

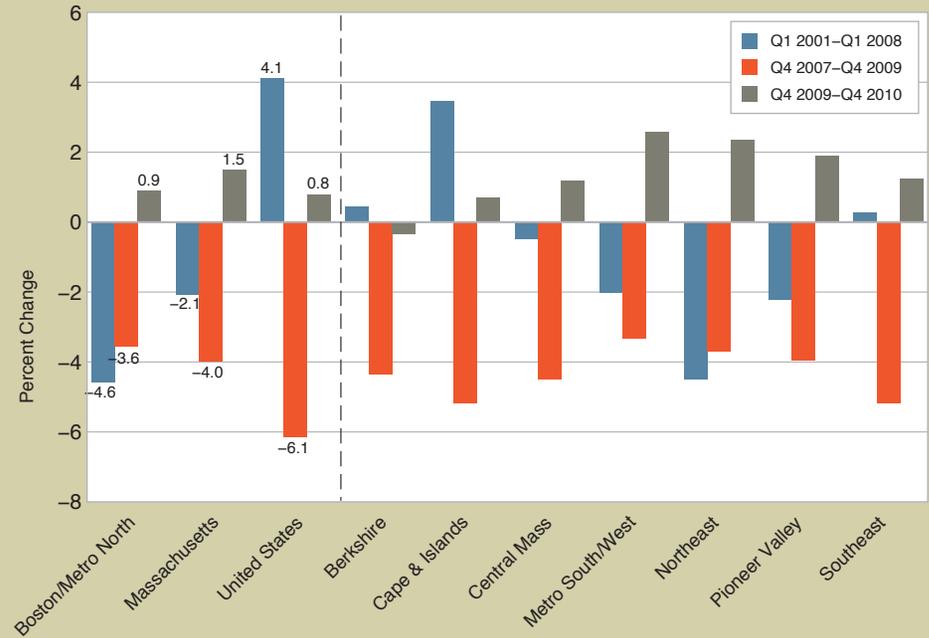
## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

Boston/Metro North is the largest labor market in the state, accounting for 29.6 percent of the state's employment, or roughly 931,500 jobs. Following a challenging start to the decade, the Boston/Metro North employment situation has come more into line with that of Massachusetts in recent years. Employment in Boston/Metro North declined by 4.6 percent between the first quarters of 2001 and 2008; this was the steepest decline among all eight labor markets and more than double the rate of Massachusetts. But the region's losses during the Great Recession (from the fourth quarter of 2007 to the fourth quarter of 2009) were more modest than in the United States and slightly less than those in the state (3.6 percent versus 4.0 percent). During the recent recovery, Boston/Metro North experienced modest growth of 0.9 percent between the fourth quarters of 2009 and 2010, trailing the state's growth of 1.5 percent over the same time.

**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 across regions.

### Changes in Total Employment



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

