

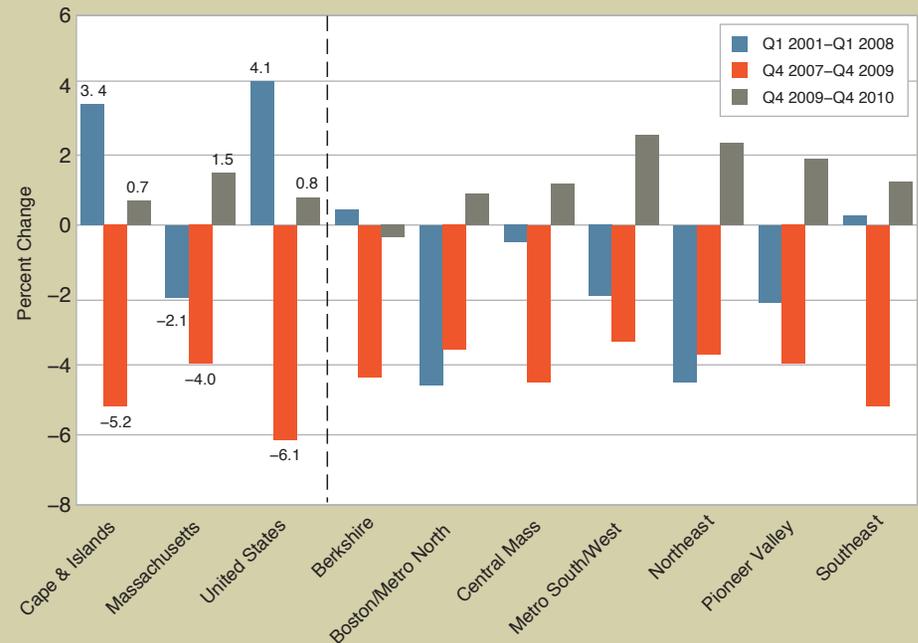
## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

Along with being the second smallest regional labor market by share of the state's residential population (3.8 percent), the Cape & Islands also accounts for second smallest share of the state's employment: 3.1 percent, or roughly 98,000 jobs. Over the past decade, the region's employment situation has been markedly different from that of Massachusetts. At the start of the decade, employment declined statewide, with the bursting of the "technology bubble" in the early 2000s resulting in large job losses in the Information sector. The Cape & Islands was nearly immune to such losses and actually added jobs in the 2001–2002 recession. As a result employment in the region grew by 3.4 percent between the first quarters of 2001 and 2008 (compared with a loss of 2.1 percent statewide), the fastest among all labor markets. During the Great Recession, the region's employment losses were greater than those of the United States (5.2 percent versus 4.0 percent), but more modest than those of the United States. In the first year of recovery (Q4 2009 to Q4 2010), the Cape & Islands saw employment increase by only 0.7 percent, trailing the gains in Massachusetts (1.5 percent) and United States (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 and over time.

### Changes in Total Employment



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

