

Released: Tuesday, June 24 at 10 a.m.

Contact: [Glenn Mills](#), 207-530-2079

The Employment Situation in Maine – May 2025

Unemployment was little changed at 3.4 percent. Seasonal hiring was lower than normal in hospitality and other tourism-impacted industries in a rainy May.

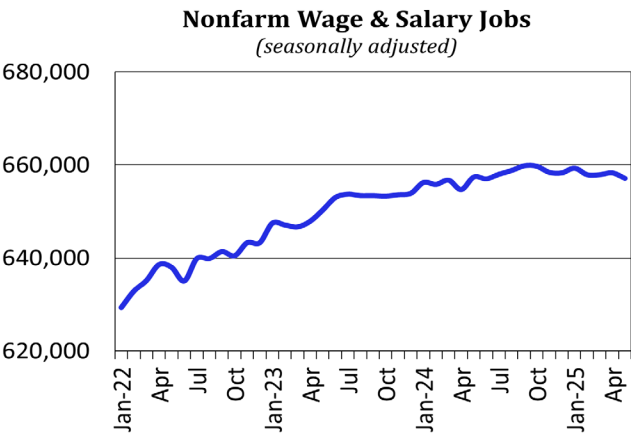


Figure 1: Nonfarm Wage and Salary Jobs

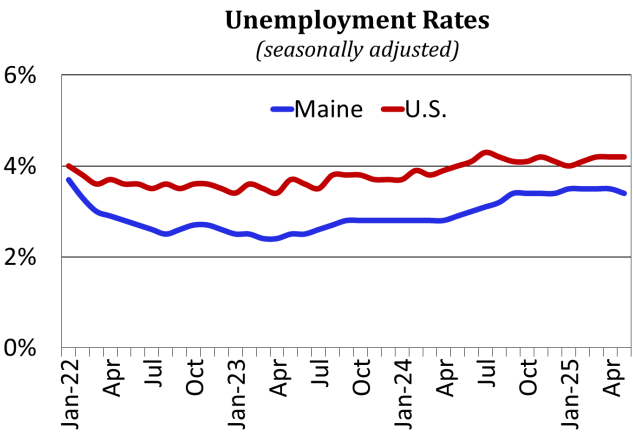


Figure 2: Unemployment Rates, Maine and U.S

These estimates are derived from two monthly surveys. The Current Population Survey collects information from households on labor force status, including labor force participation, employment, and unemployment. The Current Employment Statistics survey collects information from nonfarm employers by industry on the number of wage and salary jobs, hours worked, and wages paid to individuals on their payrolls. Both surveys are administered by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Preliminary estimates from the two surveys sometimes diverge in direction or magnitude of change. Over extended periods they tend to be more aligned.

Seasonally Adjusted Statewide Labor Force Estimates

Unemployment was little changed at 3.4 percent; the rate has been 3.4 or 3.5 percent each month since August. It has been below four percent for 42 months – the second longest such period – and below the U.S. average for all but three months for more than 17 years. Unemployment continued to be below the long-term average of 5.4 percent for the state since January 1976, when the current methodology was adopted.

Statewide Labor Force Estimates (seasonally adjusted)						
Metric	Last Two Months			Three-Month Averages		
	Apr	May	Change	Dec to Feb	Mar to May	Change
Labor Force Participation Rate	60.1%	60.0%	-0.1%	60.3%	60.1%	-0.2%
Employment Rate (Employment to Population Ratio)	58.0%	58.0%	0.0%	58.2%	58.0%	-0.2%
Unemployment Rate	3.5%	3.4%	-0.1%	3.5%	3.5%	0.0%

Figure 3: Statewide Labor Force Estimate

Unemployment averaged 4.2 percent for New England and the U.S. in the month.

Note on Preliminary Unemployment Estimates: They should be considered in the context of whether they are below, near, or above historical or U.S. averages, rather than if they are up or down a few tenths of a point from some other month. The household survey sample they are derived from is large enough for direct estimates for the nation. For states it is much smaller and [statistical modeling](#) is used to prevent large single-month changes that may overstate the magnitude or the direction of changes in labor market conditions.

One result of this is that preliminary unemployment rates for Maine tend to follow an undulating pattern, moving in one direction for several months and then the other through the course of a year. Revisions, published annually in March, have consistently smoothed these patterns. Upward or downward changes in preliminary unemployment or labor force participation rates often are not as indicative of improvement or deterioration in conditions as may appear. Though rates for many months will change when revised, unemployment rates for the early and latter parts of 2024 certainly will remain well below the long-term average.

Seasonally Adjusted Statewide Nonfarm Jobs Estimates

Nonfarm wage and salary jobs dipped 1,200 on a seasonally adjusted basis in May. This was not because the number of jobs decreased – rather it was from lower-than-normal hiring in the retail trade, and leisure and hospitality sectors, and in federal government. Jobs in those sectors typically rise in the spring to reach summer highs; smaller than normal increases in a month become decreases when seasonally adjusted. Inclement weather curtailed demand for those services both from fewer tourist visits and from residents. The seasonal increase at Acadia National Park was smaller than usual, impacting federal government jobs totals.

Unless data in subsequent months indicate otherwise, it appears May was an aberration and that the employment situation has not fundamentally changed since last summer.

Statewide Nonfarm Wage & Salary Jobs Estimates (seasonally adjusted)										
Industry	Jobs (thousands & percent)					Change in Jobs (thousands & percent)				
	2024	2025		Share of Jobs		Apr to May		May 24 to May 25		
	May	Apr	May	May 24	May 25	Net	Percent	Monthly Average	Net	Percent
Total Nonfarm	657.4	658.3	657.1	100%	100%	-1.2	-0.2%	0.0	-0.3	0.0%
Total Private	555.3	555.6	554.8	84%	84%	-0.8	-0.1%	0.0	-0.5	-0.1%
Healthcare & Social Assistance	110.7	111.3	111.1	17%	17%	-0.2	-0.2%	0.0	0.4	0.4%
Retail Trade	82.3	82.7	82.3	13%	13%	-0.4	-0.5%	0.0	0.0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	78.3	77.9	78.3	12%	12%	0.4	0.5%	0.0	0.0	0.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	69.6	71.0	70.5	11%	11%	-0.5	-0.7%	0.1	0.9	1.3%
Manufacturing	52.1	51.6	51.4	8%	8%	-0.2	-0.4%	-0.1	-0.7	-1.3%
Construction	35.0	34.9	34.7	5%	5%	-0.2	-0.6%	0.0	-0.3	-0.9%
Financial Activities	33.3	33.3	33.5	5%	5%	0.2	0.6%	0.0	0.2	0.6%
Educational Services	22.6	23.0	23.2	3%	4%	0.2	0.9%	0.0	0.6	2.7%
Other Services	23.1	22.2	22.2	4%	3%	0.0	0.0%	-0.1	-0.9	-3.9%
Wholesale Trade	19.2	18.9	18.8	3%	3%	-0.1	-0.5%	0.0	-0.4	-2.1%
Transportation, Warehousing, Utilities	18.8	18.3	18.3	3%	3%	0.0	0.0%	0.0	-0.5	-2.7%
Information	8.2	8.4	8.4	1%	1%	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.2	2.4%
Mining & Logging	2.1	2.1	2.1	0.3%	0.3%	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0	0.0%
Government	102.1	102.7	102.3	16%	16%	-0.4	-0.4%	0.0	0.2	0.2%
Local	61.7	61.5	61.6	9%	9%	0.1	0.2%	0.0	-0.1	-0.2%
State	23.1	23.9	24.0	4%	4%	0.1	0.4%	0.1	0.9	3.9%
Federal	17.3	17.3	16.7	3%	3%	-0.6	-3.5%	-0.1	-0.6	-3.5%

Industries in descending order by number of jobs in current month. Numbers may not add due to rounding.

Figure 4: Statewide Nonfarm Wage and Salary Job Estimates (Seasonally Adjusted)

Note on Preliminary Nonfarm Jobs Estimates: Preliminary estimates of nonfarm jobs from the payroll survey of employers tend to provide a better indication of the magnitude and direction of change than labor force and unemployment estimates from the household survey. The payroll survey is much larger and revisions to jobs estimates tend to be smaller.

Not Seasonally Adjusted County and Metro Area Labor Force Estimates

On a not seasonally adjusted basis the statewide unemployment rate was 3.2 percent. Rates were at least 0.3 percentage points higher than that in eight counties, at least 0.3 points lower than that in three, and close to the average in five. The lowest rates were in southern and central areas; the highest were along the northern rim of the state.

May Labor Force Estimates (not seasonally adjusted)						
Area	Employed		Unemployed		Unemployment Rate	
	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
Maine	679,510	680,840	19,860	22,840	2.8%	3.2%
U.S. (in thousands)	161,340	163,400	6,240	6,820	3.7%	4.0%
Counties						
Androscoggin	53,490	53,220	1,630	1,920	3.0%	3.5%
Aroostook	27,750	27,640	1,210	1,430	4.2%	4.9%
Cumberland	169,790	170,760	4,180	4,860	2.4%	2.8%
Franklin	12,850	12,870	550	580	4.1%	4.3%
Hancock	28,370	28,230	820	940	2.8%	3.2%
Kennebec	60,820	61,180	1,690	1,910	2.7%	3.0%
Knox	19,370	19,220	550	610	2.8%	3.1%
Lincoln	16,390	16,370	460	540	2.7%	3.2%
Oxford	25,340	25,270	890	1,010	3.4%	3.9%
Penobscot	72,640	73,000	2,280	2,690	3.0%	3.6%
Piscataquis	6,320	6,300	330	310	4.9%	4.7%
Sagadahoc	19,140	19,210	460	530	2.3%	2.7%
Somerset	21,760	21,780	790	920	3.5%	4.1%
Waldo	18,270	18,240	570	630	3.0%	3.3%
Washington	12,190	12,010	510	570	4.0%	4.5%
York	115,030	115,550	2,950	3,390	2.5%	2.8%
Metropolitan Areas						
Bangor	72,640	73,000	2,280	2,690	3.0%	3.6%
Lewiston-Auburn	53,490	53,220	1,630	1,920	3.0%	3.5%
Portland-S Portland	303,960	305,520	7,590	8,770	2.4%	2.8%

Figure 5: February Not Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Estimates

Among the three metro areas, unemployment was below the statewide average in Portland-S. Portland, close to the average in Lewiston-Auburn, and slightly above the average in Bangor.

(Labor force estimates for substate areas, including unemployment rates, are not seasonally adjusted. Because of this, estimates for a certain month should be compared to the same month in other years and should not be compared to other months in the same or other years.)

Not Seasonally Adjusted Statewide and Metro Area Hours and Earnings Estimates

The private sector workweek averaged 33.3 hours and earnings averaged \$32.28 per hour in May. Average hours were little changed and hourly earnings increased 2.4 percent from a year ago. The workweek was longest in construction and shortest in leisure and hospitality. Earnings were highest in professional and business services and lowest in leisure and hospitality.

Hourly earnings were above the statewide average in Portland-S. Portland and below in the Bangor and Lewiston-Auburn metros.

May Private Sector Average Hours & Earnings Estimates <i>(not seasonally adjusted)</i>						
Sector/Area	Weekly Hours			Hourly Earnings		
	2024	2025	Change	2024	2025	Change
Maine	33.4	33.3	-0.1	\$31.52	\$32.28	2.4%
United States	34.2	34.1	-0.1	\$34.81	\$36.16	3.9%
Sectors Statewide						
Construction	40.2	40.4	0.2	\$31.48	\$33.88	7.6%
Manufacturing	37.8	37.2	-0.6	\$31.10	\$33.24	6.9%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	32.5	32.7	0.2	\$26.21	\$27.46	4.8%
Professional & Business Services	34.7	34.1	-0.6	\$36.92	\$36.75	-0.5%
Education & Health Services	33.0	32.6	-0.4	\$34.09	\$33.07	-3.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	26.1	25.6	-0.5	\$23.04	\$24.10	4.6%
Metropolitan Areas						
Bangor	35.4	33.8	-1.6	\$30.20	\$31.17	3.2%
Lewiston-Auburn	34.1	35.0	0.9	\$29.30	\$30.44	3.9%
Portland-S Portland	32.5	32.6	0.1	\$34.43	\$34.43	0.0%

Figure 6: April Private Sector Hour and Earnings Estimates

June workforce estimates will be published Friday, July 18 at 10 a.m. The data release schedule is [here](#)

Nonfarm jobs data is available [here](#)

Unemployment and labor force data is available [here](#)

NOTES:

1. Preliminary seasonally adjusted labor force estimates, including rates (labor force participation, employment, and unemployment rates), and levels (labor force, employed, and unemployed), as well as nonfarm wage and salary job estimates are inexact. Annual revisions (published in March each year) add accuracy. A comparison of 2023 and 2024 previously published to revised estimates is available in [this blog](#).
2. The 90 percent confidence interval for the statewide seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for May was between 2.7 and 4.2 percent.
3. Nonfarm wage and salary jobs from the payroll survey provide a better indication of changes in employment than resident employment from the household survey. The payroll survey is larger and has smaller margins of error.
4. Nonfarm payroll jobs estimates tend to be variable from month to month because the representativeness of reporting employers can differ. Seasonal adjustment is imperfect because weather, the beginning and ending of school semesters, and other events do not always occur with the same timing relative to the pay period that includes the 12th day of the month, which is the survey reference period. This sometimes exacerbates monthly changes in jobs estimates. Users should look to the trend over multiple months rather than the change from one specific month to another. Jobs estimates for the period from April 2024 to September 2025 will be replaced with payroll data in March 2026. Those benchmark revisions usually show less monthly variability than previously published estimates.