

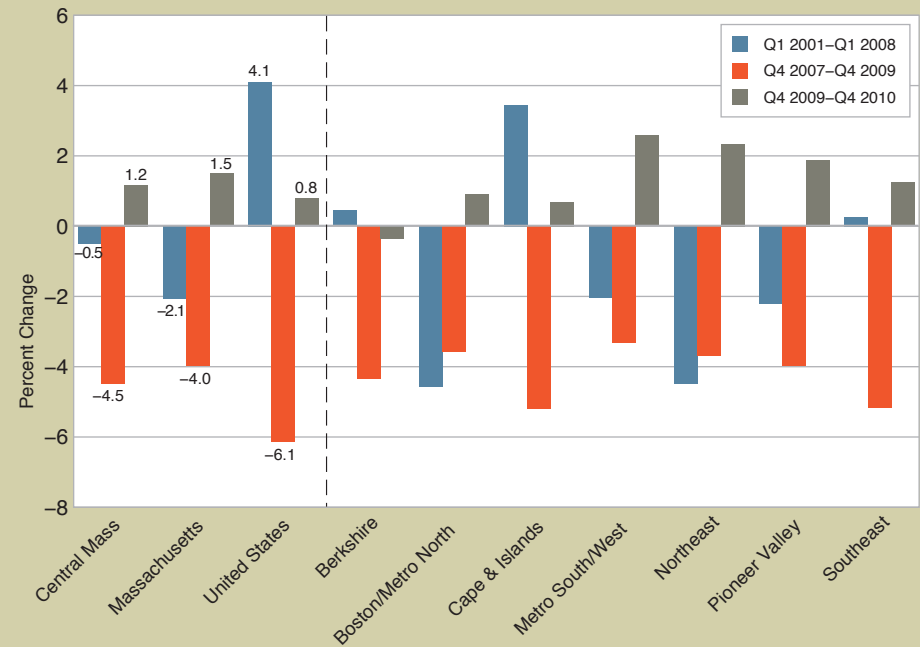
EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

Central Mass accounts for 10.6 percent of the state's population and 10.2 percent of the state's employment, with roughly 320,000 jobs in the region. Over the past decade, the region's employment situation has been somewhat different from the state's. Employment in Central Mass declined at a slight 0.5 percent between 2001 and 2008, compared with a loss of 2.1 percent in Massachusetts. The employment loss in both the region and the state was more modest than in the United States during the Great Recession, but the region's losses were greater than the state's (4.5 percent versus 4.0 percent). In the first year of recovery, Central Mass employment increased by 1.2 percent, slightly trailing the gains in Massachusetts (1.5 percent) but exceeding the gains in the United States (0.8 percent).

Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) and Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development ES-202.

Note: ES-202 and QCEW are not seasonally adjusted. Therefore, comparisons need to be made across consistent time periods, such as the first quarter of one year to the first quarter of another. Comparisons between different quarters will be distorted, as seasonal employment in industries such as Retail Trade and Leisure & Hospitality vary considerably overtime and across regions.

Changes in Total Employment



Distribution of Employment Across Regional Labor Markets, Q4 2010

