

# Maine Economic Indicators

December 2024



**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.

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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
2024	Total population	1,405,012	15,386,085	340,110,988
2023-2024	Annual population percent change	0.4%	0.8%	1.0%
2020-2024	Cumulative population percent change	3.1%	1.7%	2.6%
2023	Average earnings per job	\$64,310	\$83,918	\$74,499
2022-2023	Average earnings per job percent change	3.0%	1.8%	2.5%
November 2024	Unemployment rate	3.1%	3.5%	4.2%
November 2024	Total private nonfarm employment	553,800	6,640,600	135,798,000
November 2024	Labor Force	706,400	8,183,400	168,286,000
November 2024	Labor Force Participation Rate	60.1%	N/A	62.5%

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

Real GDP	2023:Q4	2024:Q1	2024:Q2	2024:Q3	2023:Q4-2024:Q3
Maine	3.5	2.8	1.7	3.6	2.7
New England	3.4	3.6	2.2	2.9	2.9
United States	3.2	1.6	3.0	3.1	2.6
Total Personal Income	2023:Q4	2024:Q1	2024:Q2	2024:Q3	2023:Q4-2024:Q3
Maine	5.4	10.8	1.9	3.8	5.4
New England	5.2	11.2	2.6	2.5	5.4
United States	4.7	9.3	3.8	3.2	5.4
Per Capita Personal Income	2023:Q4	2024:Q1	2024:Q2	2024:Q3	2023:Q4-2024:Q3
Maine	4.9	10.3	1.4	3.3	4.9
New England	4.9	11.0	2.4	2.2	5.1
United States	4.1	8.8	3.4	2.6	4.9
Wages & Salaries	2023:Q4	2024:Q1	2024:Q2	2024:Q3	2023:Q4-2024:Q3
Maine	4.4	11.2	-1.2	4.6	4.7
New England	4.1	14.5	1.3	3.1	6.1
United States	4.5	10.3	3.1	3.7	5.6

## 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.

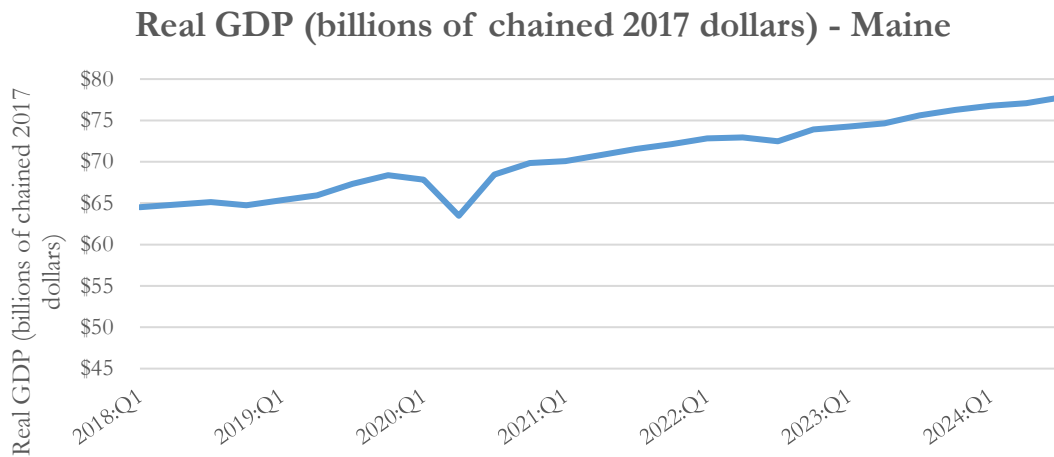
Reference Period		Maine	New England	United States
2024	Total population	1,405,012	15,386,085	340,110,988
2023-2024	Annual population percent change	0.4%	0.8%	1.0%
2020-2024	Cumulative population percent change	3.1%	1.7%	2.6%
2024	Births	11,609	140,809	3,605,563
2024	Deaths	16,766	141,865	3,086,925
2024	Net migration	10,525	123,328	2,786,119
2023-2024	Annual rate of total net migration, per thousand (Maine ranks 20 <sup>th</sup> in the U.S.)	7.5	8.0	8.2
2023	Median age, years (American Community Survey)	44.9	41.4	39.2
2023	Associate degree: percent of population age 25 and above	10.5%	8.0%	8.8%
2023	Bachelor’s degree: percent of population age 25 and above	23.2%	24.4%	21.8%
2023	Graduate or professional degree: percent of population age 25 and above	13.7%	19.7%	14.3%
2023	Percent of population below poverty level	10.4%	10.1%	12.5%
2023	Median family income	\$91,546	\$115,746	\$96,401
2023	Median household income	\$73,733	\$92,017	\$77,719
2023	Per capita personal consumption expenditures	\$60,250	\$65,660	\$56,202
2023	Per capita disposable personal income	\$58,110	\$71,982	\$61,291

### 3 Quarterly and Monthly Indicators

#### 3.1 Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

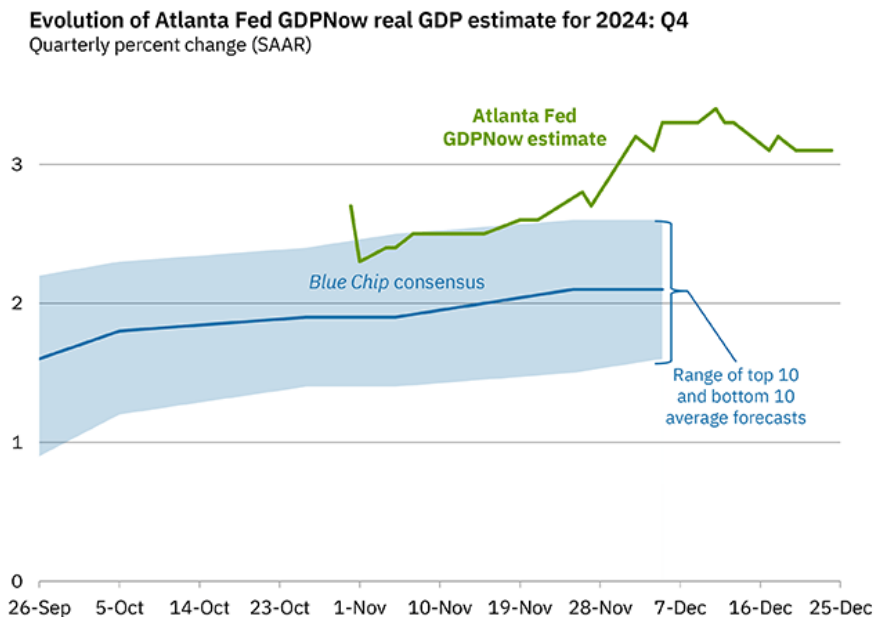
Maine’s real GDP grew 3.6% at an annualized rate in the third quarter of 2024, ranking 17th in the U.S. (growth of 3.1%) and third in New England (growth of 2.9%). The industry sectors that contributed the most to Maine’s third quarter growth were retail trade (+1.71 percentage points), state and local government (+0.54 percentage points), and healthcare and social assistance (+0.33 percentage points). These gains were partially offset by declines in other industries, including administrative and support and waste management and remediation services (-0.17 percentage points) and agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting (-0.16 percentage points).

2024:Q3	Maine	United States
Nominal GDP (Current dollars)	\$97.9 billion	\$29.4 trillion
Real GDP (Chained 2017 Dollars)	\$77.8 billion	\$23.4 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 2024:Q4 as of December 24, is that U.S. real GDP will **increase by 3.1 percent** at an annual rate.

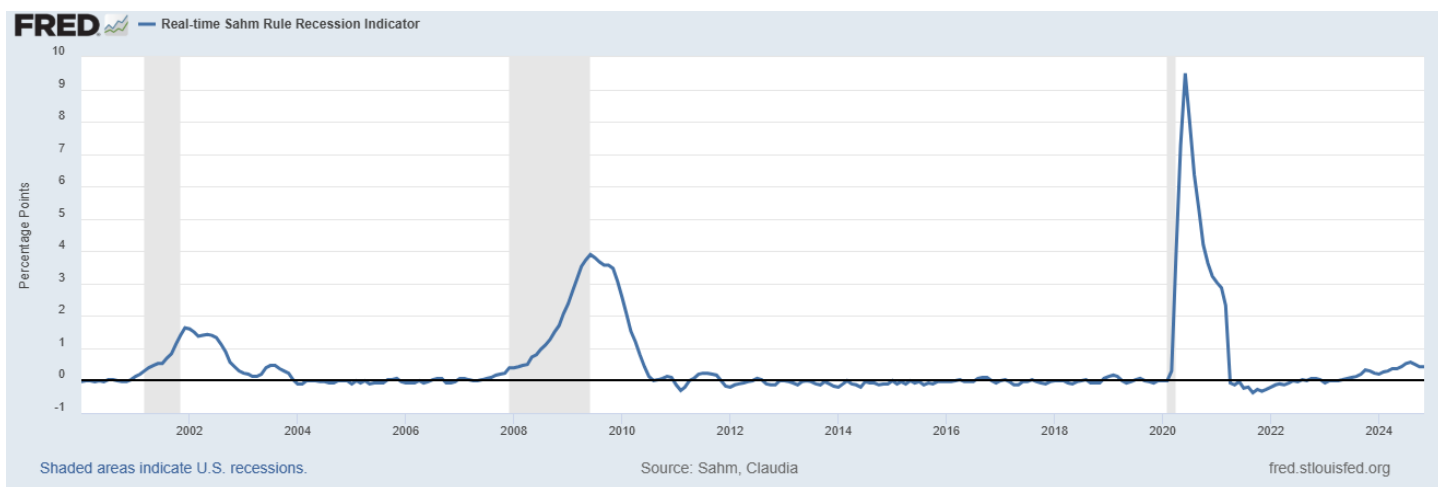


### 3.2 Recession Indicators

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.

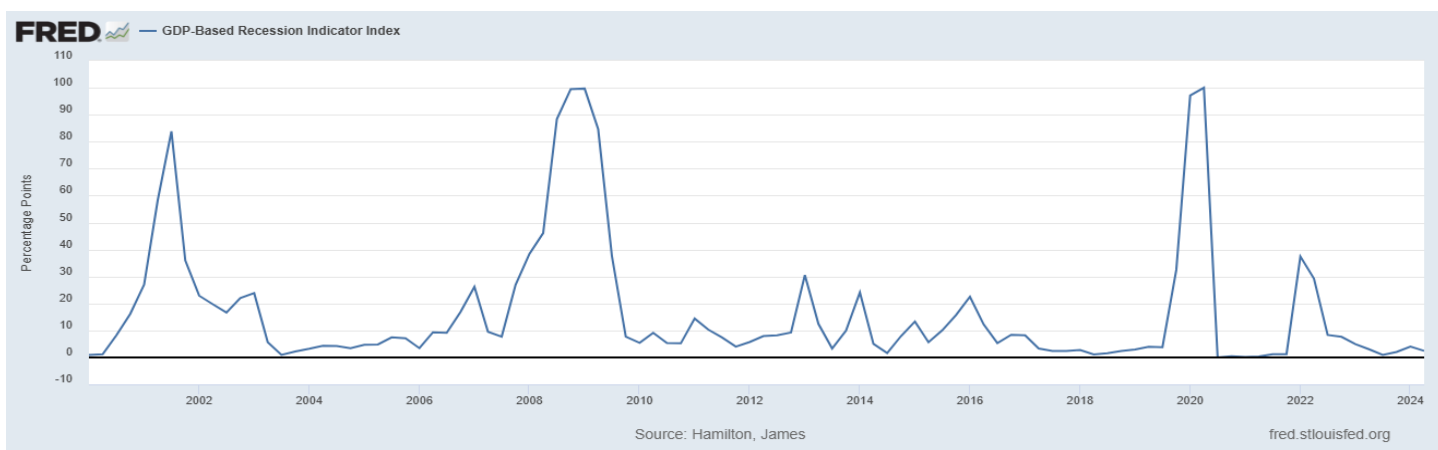
#### 3.2.1 Real-time Sahm Rule Recession Indicator

The Real-time Sahm Rule Recession Indicator<sup>1</sup> 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 November 2024, this indicator showed that the three-month average of national U3 was **0.43 percentage points above its 12-month low**.



#### 3.2.2 GDP-Based Recession Indicator Index

The GDP-Based Recession Indicator Index<sup>2</sup> is 2.4 percentage points (2024:Q2), down from 4.0 in the first quarter of 2024. 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.



<sup>1</sup> Created by Dr. Claudia Sahm, Federal Reserve Board of Governors

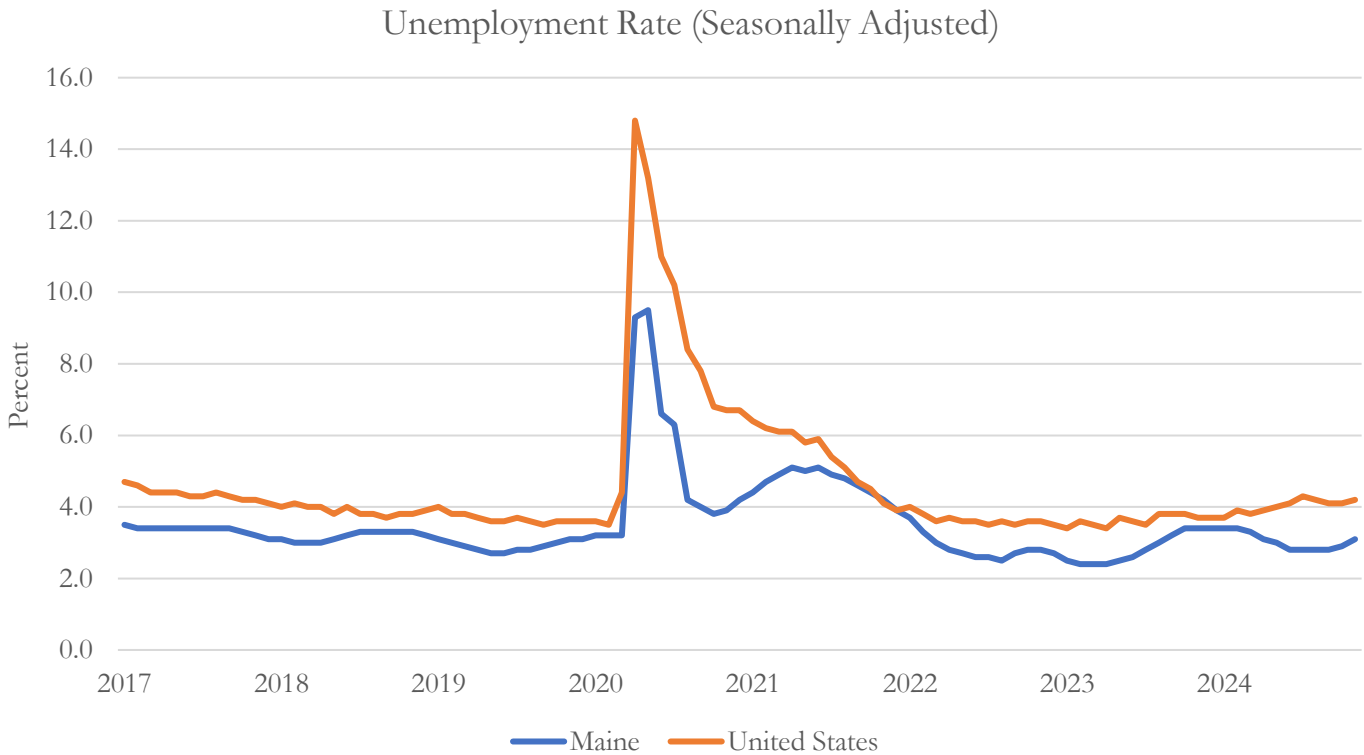
<sup>2</sup> Created by Dr. James Hamilton, University of California San Diego

### 3.3 Labor Markets<sup>3</sup>

#### 3.3.1 Unemployment Rate **November 2024: 3.1%**

Maine’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.1% in November, up from 2.9% in October. While the unemployment data is seasonally adjusted here, [Maine Department of Labor notes](#) that this pattern is consistent with recent years. Increases in the unemployment rate in the fall and winter months are often more pronounced in preliminary data and less pronounced once the data is revised (annually in March).

Maine’s 3-month average unemployment rate from September to November was 3.0%, up from 2.8% for the three months prior. Maine’s unemployment rate has been trending below the U.S. unemployment rate since early 2022 and was below the New England rate of 3.5% in November.



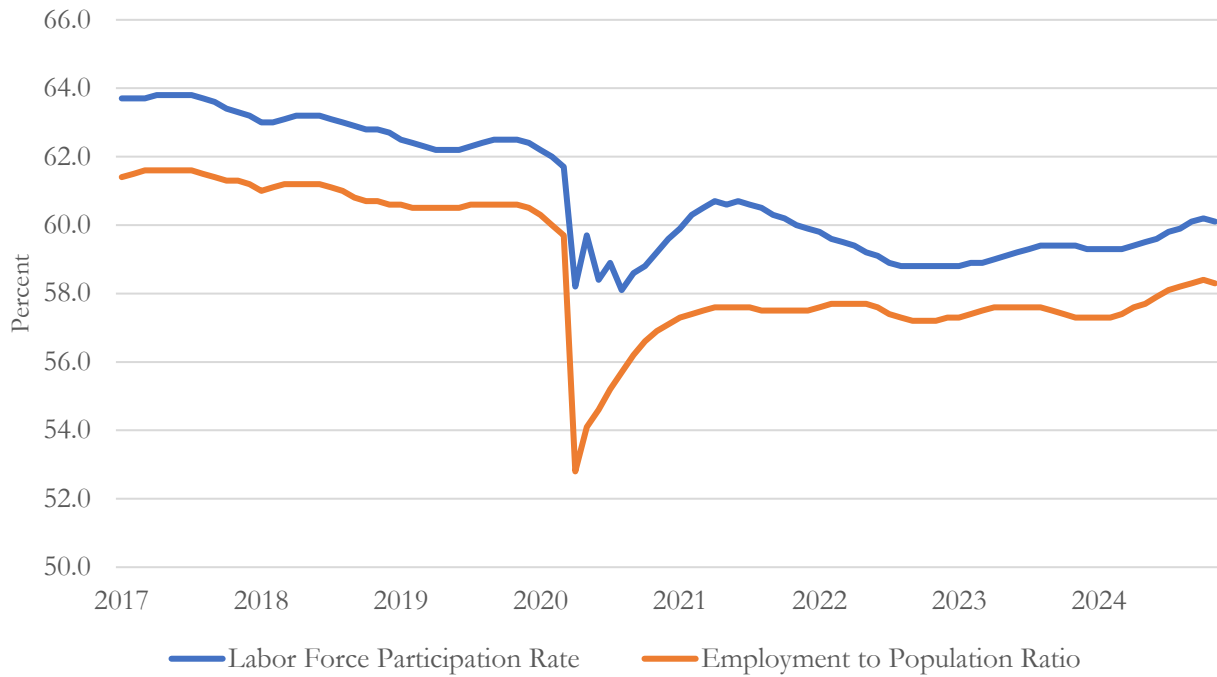
#### 3.3.2 Labor Force Participation Rate **November 2024: 60.1%**

Labor force participation (LFP) was 60.1% in November, down from 60.2% in October.

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 58.3% in November, down from 58.4% in October.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

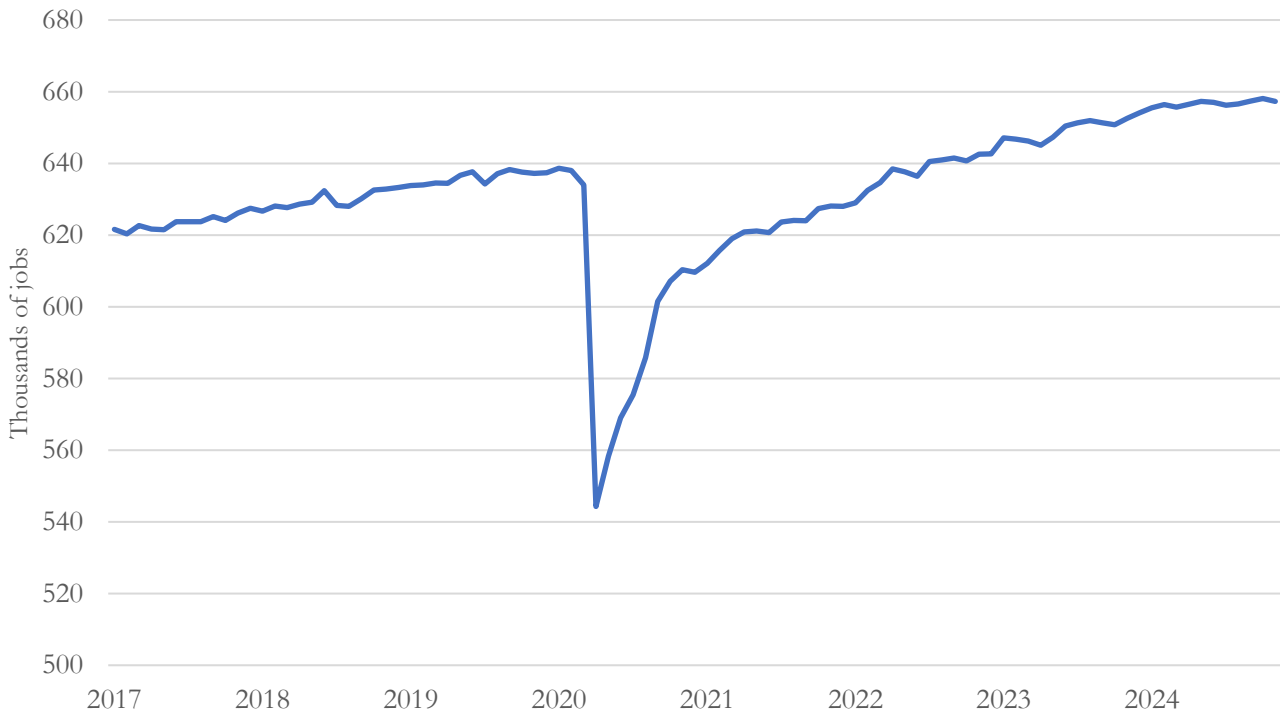
### Labor Force Participation & Employment-Population Ratio (Maine)



### 3.3.3 Total Nonfarm Payroll Job Estimates November 2024: 657,300

Seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs decreased by 800 to 657,300 in November. On an annual basis, nonfarm jobs are up 4,700 from November 2023. Healthcare and social assistance and leisure and hospitality have had the most gains over the year.

### Total Nonfarm Employment Maine (seasonally adjusted)





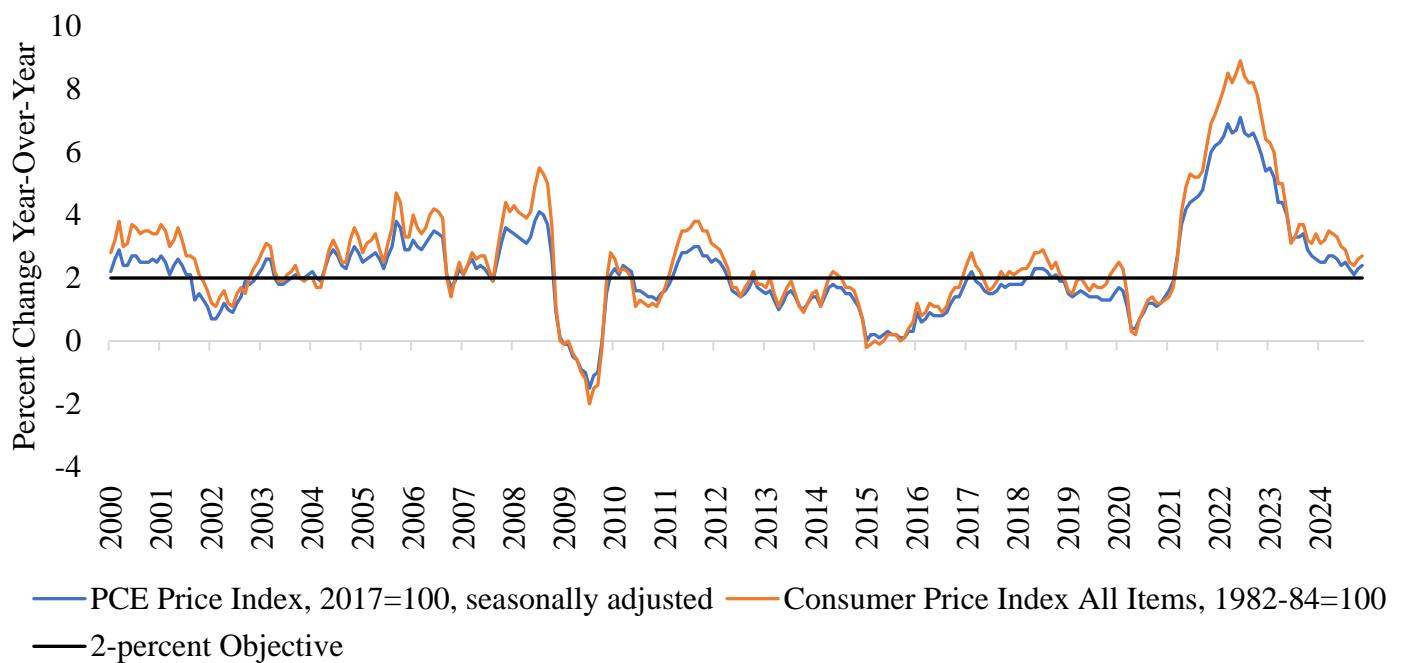
### 3.4 National inflation measures

#### 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 November the PCE price index grew by 2.4% year-over-year (up from a 2.3% year-over-year change in October). On a monthly basis, it grew by 0.1%. The CPI all-items index grew by 2.7% in November before seasonal adjustment. Growth in both indexes has decelerated since June 2022 but inflation remains elevated above the 2% Federal Reserve target. On December 18, the Federal Reserve Federal Open Market Committee cut its target interest rate by 0.25 percentage points.

Measures of inflation, Year-Over-Year Percent Change



#### 3.4.2 Expenditure categories of the CPI

The CPI for all urban consumers increased 2.7% year-over-year in November, up from 2.6% in October. On a seasonally-adjusted monthly basis, the all-items index was up 0.3% from the month before. Shelter contributed almost 40% of the all-items increase.

The shelter index was up 0.3% in November and is up 4.7% year-over-year. The food index increased 0.4% in November and is up 2.4% year-over-year.

The energy index was up 0.2% and is down 3.2% from a year ago. Fuel oil (-19.5%) and gasoline (-8.1%) are significantly down from a year ago. The core index, which excludes volatile food and energy prices, increased 0.3% from the prior month and is up 3.3% 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)	
	Oct-24	Nov-24	Oct-24	Nov-24
<b>All items</b>	2.6	2.7	0.2	0.3
Food	2.1	2.4	0.2	0.4
Energy	-4.9	-3.2	0.0	0.2
<i>All items less food and energy</i>	3.3	3.3	0.3	0.3
Commodities (less food and energy)	-1.0	-0.6	0.0	0.3
Household furnishings and supplies	-2.2	-1.0	0.0	0.7
Apparel	0.3	1.1	-1.5	0.2
Transportation commodities (less motor fuel)	-1.7	-1.4	0.8	0.9
Medical care commodities	1.0	0.4	-0.2	-0.1
Recreation commodities	-1.7	-1.5	0.0	-0.5
Education and communication commodities	-6.7	-5.4	-1.1	-1.1
Alcoholic beverages	1.6	1.8	0.4	0.1
Other goods	2.4	2.6	0.4	0.2
Services (less energy)	4.8	4.6	0.3	0.3
Shelter	4.9	4.7	0.4	0.3
Water and sewer and trash collection	5.0	5.2	0.5	0.6
Medical care services	3.8	3.7	0.4	0.4
Transportation services	8.2	7.1	0.4	0.0
Recreation services	2.8	3.5	0.7	0.7
Education and communication services	2.1	1.8	-0.2	-0.2
Other personal services	4.1	4.2	0.3	0.4

### 3.5 Energy

#### 3.5.1 Gasoline

The average price of a gallon of gasoline in New England was \$3.12 on December 30, \$0.02 lower than the month prior and \$0.15 lower than the same week last year. The average price of gasoline in the month of December was down just \$0.01 from November. Prices have been little changed in the fourth quarter of 2024.

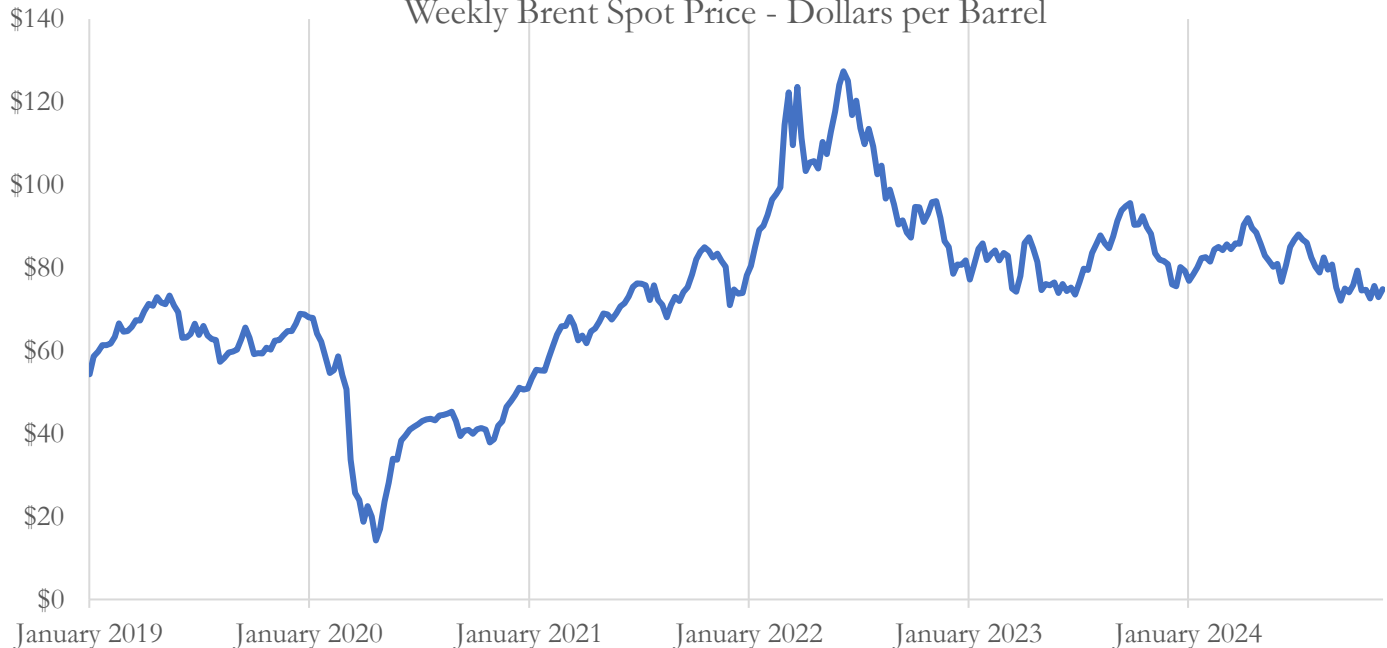
New England - All Grades and Formulations Gasoline Price Per Gallon



#### 3.5.2 Brent Spot Prices

The weekly Brent spot price averaged \$73.99 for the month of December and was at \$73.79 for the week ending December 20, 2024. The spot price has decreased by \$0.37 since the week ending November 29.

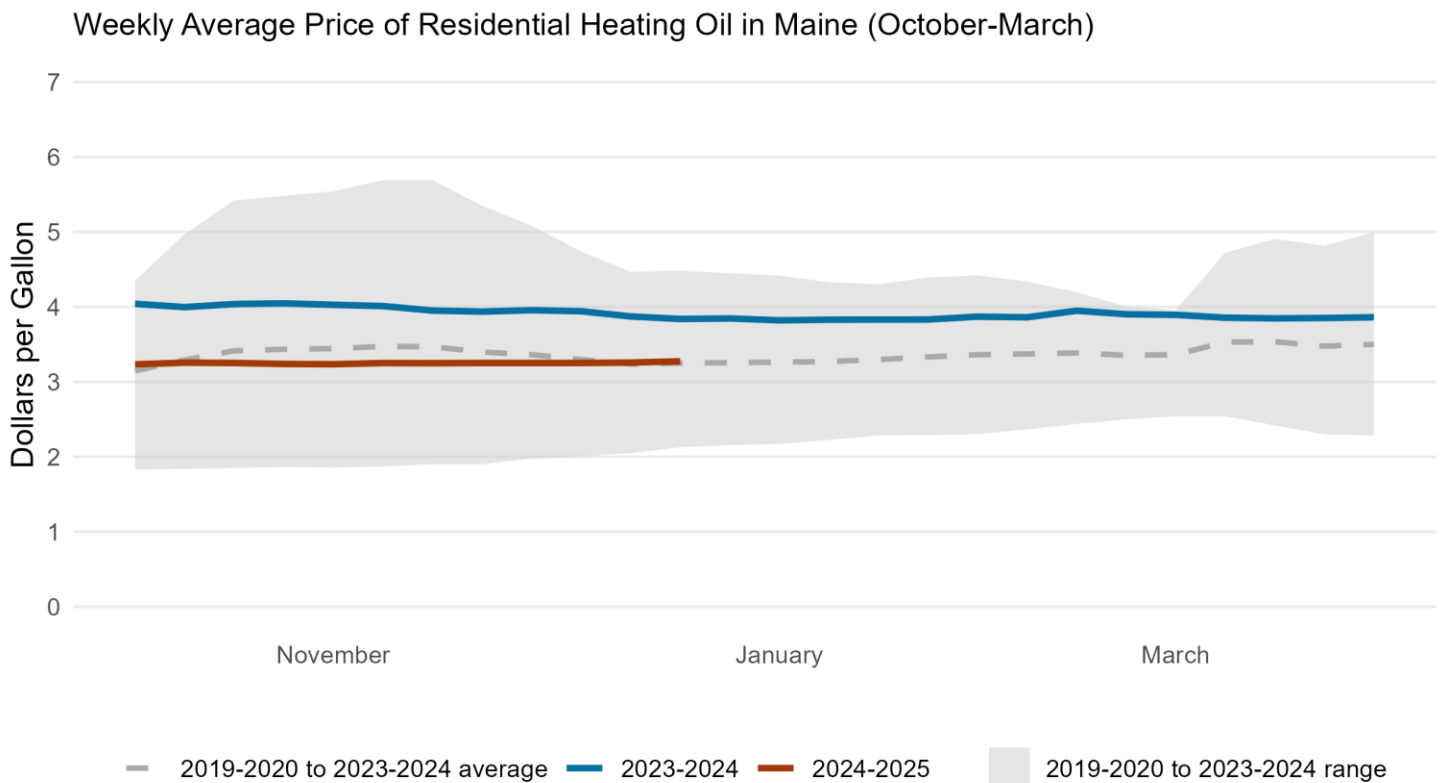
Weekly Brent Spot Price - Dollars per Barrel



### 3.5.3 Heating Oil

The price of a gallon of heating oil in Maine averaged \$3.27 in the week ending December 23 according to the U.S. Department of Energy. Prices are down \$0.57 from the same week last year and are just \$0.02 above the five-year average for that week in 2019-2023.

According to a weekly survey of heating fuel prices from the Governor’s Energy Office, prices on the most recent date measured (December 23) were highest in the Southeast/Greater Portland region of the state, at \$3.51 per gallon on average, and lowest in the Central region of the state, at \$3.30 per gallon on average.

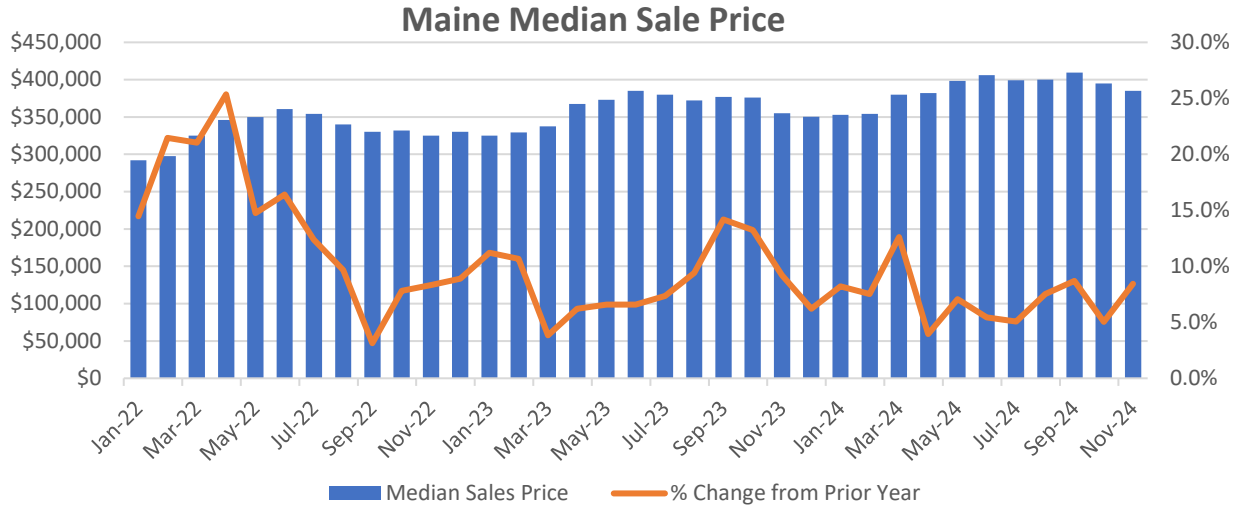


Source: U.S. Energy Information Agency

### 3.6 Housing

#### 3.6.1 Sales

The number of home sales in Maine increased by 6.8% in November 2024 compared to November 2023. The median sale price in Maine was \$385,000, a decrease of 2.5% from October and an increase of 8.5% year-over-year.



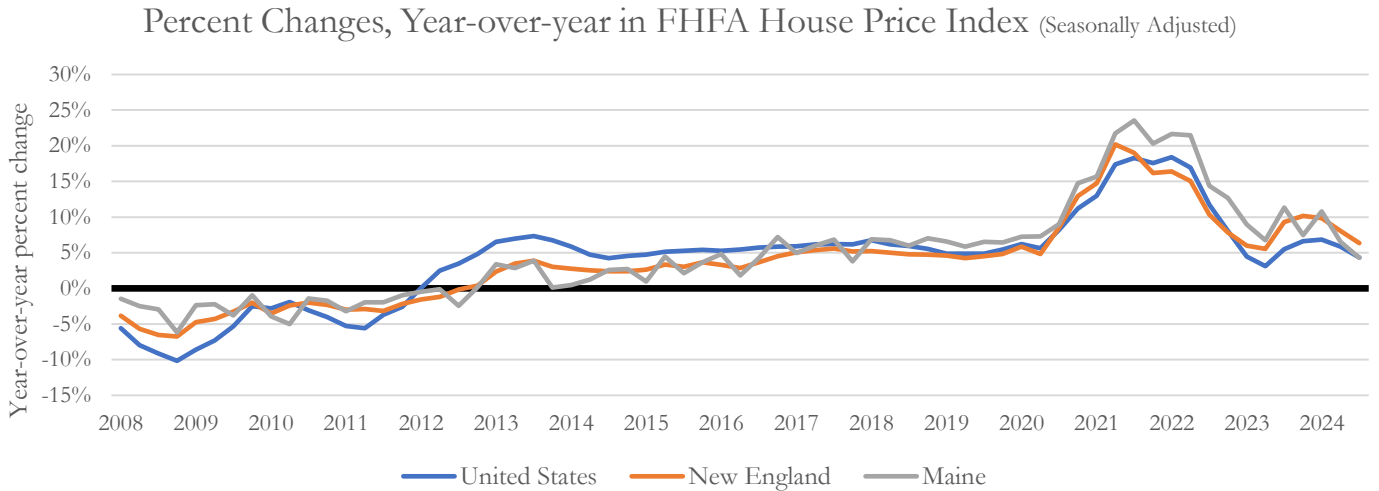
Over the past three months, eight counties had increases in homes sold compared to a year ago, five had decreases, and three were little changed. Eleven counties had increases in median home prices, three had decreases, and two had little change compared to a year ago. Piscataquis (-17.8%) had the largest percent change in median sale price.

September 1, 2024 – November 30, 2024 Home Sales				
Geography	No. of Units Sold	One Year Change (Units)	Median Sale Price	One Year Change (Price)
Androscoggin	288	2.1%	\$332,250	4.3%
Aroostook	199	-2.9%	\$165,000	0.2%
Cumberland	876	9.5%	\$550,000	0.0%
Franklin	132	16.8%	\$310,000	-3.1%
Hancock	224	12.6%	\$461,750	7.6%
Kennebec	383	-0.3%	\$335,000	10.0%
Knox	163	14.0%	\$440,000	2.3%
Lincoln	123	0.0%	\$510,000	2.0%
Oxford	190	-4.5%	\$347,000	10.2%
Penobscot	407	2.8%	\$275,000	10.0%
Piscataquis	82	-7.9%	\$168,500	-17.8%
Sagadahoc	97	-18.5%	\$436,000	2.6%
Somerset	156	0.0%	\$237,750	1.8%
Waldo	131	9.2%	\$350,000	6.1%
Washington	98	-21.0%	\$218,250	-4.3%
York	719	17.7%	\$535,000	14.4%
<b>Maine</b>	<b>4268</b>	<b>5.1%</b>	<b>\$397,750</b>	<b>7.5%</b>

### 3.6.2 House Price Index

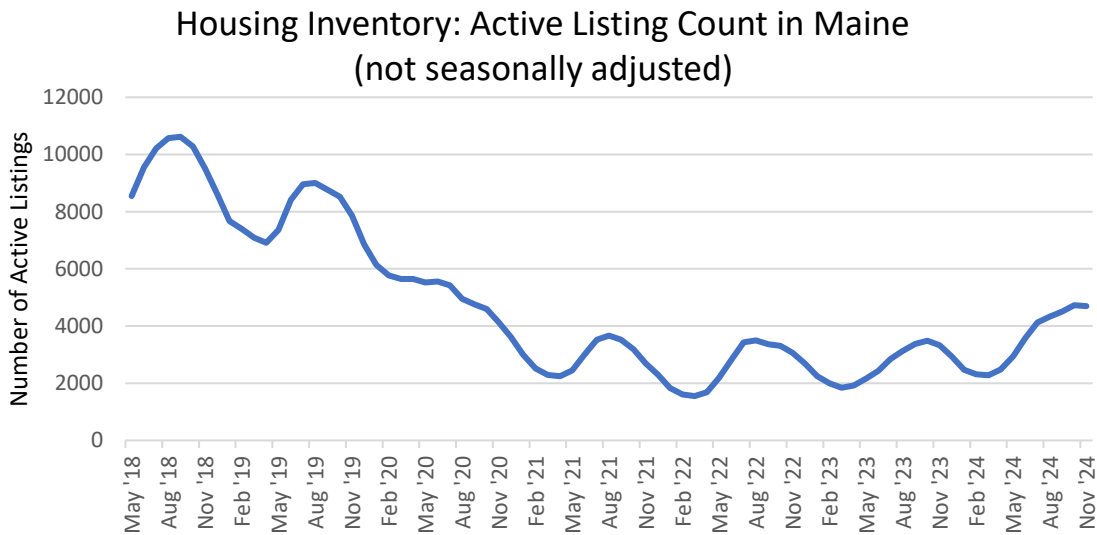
In the third quarter of 2024, Maine’s year-over-year growth in the house price index (HPI)<sup>4</sup> was 4.3% (seasonally adjusted), 30<sup>th</sup> highest in the nation for year-over-year growth and fifth in New England. (Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New Hampshire were all in the top 6 nationwide). Maine’s year-over-year growth was the same as the US (4.3%) and below New England growth of 6.3%. On a seasonally adjusted quarterly basis, Maine’s HPI increased 1.1% from the second quarter of 2024 compared to growth of 1.6% in New England and 0.7% in the U.S.

Reference Period		Maine	New England	United States
2023:Q3-2024:Q3	HPI percent change from previous year	4.3%	6.3%	4.3%



### 3.6.3 Inventory

There were 4,691 active listings of single-family and condo homes in Maine in November. Inventory is increasing, but it remains low compared to five years ago. The number of active listings in November 2024 was up 41% from November 2023, but down 40% from November 2019. Since inventory levels have a defined seasonal pattern, it is most useful to look at changes year-over-year.



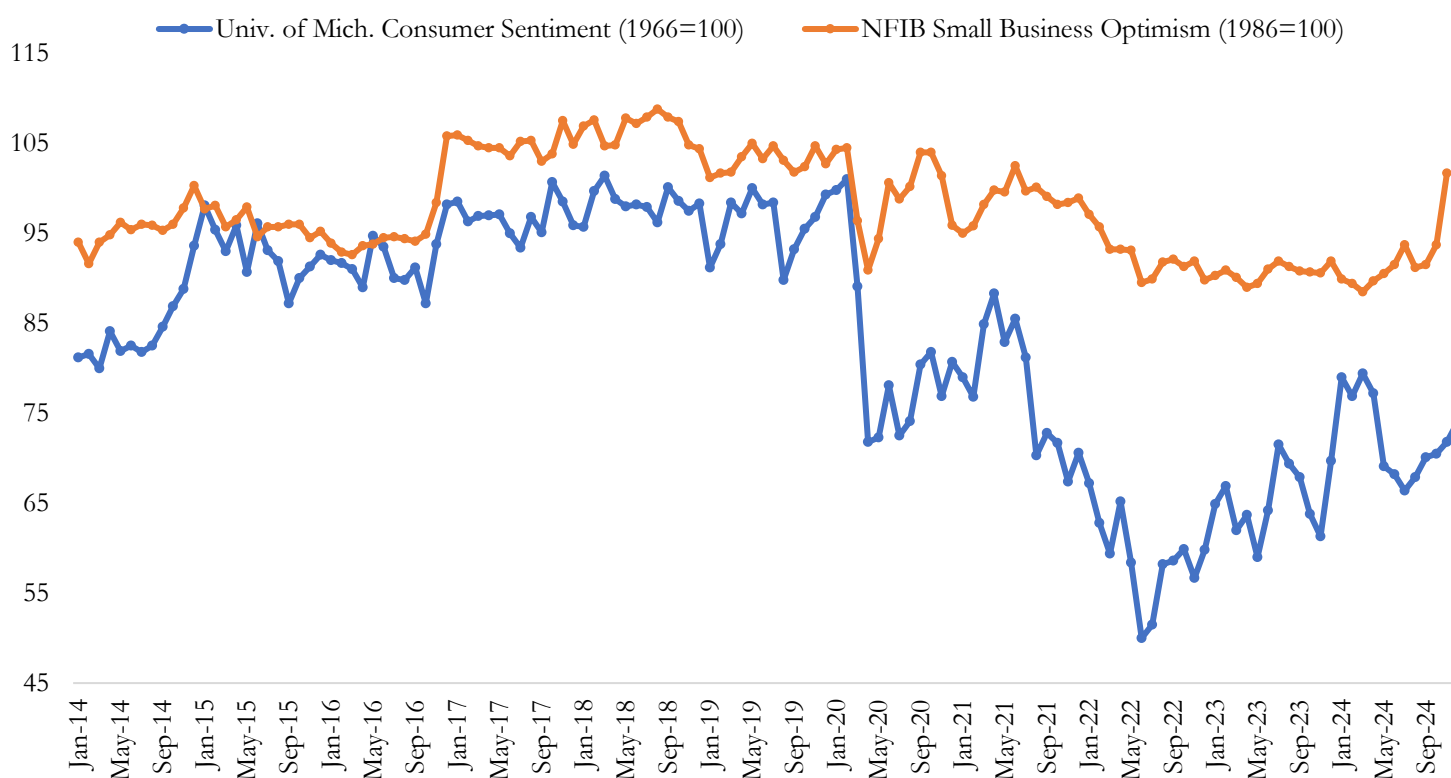
<sup>4</sup> According to the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA), the HPI “measures average price changes in repeat sales or refinancing on the same properties.”

### 3.7 Sentiment

The **Index of Consumer Sentiment** from the University of Michigan was up 3.1% in December and up 6.2% year-over year, reaching its highest level since April 2024. There continue to be considerable differences in future expectations by political affiliation. Overall, consumers believe that the economy has improved and that inflation has come down. However, sentiment is not yet approaching pre-pandemic levels.

The **Small Business Optimism Index**, as measured by the National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB), surged in November to its highest levels since June 2021. The index was up 8.5% in November from the month before and was up 12.3% from a year ago. The net percent of owners expecting the economy to improve rose 41 points and had the biggest impact on the overall increase in the index. There were improvements to nine of the ten index components (current inventory was unchanged).

Consumer Sentiment and Small Business Optimism Indexes

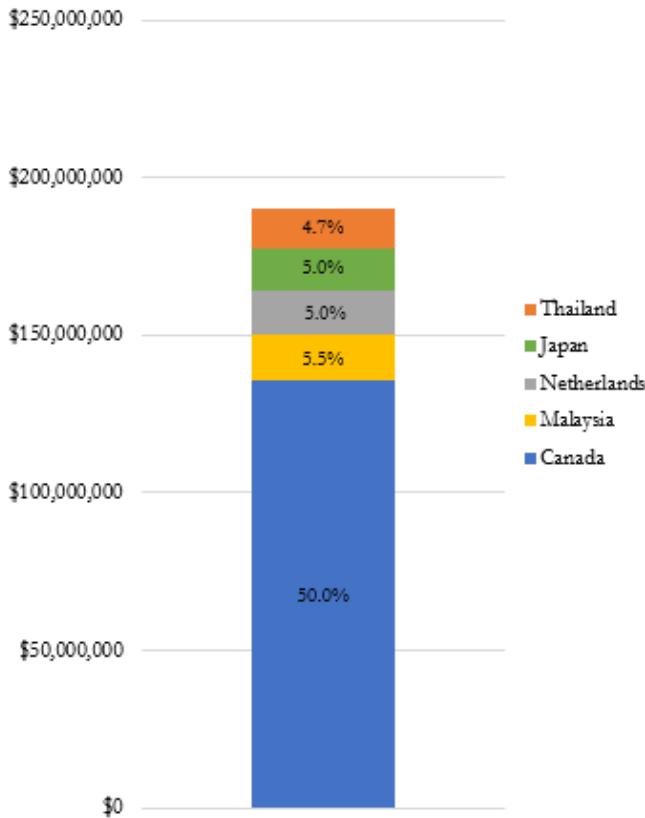


### 3.8 Trade Outlook

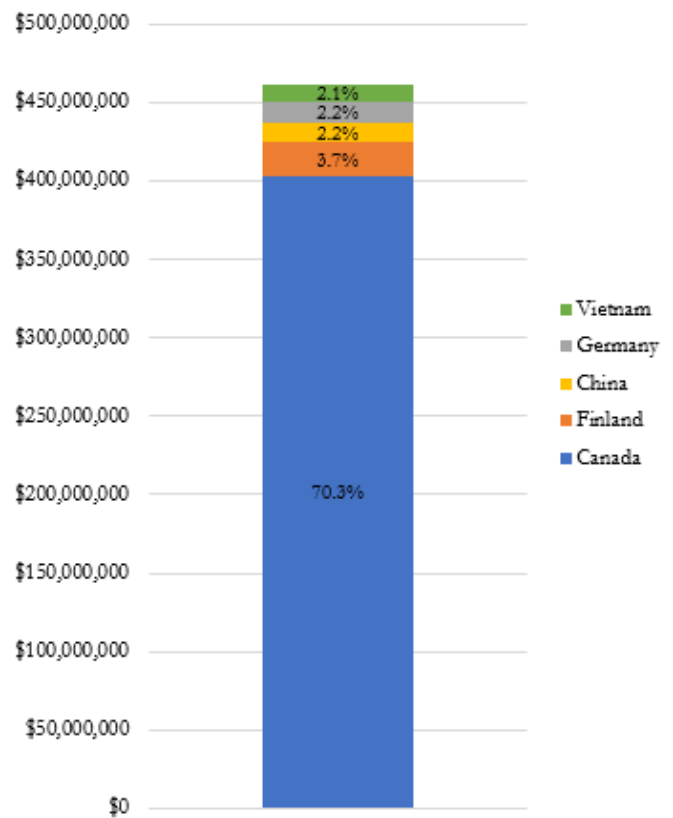
#### 3.8.1 Exports and trade partners

In October 2024, total exports were up 2.8% in Maine, up 7.8% in New England, and down 0.7% nationwide compared to October 2023. Year-over-year exports have been volatile since early 2021. Maine's top trade partner was Canada, which accounted for 70% of imports and 50% of exports.

Value of exports to top 5 export partners

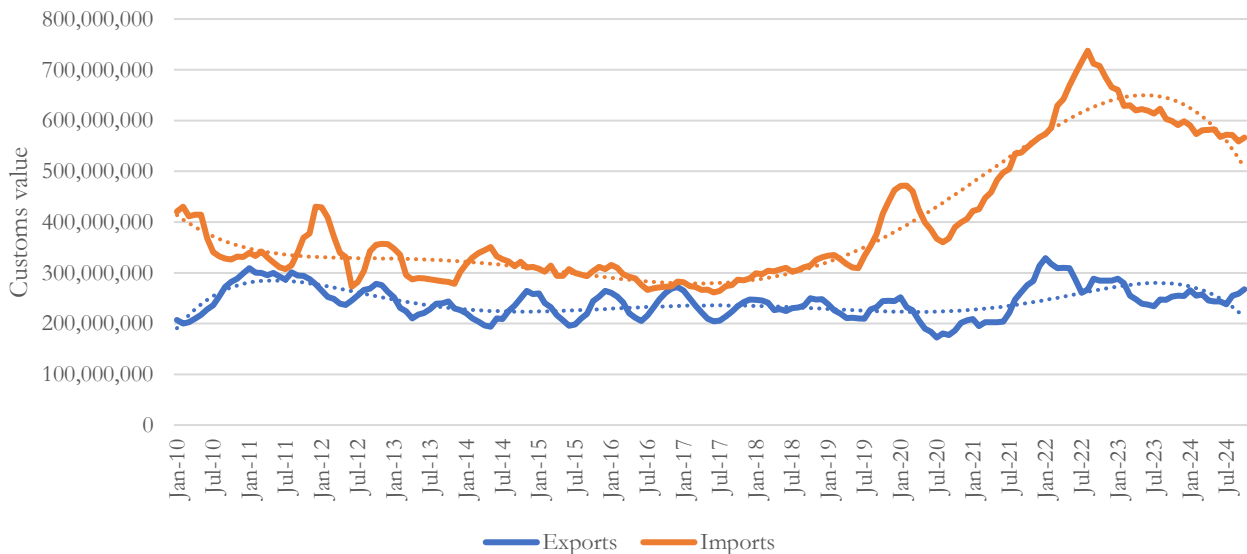


Value of imports from top 5 import partners



Similar to the nation, Maine’s trade deficit has grown in recent years 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, Maine’s six-month average trade deficit was -\$299 million as of October 2024.

Maine exports vs. imports, 6-month moving average





## 4 Appendix

### 4.1.1 Data Sources

Indicator	Source	Reference Period	Release Date
<a href="#">Population: estimates and percent change</a>	Census Bureau – Pop. Ests.	2024	December 19, 2024
<a href="#">Net migration: total and percent change</a>	Census Bureau – Pop. Ests.	2024	December 19, 2024
<a href="#">Median age</a>	Census Bureau – ACS 1-year	2023	September 12, 2024
<a href="#">Educational attainment</a>	Census Bureau – ACS 1-year	2023	September 12, 2024
<a href="#">Poverty level</a>	Census Bureau – ACS 1-year	2023	September 12, 2024
<a href="#">Income</a>	Census Bureau – ACS 1-year	2023	September 12, 2024
<a href="#">Per capita personal consumption expenditure</a>	U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis	2023	October 3, 2024
<a href="#">Per capita disposable personal income</a>	U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis	2023	September 27, 2024
<a href="#">Average earnings per job</a>	U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis	2023	September 27, 2024
<a href="#">Gross domestic product</a>	U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis	2024:Q3	December 20, 2024
<a href="#">GDPNow</a>	Atlanta Fed	2024:Q4	December 24, 2024
<a href="#">Real-time Sahm Rule Recession Indicator</a>	Sahm, Claudia/FRED	November 2024	December 6, 2024
<a href="#">GDP-Based Recession Indicator Index</a>	Hamilton, James/FRED	2024:Q2	October 30, 2024
<a href="#">Personal income: total, per capita, and wages and salaries</a>	U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis	2024: Q3	December 20, 2024
<a href="#">Unemployment rate</a>	U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics	November 2024	December 20, 2024
<a href="#">Labor force participation</a>	U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics	November 2024	December 20, 2024
<a href="#">Nonfarm payroll job estimates</a>	U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics	November 2024	December 20, 2024
<a href="#">Consumer Price Index</a>	U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics	November 2024	December 11, 2024
<a href="#">PCE Price Index</a>	U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis/FRED	November 2024	December 20, 2024
<a href="#">Brent Spot Prices</a>	Energy Information Administration	Dec. 20, 2024	December 27, 2024
<a href="#">Gasoline</a>	Energy Information Administration	Dec. 30, 2024	December 30, 2024
<a href="#">Heating Oil Prices</a>	Energy Information Administration	Dec. 23, 2024	December 27, 2024
<a href="#">House price index</a>	Federal Housing Finance Agency	2024:Q3	November 26, 2024
<a href="#">Housing: Units and Median Sale Price</a>	Maine Association of REALTORS®	September 2024 – November 2024	December 19, 2024
<a href="#">Housing Inventory – Active Listing Count in Maine</a>	Realtor.com via FRED	November 2024	December 5, 2024
<a href="#">Index of Consumer Sentiment</a>	University of Michigan Survey of Consumers	December 2024	December 20, 2024
<a href="#">Small Business Optimism Index</a>	National Federation of Independent Businesses	November 2024	December 10, 2024
<a href="#">Imports &amp; Exports</a>	USA Trade Online	October 2024	December 5, 2024

## 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 (2017) 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.

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.