



ECONOMY

Gov. Mills and Democrats in Augusta have used federal and state resources to help Maine families and businesses weather the strain of the COVID-19 pandemic in innovative ways.

- **Jobs and Recovery Plan.** Gov. Mills marshaled \$1 billion in federal stimulus funds to launch the [Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan](#), an initiative approved by the Legislature and supported by Maine businesses, education and civic leaders. The plan boosts small businesses and heritage industries, encourages new businesses and job creation, expands career training, and invests in crucial infrastructure, including broadband, affordable housing, [child care](#), roads and bridges.
- **Support for Lincoln County businesses.** Gov. Mills' Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan has sent hundreds of thousands of dollars to businesses and municipalities right here in Lincoln County! These grants helped businesses recover from the effects of the COVID pandemic and are supporting new development and infrastructure upgrades. [Find a full list on this map.](#)
- **Inflation relief.** Maine offered one of the [highest stimulus relief](#) plans in the country, sending \$850 checks to nearly 860,000 Mainers. The initiative received broad bipartisan support.
- **Low unemployment.** Maine has recovered [nearly 99%](#) of all jobs lost during the COVID-19 pandemic – 95,000 jobs – and has an unemployment rate of [3.1%](#), below the averages for the nation and New England.
- **“A” rating for COVID response.** Gov. Mills' COVID-19 response received an [“A” rating](#) by conservative economists, who noted that the policies kept COVID mortality low while limiting economic harm.
- **Record rainy day fund.** Maine's rainy day fund now stands at just under [\\$896 million](#), a record high. A [recent report](#) from the Consensus Economic Forecasting Commission and the Revenue Forecasting Committee found the status of the stabilization fund puts Maine in a good position to weather potential economic downturns in the future.
- **Economic growth.** Maine's Gross Domestic Product – a key measure of economic growth – is [9th in the nation](#) and well above the national rate.
- **Support for towns and municipalities.** For the first time in 13 years, Maine's towns and municipalities received a [full 5% share](#) of state revenues collected from sales, personal and corporate income taxes. Former Gov. Paul LePage cut revenue sharing to 2% during his tenure, forcing many towns to raise property taxes to fund local services, including for schools, emergency services and public works.

- **Property tax relief.** Under Gov. Mills, the state is finally paying its full share of public education costs and revenue sharing with towns and cities. These measures are among a number of ways the Mills administration and Democrats in the Legislature have worked to lower property taxes for Maine families. An [increase](#) in the Homestead Exemption and [improvements](#) in the property tax fairness credit offered relief to thousands of Mainers. Property tax relief was also provided to thousands of Mainers over 65 who earn less than \$40,000 annually. Through the legislation passed by Gov. Janet Mills, [the state will pay the property taxes](#) for people who qualify, and the taxes will be repaid to the state when the property is sold or the participant passes away.