

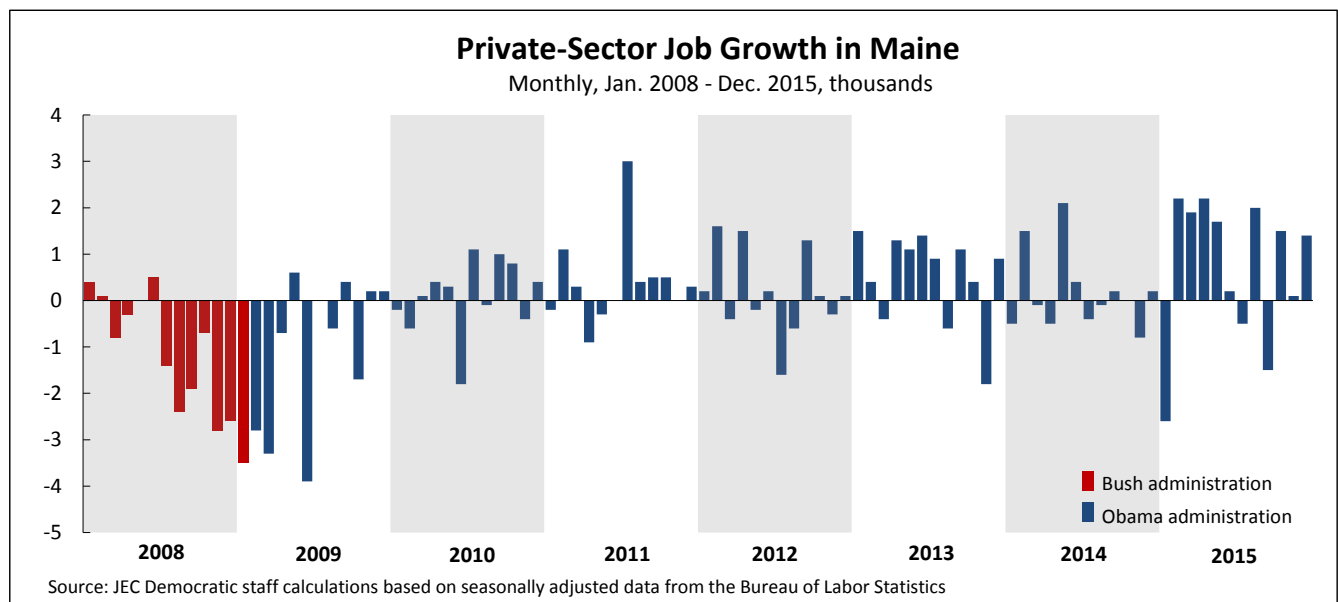


2015 YEAR IN REVIEW: MAINE

***Includes Bureau of Labor Statistics jobs, unemployment and earnings data through December 2015**
Last updated on January 26th; January 2016 data will be released on March 14th*

JOBS

- In 2015, private-sector employment in Maine grew by 8,600 jobs, an average of 720 jobs per month. This represents an improvement over the 170 jobs per month added in 2014. In December, Maine businesses added 1,400 jobs.
- The state sectors with the greatest job gains in percentage terms in 2015 were: professional and business services at 4.7 percent (3,000 jobs), leisure and hospitality at 4.7 percent (2,900 jobs) and mining and logging at 4.2 percent (100 jobs).
- Since February 2010, the national low point for private-sector employment, Maine businesses have added 25,200 jobs (an increase of 5.2 percent). Nationally, private payrolls have increased by 13.1 percent over this time.



UNEMPLOYMENT

- The Maine unemployment rate fell by 1.5 percentage points in 2015 and was 4.0 percent in December. The rate is 4.3 percentage points below its recent peak of 8.3 percent in July 2009.
- Unemployment in Maine was 1.0 percentage point below the national rate of 5.0 percent in December. The rate was down 0.1 percentage point from November.
- There were 26,800 state residents unemployed in December, down 11,200 from one year prior.

EARNINGS

- Adjusting for inflation, average hourly earnings of private-sector workers in Maine rose by 1.5 percent in 2015. Nationally, these earnings increased by 1.7 percent (not seasonally adjusted).
- In December, average hourly earnings of private-sector workers were \$22.22. The average workweek was 34.2 hours, and average weekly earnings were \$759.92.

STATE QUICK FACTS

		Maine	United States
Private-Sector Jobs Added	In 2015	8,600	2.6 million
	Since Feb. 2010	25,200	14.1 million
Unemployment Rate	December 2015	4.0%	5.0%
	December 2014	5.5%	5.6%
	Recession-Era Peak	8.3%	10.0%
Median Household Income (2014 \$)	2014	\$51,700	\$53,700
	2007 (Pre-Recession)	\$54,700	\$57,400
Poverty Rate	2014	14.6%	14.8%
	2007 (Pre-Recession)	10.9%	12.5%
All Veterans' Unemployment Rate	2014	5.0%	5.3%
Post-9/11 Veterans' Unemployment Rate	2014	7.2%	7.2%
Percentage Without Health Insurance	2014	10.1%	11.7%
	2013	11.2%	14.5%

Note: full 2015 data are not yet available for many indicators on this page; they will be included in future reports

STATE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

- Real gross domestic product (GDP) in Maine fell by 0.1 percent in 2014, below the national average growth rate of 2.2 percent.*
- Since 2009, annual Maine GDP growth has averaged -0.2 percent, compared with a national average annual growth rate of 1.8 percent.

HOUSING

- Home prices in Maine increased by 1.8 percent from the third quarter of 2014 to the third quarter of 2015. They are up 10.4 percent since their recent low in the third quarter of 2012.
- In November 2015, builders in Maine broke ground on 3,230 new housing units (seasonally adjusted annual rate), bringing the average over the past 12 months to 3,320 units. That marks an increase of 8.4 percent from the average over the prior 12 months.

EXPORTS

- In Maine, goods exports totaled \$257 million in November and \$2.7 billion over the past year, up 8.6 percent from the 12 months ending in November 2014 (inflation-adjusted).
- Exports over the past 12 months are up 13.9 percent from their level in 2009 (inflation-adjusted).

* Note: Because of methodological differences, total U.S. real GDP by state differs slightly from headline national GDP figures

** A list of sources used to compile the Maine economic snapshot is available at: <http://bit.ly/JEC-state-by-state-sources>

*** For additional Maine-specific labor sector statistics, please refer to the Maine office: <http://www.state.me.us/labor/cwri/index.html>