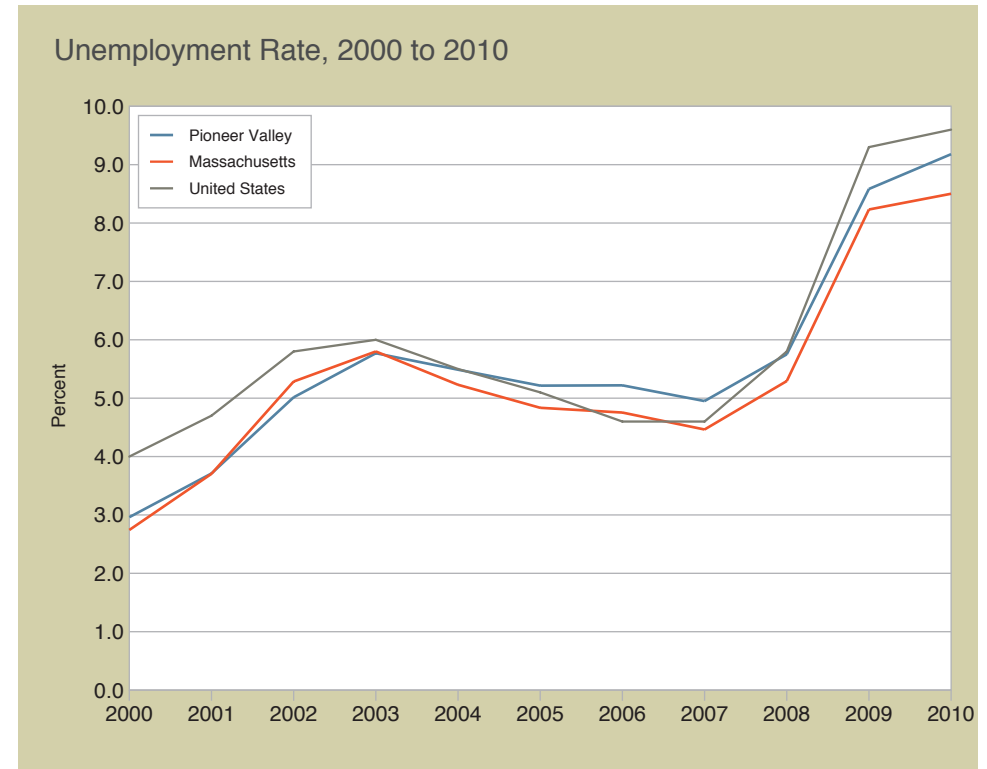


UNEMPLOYMENT RATE TRENDS

During the Great Recession, the unemployment rate nationwide increased sharply, and the same was true in Pioneer Valley. Beginning the decade at 3.0 percent, the region's unemployment rate climbed to nearly 5.8 percent in 2003 before declining to slightly under 5.0 percent in 2007. In the Great Recession, Pioneer Valley's unemployment rate jumped to 9.2 percent. Over the course of the decade, the region's unemployment rate consistently exceeded that of Massachusetts, and it was the third highest unemployment rate of all regional labor markets in 2010.

Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics and Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development.

Note: The annual unemployment rate is a 12-month average of the non-seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate.



Pioneer Valley Unemployment				
	2000	2010	Relative Change	Annual Growth Rate (Percent)
Unemployed	10,420	33,284	22,864	12.3
Employed	341,399	329,308	-12,091	-0.4
Civilian Labor Force	351,819	362,592	10,773	0.3
Unemployment Rate	3.0	9.2	-	-