

Driving

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used to charge vehicles.

The impact of electric vehicles on the power grid is an entirely separate can of worms, balancing concerns of straining the electric grid with the possibility that a fleet of electric cars could themselves become resources using smart grid technology.

While electric vehicles appear to remain a small segment of the cars on Maine roads, the infrastructure for those cars looks quite different than just years ago, based on electric vehicle charging station additions alone. The number of charging stations has grown from one in 2011 to 37 today.

Some of those added in 2016 included a group of chargers Re-Vision Energy announced it was installing Wednesday at Hanaford Supermarkets, with a fifth on the way. The special charging stations included Level III chargers capable of powering a Nissan Leaf enough to travel 115 miles.

(As of July, just more than 100 Nissan Leaf vehicles were registered in Maine.)

Tesla continues to add charging stations for its vehicles along I-95 and at certain inns and bed and breakfasts, too, according to the latest data maintained by the U.S. Department of Energy's Alternative Fuels Data Center.

If the Legislature does heed LePage's call to take up the issue, it will add fuel to already raging battles in energy policy over: solar policy, small-scale renewable projects, regional natural gas expansion, opening the renewable energy credit market to large-scale hydropower facilities, incentives for biomass generators and offshore wind, and the governor and Maine utilities' interest in rolling back parts of the law that broke up electric monopolies.



LePage

States

Continued from Page C1

consumer guide to those rather plentiful economy rankings.

1. No single ranking reflects both Ogunquit and Presque Isle: Mainers have a lot that they share, but not broad economic trends. Economic development experts have pointed that out in past interviews, saying they prefer more regional analyses or review by labor markets or around specific cities. To say a statewide ranking tells you much about how any one area is faring ... well, you can't get there from here.

2. Political talk typically simplifies the state's economy. State government spending accounted for about 9.6 percent of all of Maine's GDP in 2014, at more

than \$4.8 billion. That's a big chunk of money, but it doesn't guide the state's economy.

Meanwhile, state policy has the potential to help or hinder specific industries or businesses, but tying broad economic outcomes to state policy is often an exercise in futility. Tying state policy to an overall business ranking is even harder.

3. When state policy directly aims to help business, it's hard to say how well it worked. A 2014 report about the state's economic development programs sums it up: "The benefits of investments are highlighted and frequently cited by business owners, policy makers and politicians, yet less is known about how the benefits of these investments compare either directly or indirectly to the costs of incentives awarded to attract the investment."

4. Not everyone agrees on

Forum

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Chellie Pingree, D-Maine, who has introduced two bills to reduce food waste.

A provision in the Food Recovery Act passed the House in December. It creates an "enhanced" tax deduction for grocery stores, farmers and restaurants that donate excess food to

soup kitchens, food banks and the like.

The Food Date Labeling Act would replace the current, often confusing system with two labels: one citing quality through a "best if used by" designation and one stating when a food will become unsafe ("expires on").

Consumers can help by shopping in our refrigerators first and using up leftovers. We can make meal plans so that we buy just what we need, and buy in

Veterans

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pay grades, culture, language, discipline, and qualities they can count on when hiring veterans.

And veterans can hear from employers about what they are looking for in applicants and how to present themselves in a resume and in person at the "HR Panel for Veterans" from 1 to 2:30 p.m. (registration required).

The kickoff event is open to the public. Employers interested in exhibiting at the hiring fair or attending "Military Culture 101," as well as veterans interested in attending the "HR Panel for Veterans," need

to register with Steven Roy, campaign coordinator, at 624-5156 or MaineHireAVet.DOL@maine.gov. TTY users call Maine Relay 711.

Veterans' employment representatives are available throughout the state and can visit employers to assist them in finding qualified veterans and provide information on the benefits of hiring veterans. Employers or veterans can contact Roy at 624-5156 for more information. Employers and veterans also can contact their local CareerCenter, a list of CareerCenters is available at mainecareercenter.com/locations/index.shtml.

The 2016 campaign will focus on jobs paying at least a wage of \$12 per hour, but all employers with

what makes a model economy. A presentation by Alan Hall, a Utah venture capitalist and founder of the economic development nonprofit Grow Utah, contrasted that state's first-place Forbes ranking with Maine. But economic development officials here were not all in agreement about just how lessons from Utah might translate in Maine.

From that May 2014 story:

"One word defines Utah, and that is homogeneity; and I'm not talking about demographics but economic geography," said audience member Brad Jackson, executive director of the Kennebec Regional Development Authority and Oakland business park First-Park. "The difficult thing with [creating] one plan in Maine is that we have distinct interests."

In response to Jackson's question, moderator Andrea Cianchette

bulk only if we'll use things while they're still good. We can store things that will last and use up what won't. We can donate excess produce from our gardens to agencies that help feed the hungry.

We can urge food-centered businesses to follow our lead. We can urge our elected leaders to work for effective changes and steer away from rules for rules' sake. We can think about the nutritional value of food and maybe overlook a bruise

Maker, MEREDA's lobbyist and a Pierce Atwood lawyer, polled the audience whether Maine should develop one statewide economic development strategy. About half the audience raised hands; the other half favored creating regional development plans.

5. Variables matter. Business rankings can combine a number of different variables that don't necessarily say something broader about the economy. There's a reason the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Bureau of Economic Analysis or other primary sources produce the information they do: to answer specific questions about the economy. Those most often have their own room for error. A business index should make the case for why it equals more than the sum of its parts and why the relative ranking of states or other areas is valid.

or brown spot. We can do more.

Consumer Forum is a collaboration of the Bangor Daily News and Northeast CONTACT, Maine's all-volunteer, nonprofit consumer organization. For assistance with consumer-related issues, including consumer fraud and identity theft, or for information, write Consumer Forum, P.O. Box 486, Brewer, ME 04412, visit <http://necontact.wordpress.com> or email contacexdir@live.com.

Dow Jones gains on strong data on economy

BY RODRIGO CAMPOS
REUTERS

NEW YORK — Financial and commodity-sector stocks led the S&P 500 higher in a low-volume session on Monday after consumer spending rose for a fourth straight month, pointing to a pickup in U.S. economic growth.

Investors continued to digest comments from Federal Reserve officials on Friday. After Fed Chair Janet Yellen said the case for a rate hike before the end of the year was strengthening, Vice Chair Stanley Fischer seemed to indicate not only the possibility of a tightening move in September but a second one in December.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 107.59 points, or 0.58 percent, to 18,502.99, the S&P 500 gained 11.34 points, or 0.52 percent, to 2,180.38 and the Nasdaq Composite added 13.41 points, or 0.26 percent, to 5,232.33.

The S&P closed 0.45 percent below its record high set earlier this month.

Stock trading volume was the weakest so far this year at just below 5 billion shares, compared with the average of 6.1 billion over the past 20 days. It is expected to remain low through the week, the last of the U.S. summer vacation season.

Apple ended down 0.1 percent at \$106.82. The company could face more than 1 billion euros in back taxes as the European Commission was set to rule on Tuesday against Ireland's tax dealings with Apple.

Advancing issues outnumbered declining ones on the NYSE by a 2.60-to-1 ratio; on Nasdaq, a 1.68-to-1 ratio favored advancers.

The S&P 500 posted 27 new 52-week highs and 2 new lows; the Nasdaq Composite recorded 121 new highs and 20 new lows.

Spending

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expenditures price index, excluding the volatile food and energy components, edged up 0.1 percent after a similar gain in June.

In the 12 months through July the core PCE increased 1.6 percent. It has risen by the same margin every month since March. The core PCE is the Fed's preferred inflation measure and is running below its 2 percent target.

"We remain of the view that services inflation will continue to be firm, but some of its strength will likely be offset by the other components of the PCE basket, leading overall inflation to increase at a moderate pace," said Blerina Uruci, an economist at Barclays in Washington.

Consumer spending last month was lifted by a 1.6 percent surge in purchases of long-lasting manufactured goods such as automobiles. Spending on services rose 0.4 percent, but outlays on non-durable goods slipped 0.5 percent.

Personal income increased 0.4 percent in July after rising 0.3 percent in June. Wages and salaries advanced 0.5 percent. Savings rose to \$794.7 billion from \$776.2 billion in June.

Market Review

Consolidated Stocks						Indexes												Currencies					Commodities								
	Close	Chg	Div		Close	Chg	Div		52-Wk High	52-Wk Low	Close	Chg	Chg%	Wk	Mo	Qtr	1 Yr	Chg%		Last	Chg	Qtr	Year		Units	Date	Close	Chg			
3M Co	180.50	+1.09	4.4	Kohls	45.26	+0.72	2.0	Dow Jones indus.	18668	15451	18502.99	+107.59	+0.58	▼	▲	▲	+11.18		Euro	0.894	+0.001	-0.003	-0.001	Crude oil NYM	\$/Barrel	Oct	46.98	-0.66			
ABB Ltd	21.91	+0.07	0.8	LillyEli	76.60	+0.36	2.0	Dow Jones Transport	8358	6403	7860.30	+35.76	+0.46	▼	▲	▲	-0.61		British Pound	0.763	+0.002	+0.080	+0.113	Natural gas NYM	Mil. BTU	Sep	2.85	-0.02			
AbbVie	64.51	-0.10	2.3	Loews	41.77	+0.34	0.3	Dow Jones Utility	724	540	672.32	+5.23	+0.78	▼	▼	▲	+17.50		Canadian Dollar	1.301	+0.001	-0.004	-0.019	Heating oil NYM	Gallon	Sep	1.49	-0.01			
AbtLab	43.25	+0.27	1.0	Lowes	77.18	+0.28	1.4	Nasdaq composite	5276	4210	5232.33	+13.41	+0.26	▼	▲	▲	+8.37		Japanese Yen	101.93	+0.090	-9.180	-19.770	Gasoline NYM	Gallon	Sep	1.47	-0.05			
AEP	65.18	+0.49	2.2	McDnlds	115.41	+0.97	3.6	NYSE AMEX composite	2465	1869	2405.95	+0.51	+0.02	▼	▼	▲	+7.88		Mexican Peso	18.625	+0.023	+0.146	+1.878								
Aetna	117.02	-0.21	1.0	Merck	63.01	+0.16	1.8	NYSE composite	10892	8938	10811.35	+62.02	+0.58	▼	▲	▲	+5.56		Swiss Franc	0.978	-0.002	-0.014	+0.016								
ALFAC	73.70	+0.95	1.6	MetLife	42.41	+0.62	1.6	S&P 500	2194	1810	2180.38	+11.34	+0.52	▼	▲	▲	+9.63		Israeli Shekel	3.786	+0.009	-0.063	-0.139								
AK Steel	4.69	+0.11	0.0	MicroSoft	58.10	+0.07	1.4	S&P Mid cap 400	1576	1215	1570.79	+11.12	+0.71	▲	▲	▲	+10.14		Norwegian Krone	8.282	+0.005	-0.062	+0.005								
Allergan	236.65	-1.28	0.0	Mondelez	43.04	-0.02	0.8	Wilshire 5000	22785	18462	22657.02	+118.88	+0.53	▼	▲	▲	+8.05		South African Rand	14.405	+0.030	-1.398	+1.116								
Allstate	68.74	+0.42	1.3	Monsanto	107.54	+0.14	2.2	Russell 2000	1251	943	1244.94	+6.91	+0.56	▲	▲	▲	+7.05														
Altria	66.10	+0.27	2.4	MorgStan	31.41	+0.25	0.8	Local Stocks																							
AMOVil	11.99	+0.15	0.3	NewellRub	53.91	+0.04	0.8	52Wk Hi	52Wk Lo	Close	Chg	Chg%	Wk	Mo	Qtr	YTD%	P/E	Div													
Anadarko	56.22	+0.96	0.2	NextEraEn	122.34	+0.72	3.5	Bank of America (BAC)	18.09	10.99	15.84	+0.05	+0.32	▲	▲	▲	-5.88	13.8	0.3												
Apache	52.83	+0.48	1.0	NipponTT	45.58	+0.39	1.0	Bar Harbor (BHB)	37.69	29.50	36.26	+0.61	+1.71	▲	▲	▲	...	13.4	1.1												
ApldMatl	30.05	+0.04	0.4	NokiaCp	5.69	...	...	Camden Nat'l (CAC)	47.49	37.23	45.82	+0.12	+0.26	▲	▲	▲	+3.92	16.4	1.2											
Apple	106.82	-0.12	1.9	NorthropG	213.10	+1.17	3.6	Cisco (CSCO)	31.66	22.46	31.58	+0.23	+0.73	▲	▲	▲	+16.30	14.9	1.0												
AT&T Inc	41.00	+0.32	0.1	OncoPhtrs	39.64	-0.12	3.6	Domtar (IFS)	42.95	29.88	37.60	+0.20	+0.53	▲	▲	▼	+1.76	26.2	1.7												
Autodesk	68.32	-0.55	0.0	Oracle	41.31	+0.05	0.6	General Electric (GE)	33.00	23.68	31.36	+0.13	+0.42	▲	▼	▲	+0.67	29.5	0.9												
AvdTech	9.18	-0.13	0.0	Orange	15.16	+0.09	0.7	HCA Holdings (HCA)	89.61	60.07	74.96	+0.70	+0.94	▲	▼	▼	+10.84	12.8													
BcoStanSA	4.32	+0.01	0.2	Penn Gnmg	14.36	-0.05		Iddex Labs (IDXX)	112.26	63.48	112.09	+1.94	+1.76	▲	▲	▲	+53.72	49.9													
BestBuy	39.02	-0.46	1.1	Pemney	9.81	-0.08		ImmuCell (ICCC)	8.29	5.60	7.18	-0.09	-1.24	▼	▲	▲	-4.77	20.8													
BktNYMcl	41.26	+0.41	0.8	PepsiCo	107.99	+0.54	3.0	International Paper (IP)	49.70	32.50	48.90	+0.01	+0.02	▲	▲	▲	+29.71	26.2	1.8												
BkofAm	15.84	+0.05	0.3	Pfizer	35.11	+0.29	1.2	KeyCorp (KEY)	14.01	9.88	12.32	...	...	▲	▼	▲	-6.60	12.6												
Boeing	132.90	+0.67	4.4	PhilipMor	100.26	+1.16	4.1	Kimberly-Clark (KMB)	138.87	103.04	128.72	+0.48	+0.37	▲	▼	▲	+1.12	23.8	3.7												
BP PLC	34.24	+0.08	2.4	PPL	34.98	+0.32	1.5	Kraft Heinz (KHC)	90.49	68.18	88.57	+0.40	+0.45	▼	▲	▲	+21.73	66.0	2.4												
BrlKldAs	34.09	+0.28	0.5	Praxair	122.25	+0.43	3.0	Lake Sunapee Bank (LSBG)	18.89	13.25	17.72	-0.11	-0.62	▼	▲	▲	+26.30	16.5	0.6												
BrlMySq	58.76	-0.01	1.5	ProcterGam	88.30	+0.72	2.7	Northeast Bancorp (NBN)	11.72	9.56	11.30	+0.10	+0.89	▲	▲	▲	+7.62	13.8	0.0												
Caterpillar	83.10	+0.44	3.1	Prudential	35.86	+0.37	1.4	People's United Fin (PBCT)	16.93	13.62	15.97	+0.10	+0.63	▲	▲	▲	-1.11	17.7	0.7												
CBS B	51.46	+0.02	0.7	QstDiag	84.33	+1.35	1.6	PNC (PNC)	97.50	77.40	87.92	+1.23	+1.42	▲	▲	▼	-7.75	11.9	2.2												
CenterPnt	22.67	+0.35	1.0	Rayonier	27.35	+0.29	1.0	Sappi Limited (SPJV)	5.13	2.67	4.85	...	...	▣	▲	▲	...	...	0.0											
Chevron	102.05	+0.73	4.3	Raytheon	141.40	+0.48	2.9	State Street (STI)	75.40	50.60	69.63	+0.56	+0.81	▲	▲	▲	+4.93	14.1													
Citigroup	47.26	+0.15	0.9	ReynAmer	50.02	+0.15	1.8	Sysco (SYV)	53.97	38.34	52.42	+0.30	+0.58	▼	▲	▲	+27.85	31.7	1.2												
CocaCola	43.54	+0.22	1.4	RylCarb	69.98	+0.23	1.5	The First Bancorp (FNLC)	23.37	17.37	22.34	+0.18	+0.81	▲	▲	▲	+9.14	14.0	0.9												
Corning	22.69	+0.02	0.5	Schwab	31.05	+0.10	0.3	United Technologies (UTX)	109.83	83.39	107.97	+0.66	+0.62	▼	▲	▲	+12.39	24.2	2.6												
Deere	86.93	+0.19	2.4	ShenWldgs	14.38	+0.27	0.1	Unum Group (UNM)	37.26	23.99	35.11	+0.37	+1.07	▲	▲	▼	+5.47	9.6	0.8												
Disney	94.87	-0.34	1.4	Searshw	286.68	+0.86	3.4	Verizon Comm (VZ)	56.95	42.20	52.50	+0.43	+0.83	▼	▼	▼	+13.59	14.7	2.3												
DowChem	54.13	+0.50	1.8	SiderurNac	2.78	+0.12	0.1	Verso (VRS)	13.60	5.55	6.10	...	...	▲	▼	▼	...	0.0												
DukeEnrg	80.44	+0.52	3.4	Siemens	120.40	...		WalMart (WMT)	75.19	56.30	71.40	+0.26	+0.37	▼	▼	▲	+16.48	15.3	2.0												
DuPont	43.21	+0.21	1.9	SonyCp	32.85	-0.33																									
ExxonMbl	87.84	+0.57	3.0	Starbucks	56.80	-0.49	0.8																								
Facebook	126.54	+1.58	0.0	SwatArl	36.45	+0.18	0.4																								
FedExCp	165.17	+0.22	1.6	Symantec	24.13	+0.41	0.3																								
FidNFin	37.69	+0.39	0.8	Target	71.05	+0.70	2.4																								
FidNatfno	79.38	-0.14	1.0	Textron	41.21	+0.27	0.1																								
FrontierCm	4.66	+0.05	0.4	Toyota	120.34	+1.72	3.6																								
GenElec	31.36	+0.13	0.9	Travelers	118.48	+1.34	2.7																								
GlaxoSKin	43.61	+0.06	2.2	UPS B	109.12	+0.17	3.1																								
GoldmanS	166.87	+0.90	2.6	ValeroE	51.63	+0.35	2.4																								
Google	772.15	+2.61	0.0	Vodafone	56.04	+0.05	1.5																								
Hershey	111.67	+0.79	2.5	WalterEn	0.04	...	0.0																								
HewlettP	14.43	+0.04	0.5	Waste Mng't	64.37	+0.40	1.6																								
Hitachi	46.68	...	1.5	WellsFarg	49.56	+1.05	1.5																								
HomeDep	135.24	+0.88	2.8	Yahoo	42.26	-0.01																									
Honda	30.62	+0.39	0.8	Zimmer	130.59	+1.08	1.0																								
IBM	159.72	+1.04	5.6																												
Intel	35.55	+0.29	1.0																												
IntlBcsh	29.60	+0.28	0.6																												
JPMorgCh	66.95	+0.73	1.9																												

Top Mutual Funds						Biggest Gainers						Biggest Losers					
Fund	Last	Chg	1Yr Rtn	Fund	Last	Chg	1Yr Rtn	Fund	Last	Chg	1Yr Rtn	Fund	Last	Chg	1Yr Rtn		
AMERICAN FUNDS						JPMORGAN						TEMPLETON					
AMCP A	27.31	+0.08	+10.3	FIDELITY	22.41	+0.08	+9.1	Core Bond Sel	11.99	+0.01	+5.1	GI Bond Adv	11.23	-0.02	+2.0		
Bal A	25.14	+0.1	+12.2	Blue Chip Gr	70.48	+0.18	+6.8	LAZARD				Growth A	22.68	+0.06	+3.8		
Bond A	13.12	+0.03	+5.1	Capital & Inc	9.66	+0.01	+6.4	Emg Mkt Eq Inst	16.26	+0.03	+17.7	THORNBURG</					