About Us

Economic & Public Policy Research is a leading provider of applied social science research. Focused on the intersection of jobs and opportunity, we help our clients make informed decisions for strategic policymaking and planning. We produce in-depth economic, demographic, and labor market studies that help clients build credibility, gain visibility, educate constituents, understand markets, and prioritize initiatives and investments. Our work advances economic development and highlights important issues in opportunity and social mobility for various segments of the population.

As the official State Data Center for the U.S. Census Bureau, we have unparalleled economic and demographic data experience and expertise. We also lead MassBenchmarks, a journal that provides timely information about the Massachusetts economy, including key industries that make up the economic base of the state.

The UMass Donahue Institute

Established in 1971, the UMass Donahue Institute is a public service, research, and economic development arm of the University of Massachusetts. Our mission is to advance equity and social justice, foster healthy communities, and support inclusive economies that alleviate poverty and promote opportunity. In collaboration with partner organizations and clients, we carry out our mission through research, education and training, capacity building, and direct services to strengthen our collective impact. For more information: www.donahue.umass.edu.

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Economic & Public Policy Research

Providing unbiased analyses on economic policy issues in Massachusetts, New England, and beyond.
Our Services

Economic Impact Analysis
We conduct rigorous analyses that trace the direct and indirect effects of industries, policies, investments, and business ventures on local, regional, and state economies. Our analyses assess changes in employment, income, business revenues, gross product, and related spin-off effects in the larger economy such as on the labor force and interregional trade. We also estimate the resulting impacts on state and local tax revenues.

Industry Research
We provide thorough examinations of industry clusters, supply chains, labor force issues, opportunities for growth, and challenges, placed within the context of larger macroeconomic trends. We develop detailed profiles, competitiveness assessments, workforce analyses, and market research findings across virtually all industries, including tech, housing, defense, marine science and technology, advanced manufacturing, and the life sciences.

Public Policy Analysis
We deliver high-quality, original research supporting important public initiatives, explore critical policy issues, and highlight the nexus between economic opportunity and social mobility in Massachusetts, New England, and beyond. Our research helps clients with public advocacy and making informed decisions. Our wide breadth of policy expertise includes affordable housing and real estate markets, state economic development policies, municipal planning, labor market issues, workforce development, socioeconomic trends, transportation, and smart growth and sustainability initiatives.

Economic & Demographic Data
Our Population Estimates Program (PEP) partners with the Secretary of the Commonwealth and the U.S. Census Bureau to ensure accurate population counts for Massachusetts municipalities and produces custom population estimates and projections for policy purposes.

The Massachusetts State Data Center (SDC) is a cooperative program between the state and the U.S. Census Bureau to make data available to local affiliates and the public. Working directly with the public and through affiliates, the SDC helps people access Census data. Together, PEP and SDC provide in-depth expertise on secondary data to measure demographic, socioeconomic, and employment trends in Massachusetts and beyond.

Economic Development Analysis
We are a leading provider of local, regional, and state economic analysis for decision makers, the media, and the general public throughout Massachusetts, New England, and beyond. Our economic development analyses combine examinations of high-growth industries, emerging industrial sectors, areas of innovation, and inclusive economic development. Our work is used by state and local economic development planning and strategic initiatives, nonprofit organizations, regional planning agencies, and private industry.

Data Visualization and Infographics
In addition to traditional research reports, our team has extensive expertise in innovative data visualization, including interactive online dashboards, infographics, and geospatial analysis.

MassBenchmarks
MassBenchmarks is the journal of the Massachusetts economy published in cooperation with the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston and managed by our group. As part of this work, we regularly release current and leading indices of the Massachusetts economy, briefings on the Massachusetts economic outlook from our board of experts, and other timely analyses and perspectives covering the state economy. Visit www.massbenchmarks.org.

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