

# 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, all items (not seasonally adjusted) |          |          |                |
|---|----------|----------|----------------|
| Consumer Price Index (1982-84=100)                        | Jan 2008 | Jan 2009 | Percent change |
| <b>All Urban Consumers</b>                                |          |          |                |
| U.S. City Average   | 211.080  | 211.143  | 0.0%           |
| Northeast Region  | 224.325  | 225.436  | 0.5%           |
| Boston  | 231.980  | 230.806  | -0.5%          |
| <b>Urban Wage Earners &amp; Clerical Workers</b>          |          |          |                |
| U.S. City Average   | 206.744  | 205.700  | -0.5%          |
| Northeast Region  | 221.065  | 221.704  | 0.3%           |
| Boston  | 231.291  | 230.095  | -0.5%          |

| Producer Price Index, U.S. (1982=100) | Feb 2008 | Feb 2009 | Percent change |
|---------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------------|
| Finished goods                        | 172.3    | 170.1    | -1.3%          |
| All commodities                       | 182.7    | 169.5    | -7.2%          |
| Industrial commodities                | 184.6    | 170.9    | -7.4%          |

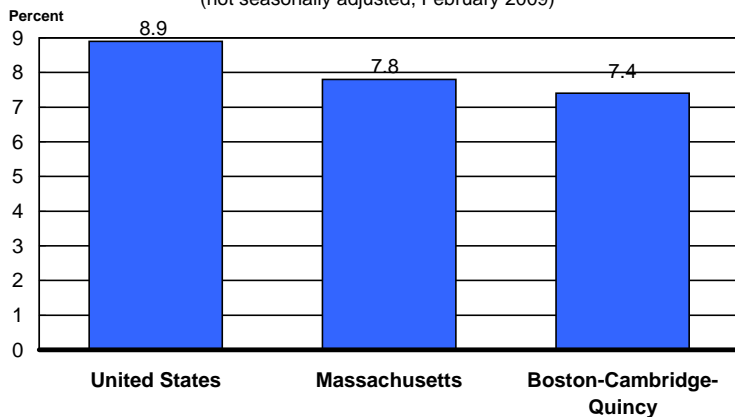
Most recent data for the PPI are subject to revision for four months.

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

| Area                    | Feb 2008 | Feb 2009 | Net change | Percent change |
|-------------------------|----------|----------|------------|----------------|
| United States           | 7,953    | 13,699   | 5,746      | 72.2%          |
| Massachusetts           | 164,856  | 284,063  | 119,207    | 72.3%          |
| Boston-Cambridge-Quincy | 109,129  | 184,953  | 75,824     | 69.5%          |

Most recent data for unemployment are preliminary.

Unemployment rates, United States, Massachusetts, and Boston-Cambridge-Quincy Metropolitan Statistical Area (not seasonally adjusted, February 2009)



| Employment Cost Index (December 2005=100) | Private Industry Workers | Dec 2007 | Dec 2008 | Percent change |
|---|--------------------------|----------|----------|----------------|
| <b>Total Compensation</b>                 |                          |          |          |                |
| United States                             |                          | 106.3    | 108.9    | 2.4%           |
| Northeast                                 |                          | 106.8    | 109.5    | 2.5%           |
| New England                               |                          | 106.1    | 109.5    | 3.2%           |
| <b>Wages and Salaries</b>                 |                          |          |          |                |
| U.S. City Average                         |                          | 106.6    | 109.4    | 2.6%           |
| Northeast                                 |                          | 106.6    | 109.6    | 2.8%           |
| New England                               |                          | 106.3    | 110.3    | 3.8%           |

| Occupational Wages (selected occupations) | Mean hourly wage (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                    | Dec 2007  | Dec 2008  | Net change | Percent change |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|----------------|
| United States           | 138,934.0 | 136,119.0 | -2815      | -2.0%          |
| Massachusetts           | 3,315.8   | 3,273.0   | -42.8      | -1.3%          |
| Boston-Cambridge-Quincy | 2,517.4   | 2,497.7   | -19.7      | -0.8%          |

Most recent data for employment are preliminary.

### Boston-Cambridge-Quincy employment by major industry (not seasonally adjusted, in thousands)

| Area                                 | Dec 2007 | Dec 2008 | Net change | Percent change |
|--------------------------------------|----------|----------|------------|----------------|
| Total nonfarm                        | 2,517.4  | 2,497.7  | -19.7      | -0.8%          |
| Construction                         | 99.0     | 90.5     | -8.5       | -8.6%          |
| Manufacturing                        | 221.1    | 215.5    | -5.6       | -2.5%          |
| Trade, transportation, and utilities | 434.7    | 425.5    | -9.2       | -2.1%          |
| Financial activities                 | 189.7    | 184.8    | -4.9       | -2.6%          |
| Professional and business services   | 412.4    | 415.0    | 2.6        | 0.6%           |
| Education and health services        | 474.8    | 483.7    | 8.9        | 1.9%           |
| Government                           | 305.8    | 309.1    | 3.3        | 1.1%           |

Most recent data for employment are 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)