

# Selected BLS Economic Indicators

## Boston Metro Area



### Selected Indicators

This fact sheet presents recent **employment and unemployment** figures for the Boston-Cambridge-Quincy Metropolitan Statistical Area, the State of Massachusetts, and the United States. The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** measures price changes or inflation for particular commodities and services at the retail level. The **Producer Price Index (PPI)** measures price changes or inflation for particular commodities and services at the wholesale level and is widely used by business firms as an escalator in long-term contracts. The **Employment Cost Index (ECI)** measures price changes or inflation of labor costs which includes wages and salaries and employer costs for employee benefits.

| Consumer Price Index<br>(1982-84) = 100          | July<br>2007 | July<br>2008                | Percent<br>change |
|--|--------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)</b>               |              |                             |                   |
| U.S. City Average                                | 208.299      | 219.964                     | 5.6               |
| Northeast  | 221.945      | 234.545                     | 5.7               |
| Boston   | 226.929      | 241.258                     | 6.3               |
| <b>Urban Wage Earners &amp; Clerical Workers</b> |              |                             |                   |
| U.S. City Average                                | 203.700      | 216.304                     | 6.2               |
| Northeast  | 217.879      | 231.488                     | 6.2               |
| Boston   | 226.465      | 240.511                     | 6.2               |
| Producer Price Index, U.S.<br>(1982 = 100)       | Aug.<br>2007 | Aug.<br>2008 <sup>(p)</sup> | Percent<br>change |
| Finished goods                                   | 166.1        | 182.1                       | 9.6               |
| All commodities                                  | 172.4        | 199.9                       | 16.0              |
| Industrial commodities                           | 174.9        | 203.5                       | 16.4              |

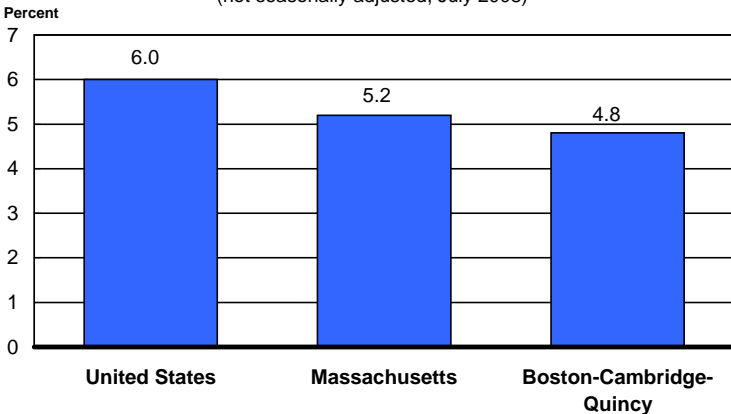
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### Unemployment levels, age 16 years and over (not seasonally adjusted, in thousands)

| Area                    | July<br>2007 | July<br>2008 <sup>(p)</sup> | Net<br>change | Percent<br>change |
|-------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| United States           | 7,556.0      | 9,433.0                     | 1,877.0       | 24.8              |
| Massachusetts           | 161.548      | 180.707                     | 19.2          | 11.9              |
| Boston-Cambridge-Quincy | 108.822      | 121.477                     | 12.7          | 11.6              |

p = preliminary

Unemployment rates, United States,  
Massachusetts, and Boston-Cambridge-Quincy  
Metropolitan Statistical Area  
(not seasonally adjusted, July 2008)



| Employment Cost Index<br>(December 2005 = 100) | June<br>2007                   | June<br>2008 | Percent<br>change |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| <b>Total Compensation-Private Industry</b>     |                                |              |                   |
| United States                                  | 104.9                          | 108.0        | 3.0               |
| Northeast                                      | 105.1                          | 108.1        | 2.9               |
| New England                                    | 104.8                          | 107.1        | 2.2               |
| <b>Wages and Salaries-Private Industry</b>     |                                |              |                   |
| United States                                  | 105.1                          | 108.4        | 3.1               |
| Northeast                                      | 105.0                          | 108.2        | 3.0               |
| New England                                    | 104.8                          | 107.6        | 2.7               |
| Occupational Wages<br>(selected occupations)   | Mean hourly wage<br>(May 2007) |              |                   |
| <b>Boston-Cambridge-Quincy</b>                 |                                |              |                   |
| Education, training, and library               |                                | \$25.49      |                   |
| Healthcare practitioner and technical          |                                | \$36.11      |                   |
| Food preparation and serving related           |                                | \$11.28      |                   |
| Sales and related                              |                                | \$20.79      |                   |
| Office and administrative support              |                                | \$17.64      |                   |
| Construction and extraction                    |                                | \$25.03      |                   |
| Installation, maintenance, and repair          |                                | \$22.46      |                   |
| Production                                     |                                | \$16.85      |                   |
| Transportation and material moving             |                                | \$16.17      |                   |

### Nonfarm payroll employment (not seasonally adjusted, in thousands)

| Area                    | July<br>2007 | July<br>2008 <sup>(p)</sup> | Net<br>change | Percent<br>change |
|-------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| United States           | 137,410.0    | 137,208.0                   | -202.0        | -0.1              |
| Massachusetts           | 3,290.3      | 3,299.7                     | 9.4           | 0.3               |
| Boston-Cambridge-Quincy | 2,482.3      | 2,501.2                     | 18.9          | 0.8               |

p = preliminary

### Boston-Cambridge-Quincy MSA Payroll Information by major industry sector

(not seasonally adjusted, in thousands)

| Industry                            | July<br>2007 | July<br>2008 <sup>(p)</sup> | Net<br>change | Percent<br>change |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Total nonfarm                       | 2,482.3      | 2,501.2                     | 18.9          | 0.8               |
| Construction                        | 105.6        | 103.3                       | -2.3          | -2.2              |
| Manufacturing                       | 222.3        | 219.7                       | -2.6          | -1.2              |
| Trade, transportation and utilities | 417.7        | 417.1                       | -0.6          | -0.1              |
| Financial activities                | 191.6        | 190.3                       | -1.3          | -0.7              |
| Professional and business services  | 414.6        | 422.5                       | 7.9           | 1.9               |
| Education and health services       | 455.1        | 466.0                       | 10.9          | 2.4               |
| Government                          | 278.6        | 281.5                       | 2.9           | 1.0               |

p = preliminary

Note: Total includes industries not shown separately.

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The Northeast Census Region comprises Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont. For more detailed information on **Metropolitan Statistical Areas**, please visit [http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/msa\\_def.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/msa_def.htm)