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.


Note: The annual unemployment rate is a 12-month average of the non-seasonally-adjusted unemployment rates.