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.


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