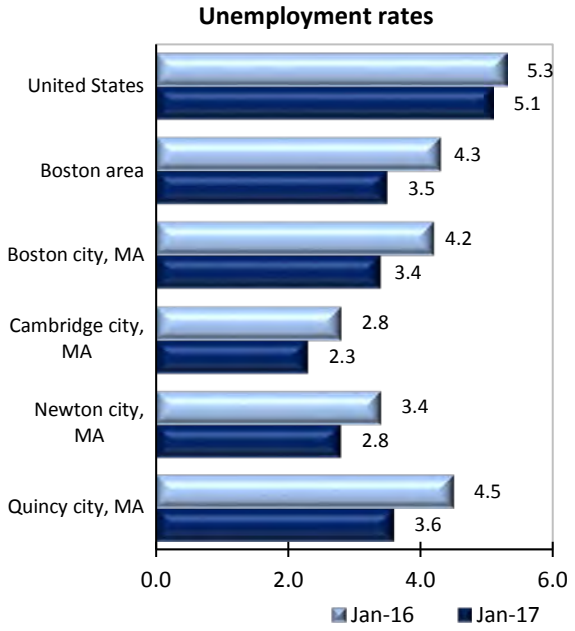
Boston, MA-NH, Area Economic Summary

Updated March 17, 2017

This summary presents a sampling of economic information for the area; supplemental data are provided for regions and the nation. Subjects include **unemployment**, **employment**, **wages**, **prices**, **spending**, and **benefits**. All data are not seasonally adjusted and some may be subject to revision. Area definitions may differ by subject. For more area summaries and geographic definitions, see www.bls.gov/regions/economic-summaries.htm.

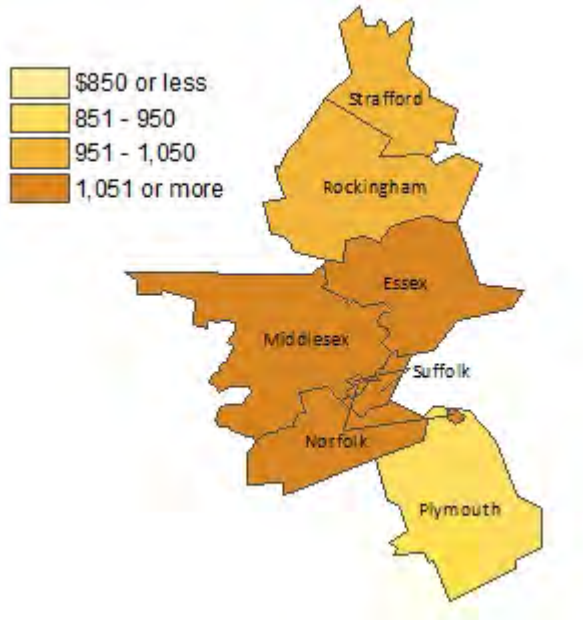
Unemployment rates for the Boston area, selected area cities, and the nation



Source: U.S. BLS, Local Area Unemployment Statistics.

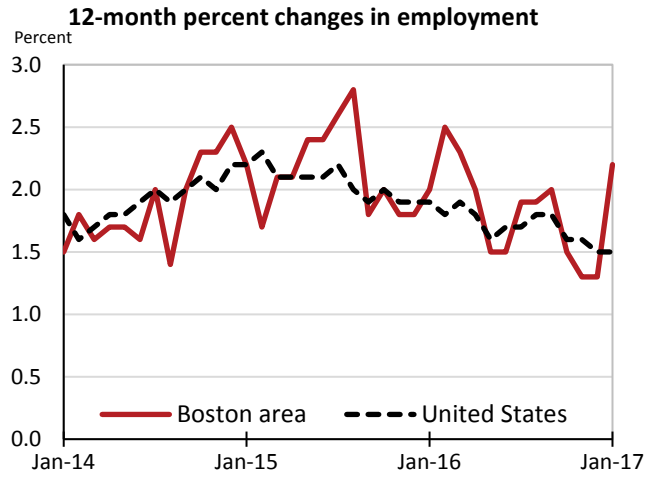
Average weekly wages for all industries by county

Boston area, 3rd quarter 2016
(U.S. = $1,027; Area = $1,380)



Source: U.S. BLS, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.

Over-the-year changes in employment on nonfarm payrolls and employment by major industry sector

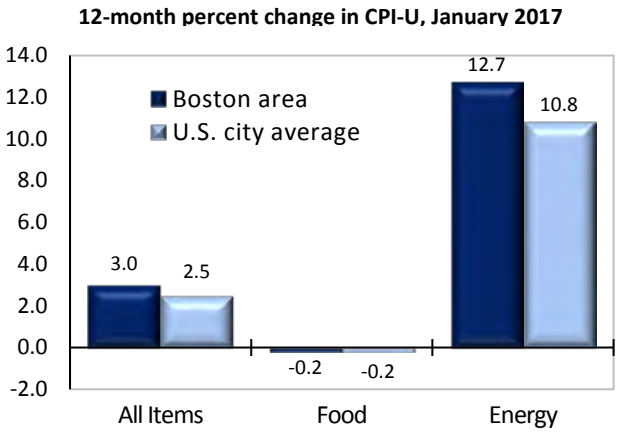


Source: U.S. BLS, Current Employment Statistics.

Boston area employment (numbers in thousands)	Jan. 2017	Change from Jan. 2016 to Jan. 2017	
		Number	Percent
Total nonfarm	2,690.9	59.1	2.2
Mining, logging, and construction	101.5	-0.3	-0.3
Manufacturing	185.5	-2.2	-1.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities	424.1	4.1	1.0
Information	78.9	1.3	1.7
Financial activities	189.9	6.4	3.5
Professional and business services	465.0	12.5	2.8
Education and health services	581.4	25.1	4.5
Leisure and hospitality	251.3	4.9	2.0
Other services	100.3	2.2	2.2
Government	313.0	5.1	1.7

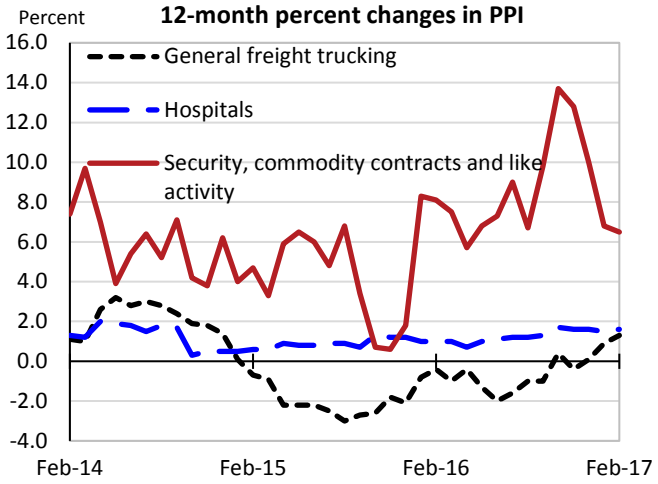
Source: U.S. BLS, Current Employment Statistics.

Over-the-year change in the prices paid by urban consumers for selected categories



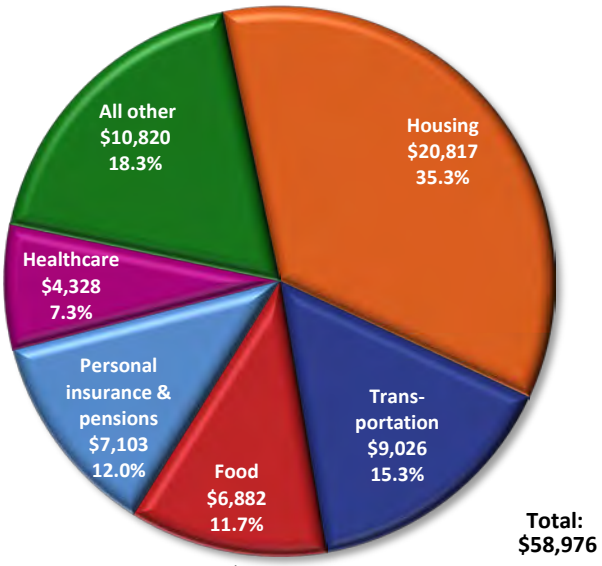
Source: U.S. BLS, Consumer Price Index.

Over-the-year changes in the selling prices received by producers for selected industries nationwide



Source: U.S. BLS, Producer Price Index.

Average annual spending and percent distribution for selected categories



Source: U.S. BLS, Consumer Expenditure Survey.

Average hourly wages for selected occupations

Occupation	Boston area	United States
Total, all occupations	$29.84	$23.23
Lawyers	75.97	65.51
General and operations managers	67.50	57.44
Software developers, applications	52.66	49.12
Management analysts	49.96	44.12
Registered nurses	43.77	34.14
Accountants and auditors	40.42	36.19
Construction laborers	25.75	17.57
Office clerks, general	18.16	15.33
Waiters and waitresses	13.38	11.07
Retail salespersons	13.18	12.67
Cashiers	11.02	10.09
Cooks, fast food	10.73	9.43

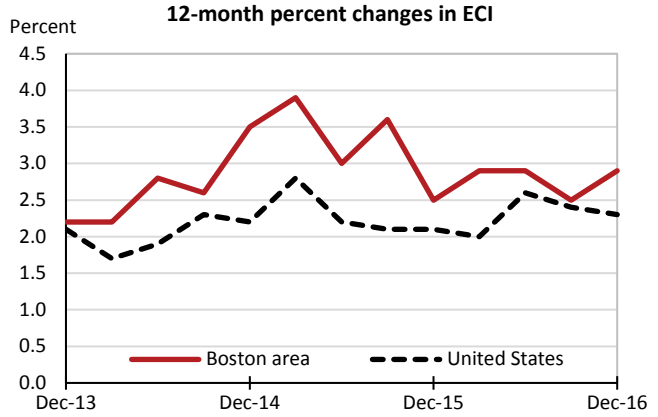
Source: U.S. BLS, Occupational Employment Statistics, May 2015.

Employer costs per hour worked for wages and selected employee benefits by geographic division

Private industry, December 2016	New England (1)	United States
Total compensation	$39.27	$32.76
Wages and salaries	27.61	22.83
Total benefits	11.66	9.93
Paid leave	2.90	2.28
Vacation	1.51	1.17
Supplemental pay	1.10	1.15
Insurance	3.23	2.63
Retirement and savings	1.54	1.31
Legally required benefits	2.89	2.56

(1) New England includes CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, and VT.
Source: U.S. BLS, Employer Costs for Employee Compensation.

Over-the-year changes in wages and salaries



Source: U.S. BLS, Employment Cost Index.