

Chapter 2 – Economy

Purpose

An understanding of the local and regional economy assists in assessing a town’s current and future needs. Changes in industry and demographics may have drastic impacts on a town’s local economy.

Recent Employment Trends

Employment and Unemployment

The civilian labor force consists of people over the age of 16 who are either employed or unemployed and actively seeking work. The size of the labor force can fluctuate which may have a slight impact on unemployment rates. According to 2020 American Community Survey, approximately 57.9% of Baldwin’s eligible population was part of the labor force, which is lower than the county (69%) and the state overall (63%). Individuals are classified as unemployed if they do not have a job, have actively looked for work in the past 4 weeks, and are currently available to work. Baldwin’s unemployment rate (0.6%) is lower than the average rates for Cumberland County and the State of Maine.

Employment Trends, 2020			
	Baldwin	Cumberland County	Maine
In Labor Force	57.9%	69.0%	63.0%
Employed	57.3%	66.6%	60.3%
Unemployed	0.6%	2.2%	2.5%

Source: 2020 American Community Survey

Employment by Sector

The table on the next page displays employment by industry for Baldwin and Cumberland County, as reported by the 2020 American Community Survey. The industry sector refers to the type of industry the employer operates, not the actual jobs performed by employees. This table refers to all Baldwin residents who are employed, whether they work in Baldwin or commute elsewhere.

The largest percentage of Baldwin's labor force, 18.2%, is employed in Education, Health, and Social Services. This is also the largest industry in Cumberland County. The next largest employment sector is Retail Trade at 15.6%.

Employment by Industry Sector, 2020		
Category	Baldwin	Cumberland County
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	6.9%	1.0%
Construction	10.0%	5.7%
Manufacturing	8.4%	7.3%
Wholesale trade	3.9%	2.2%
Retail trade	15.5%	11.6%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities:	8.7%	3.4%
Information	0.0%	2.3%
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing:	4.3%	9.7%
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	11.0%	12.6%
Educational services, and health care and social assistance:	18.2%	28.0%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services:	5.5%	9.3%
Other services, except public administration	1.9%	4.2%
Public administration	5.6%	2.7%

Source: 2020 American Community Survey

According to the American Community Survey, as of 2020, about 78.9% of Baldwin's working population was employed by the private sector, which is slightly less than Cumberland County where 82.1% was employed by the private sector. In addition, the proportion of Baldwin residents working for non-profit businesses (7.67%) is lower than the county (14.85%). In general, the classes of workers in Baldwin are consistent with county trends.

Class of Worker, Employed Persons 16 and over		
	Baldwin	Cumberland County
Private for-profit Wage & Salary	71.20%	67.21%
Private not-for-profit Wage & Salary	7.67%	14.85%
Fed/State/Local Govt.	13.75%	10.41%
Self Employed	7.38%	7.52%

Source: 2020 American Community Survey

Baldwin's labor force has a significantly higher percentage of material moving, transportation, construction, farming/fishing/forestry occupations than both Maine and Cumberland County. Baldwin also has a much smaller proportion of individuals working in science/engineering, community service, arts/entertainment, and service than Maine and

Cumberland County. This is most likely due to its location further from these types of jobs than others.

Occupations, 2020			
	Baldwin	Cumberland County	Maine
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	691	164,003	675,784
Management, business, and financial occupations	15.5%	19.0%	15.1%
Computer, engineering, and science occupations	2.7%	6.9%	4.9%
Community and social service occupations	0.4%	2.4%	2.3%
Legal occupations	0.9%	1.5%	0.9%
Educational instruction, and library occupations	5.2%	7.3%	7.0%
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations	0.4%	2.7%	1.9%
Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations	6.1%	7.9%	6.8%
Service occupations	9.4%	15.8%	17.4%
Sales and office occupations	16.8%	20.9%	21.0%
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	4.1%	0.6%	1.5%
Construction and extraction occupations	9.3%	3.9%	5.9%
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	2.5%	2.2%	3.3%
Production occupations	4.3%	3.8%	5.3%
Transportation occupations	9.3%	2.7%	3.6%
Material moving occupations	13.2%	2.4%	3.1%

Source: 2020 American Community Survey

Employers

The majority of Baldwin residents in the labor force do not work in Baldwin. According to the 2020 American Community Survey, 86.9% of Baldwin workers commuted more than 15 minutes to work, with an average commuting time of 36 minutes. This is largely due to the lack of businesses in Baldwin. According to the Maine Department of Labor, in 2021 there were only 34 establishments in Baldwin which, all together, only employed about 185 people. The table below displays the Maine Department of Labor (MDOL) data on establishments in Baldwin. Not all industries are included because the MDOL cannot include data on industries with very few establishments. The average weekly wage for all Baldwin industries was \$902 in 2021.

Baldwin Establishments, 2021				
	Establishments	Average Employment	Total Wages	Average Weekly Wage
Total, All Industries	34	185	\$8,658,383	\$902
Construction	4	17	\$743,625	\$854
Retail Trade	4	31	\$972,754	\$595
Professional and Technical Services	4	8	\$847,209	\$2,148

Source: Maine DOL Center for Workplace Research and Information

Education

When compared to Cumberland County and the state, Baldwin has the highest percentage of residents who are high school graduates (47.2%). However, rates of residents who went on to complete postsecondary degree programs are lower than the state and the county, on average. As previously discussed, Baldwin has lower rates of residents with occupations including science and engineering, education, and business and finance than the rest of Cumberland County. These types of occupations are often held by those with higher degrees of education. While much of the reasoning behind the lesser presence of these occupations may be due to Baldwin’s location further from economic centers, these differences are clearly indicated in education levels as well.

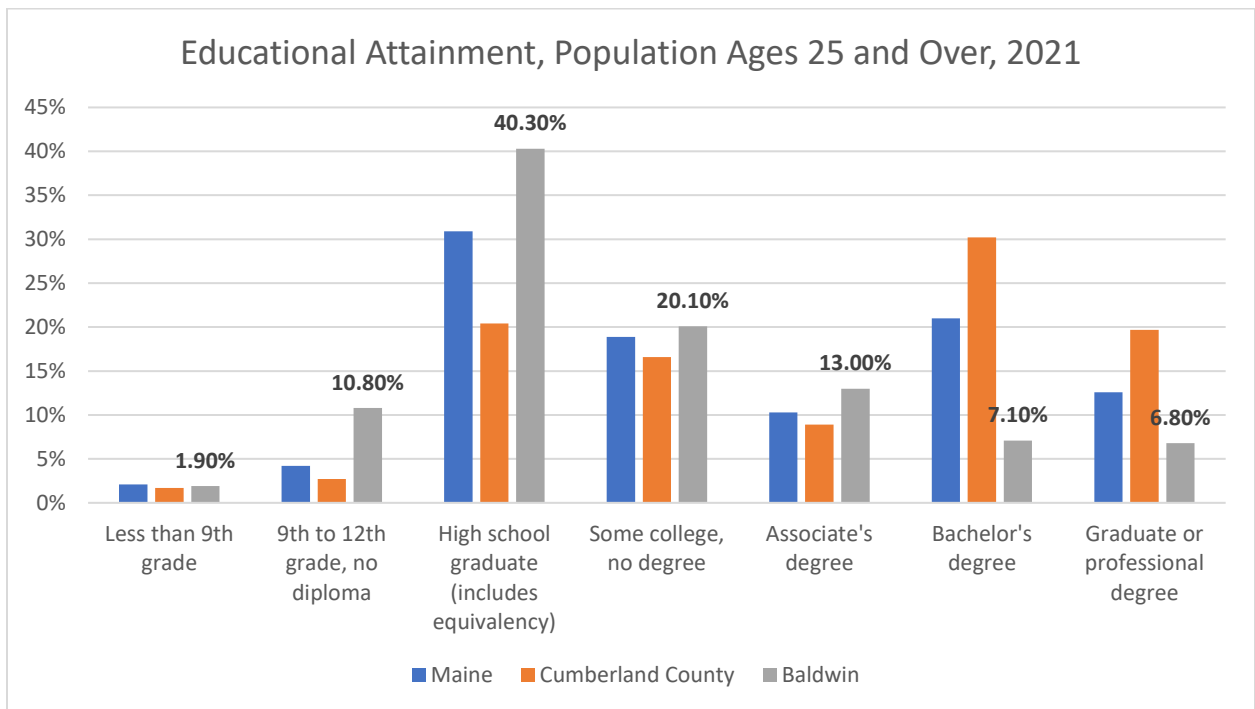


Figure 1 - Source: 2021 ACS 5-year estimates

When analyzing trends of educational attainment over a 10-year period, there are three clear changes from 2011 to 2021. First, the rate of Baldwin residents (age 25 and older) who have not completed 9th grade decreased from 3.7% in 2011 to 1.9% in 2021. This trend is reflected in the increase in the number of residents who completed high school as their highest level of education, from 35.2% in 2011 to 40.3% in 2021. However, the rate of completed bachelor’s degrees in Baldwin also decreased by a similar rate as the high school graduation rates increased, which was just over 5%. In 2011, 12.9% of Baldwin residents held a bachelor’s degree, but the number dropped to 7.1% in 2021. The rate of high school graduates in Baldwin increased, the town saw decreases in not only residents who did not complete 9th grade, but also those who received bachelor’s degrees.

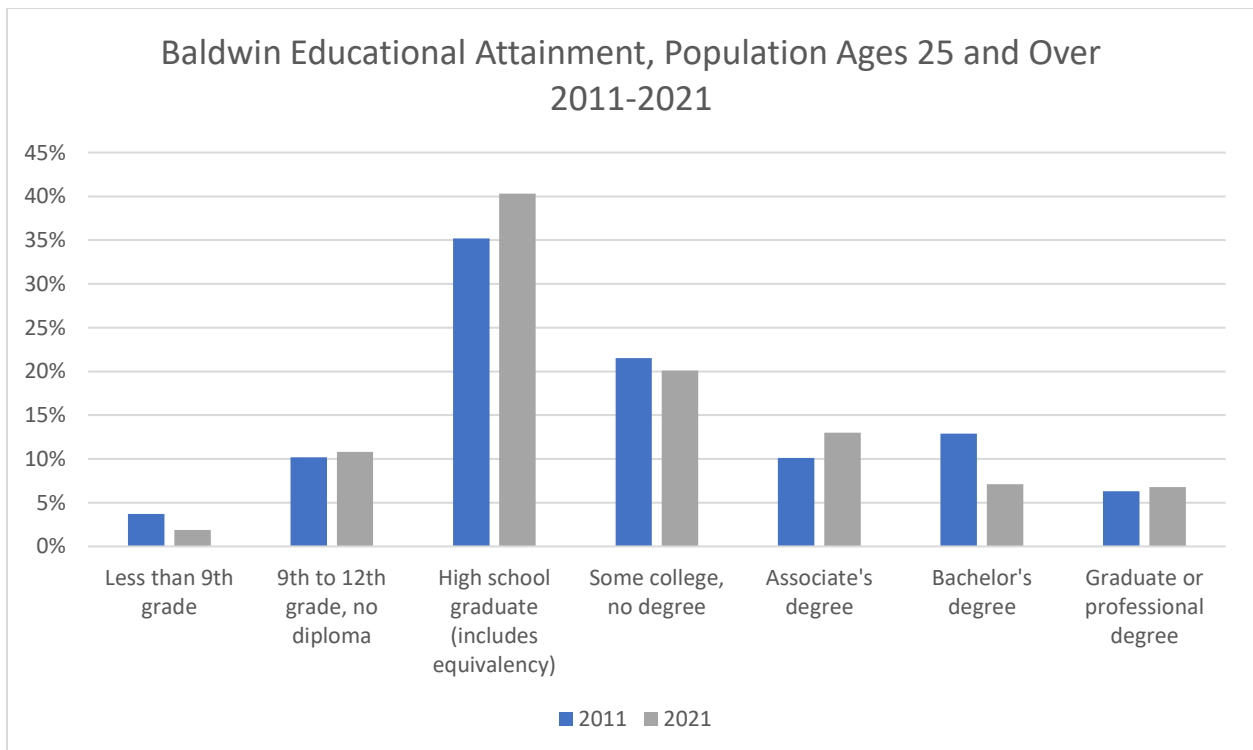


Figure 2 - Source: ACS 5-year estimates, 2011 and 2021