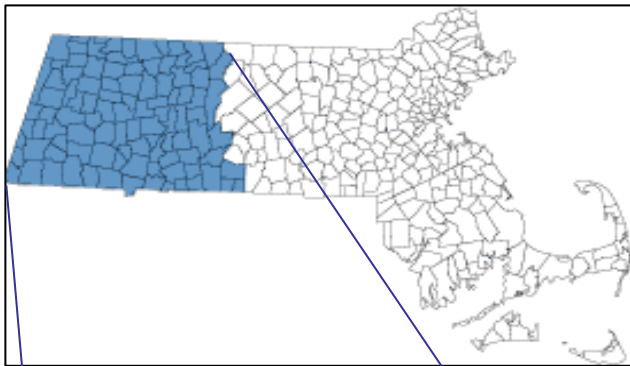
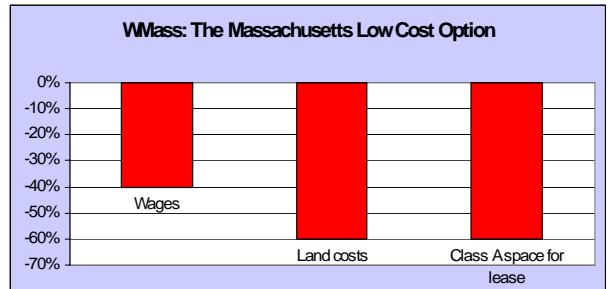


# Western Region

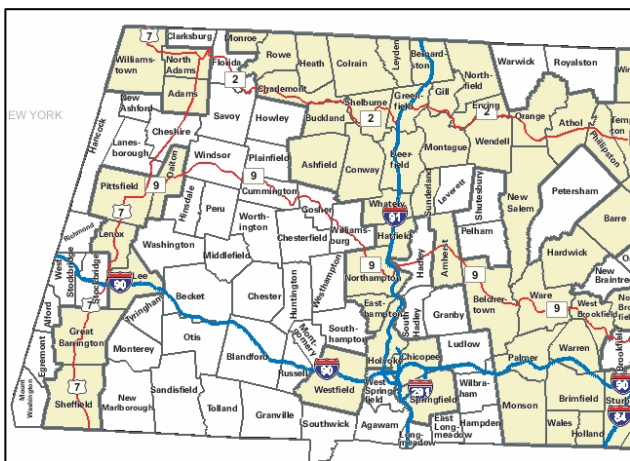


The Western Region enjoys the benefit of being at the “crossroads of New England”. It is able to offer the lowest business and development costs in the state. The Pioneer Valley is part of the “Knowledge Corridor”, extending from Hartford, CT in the south to the flagship University of Massachusetts at Amherst campus. Linked by the Connecticut River, I-91, and a shared international airport, the Corridor forms an economic powerhouse. The combined region constitutes the second largest workforce (over 1 million), education hub (32 colleges and universities with 120,000 students), and economic center in New England. The Berkshires, bordering New York state to the west, enjoys the advantage of being just over a two-hour drive from Boston and New York City. Known as “America’s Premier Cultural Resort”, the area also has a high concentration in precision manufacturing industries that complement life sciences.



\* Wage costs using Bureau of Labor Statistics, County Business Patterns, 2004. Land and lease costs from Western Mass EDC.

When the western counties of Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin, and Berkshire are compared to the eastern counties of Middlesex and Suffolk, the difference in business costs is striking. This contrast holds when the western area is compared to other major northeast economic regions. Western Massachusetts remains a cost effective option, centrally located in New England, just a 90-minute drive away from Boston-Cambridge.



Western Massachusetts is served by the Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90) and Interstate 91. Route 2 in the northern tier also connects to Boston. Amtrak provides daily service between Boston and Chicago, with stops in Springfield and Pittsfield in western Massachusetts. The area is served by Bradley International Airport, just south of Springfield in Connecticut, as well as several smaller municipal airports which service corporate clientele (Barnes in Westfield, Harriman in North Adams, and Pittsfield Municipal).



Massachusetts Biotechnology Council

**How does the Knowledge Corridor compare with the competition in population?**

Area	Population
San Francisco, CA	1,684,974
<b>Knowledge Corridor</b>	<b>1,673,561</b>
Fort Worth - Arlington, TX	1,664,837
San Jose, CA	1,650,069
Cincinnati, OH	1,636,629
Orlando, FL	1,566,048
Columbus, OH	1,506,445
Charlotte-Rock Hill, NC-SC	1,450,834

**Innovative Capacity**

UMass Amherst reported bioscience research at \$28.8 million of its total research base of \$97.1 million - outpacing all other disciplines. The strength of the UMass bioscience research efforts is found in the basic biosciences, including biochemistry, cell & development biology, neurosciences, psychology, microbiology and genetics. Key research focus areas include Neurological, Health Outcomes, Developmental & Reproductive Biology, Structural Biology, Exercise Science, Microbiology, Cancer and Bioengineering. UMass and Baystate Medical Center have formed a free-standing Biomedical Research Institute and are working in several discipline areas to translate basic university research to clinical practice.

Medical device manufacturing is a key life science industry in the western region, representing a broad range of activities from surgical instruments and orthopedic devices to diagnostic and imaging technologies to artificial hearts. A look at firms involved in biomedical markets in western Massachusetts points to many traditional manufacturers in metal working, precision manufacturing, and plastics which offer products to the biomedical market. The region has had a strong presence of precision manufacturers, enabling medical products manufacturers the high precision, customization and short runs for specific components and parts. There are 405 establishments in the broad metalworking and machining sector employing 9,423 workers.



**Academic Institutions**

School	City/Town
American International College	Springfield
Amherst College	Amherst
Bay Path College	Longmeadow
Berkshire Community College	Pittsfield
Elms College	Chicopee
Greenfield Community College	Greenfield
Hampshire College	Amherst
Holyoke Community College	Holyoke
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts	North Adams
Mount Holyoke College	South Hadley
Simon's Rock College of Bard	Great Barrington
Smith College	Northampton
Springfield College	Springfield
Springfield Technical Community College	Springfield
UMass – Amherst	Amherst
Western New England College	Springfield
Westfield State College	Westfield
Williams College	Williamstown

**Acute Care Hospitals**

Hospital	City/Town
Baystate Health Systems	Springfield
Berkshire Medical Center	Pittsfield
Cooley Dickinson Hospital	Northampton
Fairview Hospital	Great Barrington
Franklin Medical Center	Greenfield
Holyoke Hospital	Holyoke
Mary Lane Hospital	Ware
Mercy Medical Center	Springfield
Noble Hospital	Westfield
North Adams Regional	North Adams
Wing Memorial	Palmer

**For more information about biotech in Western Massachusetts, contact:**

Massachusetts Biotechnology Council,  
 Economic Development Office:  
 (617) 674-5100  
 Website: [www.massbio.org](http://www.massbio.org)