



Massachusetts Employment Report

Joint Economic Committee

Senator Mike Lee, Chairman

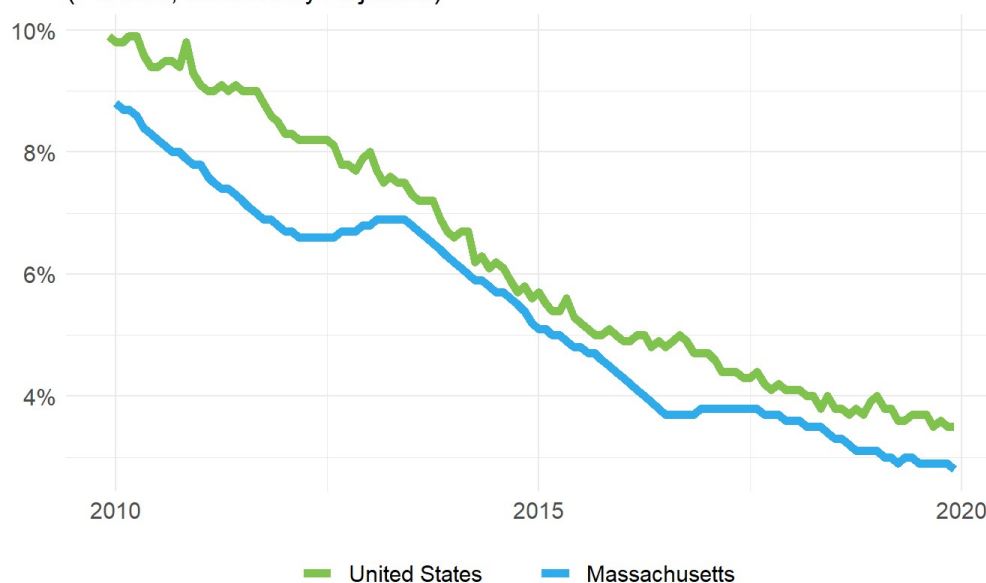
January 24, 2020

Summary

- **Massachusetts lost 5,000 net payroll jobs and the unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage point to 2.8 percent in December**, according to Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data released at 10:00am on January 24, 2020.
- **Over the past twelve months, Massachusetts added 44,800 payroll jobs** and the unemployment rate fell by 0.3 percentage point from 3.1 percent.
- **In December, Massachusetts's private sector lost 4,500 net private payroll jobs** and over the past twelve months it added 43,300 private payroll jobs in the establishment survey.
- In the household survey, the number of **unemployed fell by 1,026 on net in December**, and over the past year employment rose by 33,452.
- Massachusetts's **labor force participation rate rose to 67.8 percent** in December from 67.7. Since last year, the labor force participation rate remained unchanged.
- The national unemployment rate **remained unchanged in December**. State employment and unemployment data for January is scheduled for release March 16, 2020. The national employment situation report for January will be released February 07, 2020.

Massachusetts and U.S. Unemployment Rates

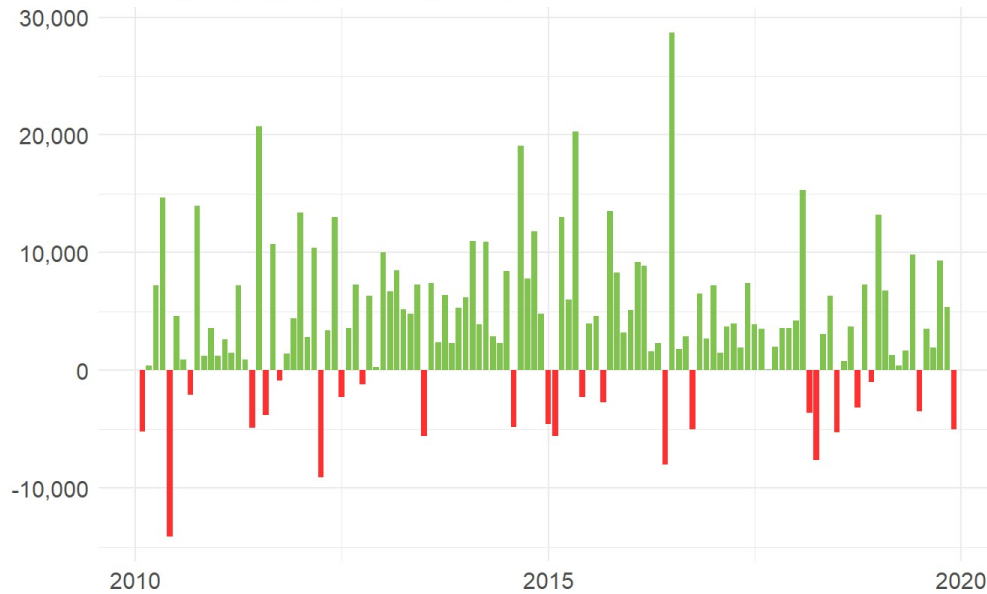
(Percent, Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Massachusetts Payroll Employment

Massachusetts Nonfarm Payroll Jobs Monthly Change (Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

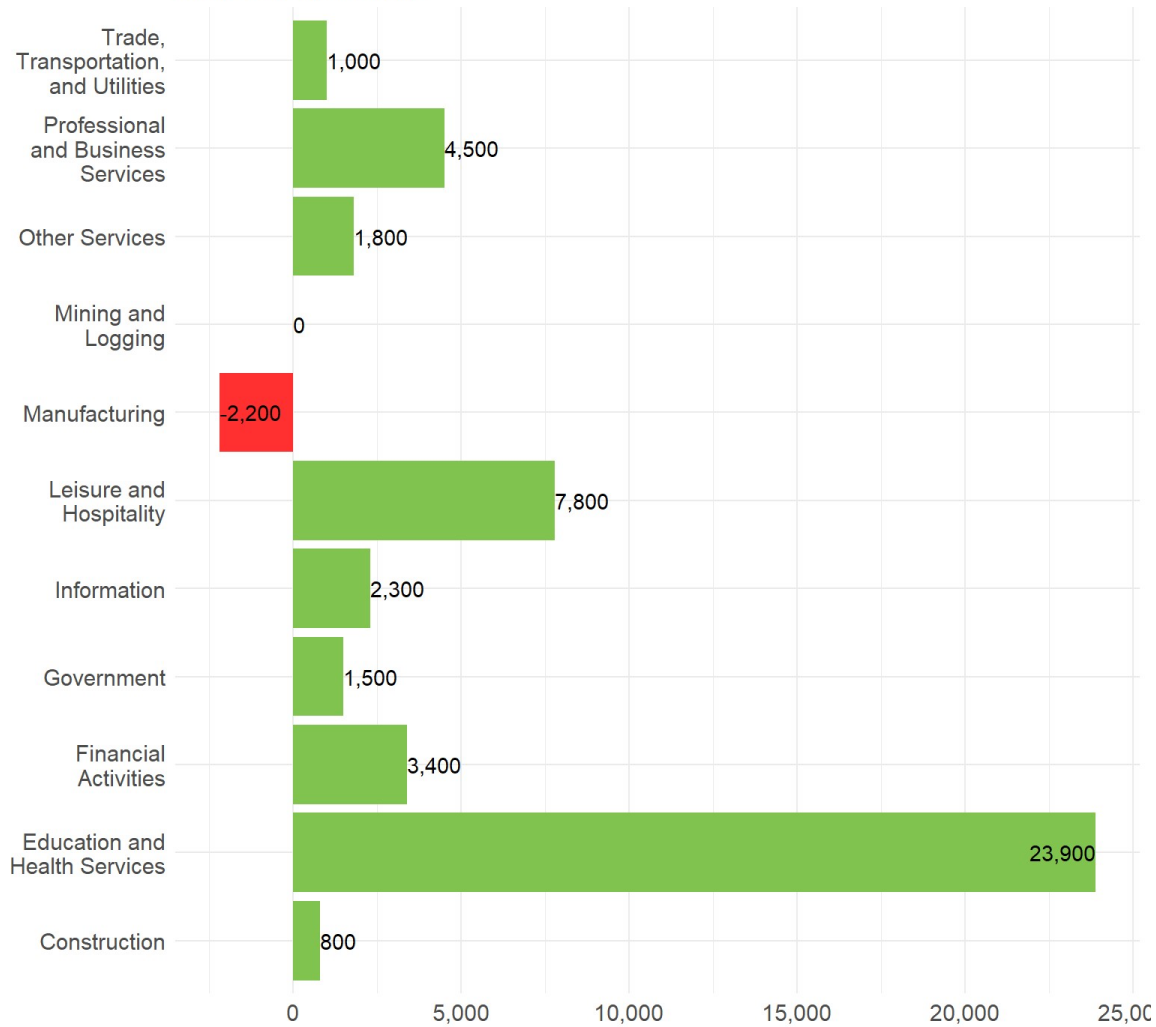
Massachusetts lost 5,000 net payroll jobs, or -0.1 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during December. In the prior month, Massachusetts added 5,400 jobs. Over the past twelve months, Massachusetts added 44,800 payroll jobs, or 1.2 percent. Massachusetts nonfarm payroll employment had increased in 10 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, nonfarm payrolls rose by 145,000 in December, or rose by 0.1 percent. Over the 12-month period ending with December, nonfarm payrolls rose by 2,108,000 jobs, or 1.4 percent. Massachusetts is tied for 23rd among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During December, Massachusetts's private-sector lost 4,500 jobs, or approximately -0.1 percent. The private-sector in Massachusetts added 5,200 jobs in the prior month. Over the past twelve months, private-sector payrolls in Massachusetts added 43,300, or 1.4 percent. Massachusetts private-sector payroll employment has increased in 10 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private-sector payroll jobs rose by 139,000 jobs in December, or 0.1 percent. Over the past 12 months, the national payroll rose by 1,947,000 jobs in the private sector, or rose by 1.5 percent. Massachusetts is tied for 21st among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for a percentage gain in private-sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

Change in Massachusetts Payroll Employment by Sector over Past 12 Months



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, seasonally adjusted

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during December were Leisure and Hospitality (1,000) and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (800). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Manufacturing (-1,800) and Professional and Business Services (-2,900).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Education and Health Services (23,900) and Leisure and Hospitality (7,800). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve months were Mining and Logging (0) and Manufacturing (-2,200).

Massachusetts Labor Force Statistics

Labor Force Participation

The labor force participation rate in Massachusetts rose to 67.8 percent in December from 67.7 percent in the prior month. At a labor force participation rate of 67.8 percent, Massachusetts ranks 11th in the nation. The labor force participation rate in Massachusetts remained unchanged from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in Massachusetts was 68 percent in February 2019. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Massachusetts occurred in December 1989 when the labor force participation rate hit 69.1 percent. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 64.8 percent, last occurring in January 2014. The series low for the labor force participation rate in Massachusetts last occurred in January 1977 when the labor force participation rate hit 64.6 percent.

The national labor force participation rate remained steady at 63.2 percent in December. That rate rose by 0.2 percentage point from a year earlier. The all-time high for the national labor force participation rate was 67.3 percent in April 2000. The 10-year

high for the national labor force participation rate was 65.2 percent in April 2010. The recent 10-year low occurred in September 2015 at a level of 62.4 percent. The series low for the national labor force participation rate was 58.1 percent in December 1954.

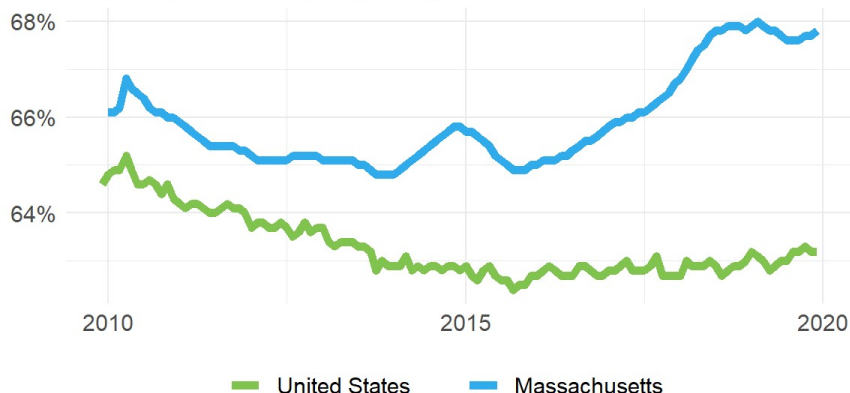
Employment-to-Population Ratio

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Massachusetts civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, in December rose to 65.9 from 65.8 percent in the prior month. At 65.9 percent, Massachusetts ranks 11th among state employment-to-population ratios in the nation. The employment-to-population ratio in Massachusetts rose by 0.2 percentage point from a year earlier.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Massachusetts was 65.9 percent last occurring in December 2019. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Massachusetts last occurred in January 1999 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 66.7 percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 60.2 percent in December 2009. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio in Massachusetts last occurred in March 1976 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 58 percent.

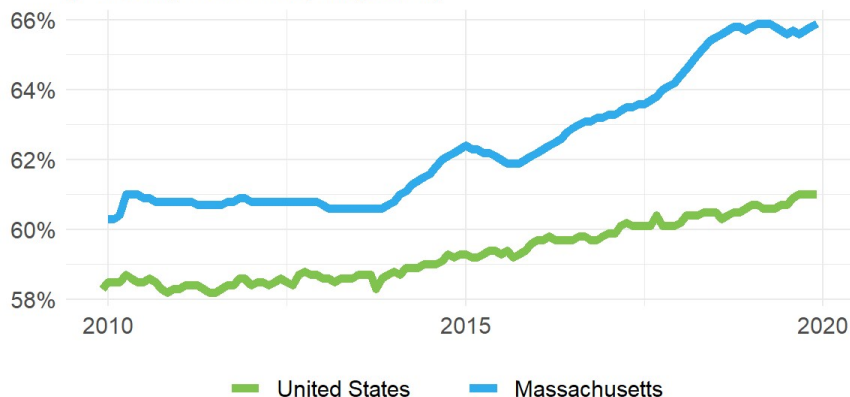
The national employment-to-population ratio remained steady at 61 percent in December. That rate rose by 0.4 percentage point from a year earlier. The all-time high for the national employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 percent in April 2000. The 10-year high for the national employment-to-population ratio was 61 percent in December 2019. The recent 10-year low occurred in July 2011 at a level of 58.2 percent. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio was 54.9 percent in October 1949.

Massachusetts and U.S. Labor Force Participation Rates (Percent, Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Massachusetts and U.S. Employment-to-Population Ratios (Percent, Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics