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# New Hampshire's Economy and the COVID-19 Crisis: An Early Overview

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New Hampshire House Ways and Means Committee

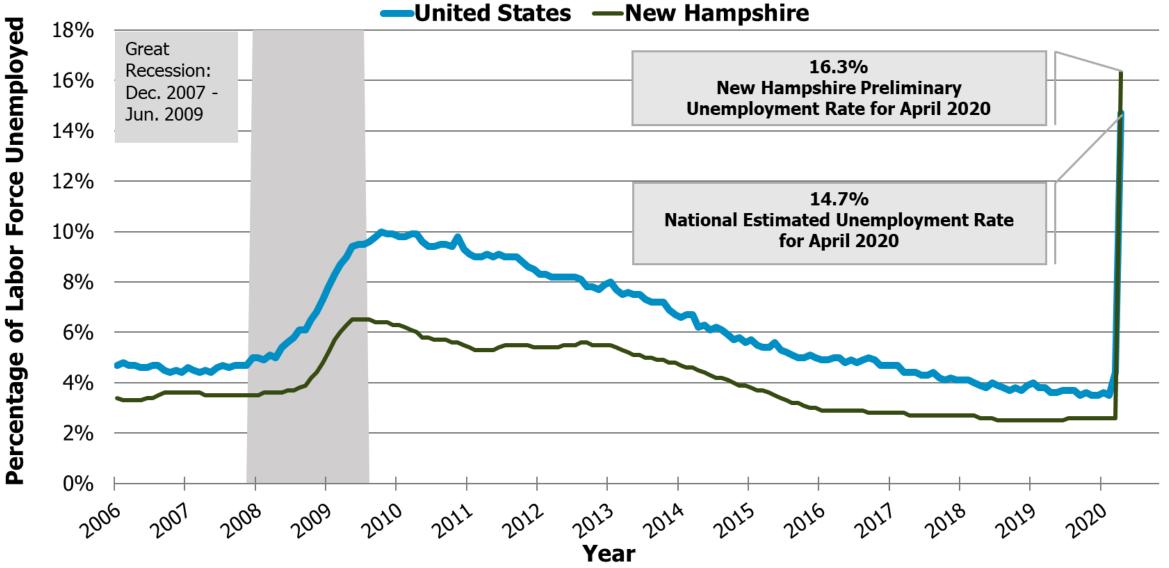
May 27, 2020

### **Four Key Takeaways**

- The shock to the economy has been swift and massive.
- The crisis's impacts are disproportionately large for those with least ability to absorb financial shocks.
- The last economic recovery was long but started slowly, and left many people in precarious financial situations.
- Projections for future economic growth are very uncertain at this time, with future growth highly dependent on both public health factors and the resources individuals and families have available.

#### **Unemployment Rates**

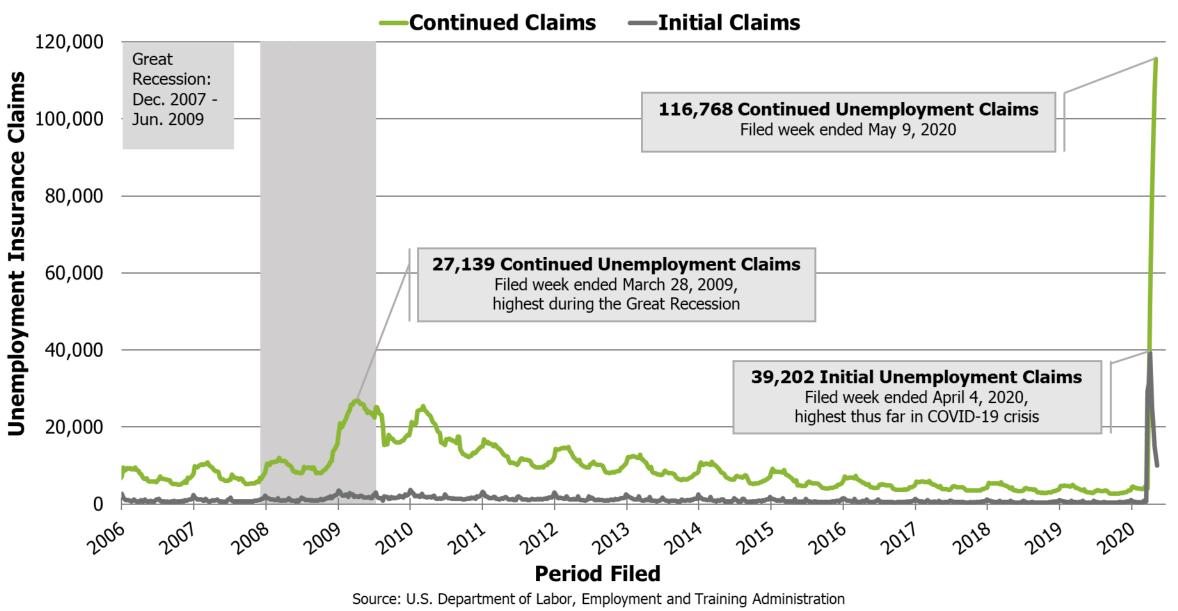
New Hampshire and the United States, Seasonally Adjusted



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; New Hampshire Employment Security

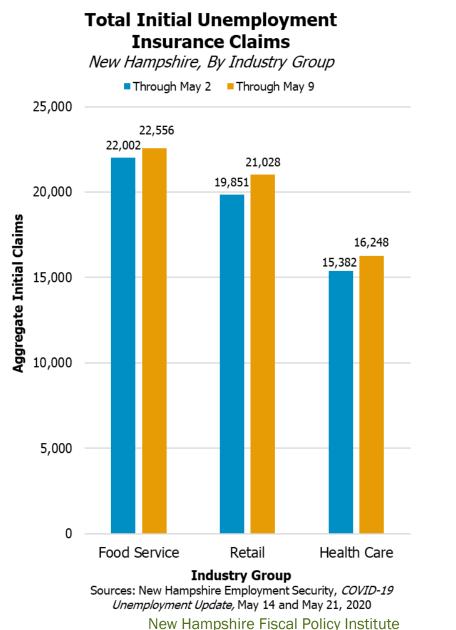
#### **Initial and Continued Unemployment Claims**

For Unemployment Insurance in New Hampshire, Not Seasonally Adjusted



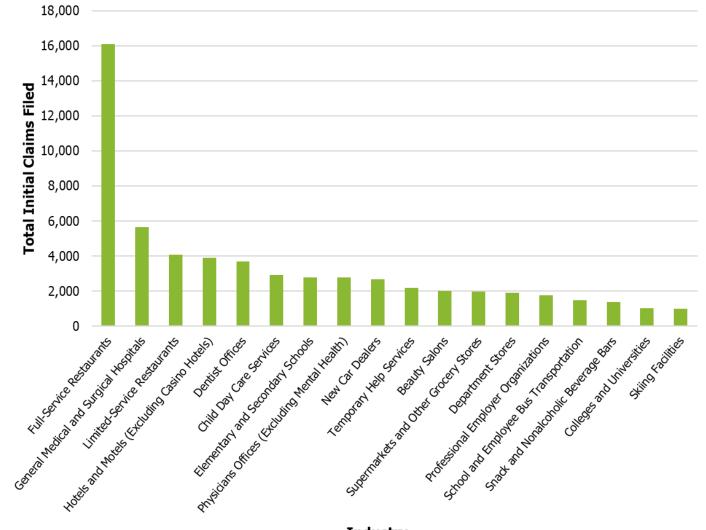
New Hampshire Fiscal Policy Institute

### **Effects on Key New Hampshire Employment Sectors**



**Total New Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by Industry** 

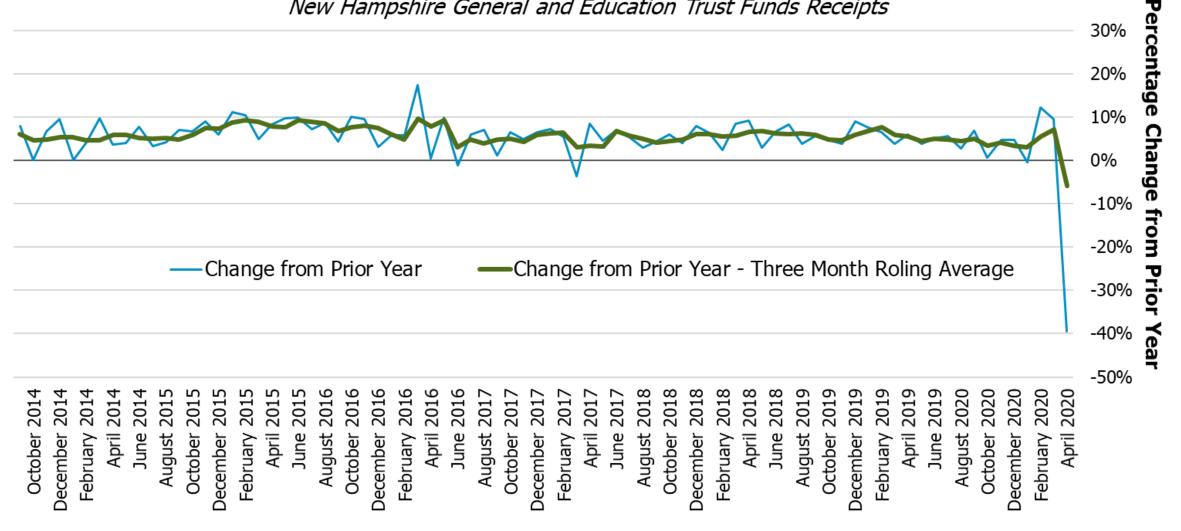
New Hampshire, Weeks Ending March 15 to May 9, 2020



**Industry** Source: New Hampshire Employment Security, *COVID-19 Unemployment Update*, May 21, 2020

### **Meals and Rentals Tax Revenue Changes**

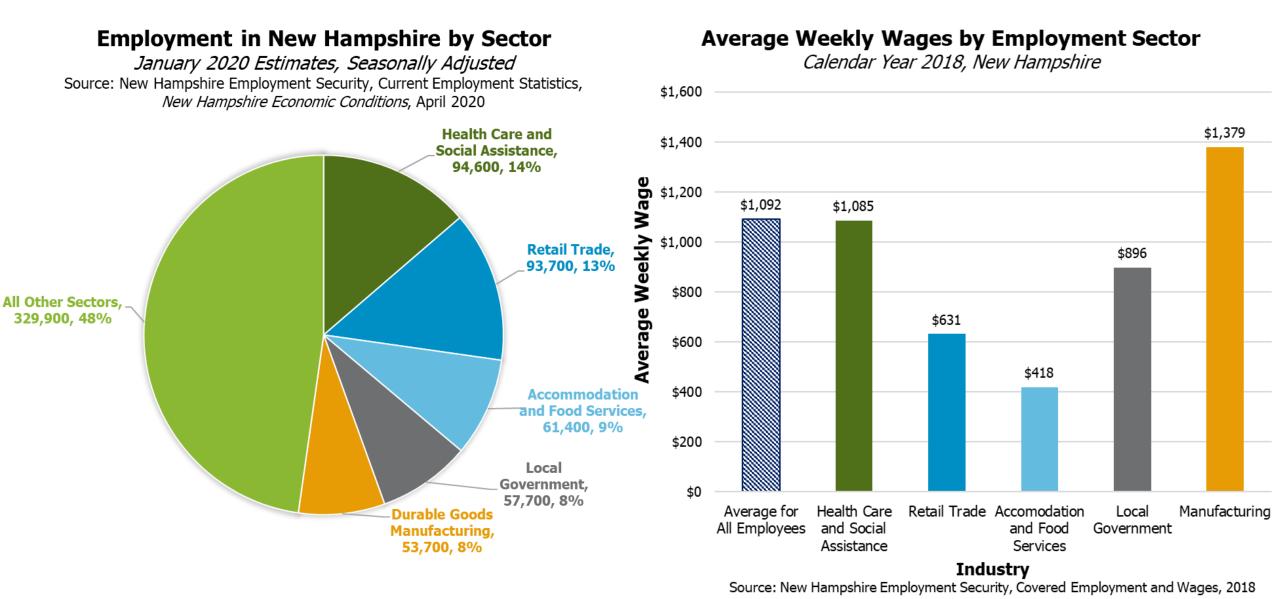
*Change in Receipts from Same Month of Prior Year, New Hampshire General and Education Trust Funds Receipts* 



#### Month and State Fiscal Year

Sources: New Hampshire Department of Administrative Services Monthly Revenue Focus Reports

### **Wages and Employment in Key Sectors**

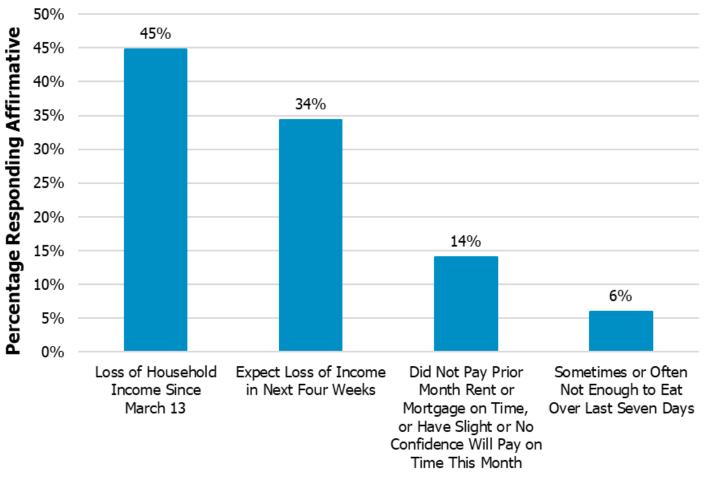


## **Widespread Loss of Income**

- Chair of the U.S. Federal Reserve Jerome Powell, May 13, 2020: "Among people who were working in February, almost 40 percent of those in households making less than \$40,000 a year had lost a job in March."
- Loss of income severe enough to affect food security:
  - 22 percent of respondents nationally ran out of food and did not have enough money to buy more in last 30 days (NORC at the University of Chicago, May 4-10, 2020 survey)
  - Two in five households nationally with mothers and children under 12 years old ran out of food and could not afford more at some point since the pandemic began (Brookings Institution, April 2020 survey)

#### 2020 Household Pulse Survey

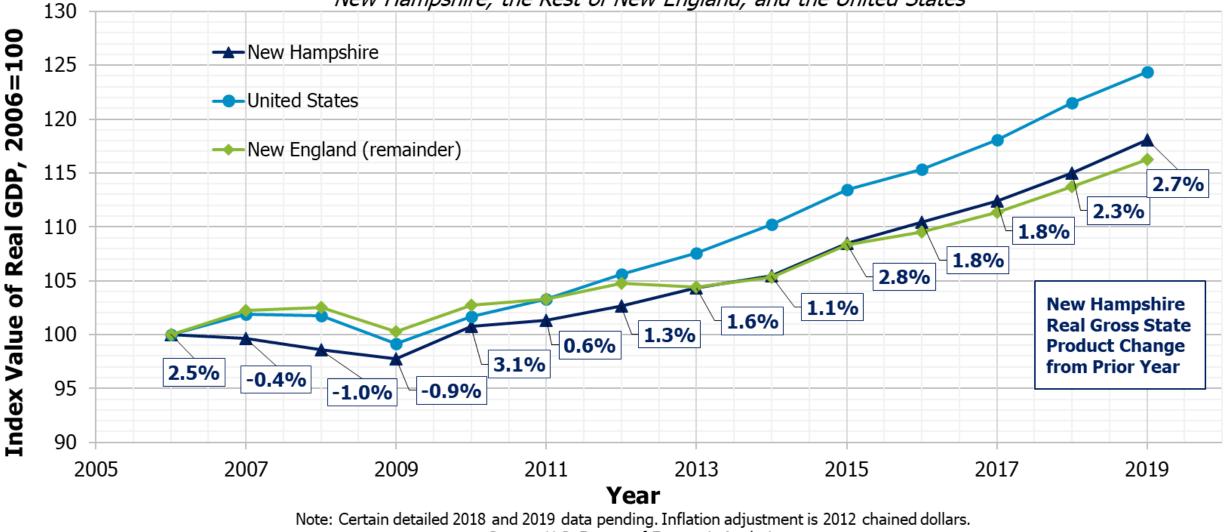
U.S. Census Bureau, New Hampshire Results Through Week of May 12



Question Topic Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Household Pulse Survey, accessed May 23, 2020

#### New Hampshire's Relative Economic Growth Since Recession

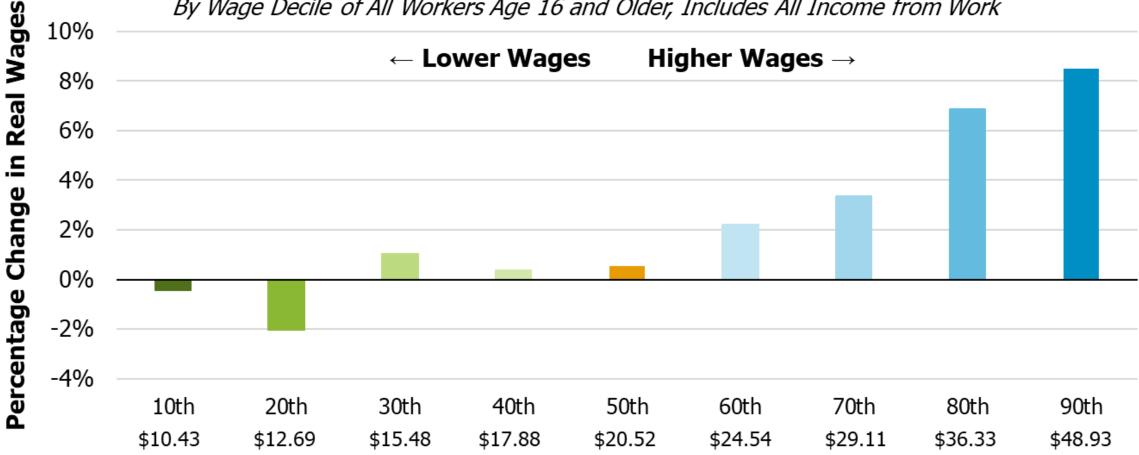
*Changes in Inflation-Adjusted Gross Domestic Product New Hampshire, the Rest of New England, and the United States* 



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

### **Changes in Inflation-Adjusted New Hampshire Wages**

Change from 2004-2006 Averages to 2017-2019 Averages By Wage Decile of All Workers Age 16 and Older, Includes All Income from Work

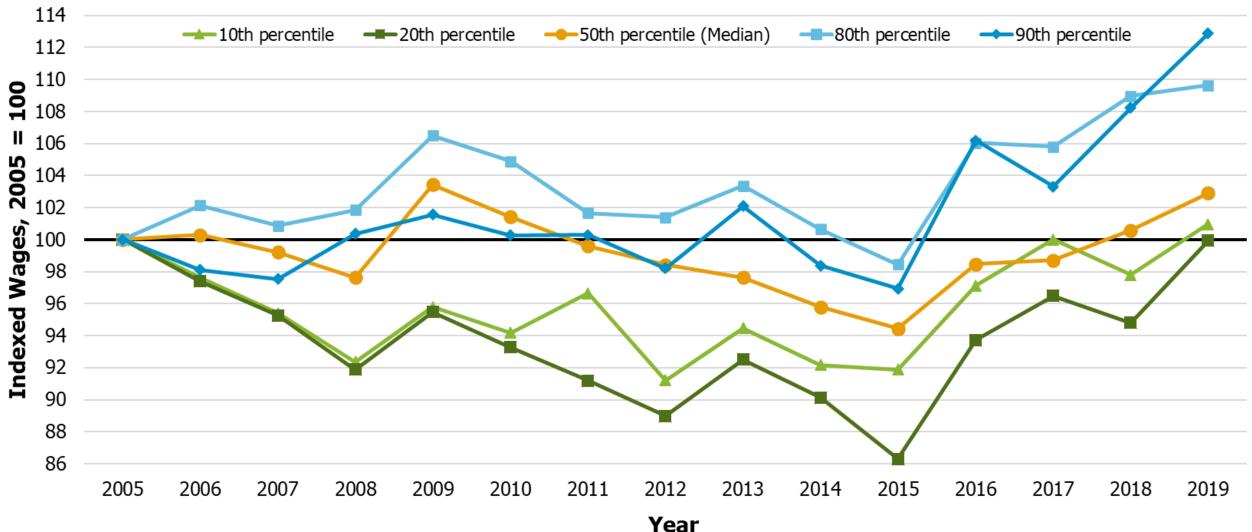


#### Relative Wage Percentiles and Corresponding 2017-2019 Hourly Wage Estimates

Note: Inflation adjustment using Consumer Price Index-Urban-Research Series (current methods). Includes workers aged 16 years and older. Source: Economic Policy Institute analysis of Current Population Survey Outgoing Rotation Group data

#### New Hampshire Inflation-Adjusted Wages by Relative Income

Selected Income Deciles, Indexed to 2005, Includes All Income from Work, All Workers Age 16 and Up



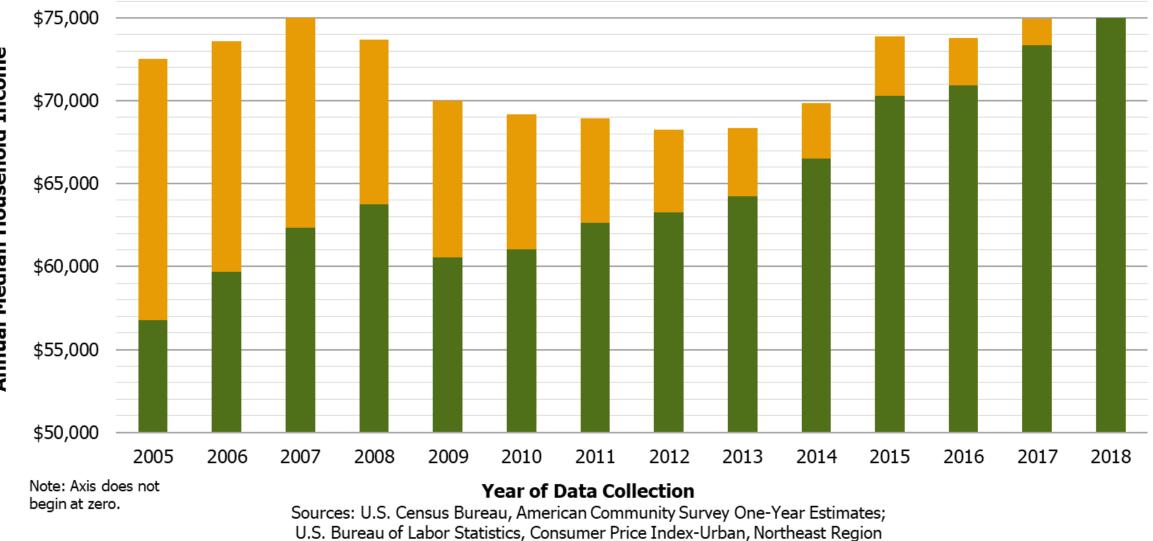
Note: Inflation adjustment using Consumer Price Index-Urban-Research Series (current methods). Includes workers aged 16 years and older. Source: Economic Policy Institute analysis of Current Population Survey Outgoing Rotation Group data

#### **Median Household Income in New Hampshire**

U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Estimates

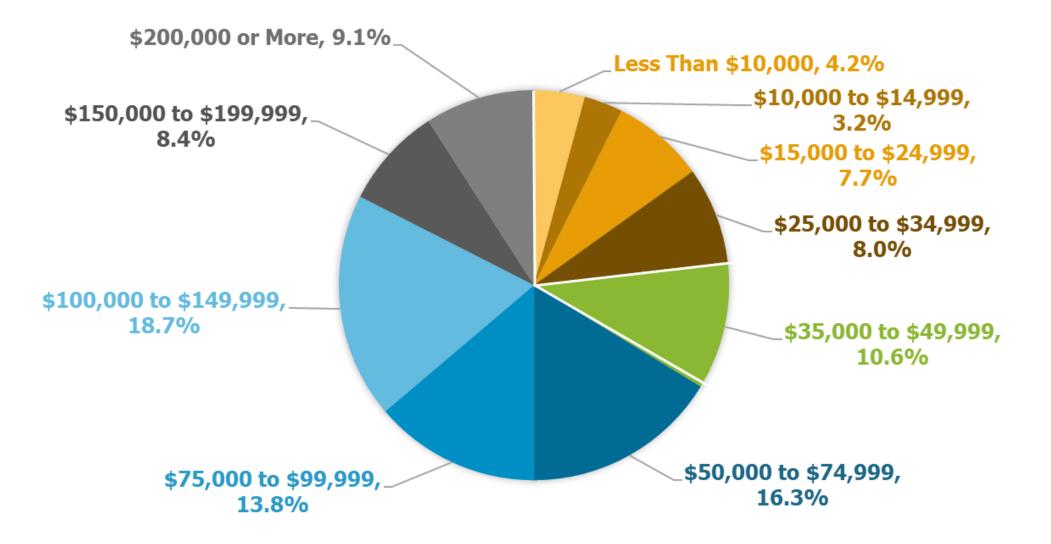


Inflation-Adjustment to 2018 Dollars



### **Percentage of New Hampshire Households by Income Group**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018 Data Note: Estimates for 531,212 Households

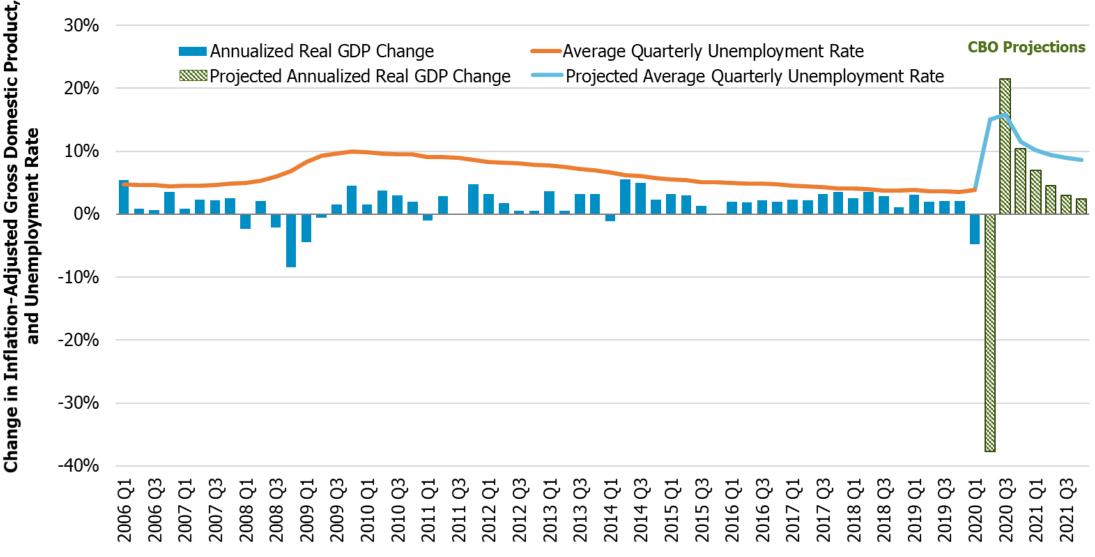


### **Many Households Had Few Resources Before Crisis**

- About 100,000 New Hampshire residents lived with annual incomes below the federal poverty threshold in 2018, and about 259,000 lived with incomes below twice those thresholds (U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 American Community Survey)
  - 2018 federal poverty threshold examples: \$13,064 for an individual less than 65 years old, or \$20,212 for a family of three with one child, with adjustments for household sizes and compositions
- Approximately 48 percent of all renter households in New Hampshire paid more than 30 percent of their annual incomes in rent and utilities (U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 American Community Survey)
- U.S. Federal Reserve survey of U.S. adults in 2018: "When faced with a hypothetical expense of \$400, 61 percent of adults in 2018 say they would cover it, using cash, savings, or a credit card paid off at the next statement... Among the remaining 4 in 10 adults who would have more difficulty covering such an expense, the most common approaches include carrying a balance on credit cards and borrowing from friends or family. Twelve percent of adults would be unable to pay the expense by any means."

#### **Economic Growth and Unemployment Rate**

United States, Historical and Projected by U.S. Congressional Budget Office



**Calendar Year and Quarter** 

Sources: Federal Reserve Bank of Saint Louis; U.S. Congressional Budget Office, Interim Economic Projections for 2020 and 2021, May 19, 2020

## **Looking Forward: Uncertainty**

- Crisis unlike economic contractions economists are accustomed to modeling
- Economic indicators may not be reliable for some time, due to swift nature of changes in unemployment, incomes, and business activity
- Public health concerns are paramount, deterministic for future economic activity
- Persistence of unemployment is a key unknown
- Effectiveness of government responses, health of financial system important variables
- Ability of economy to bounce back highly dependent on resources individuals and families have available

### **Four Key Takeaways**

- The shock to economy has been swift and massive.
- The crisis's impacts are disproportionately large for those with least ability to absorb financial shocks.
- The last economic recovery was long but started slowly, and left many people in precarious financial situations.
- Projections for future economic growth are very uncertain at this time, with future growth highly dependent on both public health factors and the resources individuals and families have available.



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