

# CHANGES IN EMPLOYMENT DURING THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN BY MAJOR INDUSTRY: MASSACHUSETTS

Massachusetts fared slightly better in the Great Recession than did the Cape & Islands region. The state's strongest employment gains between the fourth quarters of 2007 and 2009 came in the Health Care & Social Assistance industry (4.0 percent), as a result of strong growth in the sub-industry of Ambulatory Health Care Services (7.7 percent). Further gains in Educational Services (1.9 percent) were offset by significant losses in Administrative & Support Services (-12.8 percent), Manufacturing (-13.5 percent), and Construction (-20.5 percent). Within the Trade, Transportation, & Utilities supersector, the state experienced large losses in two major industries: Retail Trade (-4.7 percent) and Wholesale

Trade (-9.3 percent). However, Massachusetts industries did not experience job losses as steep as their Cape & Islands counterparts and tended to have stronger gains in the few industries that expanded employment. As a result, employment losses statewide (-4.0 percent, or nearly -130,000 jobs) were less severe than in the Cape & Islands (-5.2 percent) in the downturn between 2007 and 2009.

**Source:** Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development ES-202.

**Note:** Industries are sorted by size in Massachusetts in Q4 2009.

