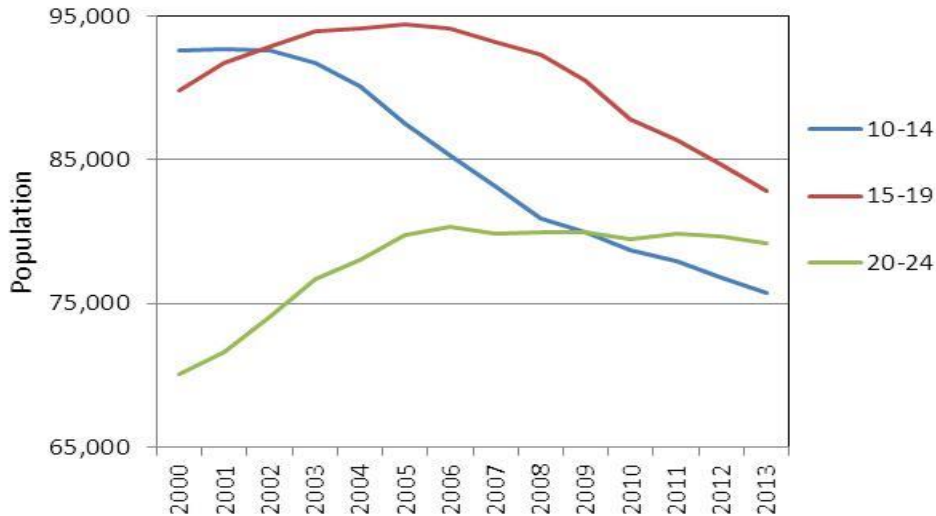


Labor force participation of teens and young adults has declined

The number of 10 to 24 year olds recently reached a worldwide historic high, according to the United Nations; that is not the case in Maine. The demographic problem Maine faces is well known: an aging population with little growth. This concern centers around the combination of large numbers of baby boomers approaching retirement and smaller numbers of young people to replace them in the workforce.

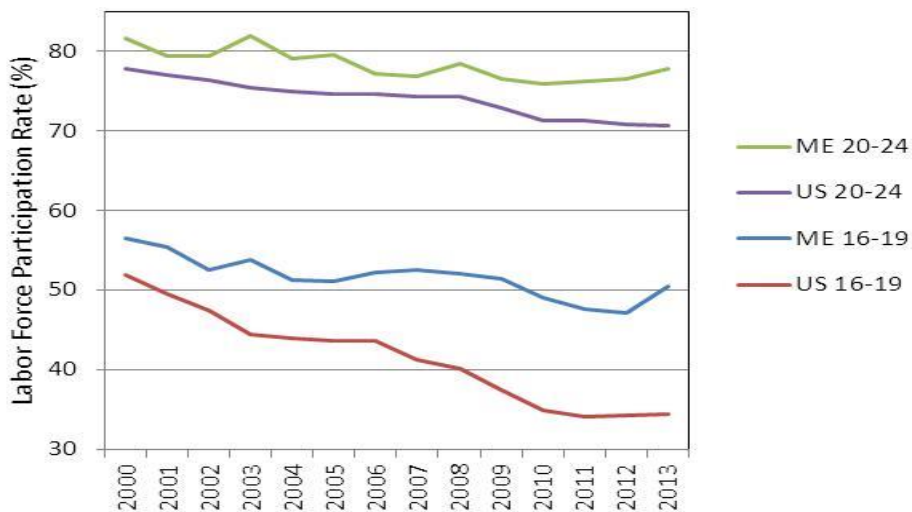
The number of pre-teens and teens in Maine is declining, which will lead to fewer young adults in the labor force in the years ahead



Source: US Census Bureau.

Not only is the number of youth declining, but labor force participation of teens and young adults also is declining. In Maine and the U.S. participation in the labor force fell for both teens (16 to 19) and for young adults (20 to 24) between 2000 and 2013. For both age groups, participation declined more nationally than in Maine and remains higher here.

Teen and young adult labor force participation has trended down since 2000



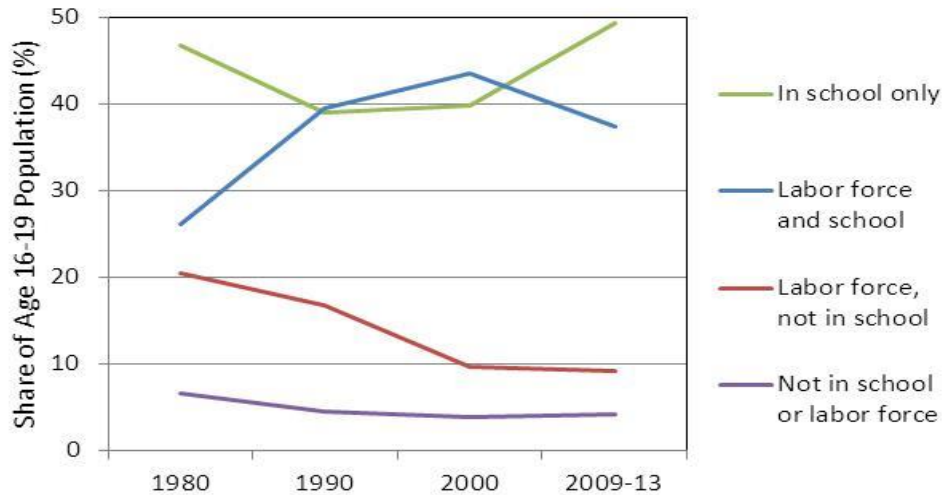
Source: Current Population Survey.

The above labor force estimates are from the Current Population Survey, which is the official source of labor force statistics (available at www.maine.gov/labor/cwri/laus.html). The American Community Survey (ACS) and the Decennial Census provide additional information on school enrollment and labor force participation.

Education and labor force participation

Teen labor force participation increased in the 1980s, was little changed in the 1990s, and then declined in the 2000s. The major factor in this decline is the movement from working and attending school to attending school only. Teens increasingly are delaying entering the labor force while investing in their education. Some likely have given up job search due to weak labor market conditions.

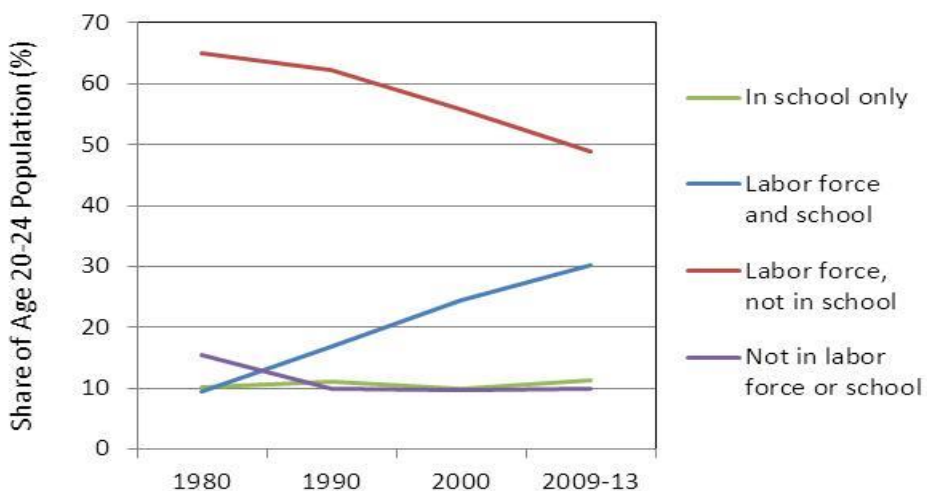
The share of teens in school and not in the labor force increased after 2000 in Maine



Source: Decennial Census and American Community Survey.

Young-adult labor force participation increased slowly in the 1980s and 1990s before falling in the 2000s, although the decline was smaller than for teens. The share of young adults in the labor force and not in school declined, while the share of those combining work and school increased, likely reflecting the increasing cost of education. The share of young adults going to school only and those neither in school nor the labor force both remained relatively unchanged during the last two decades.

The share of young adults in the labor force and in school is rising in Maine

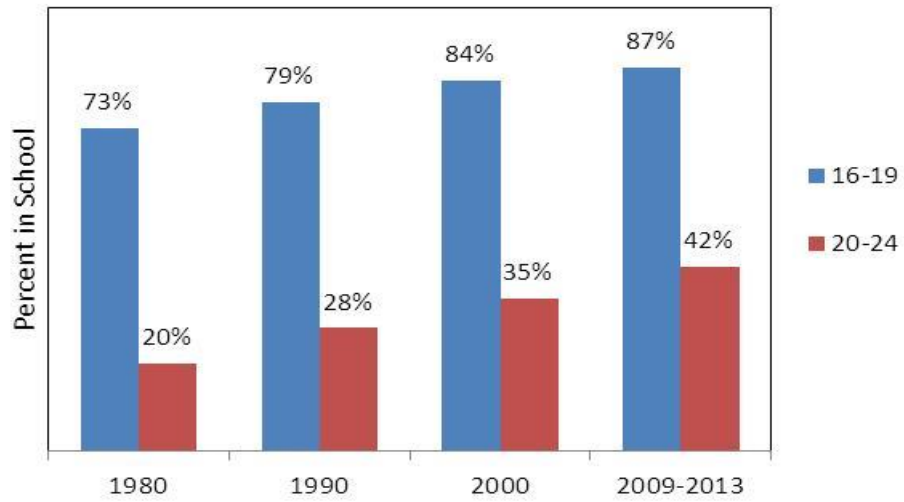


Source: Decennial Census and American Community Survey.

For both age groups, school attendance has steadily increased over the last three decades, regardless of labor force status. This is a positive trend that should benefit both the young people and employers in the years ahead.

as an increasing share of jobs require a high school diploma and some form of post-secondary education or credential.

School enrollment in Maine among teens and young adults is rising



Source: Decennial Census and American Community Survey.