

# The Economic Status of Women in Maine

## Earnings and Employment

In Maine, the gender earnings gap was smaller, and the gender earnings ratio was larger compared to the US average in 2022 (Table 1).

- Maine had a gender earnings ratio of 87.5% and a gender wage gap of 12.5% in 2022. This means, women in Maine made only 87.5 cents for every dollar a man made.
- The US had a gender earnings ratio of 83.3% and a gender wage gap of 16.7% in 2022. Women in the US made only 83.3 cents for every dollar a man made.

**Table 1:** Median annual earnings, earnings ratio, and wage gap of full-time, year-round workers by gender in Maine and the US in 2022

	Men	Women	Gender Earnings Ratio	Gender Earnings Gap
<b>Maine</b>	\$56,000	\$49,000	87.5%	12.5%
<b>US total</b>	\$60,000	\$50,000	83.3%	16.7%

In Maine, the gender earnings ratios by educational degree were larger compared to the US average in 2022 (Table 2).

- The gender earnings ratio was 95.0% in Maine and 75.0% in the US for individuals with 'less than high school' in 2022. This translates to a gender wage gap of 5.0% in Maine and 25.0% in the US.
- The gender earnings ratio was 86.7% in Maine and 72.0% in the US for individuals with a 'high school' degree in 2022. This translates to a gender wage gap of 13.3% in Maine and 28.0% in the US.
- The gender earnings ratio was 76.9% in Maine and 74.5% in the US for individuals with a 'bachelor's or higher' degree in 2022. This translates to a gender wage gap of 23.1% in Maine and 25.5% in the US.
- Only for individuals with 'some college or associate degree' the gender earnings ratio was the same (73.3%) in Maine and the US in 2022. This translates to a gender wage gap of 26.7%.

**Table 2:** Median annual earnings of full-time, year-round workers by gender and race/ethnicity in Maine in 2022

		Less than High School	High School	Some College or Associate Degree	Bachelor's or Higher	Total
<b>Women</b>	<b>Maine</b>	\$38,000	\$39,000	\$44,000	\$60,000	\$50,000
	<b>US total</b>	\$30,000	\$36,000	\$44,000	\$70,000	\$50,000
<b>Men</b>	<b>Maine</b>	\$40,000	\$45,000	\$60,000	\$78,000	\$59,000
	<b>US total</b>	\$40,000	\$50,000	\$60,000	\$94,000	\$63,000
<b>Gender Earnings Ratio</b>	<b>Maine</b>	95.0%	86.7%	73.3%	76.9%	84.7%
	<b>US total</b>	75.0%	72.0%	73.3%	74.5%	79.4%

In Maine, earnings disparities not only existed by gender but also by race and ethnicity in 2022 (Table 3).

- American Indian and Alaska Native women were the only racial group who made higher earnings compared to men of the same race, with an earnings ratio of 101.1% and a gender wage gap of -1.1%.

**Table 3:** Median annual earnings of full-time, year-round workers by gender and race/ethnicity in Maine in 2022

Race/Ethnicity	Men	Women	Gender Earnings Ratio	Gender Wage Gap
White alone	59,538	50,208	84.3%	15.7%
Black or African American	51,762	40,105	77.5%	22.5%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	56,523	57,139	101.1%	-1.1%
Asian alone	57,333	51,476	89.8%	10.2%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Some Other Race alone	73,586	54,360	73.9%	26.1%
Two or More Races	59,063	44,992	76.2%	23.8%



White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	59,602	50,329	84.4%	15.6%
Hispanic or Latino	52,140	45,420	87.1%	12.9%

## Labor Force Participation

Women exhibited lower labor force participation rates than men, both in Maine and across the US in 2022 (Table 4). Women’s labor force participation rate was higher in Maine than the US average, 59.3% and 58.8% respectively.

**Table 4:** Labor force participation (LFP) rates of the civilian labor force by gender in Maine and the US in 2022

	Men	Women
<b>Maine</b>	64.0%	59.3%
<b>US total</b>	68.4%	58.8%

Women’s labor force participation status differed by marital status both in Maine and across the US in 2022 (Table 5).

- Women who were never married/were single had the highest LFP rates compared to women who were married, separated, divorced, or widowed in 2022.
- Among women who were married in 2022, those who had a spouse *present* had lower LFP rates than those whose spouse was *absent*.
  - o Maine: 59.0% vs. 66.4%
  - o US: 59.3% vs. 56.8%.



**Table 5:** Labor force participation rates of the civilian labor force by gender and marital status in Maine and the US in 2022:

		married, spouse present	married, spouse absent	separated	divorced	widowed	never married/single	Total
<b>Women</b>	<b>Maine</b>	59.0%	66.4%	60.1%	59.9%	20.7%	73.3%	59.3%
	<b>US total</b>	59.3%	56.8%	66.5%	59.8%	18.8%	68.6%	58.8%
<b>Men</b>	<b>Maine</b>	65.6%	49.1%	66.2%	59.6%	21.9%	67.1%	64.0%
	<b>US total</b>	72.4%	62.3%	66.3%	61.6%	24.0%	68.6%	68.4%

Women’s and men’s representation differed by occupational groupings both in Maine and across the US in 2022 (Table 6).

- Among women in Maine, 30.1% worked in professional and related occupations, 19.3% in service occupations, 18.0% in office and administrative support, and 16.8% in management, business, and financial occupations.
- Among men in Maine, 20.7% worked in natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations, 19.5% in professional and related occupations, 17.4% in management, businesses, and financial occupations, and 17.0% in production, transportation, and material moving occupations.

**Table 6:** Number and percentage of employed workers by gender and broad occupational groups in Maine and the US in 2022

		<b>Women</b>		<b>Men</b>	
		<b>Maine</b>	<b>US total</b>	<b>Maine</b>	<b>US total</b>
<b>Management, businesses, and financial</b>	<b>No.</b>	57,569	13,386,442	61,713	15,449,092
<b>Management, businesses, and financial</b>	<b>%</b>	16.80%	17.30%	17.40%	17.80%





<b>Professional and related</b>	<b>No.</b>	103,275	22,970,617	69,174	17,703,038
<b>Professional and related</b>	<b>%</b>	30.10%	29.80%	19.50%	20.40%
<b>Service</b>	<b>No.</b>	66,382	14,867,250	38,985	11,449,735
<b>Service</b>	<b>%</b>	19.30%	19.30%	11.00%	13.20%
<b>Sales and related</b>	<b>No.</b>	31,956	7,415,739	32,567	7,681,039
<b>Sales and related</b>	<b>%</b>	9.30%	9.60%	9.20%	8.90%
<b>Office and administrative support</b>	<b>No.</b>	61,637	12,508,642	17,659	4,663,064
<b>Office and administrative support</b>	<b>%</b>	18.00%	16.20%	5.00%	5.40%
<b>Natural resources, construction, and maintenance</b>	<b>No.</b>	2,194	705,156	73,680	13,028,383
<b>Natural resources, construction, and maintenance</b>	<b>%</b>	0.60%	0.90%	20.70%	15.00%
<b>Production, transportation, and material moving</b>	<b>No.</b>	20,040	5,222,874	60,565	16,118,746
<b>Production, transportation, and material moving</b>	<b>%</b>	5.80%	6.80%	17.00%	18.60%
<b>Armed Forces</b>	<b>No.</b>	95	109,268	1,031	581,904
<b>Armed Forces</b>	<b>%</b>	0.00%	0.10%	0.30%	0.70%
<b>Total</b>	<b>No.</b>	343,148	77,185,988	355,374	86,675,001
<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%



In Maine, women earned less than men among all occupational groupings except for one (i.e., Armed Forces) in 2022 (Table 7).

- Women who worked in **natural resources, construction, and maintenance** made only 40.0% of men’s earnings. This translates to a **gender wage gap of 60.0%**.
- The biggest occupational group for women in Maine, i.e., professional and related occupations (with 30.1% women employed), had a gender earnings ratio of 74.32%. This translates to a gender wage gap of 25.68%.

**Table 7:** Median annual earnings and gender earnings ratio of full-time, year-round workers by employment in broad occupational groups in Maine and the US in 2022

	Women		Men		Gender Earnings Ratio	
	Maine	US total	Maine	US total	Maine	US total
<b>Management, businesses, and financial</b>	\$68,000	\$70,000	\$80,000	\$91,000	85.00%	76.92%
<b>Professional and related</b>	\$55,000	\$62,000	\$74,000	\$85,000	74.32%	72.94%
<b>Service</b>	\$32,000	\$30,000	\$39,000	\$40,000	82.05%	75.00%
<b>Sales and related</b>	\$36,000	\$40,000	\$58,000	\$60,000	62.07%	66.67%
<b>Office and administrative support</b>	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$55,000	\$48,000	72.73%	83.33%
<b>Natural resources, construction, and maintenance</b>	\$20,000	\$36,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	40.00%	72.00%
<b>Production, transportation, and material moving</b>	\$37,000	\$34,300	\$44,000	\$45,000	84.09%	76.22%
<b>Armed Forces</b>	\$60,000	\$45,000	\$57,000	\$50,000	105.26%	90.00%
<b>Total</b>	\$49,000	\$50,000	\$56,000	\$60,000	87.50%	83.33%

## Poverty and Opportunity

- **In Maine, more women than men lived below the federal poverty line in 2022 (Table 8).** In total, 79,822 women vs. 65,339 men lived in poverty. This translates to a female share of 55.0%
- The highest share of women living below the poverty line among those with a known race/ethnicity was Asian Alone, with 62.8% of the female share.

**Table 8:** Poverty status in the past 12 months by gender and race/ethnicity in Maine in 2022

	Live below poverty line		
	Female	Male	Female share
All	79,822	65,339	55.0%
White Alone	69,083	55,812	55.3%
Black or African American Alone	2,967	2,893	50.6%
American Indian and Alaska Native Alone	625	651	49.0%
Asian Alone	920	546	62.8%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone	17	16	51.5%
Some Other Race Alone	415	563	42.4%
Two or More Races	5,880	4,497	56.7%
White Alone, Not Hispanic or Latino	68,428	55,329	55.3%
Hispanic or Latino	1,593	1,970	44.7%

**Poverty status differed by marital status and race/ethnicity, with Black or African American and female-headed households being most likely to live below the federal poverty line in Maine in 2022 (Table 9).**

- Among all families with a known race/ethnicity, Black or African American Alone had the highest poverty rate, with 21.8% living below poverty. The lowest percentage living below the poverty level was White Alone, not Hispanic or Latino at 5.6%.
- Female-headed households were more likely to live below the poverty line than married-couple families:
  - Among Female householder families with a known race/ethnicity, Black or African American Alone had the highest poverty rate, with 39.5% living below the poverty level. The lowest percentage living below the poverty level was American Indian and Alaska Native Alone, 14.8%.
  - Among married-couple families with a known race/ethnicity, Black or African American Alone had the highest poverty rate, with 17.4% living below

the poverty level. The lowest percentage living below the poverty level was White Alone, not Hispanic or Latino and White Alone at 3.3%.

**Table 9:** Poverty status in the past 12 months of families by family status and race/ethnicity in Maine in 2022

Race/Ethnicity	All families		Married-couple families		Female householder, no spouse present	
	Total	% below poverty level	Total	% below poverty level	Total	% below poverty level
<b>White Alone</b>	344,132	5.6%	274,294	3.3%	46,171	18.4%
<b>Black or African American Alone</b>	4854	21.8%	3273	17.4%	1121	39.5%
<b>American Indian and Alaska Native Alone</b>	2117	14.0%	924	7.6%	542	14.8%
<b>Asian Alone</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Some Other Race Alone</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Two or More Races</b>	14,633	11.9%	10,170	5.3%	2,969	39.0%
<b>Hispanic or Latino</b>	4,954	16.1%	3,034	6.6%	1,191	32.9%
<b>White Alone, Not Hispanic or Latino</b>	342,427	5.6%	273,142	3.3%	45,701	18.4%

### Participation in Public Assistance Programs

Table 10 shows receipt of Food Stamps/SNAP in the past 12 months by family type in Maine in 2022:

- The highest number of food stamps/SNAP recipients were female householders, 15,379.

**Table 10:** Receipt of Food Stamps/SNAP in the past 12 months by family type in Maine in 2022

	Married couple families	Male householder	Female householder	Total
<b>Received Food stamps/SNAP</b>	14,768	5,802	15,379	35,949
<b>Did not receive Food stamps/SNAP</b>	277,913	20,927	36,146	334,986



Table 11 shows receipt of supplemental security income, cash public assistance income, or food stamps/SNAP in the past 12 months by household type in Maine in 2022:

- Among those who received these resources, married couple families had the highest number of recipients, 22,308.
- More female-headed than male-headed households received these resources, 20,583 and 8,313 respectively.

**Table 11:** Receipt of supplemental security income, cash public assistance income, or food stamps/SNAP in the past 12 months by household type in Maine in 2022

	Married couple families	Male householder	Female householder	Total
Received SSI	22,308	8,313	20,583	244,505
Did not receive SSI	146,399	16,904	27,617	192,451



**Maine**  
Community Foundation

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