

Maine Economic Indicators

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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.

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.

Please note that changes in economic indicators cannot uniquely be interpreted as the impact of COVID-19.

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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
2021	Total population	1,372,247	15,092,739	331,893,745
2020-2021	Annual population percent change	0.7%	-0.05%	0.1%
2010-2020	Cumulative population percent change	2.6%	4.7%	7.4%
2020	Average earnings per job	\$56,760	\$78,373	\$69,204
2019-2020	Average earnings per job percent change	8.2%	7.6%	7.1%
February 2022	Unemployment rate	4.0%	4.3%	3.8%
February 2022	Total private nonfarm employment	536,400	6,400,900	128,201,000
February 2022	Labor Force	680,191	7,976,000	163,991,000
February 2022	Labor Force Participation Rate	59.3%	N/A	62.3%

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

Real GDP	2021:Q1	2021:Q2	2021:Q3	2021:Q4	2020:Q4- 2021:Q4
Maine	2.4	4.3	1.8	6.8	3.8
New England	3.4	9.4	2.5	7.6	5.7
United States	6.3	6.7	2.3	6.9	5.5
Total Personal Income	2021:Q1	2021:Q2	2021:Q3	2021:Q4	2020:Q4- 2021:Q4
Maine	60.6	-24.6	1.6	5.1	6.6
New England	40.7	-13.7	2.8	2.0	6.2
United States	56.9	-20.2	3.0	2.4	7.2
Per Capita Personal Income	2021:Q1	2021:Q2	2021:Q3	2021:Q4	2020:Q4- 2021:Q4
Maine	59.7	-25.1	0.6	4.0	5.8
New England	41.0	-13.6	2.6	1.9	6.2
United States	56.9	-20.3	2.7	2.0	7.0
Wages & Salaries	2021:Q1	2021:Q2	2021:Q3	2021:Q4	2020:Q4- 2021:Q4
Maine	-1.6	17.1	10.9	9.2	8.7
New England	-2.8	18.3	14.3	9.7	9.6
United States	4.0	12.8	12.7	10.8	10.0

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
2021	Total population	1,372,247	15,092,739	331,893,745
2020-2021	Annual population percent change	0.7%	-0.05%	0.1%
2010-2020	Cumulative population percent change	2.6%	4.7%	7.4%
2021	Births	11,291	136,347	3,581,986
2021	Deaths	17,635	159,721	3,433,943
2021	Net migration	16,340	13,765	244,622
2020-2021	Annual rate of total net migration, per thousand (Maine ranks 7 th in the U.S.)	1.2%	.1%	0.1%
2016-2020	Median age, years (American Community Survey)	44.8	40.8	38.2
2016-2020	Associate degree: percent of population age 25 and above	10.2%	8.3%	8.6%
2016-2020	Bachelor’s degree: percent of population age 25 and above	20.3%	23.1%	20.2%
2016-2020	Graduate or professional degree: percent of population age 25 and above	12.2%	17.6%	12.7%
2016-2020	Percent of population below poverty level	11.1%	9.9%	12.8%
2016-2020	Median family income	\$76,192	\$98,229	\$80,069
2016-2020	Median household income	\$59,489	\$77,376	\$64,994
2020	Per capita personal consumption expenditures	\$45,272	\$50,154	\$42,635
2020	Per capita disposable personal income	\$49,072	\$64,398	\$53,080

2.1 Population estimates and components of change

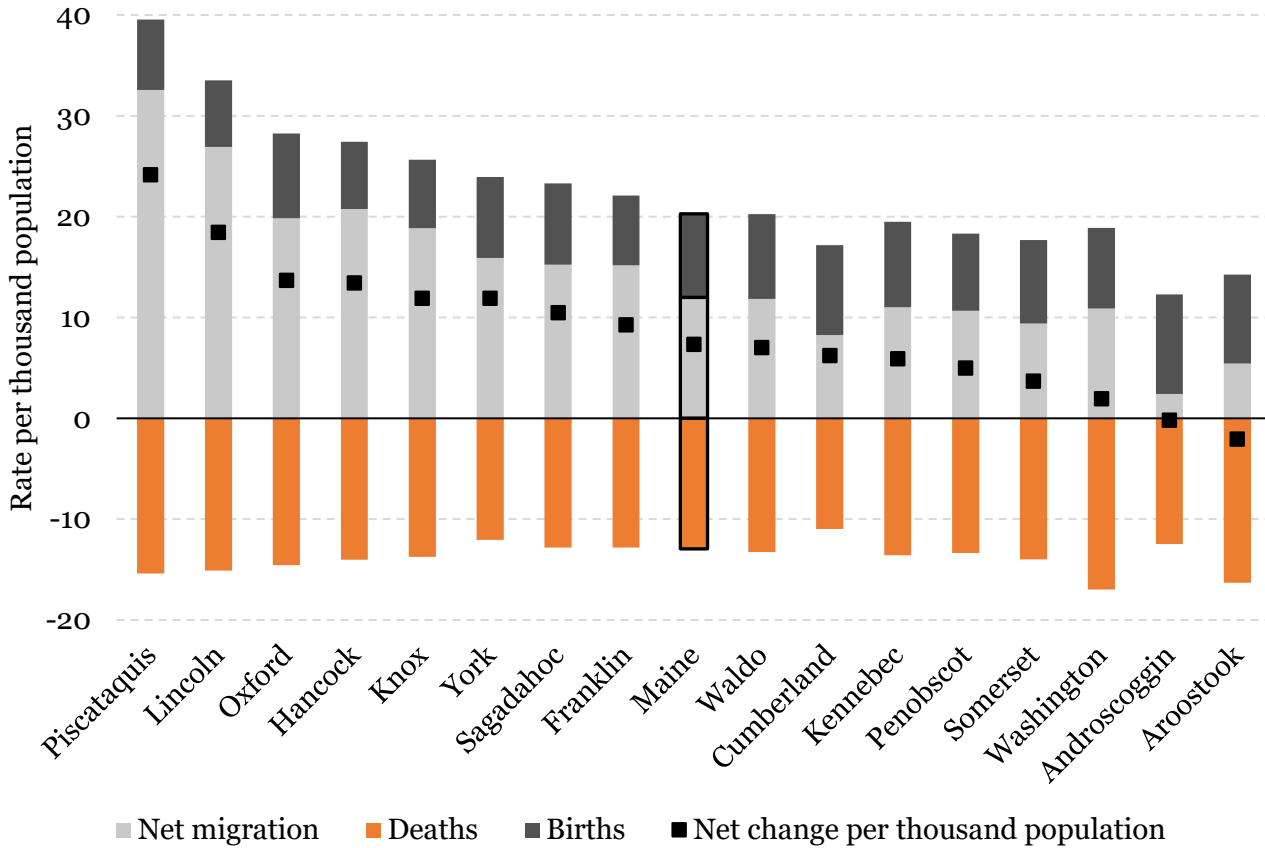
New population estimates for 2021 provide insight into the dynamics of how population has changed in the last year in Maine’s counties. From 2020-2021, fourteen counties’ population increased, while Androscoggin remained flat, and Aroostook decreased (-0.2%). Piscataquis County had the fastest growth, 2.4% year-over-year.

All counties experienced natural population decline, meaning there were more deaths than births. Therefore, all population growth in 2021 was driven by net migration. Piscataquis County had the highest rate of net migration, 32.6 per thousand population, while York County had the highest level of net migration at 3,370 people.

Androscoggin County had the highest birth rate at 9.9 per thousand population, while Lincoln County had the lowest rate, 6.6 per thousand.

It remains unclear whether migration patterns in 2021 are the result of a temporary pandemic boost or a longer-term trend. Future releases of population data will shed light on the nature of these larger dynamics.

Components of Population Change in Maine, 2021 Rate per thousand population



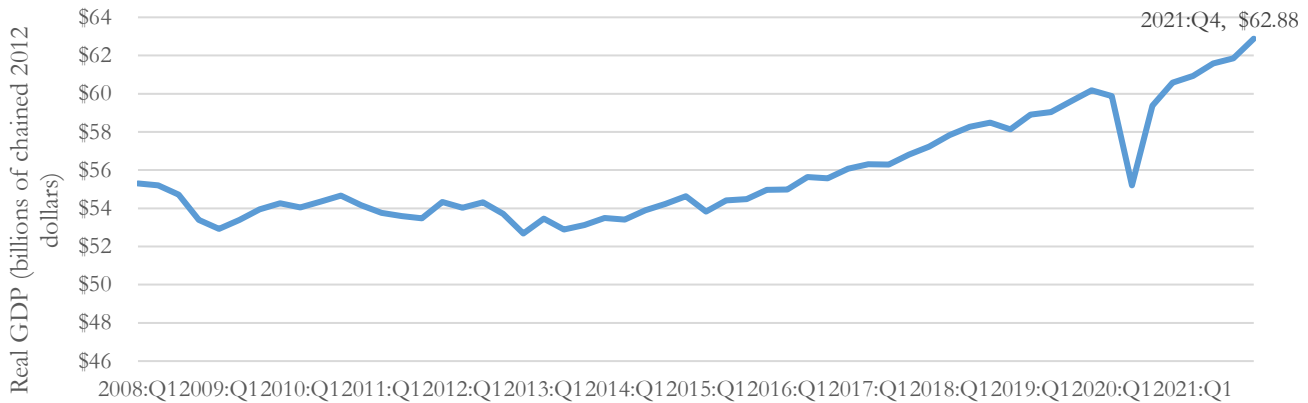
3 Quarterly and Monthly Indicators

3.1 Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

Real GDP in Maine grew by 6.8 percent from the preceding quarter at an annual rate (2021:Q3 to 2021:Q4), ranking 20th in the U.S. and fifth in New England. The industry sectors that contributed the most to Maine’s fourth quarter increase in GDP were real estate and rental and leasing; agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting; and professional, scientific, and technical services, among other sectors. Gains in these sectors were partially offset by losses in construction; utilities; and government & government enterprises.

2021:Q4	Maine	United States
Nominal GDP (Current dollars)	\$79.2 billion	\$24.0 trillion
Real GDP (Chained 2012 Dollars)	\$62.9 billion	\$19.8 trillion

Real GDP (billions of chained 2012 dollars) - Maine

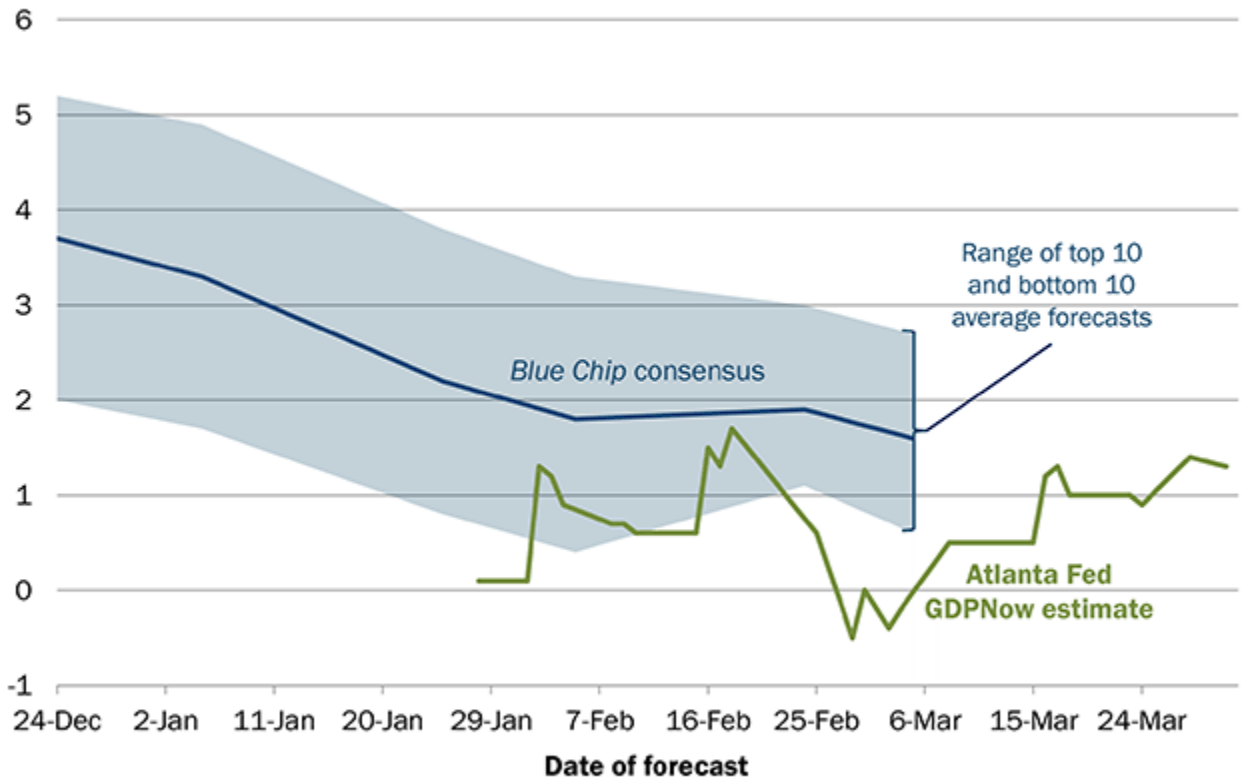


3.1.1 GDP Now from the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

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 the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis in their official GDP estimates and is revised each time the monthly source data is updated. The nowcast estimate for 2022:Q1 as of March 31st is that U.S. real GDP will **increase by 1.3 percent** at an annual rate.

Evolution of Atlanta Fed GDPNow real GDP estimate for 2022: Q1

Quarterly percent change (SAAR)



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.

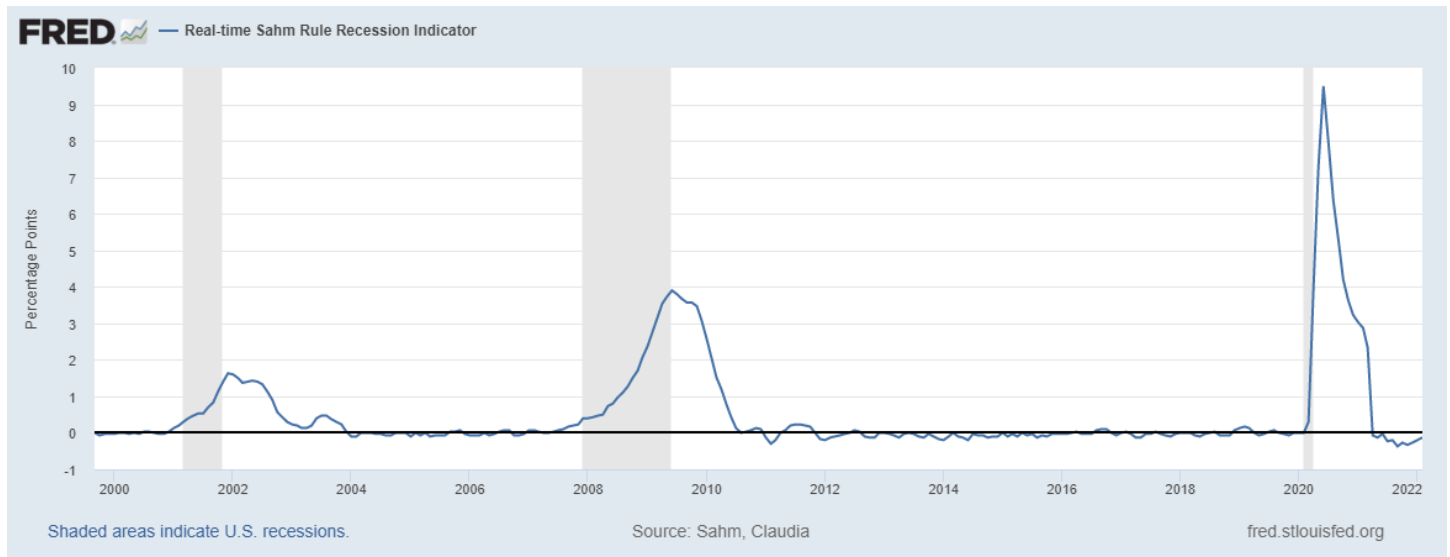
3.2 Recession Indicators

The National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) declared that the United States was officially in recession starting in February and ending in April 2020, as of July 19, 2021. NBER is the primary source in the United States that declares when recessions begin and end. Other recession indicators are used to estimate business cycles in real time but are not official sources for when recessions begin and end.

3.2.1 Real-time Sahm Rule Recession Indicator

The Real-time Sahm Rule Recession Indicator¹ signals a recession when the 3-month moving average of the national unemployment rate (U3) rises by at least 0.5 percentage points relative to its low in the previous 12 months.

In February 2022, this indicator showed that the three-month average of national U3 was **-.13 points under its 12-month low**. This lends evidence that the economy is not still in a recession.



¹ Created by Dr. Claudia Sahm, Federal Reserve Board of Governors

3.3 Labor Markets²

Each winter, historical labor force estimates are revised as more complete information becomes available. Revisions often tend to be largest for the most recent year. Compared to previous estimates, [new revisions indicate that Maine's labor force performed better in 2021](#). Unemployment was revised down in most months while total nonfarm jobs was revised up in all months of 2021. Labor force participation was more varied throughout 2021, and declined in the later months of the year.

3.3.1 Unemployment Rate February 2022: 4.0%

The unemployment rate was 4.0% in February, slightly higher than the U.S. rate of 3.8% but lower than New England's 4.3%. This marks the lowest unemployment rate in Maine since February 2020 as unemployment has continued its steady decline beginning in the summer of 2021.

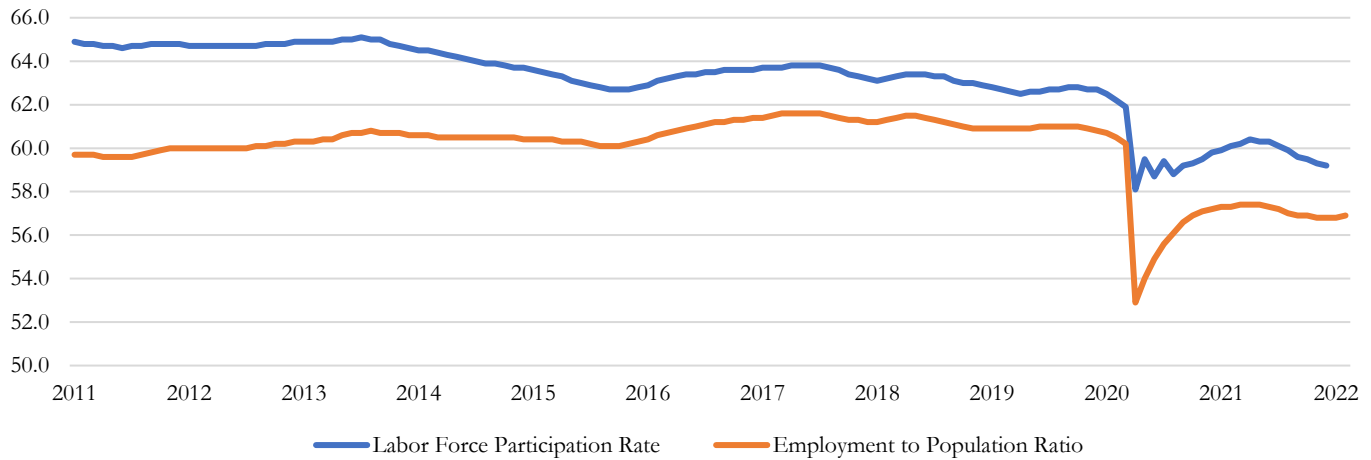


² The data for unemployment rates and labor force are derived from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program and data for nonfarm payroll jobs are derived from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program. The numbers presented below are estimates which vary month to month in either direction and are subject to substantial revision. 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.

3.3.2 Labor Force Participation Rate February 2022: 59.3%

Labor force participation (LFP) was 59.3% in February, relatively unchanged over the past four months and under the U.S. rate of 62.3%. The employment to population ratio (EPOP), an alternative measure of labor market activity which measures the total number of employed working-age adults divided by the total working-age population, was at 56.9%. Both LFP and EPOP are down compared to February 2021 and remain 2.9 and 3.6 points under February 2020, respectively.

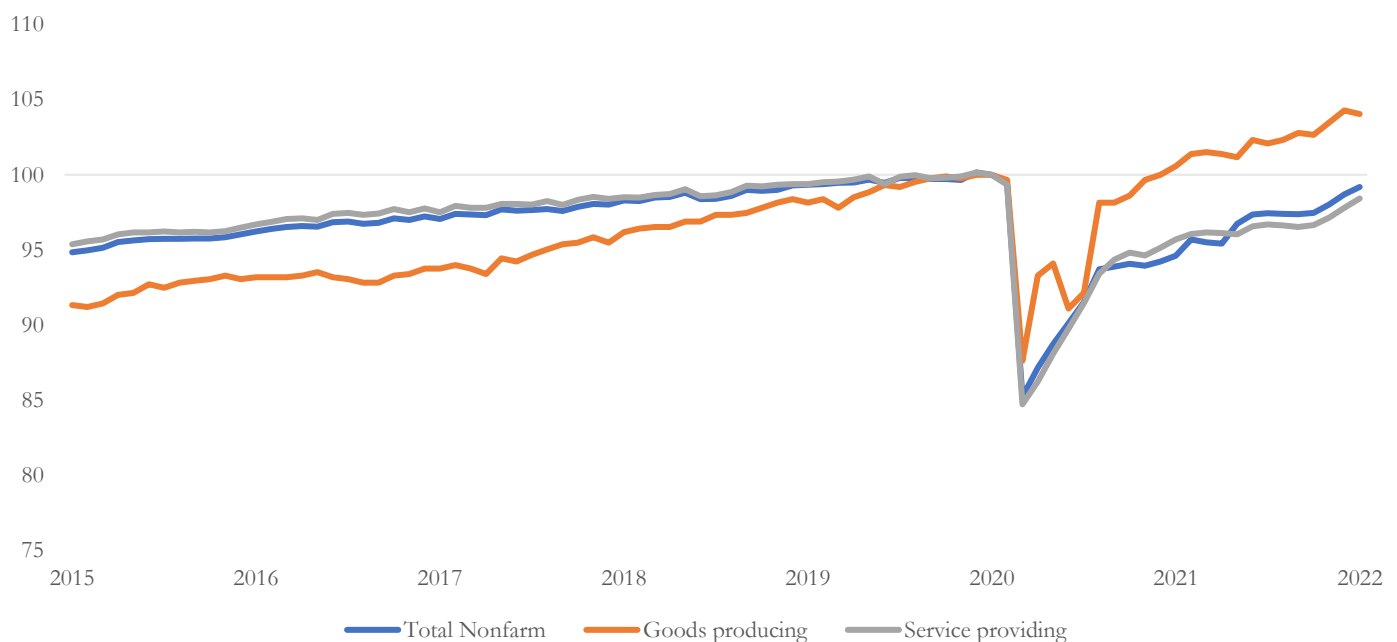
Labor Force Participation & Employment-Population Ratio (Maine)



3.3.3 Total Nonfarm Payroll Job Estimates February 2022: 634,800

Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment increased by 3,200 in February and 7,600 in the three months from December to February. New England gained 32,800 jobs in February, while the U.S. gained 678,000. Total nonfarm employment in Maine is up 2.9% from a year ago and down 0.8% from February 2020. Jobs in the goods-producing sector are about 4.0% higher than pre-pandemic, while the service sector lags slightly (-1.6%).

Nonfarm employment, indexed to pre-pandemic (February 2020=100)



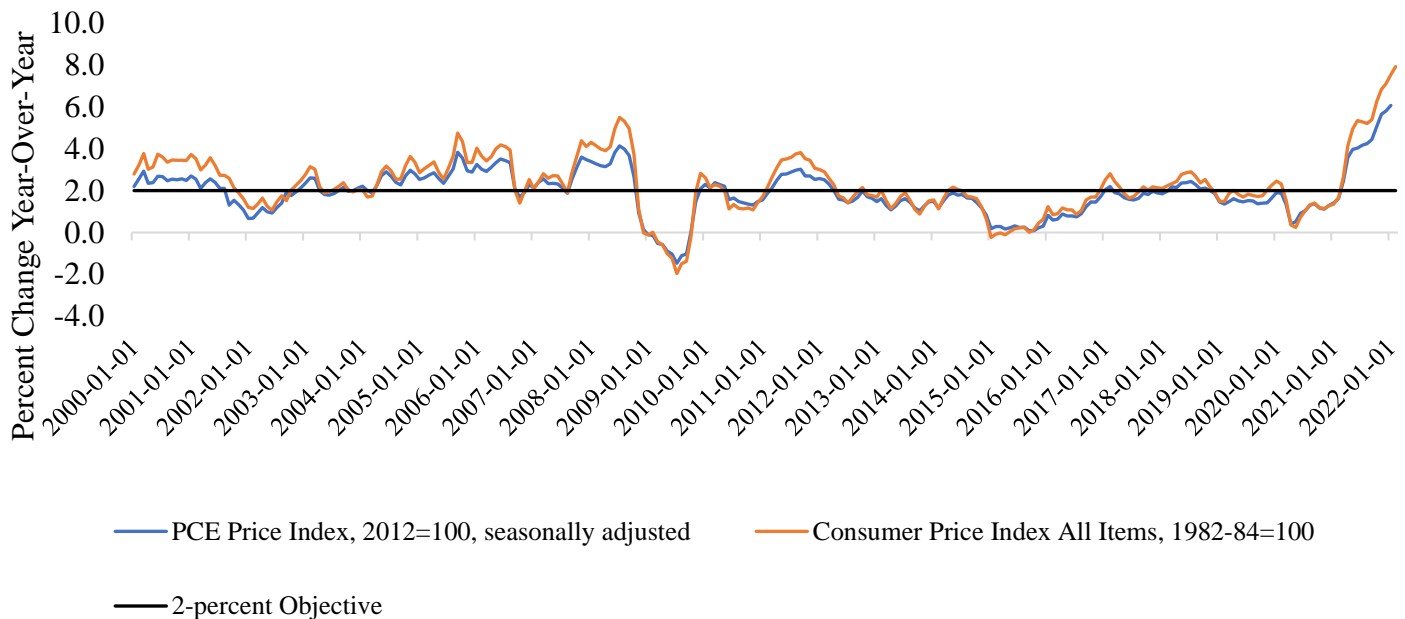
3.4 National inflation measures

3.4.1 Consumer Price Index vs. Personal Consumption Expenditures

There are two measures of inflation in the United States. The Consumer Price Index is released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and is based on surveys of urban consumers, while Personal Consumption Expenditures price index is calculated by the Bureau of Economic Analysis and based on surveys of what businesses are selling. Both are used officially for various federal purposes, although the Federal Reserve focuses on PCE in monetary policy decisions.

In January, the PCE price index grew by 6.1% year-over-year, while the CPI all-items index grew by 7.9% in February.

Measures of inflation, Year-Over-Year Percent Change



3.4.2 Expenditure categories of the CPI

While the CPI-all items index rose 7.9% year-over-year, core inflation, which excludes volatile food and energy prices, grew by 6.4%. Food and energy prices are rising faster than other commodities and services, at 7.9% and 25.6% year-over-year, respectively. Excluding food and energy, commodities saw 12.3% growth in the CPI from February 2021 to February 2022. The index for services grew 4.4%.

Overall, the greatest contributors to the monthly increase in the seasonally-adjusted all items index in February were the indexes for gasoline, shelter, and food. The gasoline index increased 6.6% month-over-month, accounting for almost a third of the monthly all-items index increase in February.

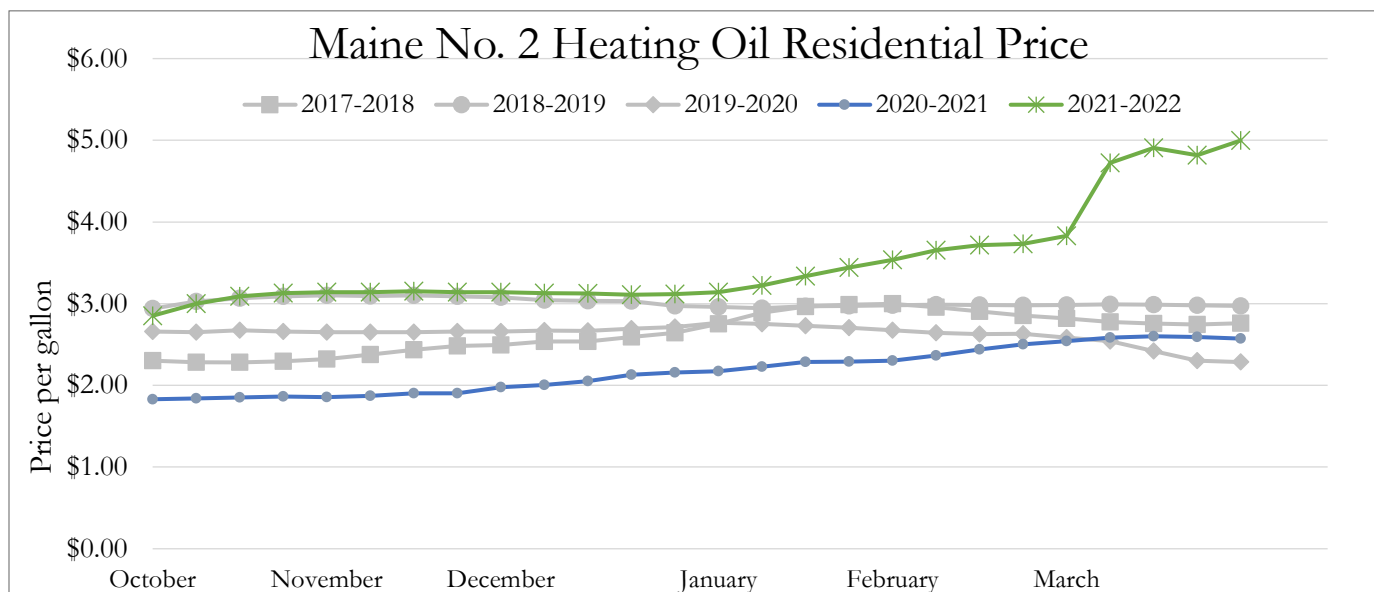
Note that the February CPI report largely precedes the impacts of the Russian invasion into Ukraine, which has put further stress on energy and commodity markets.

Consumer Price Index: Expenditure Category	February Y/Y (not seasonally adjusted)	February M/M (seasonally adjusted)
All items	7.9	0.8
Food	7.9	1.0
Energy	25.6	3.5
<i>All items less food and energy</i>	6.4	0.5
Commodities (less food and energy)	12.3	0.4
Household furnishings and supplies	10.3	0.8
Apparel	6.6	0.7
Transportation commodities (less motor fuel)	23.9	0.1
Medical care commodities	2.5	0.3
Recreation commodities	4.6	0.9
Education and communication commodities	0.3	-0.7
Alcoholic beverages	3.5	0.8
Other goods	4.9	0.9
Services (less energy)	4.4	0.5
Shelter	4.7	0.5
Water and sewer and trash collection	4.2	0.5
Household operation	--	--
Medical care services	2.4	0.1
Transportation services	6.6	1.4
Recreation services	5.1	0.6
Education and communication services	1.7	0.1
Other personal services	6.2	1.2

3.5 Energy

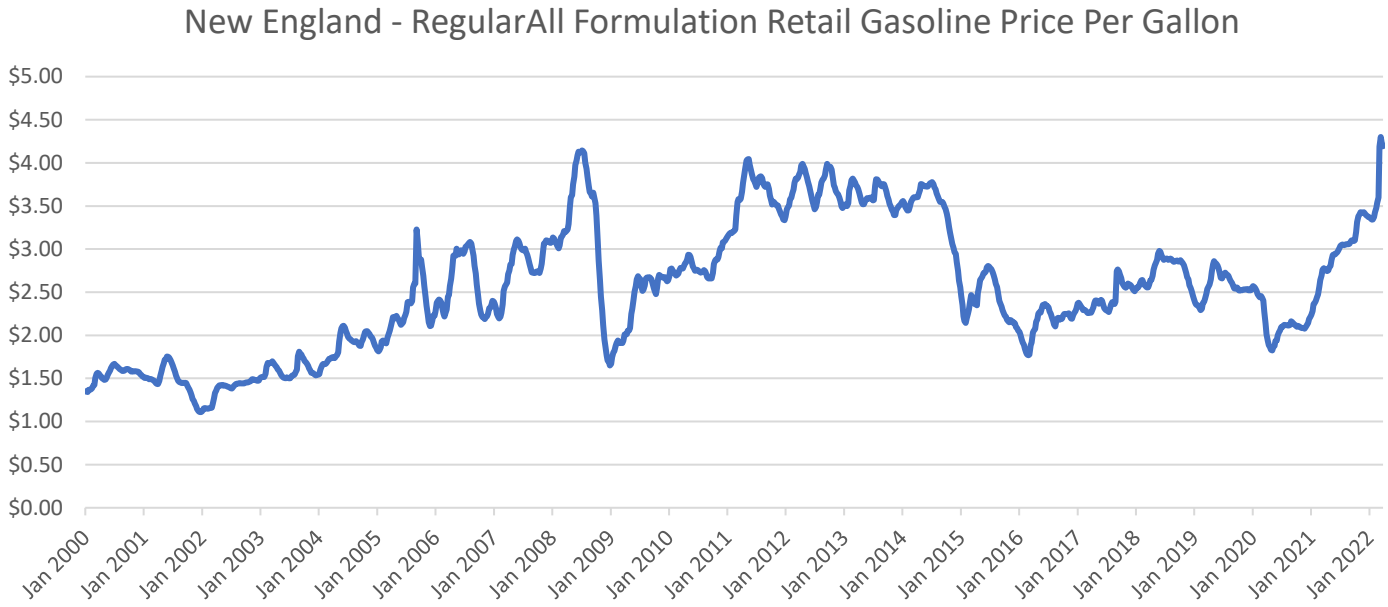
3.5.1 Heating Oil

The heating oil season (October-March) closed at its highest price on record, \$4.997 on March 28, 2022. The average price of a gallon of home heating oil rose \$0.89 in the first week of March after Russia invaded Ukraine, the largest one-week increase since recording began in October 1990.



3.5.2 Gasoline

The average price of a gallon of regular gasoline in New England was \$4.194 on March 28, 2022, \$0.60 higher than a month prior and \$1.43 higher compared to the same week of last 2021. Gasoline reached its highest price on record in New England in the second week of March at \$4.30 per gallon.



3.6 Housing

3.6.1 Sales

Home sales declined year-over-year in February for the eighth consecutive month amid tightening supply. The 878 single-family units sold totaled 17.3% fewer than in February 2021, though the figure is close to pre-pandemic levels, only 1.5% more than February 2020. Meanwhile the growth rate for median sale price remains in the double digits, 21.5% in February, reaching \$297,500. All sixteen counties had year-over-year growth in the median sale price, while only two had year-over-year growth in units sold.

Geography	No. of Units Sold	One Year Change (units)	Median Sale Price	One Year Change (Price)
Androscoggin	69	6.2%	\$250,000	26.3%
Aroostook	46	-4.2%	\$132,250	28.7%
Cumberland	131	-28.0%	\$136,000	17.1%
Franklin	36	24.1%	\$252,000	15.6%
Hancock	34	-43.3%	\$407,500	45.9%
Kennebec	86	-18.9%	\$227,750	14.2%
Knox	36	-28.0%	\$375,000	27.1%
Lincoln	31	-27.9%	\$360,000	2.9%
Oxford	51	-8.9%	\$274,000	25.3%
Penobscot	95	-5.9%	\$200,000	25.0%
Piscataquis	21	-22.2%	\$140,000	3.7%
Sagadahoc	17	-26.1%	\$420,000	45.3%
Somerset	40	-24.5%	\$190,000	22.6%
Waldo	27	-29.0%	\$287,400	22.9%
Washington	23	-43.9%	\$219,000	46.0%
York	135	-3.6%	\$415,000	18.7%
Maine	878	-17.3%	\$297,500	21.5%

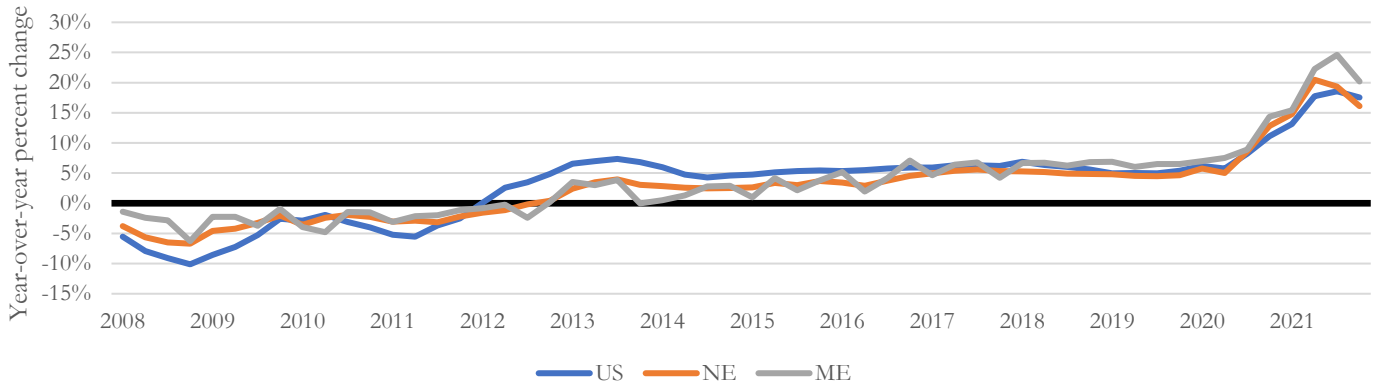
3.6.2 House Price Index

In the fourth quarter of 2021, year-over-year growth in the house price index (HPI)³ reached double digits in Maine, New England, and the United States, though decelerating slightly from record-high rates in the previous quarter. Maine's year-over-year HPI growth rate was higher than both the regional growth rate and the national growth rate at 20.2% compared to 16.1% in New England and 17.5% in the U.S. Maine had the 12th highest growth rate of all 50 states and DC in the fourth quarter.

Reference Period		Maine	New England	United States
2020:Q4-2021:Q4	HPI percent change from previous year	20.2%	16.1%	17.5%

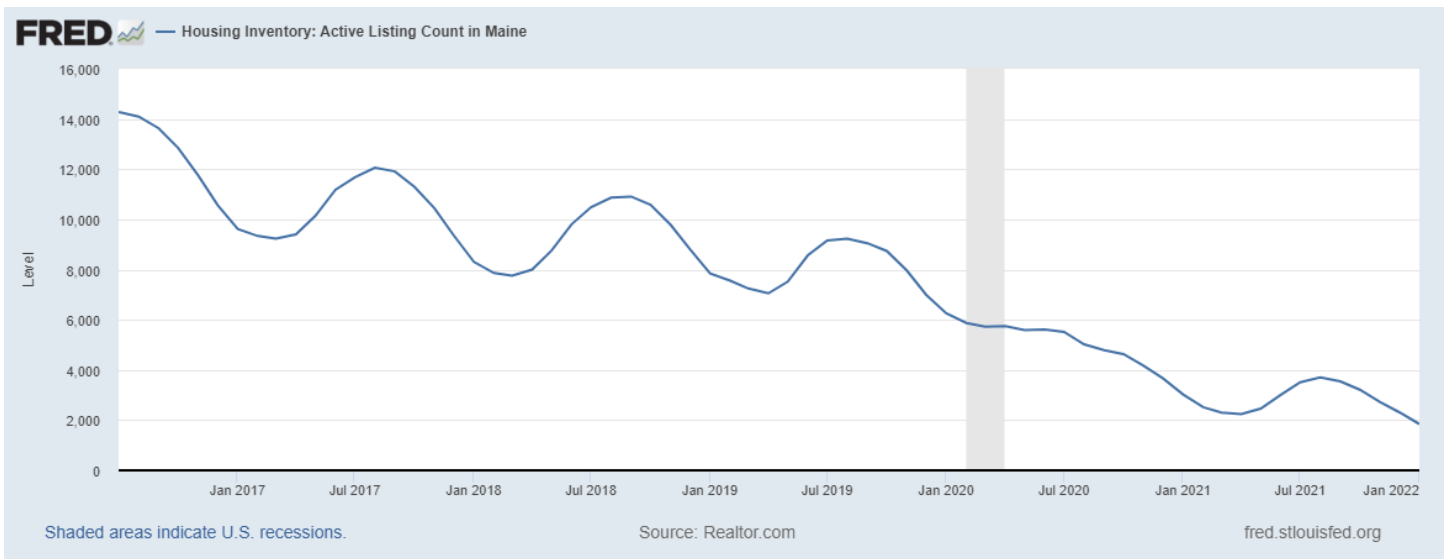
³ According to the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA), the HPI "measures average price changes in repeat sales or refinancing on the same properties."

Percent Changes, Year-over-year in FHFA House Price Index (Seasonally Adjusted)



3.6.3 Housing inventory

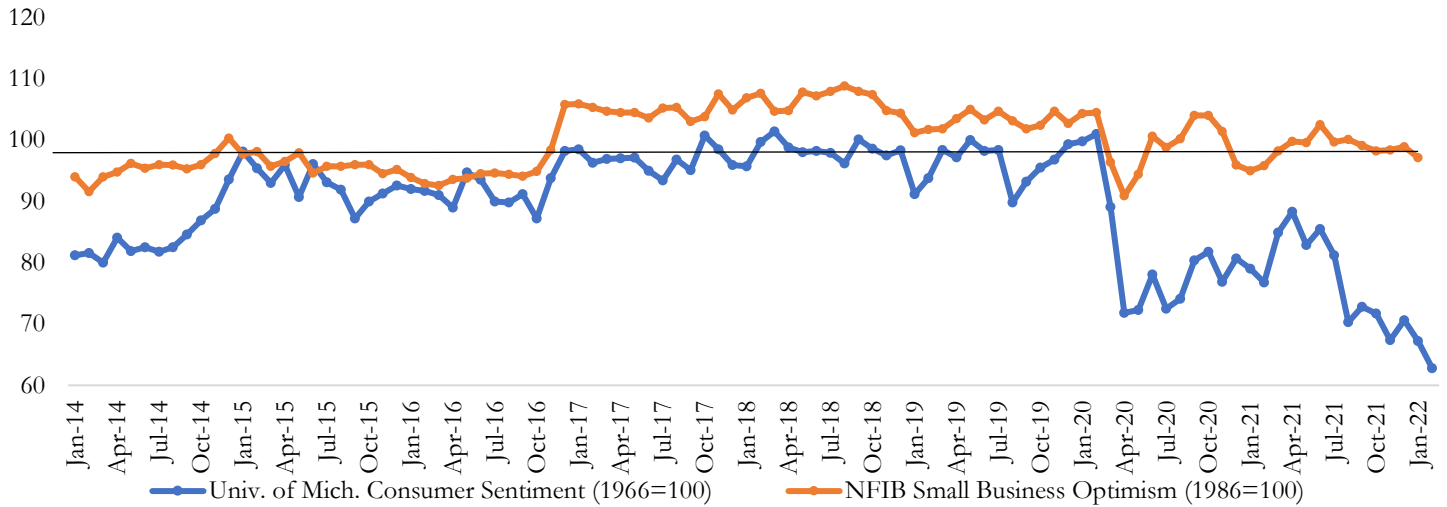
A contributor to Maine’s tight housing market is very low inventory. In February 2022, there were 1,553 active listings for single-family homes in Maine on Realtor.com, 963 fewer than 12 months prior. Active listings have fallen year-over-year in every month since recording began, with the gap accelerating though 2020 but easing in recent months.



3.7 Sentiment

The Index of Consumer Sentiment from the University of Michigan fell 6.5% month-over-month and is down 18.2% from a year ago. The Small Business Optimism Index, as measured by the National Federation of Independent Businesses, fell marginally in February by 1.4% month-over-month and 0.1% over the past 12 months.

Consumer Sentiment and Small Business Optimism Indexes

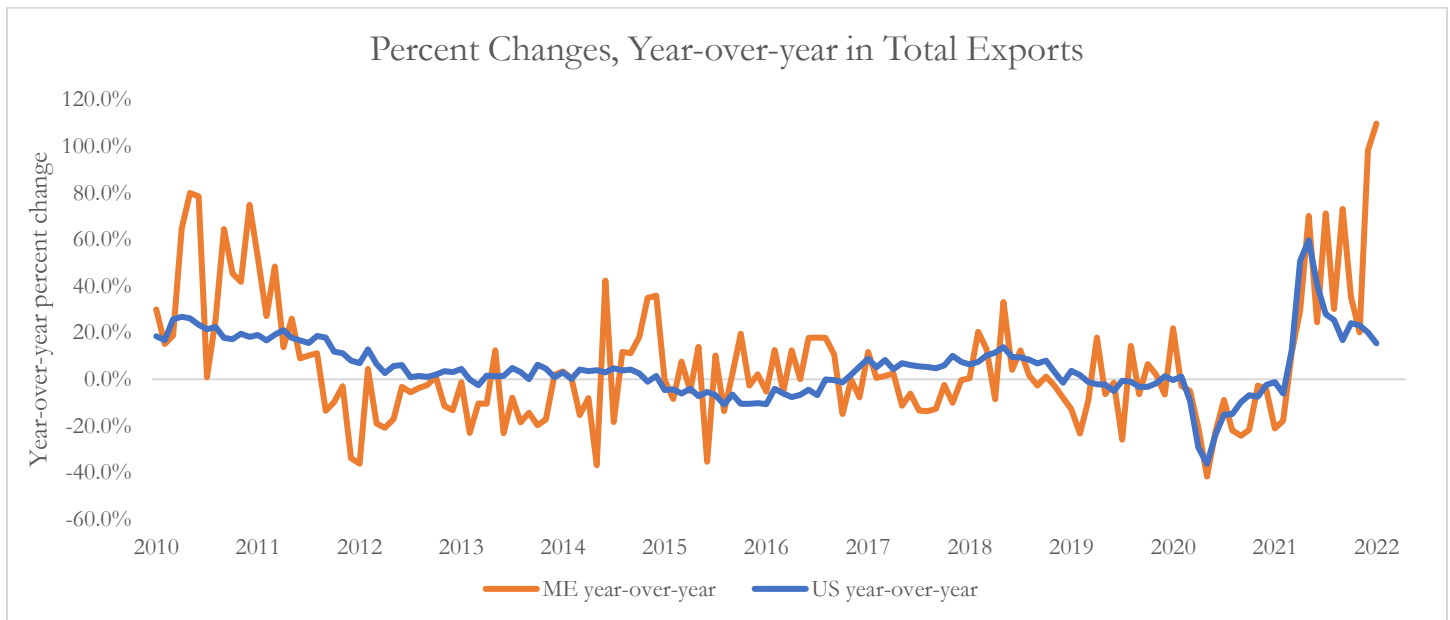


3.8 Trade Outlook

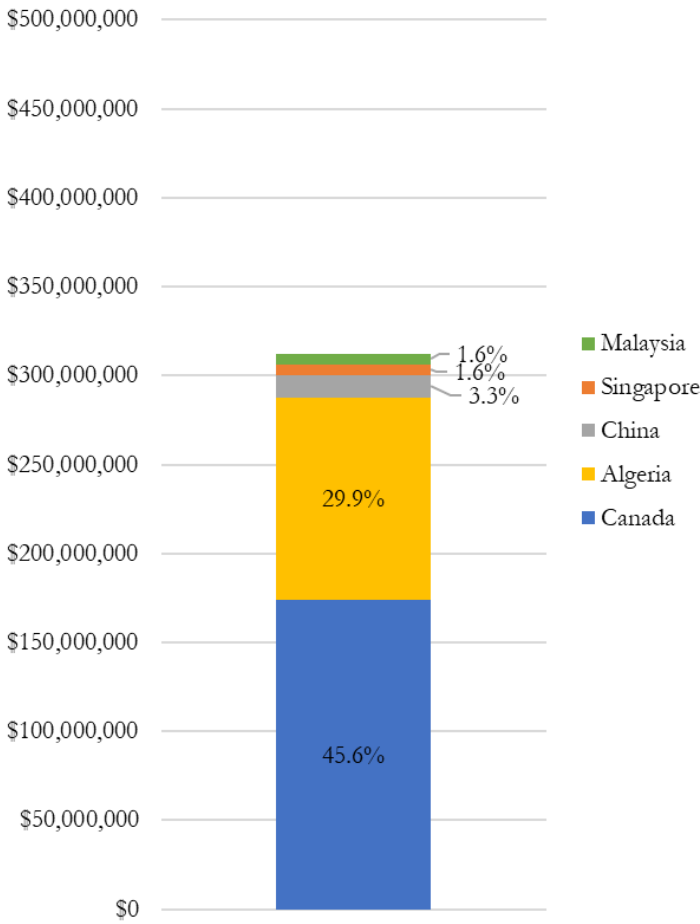
3.8.1 Exports and trade partners

In January 2022, total exports were up 109.7% in Maine and 15.4% nationwide compared to January 2021. Much of the boost derived from an abnormally large transaction to Algeria. Maine's top trade partner was Canada, which accounted for 68.9% of imports and 45.6% of exports. Total imports to Maine were valued at \$581.6 million while exports totaled \$375.1 million.

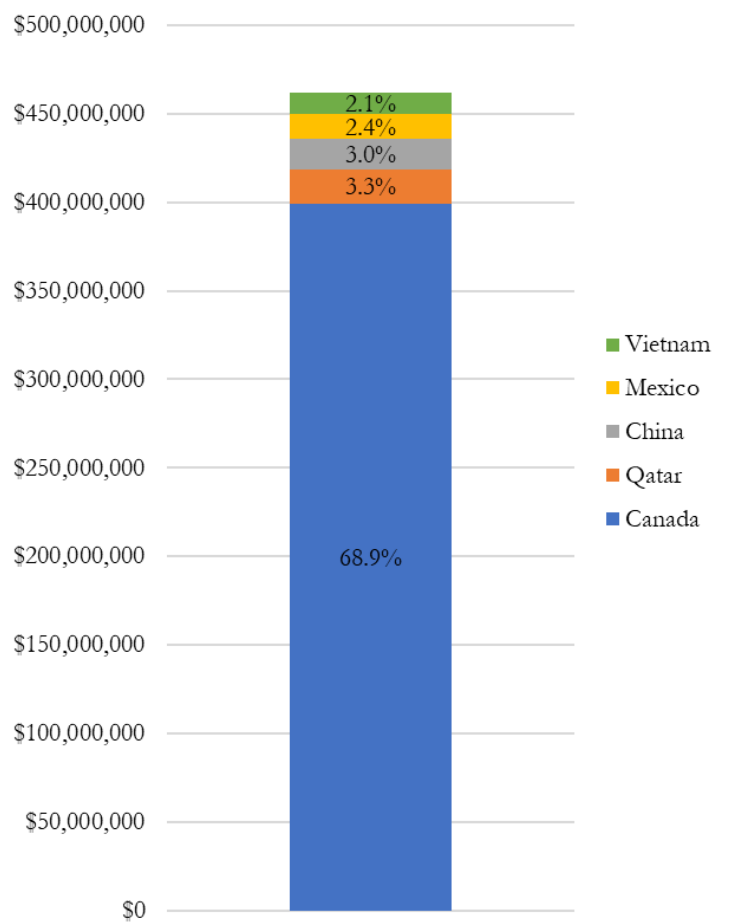
Percent Changes, Year-over-year in Total Exports



Value of exports to top 5 export partners



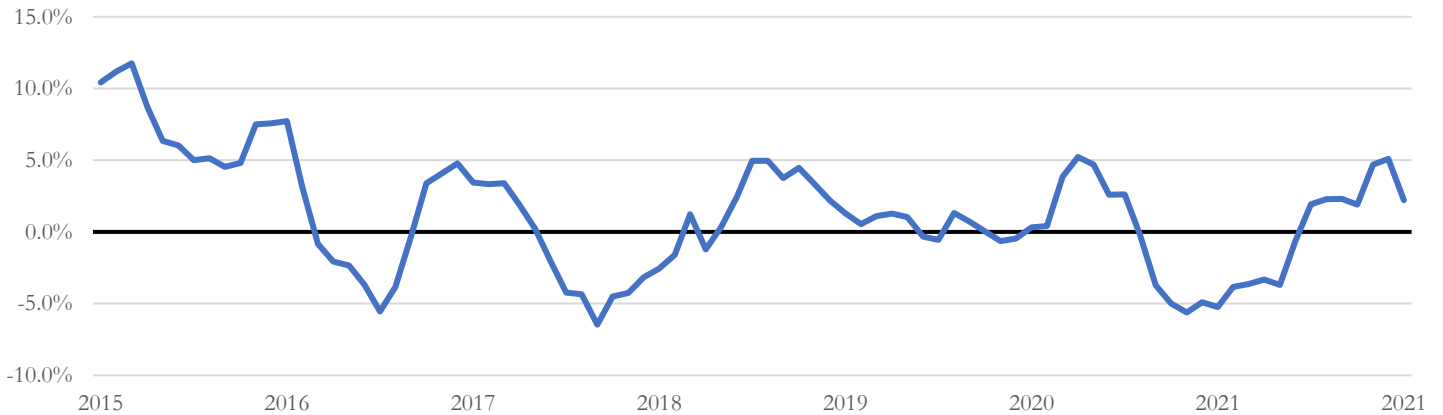
Value of imports from top 5 import partners



3.8.2 Real Trade-Weighted Value of the Dollar

The Real Trade-Weighted Value of the Dollar index calculates the inflation-adjusted value of the US Dollar against the currencies of countries with which the state trades, which allows for a more precise analysis of how movements in exchange rates affect demand for states' imports. In January 2022, Maine's RTWVD 6-month change was 2.2%.

Real Trade-Weighted Value of the Dollar: Maine, 6-month change



4 Appendix

4.1.1 Data Sources

Indicator	Source	Reference Period	Release Date
Population: estimates and percent change	Census Bureau – Pop. Ests. And 2020 Decennial Census	2021	December 21, 2021
Net migration: total and percent change	Census Bureau – Pop. Ests.	2021	December 21, 2021
Median age	Census Bureau – ACS 5-year	2020	March 17, 2022
Educational attainment	Census Bureau – ACS 5-year	2020	March 17, 2022
Poverty level	Census Bureau – ACS 5-year	2020	March 17, 2022
Income	Census Bureau – ACS 5-year	2020	March 17, 2022
Per capita personal consumption expenditure	U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis	2020	October 8, 2021
Per capita personal income	U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis	2021:Q4	March 23, 2022
Average earnings per job	U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis	2020	September 23, 2021
Gross domestic product	U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis	2021:Q4	March 31, 2022
GDPNow	Atlanta Fed	2022:Q1	March 31, 2022
Real-time Sahm Rule Recession Indicator	Sahm, Claudia/FRED	February 2022	March 4, 2022
Personal income: total, per capita, and wages and salaries	U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis	2021:Q4	March 23, 2022
Unemployment rate	U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics	February 2022	March 25, 2022
Labor force participation	U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics	February 2022	March 25, 2022
Nonfarm payroll job estimates	U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics	February 2022	March 25, 2022
Consumer Price Index	U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics	February 2022	March 10, 2022
PCE Price Index	U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis/FRED	January 2022	February 25, 2022
Heating Oil	Energy Information Administration	March 28, 2022	March 30, 2022
Gasoline	Energy Information Administration	March 28, 2022	March 28, 2022
House price index	Federal Housing Finance Agency	2021:Q4	February 22, 2022
Housing: Units and Median Sale Price	Maine Association of REALTORS®	February 2022	March 22, 2022
Index of Consumer Sentiment	Michigan Survey of Consumers	February 2022	February 2022
Small Business Optimism Index	National Federation of Independent Businesses	February 2022	March 2022
Imports & Exports	USA Trade Online	January 2022	March 8, 2022
Real Trade-Weighted Value of the Dollar	Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas	January 2022	March 8, 2022

5 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 refinancing 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.