

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Opportunity to Grow Maine's Economy

Maine is getting older and our workforce is shrinking. We need children in Maine to succeed.

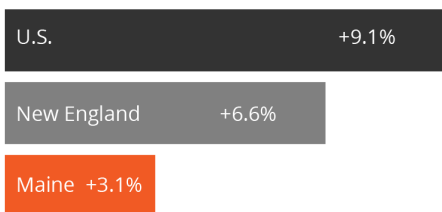
Today too many Maine families are struggling to make ends meet. Manufacturing jobs that supported decades of hard-working Maine families continue to disappear and we see an increase in low-wage jobs that do not pay enough to support a family.

At the same time, employers need skilled workers and workers need higher levels of education and training to get these jobs.

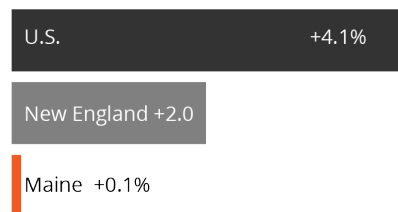
Policies that support good employers who pay fair wages and provide adequate benefits paired with policies that create pathways so people can get those good jobs will result in a win-win for families and our state economy.

Comparing job growth and population growth:

Jobs: Maine's job growth lags behind.



Population: Maine is barely growing.



Jobs in the service sector tend to pay less without benefits, sick pay or family medical leave.

Maine should attract and support good employers that invest in their employees' long term success through fair wages and adequate benefits.

- ✓ **310,000 Maine women** are in the labor force, making up **47%** of the state workforce.¹
- ✓ **78,336 Maine children** age birth through 5 years (69%) live in families where **all parents work**.²
- ✓ **42.3 percent (198,391) of Maine workers** in the private sector workforce **are not provided a single paid sick day**. This means they lose pay if they stay home with a sick child.³
- ✓ **More than half** of Maine workers (67.1%) **are not eligible for or able to afford to take unpaid leave** under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act.⁴ (FMLA).

FACT:

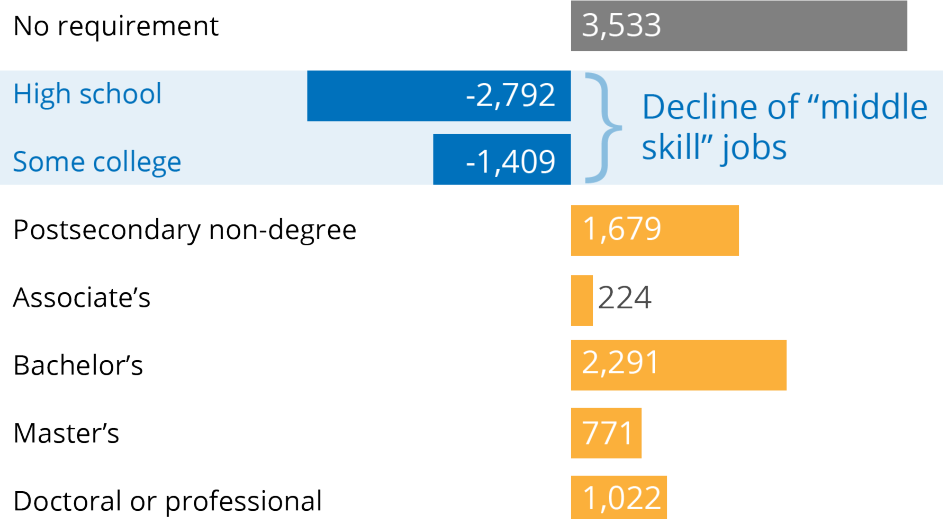
In some Maine counties, the number of jobs is actually **declining**. For example Aroostook Country growth is **-4.5%** and Piscataquis it is **-.3%**



Projected job growth 2014 - 2024

In today's economy, better-paying, secure jobs often require more education and training.

No requirement /entry level jobs are low paying jobs that keep people in poverty. Better paying jobs that will be more available into the future require higher education and training.



In today's economy, too many Maine families struggle to make ends meet.

About **14% of Maine's** population is living under the federal poverty line (this equates to an individual living on less than \$12,060 in income a year or a family of 3 living on less than \$20,420 a year).⁵

When Maine families have stable, good-paying jobs, their children are better positioned to realize their full potential.

FACT: Right now, **just under 30% of Mainers** have attained a post-secondary degree.

FACT: **1 out of 5 young Maine children** is growing up in **poverty**.⁷

FACT: Maine children living in deep poverty⁶ has increased at a **rate 8 times greater** than the national average.

It is important to keep this economic context in mind when making policy decisions.

Maine's economy is changing and higher education and training are more critical when it comes to earning enough to support your family. Policies that provide pathways to better paying jobs for Maine people will lift

families out of poverty and build Maine's workforce into the future. Any **effective** strategy to improve Maine's economic future must also **reduce poverty** and **build Maine's workforce**. This will be a win-win for Maine.

¹<http://www.maine.gov/labor/cwri/cps.html>

² <http://cscce.berkeley.edu/files/2016/Index-2016-Maine.pdf>

³ <http://www.nationalpartnership.org/research-library/work-family/psd/workers-access-to-paid-sick-days-in-the-states.pdf>

⁴ diversitydatakids.org. (2015). Working Adults Who Are Eligible For and Can Afford FMLA Unpaid Leave (Share). Brandeis University, The Heller School, Institute for Child, Youth and Family Policy Publication. Retrieved 3 November 2016, from <http://www.diversitydatakids.org/data/ranking/510/working-parents-who-are-eligible-for-and-can-afford-fmla-unpaid-leave-share/#loct=2&tf=17>

⁵ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015. https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml

⁶ Deep poverty is less than 50% FPL or less than 10,000 a yer for a family of 3.

⁷ <http://blog.mecep.org/2017/05/dhhs-denies-the-facts-misappropriates-funds-congress-authorized-to-fight-maines-soaring-child-poverty/>