

# MAINE BY THE NUMBERS

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September 2021 AgCOM meeting

# Agenda

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Demographic context

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Economic overview & COVID-19  
impacts

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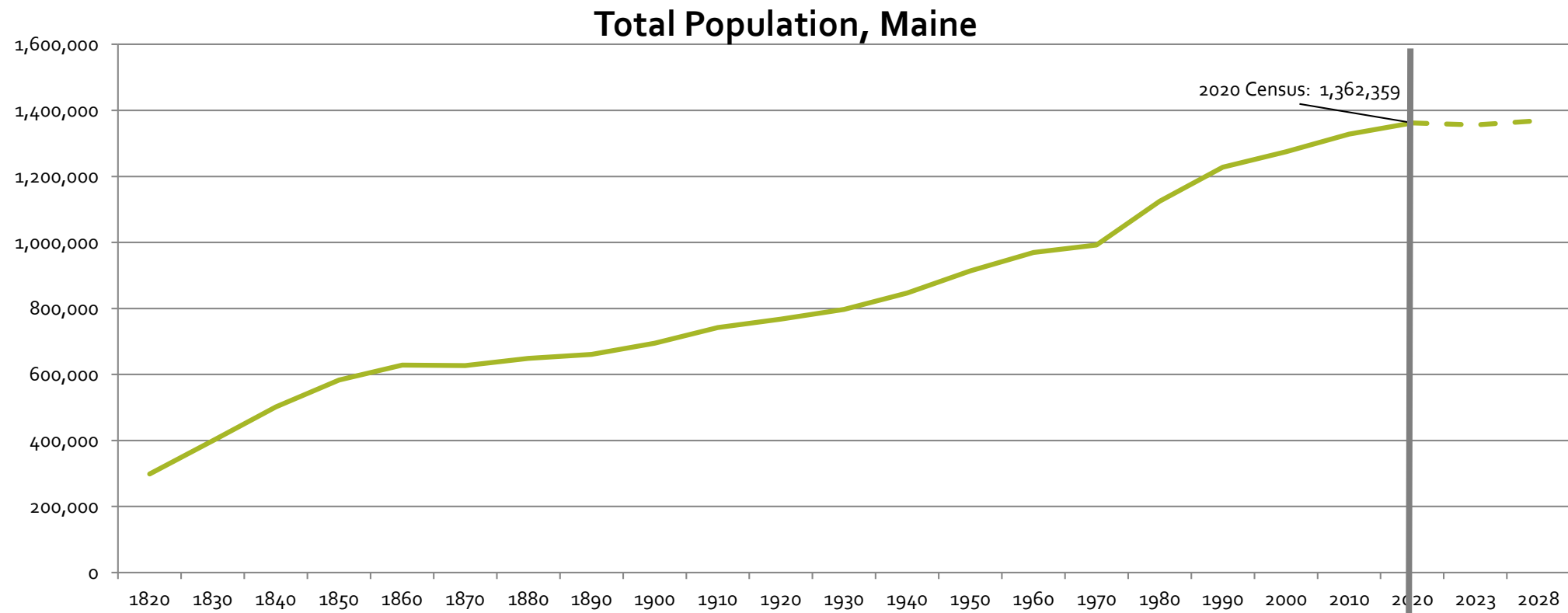
Maine's Agriculture sector

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Q&A

# MAINE'S DEMOGRAPHIC CONTEXT

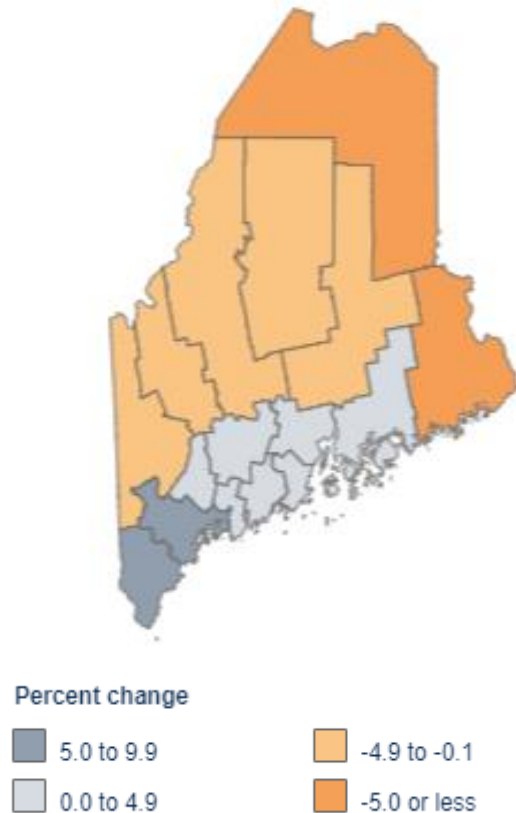
# Maine's population grew 2.6% from 2010-2020



Source: 2020 Decennial Census

# Southern and coastal Maine grew; Northern and western Maine declined

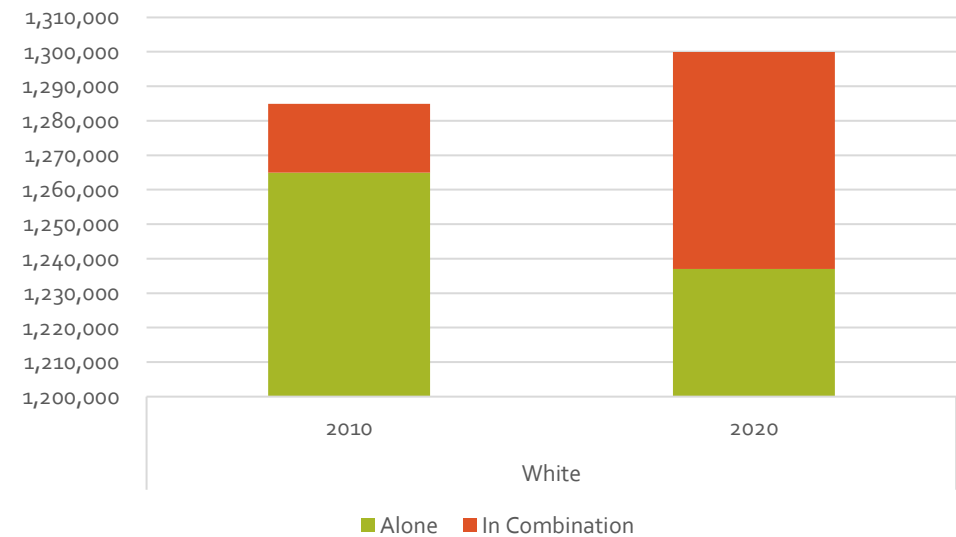
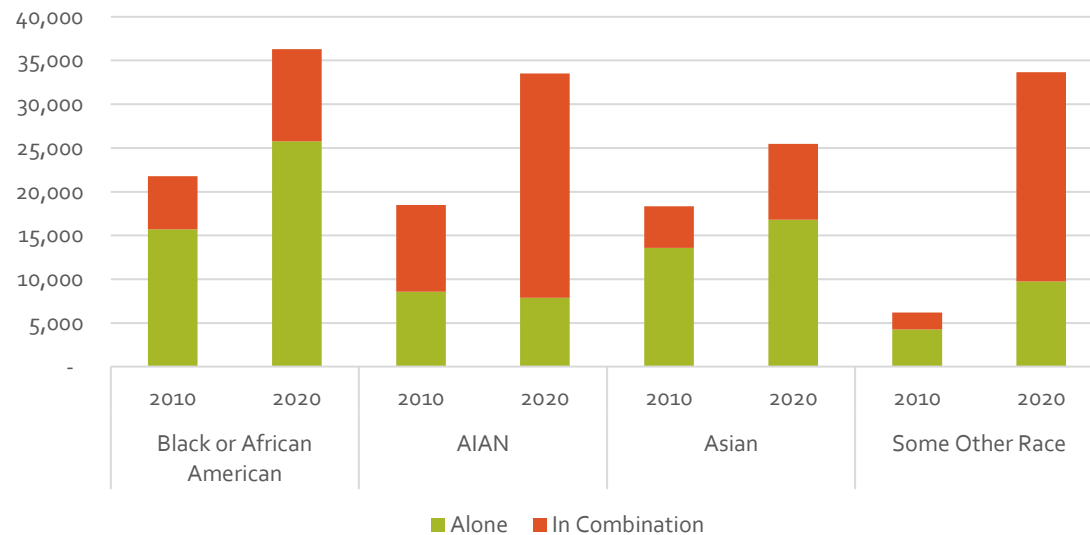
Percent Change in Population for Maine Counties: 2010–2020



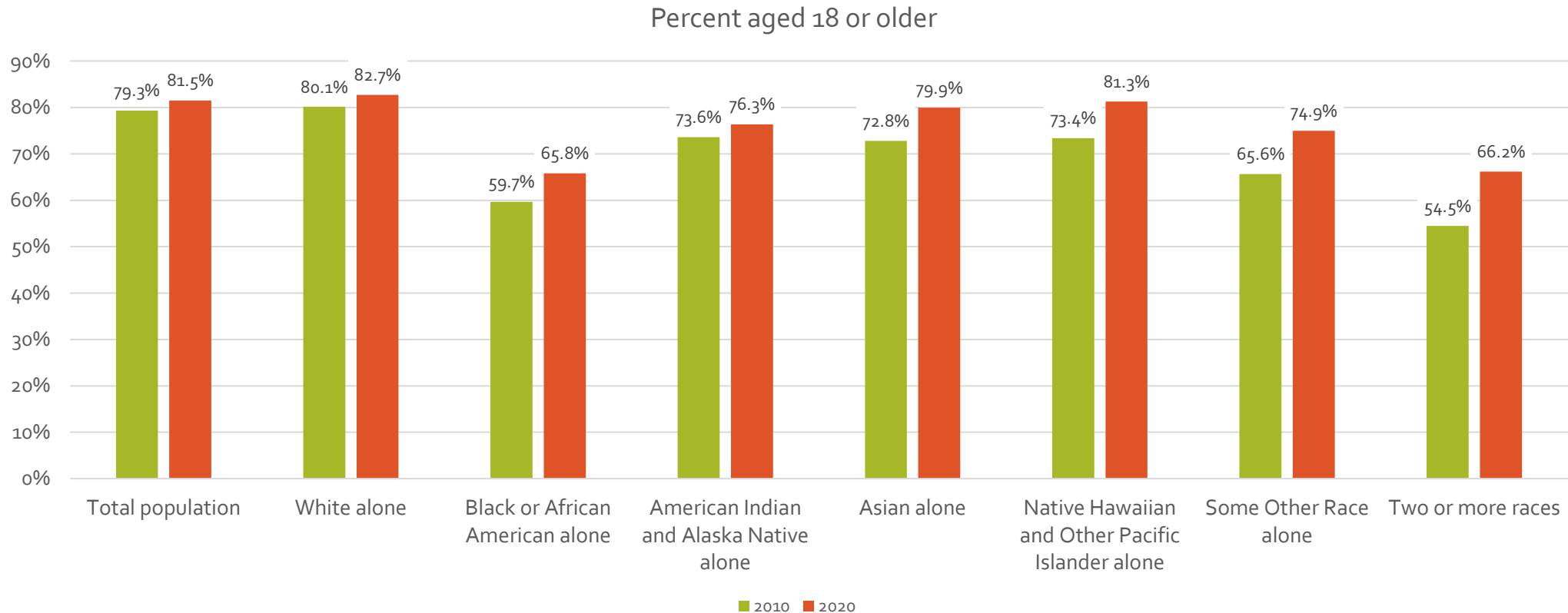
- Maine's population growth in the last decade was concentrated in southern and coastal counties, with Cumberland (7.6%) and York (7.5%) taking the lead
- Seven counties experienced population decline in the last decade, with Aroostook (-6.6%) and Washington (-5.4%) falling the most

# Maine has become more diverse since 2010

- From 2010 to 2020 Maine's white alone population fell from 95.2 percent to 90.8 percent of the total population, though it remains the whitest and least-diverse state in the U.S.
- Individuals identifying as "some other race" and multiracial have experienced particularly strong growth, a trend consistent with national population data
- Diverse population groups have contributed the most to Maine's population growth, particularly individuals who identify as multiracial, "some other race" and Black or African American



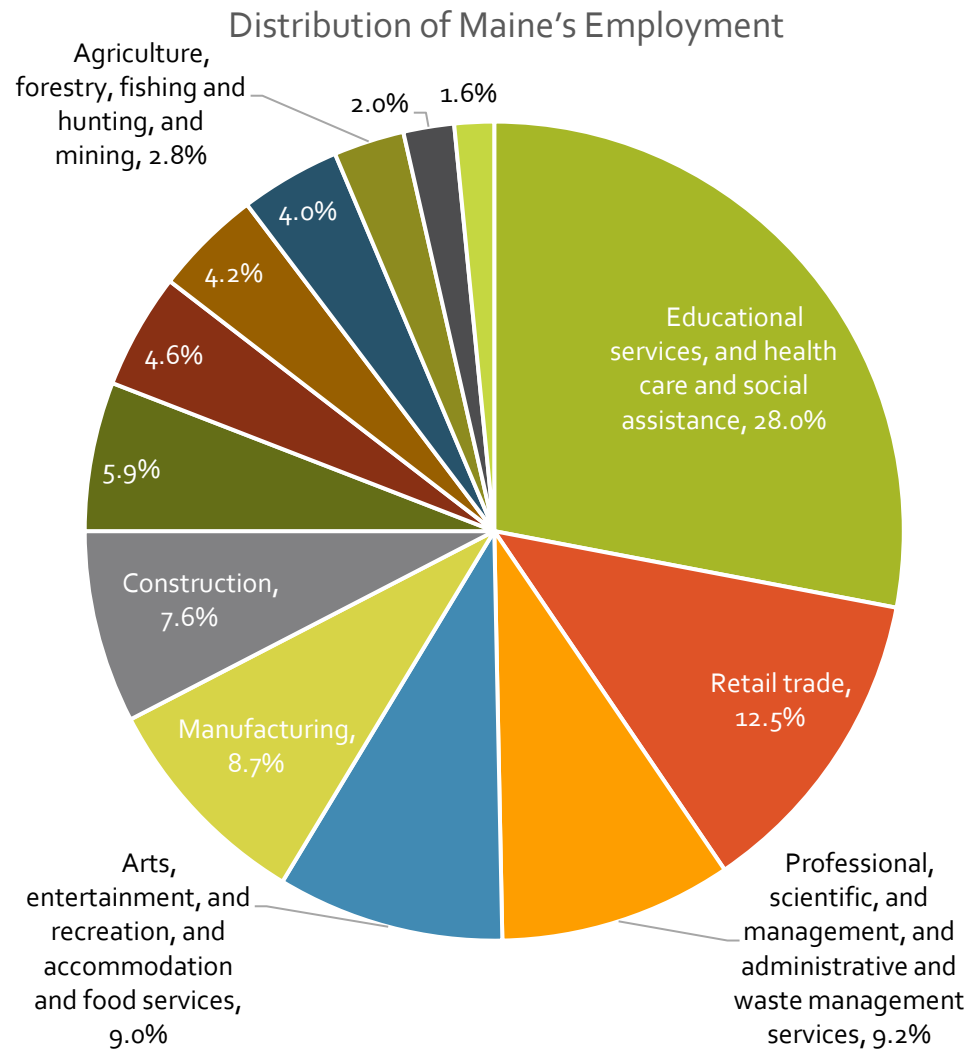
# Maine has gotten older since 2010



- Maine's 81.5% is the second highest in the nation behind Vermont (81.6%), and just beating New Hampshire's 81.4%.

# ECONOMIC UPDATE

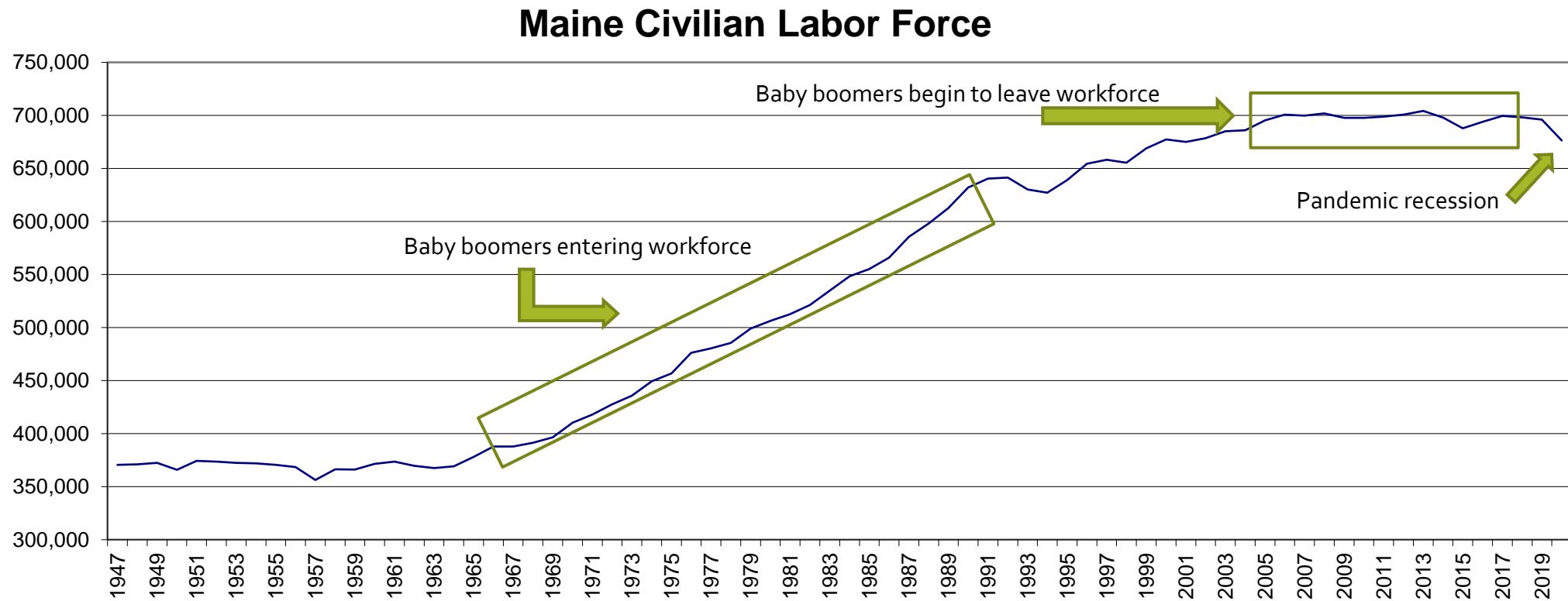




# THE STRUCTURE OF MAINE'S ECONOMY (BY EMPLOYMENT)

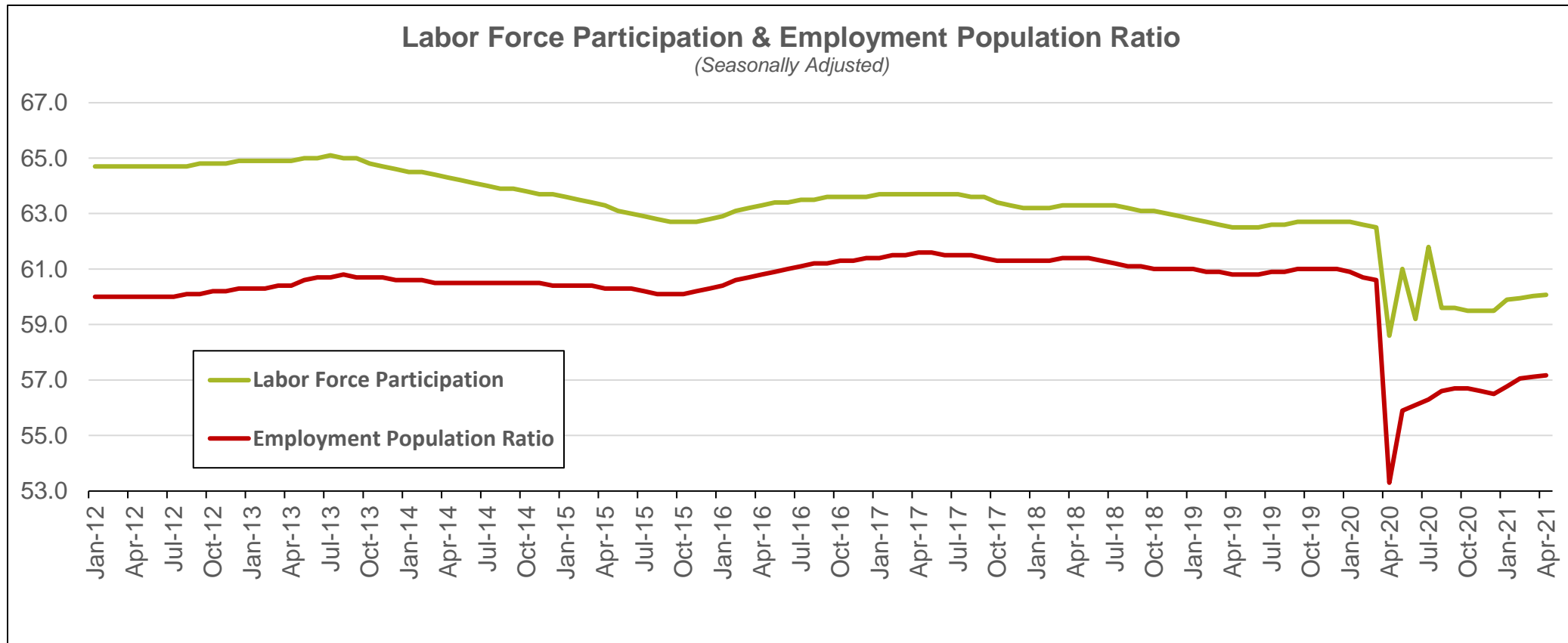
Source: American Community Survey 2019 1-year estimates

# Maine's Labor Force has plateaued, declined in recent years

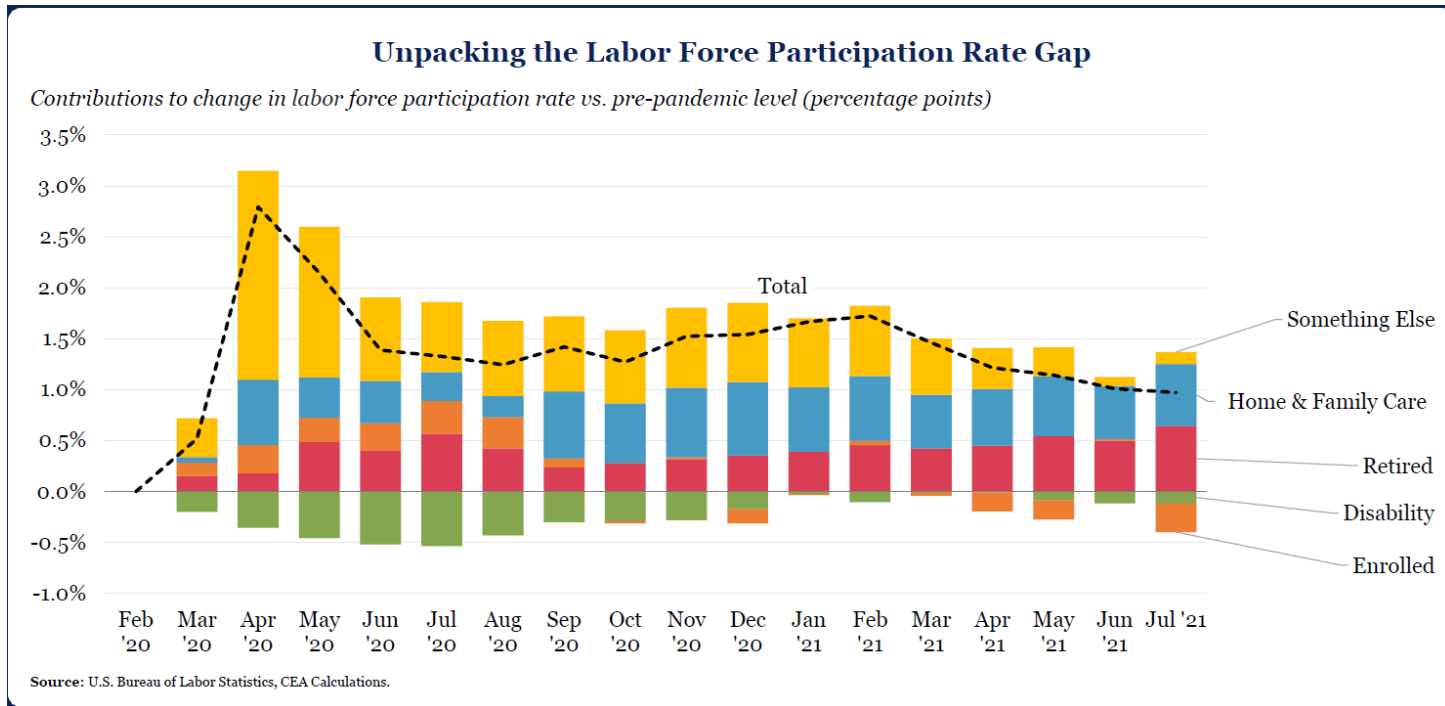


Source: Maine Center for Workforce Research & Information

# Labor Force Participation Plunged during COVID-19

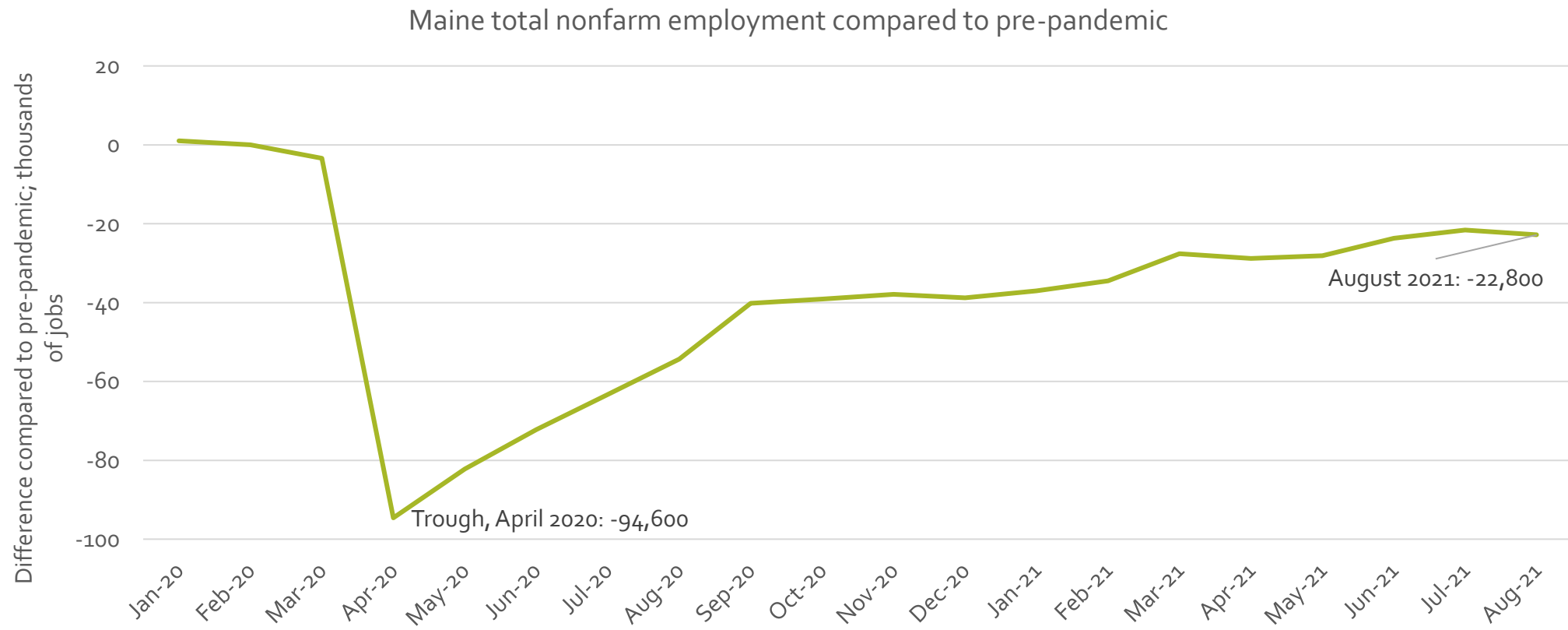


# Low labor force participation is complex



- Recently, the Maine Department of Labor found that there are many barriers preventing job seekers from returning to work, including:
  - Lack of opportunities within skillset
  - COVID-19 health risks
  - Insufficient pay to cover expenses
  - Lack of relevant jobs in my geographic area
  - Lack of reliable childcare

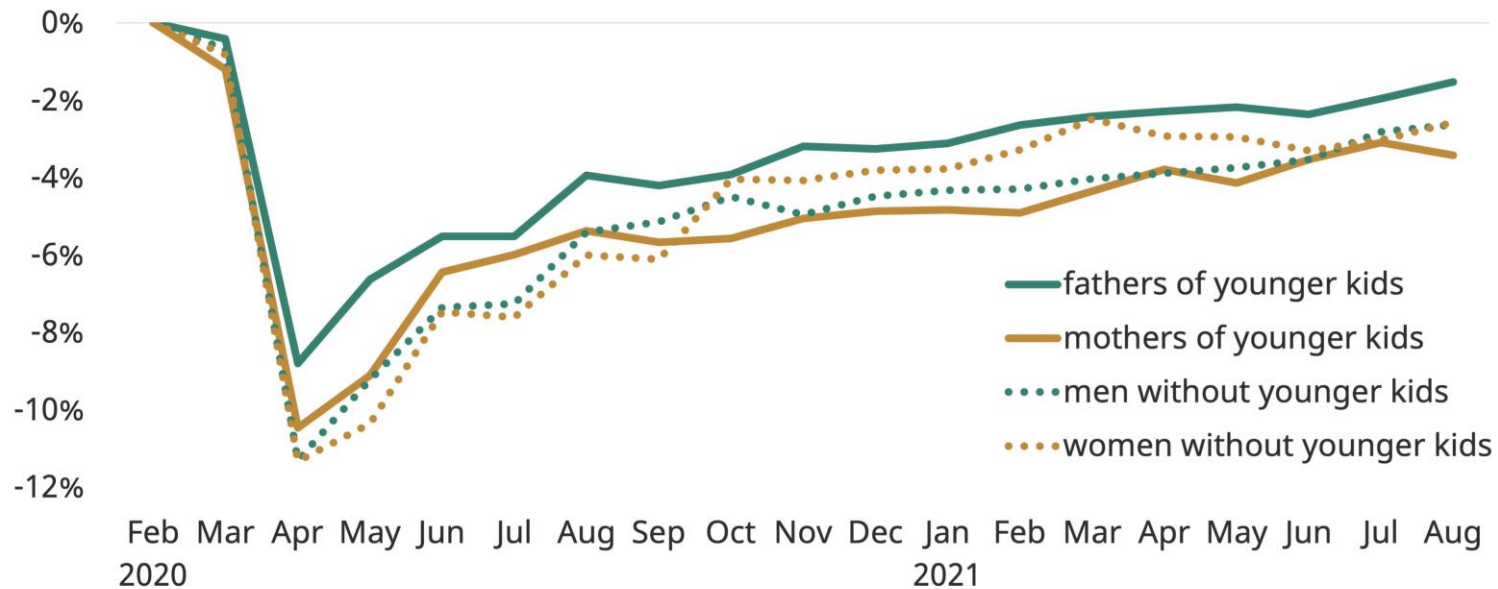
# Employment



Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics

# Mothers of young children are falling behind

**Mothers' employment fell in August**  
%pt change in prime-age employment-population ratio vs Feb 2020

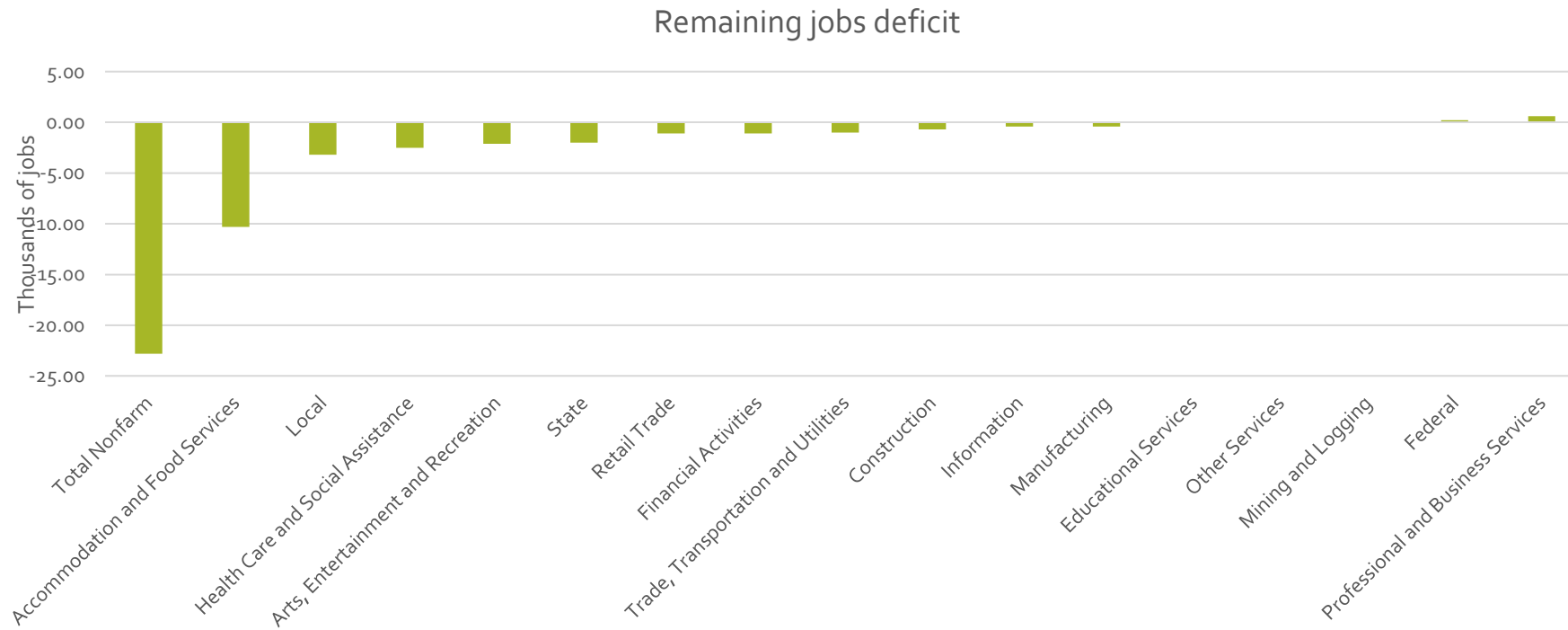


Source: CPS microdata, seasonally adjusted  
Adults age 25-54; kids = any 13 or younger



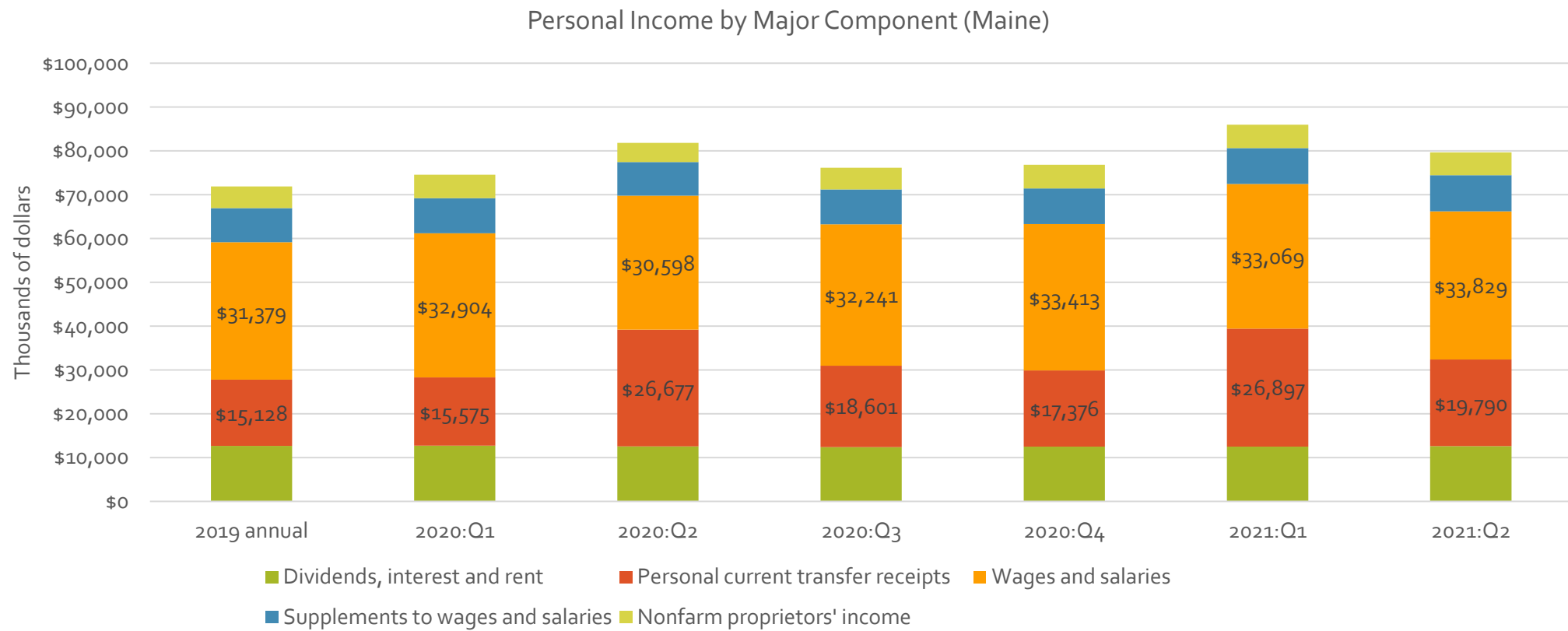
Source: Current Population Survey; Jed Kolko (Indeed)

# Job loss has been concentrated in several key sectors



Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics

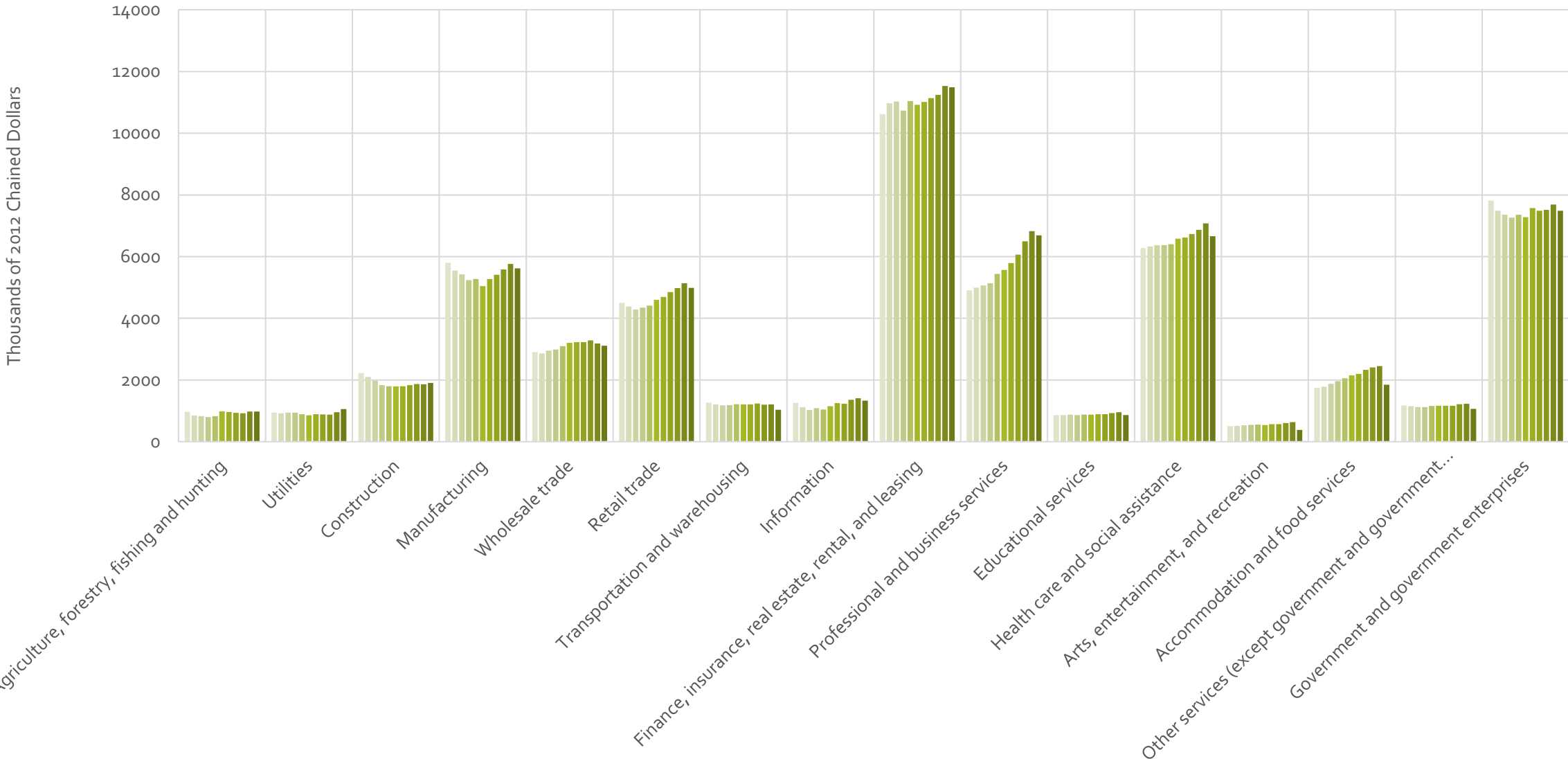
# Personal Income driven by federal programs



Source: US Bureau of Economic Analysis

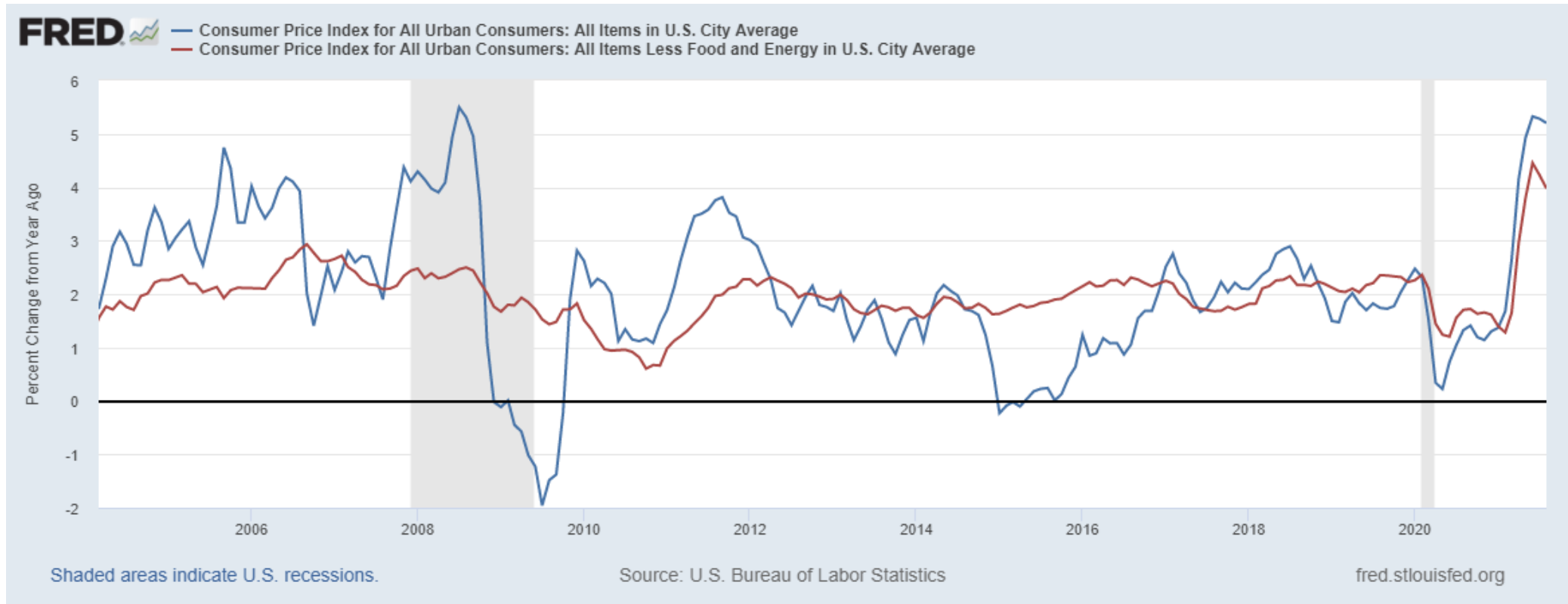


Real GDP by sector in Maine, 2010-2020

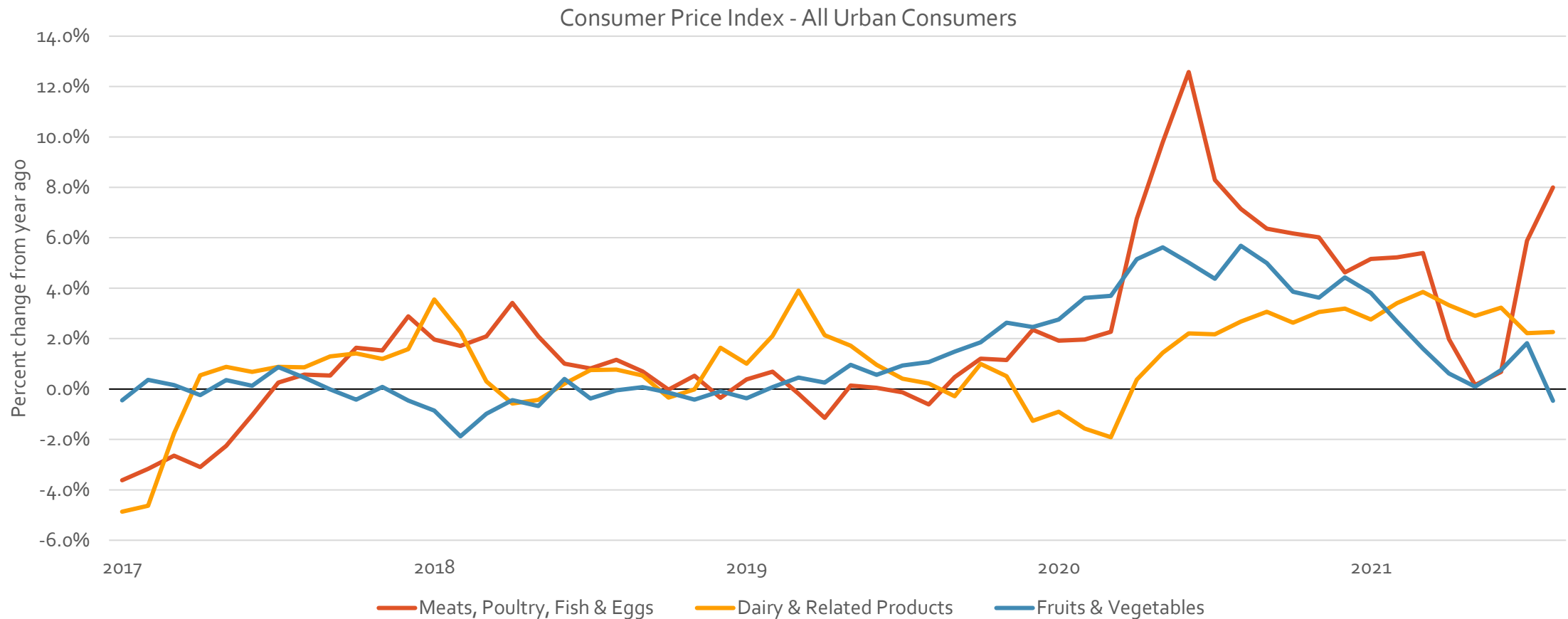


Source: US Bureau of Economic Analysis

# Prices have been high during the recovery



# Prices of food products elevated in 2020

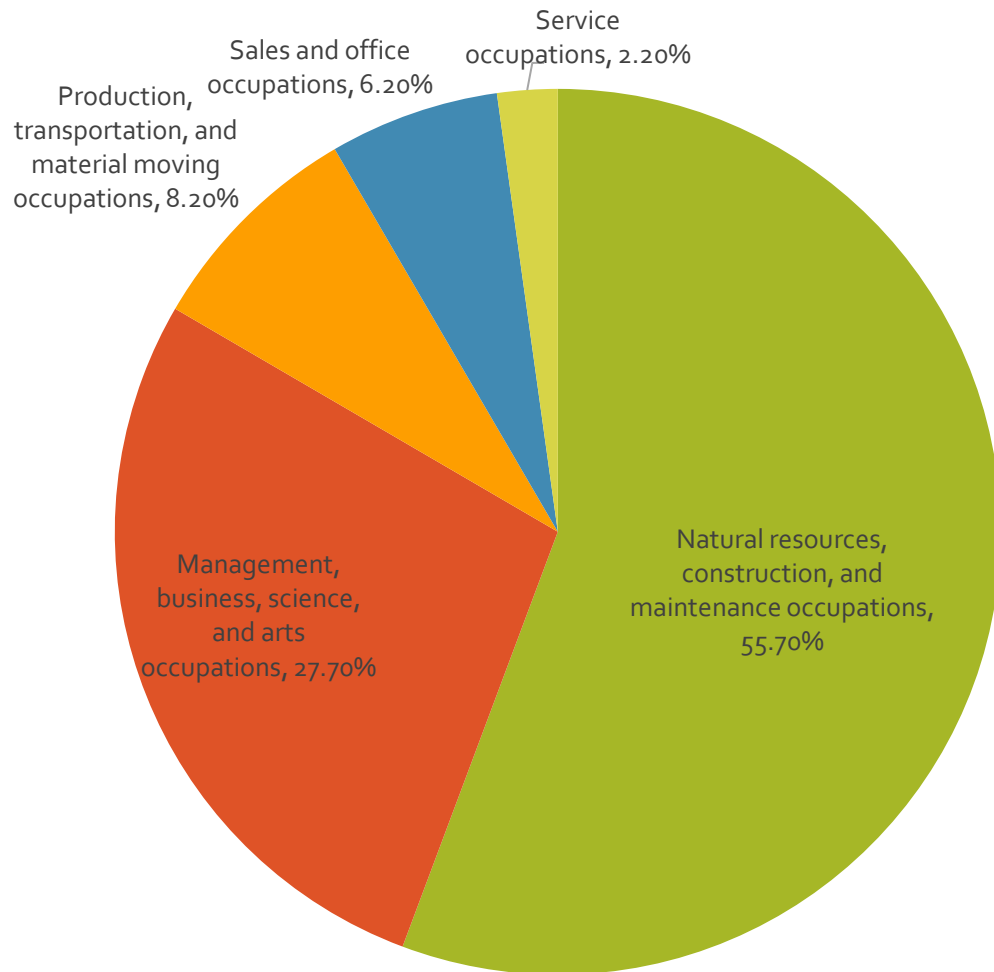


Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics

# MAINE'S AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

# Some fast facts....

- As of 2019, there were 1.3 million acres of farmed land in Maine, with real estate value over \$3 billion dollars
- In 2017, the market value of Maine's agricultural products was nearly \$670 million
- 96% of Maine farms are family farms



**AN ESTIMATED 19,100  
PEOPLE WORKED IN  
AGRICULTURE,  
FORESTRY, FISHING  
AND HUNTING IN 2019  
(INCLUDING SELF-  
EMPLOYED)**

Source: American Community Survey 2019  
1-year estimates

# Covered employment (QCEW)

- Average covered employment in agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting was about 7,559 in 2020, accounting for over \$300 million in annual wages
  - 3,416 in crop production (\$107 million in wages)
  - 1,055 in animal production and aquaculture (\$40 million in wages)
  - 1,987 in forestry and logging (\$100 million in wages)
- But... there are a LOT of self-employed and small family farms not covered here

# Location Quotients (LQs)

- A way of measuring the amount of specialization in a particular geography's economy
- An LQ of more than 1 means higher specialization than the U.S. as a whole



# Crop Production Employment LQs

- Maine is somewhat more specialized in crop production employment than the U.S. (LQ of 1.5)
  - Aroostook County has highest specialization (8.3)
  - Penobscot County has lowest specialization (0.4)
- Vegetable and melon farming is even more specialized in Maine (LQ of 3.33)
  - Aroostook County reaches **48.9**
  - Also high in Oxford (7.3), Lincoln (8.1), and Sagadahoc (4.8)
- Aquaculture has an LQ of 12.4 statewide, but reaches 136.1 in Lincoln County

# Q&A

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