

REPORTS FROM

## MASSACHUSETTS • MINNESOTA

### **MASSACHUSETTS: ATTRACTING CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGIES IN A VARIETY OF INDUSTRIES**

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By Cynthia Kincaid

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is home to a number of successful manufacturing, healthcare, and retail companies. The state's manufacturing sector covers a broad range of industries, including chemicals, plastics and rubber, transportation equipment, paper, fabricated metal, food, and electrical equipment. The manufacturing sector is the commonwealth's fourth-largest employer with a 10 percent increase in revenue over the last five years. The information technology (IT) industry — comprised of computer and communication hardware and software, and communication services — has also made a positive fiscal impact in the commonwealth. Utilizing cutting-edge technologies like robotics, RFID/CSID, photonics, nanotechnology, and telecommunications, Massachusetts has been outperforming many other states in IT growth. In fact, the state's software industry has grown to more than \$10.9 billion.

The renewable energy sector is also moving full steam ahead, with a number of companies that design, engineer, finance, and construct renewable energy systems. An emphasis on photovoltaic (PV), wind, solar, biomass, and geothermal are leading the state's charge into renewable energy. Marlborough-based Evergreen Solar is locating its first full-scale solar panel manufacturing plant in Massachusetts. The state's leaders are also exploring ways for Massachusetts to better benefit environmentally and economically from biofuel technology. Governor Deval Patrick recently convened a group of technology executives and urged them to create a trade group to make their needs better known at the political table.



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