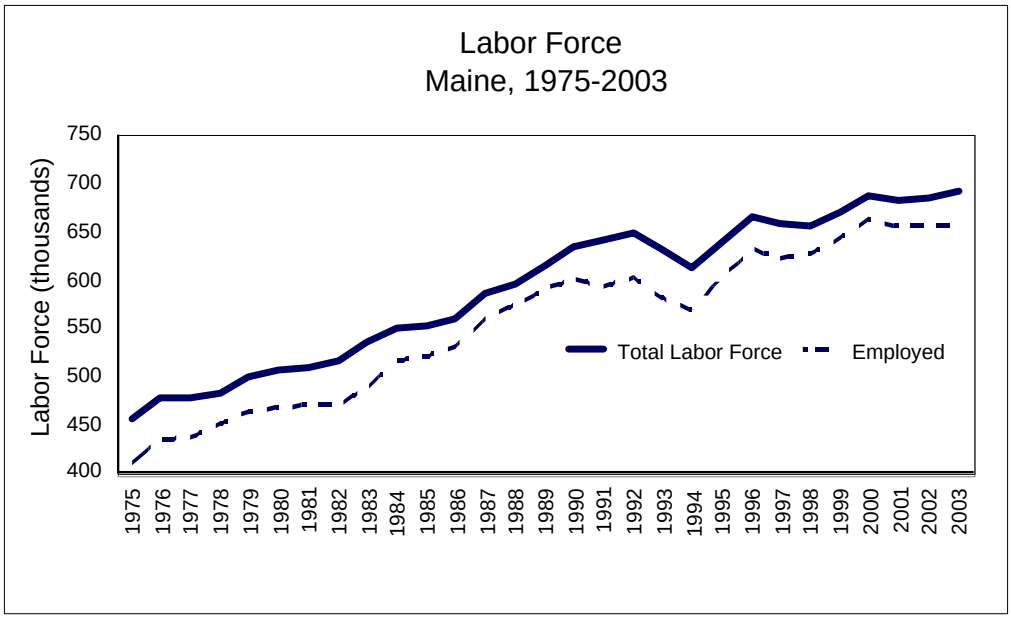
3. Conditions Contributing to Poverty – Economic Indicators

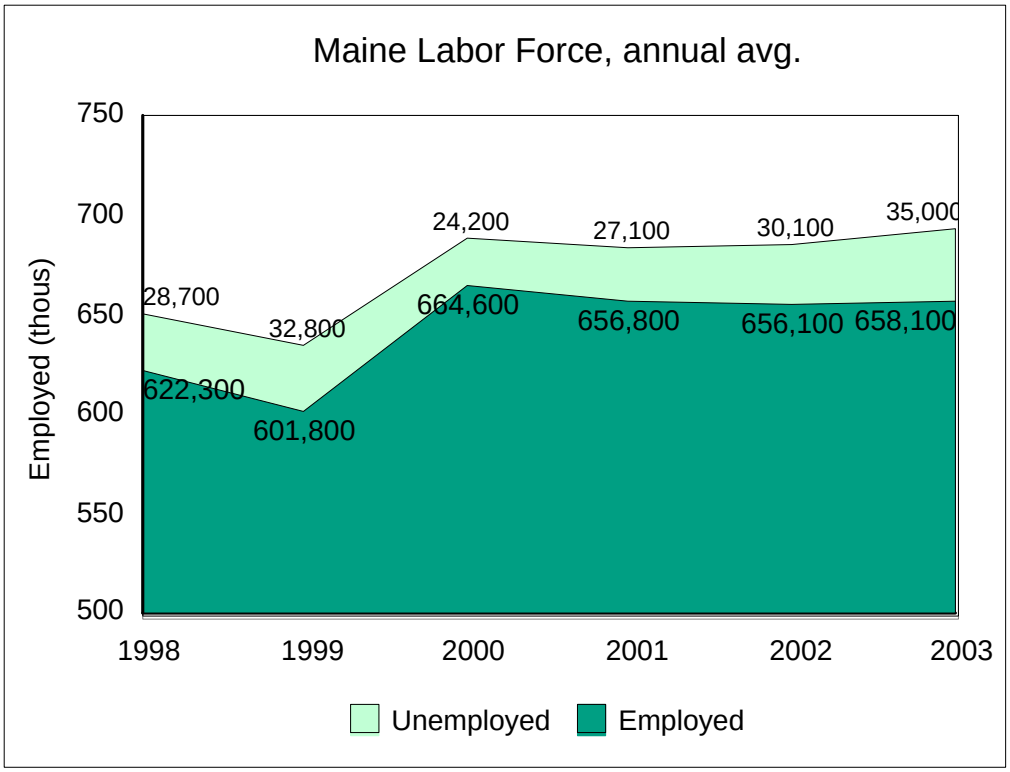
A. Income Distribution and Disparity

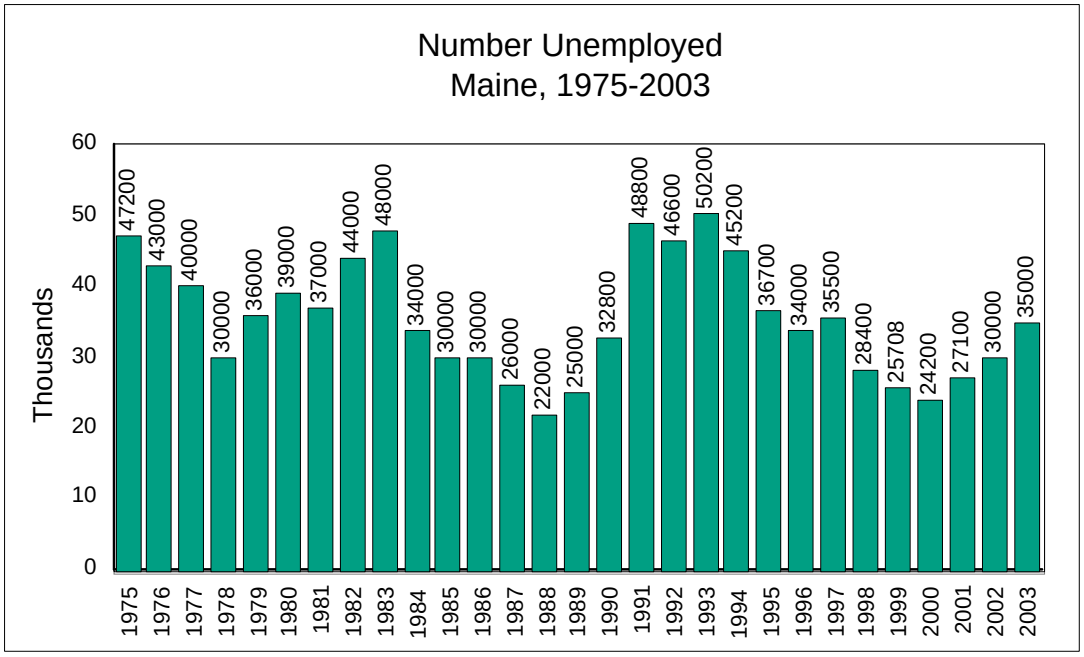




B. Employment and Unemployment






Number Unemployed
Maine, 1975-2003
Thousands
0
10
20
30
40
50
60
47200
43000
40000
30000
36000
39000
37000
44000
48000
34000
30000
30000
26000
22000
25000
32800
48800
46600
50200
45200
36700
34000
35500
28400
25708
24200
27100
30000
35000
1975
1976
1977
1978
1979
1980
1981
1982
1983
1984
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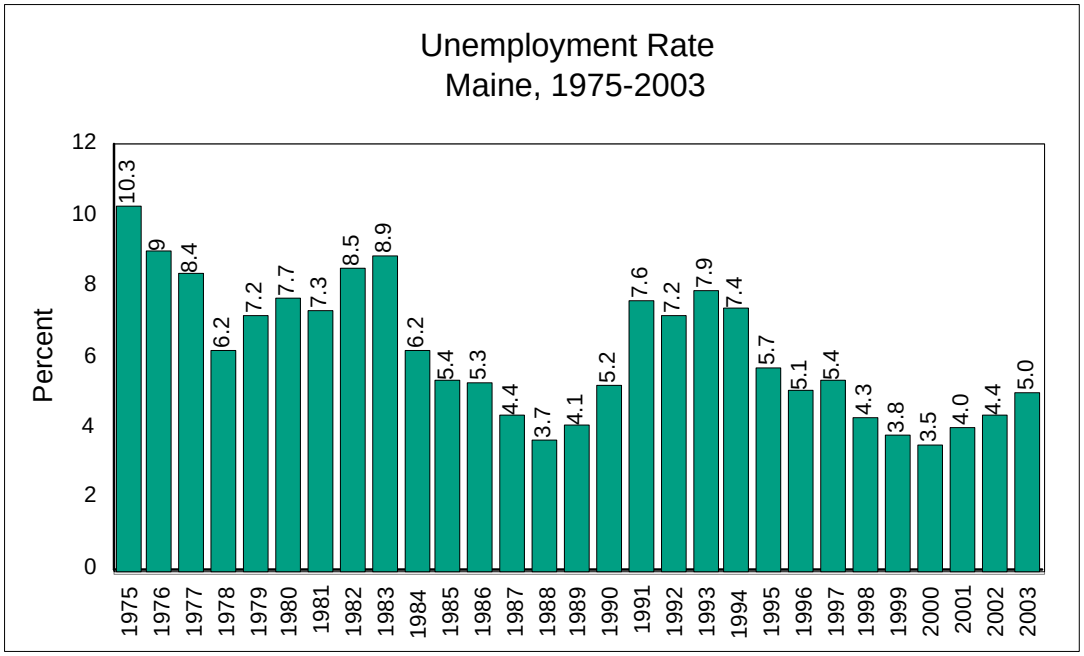
1998
1999
2000
2001
2002
2003


Unemployment Rate
Maine, 1975-2003
Percent
0
2
4
6
8
10
12
10.3
9
8.4
6.2
7.2
7.7
7.3
8.5
8.9
6.2
5.4
5.3
4.4
3.7
4.1
5.2
7.6
7.2
7.9
7.4
5.7
5.1
5.4
4.3
3.8
3.5
4.0
4.4
5.0
1975
1976
1977
1978
1979
1980
1981
1982
1983
1984
1985
1986
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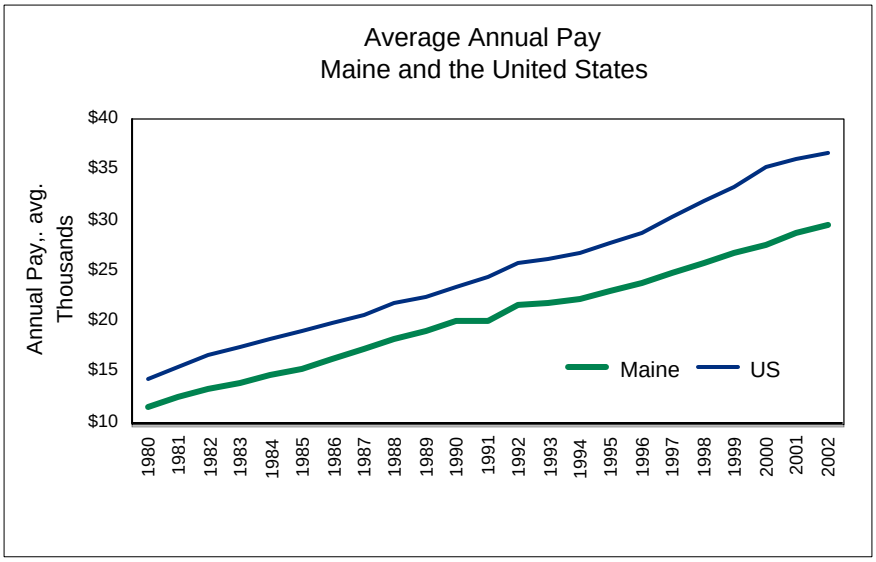
2003

C. Earnings


Average Annual Pay
Maine and the United States
Annual Pay., avg.
Thousands
$40
$35
$30
$25
$20
$15
$10
Maine
US
1980
1981
1982
1983
1984
1985
1986
1987
1988
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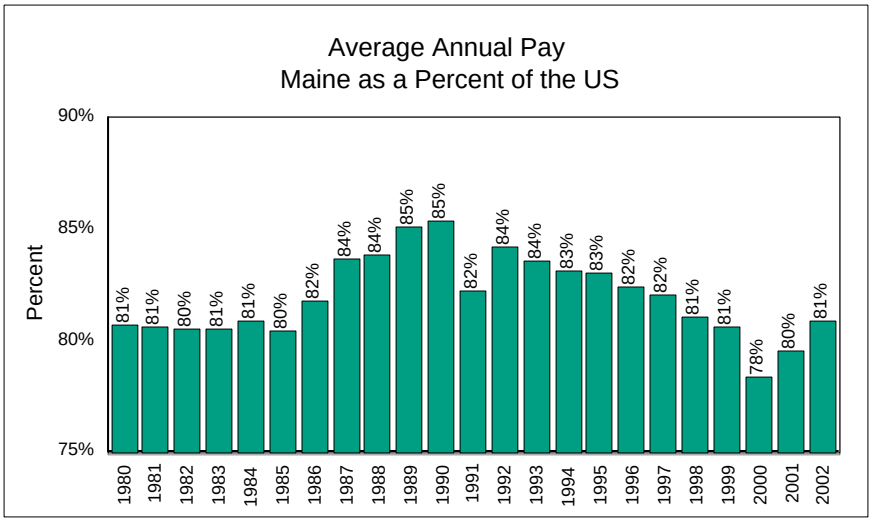
1998
1999
2000
2001
2002


Average Annual Pay
Maine as a Percent of the US
Percent
90%
85%
80%
75%
81%
81%
80%
81%
81%
80%
82%
84%
84%
85%
85%
82%
84%
84%
83%
83%
82%
82%
81%
81%
78%
80%
81%
1980
1981
1982
1983
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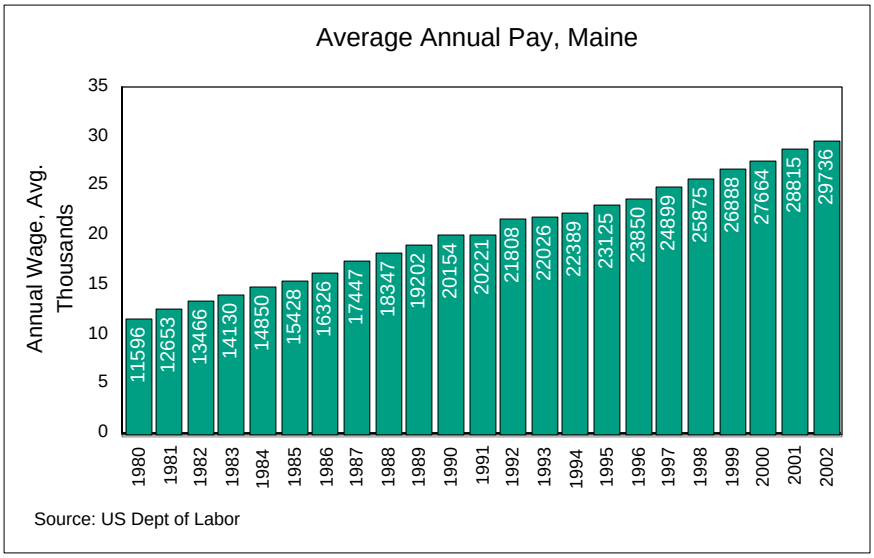
2000
2001
2002


Average Annual Pay, Maine
Annual Wage, Avg.
Thousands
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
11596
12653
13466
14130
14850
15428
16326
17447
18347
19202
20154
20221
21808
22026
22389
23125
23850
24899
25875
26888
27664
28815
29736
1980
1981
1982
1983
1984
1985
1986
1987
1988
1989
1990
1991
1992
1993
1994
1995
1996
1997
1998
1999
2000
2001
2002
Source: US Dept of Labor

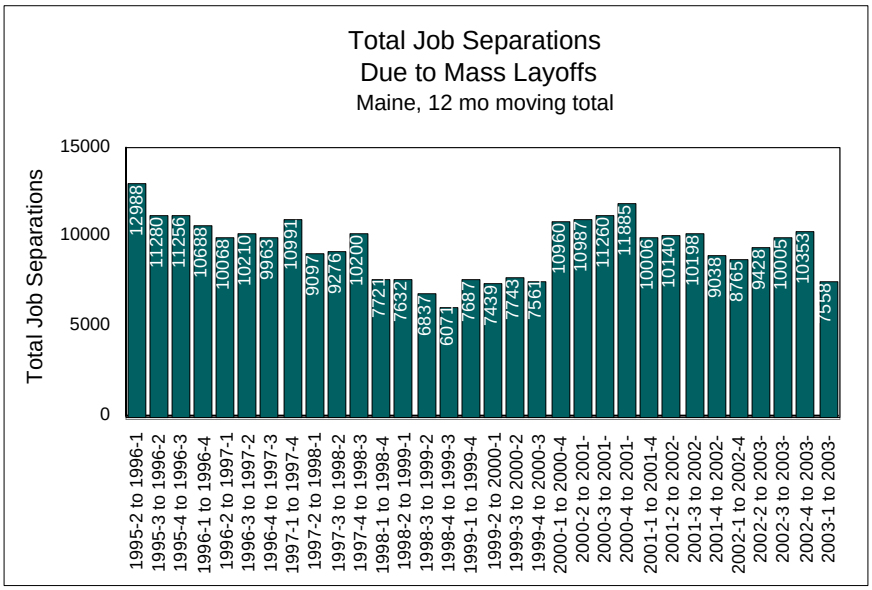
D. Relationship of Economic Structure and Earnings

DATA Note:

The US Department of Labor recently adopted a new system of classifying industries, commonly referred to as "NAICS", or North American Industry Classification System. Previously the old system, which divided industries into ten categories had been used in this report. The US Bureau of Labor Statistics began to use the new 20-sector system is used for the annual pay survey this year. The new NAICS categories are substantially different from the previous ten and are not comparable.

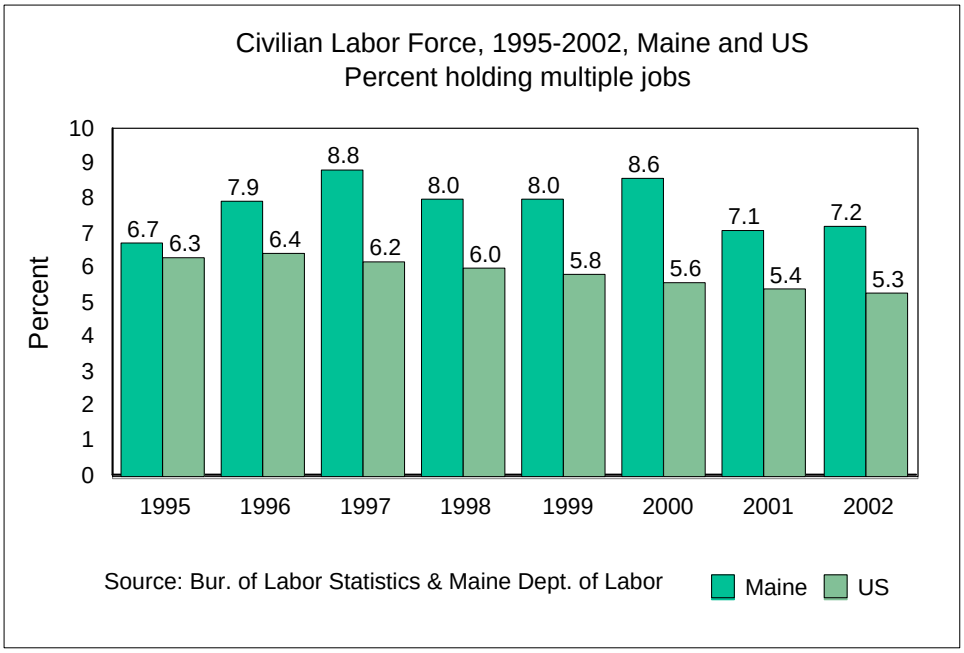
Average Annual Pay reports from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, US Dept. of Labor, have been discontinued. It is anticipated that some of the data will become available via a Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages. However, at this time it appears that the data will be collected only for large counties, and will provide sufficient data for Maine.

Mass Layoffs

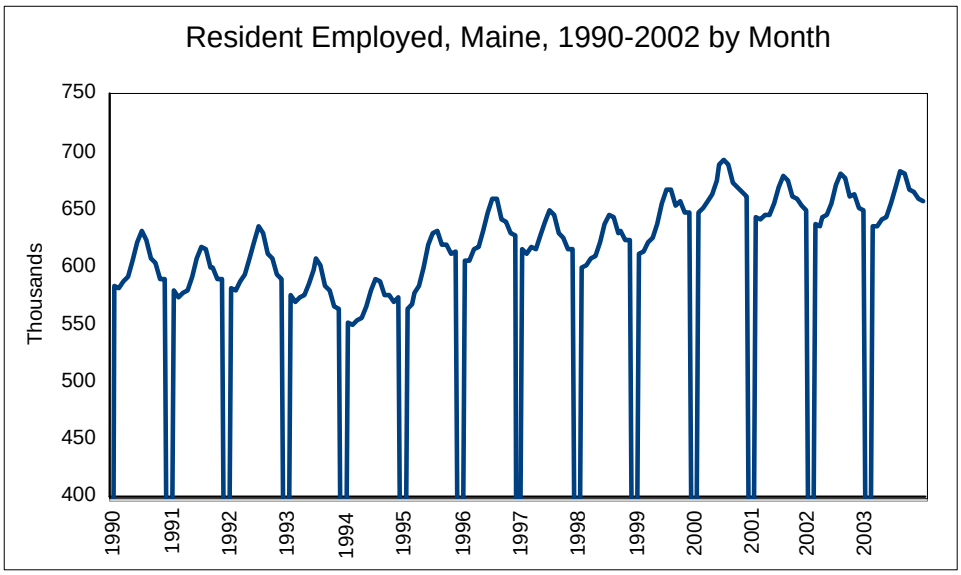


NOTE: 2002 data is for 3 quarters only. Data for the third quarter of 2002 is suppressed.

Multiple Job Holdings

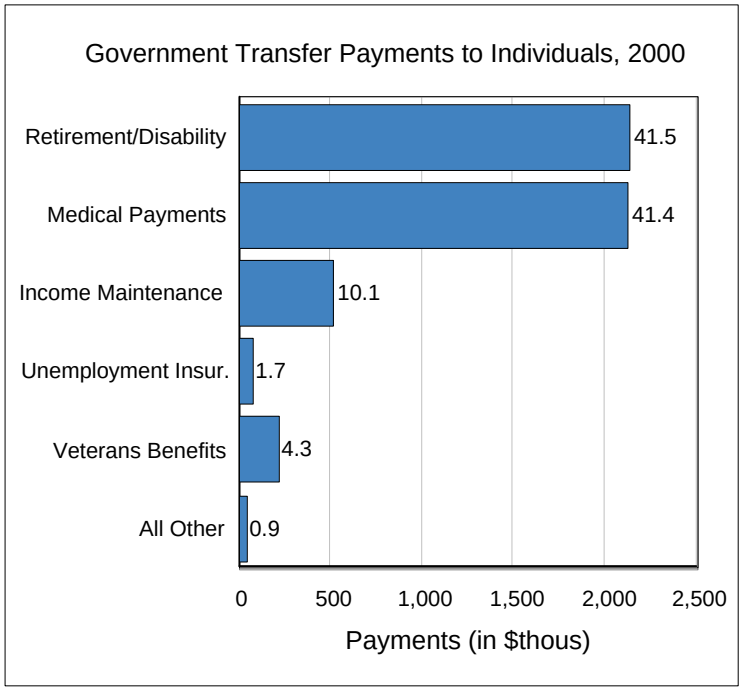


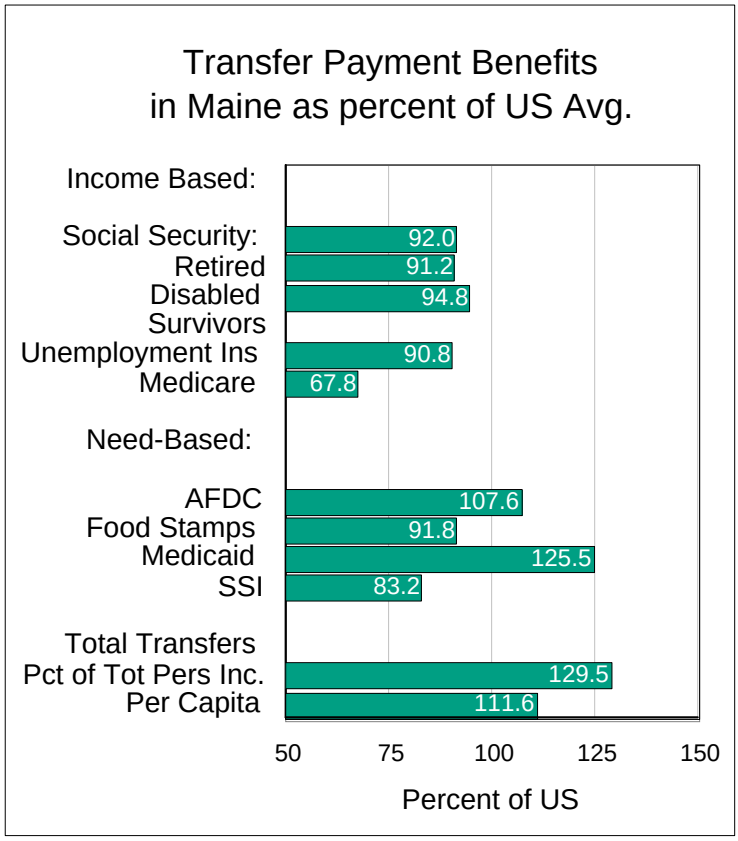
Seasonality



4. Adequacy of Transfer Payments

Note: This section is repeated from last year's ReportCard. New data is not available at this time.





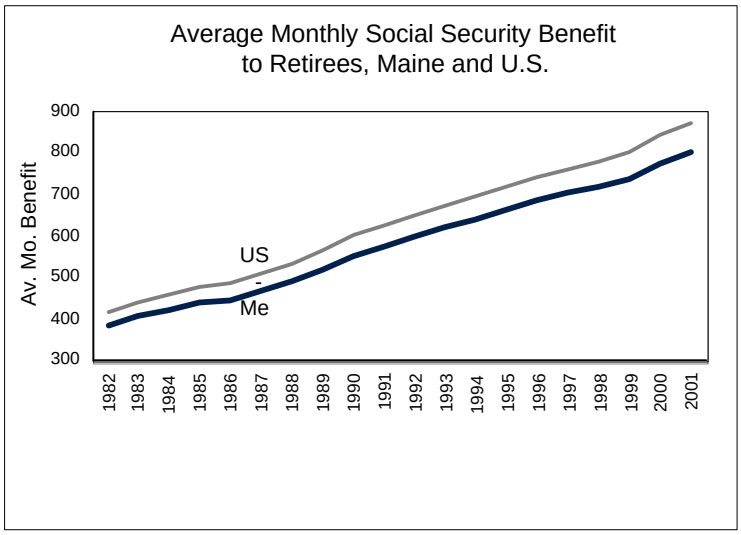
Income Transfer Programs - Avg. Monthly Benefit

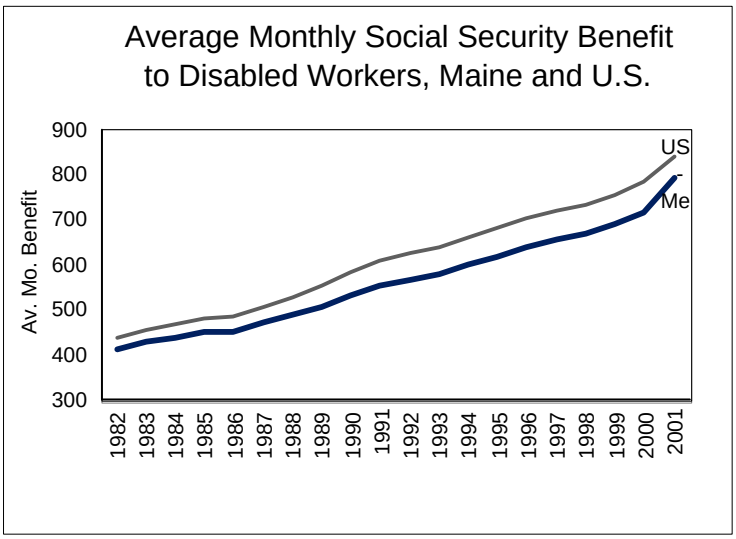
	Maine	US	Me:US Ratio
Income Based Benefits:			
Social Security Programs (2001)			
Retired	$805	$875	92.0
Disabled	$743	$815	91.2
Survivors	$797	$841	94.8
Unemployment Ins.(2001)	$216	$238	90.8
Medicare,avg. annual (2000)*	$3,723	$5,489	67.8
Need-Based Benefits:			
AFDC/TANF (1999)*	$467	$434	107.6
Food Stamps (2000)	$67	$73	91.8
Medicaid (1998)*	$4,394	$3,501	125.5
SSI (2000)	$322	$387	83.2
Total Transfer Payments:			
Pct of Tot Pers Inc. (2000)	16.7	12.9	129.5
Per Capita (2000)	4,233	3,792	111.6

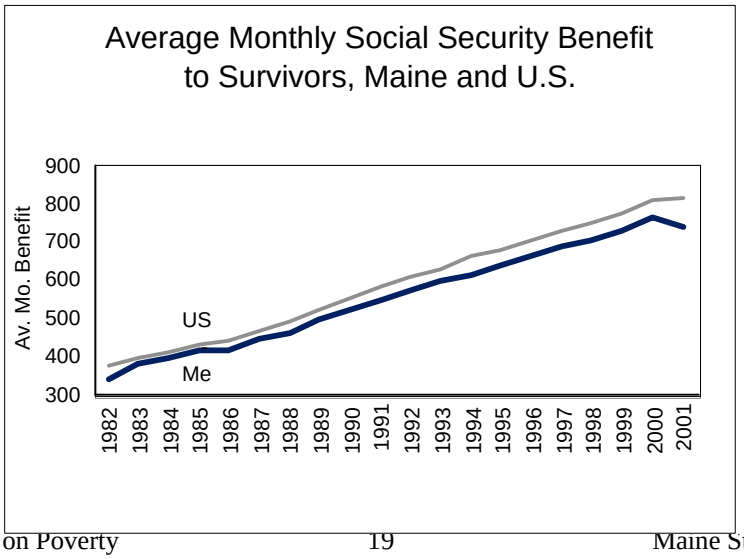
* Data not available to update from last year.

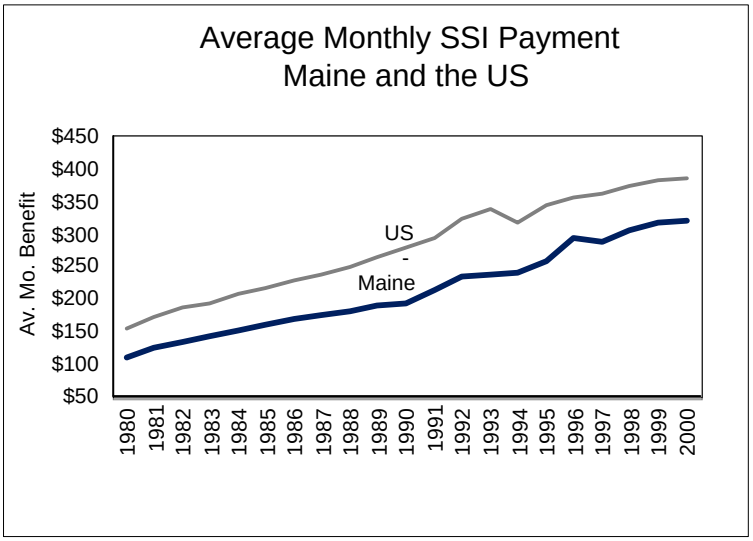
NOTE: The national data for a number of the programs tracked in this section of the Report Card have not been updated at this time.

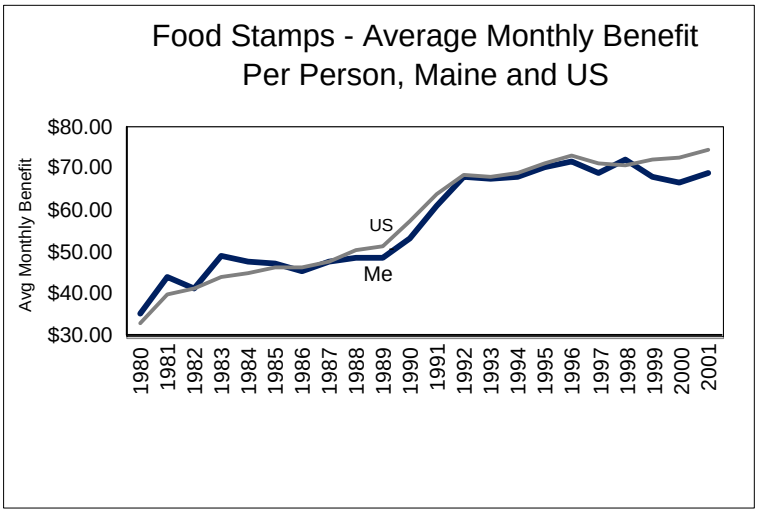
Comparison of Benefits, Maine and the US

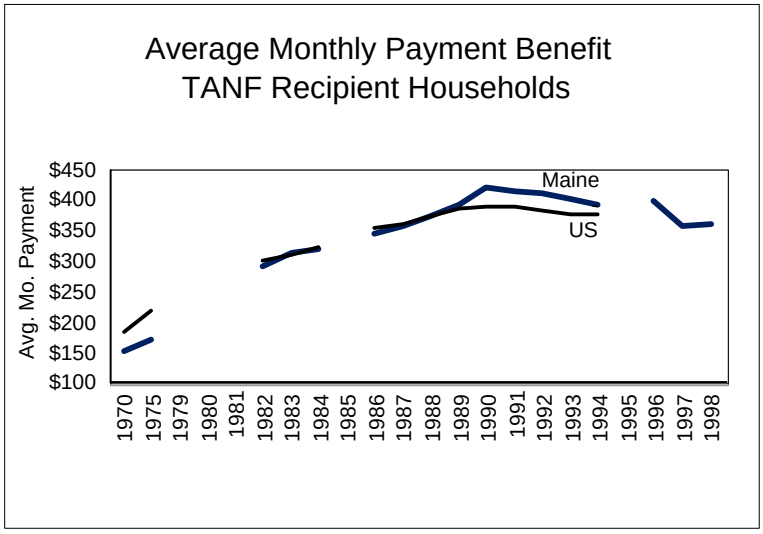


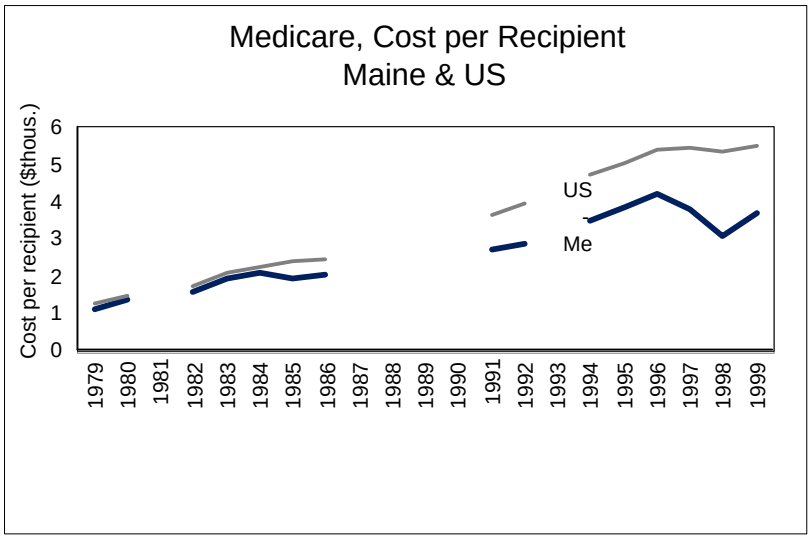


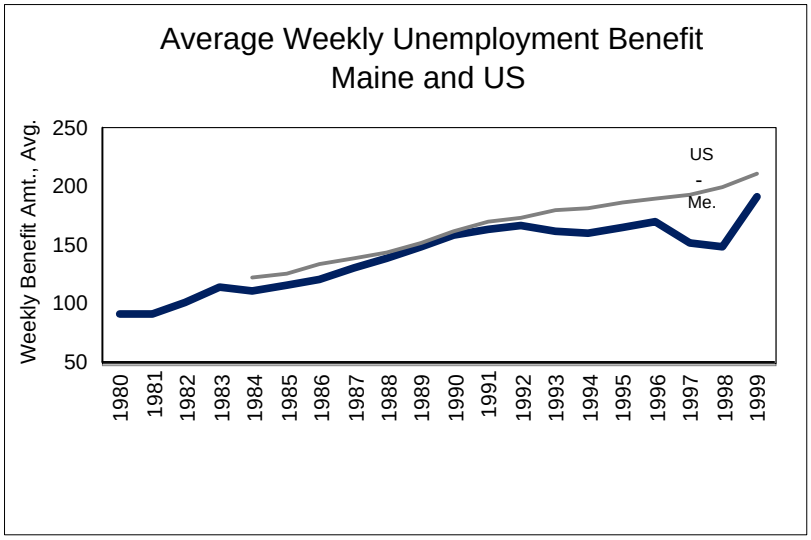


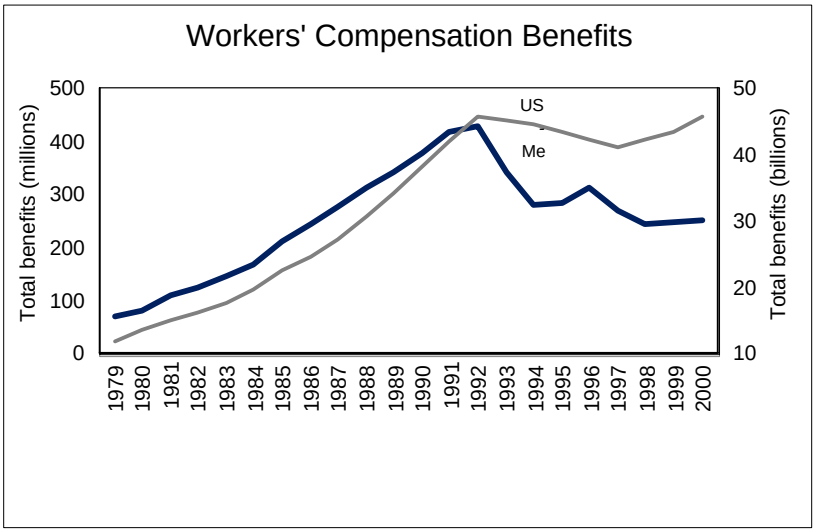

Average Monthly SSI Payment
Maine and the US
Av. Mo. Benefit
$450
$400
$350
$300
$250
$200
$150
$100
$50
US
Maine
1980
1981
1982
1983
1984
1985
1986
1987
1988
1989
1990
1991
1992
1993
1994
1995
1996
1997
1998
1999
2000


Food Stamps - Average Monthly Benefit
Per Person, Maine and US
Avg Monthly Benefit
$80.00
$70.00
$60.00
$50.00
$40.00
$30.00
US
Me
1980
1981
1982
1983
1984
1985
1986
1987
1988
1989
1990
1991
1992
1993
1994
1995
1996
1997
1998
1999
2000
2001

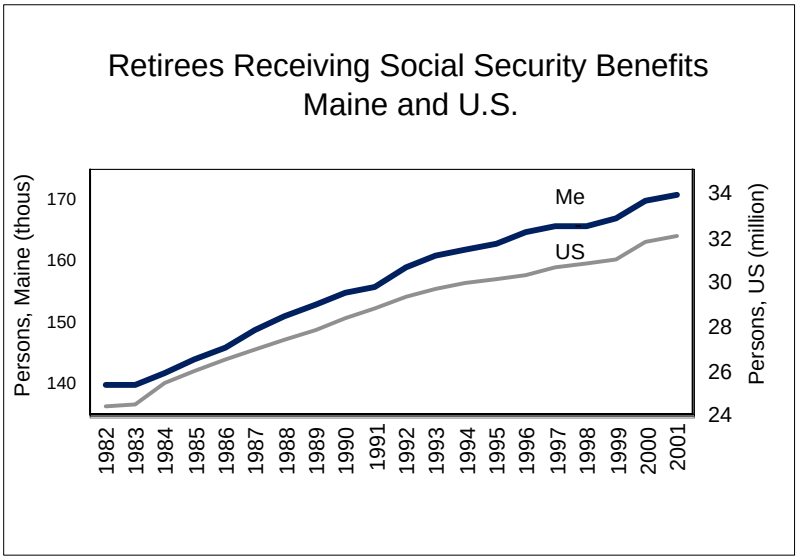

Average Monthly Payment Benefit
TANF Recipient Households
Avg. Mo. Payment
$450
$400
$350
$300
$250
$200
$150
$100
Maine
US
1970
1975
1979
1980
1981
1982
1983
1984
1985
1986
1987
1988
1989
1990
1991
1992
1993
1994
1995
1996
1997
1998

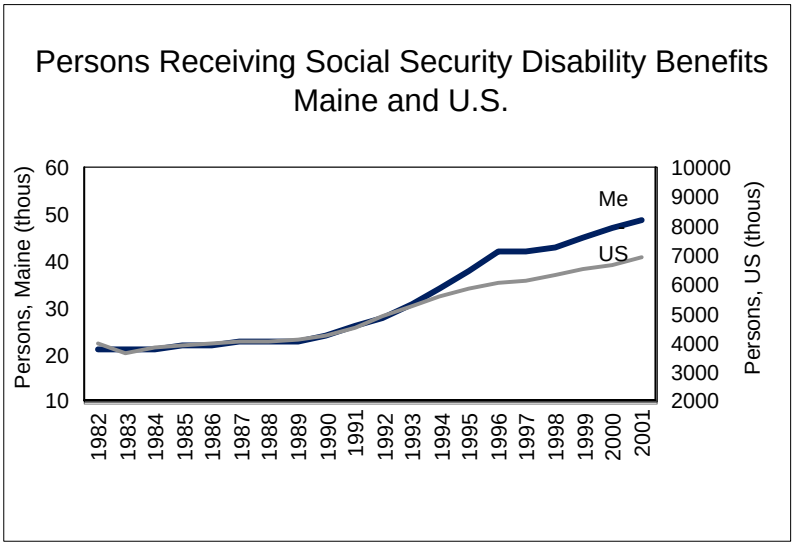

Medicare, Cost per Recipient
Maine & US
Cost per recipient ($thous.)
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
US
Me
1979
1980
1981
1982
1983
1984
1985
1986
1987
1988
1989
1990
1991
1992
1993
1994
1995
1996
1997
1998
1999

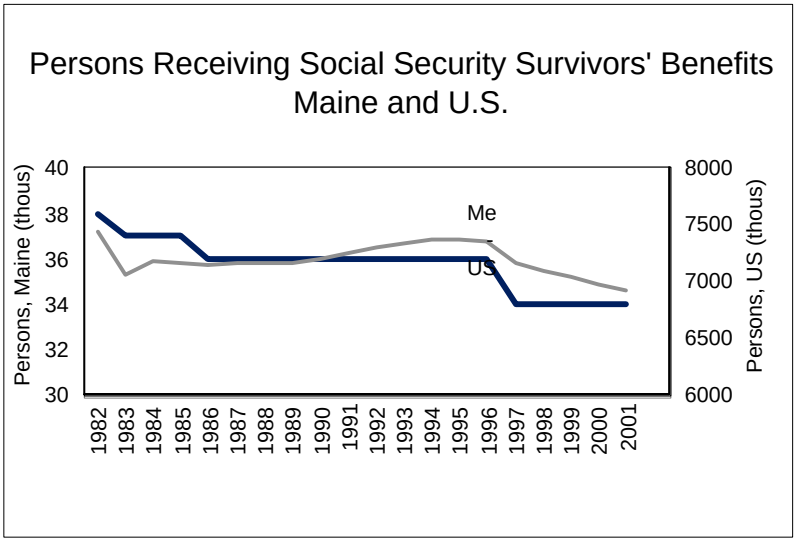

Average Weekly Unemployment Benefit
Maine and US
Weekly Benefit Amt., Avg.
50
100
150
200
250
US
Me.
1980
1981
1982
1983
1984
1985
1986
1987
1988
1989
1990
1991
1992
1993
1994
1995
1996
1997
1998
1999

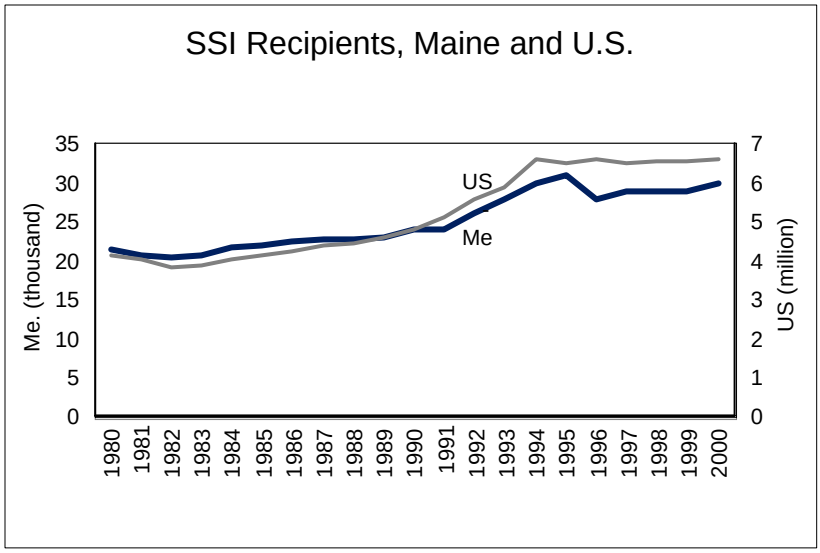

Workers' Compensation Benefits
Total benefits (millions)
0
100
200
300
400
500
Total benefits (billions)
10
20
30
40
50
US
Me
1979
1980
1981
1982
1983
1984
1985
1986
1987
1988
1989
1990
1991
1992
1993
1994
1995
1996
1997
1998
1999
2000

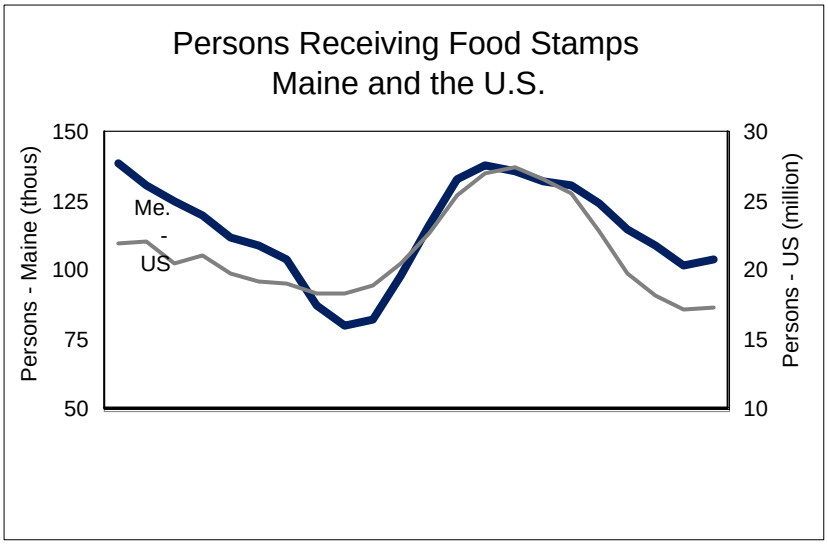
Participation Trends

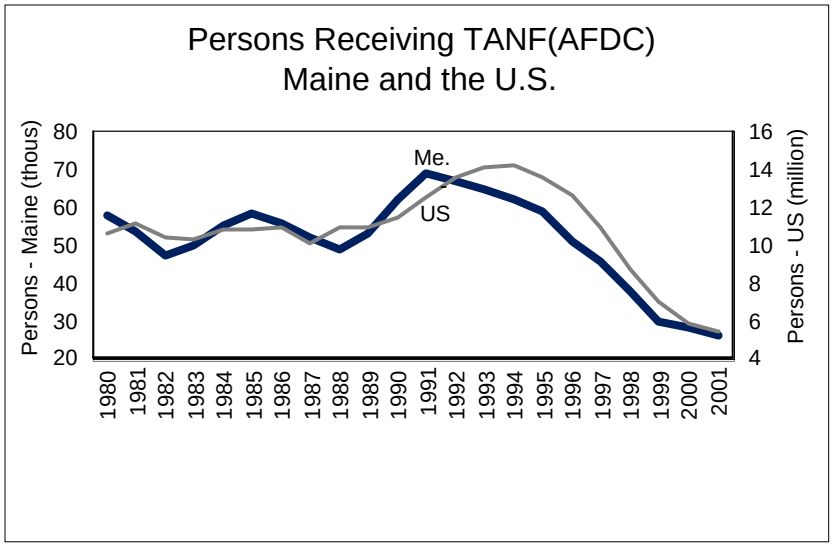






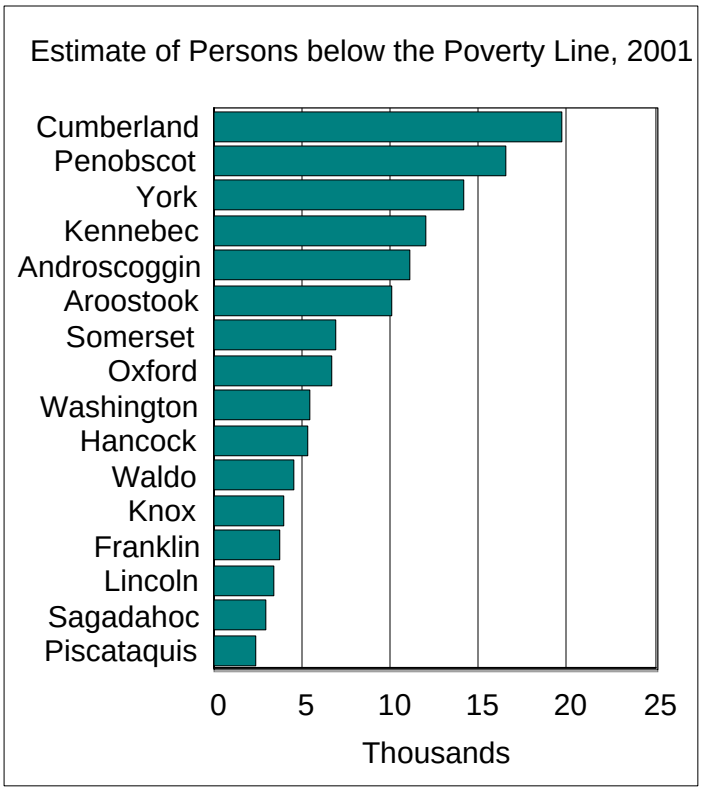

SSI Recipients, Maine and U.S.
Me. (thousand)
US (million)
US
Me
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
0
1980
1981
1982
1983
1984
1985
1986
1987
1988
1989
1990
1991
1992
1993
1994
1995
1996
1997
1998
1999
2000

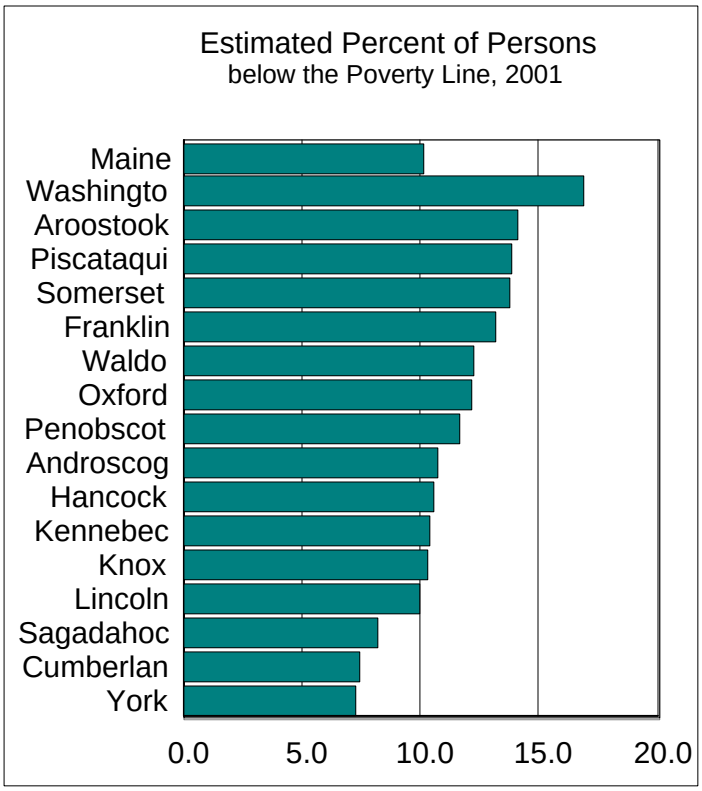

Persons Receiving Food Stamps
Maine and the U.S.
Persons - Maine (thous)
Persons - US (million)
Me.
US
150
125
100
75
50
30
25
20
15
10


Persons Receiving TANF(AFDC)
Maine and the U.S.
Persons - Maine (thous)
Persons - US (million)
Me.
US
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
16
14
12
10
8
6
4
1980
1981
1982
1983
1984
1985
1986
1987
1988
1989
1990
1991
1992
1993
1994
1995
1996
1997
1998
1999
2000
2001

5. Regional Disparities

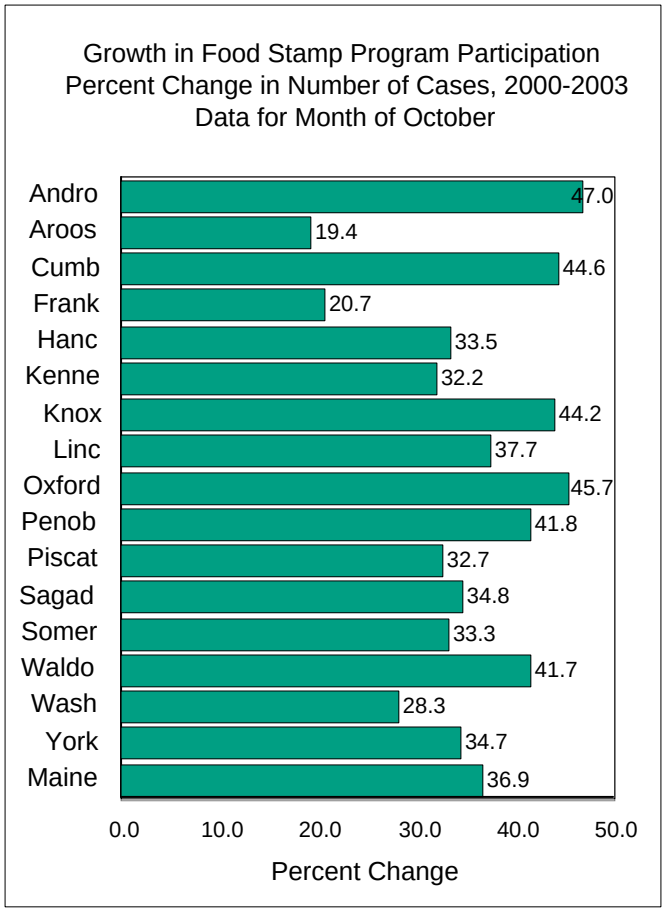
A. Poverty Level

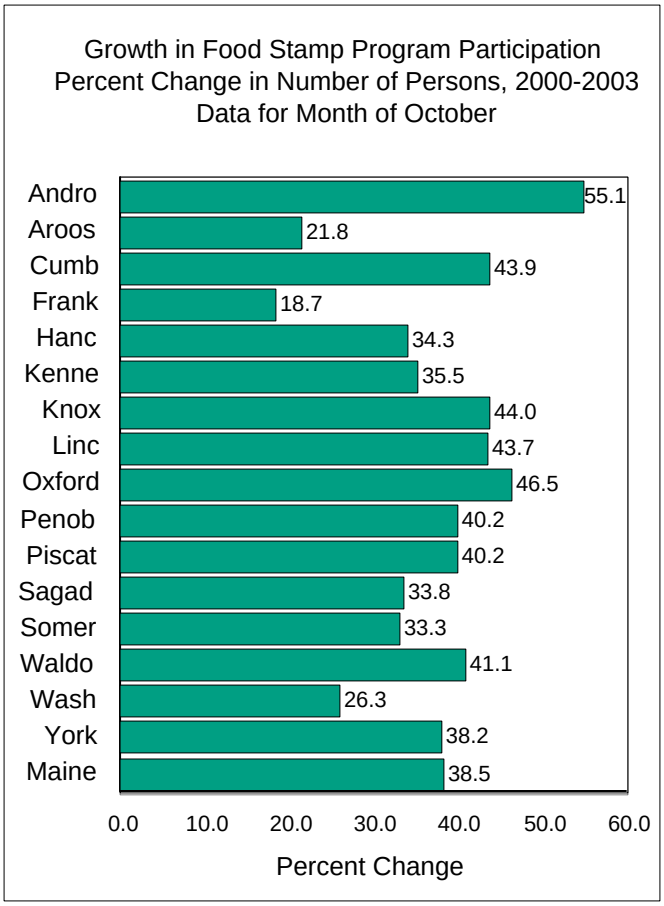




B. Food Stamp Program Enrollment

Note: This section normally presents average monthly enrollment for the previous year. In 2003, data was not available for all months. The charts below compare enrollment in October of 2003 with previous years.





Food Stamp Program Participation

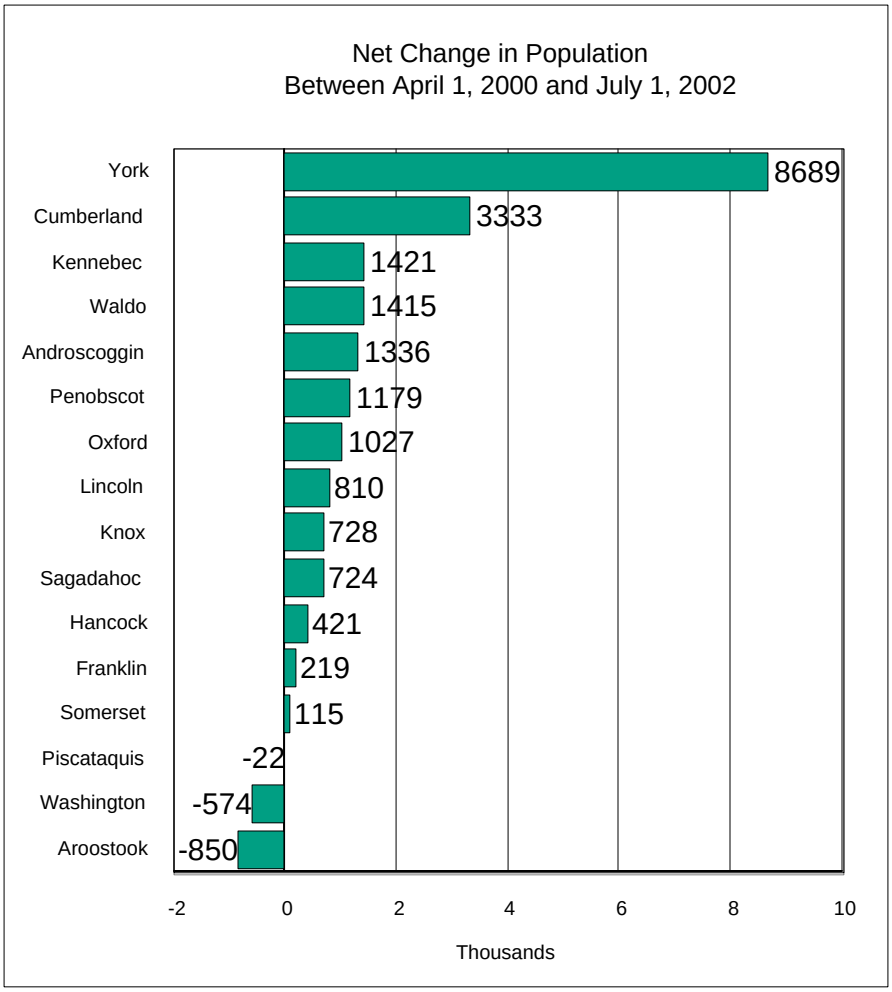
Cases - Number of Cases (Households) enrolled in October of each Year

County	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003	Since Oct. 2000 Net Chg	Pct Chg
Andro	6159	5158	5732	6165	7581	2423	47.0
Aroos	5803	4838	5063	5353	5778	940	19.4
Cumb	9328	7725	8320	9013	11172	3447	44.6
Frank	1526	1403	1529	1545	1694	291	20.7
Hanc	1522	1246	1241	1403	1664	418	33.5
Kenne	5835	5108	5404	5775	6754	1646	32.2
Knox	1538	1199	1266	1432	1729	530	44.2
Linc	1093	901	963	1050	1241	340	37.7
Oxford	2960	2839	3088	3458	4136	1297	45.7
Penob	7428	6424	6826	7399	9110	2686	41.8
Piscat	1009	910	922	1041	1208	298	32.7
Sagad	1097	897	952	1050	1209	312	34.8
Somer	3687	3170	3373	3706	4227	1057	33.3
Waldo	2100	1634	1685	1943	2316	682	41.7
Wash	2760	2365	2401	2560	3034	669	28.3
York	6230	5085	5195	5791	6851	1766	34.7
Maine	60075	50902	53960	58684	69704	18802	36.9

Number of Persons Enrolled

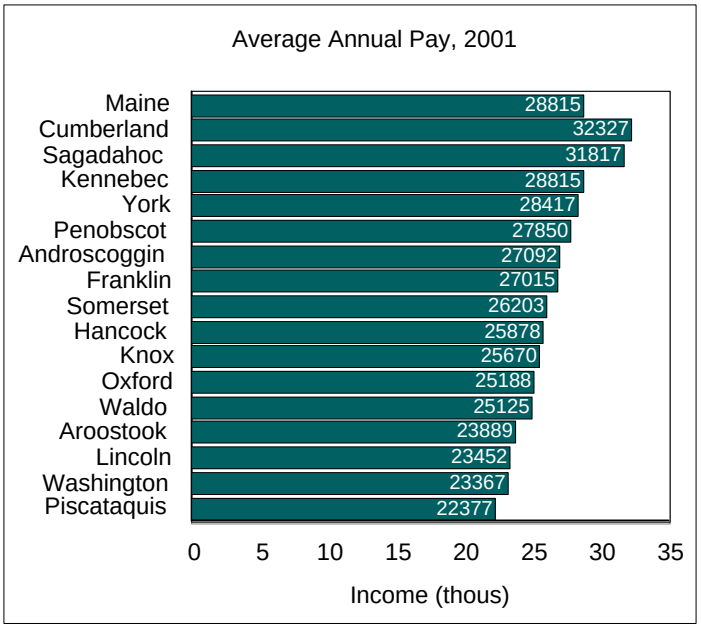
County	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003	Since Oct. 2000 Net Chg	Pct Chg
Andro	12484	9508	11023	11953	14750	5242	55.1
Aroos	11989	8635	9095	9752	10516	1881	21.8
Cumb	19074	14474	15538	16955	20829	6355	43.9
Frank	3471	2831	3201	3124	3360	529	18.7
Hanc	3456	2449	2396	2725	3290	841	34.3
Kenne	12468	9625	10376	11177	13044	3419	35.5
Knox	3392	2426	2550	2801	3494	1068	44.0
Linc	2518	1820	2020	2220	2615	795	43.7
Oxford	6564	5685	6292	7023	8330	2645	46.5
Penob	16517	12646	13469	14429	17732	5086	40.2
Piscat	2377	1773	1840	2168	2486	713	40.2
Sagad	2454	1891	1993	2215	2531	640	33.8
Somer	8461	6486	7012	7638	8644	2158	33.3
Waldo	4989	3418	3573	4040	4823	1405	41.1
Wash	6048	4551	4574	4888	5748	1197	26.3
York	13863	10089	10350	11695	13944	3855	38.2
Maine	130125	98307	105302	114803	136136	37829	38.5

C. Population Shifts and Trends

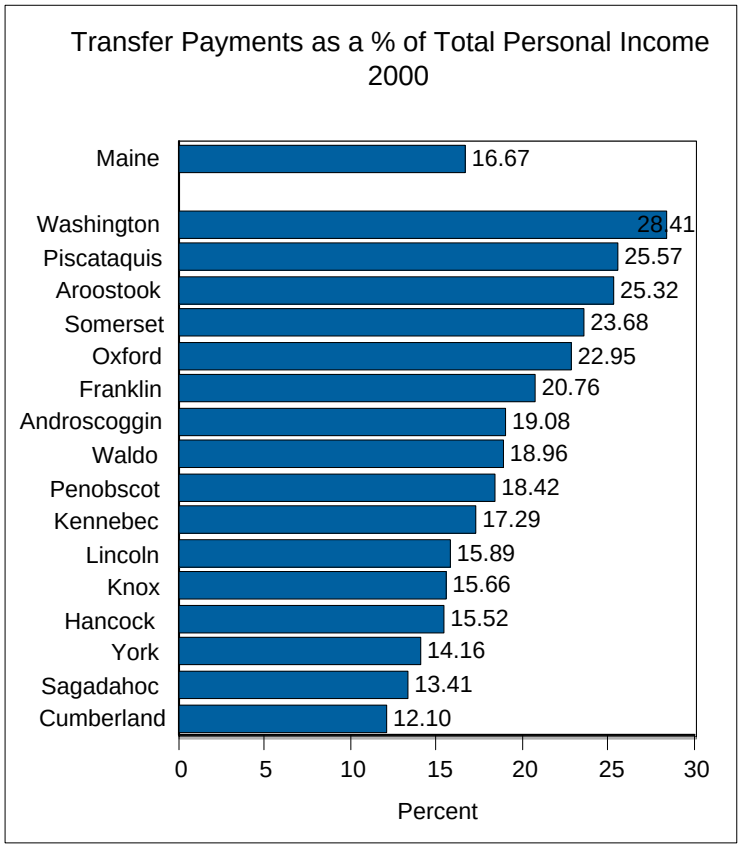


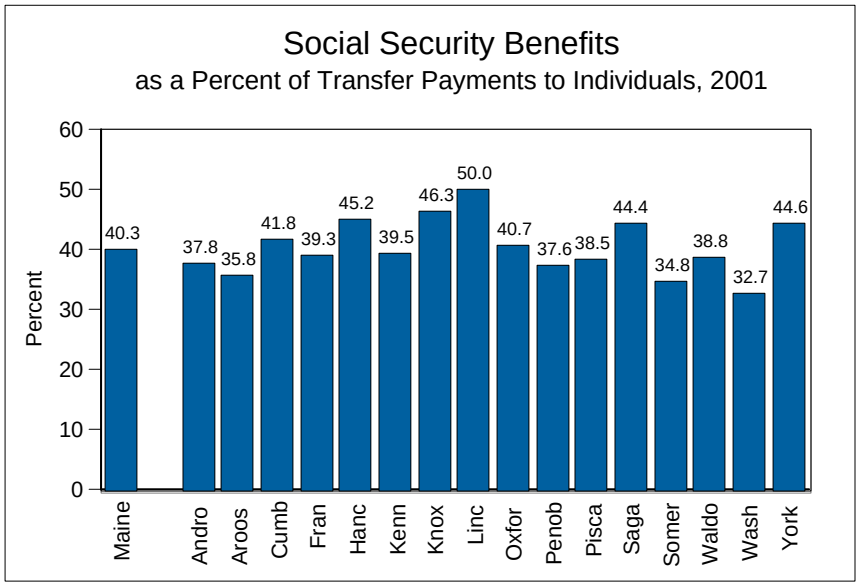
D. Economic Factors

Income and Earnings

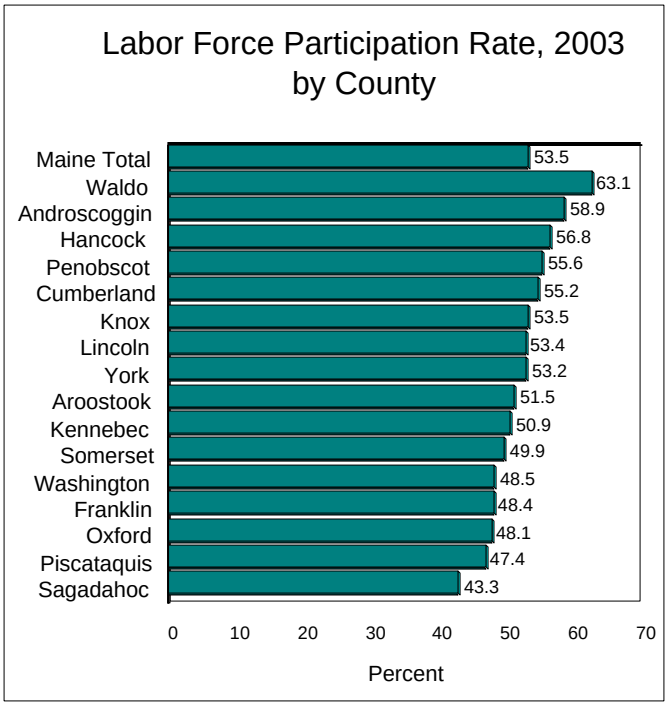


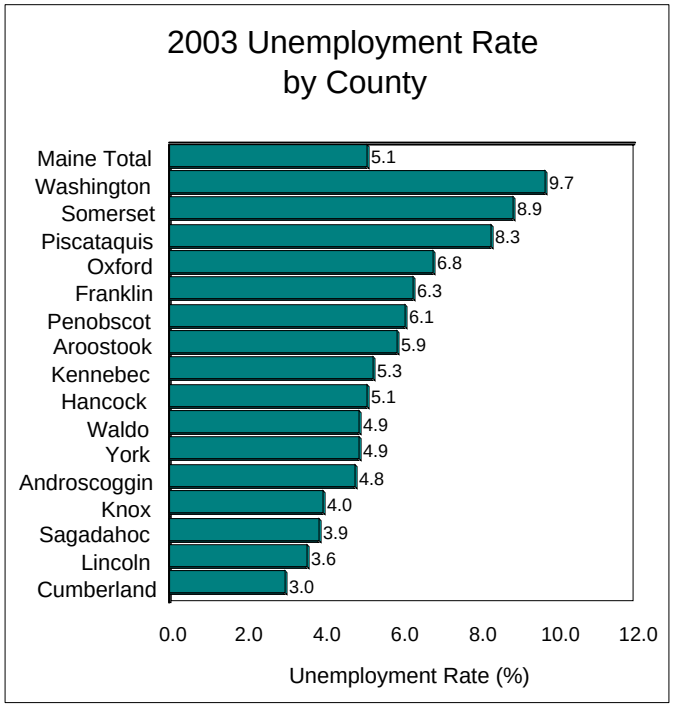
Transfer Payments (note: Transfer payment data is not yet available for 2001)

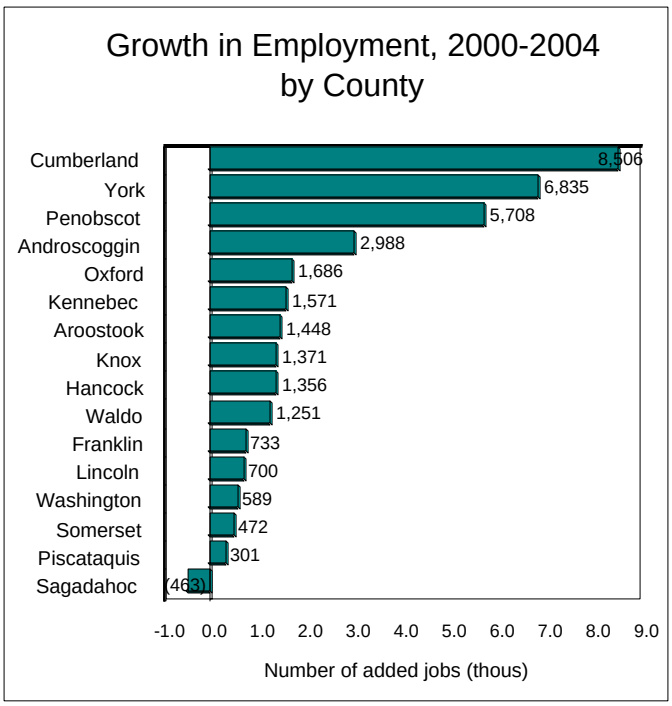


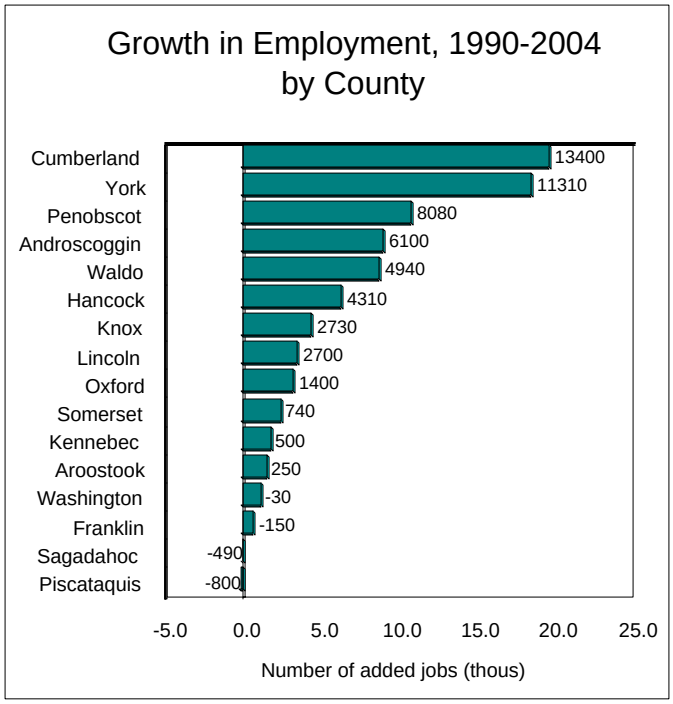


Labor Force Participation, Employment and Unemployment









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