

# Labor Market Recovery through October

Presented to  
**State Workforce Board**  
December 11, 2020

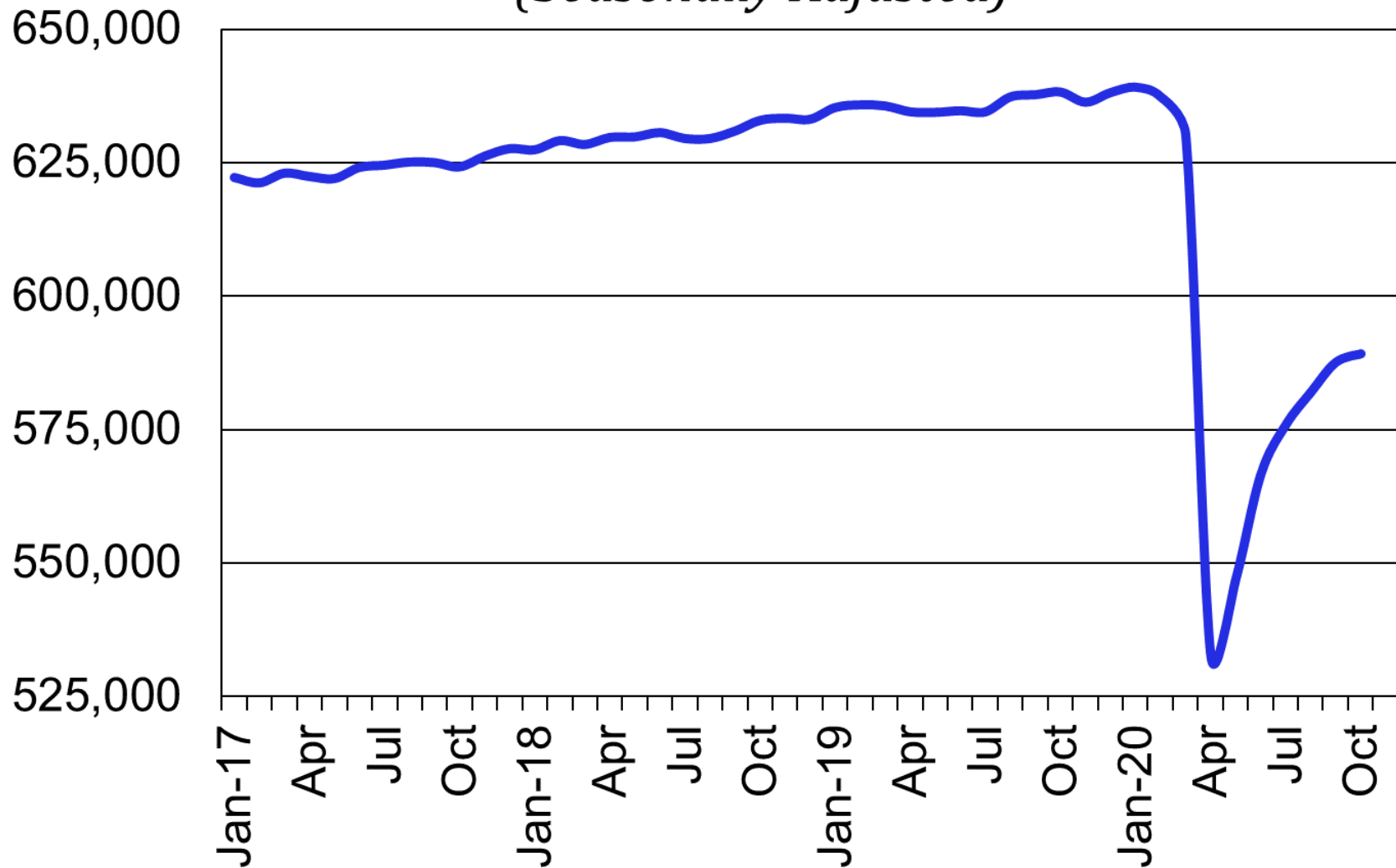


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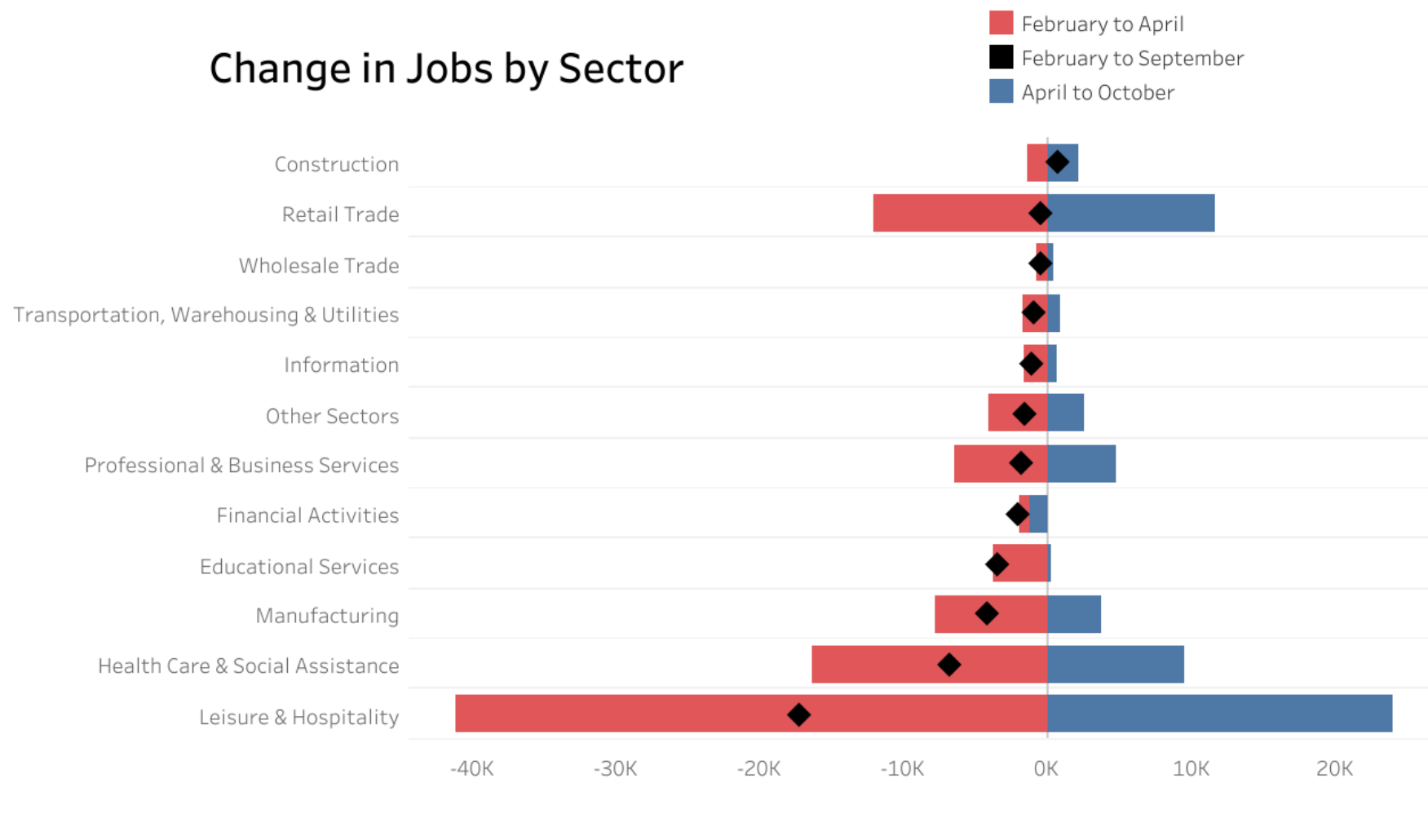
# Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

*(Seasonally Adjusted)*



Total nonfarm payroll jobs increased by 1,600 in October. Through six months of recovery in the labor market: over **56,000 jobs have been recovered**. The October total remained **down 48,000 from February**. The pace of the **recovery has slowed** each month since June.

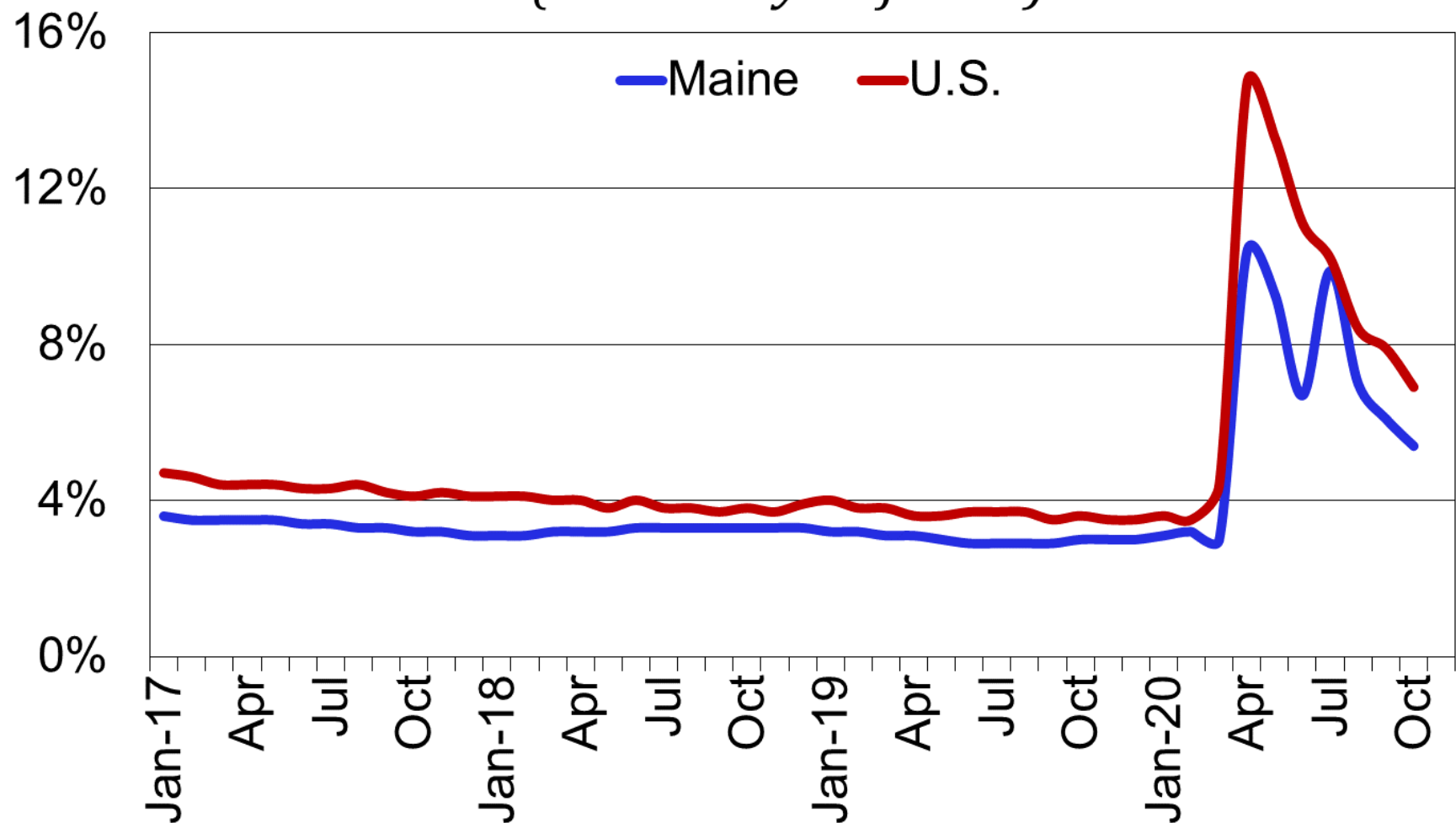
## Change in Jobs by Sector



About 36% of net job losses occurring since February are in the Leisure and Hospitality sector. The Health Care and Social Assistance, Educational Services and Manufacturing sectors too remain well below job totals in February. Most sectors of the labor market are at or near full recovery.

# Unemployment Rates

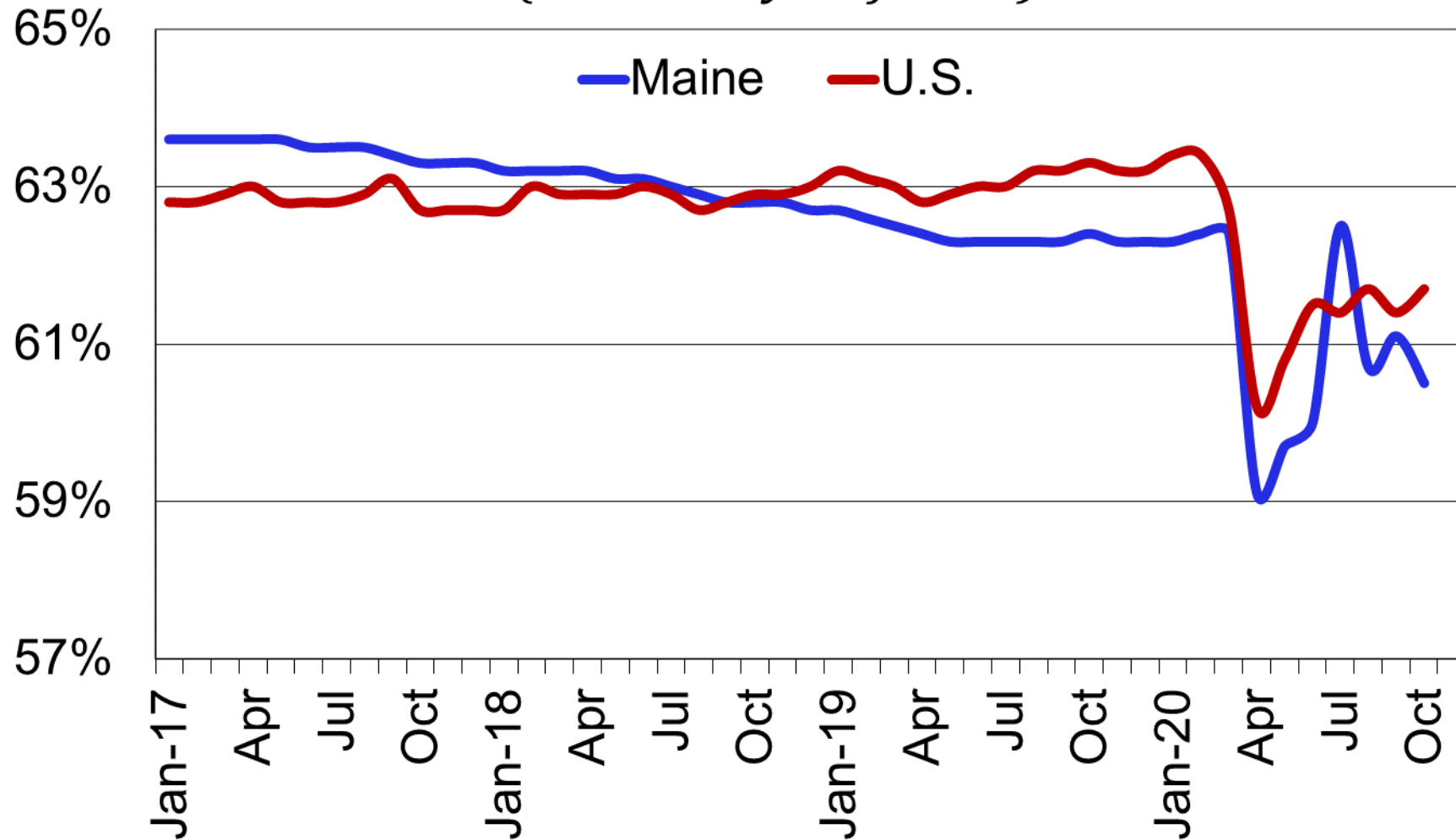
*(Seasonally Adjusted)*



Maine's unemployment rate edged down slightly to 5.4 percent in October. Unemployment estimates throughout the pandemic understate job displacement that has occurred. Personal/family safety concerns, childcare challenges, and other factors prevented many jobless people from being available to work or searching for work.

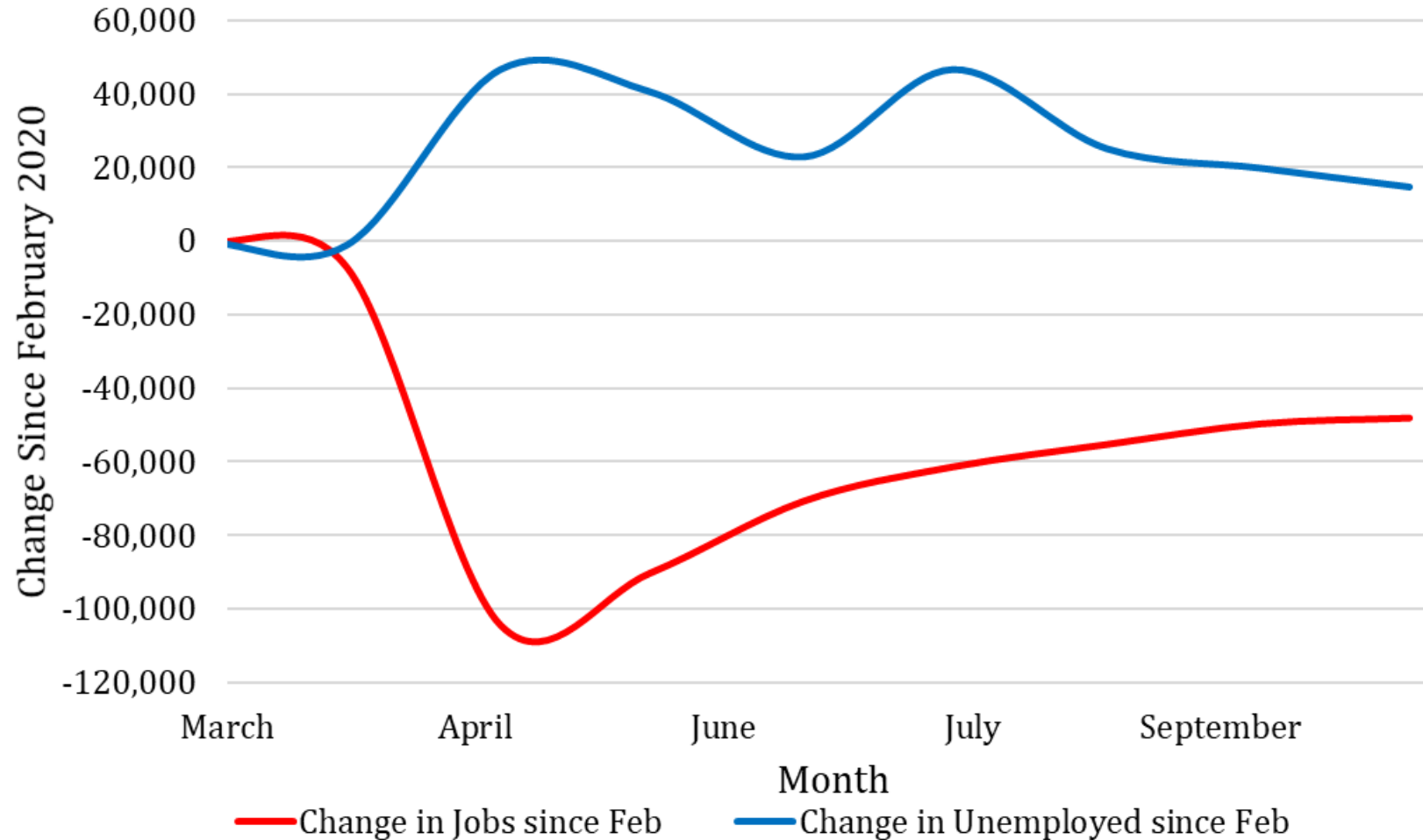
# Labor Force Participation Rates

*(Seasonally Adjusted)*



Those who were not available to work or did not engage in work search were not counted as unemployed. If the labor force participation was as high as it was in February, **Maine's unemployment rate would have been 9.3 percent in October.** (also factoring in those who expect to return to their job that were misclassified as employed, rather than as temporarily unemployed)

## Change in Nonfarm Jobs & Unemployed since February (Seasonally Adjusted)



While about 105,000 jobs were lost throughout the state, the number of people officially classified as unemployed increased by only about 47,000 pointing to the substantial number of Mainers displaced from their job and disconnected from the labor force [Note: measuring jobs is not the same as measuring employed people].

## Unemployed 27 weeks or longer as a percent of total unemployed, seasonally adjusted

Click and drag within the chart to zoom in on time periods



U.S. National data shows that about 37% of those who were unemployed in November have now been unemployed for more than 6 months.

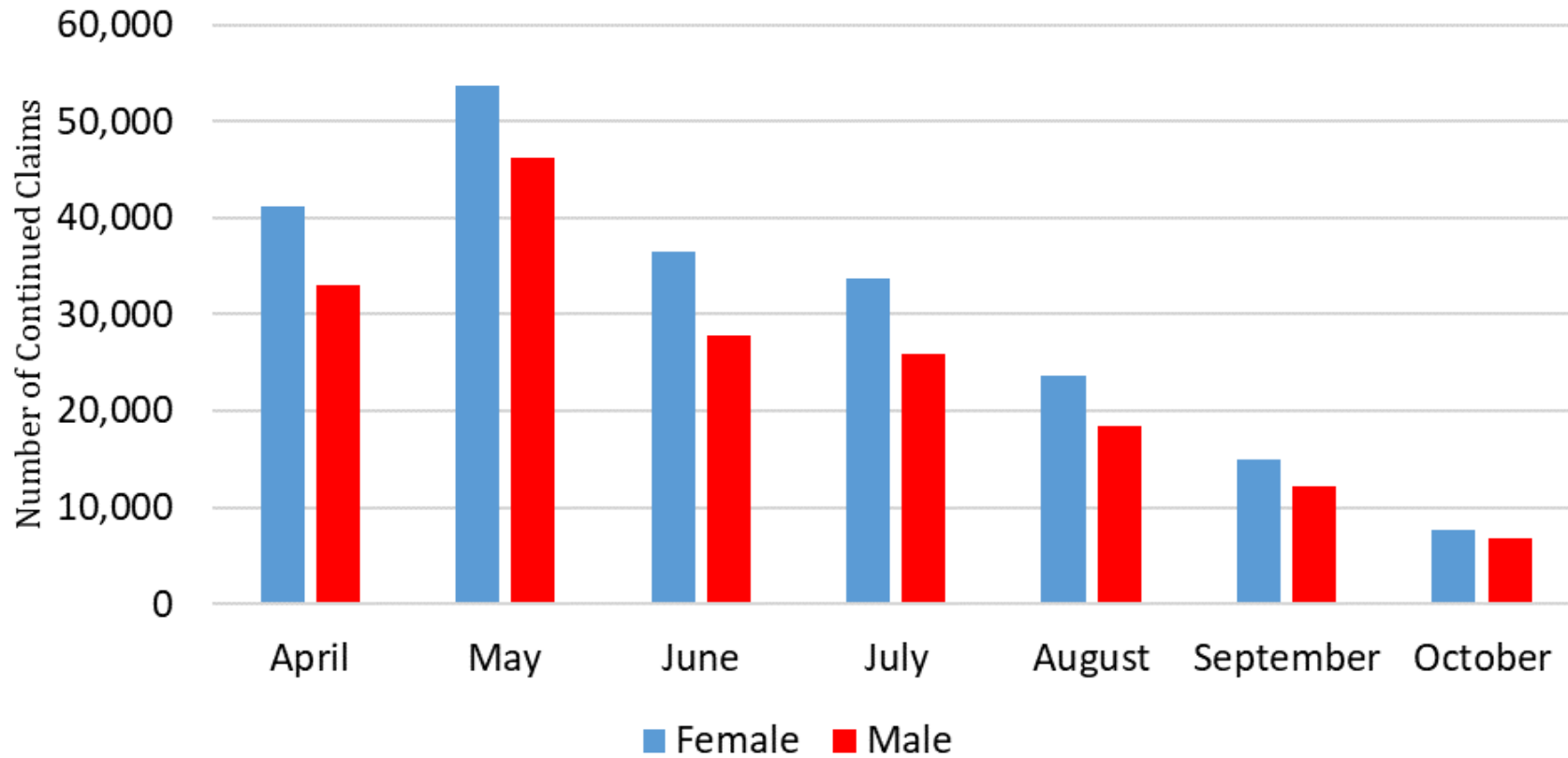
An estimated 35,000 Mainers are in danger of losing unemployment benefits at the end of December due to exhaustion of regular benefits and emergency federal programs scheduled to expire.

Hover over chart to view data.

Note: Shaded area represents recession, as determined by the National Bureau of Economic Research.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

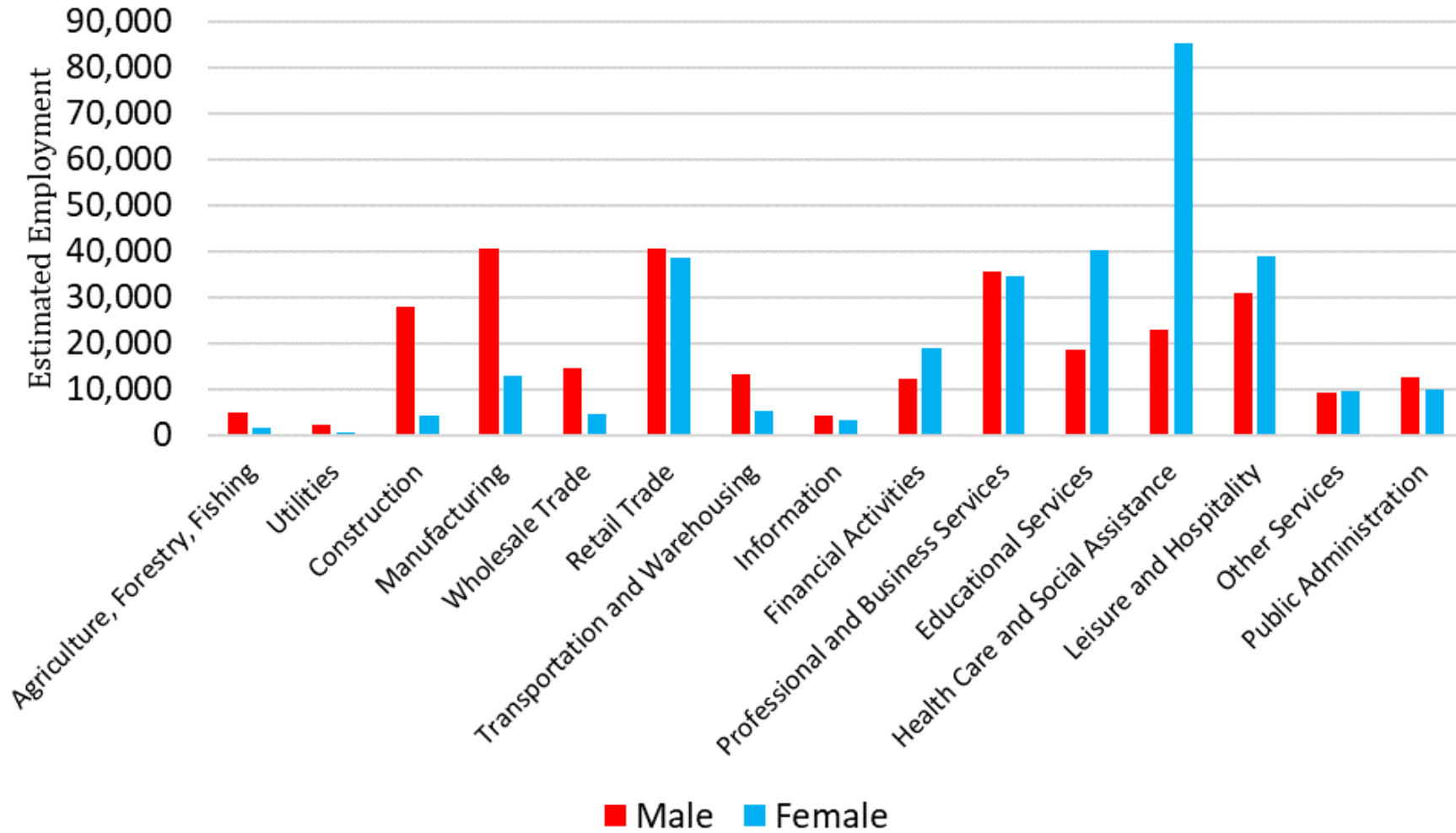
# Maine Continued Unemployment Claims by Gender



In 2019, women made up about 48% of Maine's labor force. Throughout the pandemic, about 55% of claimants for state unemployment insurance are women. Continued claims have declined throughout the summer and fall as some return to work, some exhaust their benefits.



# Maine Employment by Industry by Gender



The disproportionate impact on women in jobless claims is explained in part by the distribution of employment by gender in Maine. Before the pandemic, more women were employed in the Leisure and Hospitality Industry and substantially more women were employed in the Health Care and Social Assistance Industry and Education Services sectors.