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*“As we grow [and age] as a State... we’re facing some skills gaps in several sectors of our economy for which CTE can make a significant impact,”* said Governor Martin O’Malley in his address to the Maryland State Board of Education.

*“In health care alone, we are anticipating a shortage of 10,000 nurses by 2016. And we project that more than 7,400 health care sector positions will come open each year which could be filled by students with an Associates Degree – or in many cases a high school diploma – if we do our part to help them acquire the requisite skills and training.”*

## Governor Applauds State’s National #1 Education Ranking

On February 24, 2009, Governor Martin O’Malley addressed the Maryland State Board of Education, calling for renewed efforts to adapt curricula, track progress, and recruit and retain world class educators.

The *College Board* recently ranked Maryland’s high schools number one in the nation for *Advanced Placement* participation and achievement. Governor O’Malley applauded the State’s accomplishments leading to its national number one ranking by **Education Week Magazine**, and outlined the critical components necessary to making Maryland’s public school more competitive in an emerging global economy.

The Governor’s remarks came just days after announcing full funding of Maryland’s schools including 100% funding of teacher pensions, and the Thornton Bridge to Excellence Plan in Maryland through fiscal year 2011.

Since the passage of the Thornton Bridge to Excellence Plan, State funding for local school systems has increased by \$1.97 billion dollars, a 76% increase. Governor O’Malley proposed a record \$5.4 billion funding level for fiscal year 2010, despite difficult economic times. For the first time ever, Maryland will have invested more than \$1 billion in school construction funding over a three year period, including over \$260 million proposed for fiscal year 2010.

In 2007, Governor O’Malley created the P-20 Leadership Council to better align Maryland’s education systems with workforce demands. The Council was established to create an integrated statewide system to better prepare Maryland students for the jobs of the 21st century while enhancing the State’s economic competitiveness by creating a workforce with 21st century skills. This integration includes an emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Education.

- 37% of Maryland’s public high school class of 2008 took at least one AP Exam during high school, compared to 25% nationally.
- 23% percent of the public high school class of 2008 earned a 3 or higher on one or more AP Exams during high school, compared to 15% nationally.

*Source: College Board AP Report to the Nation: 2008.*

- Compared to a student with a high school diploma, a student with a 1-year certificate earns 17% more, and a student with an associate’s degree earns 39% more.
- For every \$1 students invest in community colleges, they get \$5 back in higher earnings throughout their careers.

*Source: Maryland Association of Community Colleges*

## Local Workforce Investment Boards (WIB) Experience Increased Traffic as Unemployment Ranks Grow

The Mid-Maryland WIB saw the largest percentage growth in the state, with a 35% increase in traffic. They served an additional 2,585 clients in the 2007-2008 cycle.

Southern Maryland experienced a 32% increase in clients served, which meant serving an additional 7,244 persons.

With 30% increases, the Prince George's County WIB served 3,661 additional clients, and the Upper Shore WIB served 2,643 additional clients.

Baltimore City experienced a 21% increase and 15,000 more clients than in 2007.

Anne Arundel County saw a 15% increase in traffic and served an additional 2,585 people.

Source:  
*Workforce Investment Network, data collected from 7/1/08-1/31/09*

# Maryland Rates Still Faring Better Than The Nation

In December 2007, the United States officially entered into a recession. In the past two years, the nation's labor market has experienced substantial layoffs, steadily rising unemployment rates, increased unemployment insurance claims, and substantial job losses. While Maryland fared much better than other states, the state's employment situation has begun weakening in recent months and experiencing some of the same negative effects as other states.

## Jobs

Maryland's economy had been adding jobs at a steady rate over the past several years, and throughout much of 2008. Maryland employers added jobs in the first seven months of 2008, showing some resiliency compared to the large national job losses.

However, in September 2008, the state began losing jobs, with losses of more than 30,000 jobs between August and December. A year-over-year comparison shows that there were 15,000 fewer jobs in Maryland in December 2008 than there were in December 2007.

## Affected Industries

While the state experienced a net loss of jobs in recent months, not all industries were equally affected. Between December 2007 and 2008, only Maryland's Healthcare, Education & Social Assistance industry sectors showed significant job growth at 2.5 percent, adding 9,300 jobs to Maryland's economy.

Industry sectors Leisure & Hospitality, and Government show moderate growth, less than 1 percent over the year. Collectively, these sectors added 7,200 jobs, with federal and local gov-

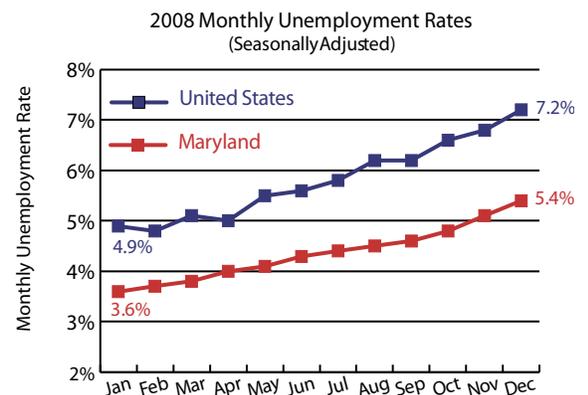
ernment employers accounting for more than half of the gains. Every other industry sector in Maryland lost jobs over the year, with some of the greatest job losses experienced by the Financial Activities and Natural Resources, Mining, & Construction sectors. The Trade, Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities sector lost more 9,000 jobs over the year, with the majority of its losses concentrated in the Retail and Wholesale industries.

## Labor Force

While the number of jobs in Maryland decreased over the past year, the number of people looking for work did not decrease. Maryland's labor force increased modestly, by about 4,100 people over the past year, though the number of employed people dropped significantly, with 64,000 fewer employed people in December 2008 versus December 2007.

During this same period, Maryland's unemployment rate climbed from 3.6 percent in December 2007 to 5.4 percent in December 2008. April saw the largest increase in unemployment numbers, when the rate increased from 3.6 percent to 4 percent, and unemployment rate has not decreased since then.

These increases in unemployment are reflected in the increase of traffic to the



Source: U.S. Department of Labor



## Despite Economic Downturn, Bioscience Industry Continues its Growth

The GWIB's Bioscience Industry Initiative Steering Committee has released a monograph addressing the workforce challenges of the Bioscience sector. The monograph is a summary of the committee's work in which they explore the issues and workforce challenges facing the industry and is available at [www.mdworkforce.com](http://www.mdworkforce.com).

Like many other industries, Bioscience suffers from a shortage of skilled workers, partially due to a global network of skilled researchers in one country and product manufacturing taking place half a world away. The United States leads this global industry and attracts foreign nationals from around the globe seeking training and work in the U.S. bioscience industry.

*"Maryland is one of eight states which together account for more than three-fifths of National Institutes of Health's spending on research and for slightly less than two-thirds of all biotechnology-related patents,"* said Eric Seleznow, Executive Director of the Governor's Workforce Investment Board. *"With many private corporations suffering in this difficult economy, the Bioscience industry continues to be a valuable source of employment due to federal funding."*

The monograph defines the varied industries and business that are encompassed by the Bioscience industry, which is a young, emerging industry. Included in this diverse group are companies that create new products, treatments, systems, drugs, diagnostics, medical devices, foods and fuels using the knowledge of how living organisms function.

According to the Brookings Institute, Maryland currently ranks first in the number of life sciences

professionals per capita with 45,000 researchers and scientists in the region. Emerging industries, like bioscience, require special conditions to develop and grow, and Maryland is fortunate to have all the necessary ingredients, and proximity to a network of federal laboratories that fund basic research, generate research, and employ highly skilled scientists.

*"Despite the current economic downturn, bioscience remains an exciting, emerging industry with promising opportunities for new discoveries, applications and business development. Maryland, with its maturing life sciences community, remains a vital and highly competitive state. Governor O'Malley's attention to this committee and our recommendations, as well as his initiation of the Life Sciences Advisory Board and 20-20 Initiative have been critical to keep it that way. This workforce report reflects industry strategies to build partnerships with Maryland education and the public workforce system that will deliver a highly qualified workforce for the 21<sup>st</sup> century,"* said Ed Rudnic, of MiddleBrook Pharmaceuticals and Co-chair of the Bioscience Industry Initiative Steering Committee.

### **Nationally, Maryland Ranks Highly in Technology and Science:**

*According to the Milken Institute's 2008 State Technology and Science Index,*

- Maryland ranks first for Human Capital Investment.
- Maryland places in the top ten in all five composite indices.
- Maryland ranks second overall.

## 2009 Board Meeting Dates

**June 17, 2009**

3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
Anne Arundel  
Community College  
Arnold Campus

**September 9, 2009**

3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
Anne Arundel  
Community College  
Arnold Campus

**December 9, 2009**

3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
Anne Arundel  
Community College  
Arnold Campus

## GWIB Welcomes Two New Members

*Governor Martin O'Malley recently appointed two new members to the GWIB:*

**Christian S. Johansson**, the newly appointed Secretary of Maryland's Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED), joins the GWIB as an ex-officio member. Secretary Johansson brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise in keeping cutting-edge industry in Maryland and attracting good jobs for the working families of the State. Secretary Johansson joins DBED from Continental Equity, a private equity firm in Baltimore, where as Managing Director he focused on investing in diverse-owned companies and teams. Prior to that, he served as President and CEO of the Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore, a public-private partnership that markets Central Maryland for new investment. Secretary Johansson's education and experience, combined with his knowledge of Maryland's business climate and regional economies, will help him build quickly on many of the State's recent economic development successes, including the launch of Governor O'Malley's BIO 2020 initiative and DBED's ongoing expansion of international investment and trade.

**Elliot D. Lasso, Ph.D.**, Executive Director of Joblink, a nonprofit organization in the Baltimore area charged with facilitating job placement in a portion of the faith-based community. Dr. Lasso does business development and creates business partnerships with local employers and search firms. Joblink's clients run the gamut of occupational areas, skill sets, and career levels. Prior to joining Joblink, Dr. Lasso worked with the Maryland Department of Budget and Management, where he was responsible for recruitment, assessment, workforce planning, and training. He has served as president of the Mid-Atlantic Personnel Assessment Consortium (MAPAC) and is an Adjunct Professor at UMBC and University of Baltimore.

The GWIB welcomes its newest members.



William "Bill" Robertson, Chair  
Eric Seleznow, Executive Director

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or to submit articles for  
future additions.*

## IT Report Sheds Lights on Workforce Issues

The GWIB's Information Technology [IT] Industry Initiative Steering Committee has released its final report addressing the workforce challenges facing the IT sector. The report focuses on recommendations to address current and future workforce shortages of Maryland's IT Industry.

The recommendations are partially the result of discussions during the 2008 IT Workforce Symposium, held on the campus of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), where participants were challenged to create solutions and strategies to address the industry's overarching issues - attracting, training and retaining a pipeline of qualified IT candidates to fill current vacancies and fuel the growth of the industry in Maryland.

*"The increasing mobilization and globalization of the IT industry has created both new opportunities and workforce challenges for Maryland' IT firms. It is imperative that we grow and develop our pipeline of future IT workers to meet industry demand,"* said William "Bill" Robertson, Chair of the Governor's Workforce Investment Board and President & CEO of Adventist HealthCare, Inc.

Copies of the report can be accessed at [www.mdworkforce.com](http://www.mdworkforce.com).