Economic Overview
NWDB Region
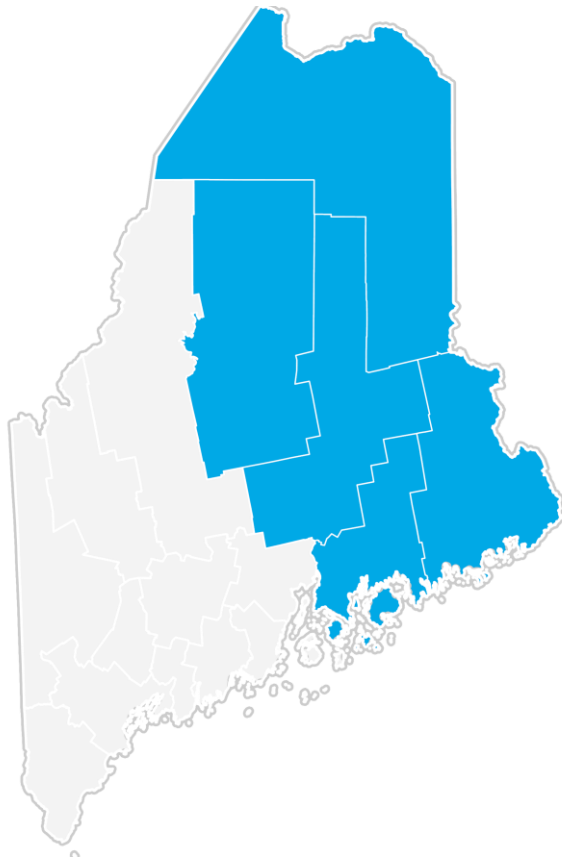
Demographic Profile

In 2015, the population in the NWDB Region was 322,477. Between 2005 and 2015, the region's population declined at an annual average rate of 0.2%.

The region has a civilian labor force of 161,698 with a participation rate of 59.0%. Of individuals 25 to 64 in the NWDB Region, 24.4% have a bachelor's degree or higher which compares with 31.3% in the nation.

The median household income in the NWDB Region is $42,144 and the median house value is $134,211.

Summary[1]						
	Percent			Value		
	NWDB Region	Maine	USA	NWDB Region	Maine	USA
Demographics						
Population[6]	—	—	—	322,477	1,331,479	323,127,513
Population Annual Average Growth[6]	-0.2%	0.1%	0.8%	-673	786	2,474,760
Median Age[2,4]	—	—	—	43.2	42.7	37.2
Under 18 Years[4]	19.6%	20.7%	24.0%	64,645	274,533	74,181,467
18 to 24 Years[4]	10.2%	8.7%	9.9%	33,779	116,072	30,672,088
25 to 34 Years[4]	10.4%	10.9%	13.3%	34,514	144,624	41,063,948
35 to 44 Years[4]	12.1%	12.9%	13.3%	39,971	171,376	41,070,606
45 to 54 Years[4]	16.0%	16.5%	14.6%	52,959	218,575	45,006,716
55 to 64 Years[4]	14.8%	14.5%	11.8%	48,903	192,101	36,482,729
65 to 74 Years[4]	9.1%	8.5%	7.0%	29,921	112,651	21,713,429
75 Years, and Over[4]	7.8%	7.4%	6.0%	25,910	98,429	18,554,555
Race: White[4]	95.4%	95.2%	72.4%	315,559	1,264,971	223,553,265
Race: Black or African American[4]	0.6%	1.2%	12.6%	2,028	15,707	38,929,319
Race: American Indian and Alaska Native[4]	1.5%	0.6%	0.9%	4,949	8,568	2,932,248
Race: Asian[4]	0.7%	1.0%	4.8%	2,458	13,571	14,674,252
Race: Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander[4]	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	78	342	540,013
Race: Some Other Race[4]	0.2%	0.3%	6.2%	804	4,261	19,107,368
Race: Two or More Races[4]	1.4%	1.6%	2.9%	4,726	20,941	9,009,073
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)[4]	1.1%	1.3%	16.3%	3,502	16,935	50,477,594
Economic						
Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 16 years and over)	59.0%	63.4%	63.3%	161,698	696,184	158,897,824
Armed Forces Labor Force	0.2%	0.2%	0.4%	447	1,729	1,015,464
Veterans, Age 18-64	7.8%	7.4%	5.5%	15,931	61,098	10,750,884
Median Household Income[2]	—	—	—	$42,144	$49,331	$53,889
Per Capita Income	—	—	—	$24,073	$27,655	$28,930
Poverty Level (of all people)	17.2%	13.9%	15.5%	54,203	180,278	47,749,043
Households Receiving Food Stamps	20.4%	17.1%	13.2%	28,271	94,459	15,399,651
Mean Commute Time (minutes)	—	—	—	21.2	23.6	25.9

Summary[1]					
	Percent			**Value**		
	NWDB Region	**Maine**	**USA**	**NWDB Region**	**Maine**	**USA**
Commute via Public Transportation	0.5%	0.6%	5.1%	688	4,032	7,362,038
Union Membership[3]	10.7%	11.2%	10.7%	—	—	—
Educational Attainment, Age 25-64						
No High School Diploma	7.0%	6.2%	11.8%	12,210	44,231	19,736,243
High School Graduate	35.0%	32.1%	26.4%	60,786	230,660	43,982,863
Some College, No Degree	22.1%	21.1%	21.7%	38,428	151,742	36,187,232
Associate's Degree	11.4%	10.8%	8.8%	19,846	77,647	14,742,654
Bachelor's Degree	16.4%	20.0%	19.9%	28,470	143,564	33,245,950
Postgraduate Degree	8.0%	9.9%	11.4%	13,976	70,825	18,952,103
Housing						
Total Housing Units	—	—	—	192,489	726,227	133,351,840
Median House Value (of owner-occupied units)[2]	—	—	—	$134,211	$173,800	$178,600
Homeowner Vacancy	2.6%	2.0%	1.9%	2,628	8,062	1,492,691
Rental Vacancy	6.2%	6.6%	6.4%	2,769	11,399	2,949,366
Renter-Occupied Housing Units (% of Occupied Units)	29.6%	28.8%	36.1%	40,984	159,289	42,214,214
Occupied Housing Units with No Vehicle Available (% of Occupied Units)	8.4%	7.6%	9.1%	11,576	42,149	10,628,474
Social						
Enrolled in Grade 12 (% of total population)	1.2%	1.3%	1.4%	4,049	16,821	4,451,334
Disconnected Youth[5]	2.6%	2.5%	3.0%	468	1,654	518,859
Children in Single Parent Families (% of all children)	33.5%	33.6%	34.8%	19,047	83,403	24,408,909
With a Disability, Age 18-64	17.1%	13.6%	10.3%	34,756	112,501	19,985,588
With a Disability, Age 18-64, Labor Force Participation Rate and Size	35.6%	38.4%	41.0%	12,389	43,253	8,185,456
Foreign Born	3.1%	3.5%	13.2%	10,268	46,563	41,717,420
Speak English Less Than Very Well (population 5 yrs and over)	1.5%	1.7%	8.6%	4,529	20,966	25,410,756

Source: JobsEQ®
1. ACS 2011-2015, unless noted otherwise
2. Median values for certain aggregate regions (such as MSAs) may be estimated as the weighted averages of the median values from the composing counties.
3. 2016; Current Population Survey, unionstats.com, and Chmura; county- and zip-level data are best estimates based upon industry-, MSA-, and state-level data
4. Census 2010
5. Disconnected Youth are 16-19 year olds who are (1) not in school, (2) not high school graduates, and (3) either unemployed or not in the labor force.
6. Census 2016, annual average growth rate since 2006
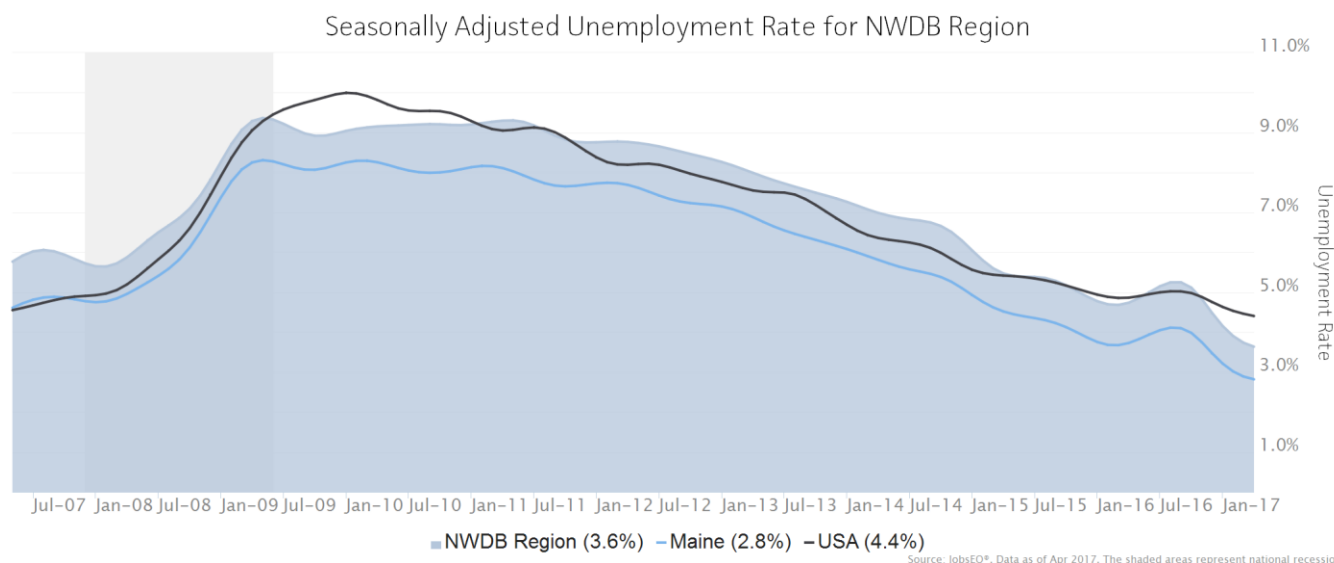
Employment Trends

As of 2017Q1, total employment for the NWDB Region was 147,329 (based on a four-quarter moving average). Over the year ending 2017Q1, employment increased 0.4% in the region.
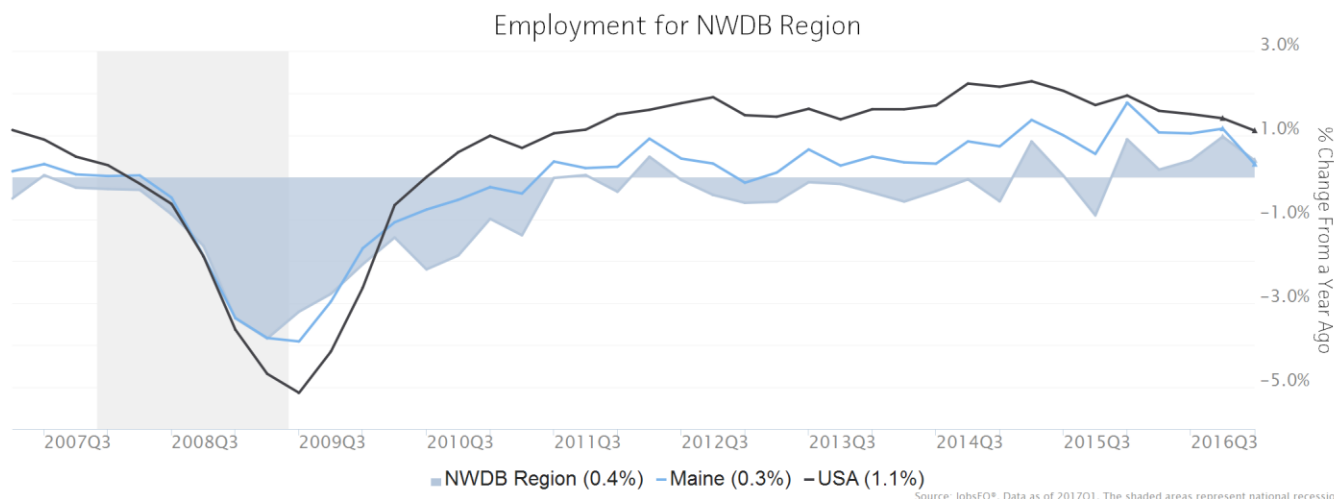
Employment for NWDB Region

NWDB Region (0.4%) — Maine (0.3%) — USA (1.1%)

Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2016Q3 with preliminary estimates updated to 2017Q1.
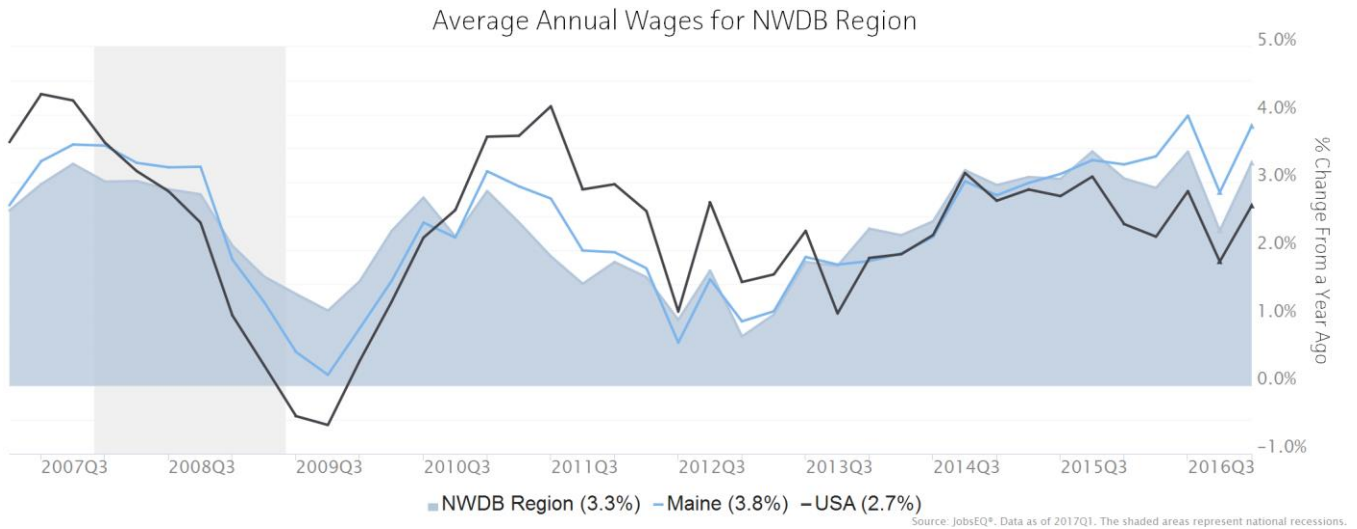
Unemployment Rate

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the NWDB Region was 3.6% as of April 2017. The regional unemployment rate was lower than the national rate of 4.4%. One year earlier, in April 2016, the unemployment rate in the NWDB Region was 4.7%.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate for NWDB Region

NWDB Region (3.6%) — Maine (2.8%) — USA (4.4%)

Unemployment rate data are from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and updated through April 2017.

Wage Trends

The average worker in the NWDB Region earned annual wages of $38,018 as of 2017Q1. Average annual wages per worker increased 3.3% in the region during the preceding four quarters. For comparison purposes, annual average wages were $53,246 in the nation as of 2017Q1.

Average Annual Wages for NWDB Region

NWDB Region (3.3%) — Maine (3.8%) — USA (2.7%)

Source: JobsEQ®. Data as of 2017Q1. The shaded areas represent national recessions.

Annual average wages per worker data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2016Q3 with preliminary estimates updated to 2017Q1.

Cost of Living Index

The Cost of Living Index estimates the relative price levels for consumer goods and services. When applied to wages and salaries, the result is a measure of relative purchasing power. The cost of living is 1.6% higher in NWDB Region than the U.S. average.

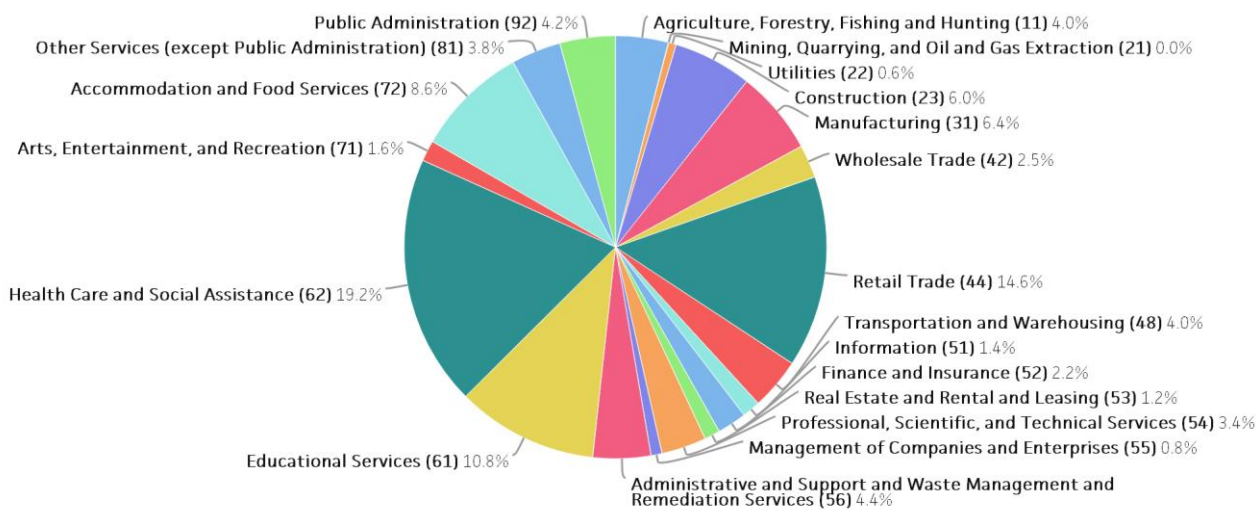| Cost of Living Information			
	Annual Average Salary	Cost of Living Index (Base US)	US Purchasing Power
NWDB Region	$38,018	101.6	$37,405
Maine	$42,806	106.3	$40,264
USA	$53,246	100.0	$53,246

Source: JobsEQ®
Data as of 2017Q1
Cost of Living per C2ER, data as of 2016q4, imputed by Chmura where necessary.

Industry Snapshot

The largest sector in the NWDB Region is Health Care and Social Assistance, employing 28,275 workers. The next-largest sectors in the region are Retail Trade (21,561 workers) and Educational Services (15,928). High location quotients (LQs) indicate sectors in which a region has high concentrations of employment compared to the national average. The sectors with the largest LQs in the region are Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting (LQ = 2.79), Retail Trade (1.35), and Health Care and Social Assistance (1.35).

Total Workers for NWDB Region by Industry

Public Administration (92) 4.2%
Other Services (except Public Administration) (81) 3.8%
Accommodation and Food Services (72) 8.6%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation (71) 1.6%
Health Care and Social Assistance (62) 19.2%
Educational Services (61) 10.8%
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services (56) 4.4%
Management of Companies and Enterprises (55) 0.8%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (54) 3.4%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing (53) 1.2%
Finance and Insurance (52) 2.2%
Information (51) 1.4%
Transportation and Warehousing (48) 4.0%
Retail Trade (44) 14.6%
Wholesale Trade (42) 2.5%
Manufacturing (31) 6.4%
Construction (23) 6.0%
Utilities (22) 0.6%
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction (21) 0.0%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting (11) 4.0%

Source: JobsEQ®, Data as of 2017Q1

Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2016Q3 with preliminary estimates updated to 2017Q1.

Sectors in the NWDB Region with the highest average wages per worker are Utilities ($67,858), Management of Companies and Enterprises ($61,362), and Finance and Insurance ($57,577). Regional sectors with the best job growth (or most moderate job losses) over the last 5 years are Accommodation and Food Services (+1,156 jobs), Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services (+878), and Health Care and Social Assistance (+551).

Over the next 10 years, employment in the NWDB Region is projected to contract by 7,353 jobs. The fastest growing sector in the region is expected to be Health Care and Social Assistance with a +0.6% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Health Care and Social Assistance (+1,747 jobs), Construction (+73), and Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction (-4).

NAICS	Industry	Current			Historical				Forecast		
		Four Quarters Ending with 2017q1			Total Change over the Last 5 Years	Average Annual % Change in Employment 2012q1-2017q1			Over the Next 10 Years		
		Empl	Avg. Annual Wages	Location Quotient	Empl	NWDB Region	Maine	USA	Total Approx Repl Demand	Total Growth Demand	Avg. Annual Growth Percent
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	5,949	$40,906	2.79	107	0.4%	0.6%	0.8%	1,882	-1,162	-2.1%
21	Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	33	$35,739	0.06	6	4.4%	2.1%	-4.5%	8	-4	-1.3%
22	Utilities	850	$67,858	1.08	110	2.8%	0.0%	0.1%	202	-114	-1.4%
23	Construction	8,899	$39,092	1.10	335	0.8%	0.6%	3.1%	1,742	73	0.1%
31	Manufacturing	9,452	$43,653	0.78	-1,392	-2.7%	0.2%	0.9%	1,987	-1,753	-2.0%
42	Wholesale Trade	3,730	$51,284	0.65	91	0.5%	0.8%	1.0%	794	-229	-0.6%
44	Retail Trade	21,561	$26,500	1.35	-989	-0.9%	0.1%	1.4%	6,427	-1,451	-0.7%
48	Transportation and Warehousing	5,827	$42,833	0.95	-20	-0.1%	1.3%	2.5%	1,415	-765	-1.4%
51	Information	2,043	$41,031	0.69	-207	-1.9%	-1.2%	0.8%	447	-364	-1.9%
52	Finance and Insurance	3,291	$57,577	0.56	-94	-0.6%	-1.1%	1.1%	738	-294	-0.9%
53	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	1,770	$34,129	0.71	81	0.9%	0.7%	1.9%	378	-139	-0.8%
54	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	5,061	$52,524	0.52	6	0.0%	1.1%	2.6%	1,035	-35	-0.1%
55	Management of Companies and Enterprises	1,237	$61,362	0.57	-41	-0.6%	6.7%	3.0%	252	-92	-0.8%
56	Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	6,512	$33,106	0.68	878	2.9%	2.2%	2.7%	1,449	-24	0.0%
61	Educational Services	15,928	$39,496	1.30	-346	-0.4%	0.2%	0.7%	3,221	-901	-0.6%
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	28,275	$45,647	1.35	551	0.4%	0.6%	2.5%	5,547	1,747	0.6%
71	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	2,356	$22,862	0.81	-14	-0.1%	2.0%	2.3%	703	-65	-0.3%
72	Accommodation and Food Services	12,698	$18,772	0.97	1,156	1.9%	1.4%	3.0%	4,310	-649	-0.5%
81	Other Services (except Public Administration)	5,608	$25,819	0.86	-29	-0.1%	1.0%	-0.1%	1,358	-336	-0.6%
92	Public Administration	6,251	$46,878	0.89	-359	-1.1%	-0.5%	0.0%	1,412	-797	-1.4%
	Total - All Industries	147,329	$38,018	1.00	-170	0.0%	0.7%	1.7%	34,799	-7,353	-0.5%

Source: JobsEQ®

Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2016Q3 with preliminary estimates updated to 2017Q1. Forecast employment growth uses national projections adapted for regional growth patterns.

Occupation Snapshot

The largest major occupation group in the NWDB Region is Office and Administrative Support Occupations, employing 20,234 workers. The next-largest occupation groups in the region are Sales and Related Occupations (15,840 workers) and Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (12,442). High location quotients (LQs) indicate occupation groups in which a region has high concentrations of employment compared to the national average. The major groups with the largest LQs in the region are Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations (LQ = 2.92), Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations (1.30), and Healthcare Support Occupations (1.26).

Occupation groups in the NWDB Region with the highest average wages per worker are Management Occupations ($84,400), Legal Occupations ($75,800), and Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations ($73,900). The unemployment rate in the region varied among the major groups from 1.5% among Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations to 9.6% among Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations.

Over the next 10 years, the fastest growing occupation group in the NWDB Region is expected to be Healthcare Support Occupations with a +0.8% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Healthcare Support Occupations (+444 jobs) and Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations (+310). Over the same period, the highest replacement demand (occupation demand due to retirements and workers moving from one occupation to another) is expected in Sales and Related Occupations (5,196 jobs) and Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (4,644).

Occupation Snapshot in NWDB Region													
		Current					Historical				Forecast		
		Four Quarters Ending with 2017q1			2017q1		Total Change over the Last 5 Years	Avg Ann % Chg in Empl 2012q1-2017q1			Over the Next 10 Years		
SOC	Title	Empl	Avg. Annual Wages[1]	LQ	Unempl	Unempl Rate	Empl	NWDB Region	Maine	USA	Current Online Job Ads[2]	Total Repl Demand	Total Growth Demand	Avg. Annual Growth Percent
11-0000	Management Occupations	9,174	$84,400	1.03	193	2.1%	80	0.2%	0.8%	1.5%	242	3,186	-721	-0.8%
13-0000	Business and Financial Operations Occupations	5,095	$61,000	0.69	193	3.6%	-25	-0.1%	0.7%	1.7%	159	1,069	-223	-0.4%
15-0000	Computer and Mathematical Occupations	2,120	$73,000	0.51	89	4.0%	2	0.0%	2.0%	2.5%	167	306	-30	-0.1%
17-0000	Architecture and Engineering Occupations	1,568	$72,500	0.63	48	3.0%	-72	-0.9%	1.0%	1.0%	32	379	-110	-0.7%
19-0000	Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations	1,352	$66,000	1.17	35	2.6%	-4	-0.1%	0.7%	1.2%	98	409	-31	-0.2%
21-0000	Community and Social Service Occupations	2,797	$45,100	1.19	68	2.4%	131	1.0%	0.5%	1.7%	514	604	106	0.4%
23-0000	Legal Occupations	747	$75,800	0.64	12	1.6%	-21	-0.6%	-0.1%	0.4%	7	142	-41	-0.6%
25-0000	Education, Training, and Library Occupations	10,291	$47,800	1.23	228	2.2%	-210	-0.4%	0.3%	0.8%	233	2,095	-446	-0.4%
27-	Arts, Design,	2,000	$38,600	0.77	100	4.8%	-69	-0.7%	-0.2%	1.3%	71	680	-207	-1.1%

		Current					Historical				Forecast			
		Four Quarters Ending with 2017q1			2017q1		Total Change over the Last 5 Years	Avg Ann % Chg in Empl 2012q1-2017q1			Over the Next 10 Years			
SOC	Title	Empl	Avg. Annual Wages[1]	LQ	Unempl	Unempl Rate	Empl	NWDB Region	Maine	USA	Current Online Job Ads[2]	Total Repl Demand	Total Growth Demand	Avg. Annual Growth Percent
0000	Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations													
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	11,082	$73,900	1.30	165	1.5%	147	0.3%	0.7%	1.7%	1,302	2,334	310	0.3%
31-0000	Healthcare Support Occupations	5,343	$28,100	1.26	348	6.1%	-96	-0.4%	0.3%	2.3%	414	1,133	444	0.8%
33-0000	Protective Service Occupations	2,329	$34,600	0.81	98	4.1%	-60	-0.5%	-0.2%	1.0%	172	518	-168	-0.7%
35-0000	Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	12,442	$21,900	0.98	1,101	8.1%	582	1.0%	1.3%	2.9%	614	4,644	-589	-0.5%
37-0000	Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	5,916	$25,700	1.14	483	7.6%	303	1.1%	1.0%	1.0%	291	1,321	-233	-0.4%
39-0000	Personal Care and Service Occupations	6,438	$24,400	1.07	360	5.3%	343	1.1%	0.9%	2.5%	235	1,551	228	0.3%
41-0000	Sales and Related Occupations	15,840	$31,200	1.04	963	5.8%	-441	-0.5%	0.3%	1.4%	988	5,196	-1,031	-0.7%
43-0000	Office and Administrative Support Occupations	20,234	$33,200	0.93	1,047	4.9%	-137	-0.1%	0.5%	1.6%	700	4,409	-1,754	-0.9%
45-0000	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations	2,790	$33,800	2.92	289	9.6%	57	0.4%	0.7%	1.3%	16	783	-554	-2.2%
47-0000	Construction and Extraction Occupations	6,799	$39,000	1.04	612	8.2%	73	0.2%	0.7%	2.4%	109	1,245	2	0.0%
49-0000	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	5,976	$41,000	1.06	259	4.2%	-55	-0.2%	0.8%	1.6%	232	1,435	-358	-0.6%
51-0000	Production Occupations	7,072	$34,700	0.78	527	6.8%	-656	-1.8%	0.4%	1.2%	145	1,772	-1,086	-1.7%
53-0000	Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	9,924	$32,000	1.00	716	6.8%	-41	-0.1%	1.2%	2.2%	298	2,316	-866	-0.9%
00-0000	Total - All Occupations	147,329	$41,200	1.00	n/a	n/a	-170	0.0%	0.7%	1.7%	7,039	37,525	-7,358	-0.5%

Occupation Snapshot in NWDB Region

Source: JobsEQ®

Data as of 2017Q1 unless noted otherwise

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

1. Occupation wages are as of 2016 and should be taken as the average for all Covered Employment

2. Data represent found online ads active within the last thirty days in any zip code intersecting or within the selected region; data represents a sampling rather than the complete universe of postings.

Occupation employment data are estimated via industry employment data and the estimated industry/occupation mix. Industry employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and currently updated through 2016Q3, imputed where necessary with preliminary estimates updated to 2017Q1. Wages by occupation are as of 2016 provided by the BLS and imputed where necessary. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

Industry Clusters

A cluster is a geographic concentration of interrelated industries or occupations. The industry cluster in the NWDB Region with the highest relative concentration is Wood/Paper with a location quotient of 3.84. This cluster employs 4,679 workers in the region with an average wage of $47,159. Employment in the Wood/Paper cluster is projected to contract in the region about 2.5% per year over the next ten years.
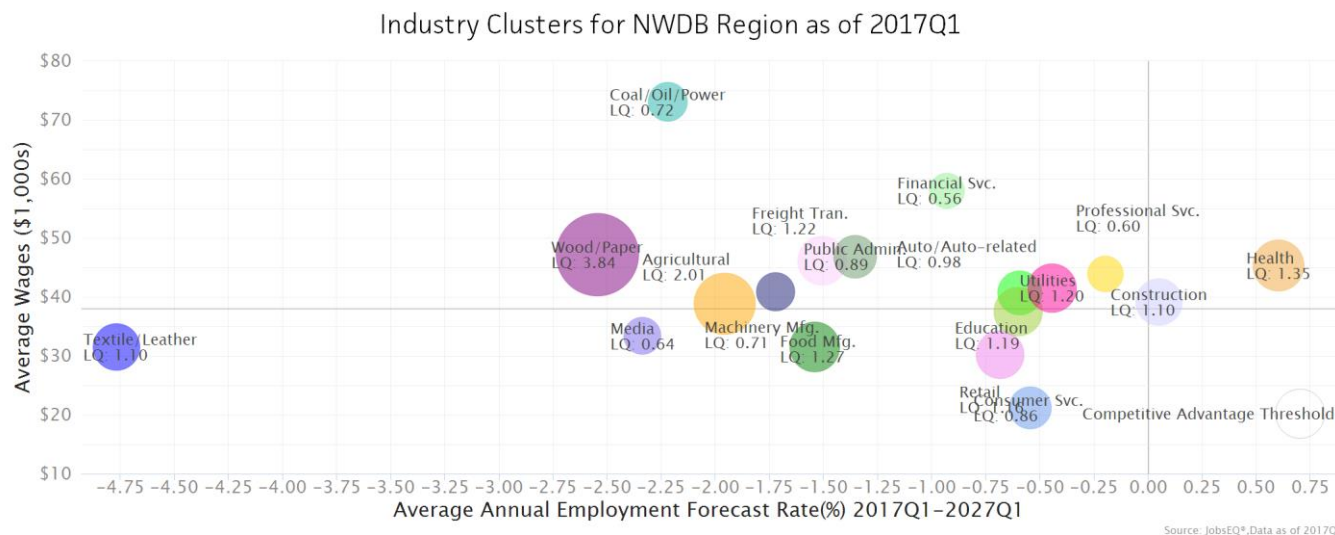

Location quotient and average wage data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, imputed where necessary, and updated through 2016Q3 with preliminary estimates updated to 2017Q1. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

Education Levels

Expected growth rates for occupations vary by the education and training required. While all employment in the NWDB Region is projected to contract 0.5% over the next ten years, occupations typically requiring a postgraduate degree are expected to grow 0.1% per year, those requiring a bachelor's degree are forecast to contract 0.4% per year, and occupations typically needing a 2-year degree or certificate are expected to contract 0.1% per year.
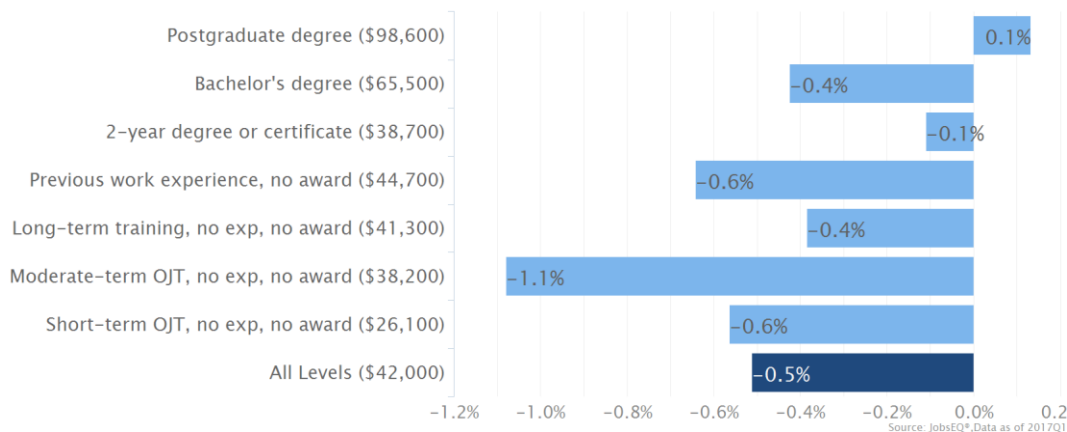

Employment by occupation data are estimates are as of 2017Q1. Education levels of occupations are based on BLS assignments. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.
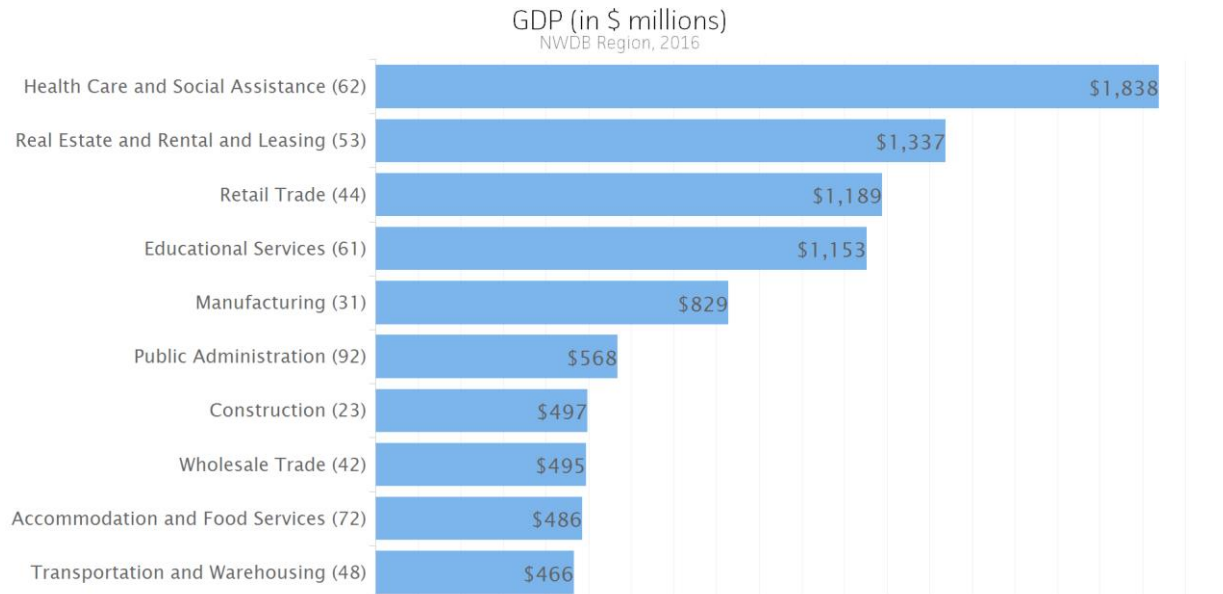
Gross Domestic Product

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the total value of goods and services produced by a region. In 2016, nominal GDP in the NWDB Region expanded 2.8%. This follows growth of 3.1% in 2015. As of 2016, total GDP in the NWDB Region was $11,486,589,000.
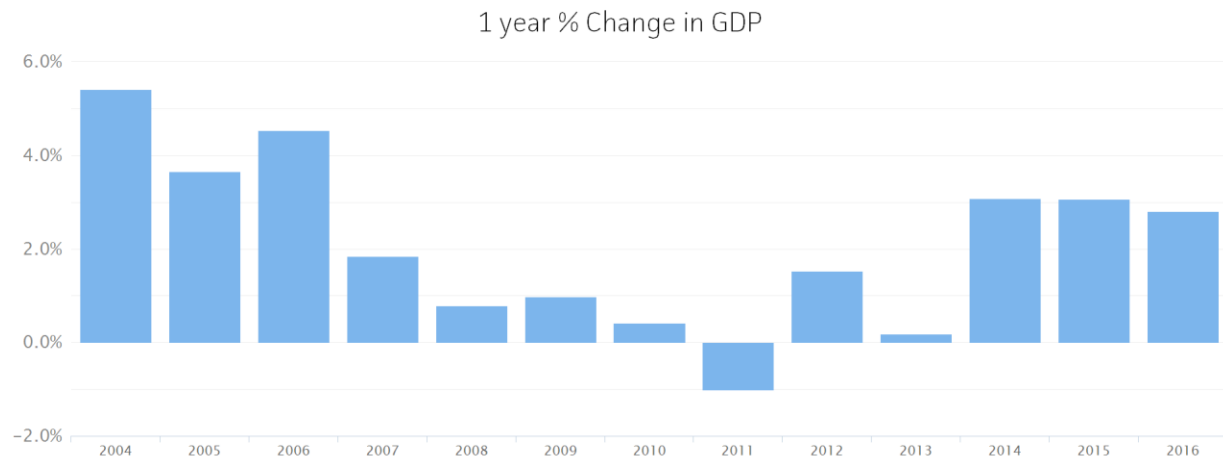
1 year % Change in GDP

Gross Domestic Product data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2016.

Of the sectors in the NWDB Region, Health Care and Social Assistance contributed the largest portion of GDP in 2016, $1,838,104,000 The next-largest contributions came from Real Estate and Rental and Leasing ($1,336,853,000); Retail Trade ($1,188,935,000); and Educational Services ($1,153,022,000).

GDP (in $ millions)
NWDB Region, 2016

Sector	GDP
Health Care and Social Assistance (62)	$1,838
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing (53)	$1,337
Retail Trade (44)	$1,189
Educational Services (61)	$1,153
Manufacturing (31)	$829
Public Administration (92)	$568
Construction (23)	$497
Wholesale Trade (42)	$495
Accommodation and Food Services (72)	$486
Transportation and Warehousing (48)	$466

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Region Definition

NWDB Region is defined as the following counties: Aroostook County, Maine; Hancock County, Maine; Penobscot County, Maine; Piscataquis County, Maine; Washington County, Maine

FAQ

What is a location quotient?

A location quotient (LQ) is a measurement of concentration in comparison to the nation. An LQ of 1.00 indicates a region has the same concentration of an industry (or occupation) as the nation. An LQ of 2.00 would mean the region has twice the expected employment compared to the nation and an LQ of 0.50 would mean the region has half the expected employment in comparison to the nation.

What is replacement demand?

Replacement demand is the number of jobs required due to replacements—retirements and turnover resulting from workers moving from one occupation into another. Note that replacement demand does not include all turnover—it does not include when workers stay in the same occupation but switch employers. The replacement demand shown in this report may also be understated; thus, it can be taken to be a minimum measure of the number of workers who will need to be trained for the occupation due to replacements. The total projected demand for an occupation is the sum of the replacement demand and the growth demand (which is the increase or decrease of jobs in an occupation expected due to expansion or contraction of the overall number of jobs in that occupation).

What is a cluster?

A cluster is a geographic concentration of interrelated industries or occupations. If a regional cluster has a location quotient of 1.25 or greater, the region is considered to possess a *competitive advantage* in that cluster.

What is the difference between industry wages and occupation wages?

Industry wages and occupation wages are estimated via separate data sets, often the time periods being reported do not align, and wages are defined slightly differently in the two systems (for example, certain bonuses are included in the industry wages but not the occupation wages). It is therefore common that estimates of the average industry wages and average occupation wages in a region do not match exactly.

What is NAICS?

The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is used to classify business establishments according to the type of economic activity. The NAICS Code comprises six levels, from the "all industry" level to the 6-digit level. The first two digits define the top level category, known as the "sector," which is the level examined in this report.

What is SOC?

The Standard Occupational Classification system (SOC) is used to classify workers into occupational categories. All workers are classified into one of over 820 occupations according to their occupational definition. To facilitate classification, occupations are combined to form 23 major groups, 96 minor groups, and 449 occupation groups. Each occupation group includes detailed occupations requiring similar job duties, skills, education, or experience.