

MAINE DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

council correspondence

September 26, 2017

Anthony T. Plante
Town Manager
Town of Windham
8 School Road
Windham, ME 04062-4807



Dear Tony,

Thank you for renewing your Maine Development Foundation 2017 annual membership in the amount of \$300. For tax purposes, you have received no goods or services for your contribution.

The MDF board and staff thank you for your support and your trust.

We look forward to our ongoing partnership with you in our efforts to provide leadership, trusted research, and creative partnerships that enable Maine business, community, and policy leaders to drive Maine's long-term economic growth.

Enclosed please find a copy of the executive summary of the recently released *Measures of Growth 2017*, the 23rd annual report of the Maine Economic Growth Council. The summary includes performance indicators that measure Maine's progress toward achieving our vision: a high quality of life for all Maine people, grounded in a vibrant and sustainable economy supported by vital communities and a healthy environment.

If you have questions or suggestions for improving the impact of our work, never hesitate to contact me at yellow@mdf.org or direct at 207.626.3112.

Best regards,


Yellow Light Breen
President & CEO

YLB:dh
Enclosure

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MEASURES OF GROWTH

Performance Measures and Benchmarks to Achieve
a Vibrant and Sustainable Economy for Maine

2017

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

MAINE
DEVELOPMENT
FOUNDATION



23RD
REPORT OF
THE MEGC

To view or download the full report, visit www.mdf.org

Executive Summary

FUNDAMENTAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS



1. Gross Domestic Product

Benchmark: The growth of Maine's gross domestic product will outpace that of New England and the U.S.

Maine's gross domestic product grew by 1.1% from 2014 to 2015, from \$50.5 billion to \$51.1 billion



2. Per Capita Personal Income

Benchmark: Maine's per capita personal income will exceed the EPSCoR state average by 2020

Maine's personal income grew by approximately \$1,500 from 2015 to 2016, trailing the EPSCoR state average by \$1,800 in 2015 and by \$1,200 in 2016



3. Value Added per Worker

Benchmark: Maine's value added per worker will improve to within 15% of the U.S. average by 2020

Maine's output per worker grew by \$2,538 from 2014 to 2015, trailing the U.S. average by 25% in 2014 and by 24% in 2015



4. Employment

Benchmark: The total number of jobs in Maine will increase each year

Maine added 6,700 nonfarm payroll jobs, growing from 610,600 in 2015 to 617,300 in 2016



5. Poverty

Benchmark: Maine's poverty rate will decline and remain below the U.S. rate through 2020

From 2014 to 2015, poverty rates declined in Maine (14% to 13.2%), New England (12.1% to 11.4%), and the U.S. (15.5% to 14.7%)

ECONOMY



6. Research and Development Expenditures

Benchmark: Maine's total spending on research and development will reach 3% of the state's total GDP by 2020

Maine's total R&D spending was approximately 1.1% of total gross domestic product in 2014



7. International Exports



Benchmark: Maine's international exports will grow at a faster pace than U.S. international exports

From 2015 to 2016, Maine's international exports grew by nearly 5% and U.S. exports declined by -3.3%



8. Broadband Connectivity

Benchmark: Maine will meet or exceed the U.S. percentage of households with a broadband internet subscription through 2020

The percentage of households with a broadband internet connection increased from 74.9% to 77.1% in Maine and from 75.1% to 76.7% in the U.S. from 2014 to 2015



9. Startup Activity

Benchmark: Maine will meet or exceed the U.S. startup activity rate through 2020

From 2015 to 2016, the startup activity index declined in Maine (-0.54 to -1.45), New England (-0.89 to -1.48), the EPSCoR states (-0.15 to -0.46), and the U.S. (0.38 to -0.33)



10. Fourth Grade Reading Scores



Benchmark: The percentage of Maine students scoring proficient and above on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) will reach 50% by 2020

The percentage of Maine fourth graders scoring proficient and above was 37% in 2013 and 36% in 2015



11. Eighth Grade Math Scores

Benchmark: The percentage of Maine students scoring proficient and above on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) will reach 50% by 2020

The percentage of Maine eighth graders scoring proficient and above was 40% in 2013 and 35% in 2015



12. Postsecondary Educational Attainment



Benchmark: The percentage of Maine residents 25 and over with a postsecondary degree will improve to at least the New England average by 2020

From 2014 to 2015, attainment improved from 39.1% to 39.8% in Maine, from 45.8% to 46.4% in New England, and from 38.3% to 38.8% in the U.S.



13. Working Age Population



Benchmark: The percentage of Maine residents age 18 to 64 will remain steady or improve relative to the U.S. percentage through 2025

Maine's 18 to 64 population declined by 1.5 percentage points from 2010 to 2015, while the U.S. percentage declined by 0.8 percentage points



14. Cost of Doing Business

Benchmark: Maine's cost of doing business will decline to the U.S. average by 2020

Maine's overall cost of doing business was essentially even from 2013 (108.7) to 2014 (108.5)



15. Cost of Health Care

Benchmark: Maine's health care spending as a percentage of total personal expenditures will decline to the New England average by 2020

Health care spending as a percentage of total personal expenditures grew slightly in Maine (18% to 18.5%), New England (17.4% to 17.6%), and the U.S. (16.5% to 16.9%) from 2015 to 2016



16. Cost of Energy

Benchmark: The cost of electricity in Maine will decline to the U.S. average by 2020

Industrial retail electricity prices were essentially unchanged from 2015 to 2016 for Maine (9 cents/kWh in both years), New England (12.3 and 12.1 cents/kWh), and the U.S. (6.9 and 6.8 cents/kWh)



17. State and Local Tax Burden

Benchmark: Maine's tax burden will decline and move toward the New England average each year through 2020

Maine's tax burden has been approximately 12%, and the New England average just under 11%, since 2010



18. Transportation Infrastructure

Benchmark: 95% of priority one and two roads and 85% of priority three roads will meet a rating of fair or better by 2020

The percentage of priority 1 and 2 roads meeting the fair or better standard declined from 66% in 2014 to 64% in 2015; the percentage of priority 3 roads was 55% in 2014 and 54% in 2015



COMMUNITY



19. Housing Affordability

Benchmark: Maine's housing affordability index will reach and maintain a level around 1 through 2020

Maine's housing affordability index held steady at just under 1.0 from 2014 to 2015, outperforming the 2015 Northeast average of 0.83 and the 2015 U.S. average of 0.90



20. Gender Income Disparity

Benchmark: Maine's median annual income for women working full-time will improve to 100% of the median annual income for men working full-time by 2020

Women's earnings relative to men's were essentially unchanged from 2014 to 2015 in Maine (78.8% and 78.7%), New England (80.5% and 80.8%), and the U.S. (79.5% and 79.9%)



21. Wellness and Prevention

Benchmark: The combined percentage of overweight and obese adults in Maine will decline to 50% by 2020

From 2014 to 2015, the combined overweight and obesity rate grew from 64.5% to 66.5% in Maine and was essentially even in the U.S. (65% and 65.3%)



22. Health Insurance Coverage

Benchmark: The percentage of Maine's population with health insurance coverage will continually rise and remain above the U.S. rate

The coverage rate improved from 2014 to 2015 in Maine (89.9% to 91.6%) and the U.S. (88.3% to 90.6%)



23. Food Insecurity

Benchmark: Maine's percentage of food insecure households will decline to the U.S. average by 2020

The percentage of food insecure households was approximately 16% for Maine, approximately 12% for New England, and approximately 14% for the U.S. in 2014 and 2015



ENVIRONMENT



24. Air Quality



Benchmark: The overall number of days classified as a health risk and the severity of the risk categories in Maine will be maintained through 2020

The total number of days classified as a health risk has declined from a high of 96 in 1998 to approximately 30 in 2014, 2015, and 2016



25. Water Quality



Benchmark: The percentage of Maine's assessed water bodies classified as Categories 1 or 2 will be maintained over time

Approximately 95% of Maine's assessed rivers and streams and 91% of assessed lakes continued to meet Category 1 or 2 standards in 2014



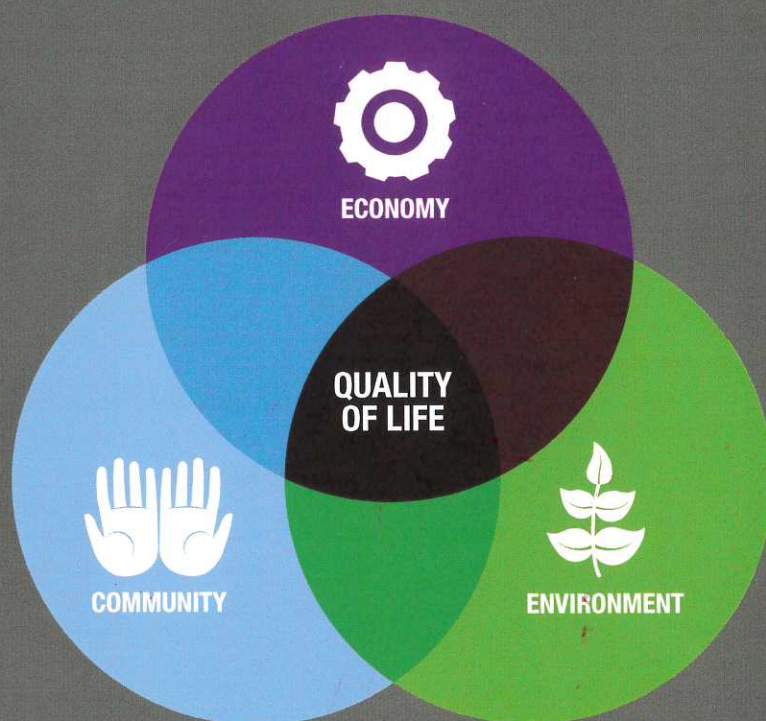
26. Sustainable Forest Lands

Benchmark: A net growth to removals ratio of approximately 1:1 will be maintained over time

The net growth to removals ratio has been trending upward in recent years, reaching 1.55 in 2015

VISION

A HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE
FOR ALL MAINE PEOPLE



MEGC

Maine Economic
Growth Council

295 Water Street, Suite 5
Augusta, ME 04330
207-622-6345
www.mdf.org