

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE TRENDS

During the Great Recession, unemployment rates nationwide increased sharply. Beginning the decade at 2.6 percent, the unemployment rate in Boston/Metro North climbed to about 5.8 percent in 2003, matching Massachusetts's experience in the early years of the decade. As employment grew, the region's rate fell to 4.0 percent in 2007, nearly half a percentage point lower than the state rate. In the Great Recession, the region's unemployment rate jumped, reaching 7.5 percent in 2010, but it remained below the Massachusetts rate. The 2010 unemployment rate in Boston/Metro North was the second 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



Boston/Metro North Unemployment

	2000	2010	Relative Change	Annual Growth Rate (Percent)
Unemployed	18,802	55,922	37,120	11.5
Employed	701,143	690,010	-11,133	-0.2
Civilian Labor Force	719,945	745,932	25,987	0.4
Unemployment Rate	2.6	7.5	-	-