

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESIDENT POPULATION OF THE CAPE & ISLANDS

While the total number of people living in the Cape & Islands declined over the past decade, certain demographic groups grew during this period. The small immigrant population in the region grew at an annual rate of 2.3 percent. The region also became more diverse over the past decade, with strong growth among minority populations; most notably, strong annual growth in Hispanic populations (4.8 percent). However, immigrants and racial minorities account for such small shares of the population in the Cape & Islands that their growth was more than offset by declines in native-born and White, non-Hispanic populations. The oldest regional labor market in the state in 2000, the Cape & Islands has remained older than all other regions as baby boomers (born between 1946 and 1964) approached traditional retirement ages by the end of the decade. In particular, the fastest growing age cohort over the past decade was 55–64-year-olds, with an annual rate of growth of 3.9 percent. Residents aged 65 or older grew at a more modest annual rate of 0.6 percent over the past decade but remained the largest of all age groups in the region. The region experienced modest annual growth (1.1 percent) in 16–24-year-olds but large declines in people under 16 and those between the ages of 25 and 44.

Source: US Census Bureau 2000 Decennial Census PUMS data files and 2008–2010 American Community Survey PUMS data files.

Note: Further data for racial/ethnic and gender characteristics for the residential population, as well as the working-age, civilian labor force, unemployed, and employed populations, are available in the on-line Data Appendix.

	2000	2008–2010	Absolute Change	Annual Growth Rate (Percent)
Resident Population	240,708	237,569	–3,139	–0.1
Gender				
Male	115,145	113,209	–1,936	–0.2
Female	125,563	124,360	–1,203	–0.1
Nativity				
Native Born	226,143	219,684	–6,459	–0.3
Immigrant	14,565	17,885	3,320	2.3
Race/Ethnicity				
White, non-Hispanic	223,758	218,496	–5,262	–0.3
Black, non-Hispanic	3,415	5,083	1,668	4.5
Asian, non-Hispanic	1,797	2,572	775	4.1
Hispanic	3,260	4,984	1,724	4.8
Other race, non-Hispanic	8,478	6,434	–2,044	–3.0
Age				
Less than age 16	44,101	37,511	–6,590	–1.8
Age 16–24	18,170	19,971	1,801	1.1
Age 25–34	24,537	19,119	–5,418	–2.7
Age 35–44	37,311	28,271	–9,040	–3.0
Age 45–54	36,297	38,079	1,782	0.5
Age 55–64	27,589	38,790	11,201	3.9
Age 65+	52,703	55,828	3,125	0.6