

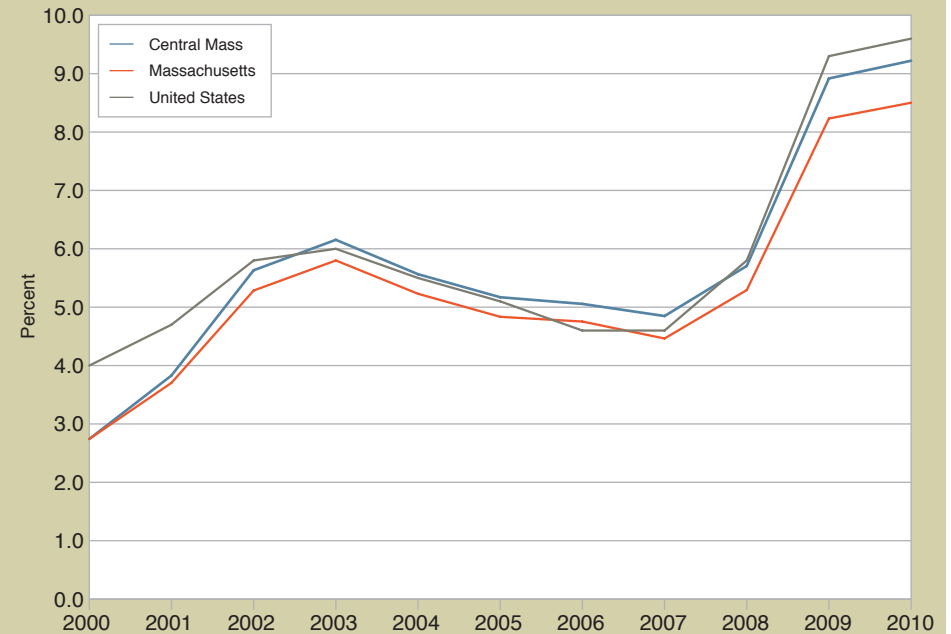
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE TRENDS

During the Great Recession, the unemployment rate nationwide increased sharply. In Central Mass at the beginning of the decade, the unemployment rate was 2.7 percent. It then climbed to 6.1 percent in 2003 before declining to slightly 4.8 percent in 2007. In the Great Recession, the region's unemployment rate reached 9.2 percent. Over most of the past decade, the region's unemployment rate exceeded that of Massachusetts and was the second highest unemployment rate of all regional labor markets in 2010 (behind the Southeast region).

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



Central Mass Unemployment

	2000	2010	Relative Change	Annual Growth Rate (Percent)
Unemployed	11,018	38,970	27,952	13.5
Employed	390,692	383,614	-7,078	-0.2
Civilian Labor Force	401,710	422,584	20,874	0.5
Unemployment Rate	2.7	9.2	-	-