According to the 2000 U.S. Census (summary file 3), 9 percent of New England’s population lived below the poverty level. More than 5 percent of communities had poverty levels higher than 20 percent. In Maine, 13 percent of communities had poverty levels higher than 20 percent, compared with Massachusetts, where only 2 percent of communities did. Keep in mind that the cost of living in the more densely populated urban areas is often higher than in rural areas.

Source: 2000 U.S. Census Bureau
Map: Ricardo Borgos, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston

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