



COMMONWEALTH CORPORATION

FEB/MAR 2004

Study Looks at Manufacturing Sector

CommCorp's Center for Research and Evaluation (CRE) recently released a **research and evaluation brief** examining employment trends in Massachusetts manufacturing between 1992 and 2002. Employment in this sector declined sharply during this period, in spite of an overall increase in total employment. While total employment in Massachusetts increased by 16.2% between '92 and '02, manufacturing employment decreased by more than 20%.

Thirteen of the 16 manufacturing industries for which data is collected by the Massachusetts Division of Unemployment Assistance, experienced declines, with transportation equipment, and computer and electronic products sustaining the largest losses.

Three industries bucked the overall trend, adding jobs. Medical Equipment and Supplies grew by 900 jobs, Food

(continued on page 2)

CWI Shares Ideas at the NAWB Conference

At the recent National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) conference in Washington, D.C., CommCorp's Center for Workforce Innovation (CWI) participated in the industry trade show, showcasing sectoral initiatives. Programs such as the Extended Care Career Ladder Initiative (ECCLI), the Nursing Career Ladder Initiative (NUCLI), StaffSkills, and the Building Essential Skills through Training (BEST) Initiative were highlighted, with staff on hand to provide insight on how such programs could be replicated nationwide. Each day of the three-day conference began early and ended late with a steady stream of workforce development professionals asking questions, sharing ideas, and wanting to learn more about the CommCorp and the workforce development system in Massachusetts. In the weeks ahead, CWI will be following up with the contacts made at the conference.

CommCorp's Carol Kapolka (left) and Elaine Fox (right) explain our programs to Paul Arnold (center) from Louisiana at the 2004 NAWB Conference.



Congratulations to the Massachusetts Workforce Investments Boards which were honored at the conference. The Workforce Partnership Award was presented to the Cross-Border Strategic Workforce Development Alliance—which includes **Hampden County** and **Franklin/Hampshire**—and the Southeastern Mass. Manufacturing Consortium—consisting of the WIBs from **Bristol, Brockton,** and **Greater New Bedford**—was a Distinguished Honoree.

CommCorp Looks at Implications of the Changing Labor Force

Commonwealth Corporation released a brief highlighting the findings of the study, "An Overview of Key Labor Force Developments in Massachusetts During the 1990s: Limited Overall Growth, the Absent Male Worker, and the Critical Contributions of New Immigrant Labor." The report was prepared by Northeastern University's Center for Labor Market Studies.

According to the report's findings, during the 1990s the labor forces of both Massachusetts and New England appear to have grown at very low rates, creating widespread labor shortages at the height of the labor market boom of the late 1990s and 2000. At the time of the U.S. Census, the resident civilian labor force of Massachusetts was estimated at 3,312,000, an increase of about 2% over the entire decade. In contrast, the labor force of the nation grew at a rate of about 11.5% over the same period.

Between 1990 and 2000, the resident population of the state grew by 333,000, while migration out-of-state was nearly 300,000 people. The entire net increase in the population in the state can be attributed to new foreign-born immigrants. At no other time in the past 150 years,

including the Great Wave of Immigration between 1890 and 1920, was the state completely dependent on foreign immigration for its population growth. Given the emergence of new immigrants as an important source of labor in the state, greater knowledge of their labor force behaviors, problems and earnings experiences is needed.

The 1990s witnessed the slowest labor force growth in the state since 1940, when the Census Bureau began collecting labor force data through the Census. The quantity and quality of our state's labor force can have important implications for economic growth and development.

Said Jane C. Edmonds, Director of Workforce Development, "Slow labor force growth places constraints on the state's ability to attract new businesses and generate new jobs. Given the changes that have taken place in the Commonwealth over the last decade, it makes sense for education and retraining to be priorities. Our residents need skills and our businesses need skilled workers to be able to compete in today's economy."

To view the briefs, please visit the CommCorp website at www.commcorp.org/wss/re/brief.htm.

Study on Manufacturing Sector

(continued from page 1)

grew by 1,900 jobs, and Chemicals increased by 1,300 jobs.

Declines in manufacturing employment have been felt within the state, across the country, and around the globe. The US saw a 16% overall decline in manufacturing jobs between June 2000 and September 2003. Worldwide, the 20 largest economies have lost 22 million jobs—an 11% decline—and manufacturing jobs appear to be declining around the globe, between 1995 and 2002.

While workers from some manufacturing industries will be able to transition to other industries requiring similar skill sets, many of the jobs in the growth areas have a very specific set of skills needs. For example, within the growth industry of chemical manufacturing, nearly 30% of their workforce is employed as a chemist, biologist, life and physical scientist, or chemical engineer.

To view the briefs, please visit the CommCorp website at www.commcorp.org/wss/re/brief.htm.

Commonwealth Corporation is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids are available upon request to persons with disabilities. (617) 727-8158; TDD/TTY (800) 439-2370; 529 Main Street, Boston, MA 02129

Mitt Romney, Governor; Kerry Healey, Lt. Governor; Jane C. Edmonds, Director, Mass. DWD; Jonathan Raymond, President, CommCorp