

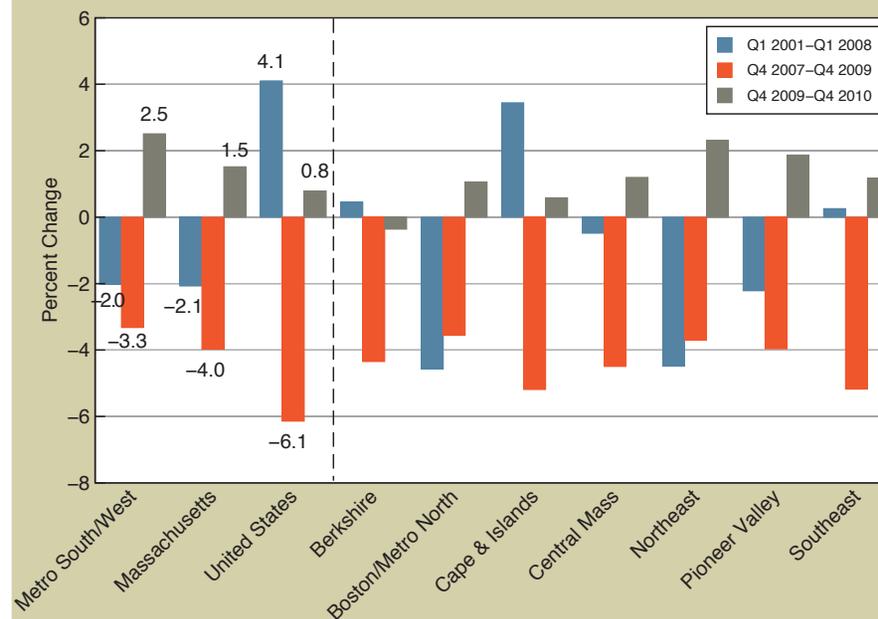
EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

Metro South/West is the third most populous region, but it is the second largest labor market in the state, accounting for nearly 16.8 percent of the state's employment, or roughly 531,000 jobs. The employment trends in Metro South/West 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. Both experienced a more modest employment loss than the United States during the Great Recession, and Metro South/West's losses were slightly less than those in the state (3.3 percent versus 4.0 percent). During the recent recovery, Metro South/West has had the strongest growth among all the state's regional labor markets, increasing 2.6 percent between the fourth quarters of 2009 and 2010.

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. Comparison between different quarters will distort comparisons 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

