Massachusetts fared slightly better in the downturn than did the Southeast region. The state’s strongest employment gains also 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 Education Services (1.9 percent) were offset by significant losses in the Administrative & Support Services (−12.8 percent), Manufacturing (−13.5 percent), and Construction (−20.5 percent) industries. 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 did not experience jobs losses as steep as in most industries as the Southeast region, and the state had 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 than those in the Southeast region in the downturn between 2007 and 2009.


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

Q4 2009 Industry Employment

Percent Change in Employment, Q4 2007 to Q4 2009