

Massachusetts

Staying on top with a continued focus on education

Home to many of the nation's top universities, Massachusetts has no shortage of well-educated residents and earned top marks in our Grants Advanced Degrees and Tech Workforce categories.

More than 18 percent of Bay State residents over the age of 24 have an advanced degree, and nearly a quarter of all jobs in the state involve computer science, a number that is well above the national average.

The state is also adding tech jobs at a high rate. Jobs that require computer science skills are growing 25 percent faster in Massachusetts than they are nationwide.

The consulting firm Accenture recently announced plans to expand its workforce by more than 25 percent, which will add 400 new tech jobs in Boston by the end of 2020.

The MIT-backed Woodrow Wilson Academy of Teaching and Learning helps residents with engineering and physics backgrounds pass those skills on to a new generation of students. The program eschews traditional structures such as term lengths and incorporates virtual reality to simulate classroom situations and better prepare teachers.

The academy is designed to entirely reinvent educational practices in STEM fields and pass on those developments to teachers around the country.

Sources: (Burning Glass) (Recode) (Boston Globe) (Woodrow Academy) (Hechinger Report)

WHAT DID WE DO RIGHT?

Massachusetts boasts more than 380,000 tech jobs.

WHAT CAN WE DO BETTER NEXT YEAR?

The state can pass Right-to-Work legislation and revisit a 2016 executive order that restricts SDV testing.

WHERE HAVE WE MOST IMPROVED?

Massachusetts's top marks in Entrepreneurial Activity made it one of the best states for jobs creation per capita between Q2/2011 and Q4/2016.

Best & Brightest	C
Fast Internet	A+
Grants Advanced Degrees	A+
Tech Workforce	A+
Tax Friendly	B
Attracts Investment	A+
Entrepreneurial Activity	A
Ridesharing	A-
Short-Term Rentals	B
Sustainable Policies	B
Self-Driving Vehicles	C
Drones	A



Tax Friendly

Mostly business-friendly tax policies help offset a relatively high (eight percent) corporate tax rate.



Fast Internet

Outpaces many other states in the percentage of households with internet speeds of at least 10 mbps (83 percent) and boasts a similarly impressive 79 percent of homes with internet speeds of at least 25 mbps.



Short-Term Rentals

Short-term rentals are legal statewide, and the governor and state senate have generally supported a light-handed approach to regulations.



Ridesharing

Ridesharing is legal in Massachusetts.

Boston Lures Big Business and Big Job Growth to the Bay State

MassMutual is moving back home and bulking up its Bay State workforce in the process.

The life insurance company recently announced that it will pull up roots in Connecticut, and in the process, bring thousands of jobs to Massachusetts, where it was founded.

Over the next four years, the company will expand its presence in Massachusetts by approximately 70 percent, adding 1,500 positions to its Springfield workforce and add another 1,000 to its Boston operations. The \$300 million expansion comes with a brand-new Boston campus on Fan Pier expected to be operational by 2021.

Nearby, Amazon is also making moves to create thousands of new jobs in Seaport Square. The e-commerce company is in the process of obtaining a lease for an as-yet-unbuilt 18-story building, where it could employ up to 2,000 people. This is in addition to the 900 jobs it has already promised to add to its new Fort Point office in Boston.

Sources: (Cision) (WBUR) (WBUR)

