

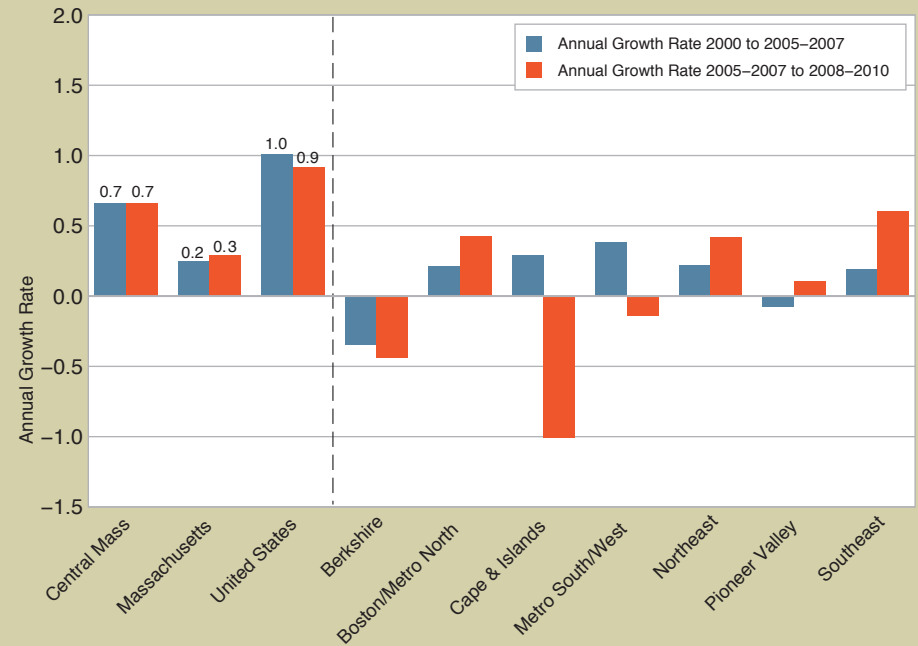
## POPULATION GROWTH TRENDS

The third smallest region by residential population, Central Mass accounted for 10.6 percent of the state’s population in 2008-2010. However, Central Mass has been the fastest growing region in Massachusetts; the region experienced consistent annual population growth of 0.7 percent over the past decade. Between 2000 and 2005-2007, the region’s population grew three times faster than the statewide rate and almost twice as fast as the second fastest growing region (Metro South/West at 0.4 percent). Between 2005-2007 and 2008-2010, labor markets in eastern Massachusetts (in particular, Boston/Metro North, the Northeast, and the Southeast) experienced stronger population growth than earlier in the decade, but they still lagged the growth in Central Mass. Despite leading all regions and far exceeding the state’s population growth, Central Mass trailed the annual 1.0 percent population growth nationwide over the course of the past decade.

**Source:** US Census Bureau 2000 Decennial Census Public Use Microdata Samples (PUMS) data files, 2005-2007 and 2008-2010 American Community Survey Public Use Micro Sample (PUMS) data files.

**Note:** The use of the three-year American Community Survey was necessary to capture accurate sample size for the small geographic areas. The three-year sample is representative of the demographic and employment characteristics of the region over a 36-month period.

### Annual Growth Rates



### Massachusetts Population Distribution Across Regional Labor Markets, 2008-2010

