

UMASS DONAHUE INSTITUTE Economic & Public Policy Research

Economic & Public Policy Research (EPPR) provides unbiased economic analysis on economic policy issues in Massachusetts, New England and beyond. As a leading provider of applied economic policy research, we help our clients make more informed decisions about strategic policy, planning, and investment issues. We produce in-depth economic studies that help clients build credibility, gain visibility, educate constituents, prioritize investment, and plan economic development initiatives. As the official State Data Center, we have unparalleled economic and demographic data experience and expertise in Massachusetts. In addition, we lead *Mass-Benchmarks*, an economic journal that presents timely information concerning the performance of and prospects for the Massachusetts economy, including economic analyses of key industries that make up the economic base of the state.



► Economic Impact Analysis



We conduct rigorous economic impact analyses that trace the direct effects of industries, policies, investments or business

ventures on local, regional and state economies. Economic impact metrics range from changes in business revenue, employment, wages and income, to gross regional product. We also estimate the resulting fiscal impacts on various state and local tax revenues.

Our staff has significant expertise in creating specialized, complex models to study economic impacts, and routinely construct custom models using IMPLAN, REMI and other software packages to estimate the full-range of direct, indirect, induced and total impacts. These analyses inform the public and decision makers about how various industries or investment decisions impact their regional economy, what project or program might have the greatest impact on the regional economy, and interactions with other sectors of the regional economy. Recent economic impact studies have included university systems, the IT industry of New England, military bases and the defense contractor industry, senior assisted living facilities, multi-use development projects, and a current multi-year economic impact assessment of casino gaming in Massachusetts.

► Industry Research



The EPPR group has worked for over a decade on industry-focused studies in Massachusetts, New England and

beyond. We have developed detailed profiles, competitiveness assessments and market research findings across virtually all industries, including IT and the telecommunications sector, housing, defense, marine science and technology, advanced manufacturing, and life sciences. Our industry studies provide a thorough examination of the industry focused on public policies and initiatives. Our final reports are often the basis of high-profile articles, conferences, and working groups that have a direct impact on public understanding and public policy.

Industry studies are examined quantitatively by analyzing current and historical employment trends and industry establishments; identifying important niches, sub-sectors and supply chains of business activity; comparing to key competitor states and regions; and identifying competitiveness issues and other obstacles to the growth of the industry. We also conduct field interviews with key industry informants, focus groups, in-depth surveys of industry firms and key institutions, and research on best practices and strategies from other parts of the U.S. and globally. Our research highlights competitiveness issues, defines obstacles to growth, and identifies opportunities for growth.

► Public Policy Analysis



EPPR's primary mission is to promote the public's understanding of the critical economic and policy challenges facing

Massachusetts. In that public service capacity, we have delivered high-quality, original research supporting important public initiatives and exploring critical policy issues to Massachusetts, New England and nationally. Our research helps clients build credibility, gain visibility, prioritize investments, educate constituents, and plan economic development initiatives.

Our wide breadth of policy expertise includes: affordable housing and real estate markets; state economic development policies; municipal planning and finance; transportation planning; and smart growth and sustainability initiatives.

Our carefully-planned public policy studies are cost-effective, focused, and designed to communicate effectively to target audiences. We work closely with clients to customize the scope of research, the intended impact, and audience. Our data-driven research is based on state-of-the-art methods, including statistical analyses, benefit-cost and fiscal impact analysis, surveys, focus groups, case studies, and best-practices studies.



► Economic & Demographic Data



The UMass Donahue Institute (UMDI) is the Commonwealth's official partner with the U.S. Census Bureau in Massachusetts as we

operate the Massachusetts State Data Center (SDC), and lead the Population Estimates Program (PEP) for Massachusetts.

Population Estimates Program

The Population Estimates Program (PEP) is the formal mechanism by which the Commonwealth helps ensure accurate U.S. Census estimates and counts. As the state's liaison to the U.S. Census Bureau for population estimates and projections, PEP supplies critical data updates for Massachusetts that are incorporated into official U.S. Census annual population estimates. PEP also provides technical support to Massachusetts cities and towns wishing to challenge Census counts and estimates.

PEP has initiated numerous population estimates challenges around the state and participated in Census review activities that have added over 50,000 persons, previously uncounted, to the official state population. PEP also produces independent population estimates and projections at the sub-county level, and develops population projections for Massachusetts.

Massachusetts State Data Center

The State Data Center (SDC) Program, housed in Massachusetts at UMDI, is a cooperative program between the states and the Census Bureau to make data available locally to the public. The SDC program's mission is to provide easy and efficient access to all U.S. Census Bureau data and information through a wide network of affiliate agencies in the state. The SDCs are thus official sources of demographic, economic, and social statistics produced by the Census Bureau. The SDC also provides training and technical assistance in accessing and using Census Bureau data. The Massachusetts SDC maintains its own network of affiliates which we rely on to provide local knowledge and expertise.

Related to its role as the State Data Center, EPPR also produces and publishes a comprehensive quarterly economic overview of Massachusetts called the *Economic Due Diligence Report* for the Massachusetts State Treasurer's Department of Debt Management in support of bond financing initiatives.

► Economic Development Analysis

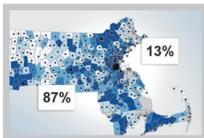


We are a leading provider of local, regional and state economic analysis to decision makers, the media, and the general

public throughout Massachusetts and New England. Our timely economic analysis contributes to state and local economic development planning and strategic initiatives for private corporations, state and local agencies, nonprofits, communities, and regional planning agencies. We leverage our expertise in economic data and industry studies with staff expertise in strategic planning to complete economic competitiveness assessments, contribute to economic development plans, conduct market analysis for specific development projects, and help regions understand opportunities for growth.

UMDI supported the Massachusetts statewide economic development plan called *Choosing to Compete* in the early 1990s and has subsequently supported various state-level plan updates and economic assessments for the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development. Recent economic development projects include a growth business study for planning and development organizations in the Pioneer Valley, and a redevelopment market assessment of a vacant site on an active railroad in downtown Brockton.

► GIS Services and Data Visualization



A Geographic Information System (GIS) combines hardware, software and information to collect, analyze and display spatial

data. GIS is in increasing demand across many projects and EPPR offers specialized GIS services that include: data mining, management and analysis, thematic mapping and data visualization, database design, geocoding, geostatistical analysis and technical support. These specialized services offer unique analyses and visuals for topics such as: planning and economic development, housing, business and industry patterns and demographics.

EPPR's extensive data expertise also provides high-quality data visualization and reporting formats for customized graphs, easy-to-update data linkages, and online data visualization platforms. Proper data visualization techniques quickly communicate information clearly and effectively, allowing the client to spend more time developing their policies or solutions and not sifting through large amounts of data.

► MassBenchmarks



MassBenchmarks is the journal of the Massachusetts economy published by the University of Massachusetts Donahue

Institute in cooperation with the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston and managed by the EPPR group. In addition to published journals with relevant economic assessments of Massachusetts, we also release current and leading indices of the Massachusetts economy, briefings on the Massachusetts economic outlook from the Editorial Board, and other timely updates and interpretations of trends in the economy.

MassBenchmarks often includes periodic economic analyses of major geographic regions within the Commonwealth, key industries that make up the economic base of the state, and balanced economic perspectives on key policy and investment issues facing Massachusetts. Current and past MassBenchmarks journals, data releases, EPPR studies, etc. can be found at: <http://www.massbenchmarks.org/>

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