

News from the Institute

A message from Executive Director Johan E. Uvin

As we welcome a new season, we're reminded that change is a constant, especially in these times. Each day brings fresh headlines about potential shifts in federal policy and uncertainty around future funding. Like many organizations, the UMass Donahue Institute is not immune to these possible changes, and the full impact remains to be seen.



However, what remains certain is our steadfast commitment to our public service mission. We continue to lead with integrity, providing objective, independent, and nonpartisan work that serves the people of the Commonwealth and beyond. We've upheld this mission across many political landscapes and will continue to be the trusted resource for addressing complex policy challenges and delivering innovative solutions in program evaluation, workforce development, early learning, and nonprofit capacity building.

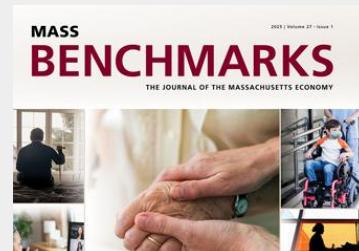
This issue of our newsletter highlights a few ways we're staying at the forefront of this important work. Thank you for your partnership, dedication, resilience, and passion for creating opportunities for all.



Institute's Open House is an inside look

Our second "Open House" brought the UMass Amherst campus to us (actually, at the Old Chapel)! We showed our breadth of services and expertise through presentations and a poster session showcasing all of our [business groups](#). Executive Director Johan Uvin led the event with key contributions by Senior Research Managers Christina Citino ([Applied Research & Program Evaluation](#)) and Kerry Spitzer ([Economic & Public Policy Research](#)). Thank you to notable

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Institute in the News

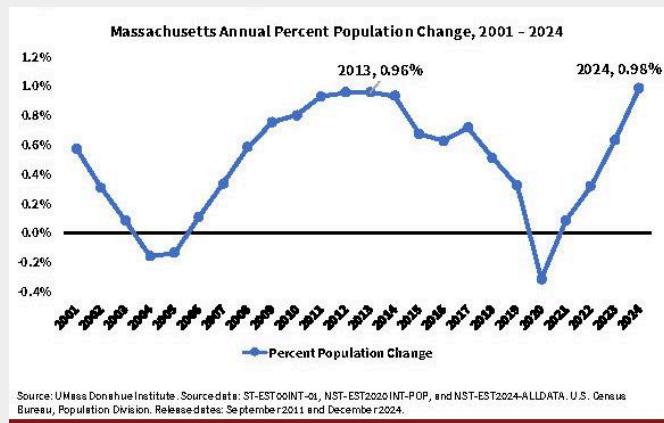
[WWLP: Massachusetts sees largest population increase in 60 years](#)

[Startup Boston: Making sense of economic crosswinds faced by entrepreneurs](#)

[GBH: Massachusetts has diversified its state workforce, but some agencies lag behind](#)

guests Chancellor Javier Reyes and Provost Fouad Abd-El-Khalick for their remarks and support of [our mission](#) to foster healthy communities and support economies that alleviate poverty and promote opportunity.

Massachusetts has the biggest population increase in a generation



The Massachusetts population grew significantly between 2023 and 2024, experiencing its largest annual percentage increase in 20 years! Concurrently, it was its largest numerical increase since 1964, at 69,603! The Census Bureau's adjustment to immigration in this year's series was a big factor in the estimated growth. [Read more](#).

Massasoit job fair connects employers to the workforce

The MassHire Greater Brockton co-sponsored an April 9th job fair with 75 companies and 538 job seekers in attendance. 78 companies pre-registered, 14 were no shows and 11 came that didn't pre-register.

It was a steady flow of job seekers for the entire time and companies were pleased with turnout. The first 1/2 hour was for veteran preference.

Massasoit provided LinkedIn headshots for participants as well. [More on the college's Facebook account](#).



Quaboag Connector Shuttle Service Drives Nearly \$45 million in Benefits and Fills Transportation Gaps

Released this month by Economic & Public Policy Research group, an economic impact analysis funded by The [Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts](#) reveals that the [Quaboag Connector](#) regional transportation service has resulted in nearly \$45 million in total economic benefits since its launch in 2017 – underscoring

[MassLive: Massachusetts economy 'shifts to low gear' in 4th quarter](#)

[GBH: Governor Healey seeks controls as home care costs soar for personal care assistants](#)

[Dr. Mark Melnik appointed by Gov. Healey to Cultural Policy Development Advisory Council](#)

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the crucial role of rural microtransit in supporting jobs, health care access and economic development. [Read more](#).

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