

Research Note

V4 N2

East Boston Economics

September 23, 2018

MA Employment Situation August 2018

U-Rate: 3.6%; Jobs: +6,100 jobs; +68,100 YoY

OVERVIEW

- The state's unemployment rate remained at 3.6 percent in August [according to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics](#).
- Over the last 12 months, Massachusetts added 68,100 jobs.
- The **Labor Force Participation** rate increased three-tenths of a percentage point to 67.6 percent. The state's labor force population stands at 3.806 million. Since August 2017, the LFP rate is up 2.1 percentage points.
- The largest private sector job gains took place in the **Education and Health Services** (+2,500) the **Leisure and Hospitality** (+1,700), **Professional, Scientific and Business Services** (+1,500), **Information** (+900) and **Construction** (+500).
- **Manufacturing and Trade, Transportation and Utilities** each lost 600 jobs. **Other Services** lost 100 while **Government** added 100 jobs; over the past year this sector lost 500 jobs.

ANALYSIS

The August unemployment rate in Massachusetts again was three-tenths of a percentage point lower than the national rate of 3.9 percent. "The August estimates indicate the Commonwealth's labor force and employment are at their highest levels while our unemployment rate remains consistently low - all indicators of the continuing positive economic outlook for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts." [Labor and Workforce Development Secretary Rosalin Acosta said last Friday](#). Massachusetts is the locomotive pulling New England states. New Hampshire was the only other New England with a statistically significant change from last August. Maine, along with New Hampshire and Vermont were the NE states with unemployment rates significantly different than the U.S. rate. Only one state, Connecticut saw a downturn in its LFP rate from 66.2 to 65.6 percent. Year to date, all NE states are near the [November 2017 estimates for 2018 by the New England Economic Partnership](#). (MA: 3.7; ME: 3.3; RI: 4.0; VT:3.0; NH 2.5 and CT: 4.8.)

