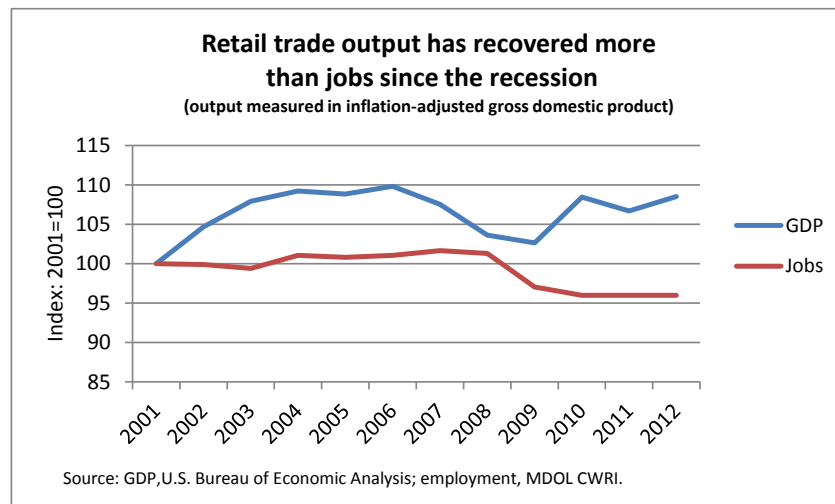


The Changing Nature of Jobs in Retail Trade

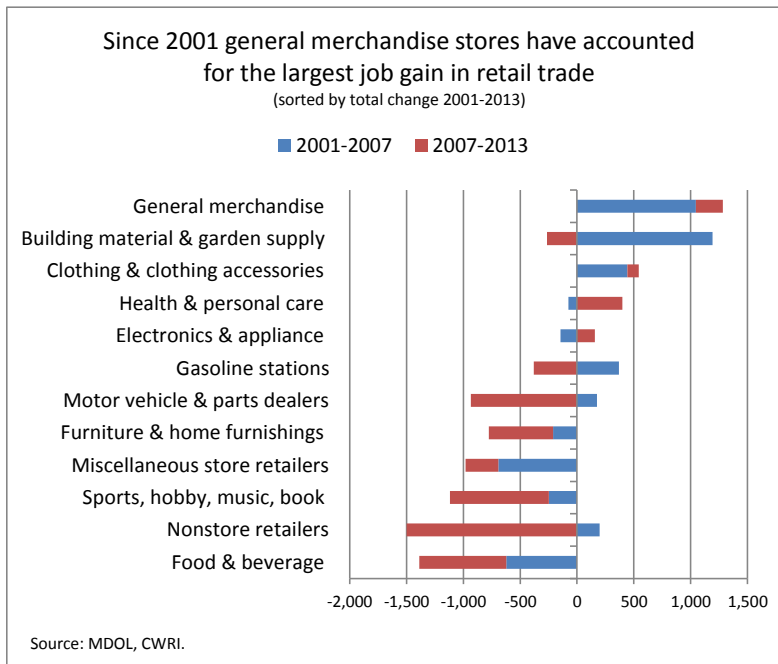
With 81,300 jobs in 2013, retail trade was the third largest sector in Maine, accounting for 14 percent of nonfarm payroll jobs. Hit hard by the recent recession, the sector lost 4,800 jobs from the 2007 peak to the 2010 trough. Only construction and manufacturing shed more jobs during and in the immediate aftermath of the recession. Although the economy as a whole has been recovering jobs since 2010, the number of retail jobs only started to recover late in 2013.

Even before the recession-induced downturn in retail trade, structural changes were taking place, including the move to big box stores and the rise of e-commerce. These factors, while making the retail trade sector more productive, have played a part in changing the number and distribution of jobs. While the total value of goods and services (GDP) in retail trade was nearly nine percent higher in 2012 than it was in 2001, employment was lower.



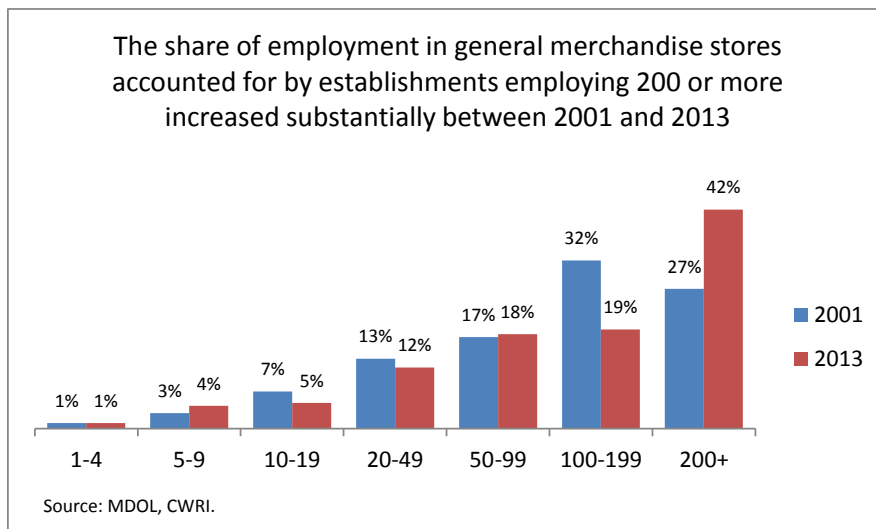
Job Gains for Some

While most retail trade industries lost jobs between 2001 and 2013, some gained. The most substantial gains were in general merchandise stores and building material & garden supply stores, with smaller gains in clothing and accessory stores, health and personal care, and electronics and appliance stores. Losses in several other retail trade industries more than offset these gains.



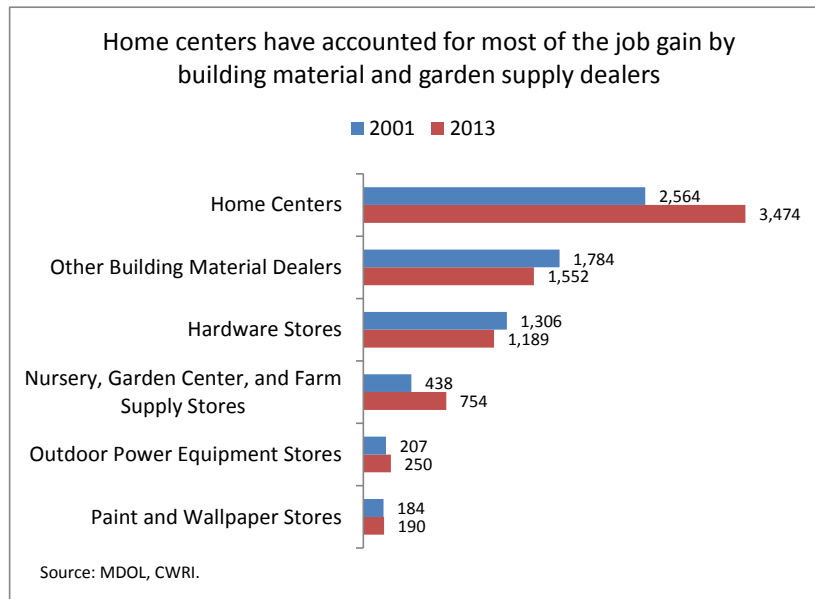
General Merchandise Stores

As total retail trade jobs declined in the late 2000s, general merchandise stores, which include supercenters and warehouse clubs, continued to add jobs, rising from 20 percent to 31 percent of total retail jobs between 2001 and 2013. The gain of 1,300 was mostly among stores employing 200 or more.



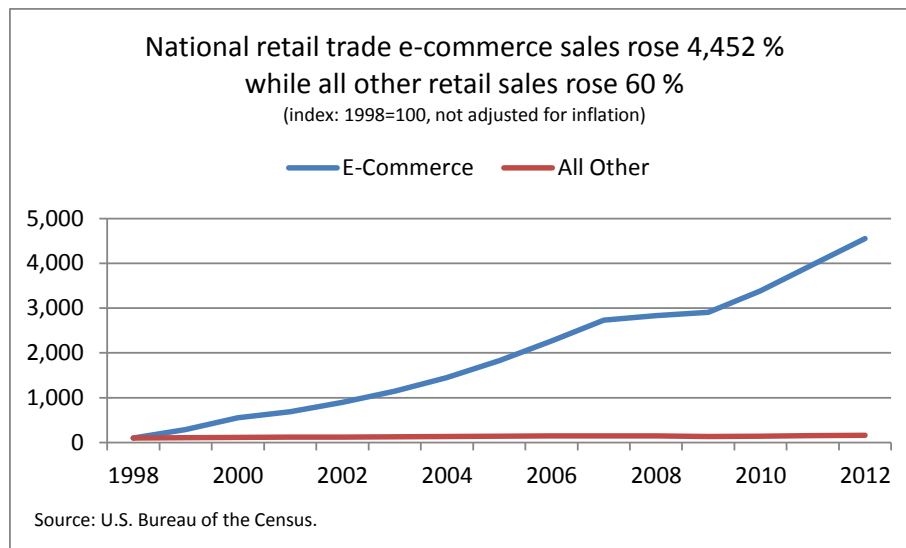
Building Material and Garden Supply Stores

Although declining slightly since its peak in 2008, the number of jobs in building material and garden supply stores increased by 900 between 2001 and 2013. This was due in large part to job gains in home center stores such as Lowes and Home Depot.



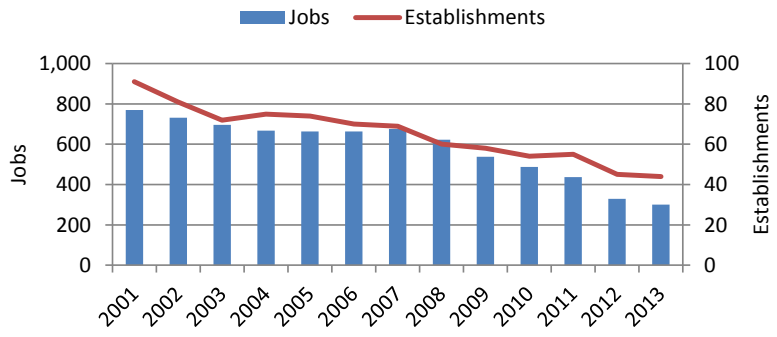
E-Commerce Impact

E-commerce has experienced significant expansion for over a decade. While online sales accounted for only 5.2 percent of all national retail trade sales in 2012, the growth rate was phenomenal.



The impact on retail jobs in Maine is not measurable by current statistics, but undoubtedly sales through online retailers, both in- and out-of-state, have had a negative impact on Maine retail stores. An example is the declining number of bookstore jobs and establishments brought about, in part, by online purchases. Even the larger brick and mortar bookstores, which took business away from smaller bookstores, have in turn been impacted, both by other online establishments as well as their own national online presence.

The number of book store jobs and establishments have fallen in Maine



Source: MDOL, CWRI.