

## News from the Institute



### Massachusetts Farmland Action Plan becomes reality

In Massachusetts, more than 7,000 farms steward nearly 500,000 acres of farmland (about 10% of the state's land) and generate \$10 billion in annual economic activity.

Our new [Organizational and Community Solutions](#) group led the process of creating a collaborative action plan for Massachusetts farmland to cover the next 25+ years.

The plan addresses farmland conservation and production, farmland access, food security, climate resiliency, environmental justice, and preserving and expanding the economic and environmental viability of farms across all regions of Massachusetts.

[Read more.](#)



### Housing Bill's Potential Impact

The Affordable Homes Act is the largest housing bond bill in Massachusetts' history, with wide-ranging impacts on housing affordability, climate readiness, equity, and economic growth.

Connected Beginnings supports the social and emotional health for young children (click logo below for video)



### Institute In The News

[WWLP: MassBenchmarks notes "broad-based" weakness in Mass. economy](#)

[Boston Globe: We don't have a lot of babies in Mass. Here's how that will impact the economy](#)

[Boston Globe: The population of Mass. grew last year for the first time since 2020](#)

[Lowell Sun \(editorial\): Graying labor pool threatens state's economic outlook](#)

[MassLive \(commentary\): Housing is the crisis of our time](#)

[African Heritage Reparation Assembly of Amherst releases final report](#)

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities commissioned the institute to assess the bill's potential economic outcomes. UMDI's team of economists and researchers used an industry-standard economic modeling tool to estimate the direct, indirect, and induced economic activity associated with the act's spending and policy proposals.

[Read more.](#)



## Encore Boston Harbor's Impact Tops \$1.3B

In the first 3 1/2 years of operation, the Encore Boston Harbor Hotel & Casino generated over \$1.3 billion in direct and indirect economic impact while supporting more than 9,900 jobs, according to research released today by the [Economic & Public Policy Research](#) group.

The report's findings are part of the ongoing work of the [Social and Economic Impacts of Gambling in Massachusetts project](#). The UMass Amherst School of Public Health & Health Sciences has been engaged by the MA Gaming Commission since 2013 to carry out a comprehensive, multiyear research project on the social and economic impacts of introducing casino gambling in Massachusetts.

[Read more.](#)

MA Education Secretary Patrick Tutwiler visits with the institute

MassLive (editorial): Why an investment in housing pays dividends for Massachusetts

Multiple outlets: Springfield Thunderbirds hockey 'affordable family fun' brought \$126M in economic impact

## Our Services

**Applied Research & Program Evaluation**

**Civic Initiative**

**Connected Beginnings**

**Economic & Public Policy Research**

**Head Start National Center on Program Management and Fiscal Operations**

**Head Start Real Property Facilities Initiative**

**MassHire Greater Brockton Career Center**

**New England Head Start Training & Technical Assistance**

**Organizational & Community Solutions**



## Most-read Institute News Items for 2023

We looked at stats from 2023 and thought we'd share the most-read institute news articles. Enjoy!

1. The Civic Initiative Wraps Up A Busy Summer of International Exchange
2. Dr. Mark Melnik Talks Economy in Statewide Listening Sessions Convened by Gov. Healey
3. Economy Starts Strong in 2023 But Concerns Loom
4. As State Population Shrinks, Cape Cod Has Its Own Crisis
5. Head Start Equity Academy Launches

[Read the latest institute news.](#)

## Featured Publications

**Affordable Homes Act Economic Impact:** The Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC) commissioned the institute to estimate the economic impacts of the proposed Affordable Homes Act (AHA). Together, EOHLC and the institute developed assumptions about the amount of new spending authorized, leveraged, enabled, and unlocked by the AHA. That spending was then run through an economic impact model to estimate the direct, indirect, and induced economic impacts of the AHA and its associated activities and programs.

**UMass Economic Contribution Analysis - FY 22:** The 5-campus University of Massachusetts impact is \$8.3 billion with nearly 40,000 external jobs across Massachusetts.

**Construction-Related Trades and Union Occupations in the Greater Brockton Region:** The MassHire Greater Brockton Workforce Board hired the institute to provide a high-level landscape assessment of the 'trades' sector including the demographic makeup of the workforce, employment trends, the role of unions in construction and related trades, and current barriers to individuals seeking work in union and trades occupations.

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