



# **Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development**

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**Workforce Development Update**

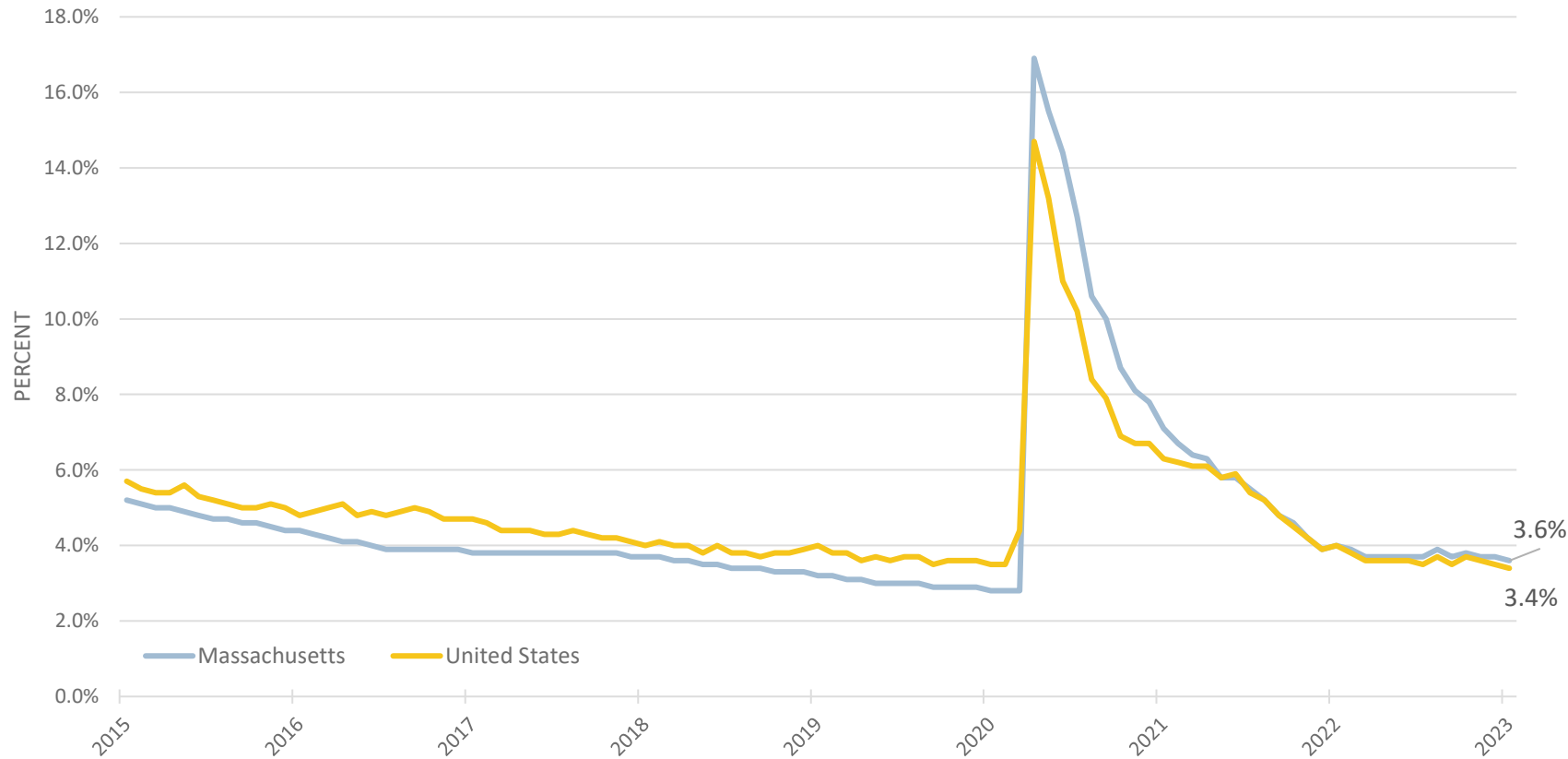
**Secretary Lauren Jones**

MassHire State Workforce Board Meeting

*March 16, 2023*

# MASSACHUSETTS UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Unemployment Rate: 01/2015 - 01/2023

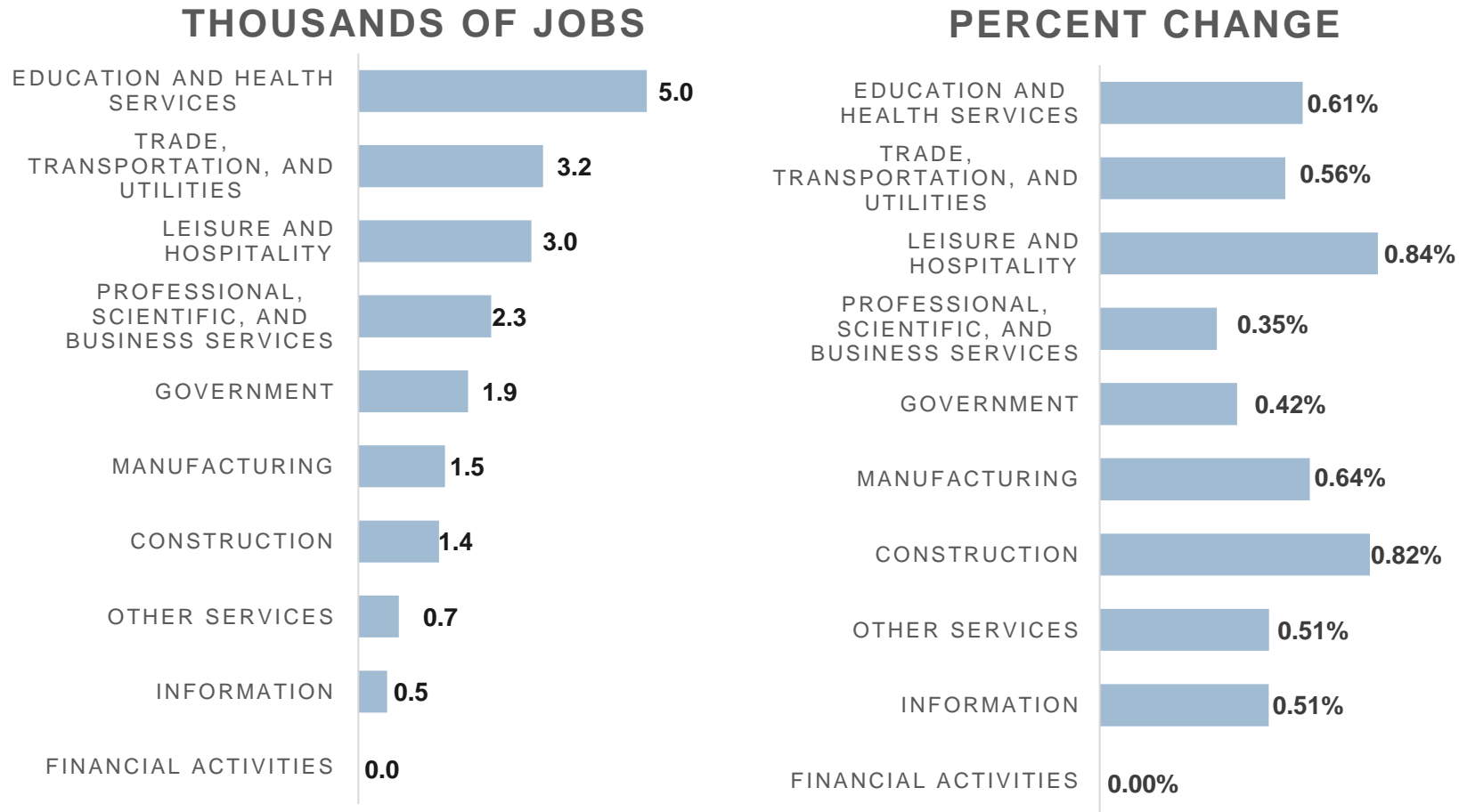


**132,600**  
**Unemployed**

- 4,200 fewer residents were unemployed over the month.
- **Massachusetts's unemployment rate of 3.6% dropped 0.1 percentage point over-the-month and was above the national rate of 3.4% following annual revisions.**
- 26,000 more unemployed compared to Feb 2020

# JOB GROWTH IN MASSACHUSETTS BY INDUSTRY SECTORS

Over-The-Month Change  
(Dec 22 to Jan 23)



Source: CES Seasonally Adjusted Estimates

**Private sector gains continue to increase.**

- All Super sectors except for Financial Activities gained jobs over the month of January. The largest gains were seen in Education and Health Services, Trade, Transportation, and Utilities, and Leisure and Hospitality.
- Within Private Education and Health Services, Educational Services added 3,200 jobs.



# Workforce Skills Cabinet

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**EOLWD along with Secretary Hao of Housing and Economic Development (HED) and Secretary Tutwiler of Education (EOE) have convened the Workforce Skills Cabinet under the new Healey-Driscoll Administration.**

- WSC is continuing a collaborative workforce development strategy and leveraging this partnership across these cabinets and more to support workforce needs.
- We are actively identifying shared priorities and will want to engage you and your regions as we build on the Regional Planning Teams and strategy.
- Stay tuned for more details to come on this valuable and collaborative work.



# FY24 H.1 Budget Highlights

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**Healey-Driscoll FY24 H.1 budget proposal focuses on *affordability, equity, and competitiveness*.**

**The \$112 million for the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development includes:**

- **\$5 million for Registered Apprenticeship Program -- a \$4 million increase from FY23** to grow placements for registered apprentices in fiscal year 2024.
  - This \$5 million will fund 684 apprenticeships in FY24.
  - An additional 319 apprenticeships will be supported by federal funding, for a total of 1,003 apprentices for FY24.
- **\$6 million for MassHire Career Centers**, which are primarily federally funded, but also receive state funding to supplement employment and job training services to jobseekers



## FY24 H.1 Budget Highlights, cont.

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- **\$10 million for the Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund** to provide grant funding to pay for recruitment, education, training, and wraparound supports to build an occupational pipeline for participating employers
- **\$17.9 million from EOLWD and DESE into the Career Technical Initiative** to help close the skills training gaps that exist by expanding access to vocational technical education
- **\$16.2 million for Youthworks**, to subsidize wages for summer jobs for at-risk youth and facilitate career development for 14- to 25-year-olds to reduce juvenile delinquency and young adult homelessness.
  - Youthworks anticipates connecting approx. 3,600 youth with employment during the summer and school year.



# Employment Modernization & Transformation (EMT) Update

## Phase 1 – Employer Registrations and Tax Revenue Management

- Scheduled for deployment June 2023 and progressing to plan
- Functional and technical configuration definitions are complete
- Initial configuration is complete; going through usability and plain language validation prior to formal testing
- Development of test scenarios to support formal testing phases started in January and is nearing completion

## Usability, Accessibility and Plain Language

- All Phase 1 communications (letters) have gone through internal and third-party plain language review. All letters are complete and are in system development.
  - A selection were reviewed by the Advisory Council, and feedback was incorporated into the letters.
- A third-party usability review of the new system was completed and recommendations have been adopted.
- Usability studies and interviews with a select group of employers were used as part of the third-party review
  - 3rd party accessibility testing is scheduled to be completed in April
  - Advisory Council members have been invited to test beginning in late April

## Communications and Change Management

- Initial meetings with key third party administrators (TPAs) started in January and monthly check-ins are ongoing
- Public name of the new system still under review

