



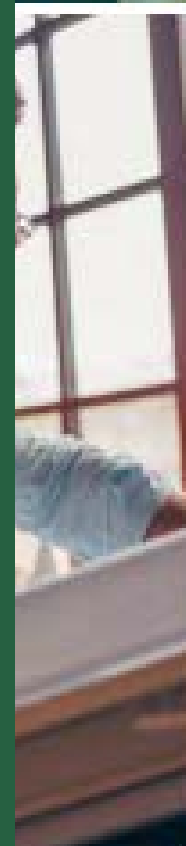
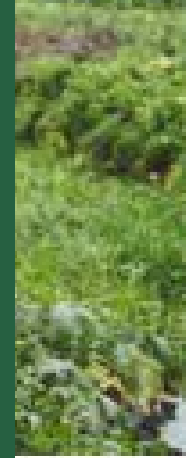
Department of Economic
& Community Development

Keynote Presentation

Commissioner Heather Johnson

MEREDA Annual
Spring Conference

Date:
March 20, 2025





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Maine's economic fallout from coronavirus could be nation's worst

One study puts it at the top of the list for most vulnerable states, but economists say the coronavirus recession's impact will depend on the public health response and industries' adaptability to prolonged social distancing.

BY [PETER MCGUIRE](#) STAFF WRITER



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As the global economy hurtles into what may be the worst recession in generations, some models suggest Maine is especially vulnerable to dire economic consequences from the coronavirus pandemic.

One analysis puts Maine in the No. 1 spot among states likely to experience severe economic fallout from the pandemic because of its demographics and economic makeup. Another study ranks Maine sixth in the U.S. for highest share of "contact-intensive occupations" likely to be impacted in the transition to a low-touch economy dominated by social distancing requirements.

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Economic Update

GDP

- Since 2018, 10th fastest rate of growth in the country
- 5.2% in 2021; pre-pandemic levels

Workforce Participation

- Unemployment claims have reached pre-pandemic levels
- Nearly all jobs lost during the pandemic have been recovered

Taxable Sales

- Increase of 22.6% last year



Infrastructure Investments

Strategic Plan, Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan



Broadband



Housing



Energy

Funds made available to Maine under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will compliment and support the work of the Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan to implement the goals of the 10-Year Strategic Plan.

Infrastructure Investments

**Bipartisan
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Department of Economic
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Growing our Future Workforce

Free Community College &
Maine Career Exploration



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Thank you

Website

www.maine.gov/decd

Phone Number

800-872-3838

Email Address

business.answers@maine.gov