

Research Note

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MA Employment Situation: 3.9 Percent 3,900 jobs added in March

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OVERVIEW

- In its preliminary estimates, the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) suggests that Massachusetts added 3,900 jobs in April. The job gains over the previous month (March 2017) occurred in Professional, Scientific, and Business Services; Education and Health Services; Trade, Transportation, and Utilities; Other Services; Information; and Manufacturing.
- The state's labor force participation rate increased to 66.5 percent from 65.9 percent with an increase of 33,000 entrants into the job market.
- Government lost 1,000 jobs in April but since last year the sector has added 7,700 jobs or 1.7 percent.

ANALYSIS

More workers are coming off the sidelines to enter the job market. The state's unemployment rate for April 2017 increased only because the labor force saw an increase of 33,000 workers or 1.5 percent since last year. This represents a healthier view of full employment. The unemployment rate of 3.9 percent is still lower than the national rate of 4.4 percent. Since April 2016, the Administrative & Support, Waste Management and Remediation sector added 7,000 jobs, the percentage leader at 3.9 percent. The Health Care and Social Assistance subsector continues to grow adding 18,300 jobs — at a 3.0 percent clip. Education Services has remained flat adding zero jobs while the Arts, Entertainment and Recreation subsector lost 1,300 jobs. Local government remains a strong jobs generator with 5,800 jobs. Despite well-known struggles the Retail sector added 4,100 since last April.

Super Sector	SubSector	Apr-17	Apr-16	Net change year ago	% Net change year ago
PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC & BUSINESS SERVICES	Admin & Support, Waste Man & Remediation	186,200	179,200	7,000	3.9
PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC & BUSINESS SERVICES	Professional, Scientific, Technical Services	313,300	301,800	11,500	3.8
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	46,500	45,100	1,400	3.1
EDUCATION AND HEALTH SERVICES	Health Care and Social Assistance	631,600	613,300	18,300	3
MINING, LOGGING AND CONSTRUCTION	Construction	149,300	145,500	3,800	2.6
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	Finance and Insurance	182,100	178,200	3,900	2.2
GOVERNMENT	Federal Government	46,000	45,000	1,000	2.2
GOVERNMENT	Local Government	281,400	275,600	5,800	2.1
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, AND UTILITIES	Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	95,300	94,100	1,200	1.3
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, AND UTILITIES	Retail Trade	359,400	355,300	4,100	1.2
MANUFACTURING	Nondurable Goods	87,900	87,200	700	0.8
GOVERNMENT	State Government	131,300	130,400	900	0.7
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	Accommodation and Food Services	302,900	301,100	1,800	0.6
EDUCATION AND HEALTH SERVICES	Educational Services	165,800	165,800	0	0
PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC & BUSINESS SERVICES	Management of Companies and Enterprises	64,600	65,000	-400	-0.6
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, AND UTILITIES	Wholesale Trade	123,400	124,500	-1,100	-0.9
MANUFACTURING	Durable Goods	156,000	158,700	-2,700	-1.7
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	57,500	58,800	-1,300	-2.2