

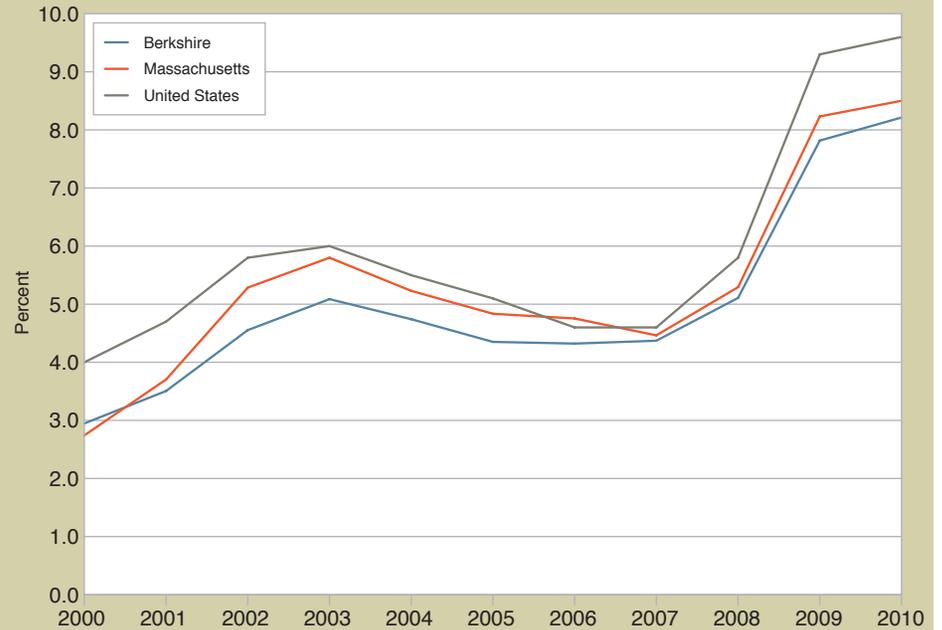
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE TRENDS

During the Great Recession, the unemployment rate nationwide increased sharply. Beginning the decade at 2.9 percent, the unemployment rate of Berkshire climbed to nearly 5.1 percent in 2003 before declining to slightly below 4.4 percent in 2007. In the Great Recession, the region's unemployment rate jumped to 8.2 percent. While the unemployment rate remains elevated, it has consistently remained below both the state's and the nation's rates. The unemployment rate in Berkshire is currently the third lowest among all regional labor markets in Massachusetts.

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.

Unemployment Rate, 2000 to 2010



Berkshire Unemployment

	2000	2010	Relative Change	Annual Growth Rate (Percent)
Unemployed	2,068	6,039	3,971	11.3
Employed	68,092	67,492	-600	-0.1
Civilian Labor Force	70,160	73,530	3,370	0.5
Unemployment Rate	2.9	8.2	-	-