Total taxable sales for the month of February (March revenue) were 9.4% higher than February 2019.\(^1\) Total taxable sales for the month of March (April revenue) were 5.4% lower than March 2019.\(^1\) Worth noting other retail sales increased 36.6% due to online sales; auto/transportation dropped 27%; lodging dropped 45.5% and restaurants dropped 32.9\(^2\)

Retail accounts for 80,839 jobs in 2018; $2.3 billion in wages; 6,043 establishments which is 12% of all establishments in Maine. Tourism, hospitality and leisure accounts for 68,406 jobs in 2018; $1.5 billion in wages 5,047 establishments.\(^3\) Retail showed a drop of 12,000 jobs from February to April; Leisure and Hospitality dropped 42,600 jobs in the same period. So of the 105,600 jobs lost in Maine since February, 51% are in retail, hospitality and tourism.\(^4\)

Maine median earnings for full-time, year-round workers is approximately $46,000 per year.\(^5\)

82.6% of lodging and campgrounds reported anticipated losses of more than 50% in 2020. 64.3% for restaurants. 51.3% of retailers including grocery\(^6\)

Maine welcomed 37,373,463 people to Maine in 2019. Total direct tourism expenditures (retail, restaurant, transportation, recreation) totaled $6.488 billion. This figure does not include day visitors which accounts for an additional $1.27 billion in direct expenditures, and 15.5 million visitors.\(^7\)

The age spread of unemployed people currently: Most are in 25-24 age bracket (mainly due to hospitality and lodging), next is 35-44, then 55-64, then 45-54, followed by <25 (but young people not always reflected accurately due to fluid job situation)\(^8\)

Rent: 22% of retailers nationally paid their rent in full in April. 17% did so in May.\(^9\)

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\(^1\) Worth noting that sales tax receipts look particularly robust following October 2019 when the Marketplace Facilitator law took effect that required e-commerce retailers to collect and remit sales taxes. SOURCE: DAFS Memorandum, Revenues – March 2020 dated April 17, 2020
\(^2\) DAFS Memorandum, Revenues – April 2020 dated May 18, 2020
\(^3\) Economic Background Brief for Hospitality, Tourism and Retail Subcommittee, May 2020
\(^4\) Maine DOL presentation to ERC, May 29, 2020
\(^5\) US Bureau of Economic Analysis chart from Amanda Rector’s Overview of Maine’s Economy Pre-COVID, May 19, 2020
\(^6\) MACCE Re-Opening Survey Results, 1,467 businesses responded
\(^7\) 2019 Maine Office of Tourism Highlights
\(^8\) Maine DOL presentation to ERC, May 29, 2020
\(^9\) NRF Operation Open Doors, Retailer Perspectives, May 2020
76% of retailers nationally reported they had employees who refuse to return to work, primarily out of concerns of contracting the virus.\textsuperscript{10}

Other anecdotal information for consideration:
Maine Restaurants taxable sales March 2019 versus March 2020
257,842,000 in 2019; 166,346,000 in 2020, down 35%

Maine Lodging taxable sales March 2019 versus March 2020
44,300,000 in 2019; 24,017,000 in 2020, down 46\textsuperscript{11}

Main Street retail sales bottomed out on March 31 at 58% below the March 5\textsuperscript{th} high point as 38% of Main Street merchants were closed completely on March 31. This number held for a couple weeks. They are since reporting a 26% decrease from March 5.\textsuperscript{12}

\textsuperscript{10} NRF Operation Open Doors, Retailer Perspectives, May 2020
\textsuperscript{11} Source: Greg Dugal, Hospitality Maine
\textsuperscript{12} DAVO, davosalestax.com blog, Main Street Retail Sales Have Been Improving Since March 31, June 1, 2020