

# Maine Economic Indicators

May 2019



**Maine Department of Administrative and Financial Services**

**Office of the State Economist**

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Maine Economic Indicators is a monthly report assembled by the Office of the State Economist that provides a synopsis of current economic trends and indicators for the state in comparison to New England and the United States. The intent of this report is to provide the public with a single document containing data aggregated from different sources typically used to track current economic and demographic conditions in the state.

This report includes monthly, quarterly, and annual data released at varying points throughout the year. The appendix provides comprehensive information related to the data presented herein. Data included in this report are assembled from various sources, subject to frequent revision, and provided in this report “as is” at the time of publication. Therefore, data presented in this report are subject to change over time.

# 1 Snapshot

Indicators in this section provide a summary of Maine's current economic status. Figures for Maine are compared to New England and the United States. Sources are given in the appendix.

Reference Period		Maine	New England	United States
2018	Total population	1,338,404	17,388,096	327,167,434
2017-2018	Annual population percent change	0.3%	0.6%	0.6%
2010-2018	Cumulative population percent change	0.8%	2.8%	6.0%
2017	Average earnings per job	\$48,622	\$67,839	\$60,660
2016-2017	Average earnings per job percent change	3.2%	2.8%	3.2%
April 2019	Unemployment rate (ME Lowest=3.2%; Nov. 2017-Mar. 2018)	3.3%	3.1%	3.6%
April 2019	Total private nonfarm employment	532,300	6,508,800	128,548,000

## Annualized Percent Change from the previous quarter and Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR)

Real GDP	2017:Q4	2018:Q1	2018:Q2	2018:Q3	2018:Q4	CAGR 2017:Q4-2018:Q4
Maine	0.4	2	2.5	3.1	0.7	2.1
New England	-0.5	3.6	0.6	3.3	1.7	2.3
United States	2.3	2.2	4.2	3.4	2.2	3.0
Total Personal Income	2017:Q4	2018:Q1	2018:Q2	2018:Q3	2018:Q4	CAGR 2017:Q4-2018:Q4
Maine	2.8	6.0	2.8	3.5	3.9	4.0
New England	2.4	6.7	0.8	4.3	4.6	4.1
United States	5.0	5.3	3.4	4.4	5.2	4.6
Per Capita Personal Income	2017:Q4	2018:Q1	2018:Q2	2018:Q3	2018:Q4	CAGR 2017:Q4-2018:Q4
Maine	2.5	5.8	2.6	3.2	3.6	3.8
New England	2.0	6.5	0.5	3.9	4.2	3.7
United States	4.3	4.7	2.9	3.7	4.5	3.9
Wages & Salaries	2017:Q4	2018:Q1	2018:Q2	2018:Q3	2018:Q4	CAGR 2017:Q4-2018:Q4
Maine	0.0	7.2	1.7	4.5	3.5	4.2
New England	-0.5	9.7	-3.1	4.8	4.5	3.9
United States	3.9	5.8	2.8	5.0	4.5	4.5

## 2 Annual Indicators

Indicators summarized below are updated annually on various release dates and provide a general summary of Maine's demographic and economic status.

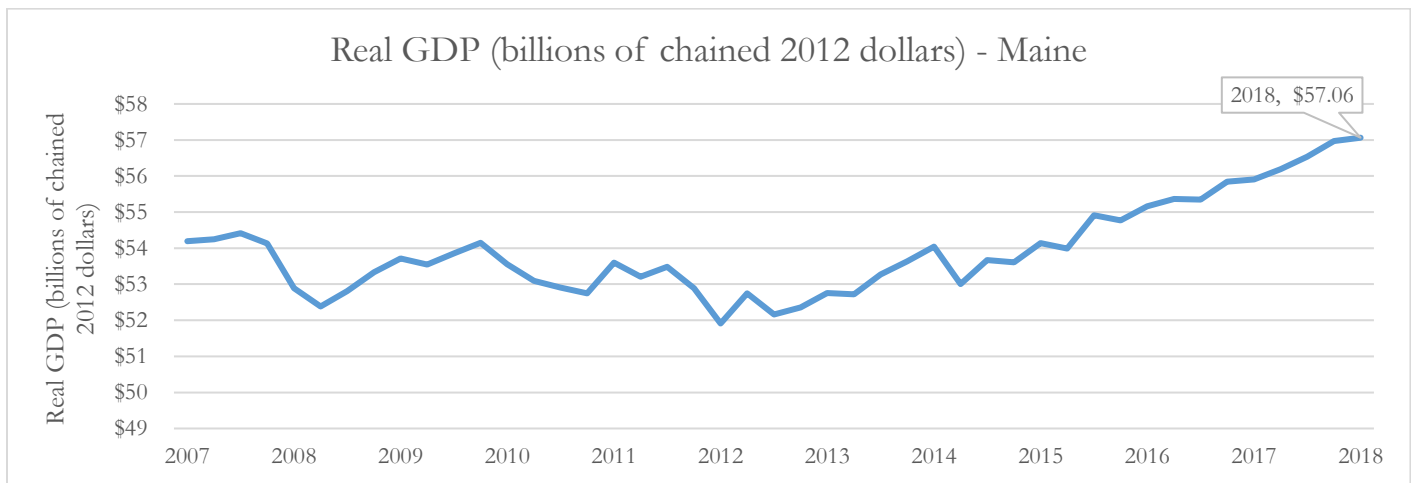
Reference Period		Maine	New England	United States
2018	Total population	1,338,404	17,388,096	327,167,434
2017-2018	Annual population percent change	0.3%	0.6%	0.6%
2010-2018	Cumulative population percent change	0.8%	2.8%	6.0%
2018	Births	12,438	146,106	3,855,500
2018	Deaths	14,079	131,249	2,814,013
2018	Net migration	5,039	35,720	978,826
2017-2018	Annual rate of total net migration (Maine ranks 19 <sup>th</sup> in the U.S.)	0.38%	0.24%	0.30%
2017	Median age	44.7 yrs	40.7 yrs	38.0 yrs
2017	Associate's degree: percent of population age 25 and above	10.3%	8.2%	8.5%
2017	Bachelor's degree: percent of population age 25 and above	19.9%	22.5%	19.7%
2017	Graduate or professional degree: percent of population age 25 and above	12.3%	17.2%	12.1%
2017	Percent of population below poverty level	11.1%	10.2%	13.4%
2017	Median family income	\$72,177	\$91,189	\$73,891
2017	Median household income	\$56,277	\$71,494	\$60,336
2017	Per capita personal consumption expenditures	\$43,364	\$50,536	\$40,878
2018	Per capita disposable personal income	\$43,291	\$57,531	\$47,451

### 3 Monthly and Quarterly Indicators

#### 3.1 Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

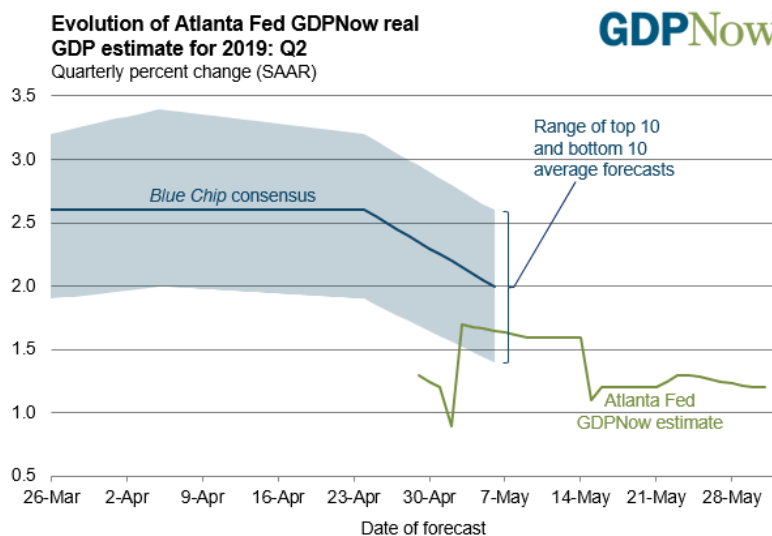
Real GDP in Maine increased by 0.2 percent from the preceding quarter (2018:Q3 to 2018:Q4) and saw growth of 0.7 percent on an annualized basis. The annualized growth ranks 46<sup>th</sup> nationally and 6<sup>th</sup> in New England. In terms of total GDP, Maine ranked 43<sup>rd</sup> in the United States and 4<sup>th</sup> in New England. In the fourth quarter of 2018, real estate and rental and leasing; government and government enterprises; and health care and social assistance accounted for 14, 13, and 12 percent, respectively, of contributions towards Maine’s real GDP.

Reference Period		Maine	United States
2018:Q4	Total GDP (current dollars)	\$65.3 billion	\$20,865.1 billion



#### 3.1.1 GDPNow

GDPNow, which is reported by the Atlanta Fed, is “a running estimate of real GDP growth based on available data for the current quarter.” This model uses a similar methodology to the one used by Bureau of Economic Analysis in their official GDP estimates and is revised each time the monthly source data is updated. The latest forecast (May 31, 2019) indicates that real GDP growth in the second quarter of 2019 is estimated to be 1.2 percent.

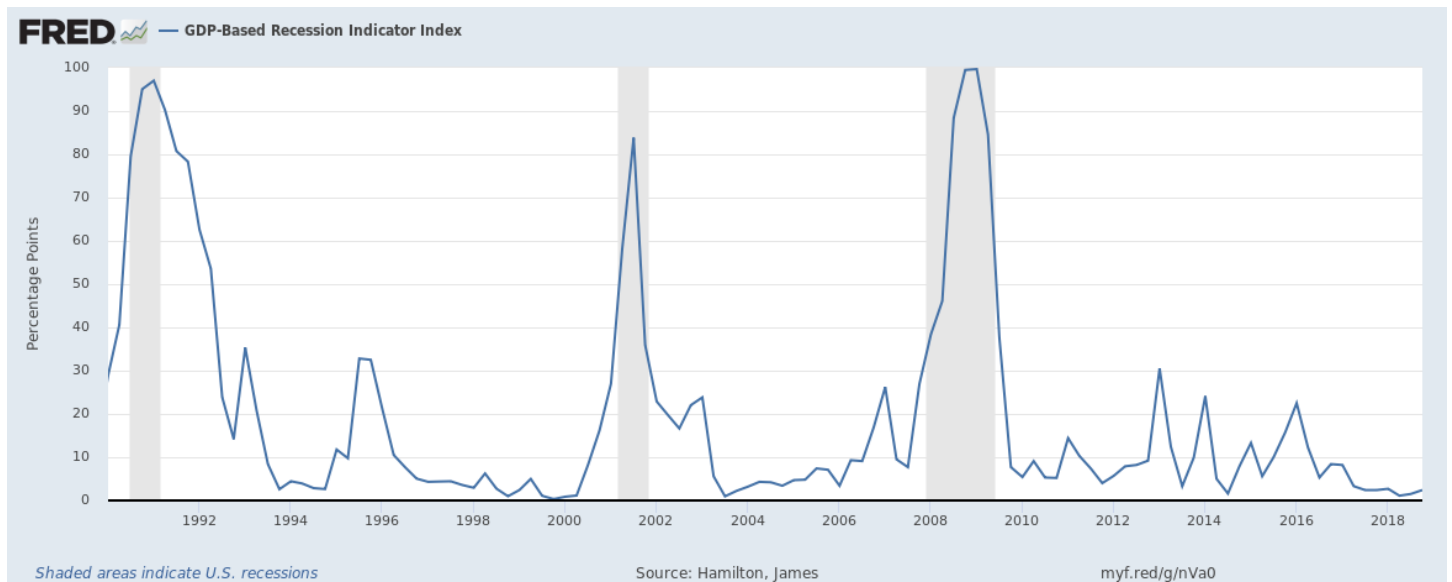


Sources: Blue Chip Economic Indicators and Blue Chip Financial Forecasts  
 Note: The top (bottom) 10 average forecast is an average of the highest (lowest) 10 forecasts in the Blue Chip survey.

### 3.1.2 GDP-Based Recession Indicator Index

The GDP-Based Recession Indicator Index is 2.4 percent (2018:Q4), indicates that the national economy remains in an expansionary phase, one quarter shy of the longest expansion on record (1991: Q2 – 2001:Q1). Dr. James Hamilton, professor of economics at the University of California and creator of this indicator, attributed strong U.S. GDP growth to government spending and inventory build-up. Nationally, falling exports, a decline in new housing construction, and weak nonresidential fixed investment slowed GDP growth.

The index ranges from 0 to 100, with a value above 50 indicating that data are more consistent with a recession. Dr. Hamilton indicates that the U.S. could enter a recession when the index rises above 67 percent. Compared to National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER)'s subjective method of announcing recessionary periods, this method is purely mathematical. In addition, this index is calculated with a one quarter lag, which allows for extra insight and accounts for data revisions to order to make dependable inference. Therefore, the index does not get revised once it is published.



## 3.2 Personal Income: Total and Per Capita

State total personal income in Maine increased by 1.0 percent from the preceding quarter (2018:Q3 to 2018:Q4) and saw growth of 3.9 percent on an annualized basis. The annualized growth rate ranks 45<sup>th</sup> nationally and second to last in the region (ahead of Rhode Island). Maine's total personal income ranks 42<sup>nd</sup> nationally. In terms of per capita income, Maine ranks 30<sup>th</sup> in the United States.

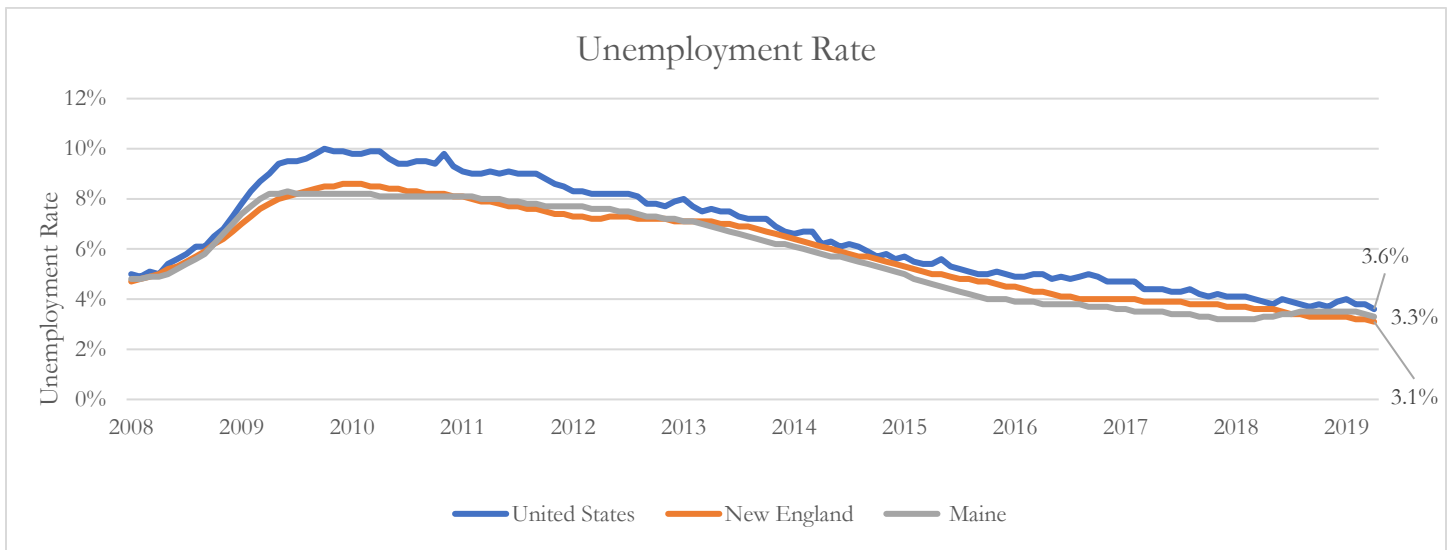
Reference Period		Maine	New England	United States
2018:Q4	Total personal income	\$65.41 billion	\$1003.11 billion	\$17,870.83 billion
2018:Q4	Per capita personal income	\$48,821	\$67,445	\$54,484

## 3.3 Labor Markets and Employment

The data for unemployment rates and labor force are derived from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program and data for nonfarm payroll jobs are derived from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program. The numbers presented below are estimates, vary month to month in either direction, and could be revised substantially. The Maine Department of Labor cautions users to analyze general trends over several months as opposed to making conclusions based on changes month to month.

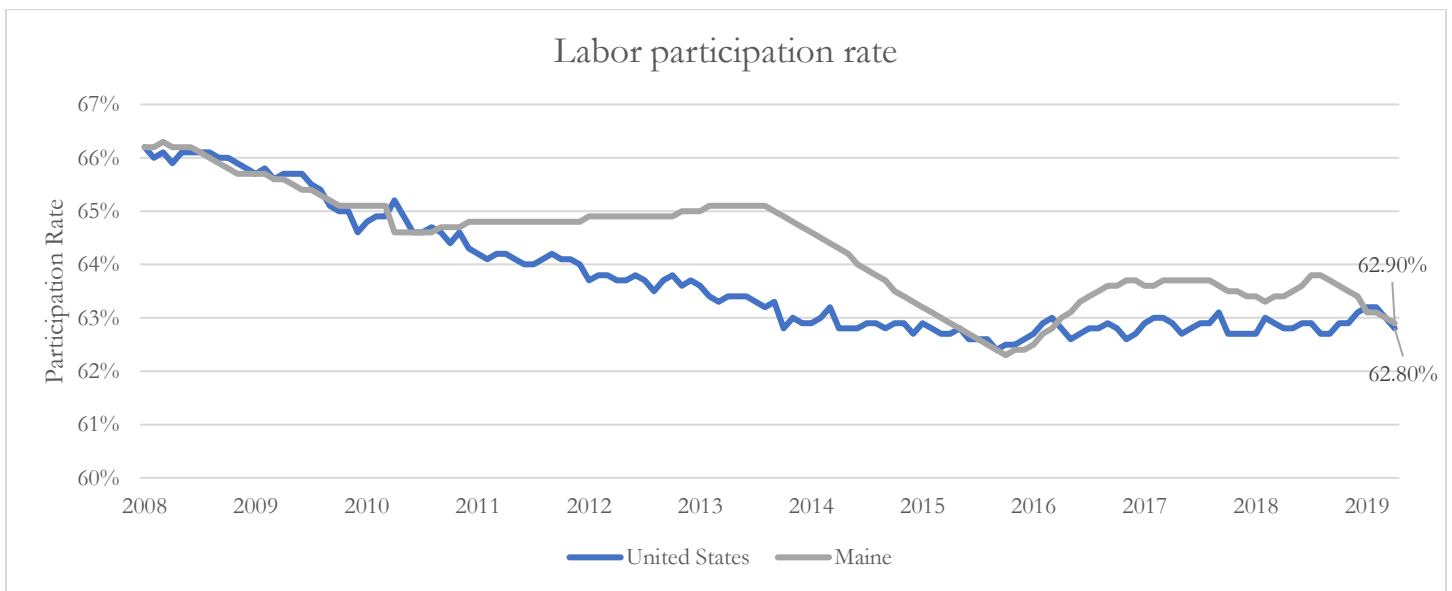
### 3.3.1 Unemployment Rate: April 2019 = 3.3%

The unemployment rate in Maine and New England is lower than the national unemployment rate of 3.6 percent. Compared to last year (April 2018), the unemployment rate in Maine was unchanged.



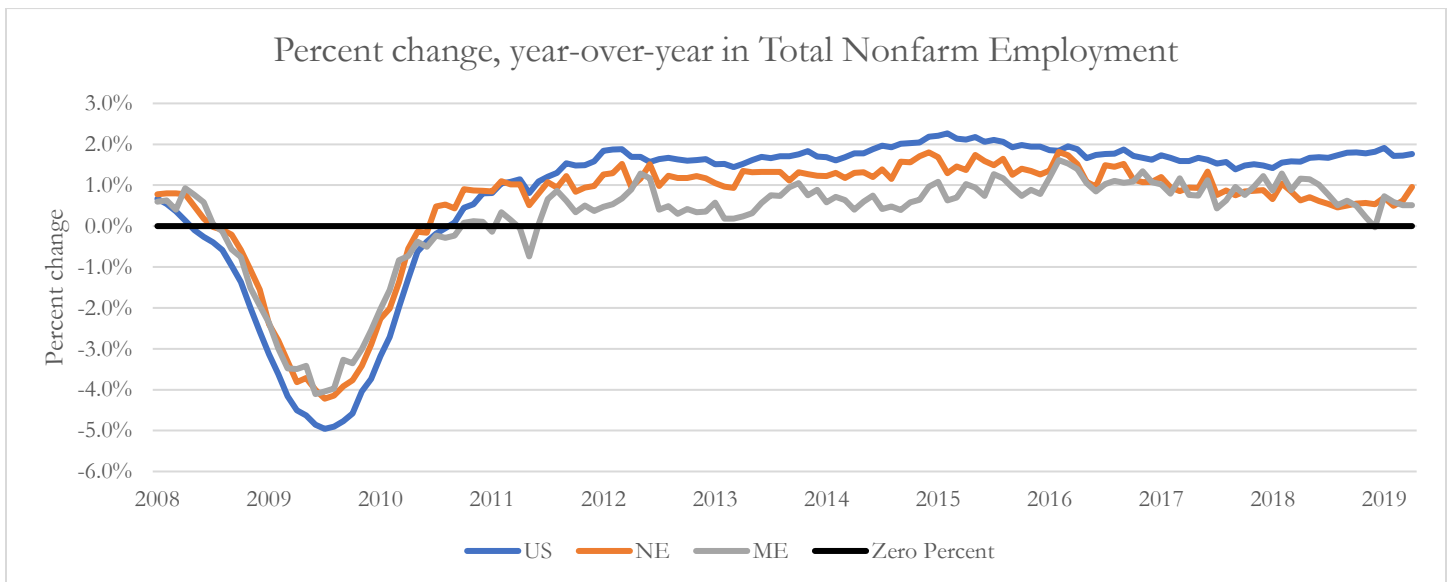
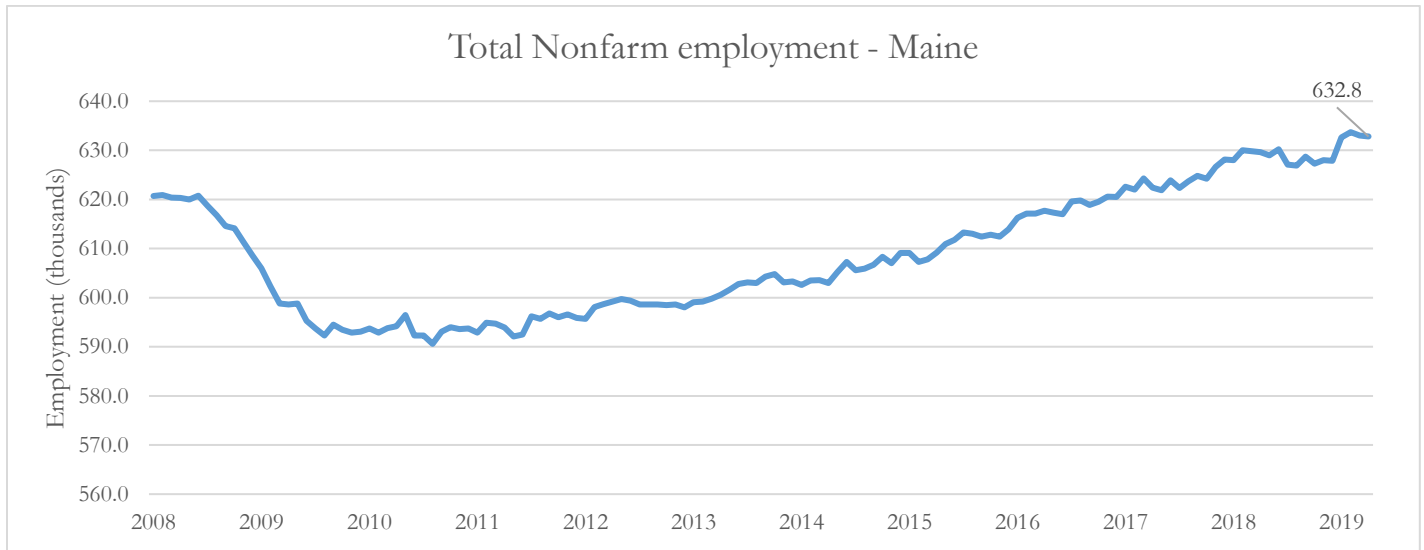
### 3.3.2 Labor Force Participation Rate: April 2019 = 62.90%

Labor force participation in Maine has remained relatively stable for approximately two years. Maine's participation rate is in line with the national rate.



### 3.3.3 Total Nonfarm Payroll Job Estimates: April 2019 = 632,800

Compared to April 2018, total nonfarm payroll job estimates for Maine in April 2019 increased by 0.5 percent. Nonfarm payroll job estimates for New England were higher by 1.0 percent compared to last year.

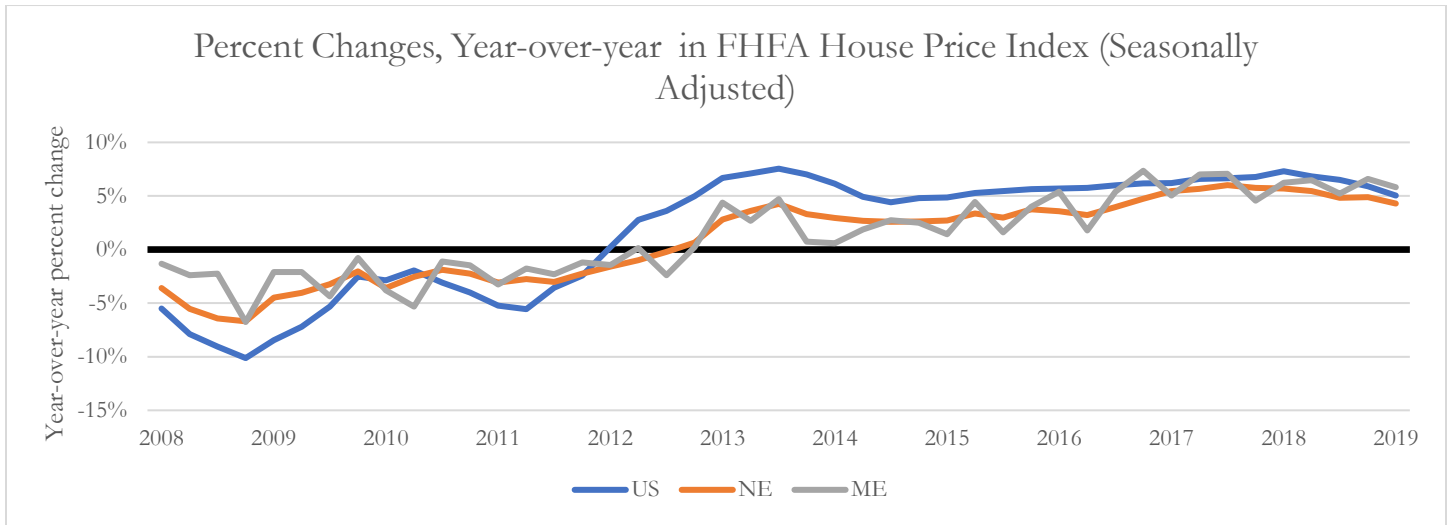


### 3.4 Housing Prices

In the first quarter of 2019, the housing price index (HPI) in Maine, New England, and the U.S. continued to rise compared to the third quarter of 2018. According to the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA), the HPI “measures average price changes in repeat sales or refinancing on the same properties.” Maine’s HPI increased by 0.8 percent from the previous quarter (2018:Q4 to 2019:Q1). Maine’s year-over-year HPI growth rate was higher than both the regional growth rate and the national growth rate.

Additionally, the MEREDA Index declined by 0.2 percent since the first quarter of 2018, little changed in the last six months. This is because of growth in the residential and construction sectors offset the decline in commercial components. The index, released twice a year, “is a composite of nine seasonally adjusted measures reflecting both new development and transactions involving existing properties and it covers both the commercial and residential markets statewide.”

Reference Period		Maine	New England	United States
2018:Q4 - 2019:Q1	HPI percent change from previous quarter	0.8%	0.9%	1.1%



### 3.4.1 Median Housing Prices and Units Sold – County (April 2019)

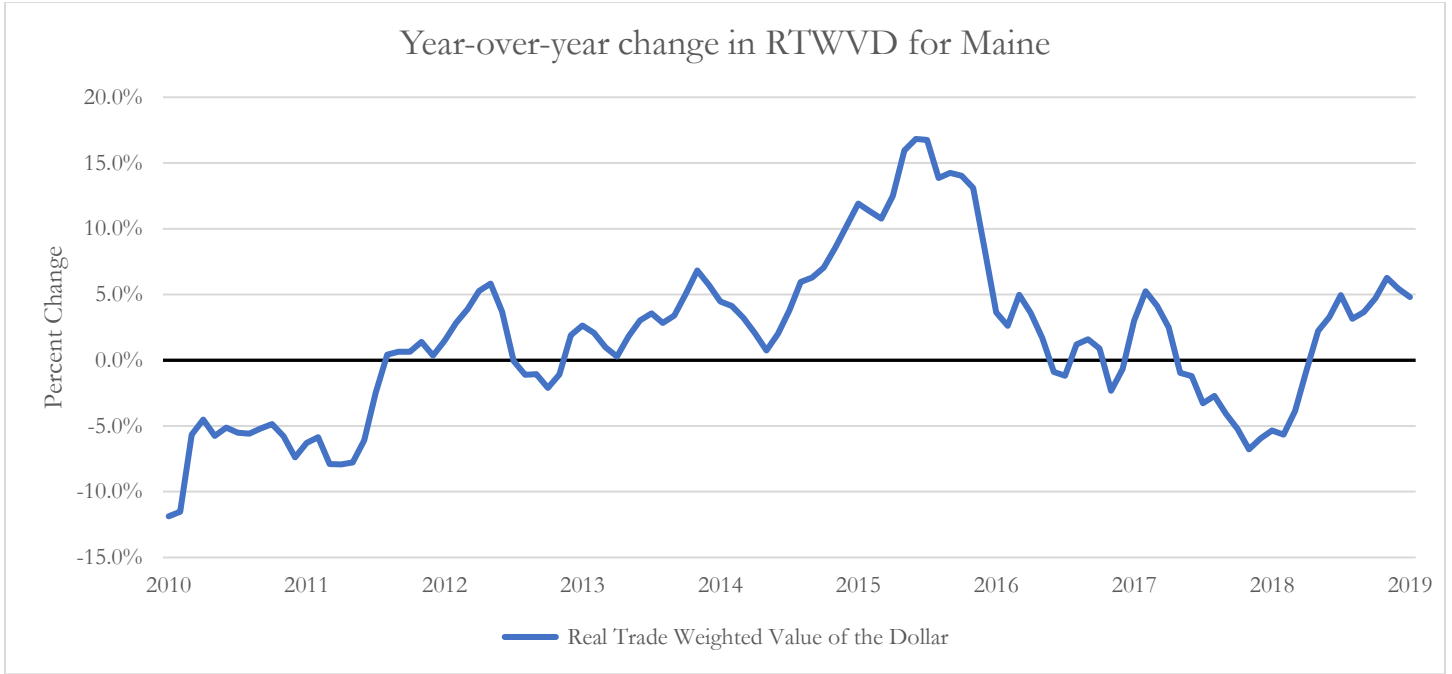
Geography	No. of Units Sold	One Year Change	Median Sale Price	One Year Change	One Month Change
Androscoggin	86	28.4%	\$ 152,000	-4.9%	-9.7%
Aroostook	40	-34.4%	\$ 104,500	-0.5%	-0.5%
Cumberland	261	-5.4%	\$ 314,976	8.9%	6.8%
Franklin	36	50.0%	\$ 122,250	-2.2%	1.0%
Hancock	66	6.5%	\$ 240,500	34.3%	15.9%
Kennebec	109	6.9%	\$ 150,000	-0.5%	1.7%
Knox	40	-7.0%	\$ 232,375	-7.1%	-10.6%
Lincoln	46	43.8%	\$ 216,327	13.9%	5.5%
Oxford	55	7.8%	\$ 179,900	12.5%	29.5%
Penobscot	139	17.8%	\$ 145,000	17.5%	7.4%
Piscataquis	20	-13.0%	\$ 100,000	-14.9%	11.7%
Sagadahoc	32	-17.9%	\$ 212,000	-8.8%	-18.5%
Somerset	38	-20.8%	\$ 98,000	-5.8%	-13.7%
Waldo	34	13.3%	\$ 155,000	-13.9%	-7.4%
Washington	24	0.0%	\$ 115,000	9.6%	-17.9%
York	233	16.5%	\$ 285,000	5.6%	0.0%
<b>Maine</b>	<b>1259</b>	<b>4.8%</b>	<b>\$ 210,000</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>



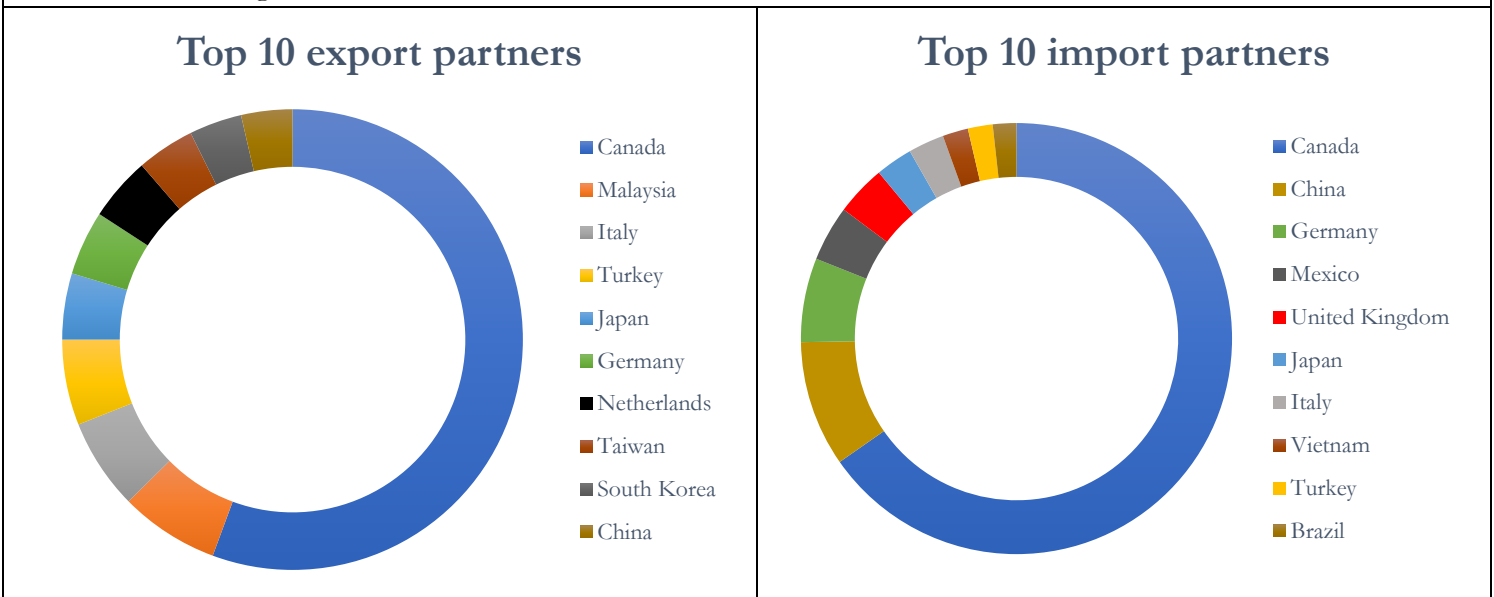


### 3.6.2 Real Trade Weighted Value of the Dollar (RTWVD)

This index compares the value of the dollar against the currencies of the countries with which Maine trades. For the month of March 2019, Canada (41.6%), Malaysia (5.2%) and Italy (4.8%) are the top three export destinations. Similarly, Maine’s top three import partners are Canada (54.5%), China (7.9%) and Germany (5.3%). RTWVD represents the dollar’s purchasing power relative to the foreign currencies mentioned above. When the value of the dollar increases in relation to export partners, exports to partner countries becomes more expensive.



#### March 2019 Trading Partners



## 4 Appendix

### 4.1 Data Sources

Indicator	Source	Reference Period	Release Date
<a href="#">Population: estimates and percent change</a>	Census Bureau – Pop. Ests.	2018	December 19, 2018
<a href="#">Net migration: total and percent change</a>	Census Bureau – Pop. Ests.	2018	April 18, 2019
<a href="#">Median age</a>	Census Bureau – Pop. Ests.	2017	June 2018
<a href="#">Educational attainment</a>	Census Bureau – ACS 1-year	2017	September 13, 2018
<a href="#">Poverty level</a>	Census Bureau – ACS 1-year	2017	September 13, 2018
<a href="#">Income</a>	Census Bureau – ACS 1-year	2017	September 13, 2018
<a href="#">Per capita personal consumption expenditure</a>	U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis	2017	October 4, 2018
<a href="#">Per capita disposable personal income</a>	U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis	2018	March 26, 2019
<a href="#">Average earnings per job</a>	U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis	2017	September 25, 2018
<a href="#">Gross domestic product</a>	U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis	2018:Q4	May 1, 2019
<a href="#">GDPNow</a>	Atlanta Fed	2019:Q2	May 31, 2019
<a href="#">GDP-Based Recession Indicator Index</a>	Hamilton, James/FRED	2018:Q4	April 26, 2019
<a href="#">Personal income: total, per capita, and wages and salaries</a>	U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis	2018:Q4	March 26, 2019
<a href="#">Unemployment rate</a>	U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics	April 2019	May 17, 2019
<a href="#">Labor force participation</a>	U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics	April 2019	May 17, 2019
<a href="#">Nonfarm payroll job estimates</a>	U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics	April 2019	May 17, 2019
<a href="#">Housing price index</a>	Federal Housing Finance Agency	2019:Q1	May 28, 2019
<a href="#">MEREDA Index</a>	Maine Real Estate & Development Association	2019Q1	May 8, 2019
<a href="#">Housing: Units and Median Sale Price</a>	Maine Association of REALTORS®	April 2019	May 21, 2019
<a href="#">Energy prices</a>	Maine Governor’s Energy Office	May 2019	May 10, 2019
<a href="#">Exports</a>	Census Bureau – USA Trade Online	March 2019	May 9, 2019
<a href="#">Real trade weighted value of the dollar</a>	Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas	March 2019	April 2019
<a href="#">Export and Import Partners</a>	Census Bureau – USA Trade Online	February 2019	April 17, 2019
<a href="#">U.S Canada Exchange Rate</a>	Bank of Canada	n/a	n/a

## 4.2 Glossary

**Average earnings per job:** Total earnings, which is the sum of wages and salaries, supplements to wages and salaries, and proprietors' income, divided by total full-time and part-time employment.

$$\text{Compound Annual Growth Rate:} = \left( \frac{\text{Final Value}}{\text{Initial Value}} \right)^{\frac{1}{\text{No. of Periods}}} - 1$$

**Gross Domestic Product:** The measure of the market value of all final goods and services produced within a state in a particular period of time. GDP by state differs from national GDP for the following reasons: GDP by state excludes and national GDP includes the compensation of federal civilian and military personnel stationed abroad and government consumption of fixed capital for military structures located abroad and for military equipment, except office equipment. **Real GDP:** Real GDP by state is an inflation-adjusted measure of each state's gross product that is based on national prices for the goods and services produced within the state. The real estimates of gross domestic product (GDP) by state are measured in chained (2012) dollars.

**Housing Price Index:** A weighted, repeat-sales index, meaning that it measures average price changes in repeat sales or refinancings on the same properties.

**Labor Force Participation Rate:** The labor force as a percent of the civilian noninstitutional population ages 16 years and older.

**Net Migration Rate:** The U.S. Census Bureau defines the net migration rate as the difference between the number of migrants entering and those leaving an area in a year, per 1,000 midyear population. May also be expressed in percent. A positive figure is known as a net immigration rate and a negative figure as a net emigration rate.

**Personal Consumption Expenditures by State:** A measure of spending on goods and services purchased by, and on behalf of, households based on households' state of residence divided by the resident population of the area.

**Personal Income:** Income that persons residing in the area receive in return for their provision of labor, land, and capital used in current production as well as other income, such as personal current transfer receipts. *Per capita personal income:* The personal income of a given area divided by the resident population of the area. *Per capita disposable personal income:* The income available to persons for spending or saving (personal income less personal current taxes) of a given area divided by the resident population of the area.

**Poverty Level:** The U.S. Census Bureau uses a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is in poverty. If a family's total income is less than the family's threshold, then that family and every individual in it is considered in poverty.

**Real Trade Weighted Value of the Dollar:** An index that calculates the inflation-adjusted value of the U.S. dollar against the currencies of countries with which the state trades.

**Total merchandise exports:** Total exports are calculated by adding domestic exports (goods that are grown, produced, or manufactured in the United States) to foreign exports (foreign-origin goods that have previously entered the United States, Puerto Rico, or the U.S. Virgin Islands for consumption, entry into a CBP bonded warehouse, or a U.S. **Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ)**, and at the time of exportation, have undergone no change in form or condition or enhancement in value by further manufacturing).

**Total Private nonfarm employment:** Each month Current Employment Statistics (CES) surveys a sample of about 2,700 nonfarm private employers (plus federal, state, and local government employers) in Maine asking them to report the number of jobs, hours, and earnings of workers on their payroll during the week including the 12th day of each month. The sample accounts for just 7% of employers, but 34% of nonfarm jobs in the state because a high share of large employers are surveyed.

**Unemployment Rate:** Number of unemployed as a percent of the labor force. To be classified as unemployed, persons must be aged 16 years and older with no employment during the reference week, were available for work, except for temporary illness, and had made specific efforts to find employment sometime during the 4-week period ending with the reference week.

**Wages and Salaries:** Remuneration receivable by employees (including corporate officers) from employers for the provision of labor services, measured before deductions such as social security contributions, union dues, and voluntary employee contributions to defined contribution pension plans.