

# Facts about the Western Mass Healthcare Economy

The establishment of the *Healthcare Workforce Partnership of Western Massachusetts* serves as a statement about just how important healthcare workers are to the overall economy. Not only is healthcare now one of the largest employment sectors, its continued growth represents an industry as close to “recession-proof” as possible.

## An Economic Engine

According to 2008 Massachusetts Department of Labor statistics for Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin Counties, close to 48,000 people are employed in the healthcare sector with an annual payroll equal to \$2 billion. The region’s total annual healthcare expenditures equal about \$4.59 billion based on state per capita figures.

In Hampden County, 54 percent of all healthcare jobs involve direct patient care; the other 46 percent are varied, and include social services, administration, education, food preparation and maintenance.

Healthcare is also delivered in a variety of settings, with more opportunities expected in community settings, long term care facilities and home health environments.

“Healthcare is and will continue to be a leading economic driver in the region by providing a stable and growing workforce. Through our collaborative efforts, we are identifying and addressing future workforce needs and developing the next generation of healthcare professionals.”

Mark R. Tolosky  
President/CEO, Baystate Health

Clearly, healthcare is a major driver in our workforce and in our regional economy. Success in this sector will require strategic vision, additional collaboration and a shared sense of opportunity for all inside and outside of the healthcare sector.

Healthcare Subsector	Hampden County Total Employment	% of Total Employment	Franklin/Hampshire Total Employment	% of Total Employment
Ambulatory Health Care Services	11,240	30%	3,380	33%
Hospitals	12,670	34%	2,610	25%
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	8,590	23%	2,590	25%
Social Assistance	4,990	13%	1,760	17%
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,490</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>10,340</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: MA Department of Labor, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics by Industry, May 2008

■ Total employment for Hampden, Franklin, Hampshire counties – 47,820 ■ Total annual payroll – \$2,034,326,450

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