

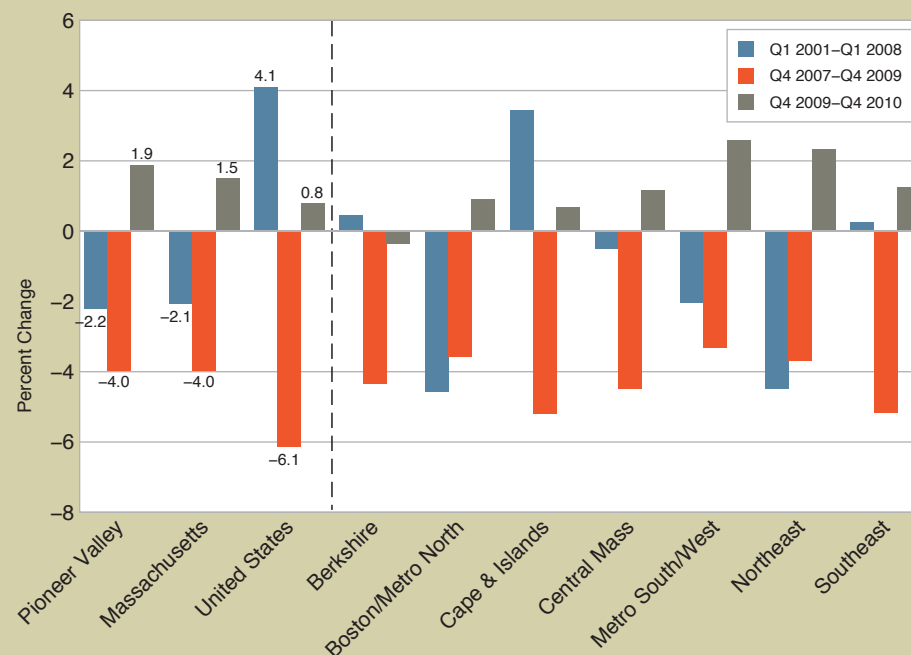
## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

While Pioneer Valley accounts for 10.8 percent of the state's population the region accounts for only 9.1 percent of the state's employment, or more than 286,000 jobs. The employment trends in Pioneer Valley were similar to those in Massachusetts over the past decade. The region's employment declined at a rate nearly identical to Massachusetts between 2001 and 2008 (2.2 percent versus 2.1 percent), compared with a 4.1 percent gain nationwide. Both the region and state experienced more modest employment losses than did the United States during the Great Recession, with employment in the region and state declining by 4.0 percent from 2007 to 2009, compared with 6.1 percent nationwide. But in the first year of the labor market recovery, employment in Pioneer Valley increased by 1.9 percent, exceeding the gains in both Massachusetts (1.5 percent) and 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 or Leisure & Hospitality vary considerably across regions.

### Changes in Total Employment



### Distribution of Employment Across Regional Labor Markets, Q4 2010

