

Research Note

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MA Employment Situation: 3.6 Percent 200 jobs added in March

[Frank Conte, Editor](#)

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OVERVIEW

- The state's unemployment rate increased to 3.6 percent [according to the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development](#). In March the state added 200 jobs. Since March 2016, the state has added 49,000 jobs.
- The state's labor force participation rate increased to 65.9 percent with an increase of 34,500 entrants into the job market.
- Government added 900 jobs over the month. Over the year the sector gained 3,000 jobs.
- Professional, Scientific and Business Services added 11,700 jobs over the year, comprising 23 percent of the total new jobs, year over year.
- Manufacturing lost 900 jobs for the month and lost 3,100 jobs for the year.

ANALYSIS

The major gains in the March 2017 report were Financial Activities, Professional Scientific and Business Services as well as Other Services, Construction and Information. The LFP rate is moving in the right direction, increasing 0.9 percent over the year. While the Education and Health sector has gained 19,700 jobs over the last year, it lost 1,800 jobs over the month. The Trade, Transportation and Utilities in March lost 2,300 jobs nearly as much as what it gained (2,400) year over year. In percentage terms by subsector, (see table), Real Estate, Rental and Leasing grew by 4.4 percent followed by Professional Services 3.5 percent and Health Care and Social Assistance at 3.2 percent. The Arts, Entertainment and Recreation sector was down 5.5 percent over the last year. The Bay State's rate at 3.5 percent remains lower than the national rate of 4.5 percent.

INDUSTRY SUBSECTOR (MA LWD)	Mar-17	Feb-17	Mar-16	Net Change Prior Month	Net Change Year Ago	% Change Prior Month	% Change Year Ago
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	47,000	46,300	45,000	700	2,000	1.5	4.4
Professional, Scientific, Technical Serv	311,600	309,600	301,200	2,000	10,400	0.6	3.5
Health Care and Social Assistance	631,100	631,900	611,700	-800	19,400	-0.1	3.2
Construction	150,300	149,900	146,200	400	4,100	0.3	2.8
Finance and Insurance	182,500	180,700	178,100	1,800	4,400	1	2.5
Accommodation and Food Services	306,500	305,500	300,900	1,000	5,600	0.3	1.9
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	95,600	95,700	93,900	-100	1,700	-0.1	1.8
Federal Government	46,100	46,100	45,600	0	500	0	1.1
Local Government	282,300	280,600	280,400	1,700	1,900	0.6	0.7
Admin & Support, Waste & Remediation	180,600	181,700	179,600	-1,100	1,000	-0.6	0.6
Nondurable Goods	87,700	87,300	87,300	400	400	0.5	0.5
Management of Companies & Enterprises	65,200	65,300	64,900	-100	300	-0.2	0.5
State Government	131,300	132,100	130,700	-800	600	-0.6	0.5
Retail Trade	357,000	358,700	356,300	-1,700	700	-0.5	0.2
Educational Services	165,900	166,900	165,600	-1,000	300	-0.6	0.2
Natural Resources & Mining	1,100	1,100	1,100	0	0	0	0
Wholesale Trade	124,500	125,000	124,500	-500	0	-0.4	0
Durable Goods	155,900	157,200	159,400	-1,300	-3,500	-0.8	-2.2
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	55,200	56,600	58,400	-1,400	-3,200	-2.5	-5.5