

MetroWest Regional Profile

Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development

MetroWest Massachusetts, comprised of 35 municipalities west of Boston in the greater Interstate 495 area, has emerged as a dynamic, economic powerhouse of significant importance to the Commonwealth. MetroWest continues to grow and prosper and is the second largest employment base in the state. The region is also a key source of highly educated and skilled workers for the state's high technology and life sciences employers. Many of the largest companies in Massachusetts are headquartered in MetroWest, including: Analog Devices, Bose, Boston Scientific, Cognex, Dunkin' Brands, EMC, MathWorks, One Beacon Insurance, and Staples. MetroWest is also home to thousands of small and mid-sized companies and offers outstanding opportunities for business expansion and investment.

Industry

The majority of jobs in MetroWest are concentrated in three North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) sectors: Trade, Transportation and Utilities; Professional and Business Services; and Manufacturing. All three of these sectors continue to experience consistent growth. Key employment opportunities in MetroWest include information technology and biotechnology manufacturing, retail and wholesale trade, and professional, scientific and technical services. Education and Healthcare are also significant industries in the region.

Workforce, Education and Training

Access to a highly skilled and trained workforce is one of MetroWest's top competitive strengths. A high percentage of the area's residents hold bachelor's, graduate, or professional degrees and contribute to the economic success of both the region and the Commonwealth. According to the 2000 census, the area provides a labor force of almost 300,000 workers and is an exporter of labor to the surrounding communities. Over 60% of the residents of MetroWest area work full time, primarily in the private sector. The majority of households in the region are family households with both the husband and wife employed.

The MetroWest region offers a wide range of opportunities for education and training. For post-secondary work, the area is home to several colleges and universities including: Bridgewater State College, Clark University Graduate Management Center, Dean College, Framingham State College, Stonehill College and Wheaton College. MetroWest also offers community college and technical training programs through Assabet Valley Regional Technical School, Baystate School of Technology, Brockton Hospital School of Nursing, Massasoit Community College, and Massachusetts Bay Community College.

Infrastructure and Permitting

Ease of access to I-90, I-95, I-290, I-495, and Route 9 provides convenient transportation options throughout the MetroWest region. Improvements to I-90 have made commuting in and out of Boston more convenient as well as created a direct connection to Logan International Airport, facilitating national and international business travel. Commuter rail service is available to Boston from stations throughout the region on both the Framingham/Worcester, and Franklin lines. The MetroWest/495 Transportation Management Association sponsors carpooling, vanpooling, biking and guaranteed ride home programs to its members. In addition, the MetroWest Regional Transit Authority was formed in 2006 by the state legislature to serve the public transportation needs in area cities and towns. Several communities in MetroWest offer expedited permitting to promote investment in designated priority development sites.

Expedited permitting communities include:

- [Medway](#)
- [Canton](#)
- [Marlborough](#)
- [Walpole](#)

Quality of Life

According to the 2000 census, the population of the MetroWest area increased at a rate of 12% between 1990 and 2000, more than double that of state's 5.5%. MetroWest offers a broad range of housing options, diverse employment opportunities, and excellent primary and secondary schools. MCAS scores and the percentage of high school graduates pursuing college courses of study are well above national averages. Several prestigious private and non-traditional schools are also located in MetroWest. The region is home to many attractions, from farms and orchards to state parks, museums and cultural centers, MetroWest has something for everyone. Some of the areas cultural resources include: the Danforth Museum of Art, the Framingham Historical Society and Museum, the Franklin Performing Arts Company, the Fuller Museum of Art, the Center for Arts in Natick, the Performing Arts Center of MetroWest, and the Tweeter Center for Performing Arts. Other points of interest include: America's Oldest Library in Franklin, spectacular golf courses (such as the Tournament Players Club in Norton), and Gillette Stadium in Foxborough - home to the New England Revolution and the New England Patriots.

Helpful Links

- [Arc of Innovation](#)
- [Brockton 21st Century Corporation](#)
- [Canton Association of Industries](#)
- [Clark University Small Business Development Center](#)
- [Corridor Nine Area Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Leadership MetroWest](#)
- [Marlborough 2010](#)
- [Marlborough Regional Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Massachusetts Alliance for Economic Development](#)
- [Massachusetts Department of Workforce Development](#)
- [Mass Development](#)
- [MetroSouth Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [MetroWest Chamber Of Commerce](#)
- [MetroWest Growth Management Committee](#)
- [MetroWest Economic Research Center](#)
- [MetroWest Regional Transit Authority](#)
- [MetroWest Transportation Management Association](#)
- [MetroWest Alliance for Workforce Diversity](#)
- [Milford Area Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Neponset Valley Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [North Attleboro and Plainville Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Tri-Town Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [United Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Walpole Chamber of Commerce](#)