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## **What MATTERS in Massachusetts?**

*Fifty State Competitiveness and Massachusetts Tech Workforce Dashboards Provide Powerful Tools for Data-Driven Investment and Job Growth Policies*

**Burlington, MA:** The Massachusetts High Technology Council (MHTC) today re-launched its [Massachusetts Technology, Talent and Economic Reporting System \(MATTERS™\)](#), a web-based data platform designed to measure and evaluate Massachusetts' talent and business competitiveness that provides policymakers, advocates, and private sector leaders with data to inform public policy decisions. Along with an enhanced version of the original [50-State Competitiveness Dashboard](#), MATTERS now includes a [Massachusetts Technology Workforce Dashboard](#) that illustrates dynamic occupational and industry data.

"The robust performance of our private sector, which has fueled multibillion-dollar state budget surpluses, is not immune to the lure of more competitive state environments for investment and job growth in places like Texas, New Hampshire, and Florida," said MHTC President Chris Anderson. "MATTERS will be a valuable resource to inform pro-growth economic policies and highlight the impact of the Commonwealth's innovation economy and to assess the areas in which Massachusetts leads and where we need to improve."

MATTERS, originally developed in partnership with Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) and experts in MHTC's diverse membership, consolidates key cost, economic, and talent metrics, along with prominent national rankings, into a single source that is free and available to the public. Over the past six months, MHTC revamped the platform with a data analytics consultant to enhance the Competitiveness Dashboard and build the Workforce Dashboard.

The Competitiveness Dashboard enables users to compare Massachusetts to other states on key indicators of economic competitiveness, with a focus on five "peer" states whose economies are similarly "tech-centric." The new Workforce Dashboard highlights key figures on technology occupations and industry, such as educational attainment, pipeline, earnings, skills in demand, and job growth, and provides demographic data, including age distribution, gender, and race-ethnicity, by technology job type, which will help advise the policy goals of the MHTC's [Diversity, Equity, and Opportunity \(DEO\) Initiatives](#).

"WPI is proud to have played a central role in developing the original framework for MATTERS, and we are thrilled to see that the platform will continue to be a valuable tool to inform and advance policy decisions that foster economic growth and opportunities for Massachusetts residents," said Laurie Leshin, WPI President. "We look forward to our ongoing partnership with MHTC to leverage the talent of our students and contribute to important public interest projects like MATTERS."

WPI continues to support MATTERS, along with a team of subject matter experts from other MHTC members and partner organizations who contributed to the selection of relevant metrics and conceptual development of both dashboards. MATTERS is sponsored by **Monster Worldwide** and the advisory team includes important contributors from **Brandeis University, the MITRE Corporation, Ernst & Young, KPMG, the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, and Boston Scientific Corporation.**

“MATTERS is a one-of-a-kind resource that MHTC has been prudent to iterate on as new policy challenges emerge,” said Gary Beach, a MATTERS advisor, former Wall Street Journal columnist, and Editor Emeritus of *CIO Magazine*. Beach discusses the newly unveiled dashboards in [a recent blog](#), underscoring the importance of and need for MATTERS during a time where many leaders face uncertainty in the workforce and shifts in tax policy and regulatory changes.

MHTC Chair Robert Reynolds, President and CEO of Putnam Investments, emphasized how the new version of MATTERS strengthens MHTC’s toolkit to meet its mission of making Massachusetts the world’s most attractive place to work and live, and in which to grow high technology businesses. “The goal with MATTERS is to provide dynamic data to show where Massachusetts’ innovation and business environment stands relative to our peer states and to help steer key policy decisions,” said Reynolds. “MATTERS is a powerful vehicle to achieve that goal.”

### **About the Massachusetts High Technology Council**

The [Massachusetts High Technology Council, Inc.](#) is an organization of CEOs and senior executives representing technology companies, professional services firms, and research institutions who are dedicated to creating and sustaining conditions that support investment, job growth and improved quality of life in Massachusetts. Our members are growth-oriented, knowledge-intensive employers and institutions that develop, deliver, and depend on technology products, services, and innovations to advance their organizational objectives—a definition which covers just about all business enterprises in Massachusetts today.

The Massachusetts High Technology Council’s mission is to make Massachusetts the world’s most attractive place in which to create and grow a high technology business.

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