

Maine Artificial Intelligence Task Force

March 13, 2025

Agenda

1. Welcome (5 min)
2. Review of results of Task Force survey and discuss proposed Task Force roadmap (50 min)
3. Presentation on Maine's 10-year economic strategy (20 min)
4. Task Force Discussion (40 min)
5. Wrap up (2 min)

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Survey of Task Force & Technical Advisors

Input from Task Force &
Technical Advisors

20 responses

Collected February 14-24, 2025



*Goal: Inform the direction and
structure of the Task Force's
work*

- 1. AI Opportunities & Risks in Maine:** Where do you see the most relevant opportunities and/or risks related to AI for the people of Maine? Are there specific sectors, communities, or policy areas where AI could have a significant impact?
- 2. Discussion Topics:** What specific topics or issues would you like the Task Force to explore in the coming months? Are there any individuals, organizations, or experts you would like to invite to present or engage with the Task Force?
- 3. Research Needs:** What additional research, data, or background materials would be helpful for your work on the Task Force? Are there specific areas where staff support would be beneficial?
- 4. AI Integration:** How do you think the Task Force could leverage AI to enhance its work? Are there particular use cases, tools, or areas of interest related to AI that you'd like to explore?
- 5. Presentations:** Would you be interested in presenting to the Task Force on a relevant topic or project in the coming months? If so, what topics would you be open to discussing?

What input did you share in your survey responses?

Input

Implications


- 1 *Nearly all* identified topics for deeper exploration that largely coalesced around AI's implications in six areas:
Economy, Workforce, Education, Healthcare, Public Sector, and Potential Harms to Mainers



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- 8 *Individuals* also pointed to issues tied to **energy consumption, climate, and data center construction**; implications of **broadband gaps**; impacts on Maine's **creative economy**; lack of **digitized data systems** for enabling AI; opportunities in **translation and language access**

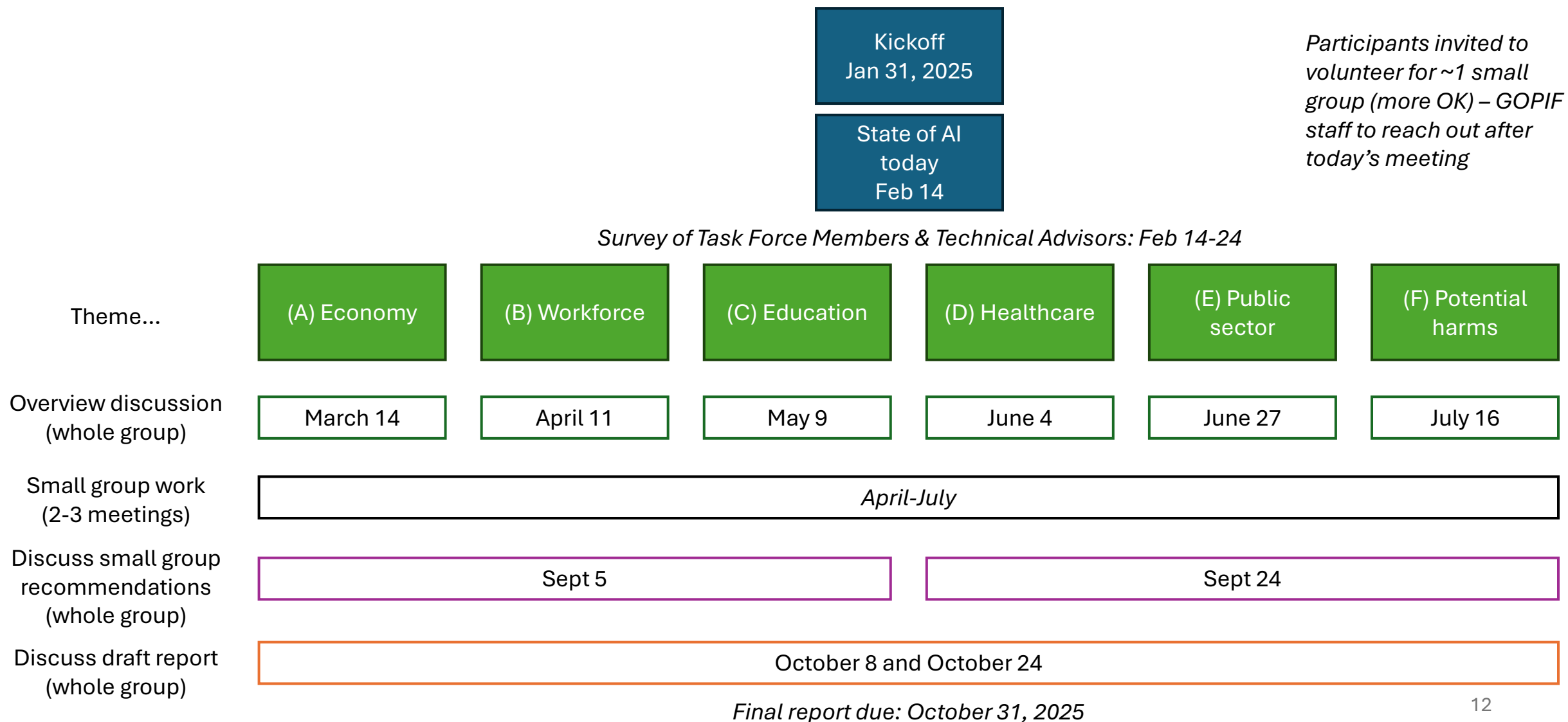
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Potential Roadmap for Task Force



Proposed questions for subgroups

Draft
3/13/2025

A: Economy

1. In what sectors does AI unlock opportunities for Maine to become a global innovation center?
2. What steps could Maine take to facilitate additional AI-enabled innovation and business creation?
3. What supports might Maine's small businesses benefit from to explore and adopt AI tools?

B: Workforce

1. How can Maine's job training programs help Maine people be highly-qualified for roles created or changed by AI?
2. Are there areas where Maine's workforce systems or policy may need to evolve to respond to AI-driven job opportunities or disruptions?
3. How should Maine monitor AI's ongoing impacts for our workforce? How can workers be included in those effort?

C: Education

1. How could schools and higher education institutions use AI to improve learning and learning outcomes?
2. How could we prepare Maine students for using AI in the workforce? What new skills should be taught?
3. What supports will educators, students, and institutions need to successfully navigate AI topics?

D: Healthcare

1. Where does AI offer promise for addressing Maine's health care challenges in Maine? Are there barriers to adoption that state policy could address?
2. Are there particular protections needed to ensure safe and appropriate usage of AI technologies in healthcare?
3. What might it take for Maine to emerge as a national innovation leader on how AI can improve rural health outcomes?

E: Public Sector

1. What are areas where Maine government could prioritize a first set of projects using AI technologies?
2. What preparations should the State consider to ensure successful implementation of new AI tools?
3. How should State agencies, municipalities, and other public entities collaborate on AI topics? What additional resources might be necessary?

F: Potential harms

1. For each identified risk areas, address: *What could be the harmful use of AI in this risk area? What protections are currently available under the law (state, federal, courts)? What steps have other states taken to address this risk area?*
2. How should Maine monitor for potentially harmful uses of AI technologies that may emerge in the future?
3. What steps might help strengthen AI literacy across Maine's communities and populations?

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Discussion – Task Force Roadmap

- 1) Can everyone identify at least one subgroup they would be willing to participate in?
- 2) Are there any critical areas the Task Force should consider which are not reflected among these six subgroups?

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Image generation prompt: robot giving a presentation on AI's impact on the Maine economy

Maine's Economic Development Strategy

Presentation for the
AI Task Force

March 13, 2025

MAINE.
ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT



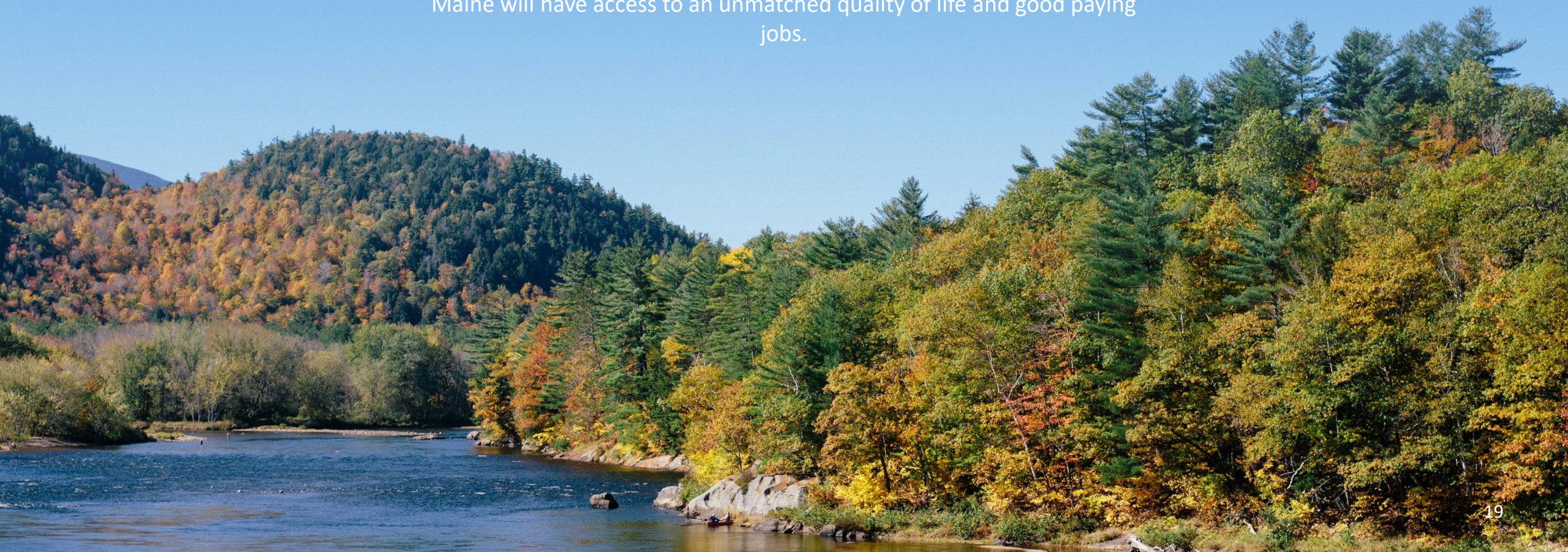
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Vision

By 2030, Maine will be an international leader with a vibrant, sustainable, environmentally responsible economy. All across the state, the people of Maine will have access to an unmatched quality of life and good paying jobs.



GOAL 1

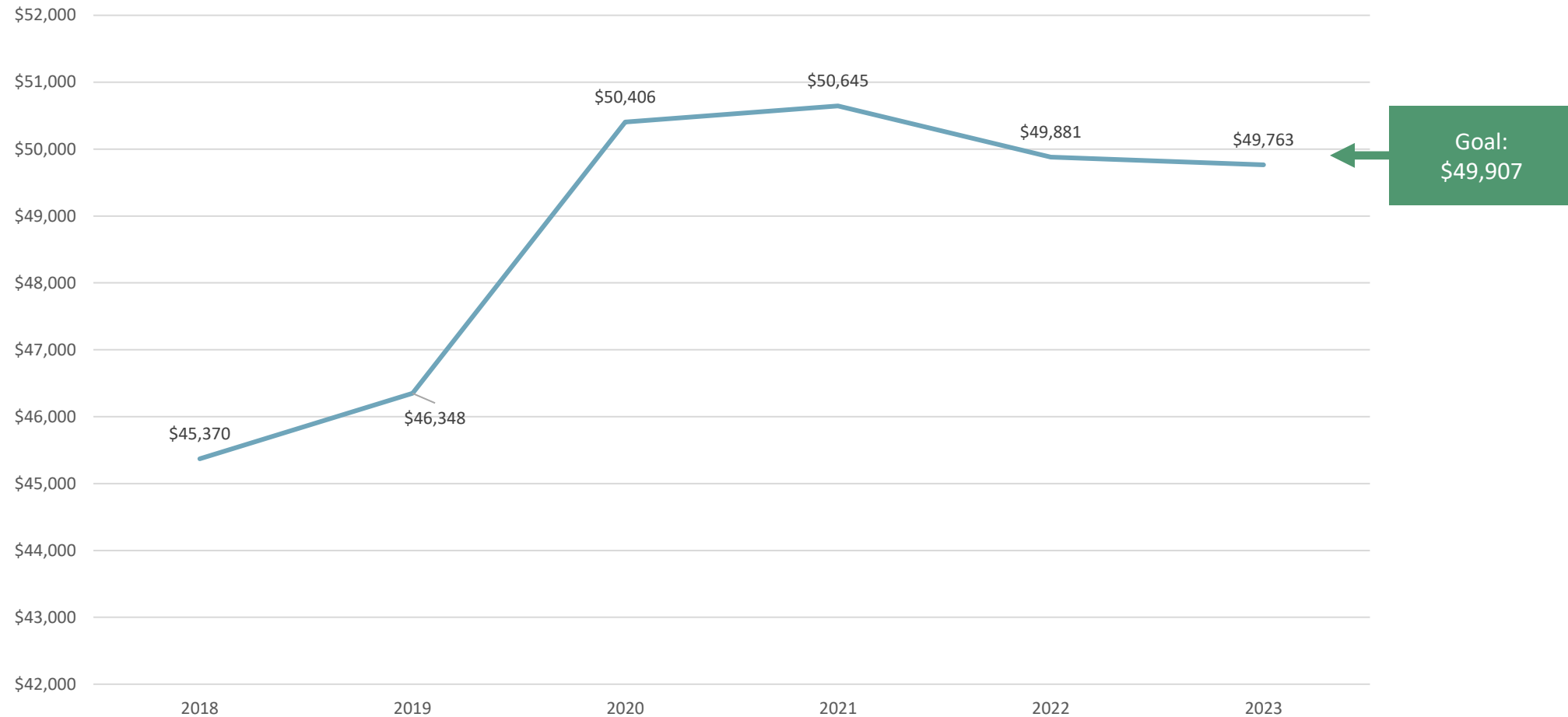
10%
GROWTH

in real wages in ten
years

PERFORMANCE

9.7%
GROWTH
in five years

Real wages have grown 9.7% since 2018



GOAL 2

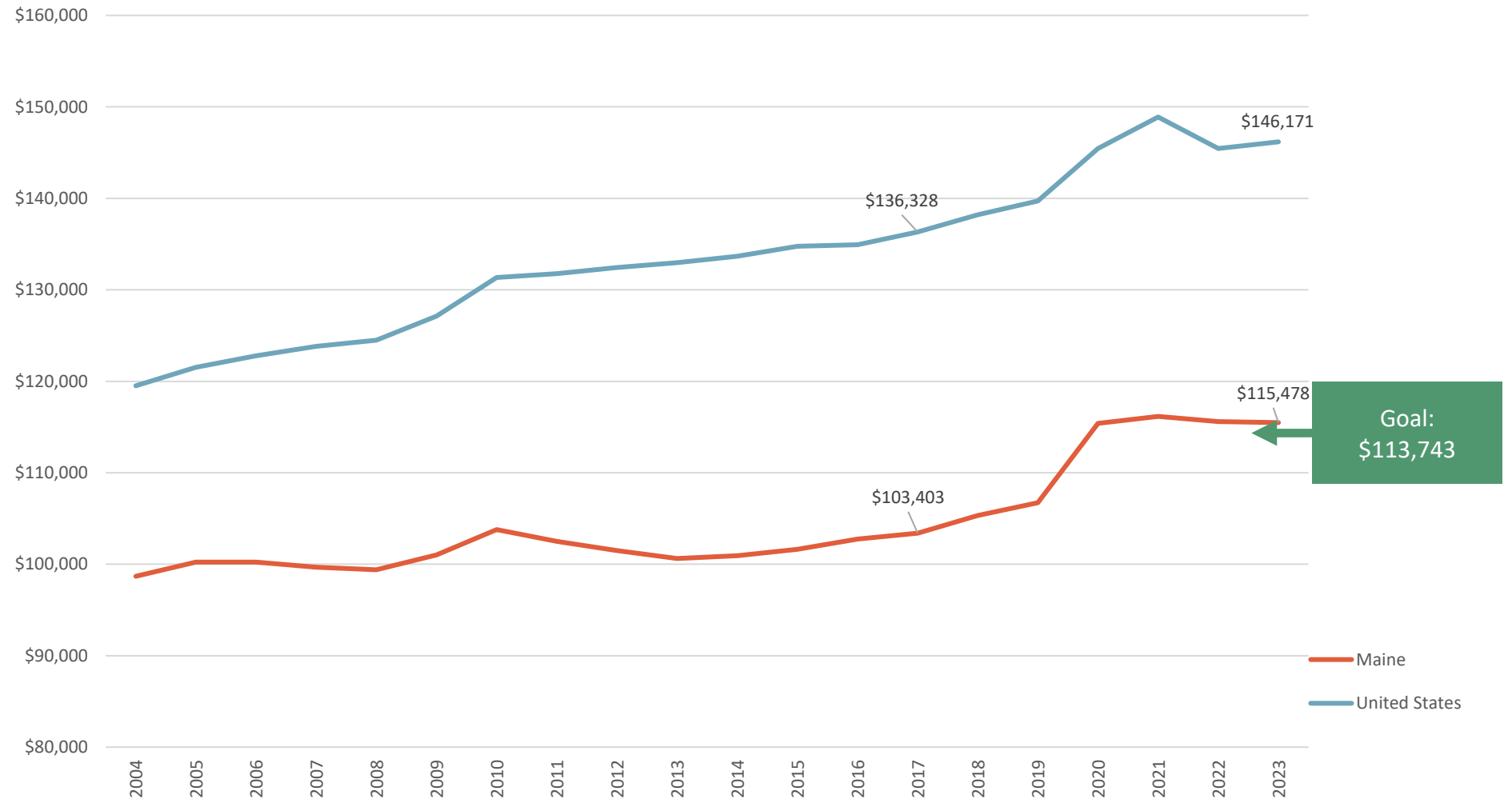
10%
INCREASE

in the value of what
we sell per worker in
ten years

PERFORMANCE

12%
GROWTH
in six years

Real GDP per worker has increased 11.7% since 2017



GOAL 3

75,000
PEOPLE

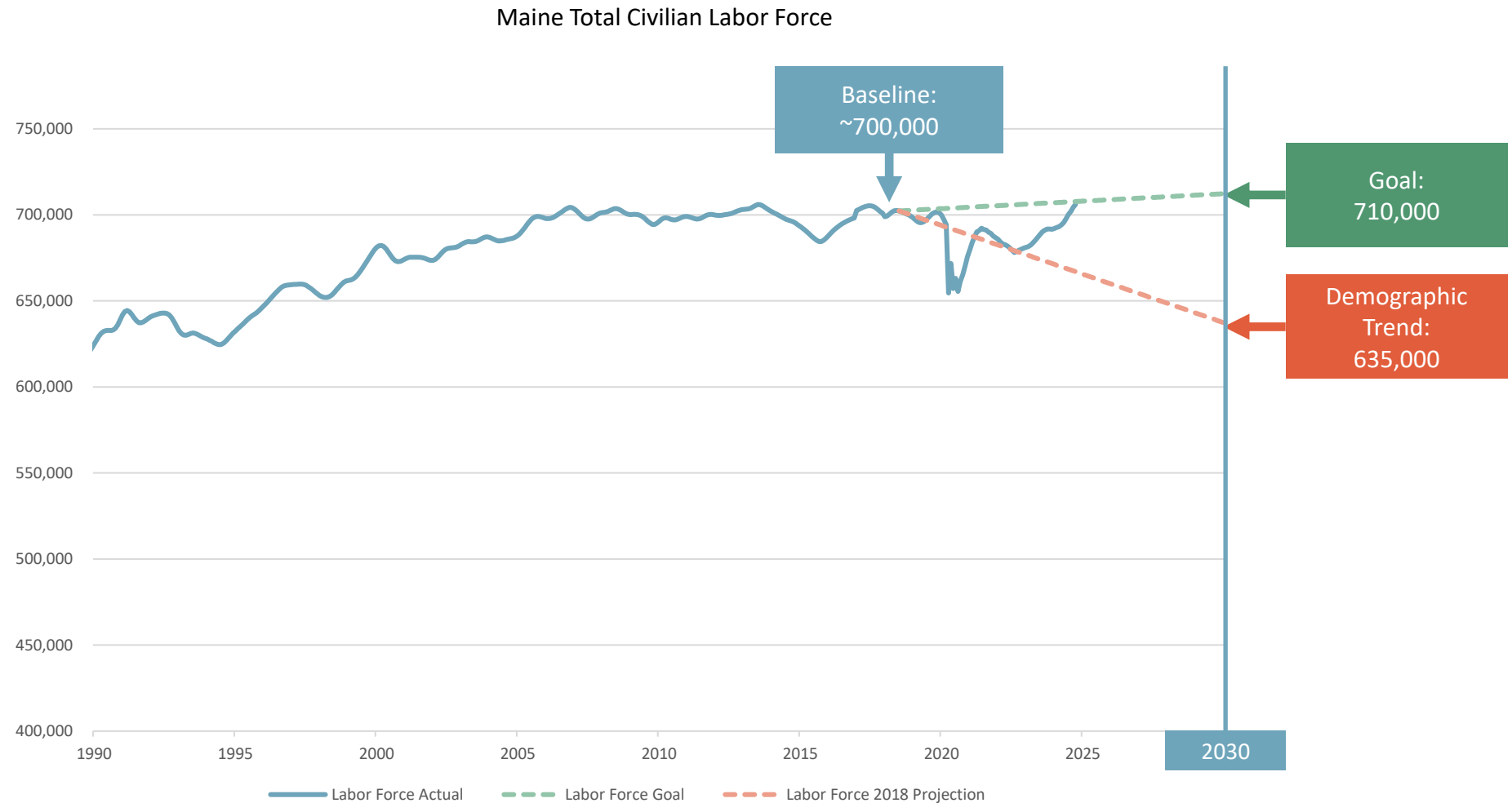
added to Maine's
talent pool in ten
years

PERFORMANCE

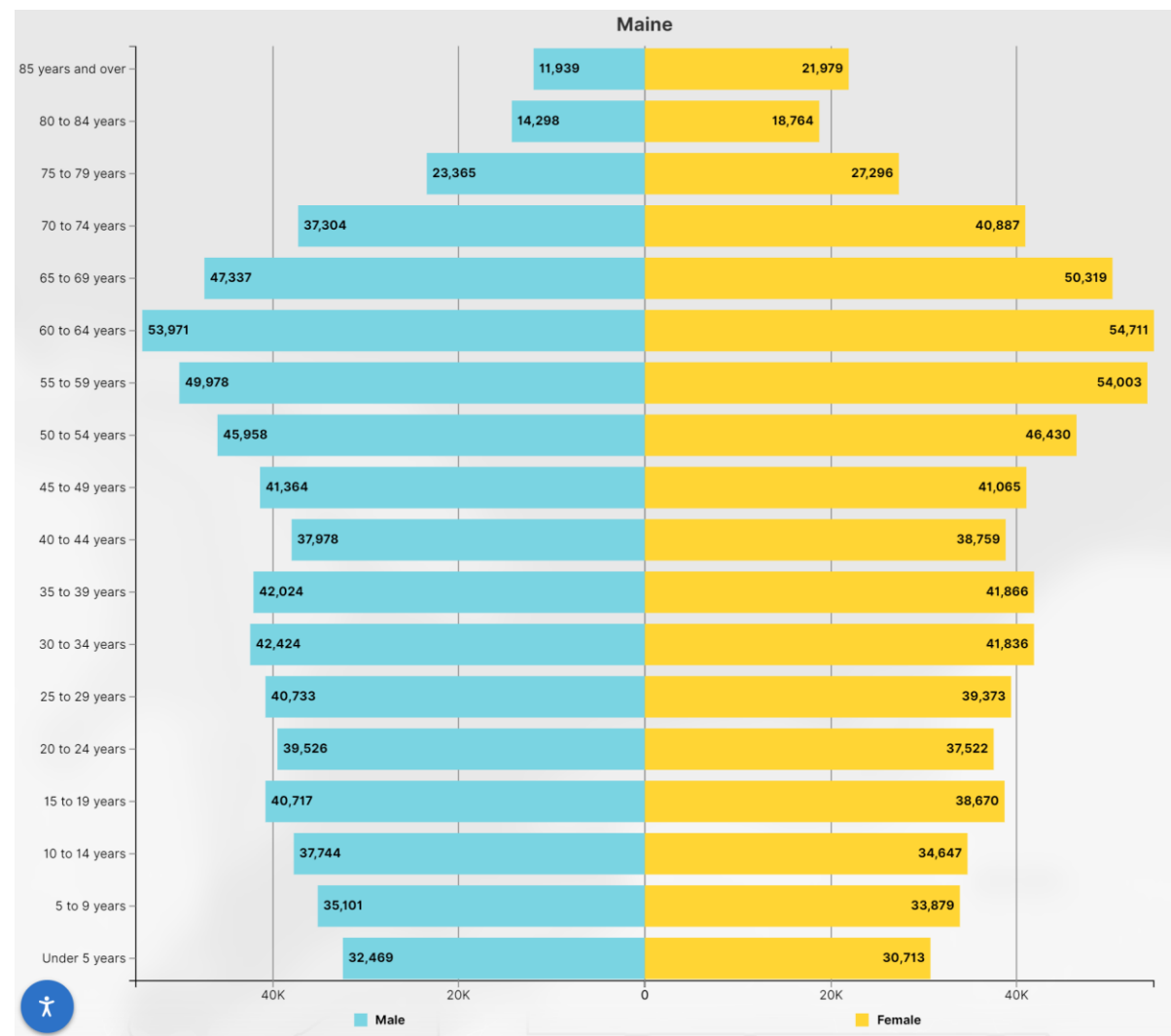
20,000
PEOPLE

added to Maine's
talent pool in three
years

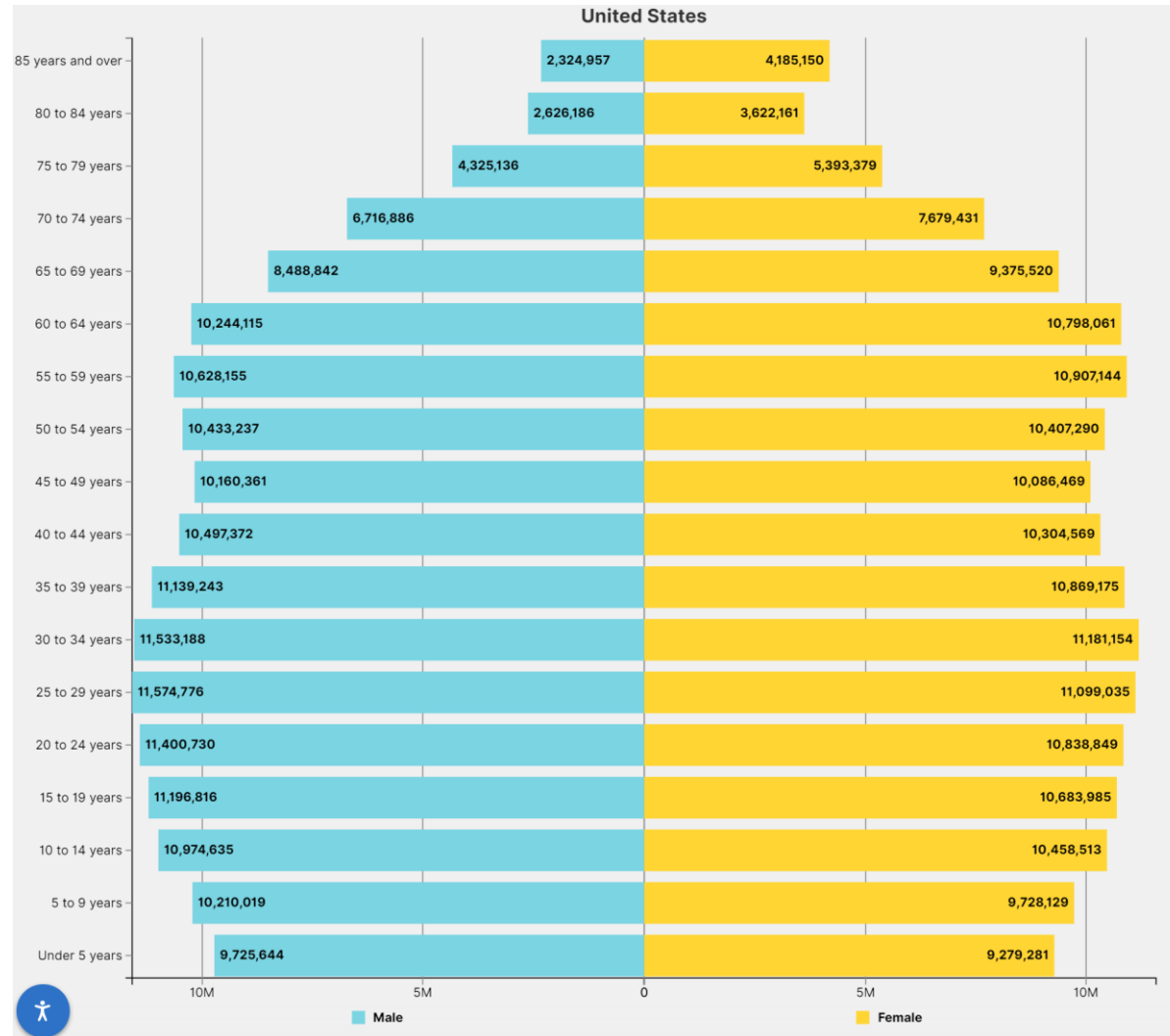
Maine's workforce grew by 14,000 people in 2024



More people reaching retirement age than entering the workforce



Not as severe nationally

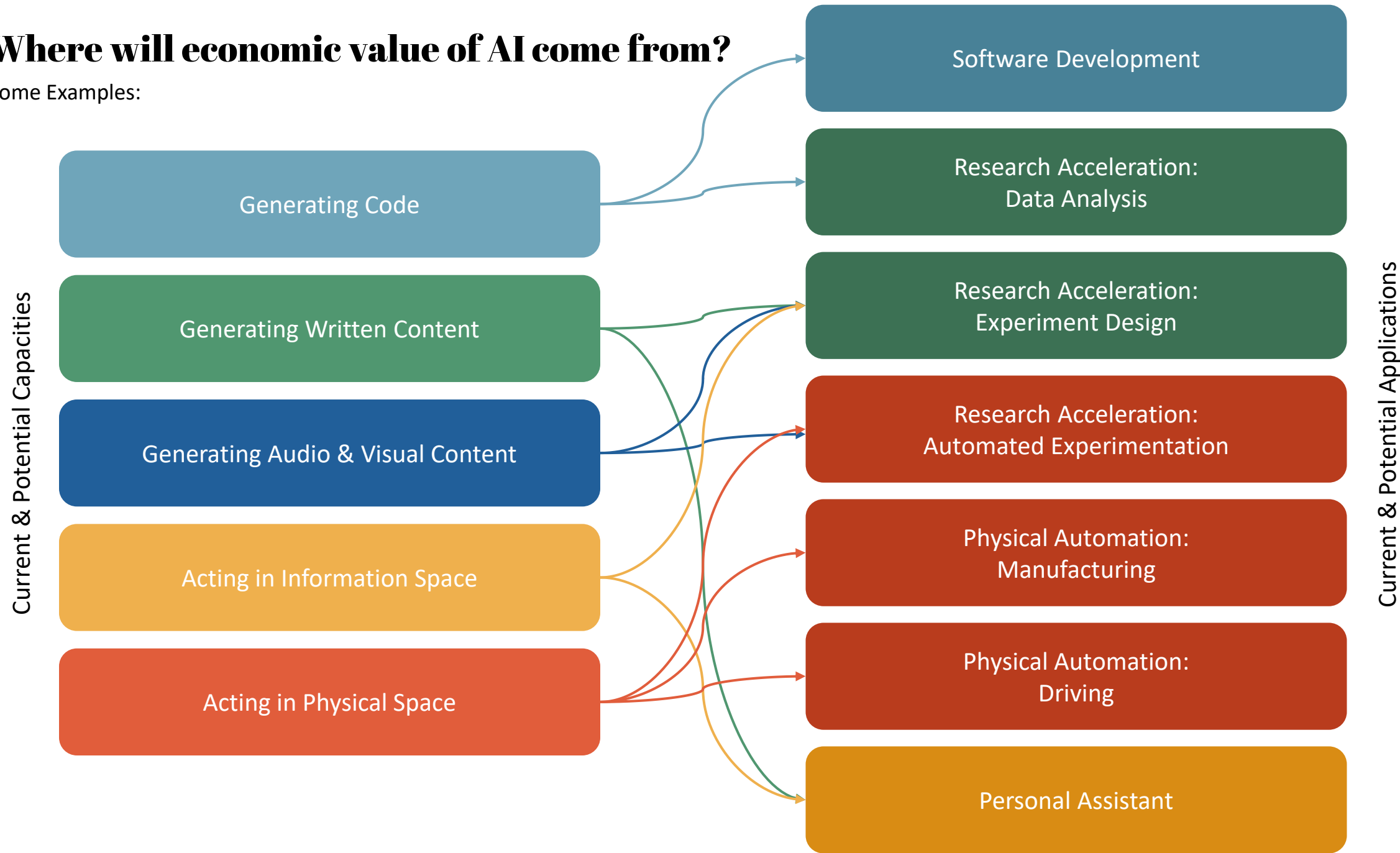


How Artificial Intelligence Fits In



Where will economic value of AI come from?

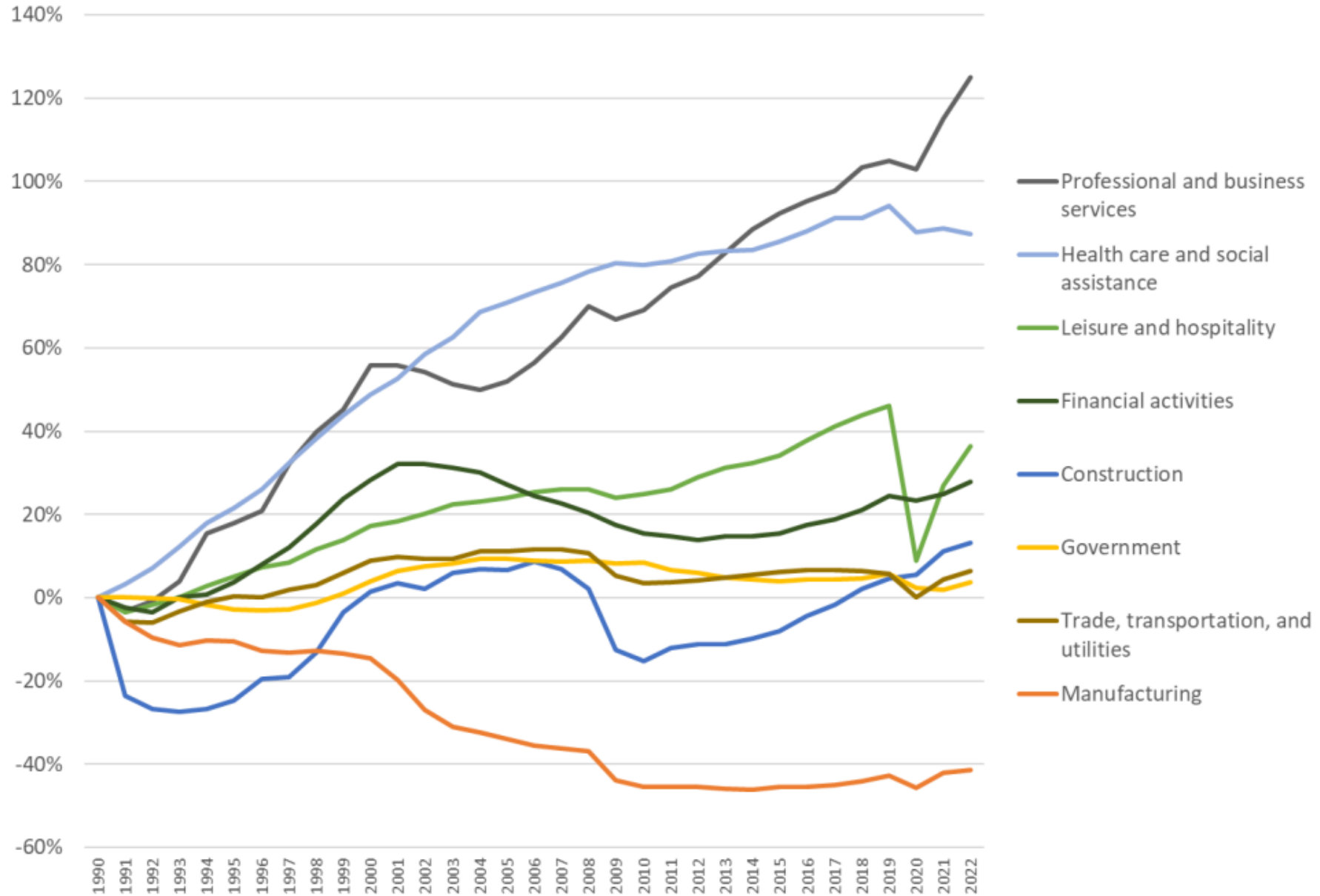
Some Examples:



What are some historical comparisons?

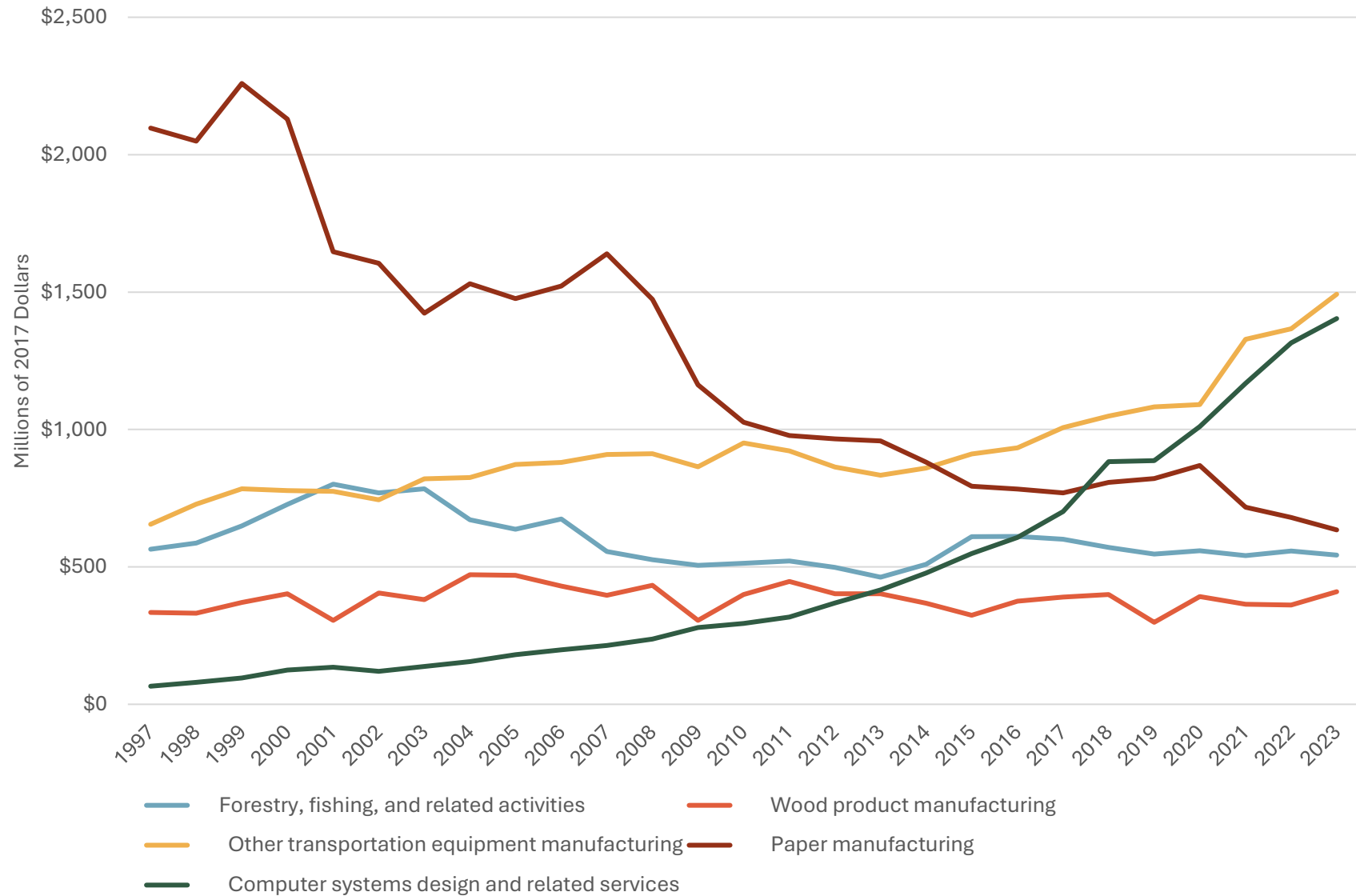
- Moments in recent economic history that:
 - Changed the nature of work
 - Changed relative competitiveness of multiple industries
 - Centered new/different aspects of productivity as source of value add
- Two examples:
 - Trade liberalization in 1990s and early 2000s
 - Devalued labor volume and goods transaction costs
 - Raised value of design, logistics, and automation
 - Adoption of personal computers
 - Devalued labor volume and information transaction costs
 - Raised value of subject and process expertise

Percent change in select Maine employment sectors since 1990



Source: Maine Department of Labor via Maine State Economist

Real GDP for Select Sub-sectors in Maine 1997-2023



What to make of historical comparisons?

- As an analogy, consider what policymakers could or should have done in 1995 if they knew what was coming.
- What will greater adoption of AI products make more valuable and less valuable in Maine's economy? How can we ensure a smooth shift from the latter to the former?

How AI can fit with strategic framework

- Consider AI as a mean to achieve strategic goals, not a goal itself
- General approach to innovation is to emphasize areas where Maine is uniquely positioned to provide solutions to global needs due to mix of natural resource, talent, and infrastructure assets
 - Forest products
 - Blue economy
 - Life sciences and animal health
 - Defense subsectors
- AI can use same lens—think not just of Maine's potential risks, but where we may have advantages
 - Natural resource management
 - Life sciences research
 - Manufacturing advancements

Thank You!

Get in Touch: phoenix.mclaughlin@maine.gov



How AI Startups Can Thrive in Maine's Ecosystem

- AI-powered startups are key to Maine's economic development.
- Success depends on access to essential resources and support systems.
- Organizations like **National Science Foundation, Maine Technical Institute, and Maine Community Bank** provide crucial resources, including:
 - Funding opportunities
 - Mentorship and business support
 - Networking and collaboration
 - Infrastructure for growth
- These resources create golden opportunities for small businesses to scale and succeed.
- Strengthening Maine's AI ecosystem today will drive long-term economic growth.

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Discussion Questions

- What do you see as AI's important economic implications for Maine? Opportunities? Risks?
- Do we have the right questions to be assigned to subgroup on AI's economic implications for Maine?
 1. In what sectors does AI unlock opportunities for Maine to become a global innovation center?
 2. What steps could Maine take to facilitate additional AI-enabled innovation and business creation?
 3. What supports might Maine's small businesses benefit from to explore and adopt AI tools?

Closing & Next Steps

Post meeting: GOPIF to reach out to Task Force Members and Technical Advisors individually to sign up for small group(s)

Next Meeting:

April 11, 2025, 12pm – 2pm