



**MASS WORKFORCE ASSOCIATION**  
**ONE SYSTEM – ONE VOICE**

# Economic Overview

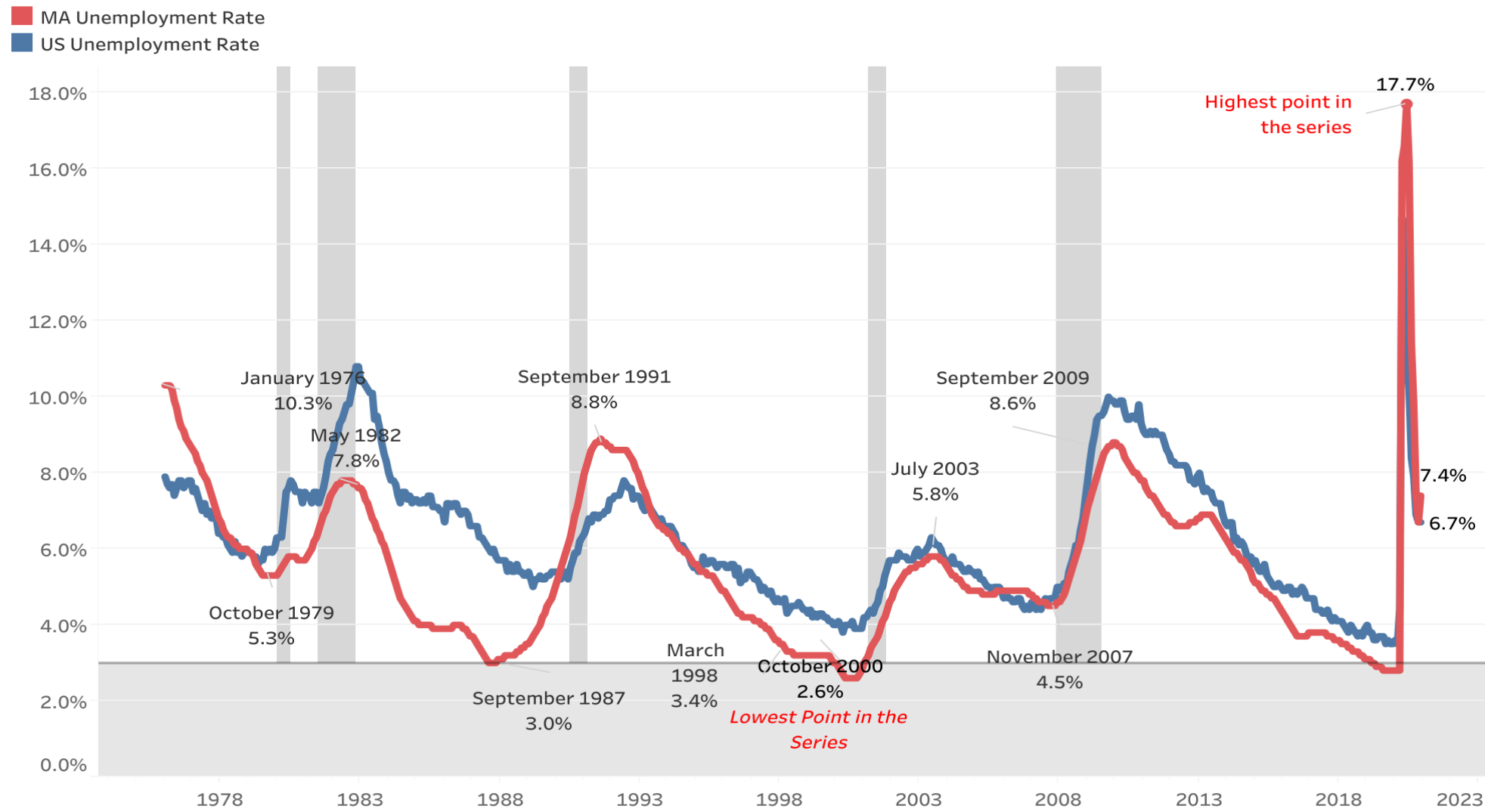
Raija Vaisanen

Associate Director, Massachusetts Workforce Association  
for the

Metro South Chamber of Commerce

February 19, 2021

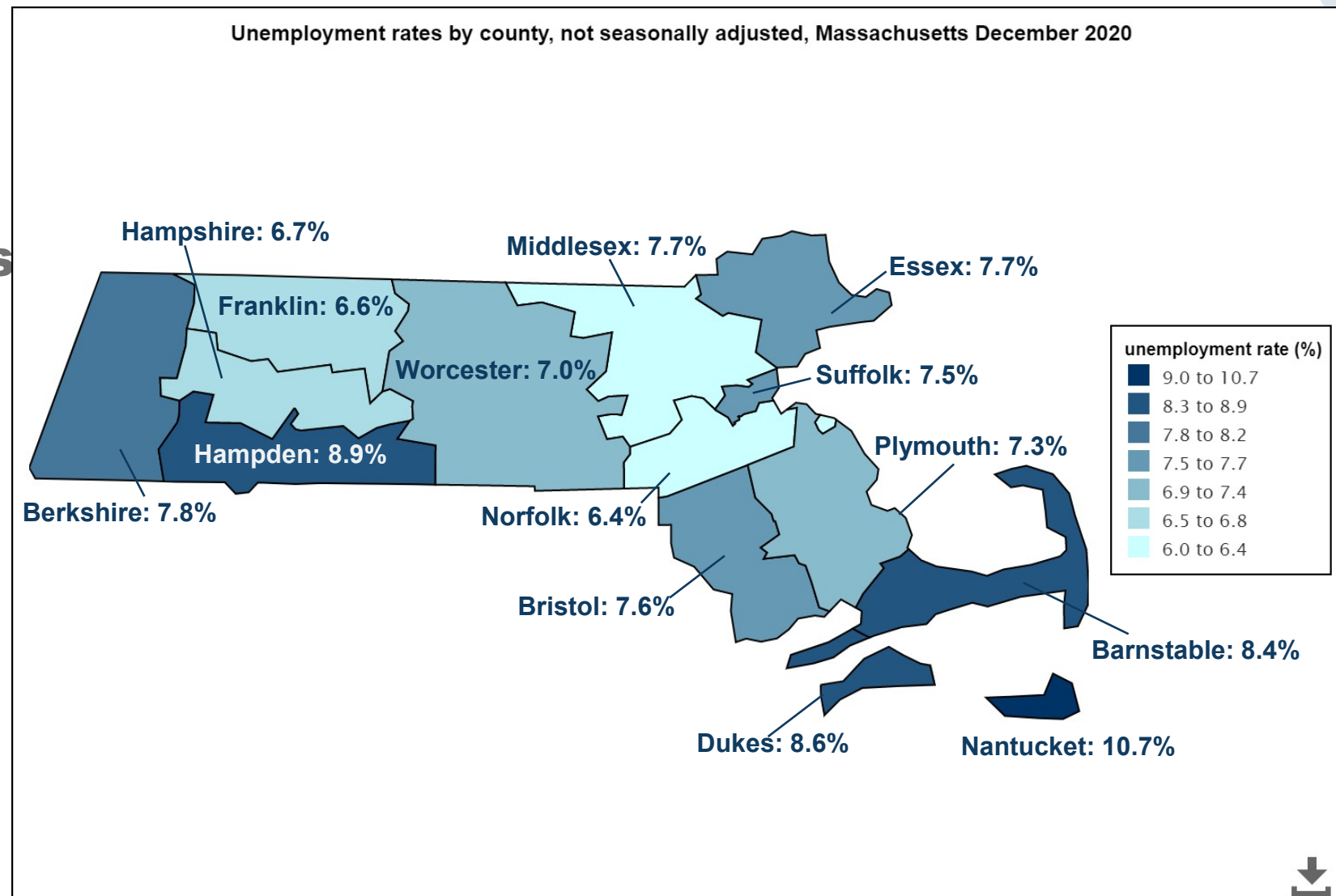
# A public health induced recession.



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Labor Force and Unemployment Rate Estimates; Massachusetts Dept. of Unemployment Assistance, Economic Research Dept.

## Unemployment varies across the state, but challenges exist everywhere.

- Currently, 271K people are unemployed and more than 209K people are underemployed across MA.
- The state's usual bulwarks against past recessions have made us vulnerable in this public-health induced economic crisis: Education, Health Care, Tourism.



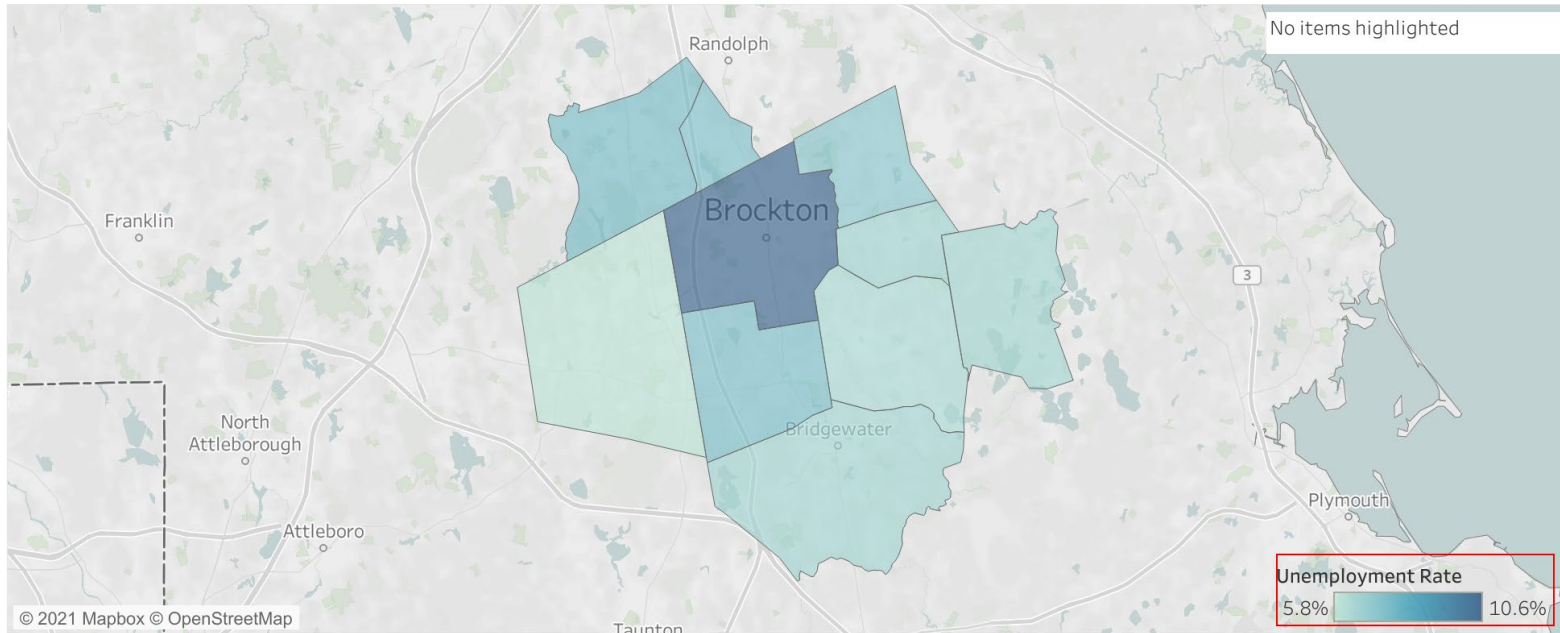
## Workforce Development Area (WDA) Profile

Date

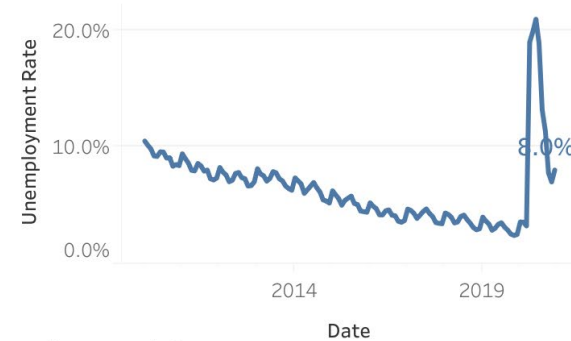
December 2020

WDA

Brockton WDA



**Greater  
Brockton  
unemployment  
is slightly  
higher than the  
state average.**

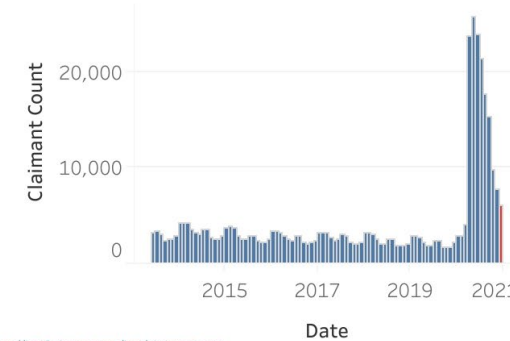


### Labor Force

	December 2020
Labor Force	132,565
Employment	121,919
Unemployment	10,646
Unemployment Rate	8.0%

### UI Claimants

<b>Brockton WDA</b>	<b>6,090</b>
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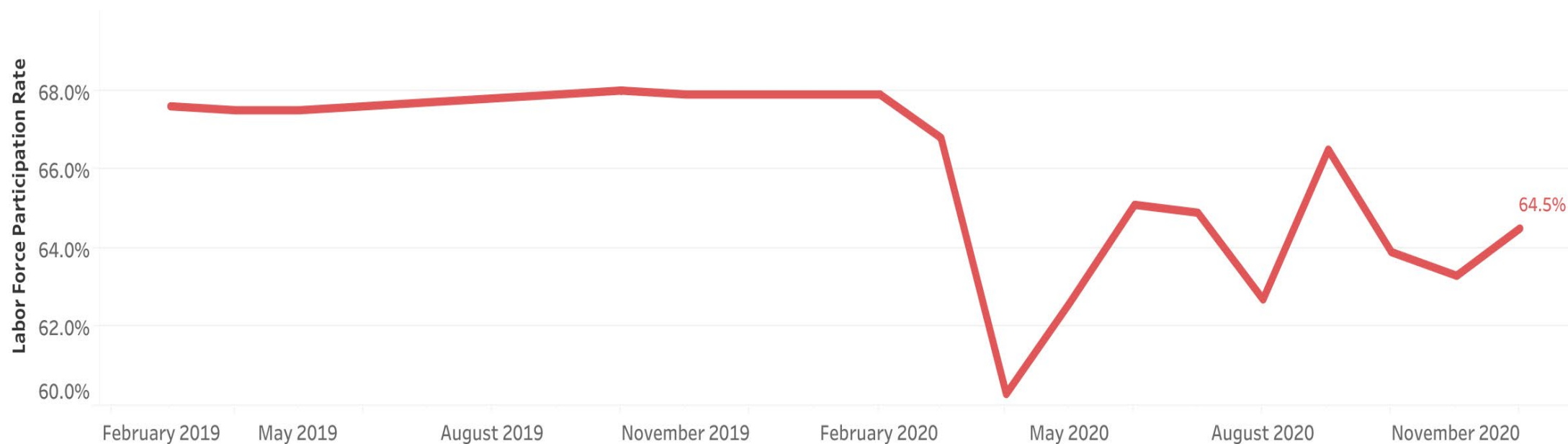
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Estimates for Workforce Delivery Areas with towns with 2010 Census population of less than 1,000 were produced using the BLS methodology, but are not official BLS estimates.  
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS), MA Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA)..

# Many have dropped out of the labor force, no longer looking for work.

**Date** February 2019 to December 2020

■ Massachusetts



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Labor Force and Unemployment Rate Estimates; Massachusetts Dept. of Unemployment Assistance, Economic Research Dept.



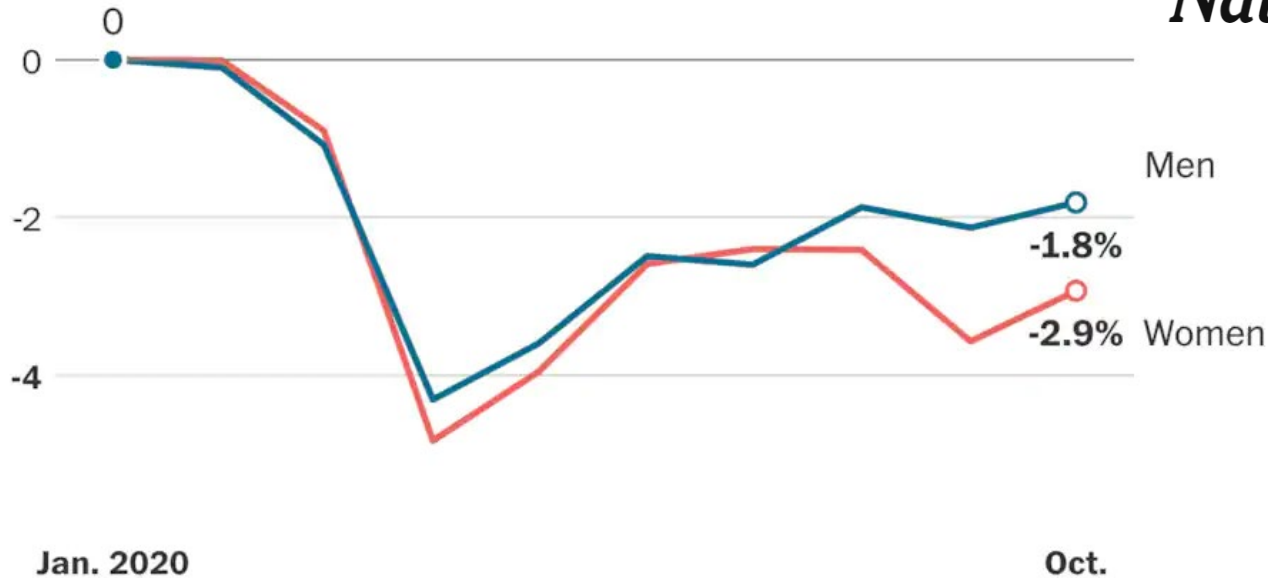
Seal of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

# A “Shecession”

**Women dropped out of the labor force in September. Men did not**

Change in labor force participation of adults 20 and over since January.

*2.5 Million Women Left the Work Force During the Pandemic. Harris Sees a ‘National Emergency.’*

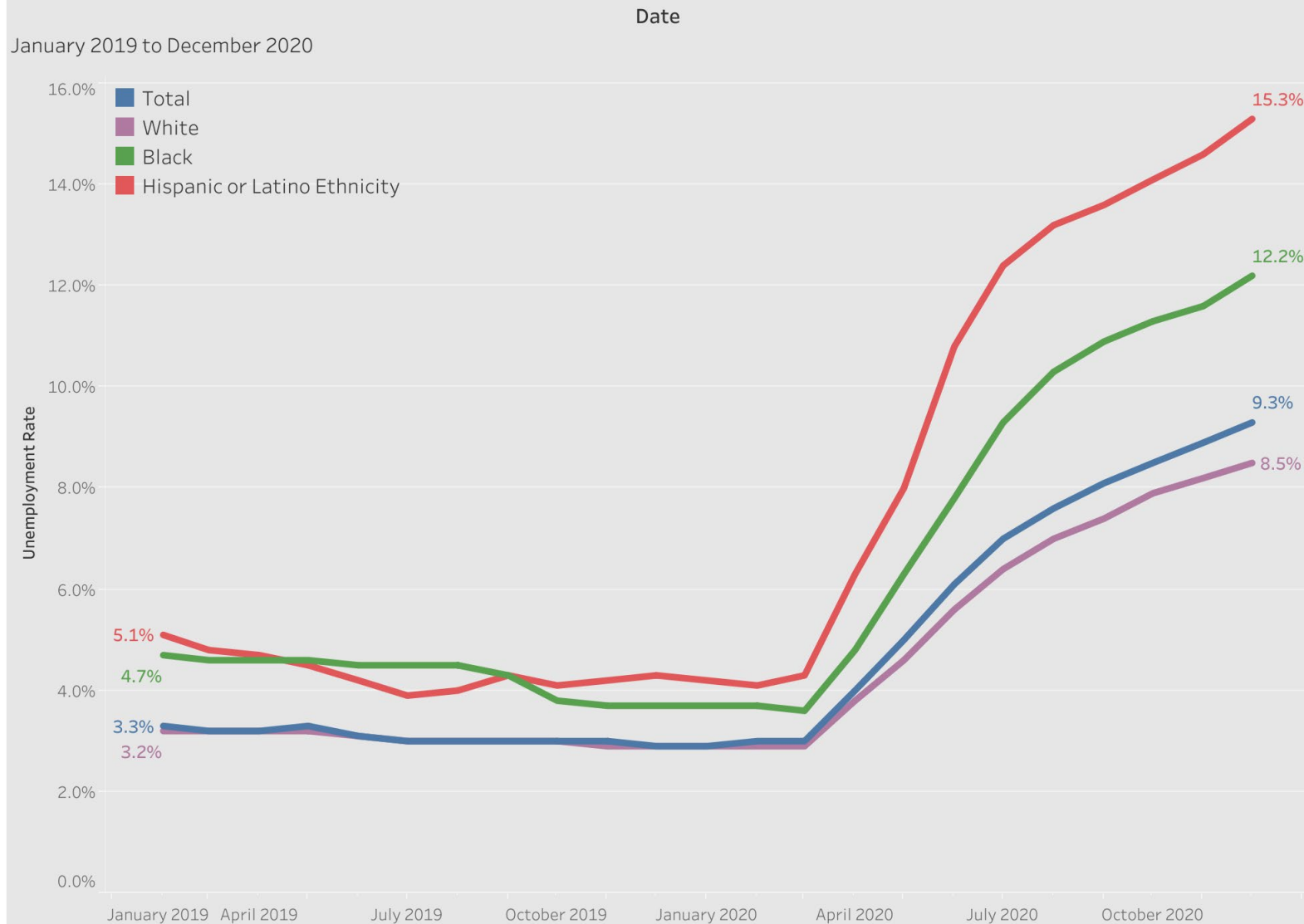


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

THE WASHINGTON POST



## Massachusetts Unemployment Rates by Race/Ethnicity, 12 Month Moving Averages



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Current Population Survey (CPS), 12 Month Moving Averages, Compiled by MA Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA)

**Racial disparities in the labor market have been exacerbated.**

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey (CPS); Massachusetts Dept. of Unemployment Assistance, Economic Research Dept.

# Many jobs lost during the pandemic will not return.

## Most impacted occupations

Rank	Occupation	Job Postings from week of 3/2 to week of 4/20	Decline from week of 3/2 to week of 4/20
1	Dining Room and Cafeteria Attendants and Bartender Helpers	6,707	-81%
2	Bartenders	8,367	-78%
3	Tellers	8,183	-76%
4	Phlebotomists	5,211	-75%
5	Counter and Rental Clerks	5,377	-75%
6	Hosts and Hostesses, Restaurant, Lounge, and Coffee Shop	9,587	-74%
7	Hotel, Motel, and Resort Desk Clerks	13,360	-74%
8	Waiters and Waitresses	23,248	-73%
9	Demonstrators and Product Promoters	5,660	-72%
10	Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education	13,156	-72%

Source: [Filling the Lifeboats: Getting Americans Back to Work in the Pandemic](#), Burning Glass Technologies, May 2020



# Some jobs were pandemic proof, and some actually increased hiring.

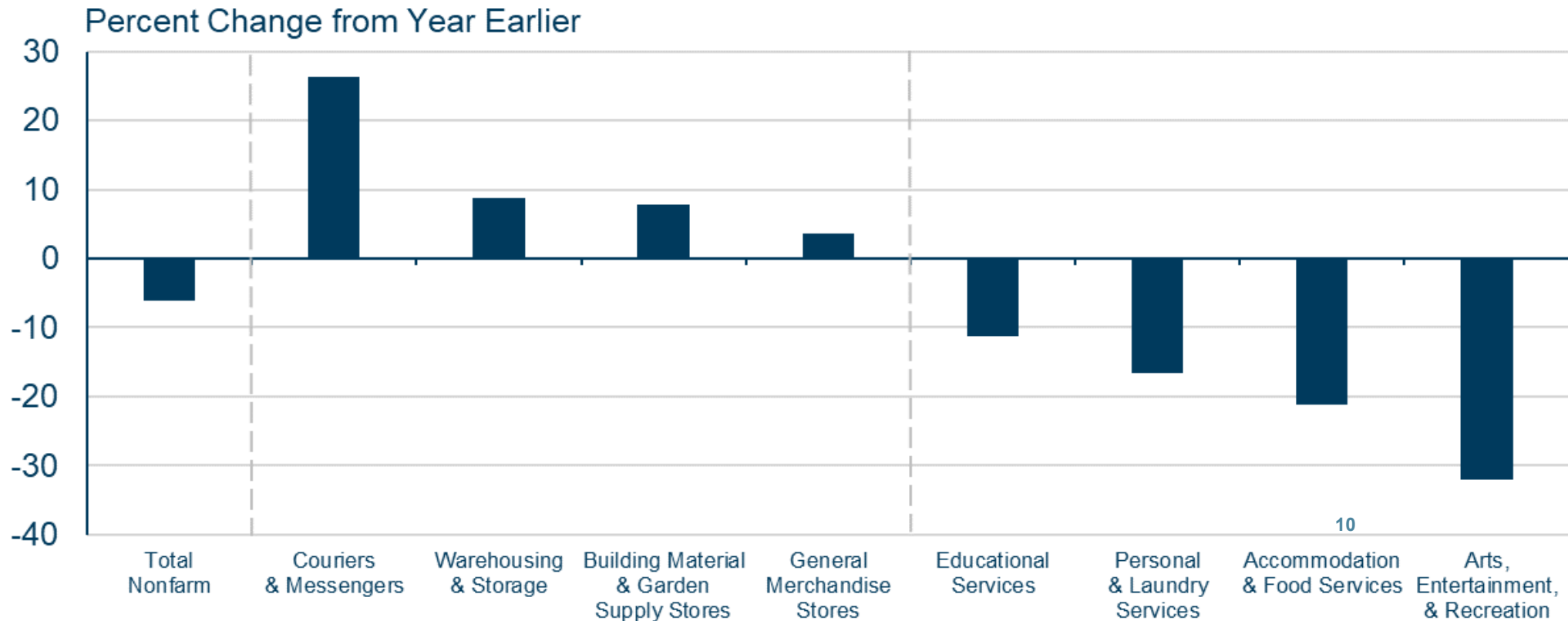
## Least impacted occupations

Rank	Occupation	Job Postings from week of 3/2 to week of 4/20	Growth from week of 3/2 to week of 4/20
1	Shipping, Receiving, and Traffic Clerks	10,175	59%
2	Driver/Sales Workers	28,739	28%
3	Personal Care Aides	28,888	4%
4	Mental Health Counselors	9,312	4%
5	Computer and Information Research Scientists	6,637	-6%
6	Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	37,246	-7%
7	Cashiers	31,459	-12%
8	Respiratory Therapists	8,987	-19%
9	Stock Clerks and Order Fillers	51,948	-19%
10	Home Health Aides	17,305	-20%

Source: [Filling the Lifeboats: Getting Americans Back to Work in the Pandemic](#), Burning Glass Technologies, May 2020

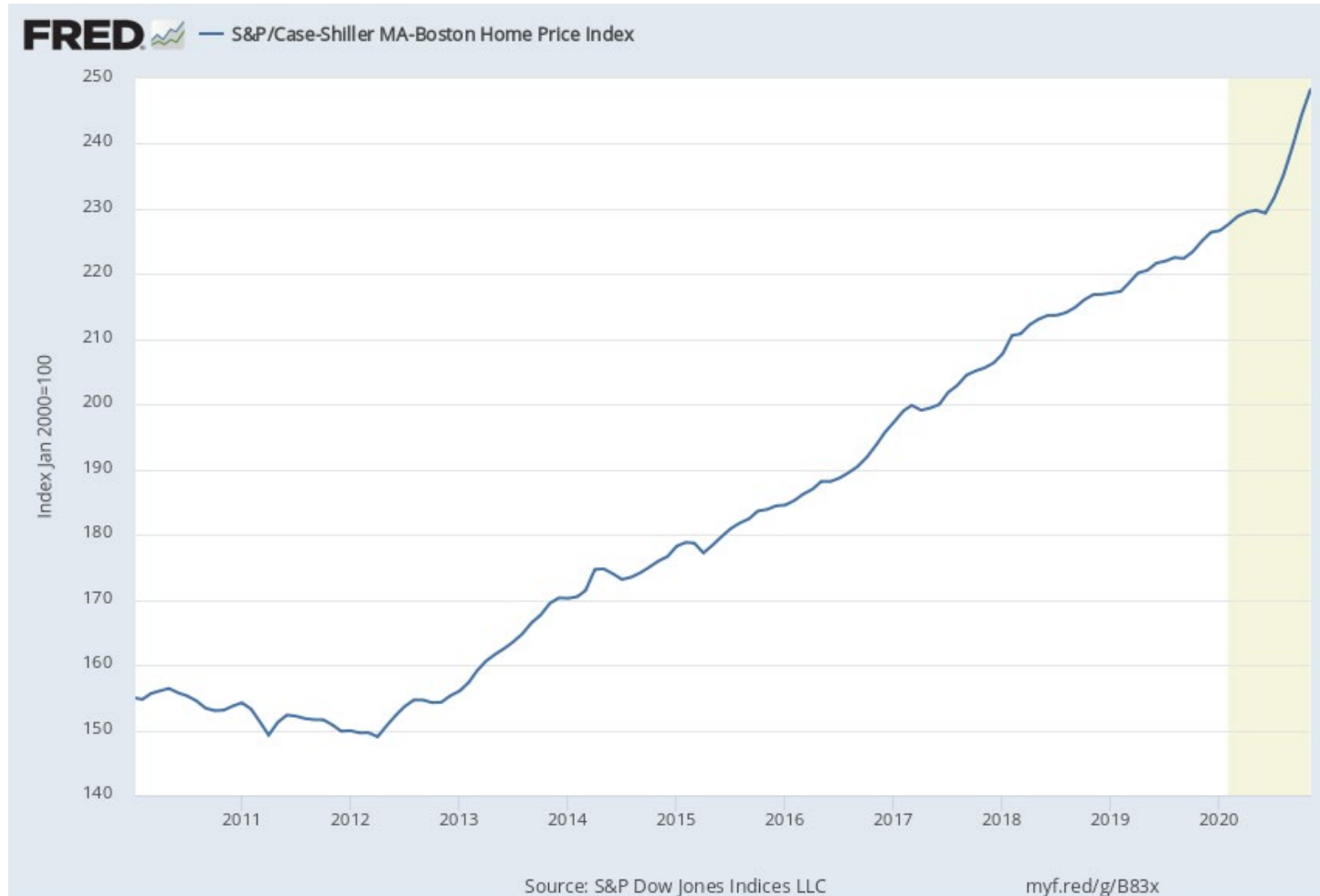
# Payroll Employment Increases and Decreases in Selected Industries

## December 2019 - December 2020



Source: Eric Rosengren, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston- Speech to Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, January 12, 2021  
BLS, Haver Analytics

# Rapid increase in home prices: limited supply, low interest rates

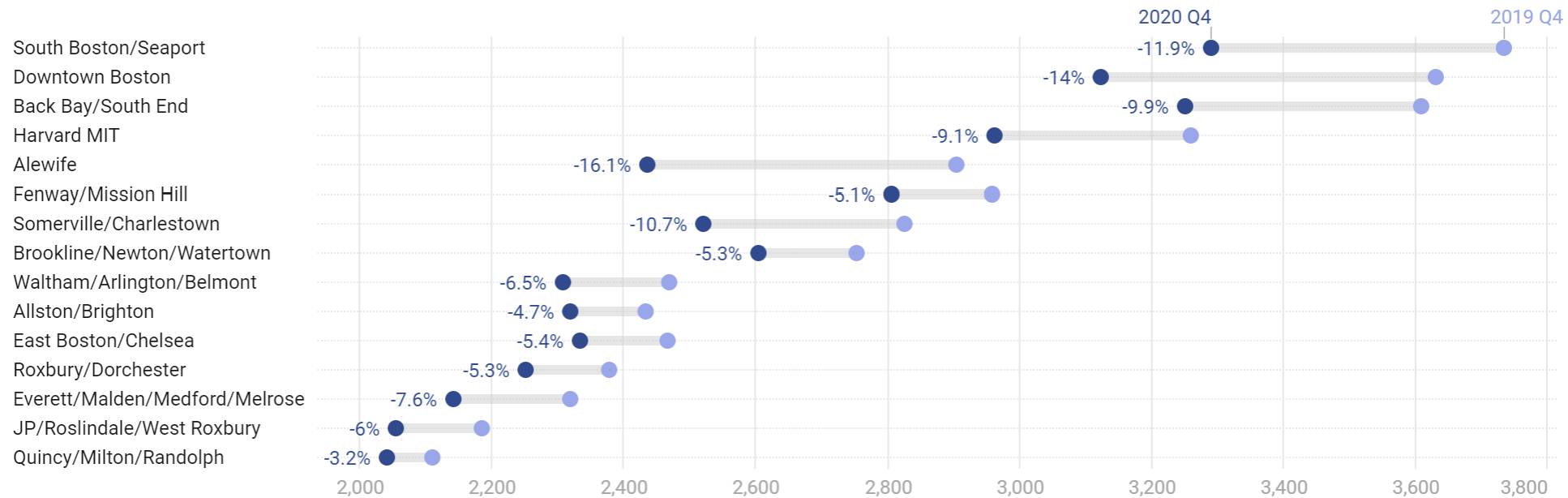


Source: FRED Economic Research, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

# Reduced rents in communities closest to Boston in response to decreased demand.

**Expensive inner core neighborhoods have seen reductions in asking rent as the pandemic wears on.**

Decrease in demand, perhaps driven by loss of student populations and reduced incomes, has resulted in reduced rents in the relatively more expensive inner core markets. Graph shows change in average asking rent in multifamily properties between Q4 2019 and Q4 2020.



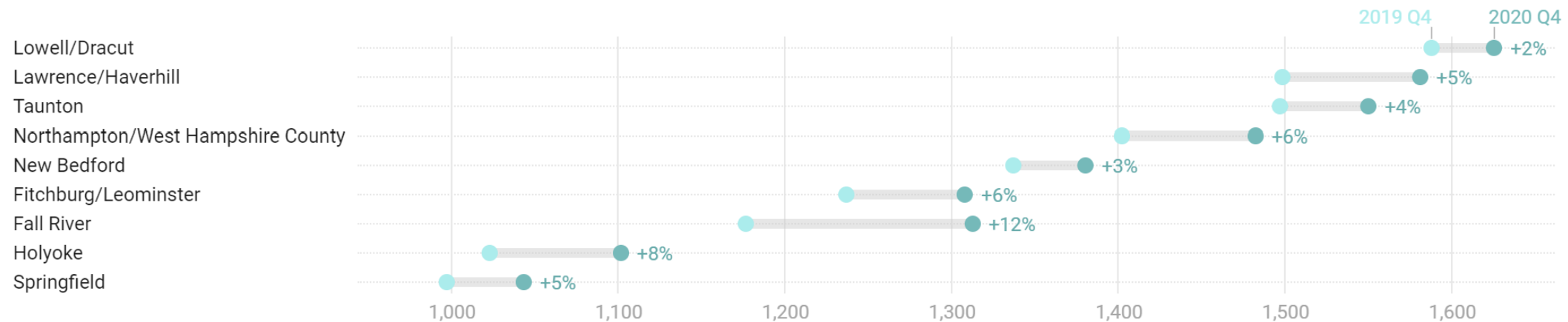
Source: [CoStar Group](#) • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

Source: Boston Indicators, The Boston Foundation

# Meanwhile, Gateway Cities see increasing rents.

## Asking rents in lower-cost markets have increased

Outside the Boston inner core, upward pressure on rents remains high, particularly in Gateway cities across the state. Graph shows change in average asking rent in multifamily properties between Q4 2019 and Q4 2020.



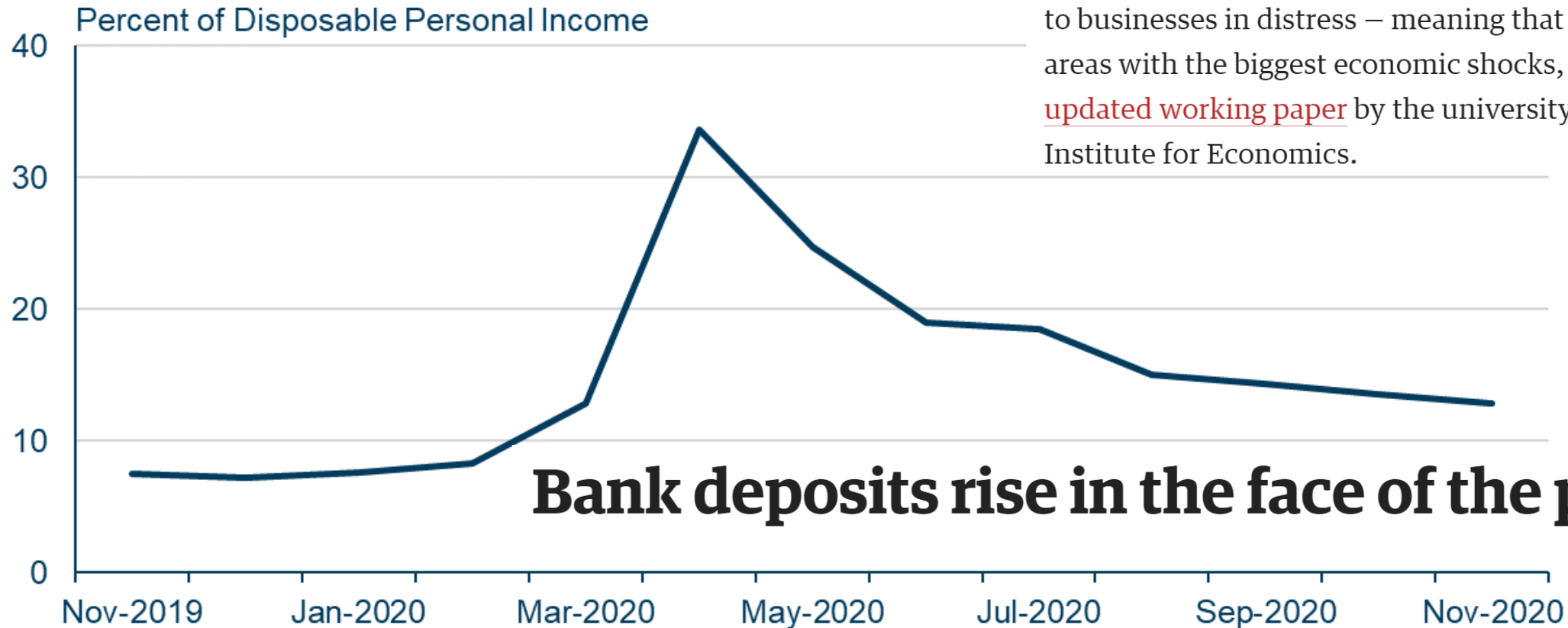
Source: [CoStar Group](#) • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)



## Personal Saving Rate November 2019 - November 2020

### New research finds SBA's PPP loans only had small benefit on employment

Much of the money that went to small businesses was used to build up savings buffers and make nonpayroll fixed payments, while the SBA's own eligibility rules limited the funds that went to businesses in distress – meaning that less funding went to areas with the biggest economic shocks, according to an [updated working paper](#) by the university's Becker Friedman Institute for Economics.



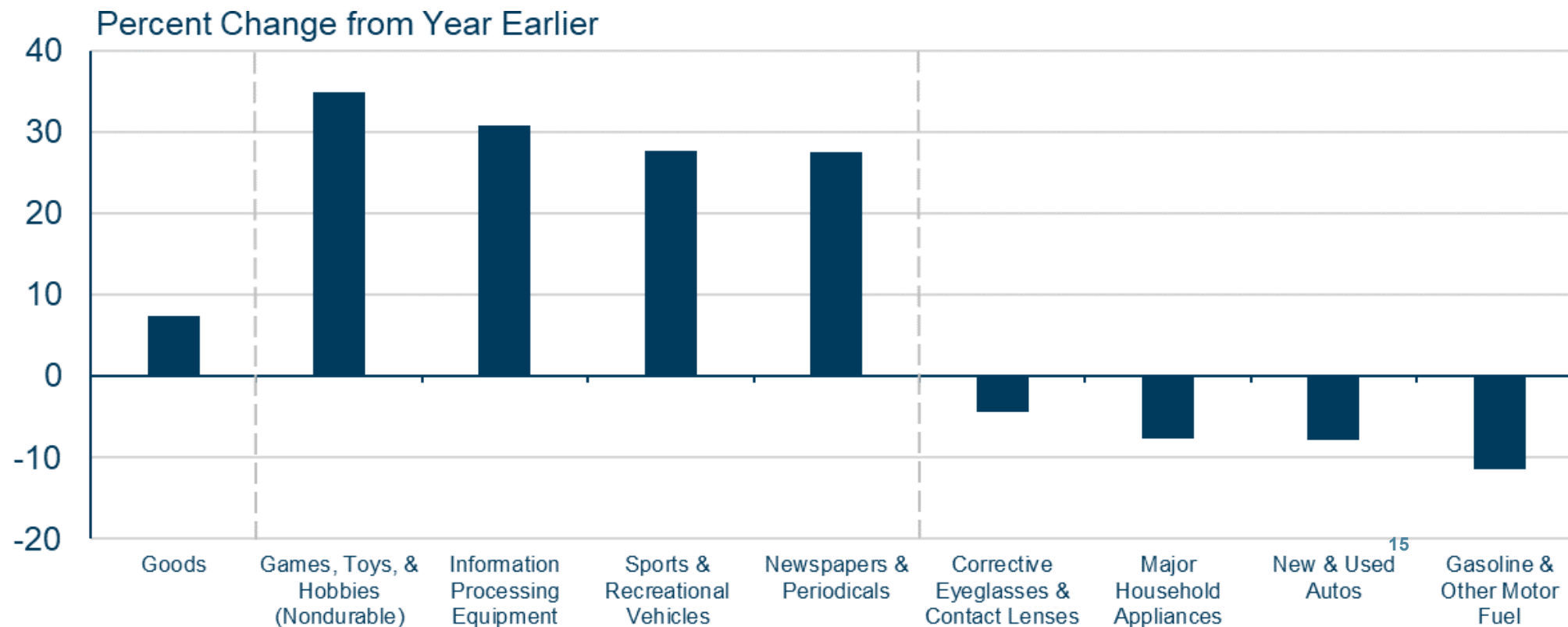
Source: Eric Rosengren, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston- Speech to Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, January 12, 2021  
BEA, Haver Analytics; News headlines and blurbs – Boston Business Journal 12/10/2020



# Real Personal Consumption Expenditures on Goods

## – Large Increases and Decreases

### November 2019 - November 2020

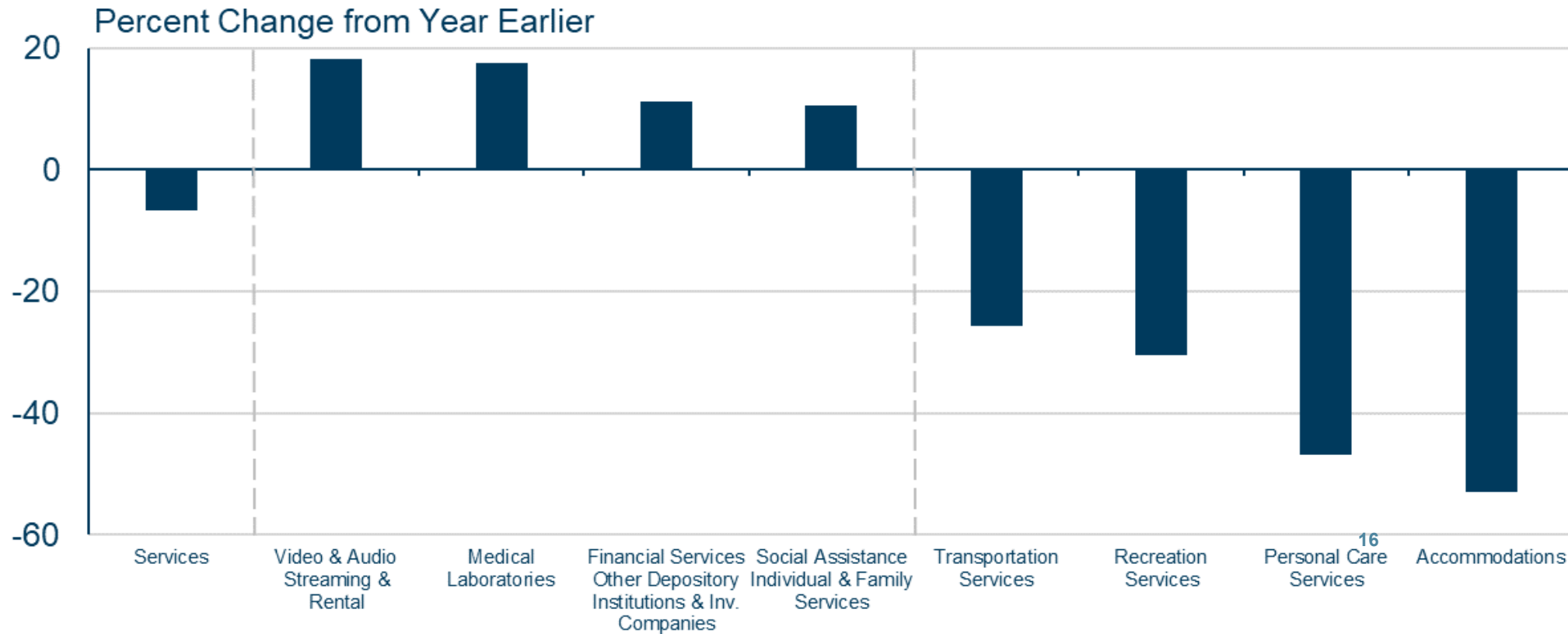


Source: : Eric Rosengren, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston- Speech to Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, January 12, 2021 BEA, Haver Analytics

# Real Personal Consumption Expenditures on Services

## – Large Increases and Decreases

### November 2019 - November 2020



Source: : Eric Rosengren, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston- Speech to Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, January 12, 2021 BEA, Haver Analytics

# Questions?

Raija Vaisanen (she/her/hers)

617-872-4127

[rvaisanen@massworkforce.com](mailto:rvaisanen@massworkforce.com)

[www.massworkforce.com](http://www.massworkforce.com)