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Workforce Conditions and Outlook: Presented to the Consensus Economic Forecasting Committee, January 30, 2014

Maine Department of Labor

Maine Center for Workforce Research and Information

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Workforce conditions & outlook

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Labor force & unemployment

(household survey)
Unemployment rates continue to trend lower
As in previous years, revisions to 2013 unemployment rates are likely to show a much smoother trend.
A rising share of employed population continues to be the primary factor in lower unemployment rates in Maine. The U.S. share of employed population remains flat—unemployment rate declines continue to be solely due to lower labor force participation.
Expected revisions are likely to smooth 2013 estimates

Employment to Population Ratio (Seasonally Adjusted)

- U.S.
- Maine
- Approximate Revisions for 2013
Payroll Jobs
Payroll job estimates for most months since September 2012 will be revised higher. Growth continues to be concentrated in three sectors: professional & business services, education & healthcare, and leisure & hospitality.
Job growth has accelerated after briefly slowing.

Over the Year Change in Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (in thousands)
The level of job churn remains modestly below pre-recession levels...
...Job gains from expanding employers are gradually trending up and job losses from contractions have flattened...
...Job gains from openings and losses from closings continue to gradually trend lower.

Private Sector Gross Number of Jobs (Seasonally-adjusted)

- Openings
- Closings
More demographic considerations
As we move through the lifecycle, our attachment to the labor force is highest between age 25 and 54 before declining at an accelerating rate with age...
This decade a very large share of the population is aging beyond their peak years of labor force attachment.

*Population by year of age if there were no migration in or out of Maine*
Maine has an unusually large share of Baby Boomers and a low share of young people to enter the workforce.
The population in their peak years of labor force participation is declining rapidly.
We can no longer count on a natural increase in population...
We will need an increase to 1970s levels of net immigration to maintain a stable workforce.
Recent trends in payroll jobs

Highlights:
• Growing sectors tend to be human capital intensive, often requiring specialized education, knowledge, or skills:
  • Healthcare & social services, professional & business services, and educational services.
  • Leisure & hospitality, which tends to be labor intensive, also is growing.
• Jobs in sectors that make, move, or sell physical products generally have stabilized, but there is no significant growth:
  • Manufacturing, construction, wholesale & retail trade, and transportation, warehousing & utilities.
• All three levels of government continue to shed jobs.
• The experience of those displaced from labor intensive work generally does not match the education and skill requirements of growing sectors.
Total Nonfarm Jobs
(seasonally adjusted in thousands)

- Blue line: Benchmarked Job Count
- Dashed line: Estimates (to be revised March 2014)
- Red line: Likely Revisions

Chart showing the total nonfarm jobs from January 2008 to January 2013.
Total Private Jobs
(seasonally adjusted in thousands)

Benchmarked NF Jobs

Estimated Jobs (to be revised March 2014)

Likely Revisions

Jan-08  Jan-09  Jan-10  Jan-11  Jan-12  Jan-13
Professional & Business Services Jobs
(seasonally adjusted in thousands)

Benchmarked Job Count
Estimates (to be revised March 2014)
Likely Revisions
Leisure & Hospitality Jobs
(seasonally adjusted in thousands)

- Benchmarked Job Count
- Estimates (to be revised March 2014)
- Likely Revisions
Financial Activities Jobs
(seasonally adjusted in thousands)

Benchmarked Job Count
Estimates (to be revised March 2014)
Likely Revisions
Wholesale Trade Jobs
(seasonally adjusted in thousands)

Benchmarked Job Count
Estimates (to be revised March 2014)
Likely Revisions
Retail Trade Jobs
(seasonally adjusted in thousands)

Benchmarked Job Count
Estimates (to be revised March 2014)
Likely Revisions
Federal Government Jobs
(seasonally adjusted in thousands)

Benchmarked Job Count
Estimates (to be revised March 2014)
Likely Revisions

Temporary Census Jobs
State Government Jobs
(seasonally adjusted in thousands)

Benchmarked Job Count

Estimates (to be revised March 2014)

Likely Revisions

Jan-08  Jan-09  Jan-10  Jan-11  Jan-12  Jan-13