

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

2009 Economic Indicators for the 495/MetroWest Corridor©

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Unemployment:

- Since 1992 the 495/MW Corridor has experienced a lower annual unemployment rate than Massachusetts and the United States.
- After declining since 2003 the 495/MW unemployment rate climbed to reach 6.3% in January 2009, the highest rate since 1993.
- The gap between the number of people in the 495/MW labor force and the number of jobs located with the 495/MW Corridor, which had widened in the 2001-03 recession, narrowed as the number of jobs grew faster than the labor force between 2003 and 2007.

Employment:

- In 2007 the 495/MW Corridor recorded a new historical high of 289,200 jobs, a record payroll of \$17.7 billion, and a record average annual wage of \$61,300. In 2007 the 495/MW Corridor generated one out of every 11 jobs, one out of every 10 payroll dollars and one out of every 12 establishments in Massachusetts.
- The 495/MW average annual wage of \$61,300 in 2007 exceeded the state's average wage by 13.3% and the U.S. average wage by 42.2%.
- Three supersectors, Trade, Transportation & Utilities (TTU), Professional & Business Services (PBS), Manufacturing, produced over half of regional employment.
- Two supersectors, PBS with \$4.6 billion in payroll, and Manufacturing with \$4.3 billion in payroll, together produced half of the 495/MW Corridor's total payroll in 2007.
- Manufacturing led all supersectors in 2007 with an average wage of \$97,000, followed by Information (\$95,900) and PBS (\$84,000).
- Three high wage supersectors, Manufacturing, Information, and PBS, with 37% to 43% higher concentrations of employment than existed nationally, fueled the region's economic power.
- In comparing the eight component sectors of the region's three largest supersectors plus the Health Care and Social Assistance sector, Manufacturing (44,600 jobs), Retail Trade (36,400), Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (26,800), and Health Services & Social Assistance (25,800) provided the largest number of jobs.
- The Management of Companies and Professional, Scientific and Technical sectors offered the highest average annual wages, \$112,400 and \$100,700, respectively.

Job Creation and Destruction:

- From 2004 to 2007 the 495/MW Corridor added 12,500 jobs or an increase of 4.5%. Over this period the region averaged an annual net gain of 1.5% in employment.
- Over the three years, nearly 40,000 jobs were newly created with the annual rate of job creation averaging 4.7% annually.
- Over the same three years, nearly 27,000 jobs were destroyed with the annual rate of job destruction averaging -3.2% annually.
- Job churning is the sum of job creation and job destruction. Between 2004 and 2007, the rate of job churning in the 495/MW Corridor averaged 7.9% annually with at least one out of every 12 jobs being created or lost each year.
- Between 2004 and 2007 the greatest amount of job creation and destruction occurred in the region's three largest supersectors: PBS, TTU and Manufacturing.
- The largest net change in employment among the region's supersectors occurred in PBS. While over 11,000 new jobs were created, 6,400 jobs were lost resulting in a net increase of more than 4,800 jobs.

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