

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE TRENDS

During the Great Recession, unemployment rates nationwide have increased sharply. Beginning the decade at 2.1 percent, the unemployment rate of Metro South/West climbed to nearly 5.0 percent in 2003 before declining to slightly over 3.0 percent in 2007. In the Great Recession the region's unemployment rate jumped to 6.5 percent. While the unemployment rate remains elevated, it has consistently remained below both the state's and the nation's rates. The unemployment rate in Metro South/West is currently the 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 rates.

Unemployment Rate, 2000 to 2010



Metro South/West Unemployment

	2000	2010	Relative Change	Annual Growth Rate (Percent)
Unemployed	10,090	31,988	21,898	12.2
Employed	476,477	461,675	-14,802	-0.3
Civilian Labor Force	486,567	493,662	7,095	0.1
Unemployment Rate	2.1	6.5	-	-