

Economic Contribution of Maine’s Potato Industry

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Maine ranked 6th nationally for acres of potatoes harvested in 2022.

Aroostook County ranked 3rd nationally for acres of potatoes harvested in 2017.

The Maine potato supply chain—from farms to restaurants and grocery stores—had a total economic contribution of an estimated \$1.3 billion in output, 6,571 full- and part-time jobs, and \$237 million in labor income in 2022.



| | Employment | Labor Income | Output |
|--------------------|--------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Direct Impact | 3,107 | \$81 million | \$661 million |
| Multiplier Effects | 3,464 | \$156 million | \$598 million |
| Total | 6,571 | \$237 million | \$1.3 billion |

Results are from a larger report titled “Economic Contribution of Maine’s Potato Industry,” which is published as EDA UMaine Staff Paper 2024-112: Technical Report. Todd Gabe is a Professor of Economics in UMaine’s School of Economics. The study received financial support from the Maine Potato Board, and the Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station (MAFES). Photos by Paul Cyr.

The economic contribution of Maine's potato industry is split into 31% from potato production and agribusiness, 58% from processing and wholesaling, and 11% from retail and food services.



The US potato industry had an economic contribution of an estimated \$101 billion in output, 714,504 jobs, and \$34.1 billion in labor income in 2022.



Along with Texas (38% growth) and Michigan (10%), Maine (1%) is one of three states with growth in potato production from 2000 to 2022.

US economic impact numbers are from a 2023 report titled, "Measuring the Economic Significance of the U.S. Potato Industry," by William Knudson and Steven R. Miller.

