



NORTH SHORE WORKFORCE BOARD

Board of Directors Meeting
March 14, 2024

Chair's Report

- A. Immigration Activity
- B. Career Center Director Hiring Process
- C. Mass Broadband Initiative Digital Equity Project
- D. Smith Family Foundation Meeting
- E. Updated LMI

Career Center Director

Career Center Director hiring process: close to completion

MBI Project

Mass Broadband Initiative Digital Equity Project

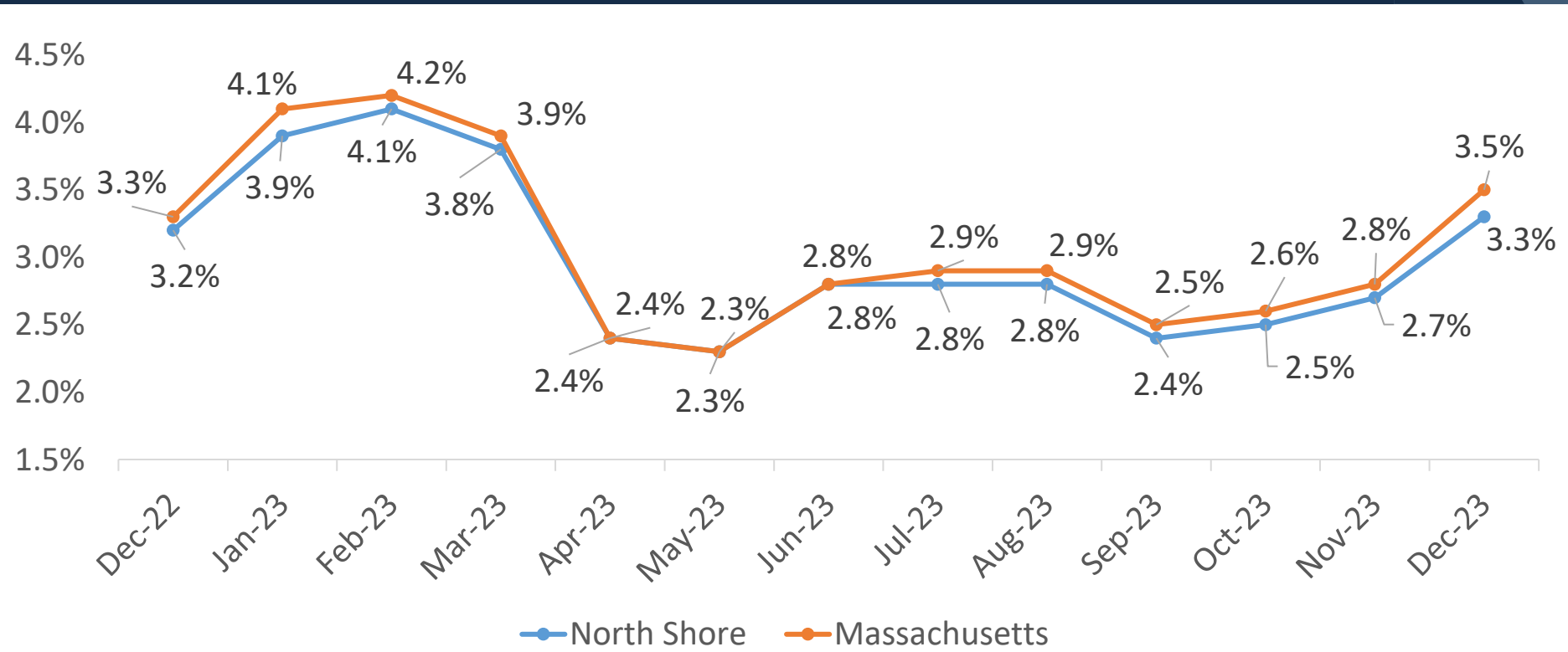
- Metro North WB is the lead
- Designed to assist people with limited access to digital equipment and internet access
- Three program components here on the North Shore:
 - Digital Navigators located at Pathways in Lynn and at Action in Gloucester
 - Digital literacy courses offered
 - Computers available at no cost to community members who need equipment through nonprofit Computers 4 People (www.computers4people.org)

Making College Affordable

Smith Family Foundation

- Convened a group of MA workforce leaders to discuss perspectives on the economy, workforce development, and the affordability of college
- Developing the idea of college as an apprenticeship opportunity that results in a degree with no debt
- Major change in the overall perspective of education as being separate from work
- More discussions to come

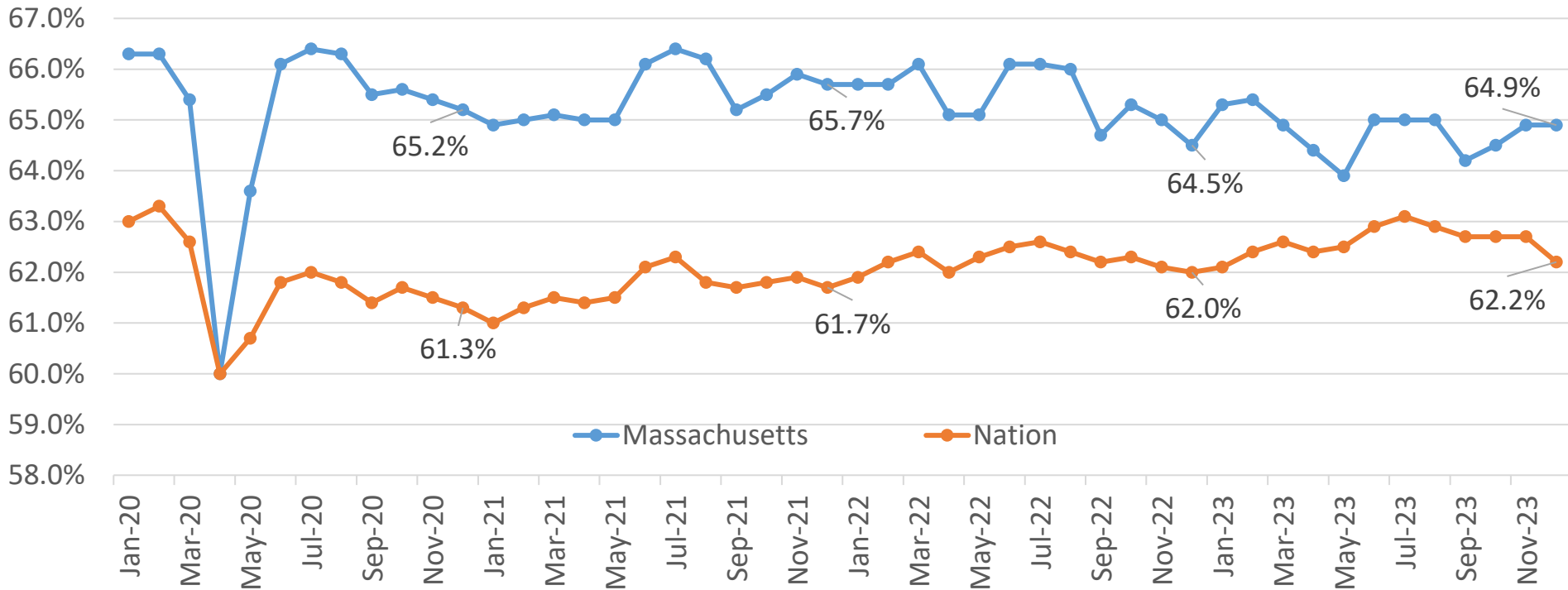
North Shore Unemployment



- Unemployment rate increased 0.1% from Dec. '22 to Dec. '23

Source: MA DER, Labor Force and Unemployment Statistics (LAUS), Massachusetts, North Shore, November 2023

Labor Force Participation



- The current rate of 64.9% is 4.9% higher than the COVID rate of 60%.
- December labor force participation rate has declined about 0.5% the past three years.

Massachusetts Labor Force Participation & Unemployment by Race

Labor Force Participation Rate				
Race	December			Change 2023-2021
	2021	2022	2023	
Total	65.2%	64.9%	65.1%	-0.1%
White	64.7%	65.0%	65.3%	0.6%
Black	65.7%	64.9%	67.2%	1.5%
Hispanic or Latino Ethnicity	64.7%	63.7%	62.7%	-2.0%

- Labor force participation has increased for White & Black workers.
- However, those with Hispanic/Latino Ethnicity have experienced a decline in labor force participation rate over the past couple of years.

Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims

Region	Number of Initial Claims for the Week Ending:		
	12/11/2021	12/10/2022	12/9/2023
Massachusetts	53,223	50,789	60,003
North Shore	3,205	2,968	3,534

- 60,003 initial claims in Massachusetts.
- 3,534 initial claims on the North Shore.
- The number of continuing claims in Massachusetts has increased 12.7% in the past two years.
- The number of continuing claims on the North Shore has increased 10.3% in the past two years.

Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims

Initial Unemployment Claimants

Industry	Dec-21	Dec-23
Construction	15%	15%
Manufacturing	5%	4%
Wholesale Trade	3%	4%
Retail Trade	8%	7%
Transportation and Warehousing	3%	3%
Information	2%	3%
Finance and Insurance	3%	3%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	7%	13%
Admin. & Support, Waste Mgmt. & Remediation Serv.	11%	11%
Health Care and Social Assistance	11%	8%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	3%	3%
Accommodation and Food Services	9%	8%
All Other Industries	19%	18%

Top 5 Initial Claims Industries:

1. Construction – 15%
2. Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services – 13%
3. Admin. & Support – 11%
4. Accommodation and Food Services – 8%
5. Health Care & Social Assistance – 8%

Regional Planning

Regional Planning – results from January’s board meeting:

- Members are upbeat about our economy – a good thing!
- Worries around labor shortages, cost of living, general inflation, supply chain, wage increases (public versus private sector issues, etc.), work styles (in-person, hybrid, remote)
- UMass Donahue Institute is preparing a new Labor Market Blueprint: we shared these comments with them to use in this publication.

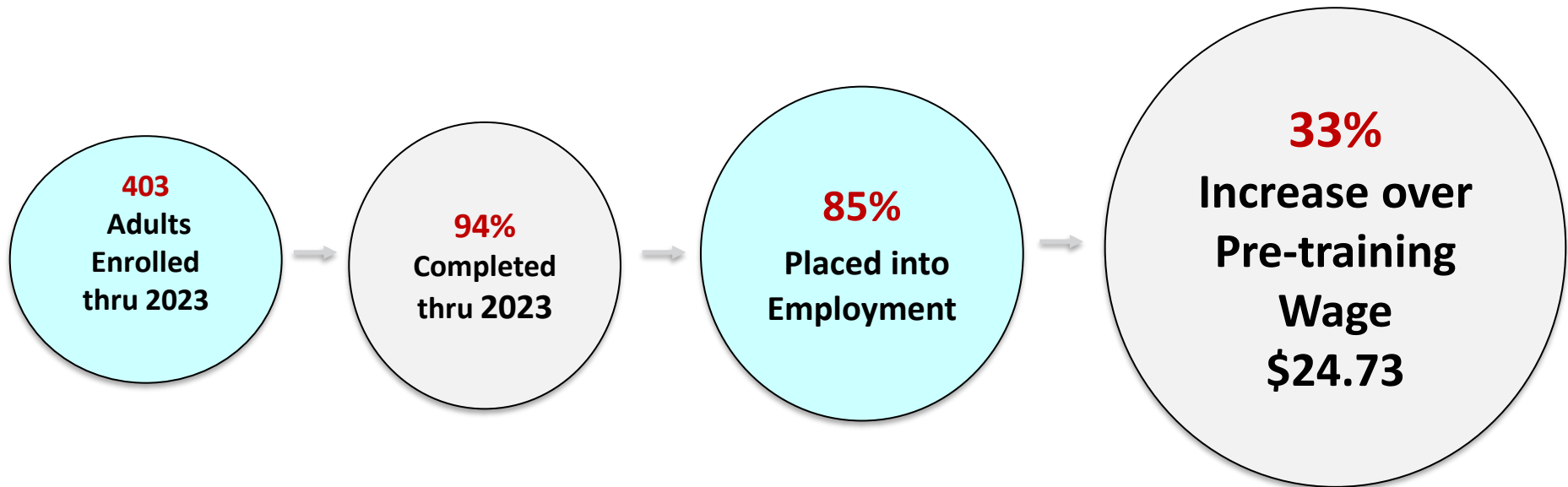
Updates: Offshore Wind Grant/Renewable Energy Update

- Training Manager expected to begin by early April!
- Recruitment partners meeting (March 8th) – over 50 attended!
- First pilot class in May at Essex Tech to include:
 - Introduction to the Construction Trades & Clean Energy Careers
 - Professional Skills
 - Hot Works Class/Certification
 - OSHA 30 Class/Certification
 - MA Hoist Trainer Class/Certification
 - Basic Tool Skills with Hilti Certification
 - CPR/First Aid/AED Certifications
 - Basic Welding Skills
 - Job Site Awareness and Safety
- Met with Crowley and several unions to learn more about employers' needs
- More to come on this exciting project!

Healthcare Hub Grants

- Contracts received from CommCorp
- Working with MH Greater Lowell and MH Merrimack Valley on recruitment and enrollment – focusing on pathways to nursing and other healthcare training
- Behavioral Health Hub (North Shore) enrollment numbers in development with several NS and NE companies – including Community Health Worker (CHW), addiction control positions, etc.

Performance to date:



Two years left to the GEF Grant – discussing sustainability funding

Upcoming Meeting Schedule for FY 2024

- May 9, 2024



**NORTH SHORE
WORKFORCE BOARD**