

Mapping New England

Labor Force Participation and Unemployment Rates by County

Population 65 years and over

Unemployment rates among the elderly vary widely within counties in New England, ranging from below 2 percent in three counties in Maine (Cumberland, Kennebec, and Piscataquis), one in New Hampshire (Strafford), and one in Vermont (Grand Isle)—to 9.4 percent in Windham County, Connecticut.

In general, labor force participation rate of residents 65 years and older is lower in Maine's counties than in the other New England states. Conversely, in Vermont, most counties show a labor force participation rate higher than 18 percent.

Nationwide, labor force participation and unemployment rates among people over 65 are 15 percent (lower than the average in New England counties) and 4.4 percent (similar to New England rates), respectively.

Definitions:

Labor force participation rate: the total number of people employed or seeking employment as a percentage of the population 65 years and older.

Unemployment rate: the number of people 65 years and older who are unemployed as a percentage of the labor force in the same age group.

Map: Ana Patricia Muñoz
Federal Reserve Bank of Boston

Source: American Community Survey
5-Year Estimates (2005-2009)

