



Economic Overview And Outlook: Massachusetts

JOBS

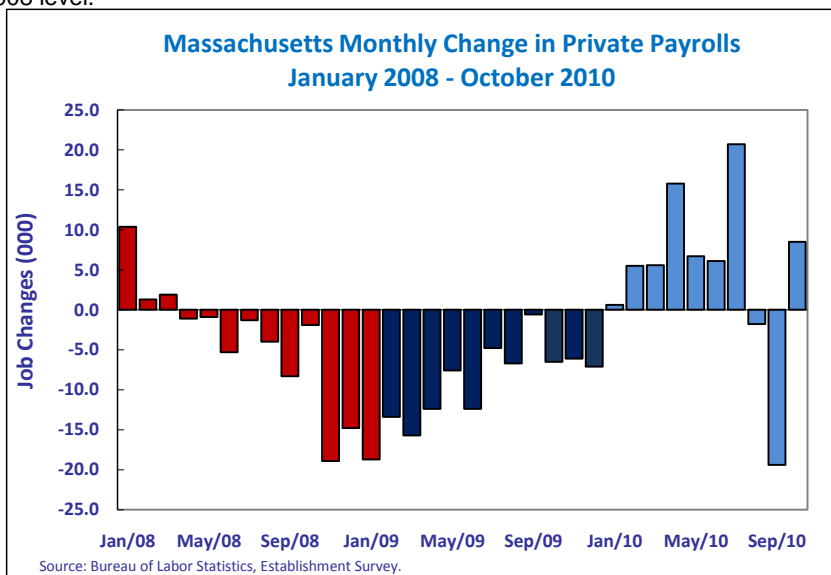
- Across the country, the private sector gained jobs in each month of 2010.
- The President's Council of Economic Advisers estimates that investments made through the Recovery Act have boosted employment in Massachusetts by 82,000 jobs through the 3rd quarter of 2010.
- In Massachusetts, private sector employment fell by 5.4 percent from December 2007 to December 2009. In 2010, private sector employment grew by 1.8 percent.
- In Massachusetts, employees in the construction, manufacturing, and trade, transportation and utilities sectors faced the largest job losses (as a percent of employment within an industry) over the recession. In 2010, the following sectors in Massachusetts experienced the greatest employment increases: other services; professional and business services; and leisure and hospitality.*
- As the economy recovers from the Great Recession, service-providing industries are projected to add the most jobs between 2008 and 2018, with the largest gains in professional and business services, education, health care and social assistance, and State and local government. Within the goods-producing sector of the economy, only the construction industry is projected to add jobs above its 2008 level.

EMPLOYMENT

- The unemployment rate in Massachusetts was 8.1 percent in October 2010, up 3.7 percentage points from December 2007, but down from its most recent peak of 9.5 percent reached in February 2010.
- 283,000 Massachusetts residents were counted among the unemployed in Massachusetts during October 2010.

EARNINGS

- Between the start of the recession in the 4th quarter of 2007 and the 1st quarter of 2009, inflation-adjusted total personal income in the United States declined 1.6 percent. Most recently, in the 2nd quarter of 2010, total personal income remained 0.9 percent below the 4th quarter 2007 peak.
- Real per capita personal income (in 2005 \$) in Massachusetts was \$45,402.30 in the 2nd quarter of 2010, down from \$46,947.70 in the 2nd quarter of 2008.



HOUSING

- National home prices, including distressed sales, saw a decrease of 2.8 percent in September 2010 from September 2009 compared to a 1.1 percent decrease in August. In Massachusetts, home prices saw a decrease of 1.7 percent in September 2010 from September 2009 following August's year over year decrease of 0.5 percent.
- The median price of single-family homes in Massachusetts was \$302,000 in 2008, compared to \$250,000 nationwide.
- As of the 3rd quarter of 2010, 3.2 percent of all mortgages, including 13.5 percent of subprime mortgages, were in foreclosure in Massachusetts.
- Housing starts in Massachusetts totaled 8,370 units (seasonally adjusted annual rate) in September 2010, an increase of 4.6 percent from August.
- Within the Northeast census region, which includes Massachusetts, sales of new single-family homes totaled 30,000 units in September 2010, an increase of 3.4 percent from August. Sales of existing single-family homes decreased 1.8 percent to 560,000 units (at seasonally adjusted annual rates) from September to October 2010.

* For Massachusetts-specific labor sector statistics, please refer to the Massachusetts office:

<http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=elwdagencylanding&L=4&L0=Home&L1=Government&L2=EOLWD+Data+and+Statistics&L3=Labor+Market+Information&sid=Elwd>

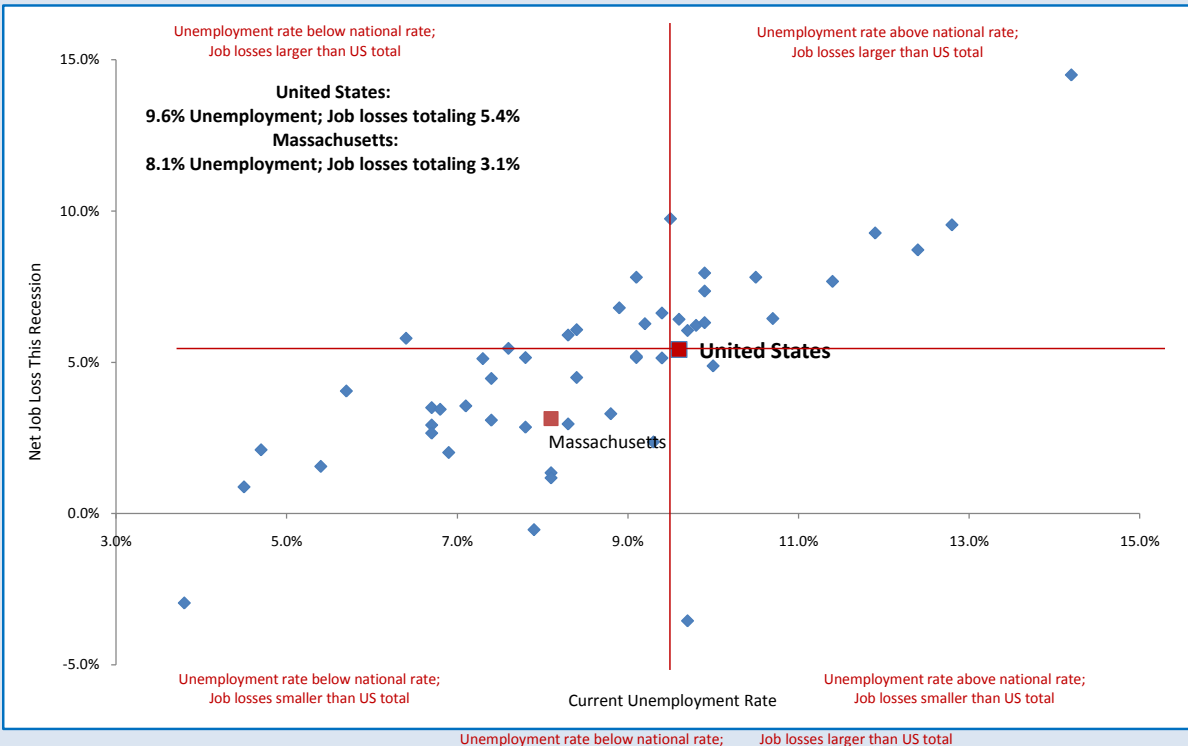
Prepared by the Majority Staff of the Joint Economic Committee

How Does Massachusetts Compare To Other States?

Workers across the country have been hard hit by the Great Recession. This chart allows you to compare Massachusetts to other states using two metrics.

The current unemployment rate (measured along the horizontal axis) serves as a gauge of current labor market conditions faced by residents, while the proportion of jobs lost within Massachusetts over the course of the recession (shown along the vertical axis) measures the toll the recession has taken on the job supply in Massachusetts.

States falling in the upper right quadrant have lost a disproportionate share of jobs, relative to the total United States, and have unemployment rates higher than the national unemployment rate. States falling in the lower left quadrant have unemployment rates lower than the national average and smaller job losses over the recession.



STATE QUICK FACTS

		Massachusetts	United States
Unemployment Rates	October 2008	6.0%	6.6%
	October 2009	9.1%	10.1%
	October 2010	8.1%	9.6%
Percent of Population Who Are Veterans	2008	8.3%	9.8%
Veterans' Unemployment Rate	2009	8.7%	8.1%
Median Household Income	2007	\$ 60,479	\$ 51,965
	(2009 \$) 2009	\$ 59,373	\$ 49,777
Poverty Rate	2007	11.2%	12.5%
	2009	10.8%	14.3%
No Health Insurance	2007	5.4%	15.3%
	2009	4.4%	16.7%