



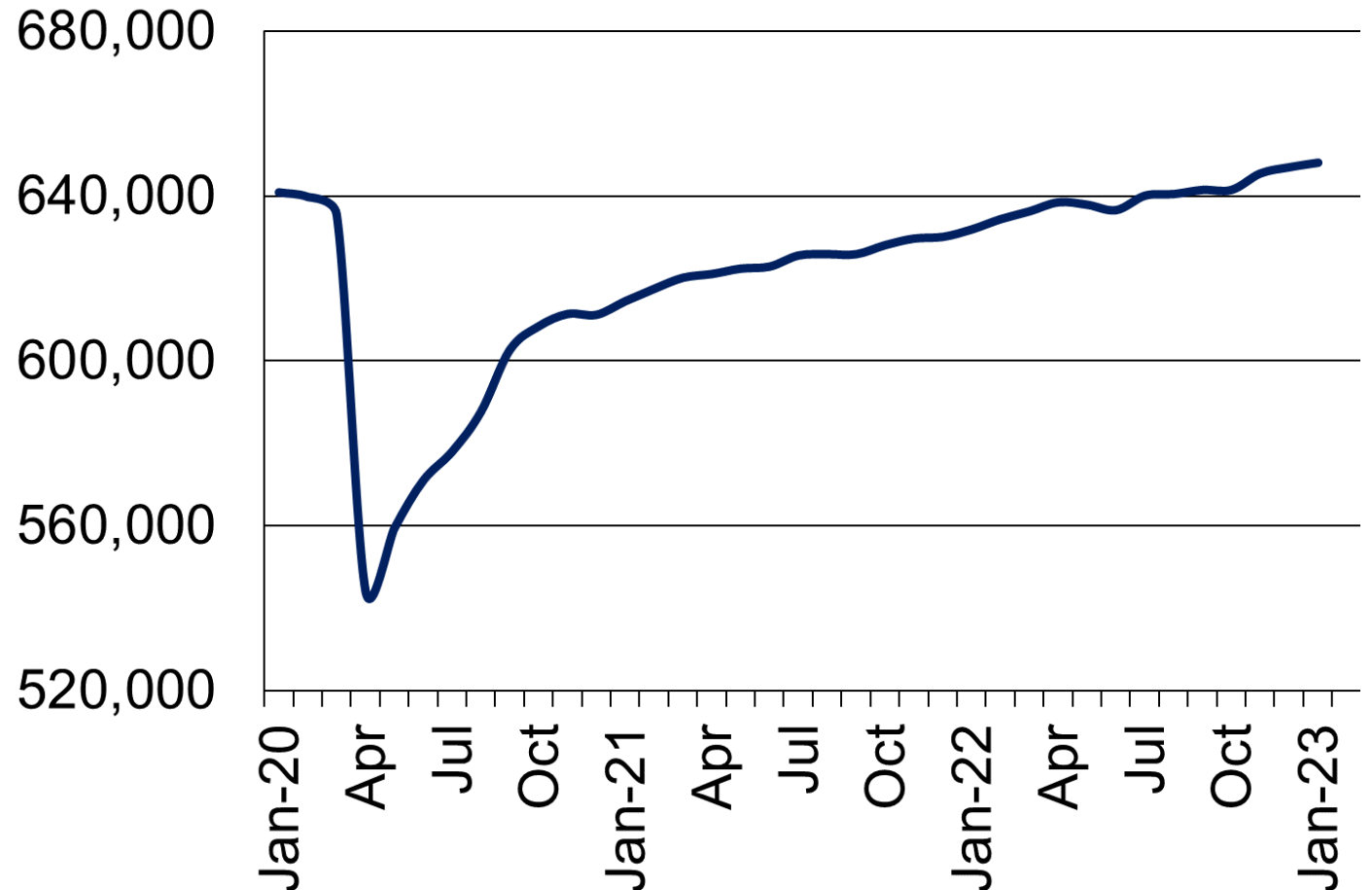
Recent Workforce Trends in the Coastal Counties and Maine

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**Center for Workforce Research and
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Jobs are reaching new record highs

- Employer payrolls reached 648,000 in January
- The highest number of jobs on record in Maine
- [Most of those affected](#) by job loss in the spring of 2020 were able to return to their previous employer or find new employment in subsequent months
- Unemployment rates (2.9 percent statewide in January) are low throughout the state

Nonfarm Wage and Salary Jobs
(Seasonally Adjusted)



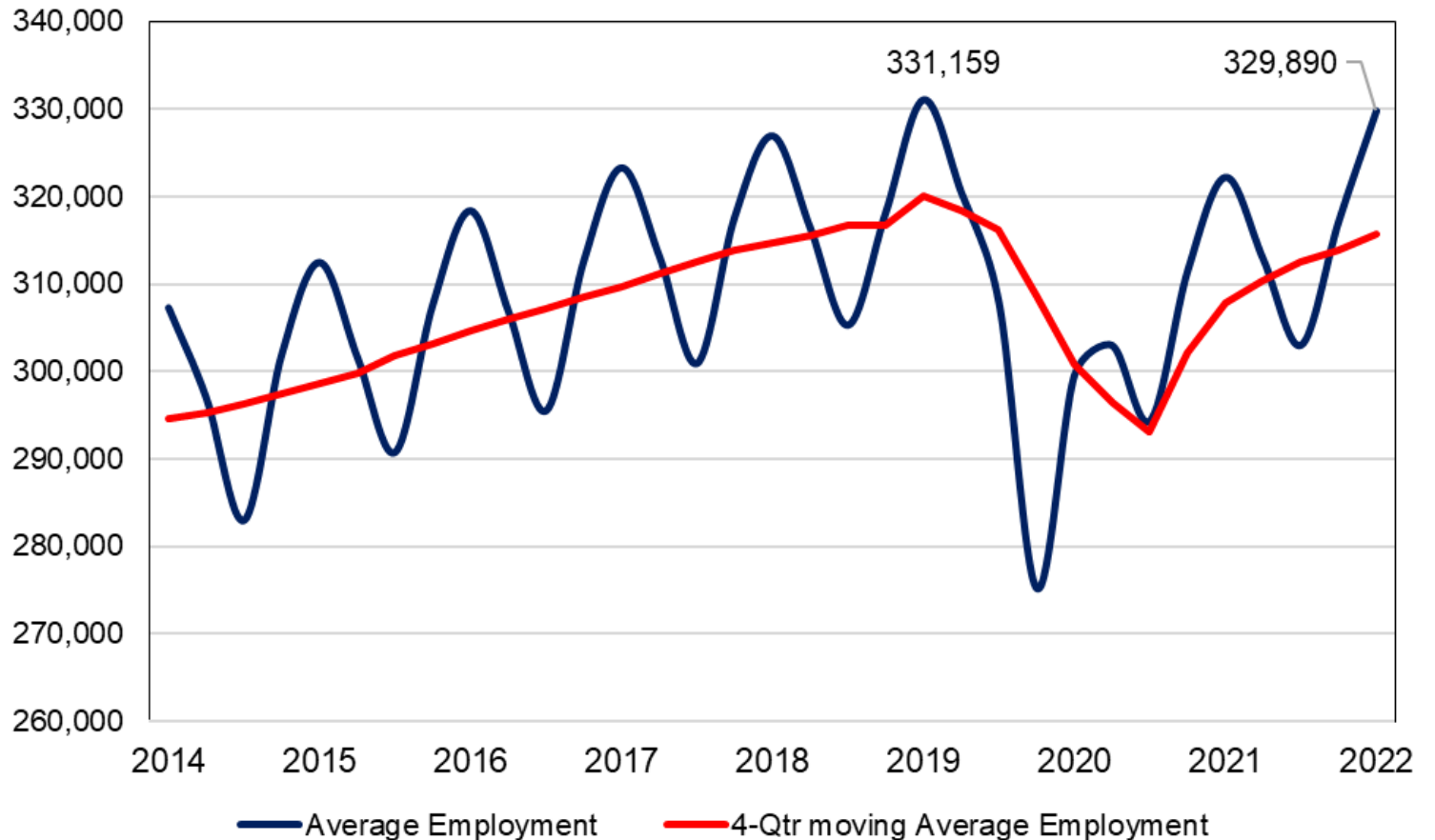
Note: Nonfarm wage and salary jobs reflect jobs that are filled

and reported as part of an employer's payroll during the reference period, unfilled or vacant positions are not counted.

Jobs in the coastal counties grew steadily in the years leading up to the pandemic

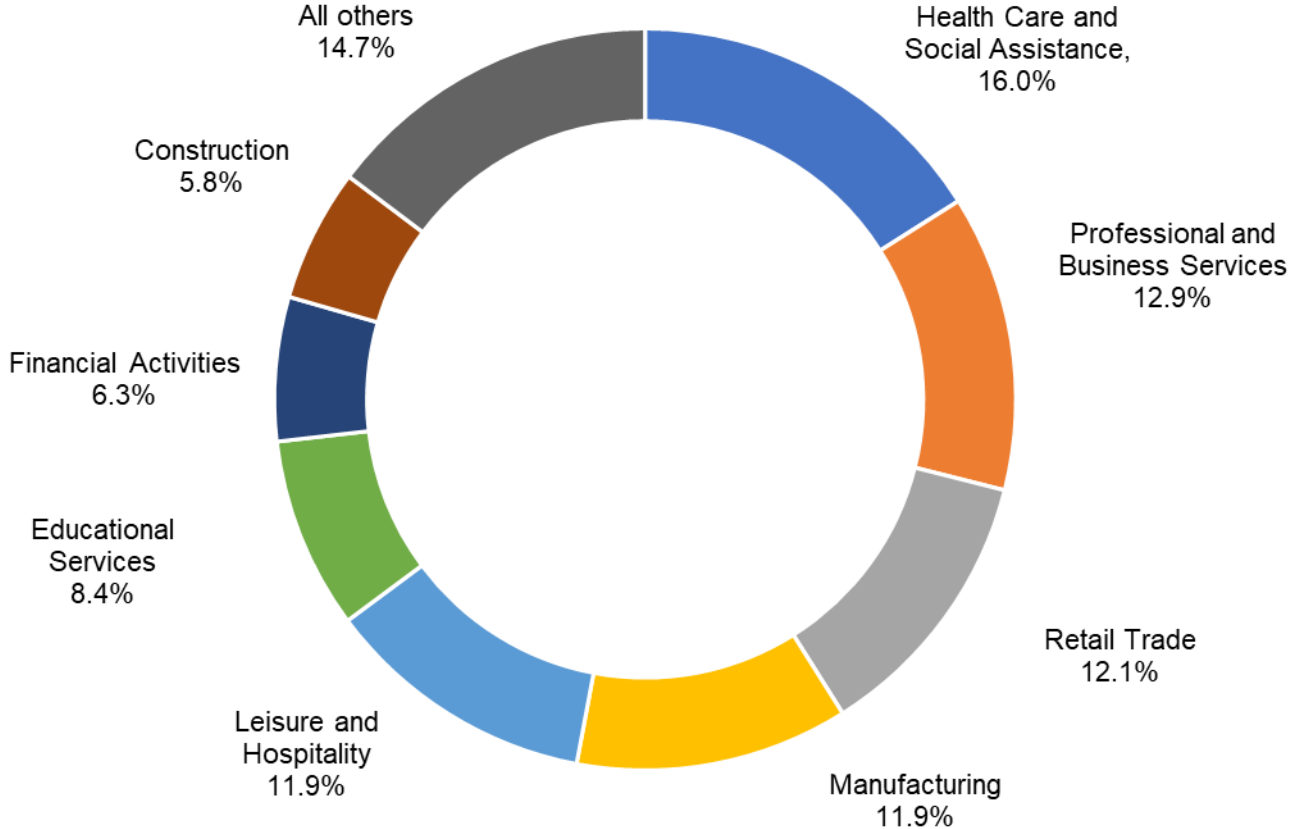
- Population and job growth were high in Southern Maine in the years leading up to the pandemic
- Jobs in the coastal counties region have seen a robust recovery since 2020 reaching a peak in 2022 Q3 similar to that of 2019 Q3
- There are large seasonal fluctuations in employment in the region between winter lows and summer highs, payrolls tend to increase about 25,000 jobs or more though the summer peak

Coastal Counties Covered Wage and Salary Jobs
(Total All Industries, Quarterly)



The distribution of jobs by sectors today is largely the same as it was before the pandemic

Coastal Counties, Jobs by Sector *(Annual average through 2022 Q3)*

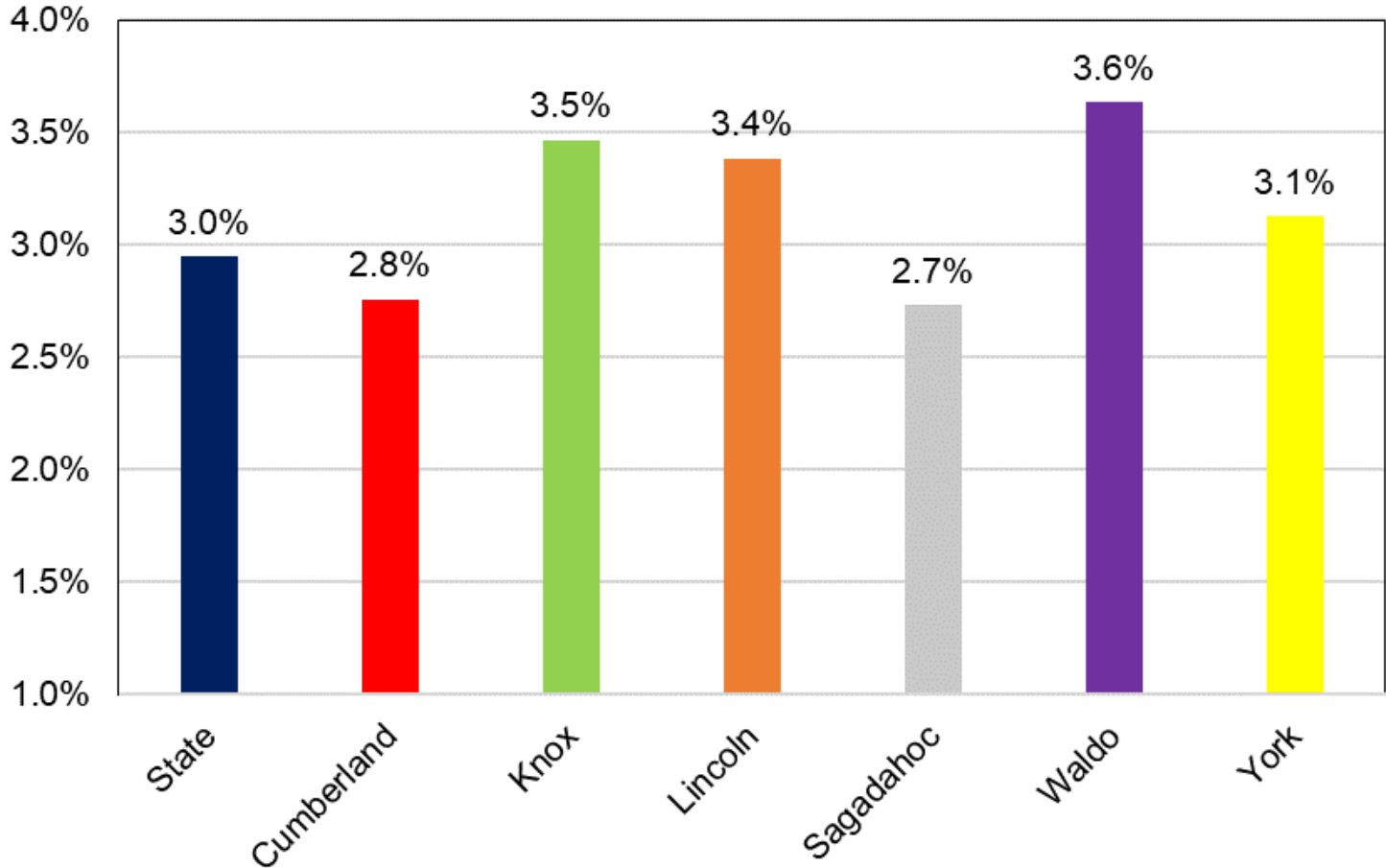


- Just under two thirds of jobs in the coastal counties are in the largest five sectors: health care and social assistance, professional and business services, retail, manufacturing and leisure and hospitality
- About 87 percent of jobs are in the private or not for profit sectors, 13 percent of jobs are in local, state or federal government
- Across the state, long term job growth has been driven by health care and professional and business services where there are about [twice as many jobs](#) as there were in 1990, and leisure and hospitality

Unemployment rates in the coastal counties are historically low

- Unemployment rates in all of the coastal counties were at or near pre-pandemic levels in 2022
- The annual average unemployment rates were near or below the statewide average in Cumberland, Sagadahoc and York counties
- And slightly above the statewide average in Knox, Lincoln and Waldo counties

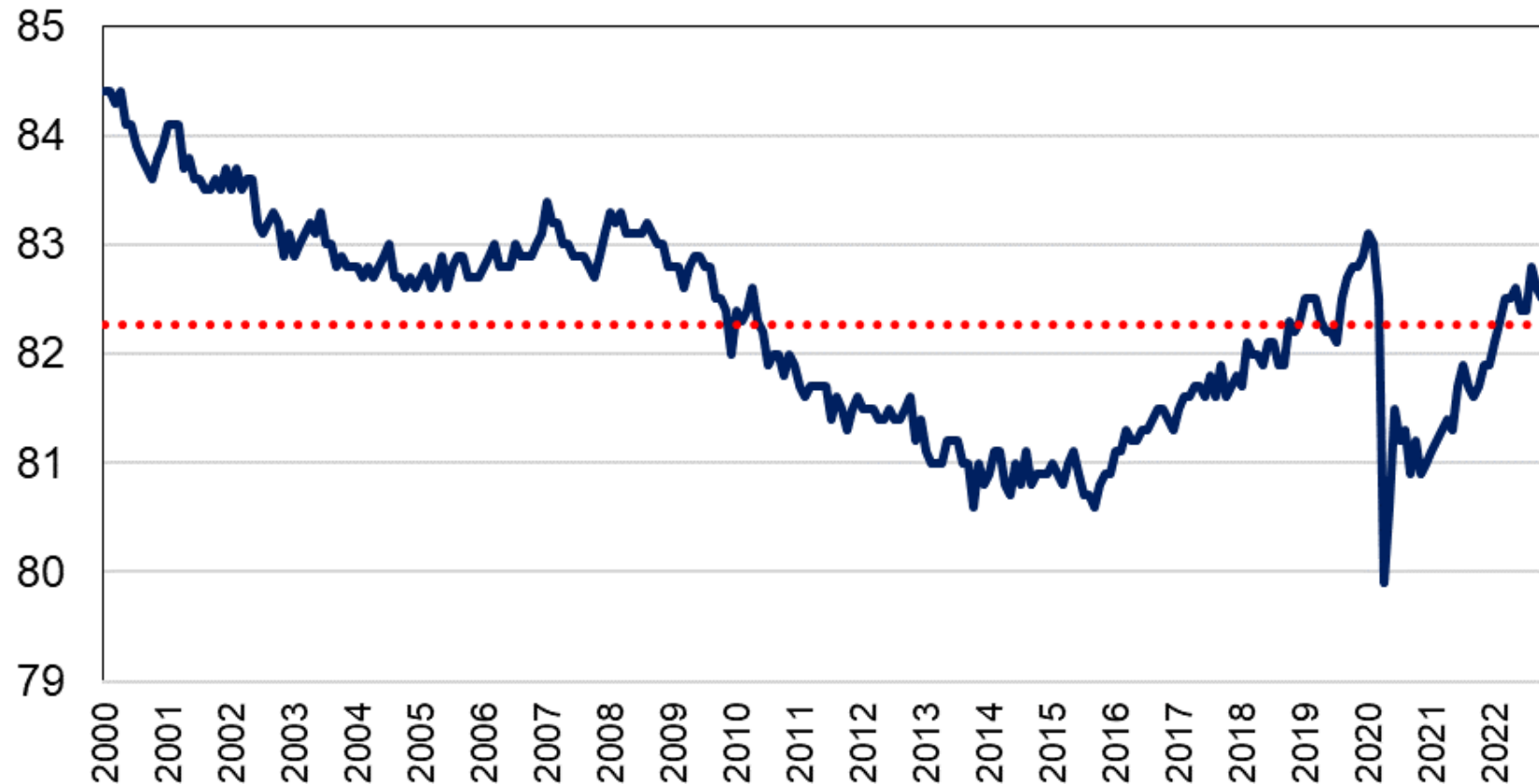
2022 Coastal Counties Unemployment Rates
(Annual Average)



The recovery has lifted both labor supply and labor demand

- Nationally, labor force participations rates have fully recovered from the suppressed levels resulting from the pandemic
- In 2022, participation among adults in prime working ages (25-54) exceeded the average participation rate since 2000
- Maine specific data is somewhat lagged
- 2021 annual average data showed that participation rates in Maine were near or exceeded national averages for each prime age group

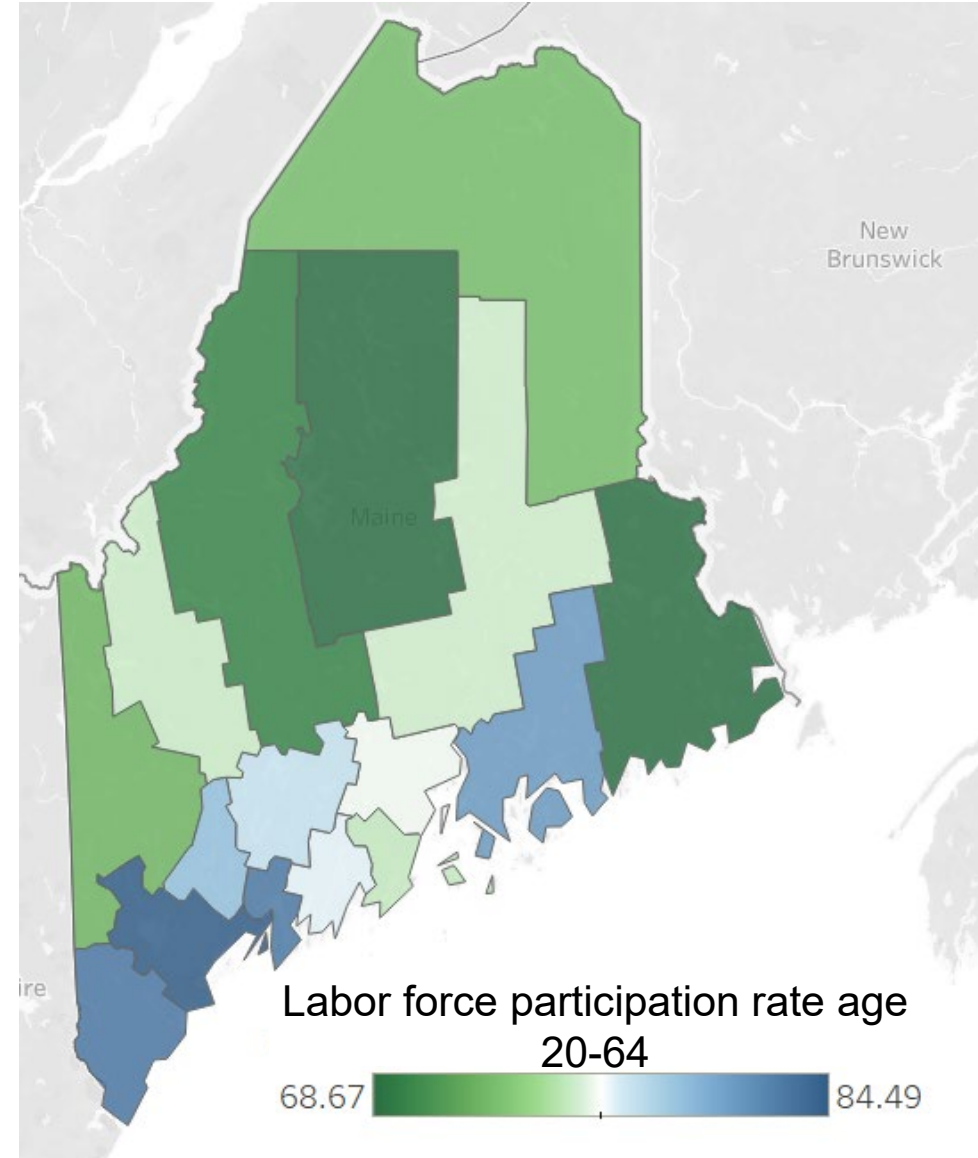
U.S. Age 25-54 Labor Force Participation Rate
(2000-2022, Seasonally Adjusted)



Participation in the workforce is highest in the coastal counties

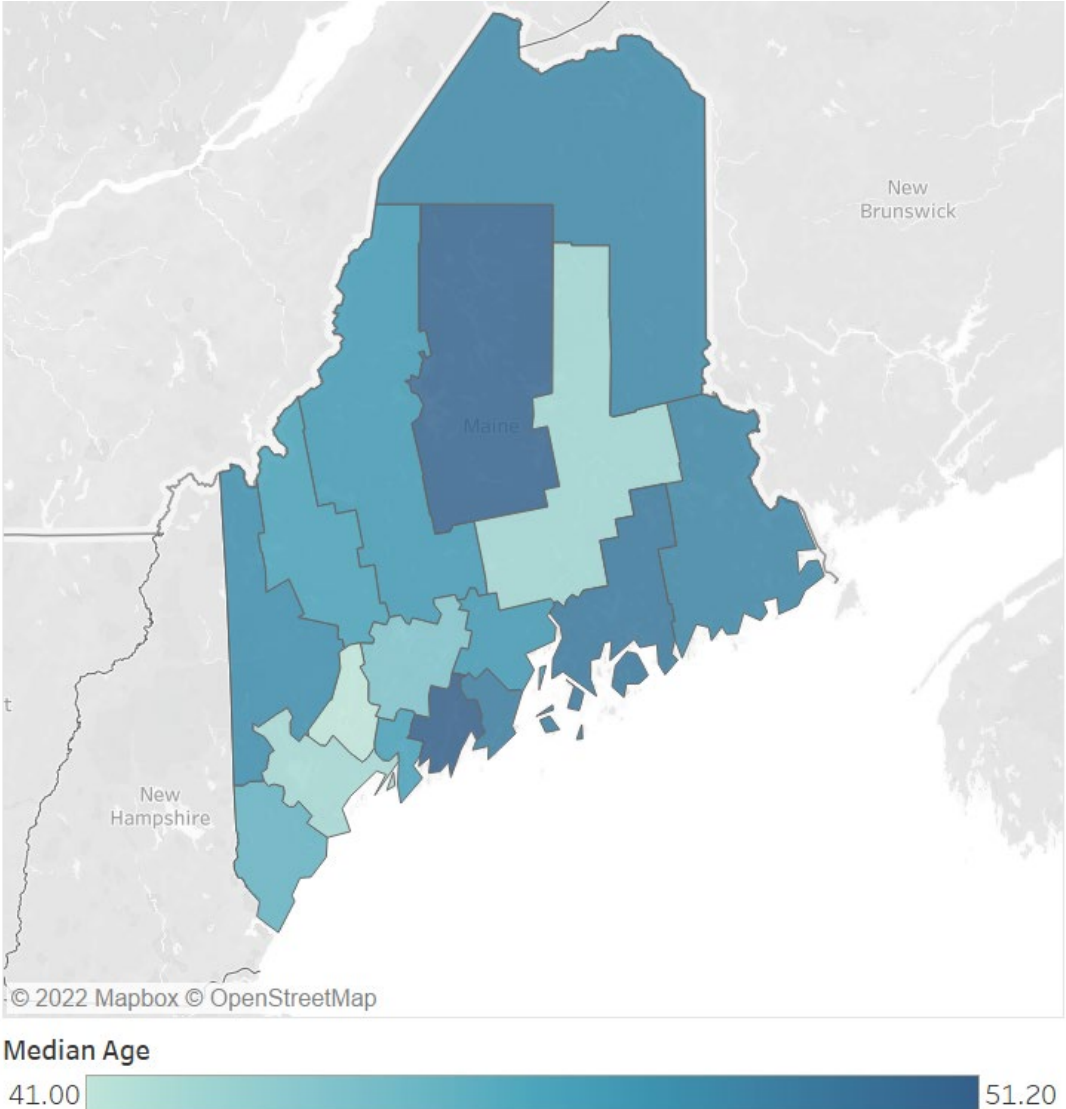
- Labor force participation is strongly related to economic opportunity
- Participation rates are generally highest in the coastal counties where population and job growth has been strongest, and the economic structure is more diverse
- Educational attainment in the coastal counties is also high on average relative to the state
- Participation in the workforce is lowest in the northern rim of the state, where the population is older and labor market opportunities are fewer

Data source: [2021 Census American Community Survey 5-year estimates Table S2301 Employment Status](#)



2021 Median Age by County

County	Median Age
Lincoln	51.2
Piscataquis	50.8
Hancock	49.4
Knox	49.1
Washington	48.5
Aroostook	48.3
Oxford	47.8
Waldo	47.1
Somerset	47
Sagadahoc	46.6
Franklin	46.4
York	45.1
Kennebec	43.9
Penobscot	42.3
Cumberland	42.1
Androscoggin	41

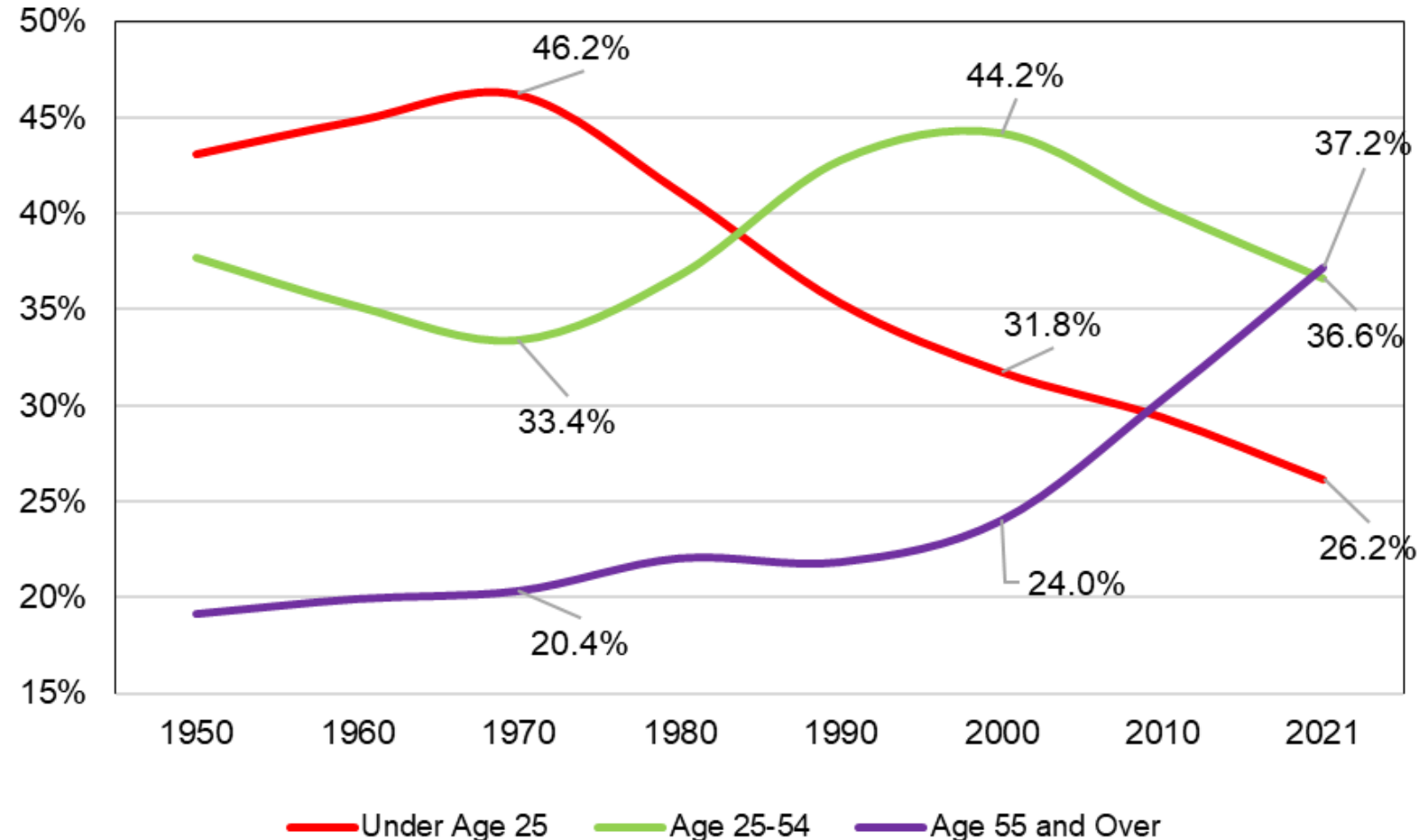


- Median age measures the age at which one-half the population is older and one-half younger
- The [U.S. median age in 2021](#) was 38.8 years

There are now more people in Maine age 55 and above than there are people in prime working ages 25-54

- Workforce constraints in Maine are generally **not driven by** decreasing/lower participation rates among people in prime working ages 25-54
- Rather, they are driven by the shifting population structure
- Labor force participation in Maine has not changed much for groups age 25 and over since 2010
- Participation generally fell during the two recessions that began in 2007 and 2020 (and has since recovered)

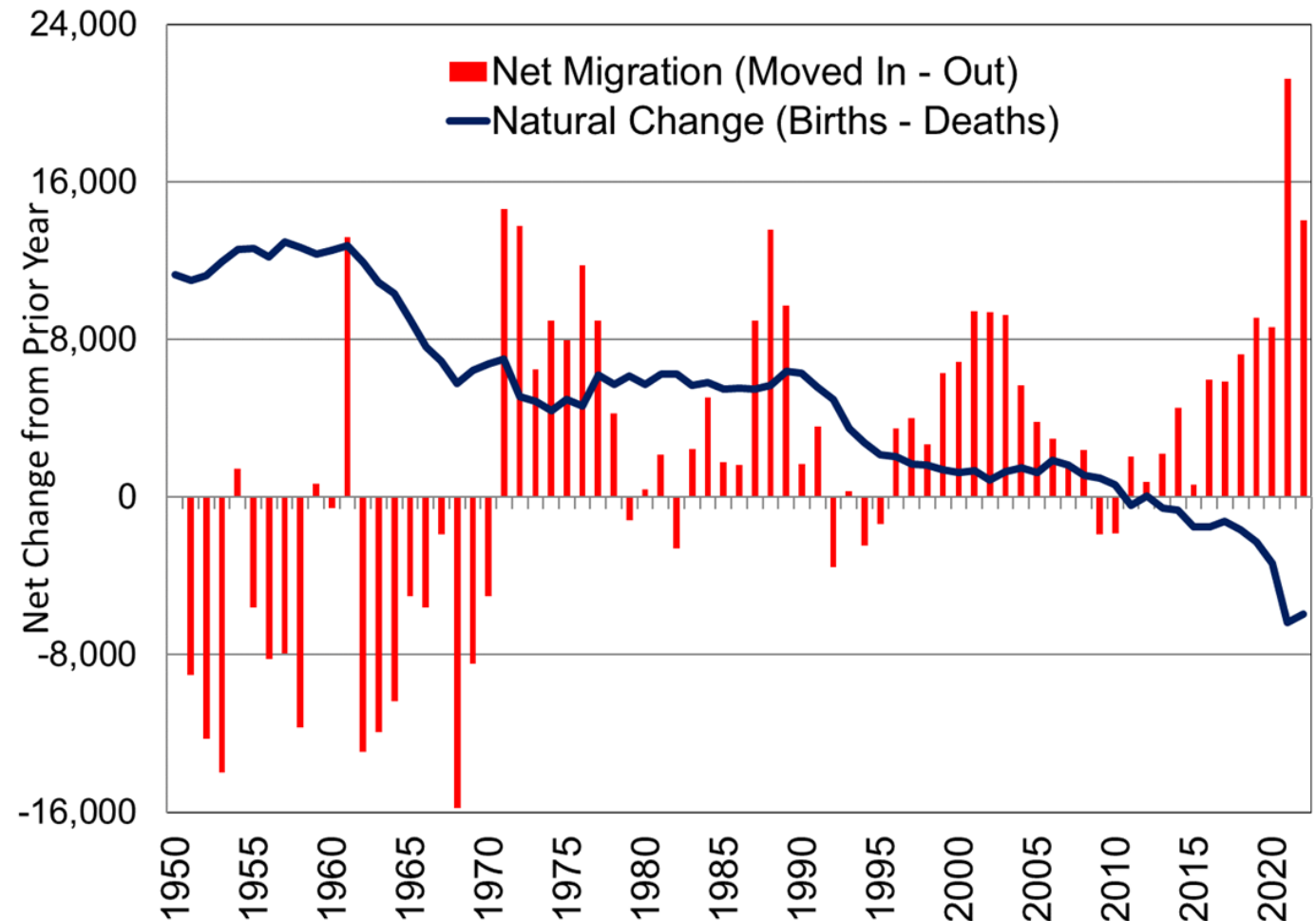
Share of Total Population by Age Group



Net migration into the state surged in 2021-22 contributing to sustained job growth

- 2021 saw the highest level of net migration (21,200) of any year since 1950
- 2022 data show a continuation of net in migration, at a slower pace with net migration of just over 14,000
- Most (88 percent) of the net migration into Maine that has occurred since the 2020 Census has been among those relocating from other U.S. states
- 3,600 (just under 12 percent) has been from international migration

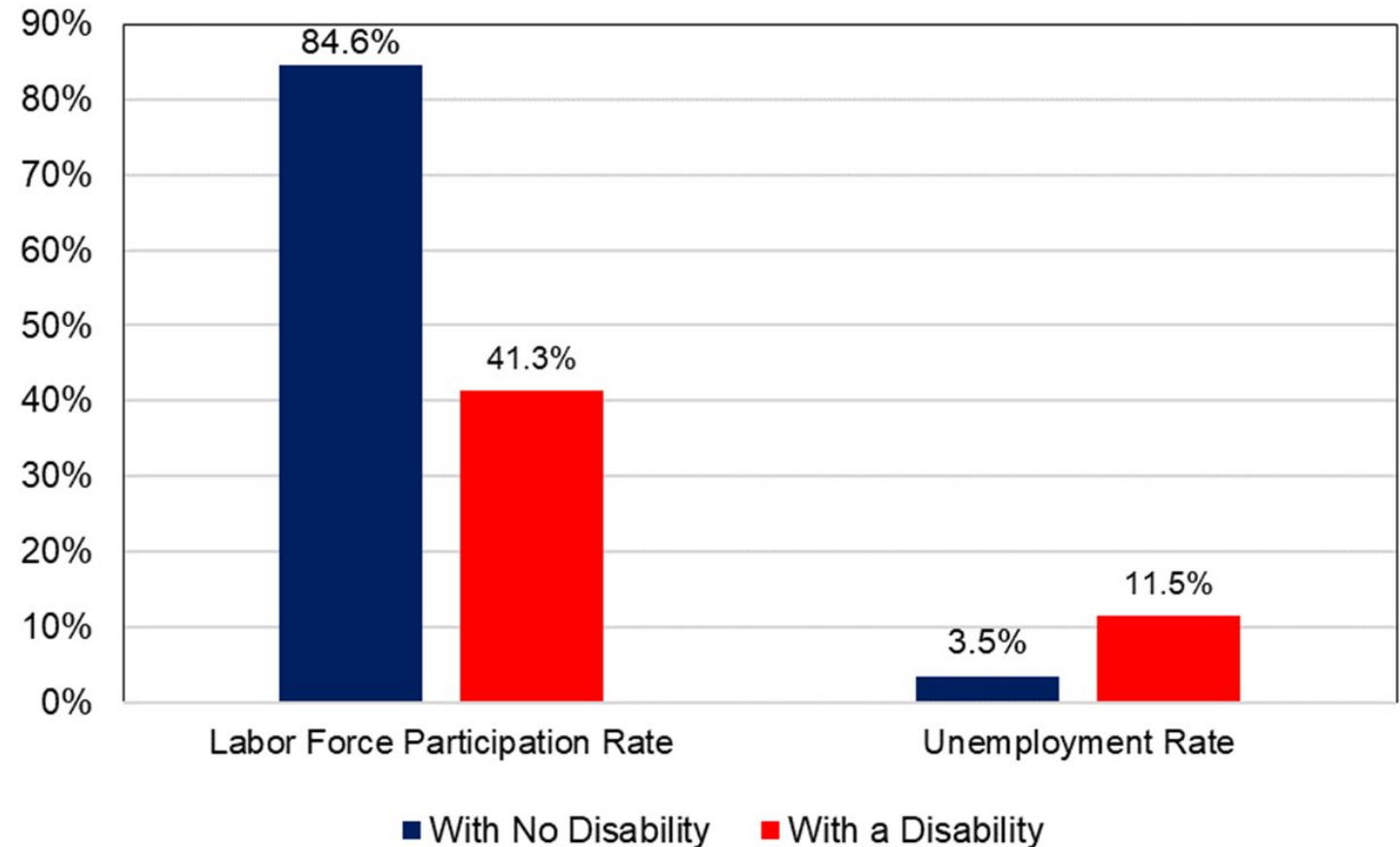
Source of Population Change



People with disabilities are more than 3 times as likely to be unemployed

- Despite historically tight labor market conditions, many groups still face significant barriers to economic opportunity
- Among the population between the ages of 18 and 64 in Maine:
 - Those with a disability are about half as likely to participate in the labor force
 - Those with a disability are more than 3 times as likely to be unemployed
 - The best available data from the Census bureau pools surveys collected over 5-years (2011-2017), opportunities for workers with disabilities may be improving

Labor Force Status by Disability Status



Competitive labor markets are expanding economic opportunities

- Tight labor markets and the adoption of remote work have contributed to significant economic gains for people with disabilities (PWD)
- Nationally, among those between the ages of 16 and 64 with a disability, the [employment to population ratio increased](#) from 31.4 percent in 2021 to 34.8 percent in 2022 due to both higher participation in the workforce and a falling unemployment rate among workers with a disability
- [Maestas and Ne'eman \(2022\)](#) find that: “In marked contrast to the recovery from the Great Recession, where PWD saw greater job loss and a slower recovery than their non-disabled counterparts, PWD appear to have had similar employment losses compared to their non-disabled counterparts during the COVID-19 recession. During the recovery, ***PWD experienced considerably faster employment growth, reaching pre-Recession levels before their non-disabled counterparts and then exceeding them....***”
- The ***disabled employment-to-population ratio in Q2 2022 is significantly higher than it was three years earlier, despite COVID-19’s considerable disruptions.*** This appears to be attributable to a significant increase in labor force participation for PWD. Our findings suggest that recovery from the COVID-19 recession has brought PWD into the labor force though it remains unclear to what extent this may have been influenced by an influx of newly disabled persons due to the pandemic.”