

Maine Economic Indicators

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Maine Department of Administrative and Financial Services

Office of the State Economist

Amanda Rector, State Economist

Denise St. Peter, Economic Analyst

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.

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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
2022	Total population	1,385,340	15,129,548	333,287,557
2021-2022	Annual population percent change	0.6%	0.05%	0.4%
2020-2022	Cumulative population percent change	1.6%	0.4%	0.5%
2022	Average earnings per job	\$61,708	\$80,905	\$71,586
2021-2022	Average earnings per job percent change	4.2%	1.0%	1.7%
September 2023	Unemployment rate	2.7%	2.7%	3.8%
September 2023	Total private nonfarm employment	546,600	6,629,600	134,012,000
September 2023	Labor Force	685,400	7,976,200	167,929,000
September 2023	Labor Force Participation Rate	58.7%	N/A	62.8%

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

Real GDP ¹	2022:Q2	2022:Q3	2022:Q4	2023:Q1	2022:Q2-2023:Q1
Maine	-1.2	2.8	2.3	1.6	2.2
New England	-2.8	2.7	2.0	1.6	2.1
United States	-0.6	3.2	2.6	2.0	2.6
Total Personal Income	2022:Q3	2022:Q4	2023:Q1	2023:Q2	2022:Q3-2023:Q2
Maine	7.7	1.7	10.4	-2.7	3.0
New England	5.5	9.3	3.1	4.2	5.5
United States	6.7	4.7	6.8	4.3	5.3
Per Capita Personal Income	2022:Q3	2022:Q4	2023:Q1	2023:Q2	2022:Q3-2023:Q2
Maine	6.8	0.9	9.8	-3.4	2.3
New England	5.2	9.0	3.0	4.1	5.3
United States	6.1	4.1	6.3	3.8	4.7
Wages & Salaries	2022:Q3	2022:Q4	2023:Q1	2023:Q2	2022:Q3-2023:Q2
Maine	2.9	8.5	2.4	5.2	5.4
New England	6.4	5.1	4.9	6.3	5.4
United States	10.7	1.6	9.1	6.6	5.7

¹ GDP by state for 2023:Q2 will be released later this fall along with revisions to previous years.

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.

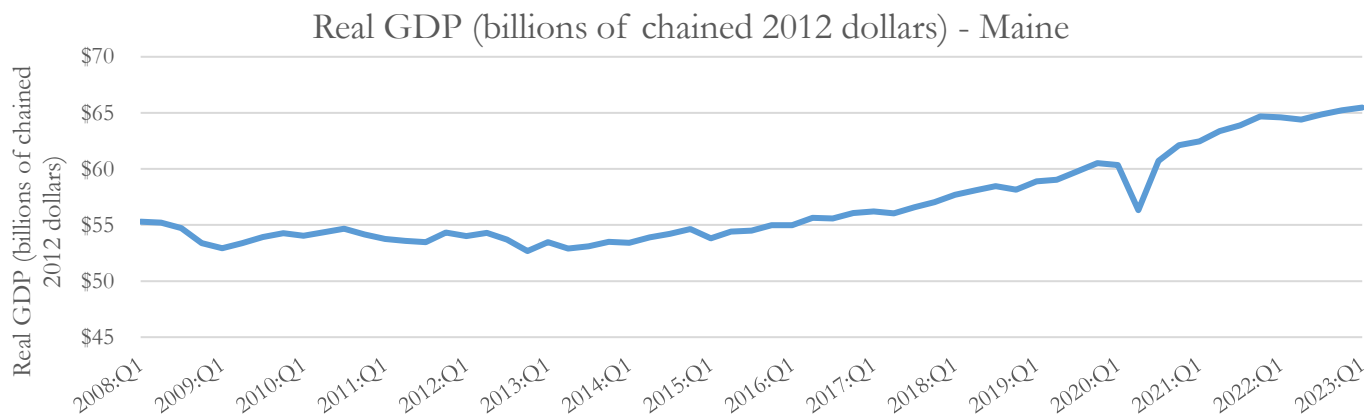
Reference Period		Maine	New England	United States
2022	Total population	1,385,340	15,129,548	333,287,557
2021-2022	Annual population percent change	0.6%	0.05%	0.4%
2020-2022	Cumulative population percent change	1.6%	0.4%	0.5%
2022	Births	12,030	146,423	3,688,179
2022	Deaths	17,973	149,549	3,443,099
2022	Net migration	14,125	13,421	1,010,923
2021-2022	Annual rate of total net migration, per thousand (Maine ranks 11 th in the U.S.)	10.2	0.9	3.0
2022	Median age, years (American Community Survey)	45.1	41.2	39.0
2022	Associate degree: percent of population age 25 and above	10.7%	8.1%	8.8%
2022	Bachelor's degree: percent of population age 25 and above	22.3%	24.3%	21.6%
2022	Graduate or professional degree: percent of population age 25 and above	13.8%	19.1%	14.0%
2022	Percent of population below poverty level	10.8%	10.0%	12.6%
2022	Median family income	\$88,063	\$111,960	\$92,148
2022	Median household income	\$69,543	\$87,451	\$74,755
2022	Per capita personal consumption expenditures	\$55,789	\$61,033	\$52,542
2022	Per capita disposable personal income	\$53,011	\$65,072	\$56,062

3 Quarterly and Monthly Indicators

3.1 Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

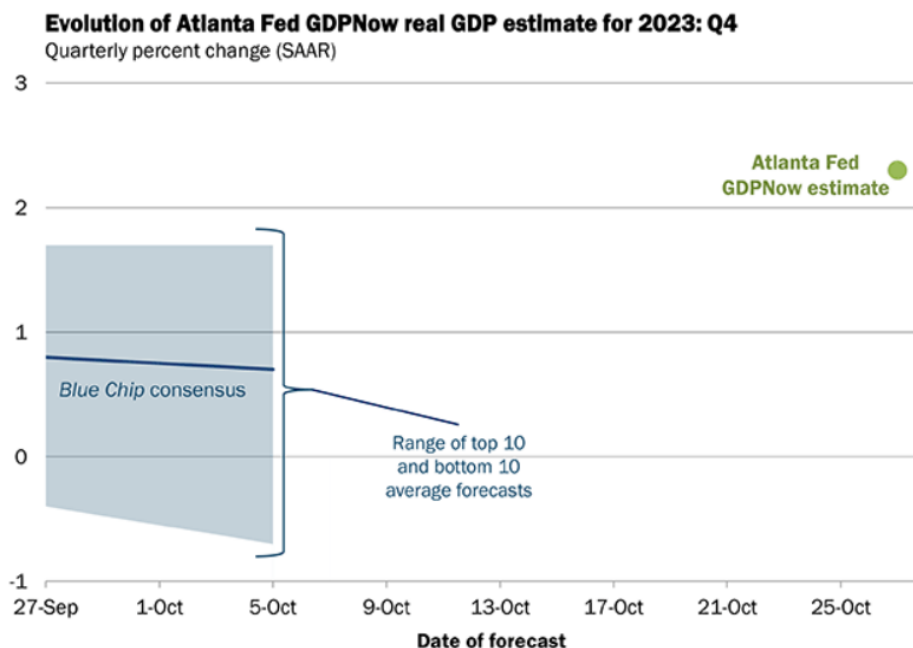
Maine's real GDP grew 1.6% at an annualized rate in the first quarter of 2023, ranking 29th in the U.S. (growth of 2.0%) and second in New England (growth of 1.6%). The industry sectors that contributed the most to Maine's first quarter growth were health care and social assistance (+0.76 percentage points), agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting (+0.75 percentage points), and retail trade (+0.54 percentage points). These gains were partially offset by declines in other industries, including durable goods manufacturing (-0.53 percentage points), finance and insurance (-0.50 percentage points), and nondurable goods manufacturing (-0.31 percentage points).

2023:Q1	Maine	United States
Nominal GDP (Current dollars)	\$88.3 billion	\$26.5 trillion
Real GDP (Chained 2012 Dollars)	\$65.4 billion	\$20.3 trillion



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 2023:Q4 as of October 27, is that U.S. real GDP will **increase by 2.3 percent** at an annual rate.



3.2 Recession Indicators

NBER is the primary source in the United States that declares when recessions begin and end and defines a recession as a significant decline in economic activity that is spread across the economy and lasts more than a few months. Other recession indicators are used to estimate business cycles in real time but are not official sources for when recessions begin and end.

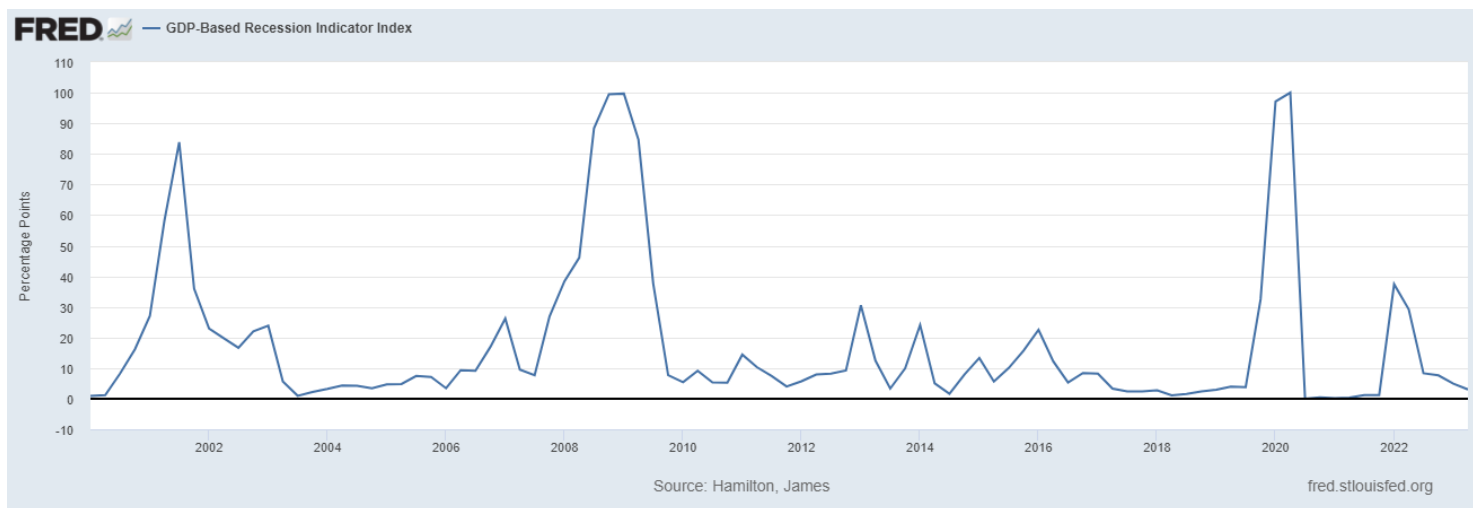
3.2.1 Real-time Sahm Rule Recession Indicator

The Real-time Sahm Rule Recession Indicator² 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 September 2023, this indicator showed that the three-month average of national U3 was 0.20 percentage points above its 12-month low.



3.2.2 GDP-Based Recession Indicator Index

The GDP-Based Recession Indicator Index³ is 3.0 percentage points (2023:Q2), down from 4.9 in the first quarter of 2023. The index ranges from 0 to 100, and values above 67 provide a historically reliable indicator that the economy is in recession. This index is calculated with a one quarter lag, which allows for extra insight and accounts for data revisions to make dependable inference. Therefore, the index does not get revised once it is published.



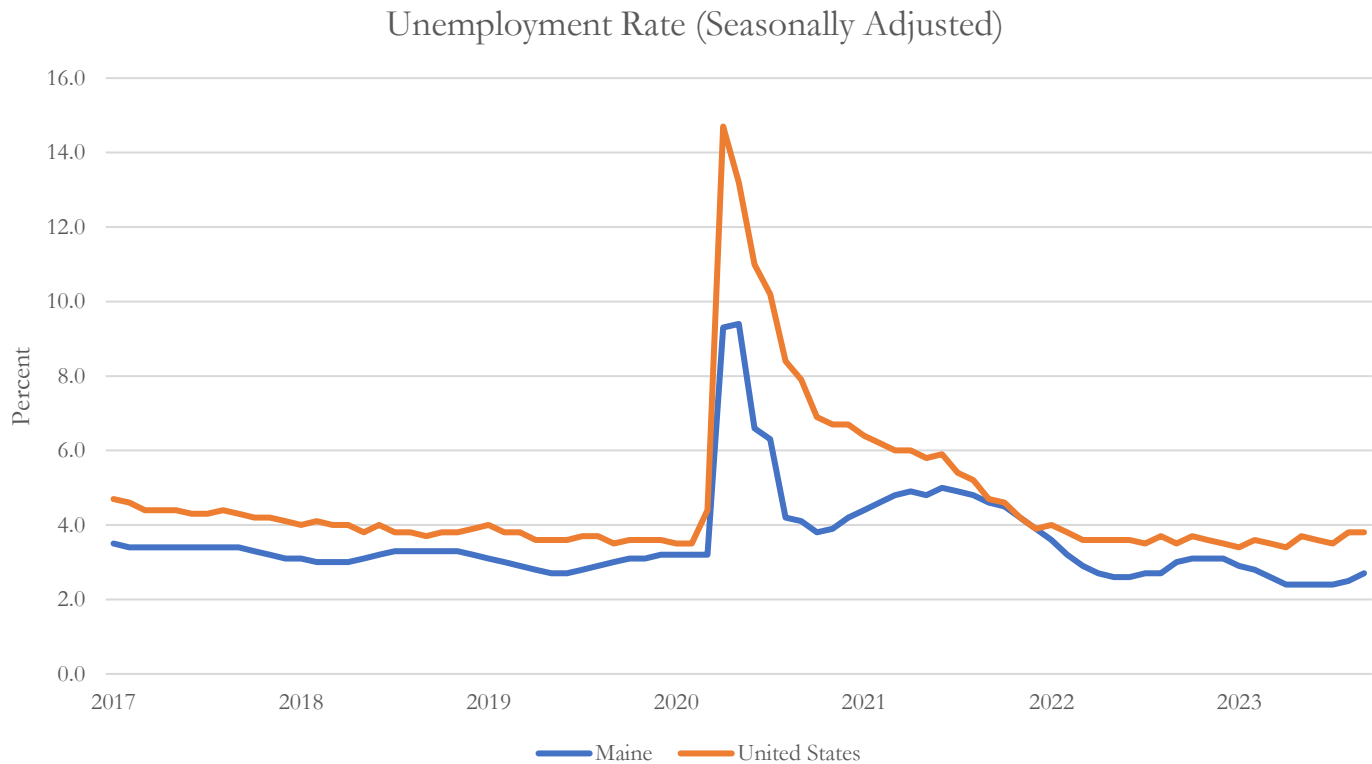
² Created by Dr. Claudia Sahm, Federal Reserve Board of Governors

³ Created by Dr. James Hamilton, University of California San Diego

3.3 Labor Markets⁴

3.3.1 Unemployment Rate September 2023: 2.7%

Maine's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 2.7% in September, a slight increase from 2.5% in August. The increase was from higher labor force participation and not decreased employment. Maine's 3-month average unemployment rate from July to September was 2.5%, up slightly from 2.4% for the three months ending in June. Maine's unemployment rate has been trending below the U.S. unemployment rate since early 2022 and currently matches the New England rate of 2.7%.



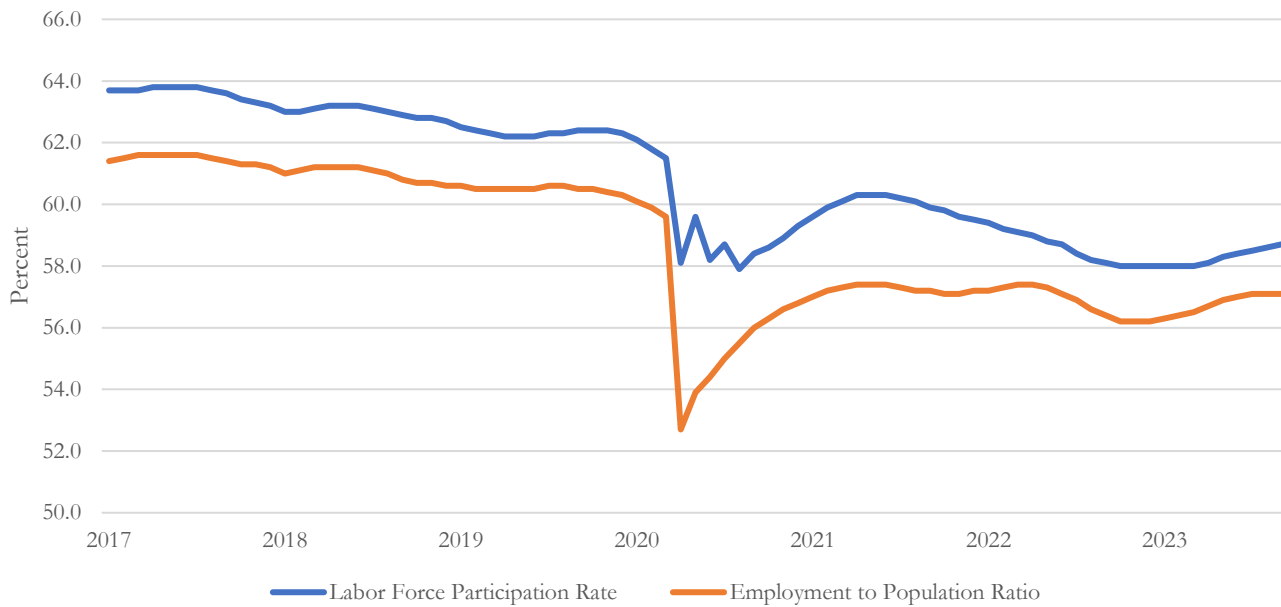
3.3.2 Labor Force Participation Rate September 2023: 58.7%

Labor force participation (LFP) was 58.7% in September, up 0.1% from August. Maine Department of Labor is continuing to track the [divergence between payroll survey data and household survey data](#). Household survey data, the source of the labor force participation figures, may be underestimating the labor force.

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 57.1% in September, unchanged from August. Labor force participation and EPOP have been steadily increasing this year. Labor force participation is up by 0.7 percentage points since January and EPOP is up 0.8 percentage points.

⁴ 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.

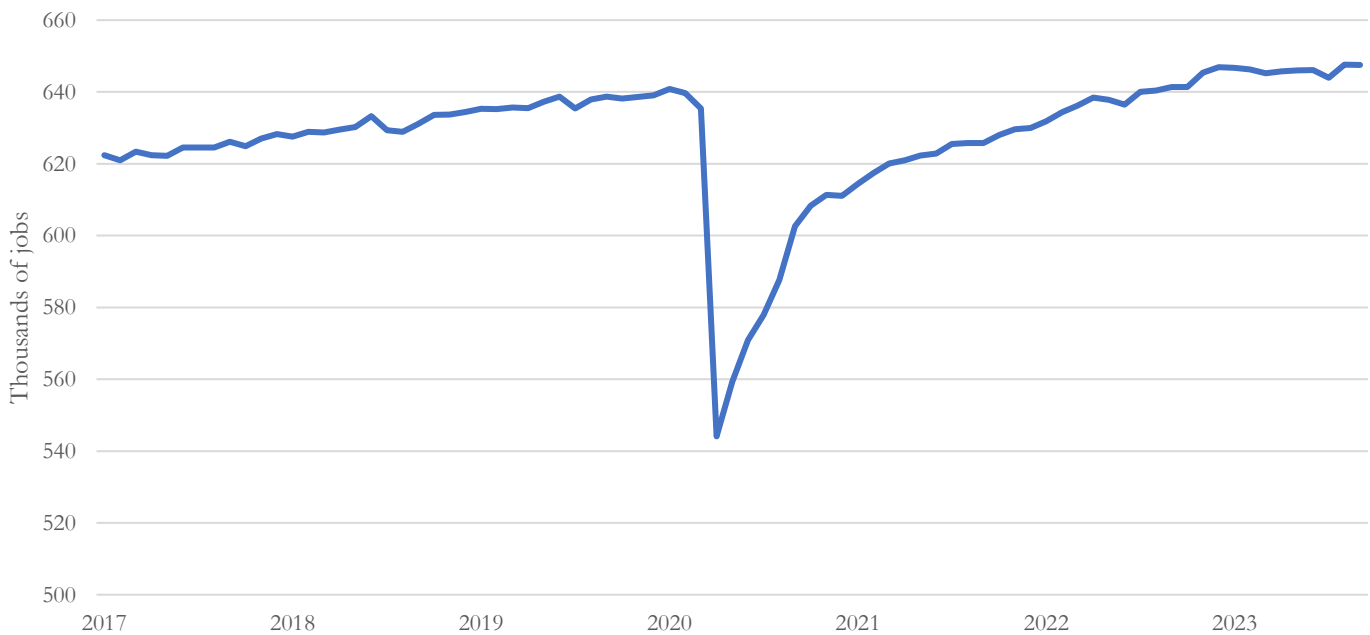
Labor Force Participation & Employment-Population Ratio (Maine)



3.3.3 Total Nonfarm Payroll Job Estimates September 2023: 647,500

Seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs were little changed from August (down by 100). With the exception of July, Maine job estimates have been relatively stable for all of 2023. On an annual basis, nonfarm jobs are up 6,100 from September 2022.

Total Nonfarm Employment Maine (seasonally adjusted)



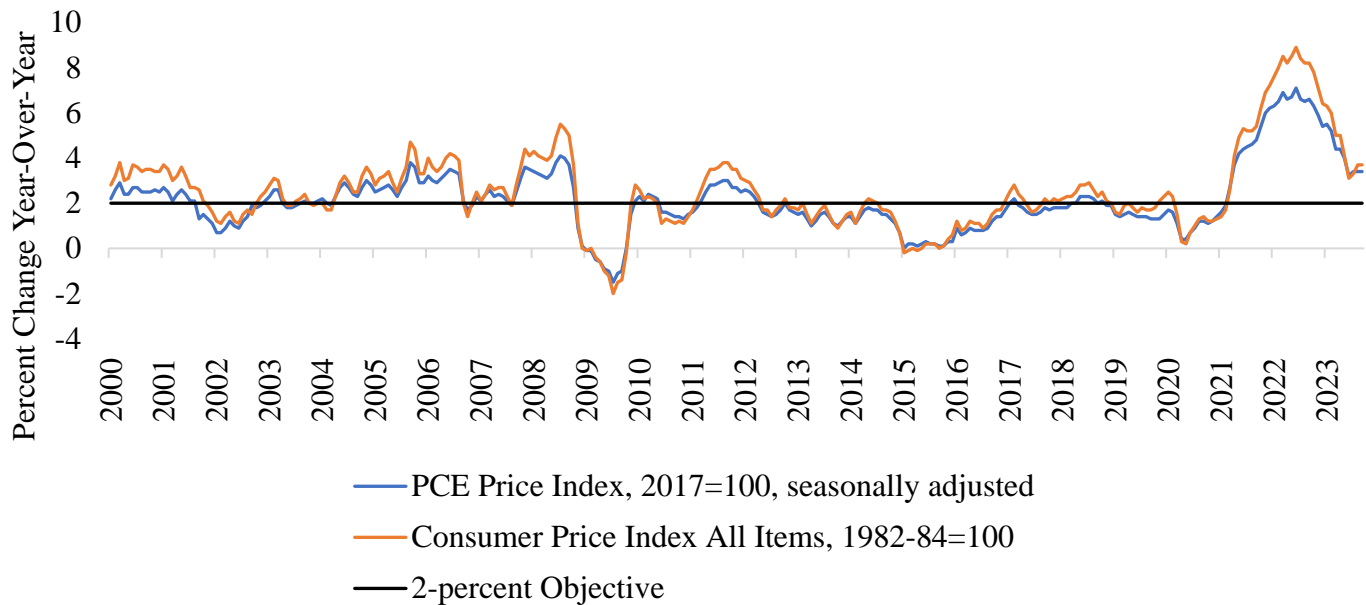
3.4 National inflation measures

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 September, the PCE price index grew by 3.4% year-over-year, unchanged from August. The CPI all-items index grew by 3.7% in September before seasonal adjustment, unchanged from August. Growth in both indexes has decelerated considerably since June 2022 but both remain above the 2% Federal Reserve target.

Measures of inflation, Year-Over-Year Percent Change



3.4.2 Expenditure categories of the CPI

The CPI for all urban consumers increased 3.7% year-over-year in September and 0.4% from a month prior. Shelter (+0.6%) was the largest contributor to the all-items increase and accounted for more than half of the change. Gasoline (+2.1%) was also a major contributor.

The energy index was up 1.5% in September from August but remains down 0.5% from September 2022. Fuel oil rose 8.5% in September, following a 9.1% monthly increase from July to August. Fuel oil prices are not seasonally adjusted.

The food index was up 0.2% in September and up 3.7% year-over-year. The core index, which excludes volatile food and energy prices, increased 0.3% from August and is up 4.1% year-over-year.

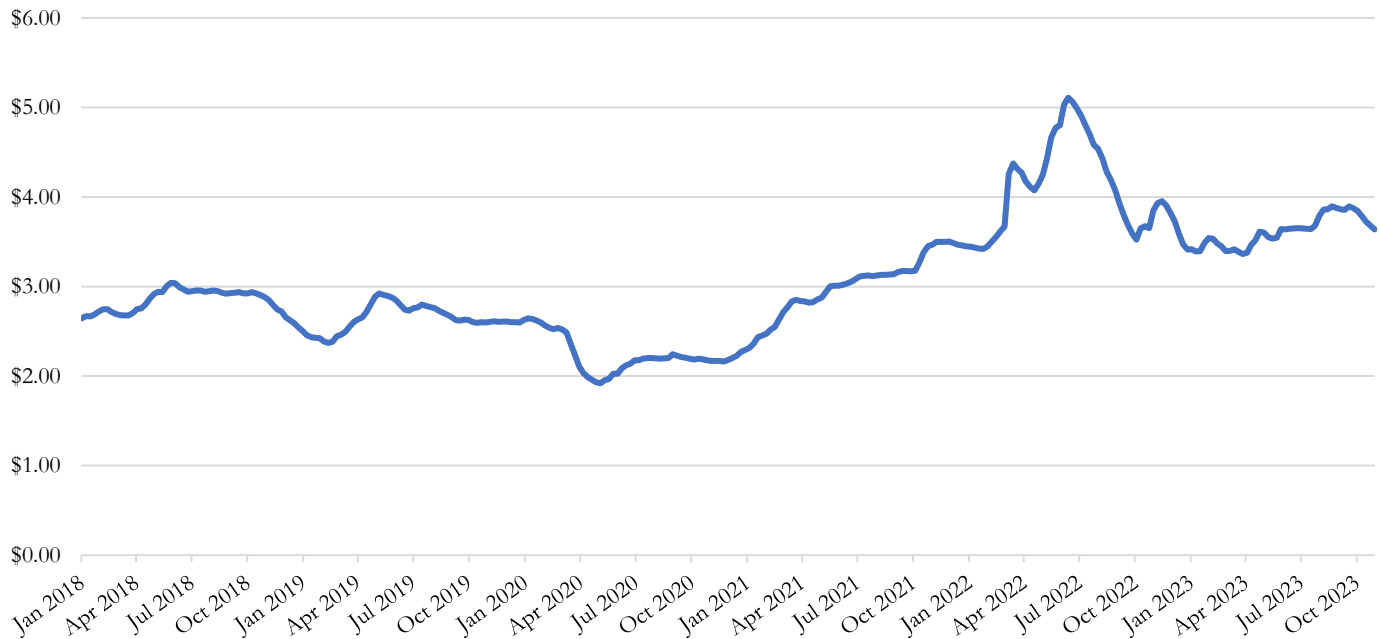
Table 1. Percent Change in Consumer Price Index by Expenditure Category	Year-Over-Year (not seasonally adjusted)		Month-Over-Month (seasonally adjusted)	
	Aug-23	Sep-23	Aug-23	Sep-23
All items	3.7	3.7	0.6	0.4
Food	4.3	3.7	0.2	0.2
Energy	-3.6	-0.5	5.6	1.5
<i>All items less food and energy</i>	4.3	4.1	0.3	0.3
Commodities (less food and energy)	0.2	0.0	-0.1	-0.4
Household furnishings and supplies	1.7	0.9	0.3	-0.3
Apparel	3.1	2.3	0.2	0.8
Transportation commodities (less motor fuel)	-1.9	-2.3	-0.3	-0.9
Medical care commodities	4.5	4.2	0.6	-0.3
Recreation commodities	-0.1	0.2	-0.4	0.3
Education and communication commodities	-8.1	-7.3	-0.7	0.3
Alcoholic beverages	3.7	4.2	0.0	0.8
Other goods	5.0	5.1	0.1	0.5
Services (less energy)	5.9	5.7	0.4	0.6
Shelter	7.3	7.2	0.3	0.6
Water and sewer and trash collection	5.8	5.2	0.5	0.2
Medical care services	-2.1	-2.6	0.1	0.3
Transportation services	10.3	9.1	2.0	0.7
Recreation services	6.1	6.4	-0.1	0.5
Education and communication services	2.6	2.5	0.1	0.1
Other personal services	6.4	6.8	0.7	0.6

3.5 Energy

3.5.1 Gasoline

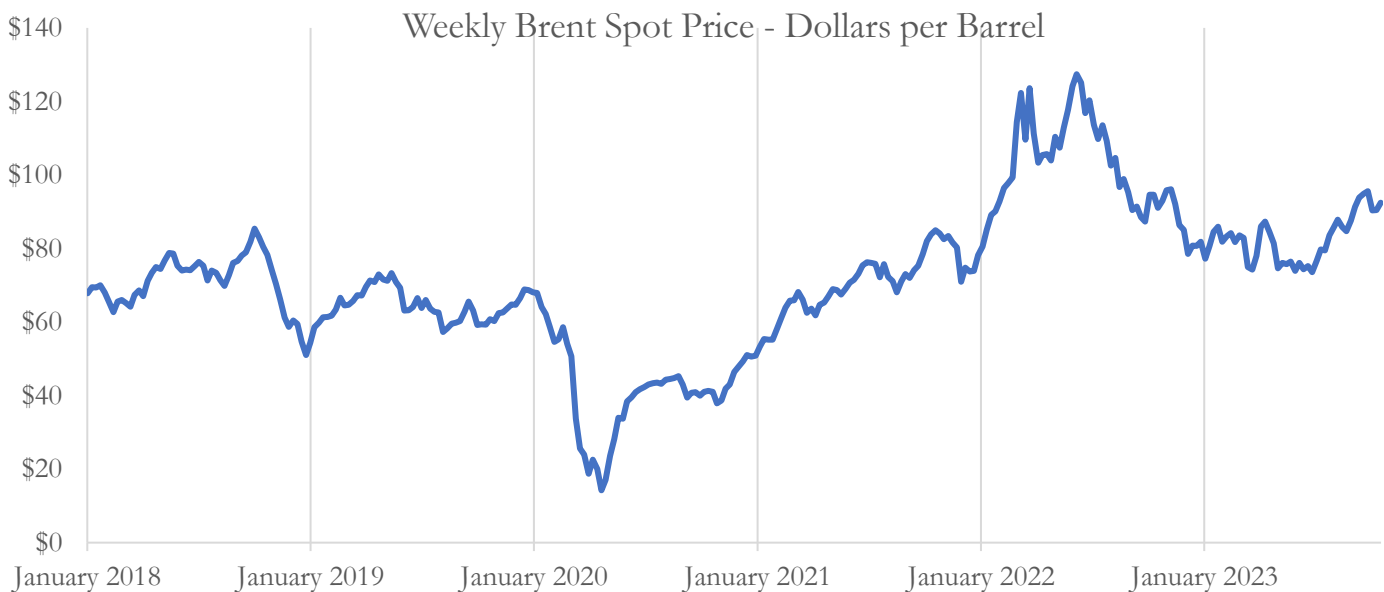
The average price of a gallon of gasoline in New England was \$3.638 on October 30, \$0.24 lower than a month prior and \$0.21 lower than the same week of 2022. The average price of gasoline in the month of October was down \$0.14 from September.

New England - All Grades and Formulations Gasoline Price Per Gallon



3.5.2 Brent Spot Prices

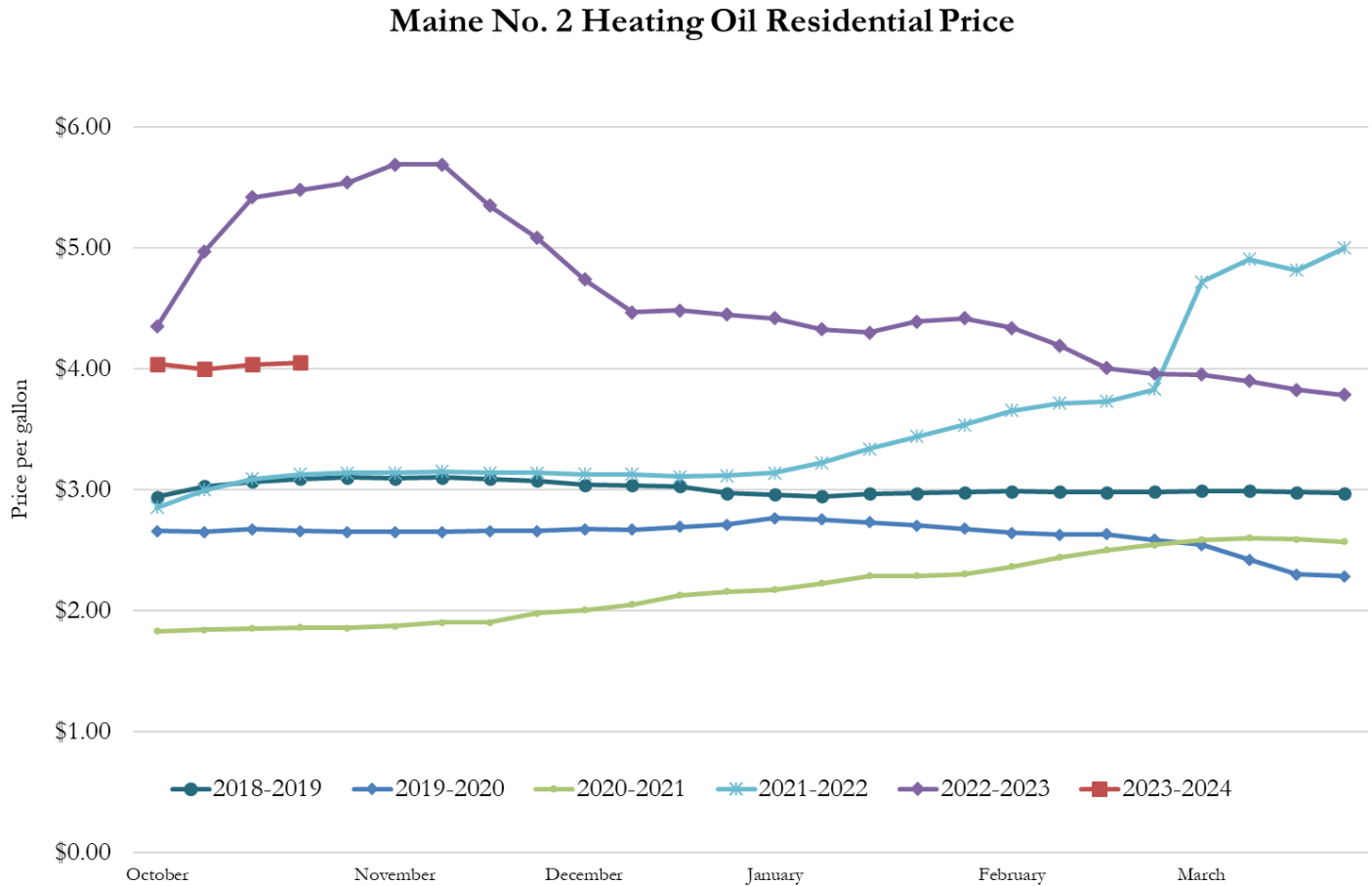
The weekly Brent spot price averaged \$91.09 for the month of October to date and was at \$92.47 for the week ending October 20, 2023. The Brent spot price decreased by \$3.14 since the week ending September 29, 2023. Oil prices are up by 26% since the 2023 low of \$73.55 in late June, largely due to global production cuts.



3.5.3 Heating Oil

The price of a gallon of heating oil in Maine averaged \$4.05 in the week ending October 23, up \$0.27 from the end of the 2022-2023 heating season in March 2023. Prices are down by \$1.43 from the same week last year, but \$0.80 above the five-year average of the same week in 2018-2022.

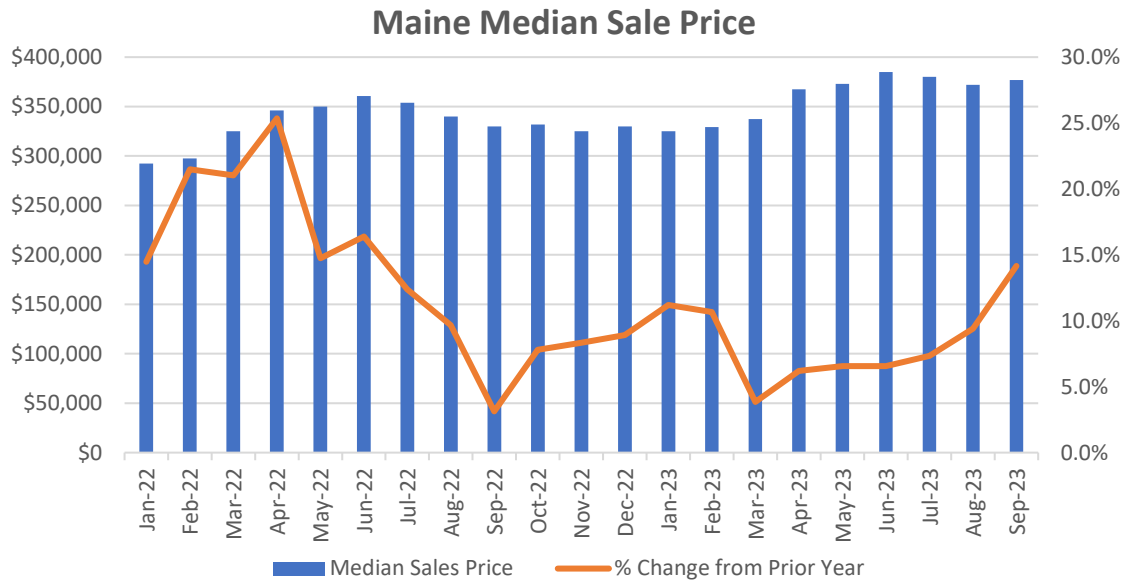
According to the Governor's Energy Office, prices on the most recent date measured (October 23) were highest in the Northern region of the state, at \$4.12 per gallon on average, and lowest in the Southeast and Central regions of the state, at \$4.04 per gallon on average.



3.6 Housing

3.6.1 Sales

Home sales decreased statewide by 25.4% in September 2023 compared to September 2022, reflecting continued low inventory. The median sale price in Maine was \$376,750, an increase of 1.3% from August and an increase of 14.2% year-over-year. When looking at 3-month rolling averages, all Maine counties except for Sagadahoc had a decrease in homes sold and all counties except for Washington had increases in median sale prices compared to the same three months of 2022.

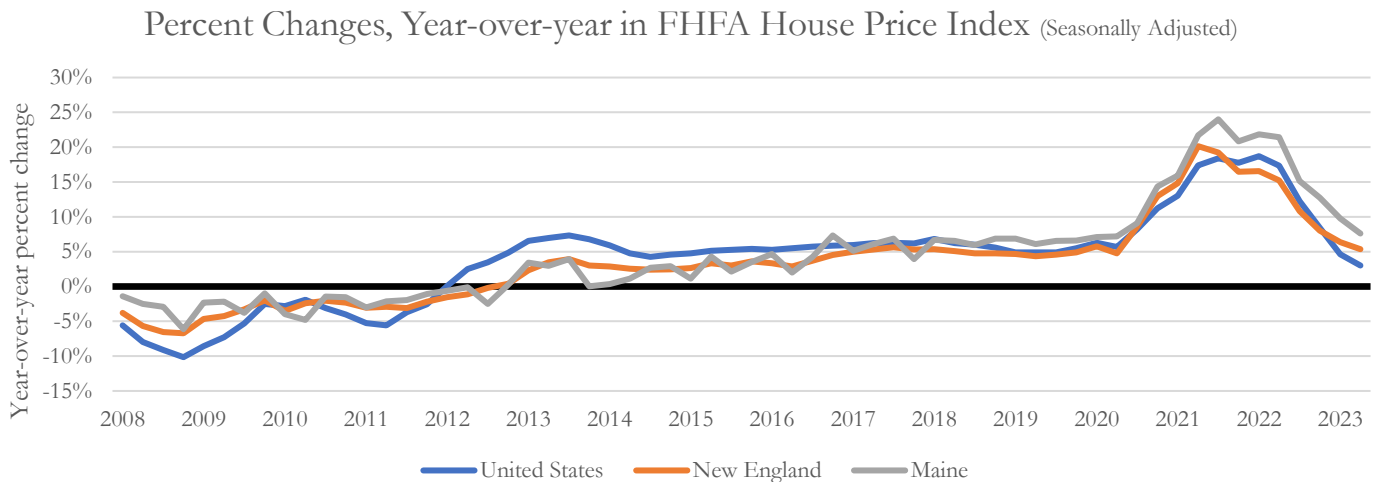


July 1, 2023 – September 30, 2023 Home Sales				
Geography	No. of Units Sold	One Year Change (Units)	Median Sale Price	One Year Change (Price)
Androscoggin	272	-21.8%	\$320,000	12.3%
Aroostook	208	-23.0%	\$159,450	10.0%
Cumberland	860	-19.7%	\$550,000	10.0%
Franklin	117	-23.1%	\$255,000	5.8%
Hancock	197	-30.8%	\$425,000	15.1%
Kennebec	403	-17.2%	\$307,000	6.6%
Knox	150	-20.4%	\$452,500	11.0%
Lincoln	141	-6.8%	\$450,000	10.4%
Oxford	224	-15.6%	\$315,000	14.6%
Penobscot	451	-19.4%	\$262,500	10.9%
Piscataquis	106	-23.0%	\$207,500	2.2%
Sagadahoc	129	0.0%	\$400,000	11.1%
Somerset	148	-7.2%	\$209,500	4.8%
Waldo	120	-30.5%	\$349,500	16.5%
Washington	117	-26.4%	\$220,000	0.0%
York	614	-24.0%	\$485,000	5.4%
Maine	4257	-21.8%	\$375,000	10.3%

3.6.2 House Price Index

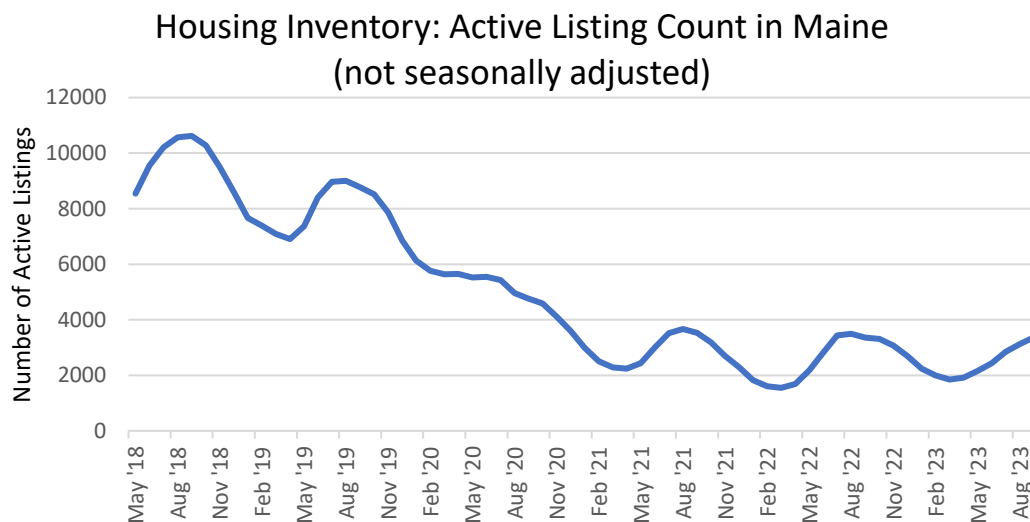
In the second quarter of 2023, Maine's year-over-year growth in the house price index (HPI)⁵ was 7.6% (seasonally adjusted), slower than previous quarters, but more than double the U.S. growth (3.0%) and higher than the rest of New England (5.3%). In fact, Maine's price growth was the highest in the nation from Q2 2022 to Q2 2023. On a seasonally adjusted quarterly basis, Maine's house price index increased 3.5% from the first quarter of 2023 compared to 2.2% in New England and 1.7% in the U.S.

Reference Period		Maine	New England	United States
2022:Q2-2023:Q2	HPI percent change from previous year	7.6%	5.3%	3.0%



3.6.3 Inventory

There were 3,373 active listings of single-family and condo homes in Maine in September. Since inventory levels have a defined seasonal pattern, it is most useful to look at changes year-over-year. Inventory has been at historically low levels since 2020 and the number of active listings in September 2023 was little changed from September 2022 and down 68% from September 2018.



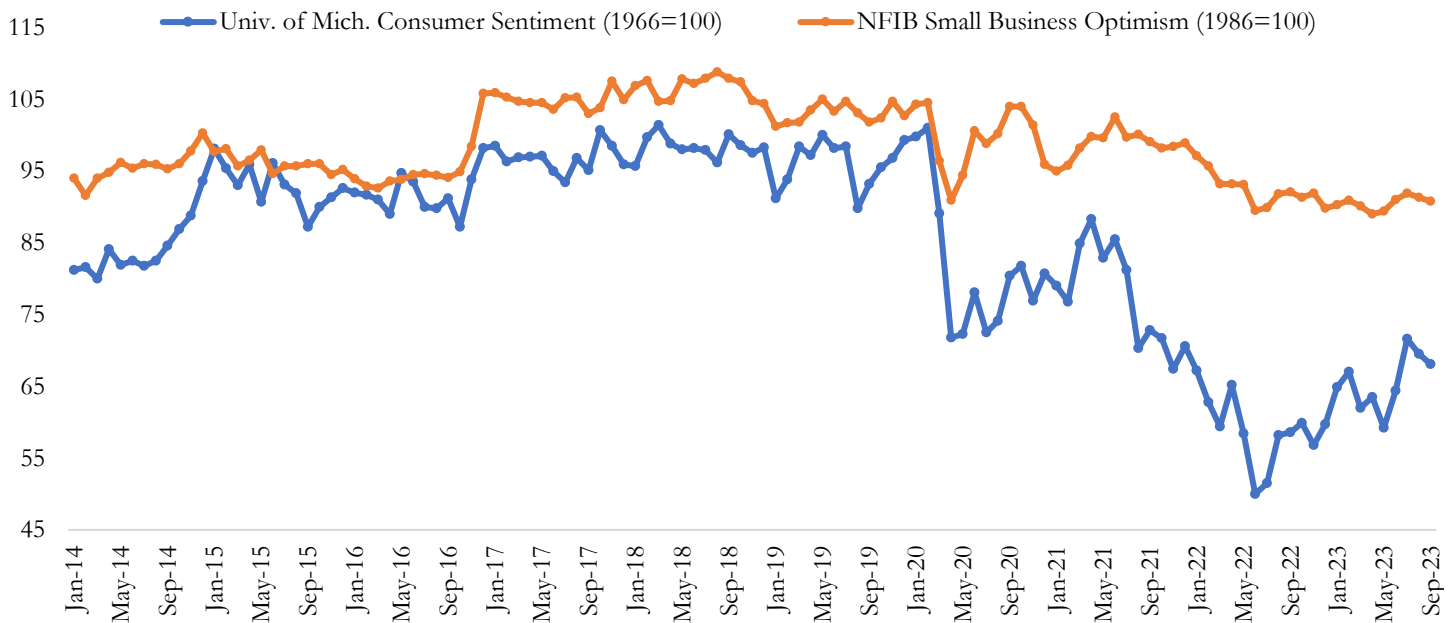
⁵ According to the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA), the HPI “measures average price changes in repeat sales or refinancing on the same properties.”

3.7 Sentiment

The **Index of Consumer Sentiment** from the University of Michigan was down 6.3% in October from the prior month and up 6.5% year over year. The decline in October was driven largely by high-income and high-wealth consumers concerned about weakness in equity markets.

The **Small Business Optimism Index**, as measured by the National Federation of Independent Businesses, was down 1.4% in September and down 0.5% in the past 12 months. September was the 21st consecutive month below the 49-year average. Inflation and labor quality were tied as the top concern for business owners.

Consumer Sentiment and Small Business Optimism Indexes

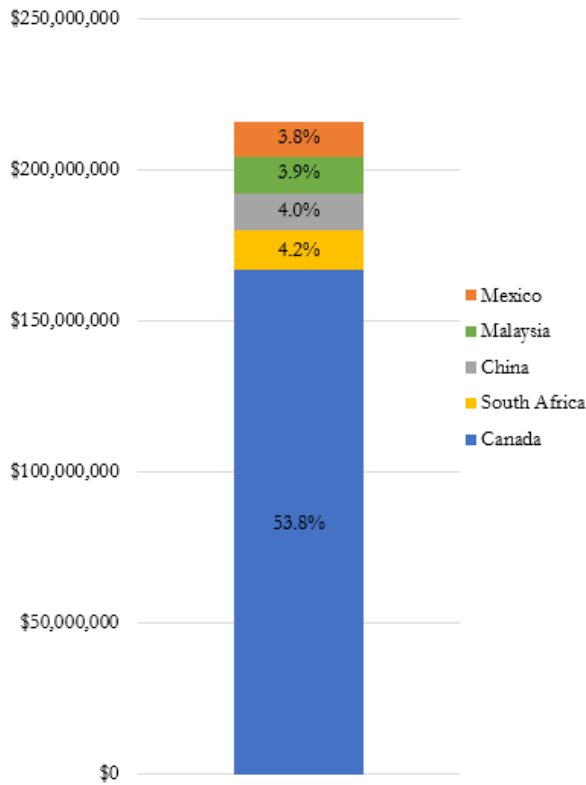


3.8 Trade Outlook

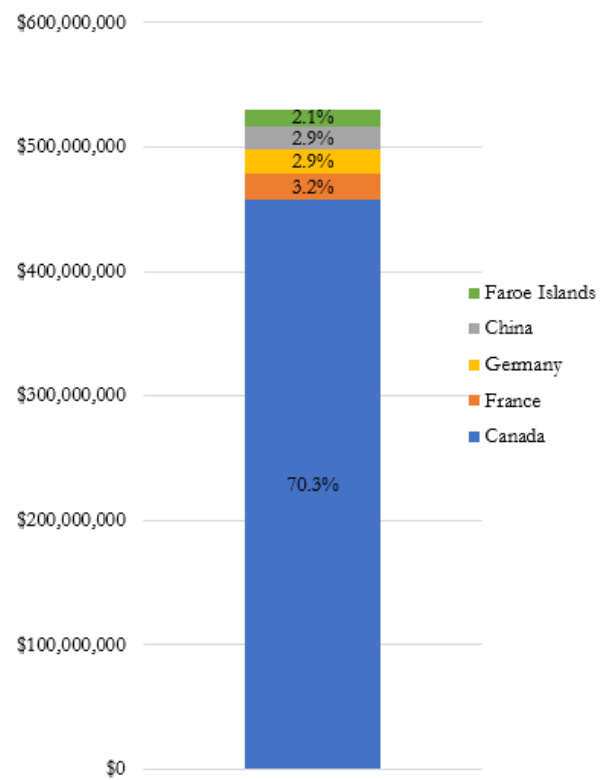
3.8.1 Exports and trade partners

In August 2023, total exports were up 9.5% in Maine, up 2.7% in New England, and down 4.9% nationwide compared to August 2022. Year-over-year exports have been volatile since early 2021. Maine's top trade partner was Canada, which accounted for 70% of imports and 54% of exports.

Value of exports to top 5 export partners

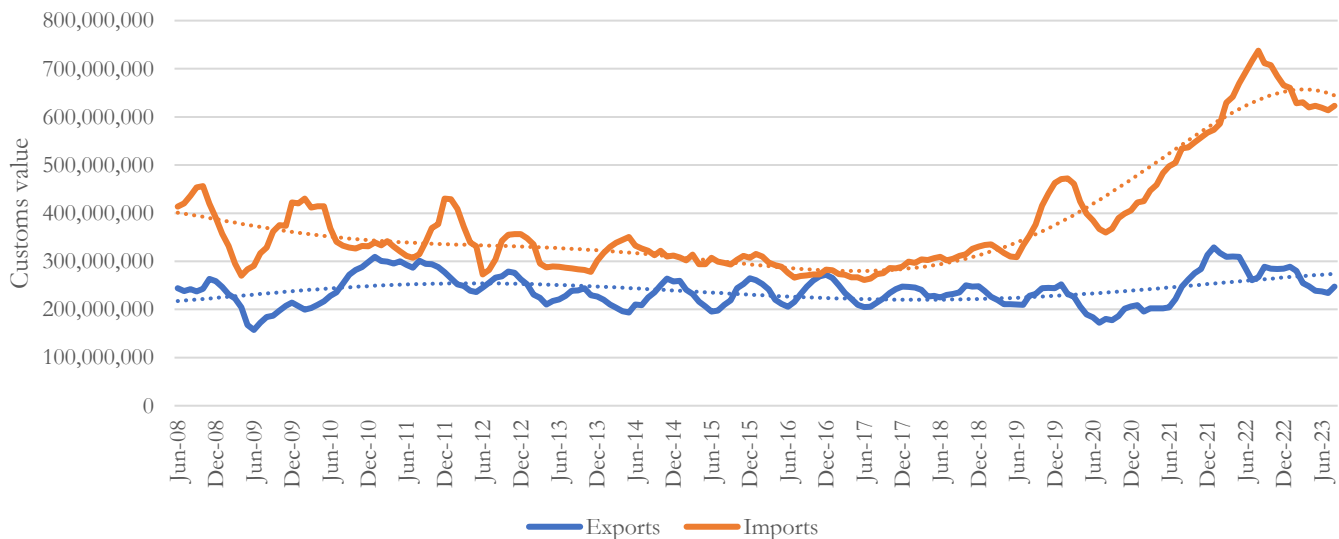


Value of imports from top 5 import partners



Similar to the nation, Maine's trade deficit has grown in recent months as the U.S. dollar has strengthened relative to foreign currencies, which makes imports from other countries cheaper and more attractive. Conversely, a strong U.S. dollar can lead to decreasing exports, as goods and services from the U.S. are more expensive for international consumers. These dynamics contribute to a large trade deficit, both in Maine and the U.S. After peaking in August 2022 at -\$471 million, the six month average trade deficit was -\$376 million as of August 2023.

Maine exports vs. imports, 6-month moving average



4 Appendix

4.1.1 Data Sources

Indicator	Source	Reference Period	Release Date
Population: estimates and percent change	Census Bureau – Pop. Ests.	2022	December 22, 2022
Net migration: total and percent change	Census Bureau – Pop. Ests.	2022	December 22, 2022
Median age	Census Bureau – ACS 1-year	2022	September 14, 2023
Educational attainment	Census Bureau – ACS 1-year	2022	September 14, 2023
Poverty level	Census Bureau – ACS 1-year	2022	September 14, 2023
Income	Census Bureau – ACS 1-year	2022	September 14, 2023
Per capita personal consumption expenditure	U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis	2022	October 4, 2023
Per capita personal income	U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis	2022	September 29, 2023
Average earnings per job	U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis	2022	September 29, 2023
Gross domestic product	U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis	2023:Q1	June 30, 2023
GDPNow	Atlanta Fed	2023:Q4	October 27, 2023
Real-time Sahm Rule Recession Indicator	Sahm, Claudia/FRED	Sept. 2023	October 6, 2023
GDP-Based Recession Indicator Index	Hamilton, James/FRED	2023:Q2	October 26, 2023
Personal income: total, per capita, and wages and salaries	U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis	2023: Q2	September 29, 2023
Unemployment rate	U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics	Sept. 2023	October 20, 2023
Labor force participation	U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics	Sept. 2023	October 20, 2023
Nonfarm payroll job estimates	U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics	Sept. 2023	October 20, 2023
Consumer Price Index	U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics	Sept. 2023	October 12, 2023
PCE Price Index	U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis/FRED	Sept. 2023	October 27, 2023
Brent Spot Prices	Energy Information Administration	Oct. 20, 2023	October 25, 2023
Gasoline	Energy Information Administration	Oct. 30, 2023	October 30, 2023
Heating Oil Prices	Energy Information Administration	Oct. 23, 2023	October 25, 2023
House price index	Federal Housing Finance Agency	2023:Q2	August 29, 2023
Housing: Units and Median Sale Price	Maine Association of REALTORS®	July-September 2023	October 20, 2023
Housing Inventory – Active Listing Count in Maine	Realtor.com via FRED	Sept. 2023	October 5, 2023
Index of Consumer Sentiment	University of Michigan Survey of Consumers	October 2023	October 27, 2023
Small Business Optimism Index	National Federation of Independent Businesses	Sept. 2023	October 10, 2023
Imports & Exports	USA Trade Online	August 2023	October 5, 2023

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.