



Maine EDA University Center

The Maine EDA University Center comprises a network of university-based experts in the University of Maine System focused on advancing economic prosperity, competitiveness, and quality of place in Maine, its industries, and communities. The Center provides independent university-based analytical expertise and technical assistance that informs and advances economic, community, and workforce development decision-making in Maine at the state, regional, and local level.

The Maine EDA University Center's current program areas and support and services include:

INNOVATION AND DIVERSIFICATION IN MAINE'S FOREST RESOURCE ECONOMIES AND COMMUNITIES

The Forest Opportunity Roadmap for Maine (FOR/ME) initiative emerged following a federal EDAT process as a strategic response to the economic crisis facing Maine communities that have been or are dependent on forest products as their economic base. The Center is providing support to FOR/ME to promote and advance new industry opportunities in the forest product sector and competitiveness through research, business development, and technical assistance to businesses.

BUILDING THE KNOWLEDGE WORKFORCE

The Center is working with state and regional agencies to support strategies that address the critical shortages of workforce key to promoting and sustaining innovation in the state's technology sectors. In this program area the Center is providing research and support to the state's workforce and economic strategies, a white paper research series on demographic, labor, and workforce development issues across the state, and providing current issue briefs monitoring the state of the workforce and labor markets of consequence to Maine's industries.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

CBER maintains a host of analytical suites, including models of Maine's economy developed by Regional Economic Models Incorporated (REMI), that allow modeling and forecasting a range of economic, demographic, and policy scenarios. CBER is a forecast manager for Maine for the New England Economic Partnership (NEEP) and prepares timely briefs on key economic issues affecting the state's economies. Core areas of expertise include:

- Regional Development and Planning Policy
- Economic, Industrial, and Labor Market and Analysis, Modeling, and Forecasting
- Economic, Community, and Workforce Development
- Industrial Growth and Decline
- Innovation, Human Capital, and Economic Growth

The Maine EDA University Center is led by the Maine Center for Business and Economic Research at the University of Southern Maine in partnership with the University of Maine. Funding support for the Center is provided by the U.S. Economic Development Administration and Maine Economic Improvement Fund.

UNIVERSITIES

University of Southern Maine
University of Maine

CENTER DIRECTOR

Ryan Wallace, Ph.D.

CENTER LOCATION

Center for Business & Economic Research

Edmund S. Muskie School of Public Service, USM

CENTER SINCE 1977

CENTER ACTIVITIES

- Applied research
- Economic forecasting & modeling
- Business development
- Technical assistance

CLIENTS

- EDA Economic Development Districts
- State government agencies
- Private sectors businesses & industry groups
- Communities & local government bodies
- Economic, workforce, & community development orgs.

CONTACT INFO

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WEBSITE

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