



## Jobs in Focus

### Maine Lawmakers Must Take Action to Overcome Job Losses and Put Mainers Back to Work

An analysis of revised figures from the Bureau of Labor Statistics data confirm that in the year beginning January 1, 2011, Maine lagged behind most other states in job creation. From January 2011 to December 2011, Maine lost 1,300 jobs and ranked 45<sup>th</sup> among states in terms of per capita job growth.<sup>1</sup> Nine states lost jobs over the same period.

#### Bottom Six States for Job Creation in 2011

State	Percent Change in Jobs	Total Number of Jobs Lost
Missouri	-0.95%	25,200
Wisconsin	-0.91%	25,000
Alaska	-0.55%	1,800
Montana	-0.47%	2,000
<b>Maine</b>	<b>-0.22%</b>	<b>1,300</b>
Rhode Island	-0.22%	1,000

**1,300**

Number of jobs lost in Maine between January and December 2011.

**9**

Number of states that lost jobs in 2011.

**45<sup>th</sup>**

Maine's rank in job growth for 2011.

**29,000**

Number of Maine jobs lost since the start of the recession in December 2007.

**49**

Number of months required – at historical growth rates - to return to pre-recession job levels in Maine.

**100,000**

Number Mainers currently unemployed or underemployed.<sup>4</sup>

The 1,300 jobs Maine lost in 2011 are just the tip of Maine's persistent jobs crisis iceberg. More than 100,000 Mainers remain unemployed or underemployed. Thousands are working fewer hours and making less in wages than they did before the recession.

Increasingly, having a job in Maine does not guarantee economic security for individuals or families. In 2009, the most recent year from which data are available, 1 of every 15 families with at least one member employed full time lived in poverty. And nearly 1 of every 3 had an income less than 200% of poverty, a measure of economic self-sufficiency.<sup>2</sup>

Maine lawmakers must act now to chart a new course by:

- passing a robust bond package for transportation, public works and communications infrastructure, education, research and development, small business loans and other investments to create jobs and make Maine more competitive;
- strengthening policies that promote better quality jobs and increase the accountability and transparency of publicly funded tax incentives;
- targeting tax relief to low and middle income families who need it and whose spending will do the most to fuel economic growth; and
- restoring tax fairness to maintain funding for health care, education, job training, child care and other programs that support families.

Leading the nation in job losses should be a clarion call for concerted, bipartisan commitment to create Maine jobs and prevent further damage to the economic security of Maine families.

## Maine Job Losses Hit Almost Every Sector

Two sectors accounted for over half of all job losses in Maine in 2011. State and local government jobs dropped 4.8% totaling 4,200 lost jobs. Manufacturing jobs decreased almost 2.4%, a loss of 1,200 jobs. Three sectors added jobs, only two with substantial impact. Education and health care added 3,600 jobs; Trade, transportation and utilities added 1,500 jobs; and financial services added just 100 jobs.

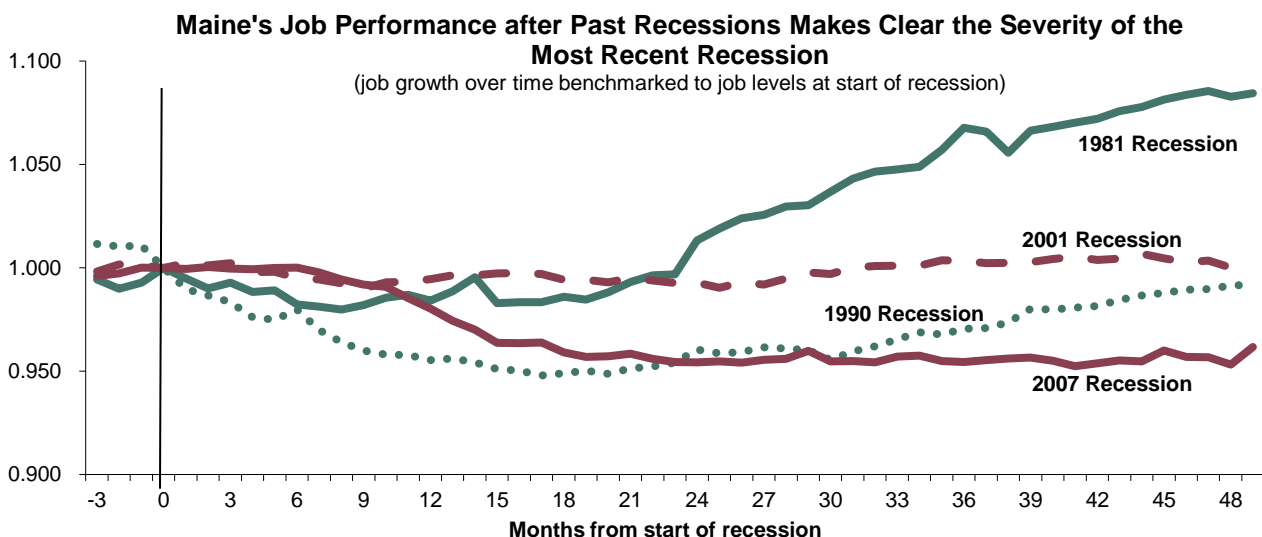
**Performance of Select Industry Sectors in Maine**

Sector	Rank among U.S. States	Percent Change in Jobs	Change in Jobs
State & Local Government	50	-4.80%	-4,200
Manufacturing	45	-2.36%	-1,200
Leisure & Hospitality	39	-1.34%	-800
Construction	27	-1.20%	-300
Professional & Business Services	44	-0.18%	-100
Financial	19	0.32%	100
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	21	1.28%	1,500
Education & Health Services	8	3.04%	3,600

Nationally, professional and business services accounted for over 30% of the 1.73 million jobs created in 2011. In addition, nearly 25% of all job growth was located in three states – California, Texas, and Florida.

## Recession Has a Pronounced Impact on Maine's Economy and Revenue Picture

Maine's jobs crisis has a lot to do with the recession. Since the recession began in December 2007, we've lost 29,000 jobs. Similarly, based on pre-recession trends, Maine experienced a 20% or \$750 million drop in state general fund revenues below expected levels for FY2012.<sup>3</sup> Even if we return to pre-recession growth rates, it will take over 49 months to return to pre-recession job levels. Maine's poor job performance relative to other states reinforces the need for a different approach – one that invests in Maine's people and economy and targets relief to those who need it most during this difficult economic time.



Sources: <sup>1</sup>Unless otherwise noted, all data based on MECEP analysis of seasonally adjusted and revised Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics for 2011. Version 1.0 of this fact sheet cited unrevised CES data. See [blog.mecep.org/2012/02/jobs-in-focus](http://blog.mecep.org/2012/02/jobs-in-focus) for more. Most recent data is available at [www.bls.gov/news.release/laus.t05.htm](http://www.bls.gov/news.release/laus.t05.htm). Not all comparisons are statistically significant. <sup>2</sup>American Community Survey Microdata, 2009. <sup>3</sup>MECEP analysis of Office of Program and Fiscal Review data. <sup>4</sup>BLS, "Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization for States" at [www.bls.gov/lau/stalt.htm](http://www.bls.gov/lau/stalt.htm).