

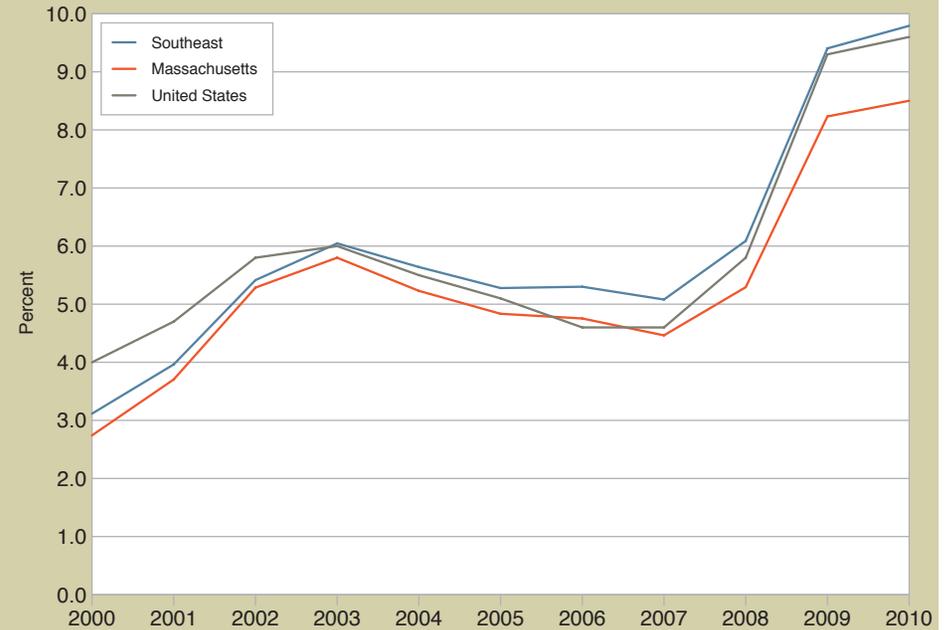
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE TRENDS

During the Great Recession, unemployment rates nationwide increased sharply. Beginning the decade with a 3.1 percent unemployment rate, the Southeast region had the second-highest unemployment rate of all regional labor markets and exceeded the state's unemployment rate (2.7 percent). The region's unemployment rate subsequently climbed to over 6 percent in 2003 before moderating to reach 5.1 percent in 2007. However, even as Southeast's employment situation improved, it lagged the improvements in both Massachusetts and the United States, with the region's jobless rate eventually exceeding both state and national rates by over half a percentage point. As a result of the Great Recession, the Southeast region's unemployment rate skyrocketed to 9.8 percent by 2010, the highest among all regional labor markets. And while the region's unemployment rate moved in lockstep with the national rate in the Great Recession, it grew to far exceed the statewide figure (8.5 percent).

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



The Southeast Region Unemployment

	2000	2010	Relative Change	Annual Growth Rate (Percent)
Unemployed	21,402	70,456	49,054	12.7
Employed	665,426	649,089	-16,337	-0.2
Civilian Labor Force	686,827	719,544	32,717	0.5
Unemployment Rate	3.1	9.8	-	-