

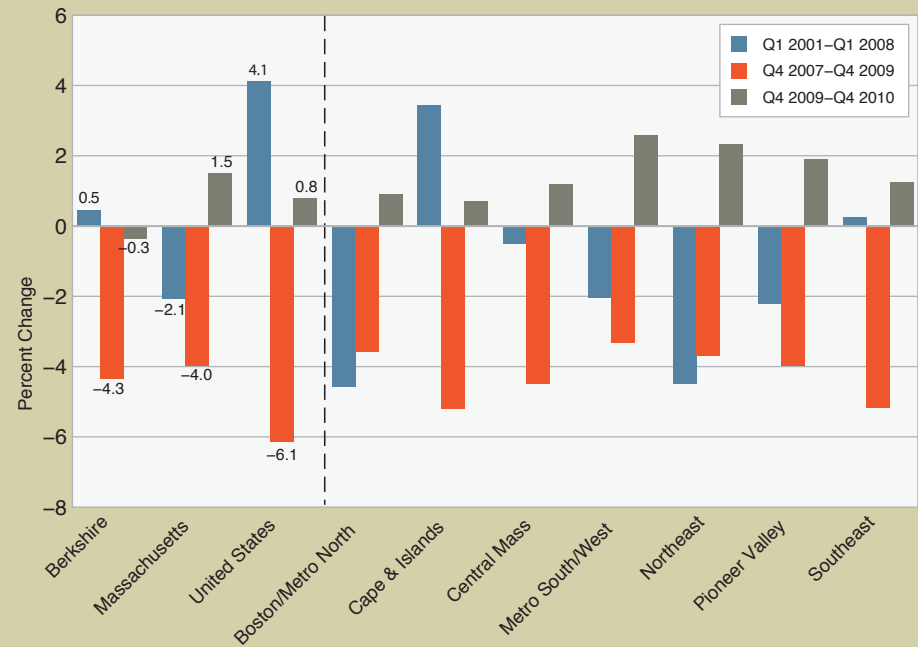
EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

Along with being the smallest regional labor market by share of the state's residential population (1.8 percent), Berkshire also has the smallest share of the state's employment: 1.9 percent, or roughly 59,700 jobs. Over the past decade, the region's employment situation has been somewhat different from the state's. Berkshire was one of three regions to actually gain jobs before the Great Recession, growing a modest 0.5 percent between the first quarters of 2001 and 2008 (compared with a loss of 2.1 percent in Massachusetts). The employment loss in both the region and the state was more modest than in the United States during the Great Recession, but the region's losses slightly exceeded the state's (4.3 percent versus 4.0 percent). In the first year of recovery (Q4 2009 to Q4 2010), Berkshire was the only region to see employment continue to decrease. Falling by 0.3 percent, the region lagged far behind the labor market recoveries in Massachusetts (a gain of 1.5 percent) and the United States (a gain of 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 and Leisure & Hospitality vary considerably across regions.

Changes in Total Employment



Distribution of Employment Across Regional Labor Markets, Q4 2010

