



Mass. economy outpaces nation's growth

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BOSTON (AP) - Massachusetts' economy is outperforming the nation's amid a slowdown that many economists believe is a recession.

A report Wednesday from the University of Massachusetts' Donahue Institute says the state's economy posted growth that was more than five times faster than the nation's during this year's first quarter. Gross domestic product grew at an annual rate of 3.2 percent from January through March, compared with 0.6 percent for the nation. The state's growth rate rose slightly from 2.9 percent in last year's fourth quarter.

UMass economists project the state's economy will slow, and grow at an annual rate of 2.5 percent over the next six months.

The report says Massachusetts' technology and health sectors have helped insulate the state from slowdowns in housing and retail.