



Workforce Issuance

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☐ Policy ☒ Information

To: MassHire Workforce Board Chairs
MassHire Workforce Board Directors
MassHire Career Center Directors
MassHire Fiscal Officers
MassHire DCS Operations Managers

cc: WIOA State Partners

From: Beth Goguen, Director
MassHire Department of Career Services

Date: September 23, 2025

Subject: **Upcoming Geography Changes for Labor Market Information from
Department of Economic Research**

Purpose: To notify MassHire Workforce Boards, MassHire Career Center Operators and other local workforce partners of changes to available geographies for Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS), Staffing Patterns, and Employment projections data published by the MA Department of Economic Research (DER) in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and Employment and Training Administration (ETA).

Background: Due to changes that went into effect in 2024, federal statistical agencies no longer support the production of data for New England City and Town Areas (NECTAs). More information on the discontinuation of New England City and Town Area (NECTA) estimates can be found [here](#). Since the production of occupational wage data by Workforce Development Areas (WDA) relies on NECTA estimates, DER will no longer be able to publish occupational wage

statistics data by WDA on its website. Affected data sets, and the changes in geographies for available data, are listed below.

Data Set	Discontinued Geographies	Added Geographies	Implemented on DER Website (estimated)
<u>Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS)</u>	Workforce Development Areas (WDA)	Counties, Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) and Micropolitan Statistical Areas	End September 2025
<u>Staffing Pattern Data</u>	Workforce Development Areas (WDA)	Counties	November 2025
<u>Employment Projections Data</u>	Workforce Development Areas (WDA)	Counties	March 2026

Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) estimates of unemployment, employment, and labor force participation and Quarterly Census of Employment and Wage (QCEW) estimates of industry employment and wages are not impacted by this change and will still be available for cities/towns and WDAs on DER's website.

For more information, see LMI 101.

Schedule of changes include –

- Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) Data on DER's website will be updated to reflect the new geographies at the end of September 2025.
- Staffing Pattern data on DER's website will be updated to reflect the new geographies in November 2025.
- Employment Projections data on DER's website will be updated to reflect the new geographies in March of 2026

Action

Required: Please ensure that appropriate staff and partners are aware of changes in geographies for available data as described in this issuance.

MassHire Workforce Boards that have concerns about anticipated impacts on local and regional planning should notify MDCS of those impacts via the PolicyQA@mass.gov and reference this issuance title.

Effective: Immediately.

Inquires: Please contact the Department of Economic Research at economicresearch@mass.gov for assistance with the changes in geographies for available data sets.