

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESIDENT POPULATION OF BERKSHIRE

While the total number of people living in Berkshire has declined over the past decade, certain demographic groups have grown. The small immigrant population in the region grew at an annual rate of 5.2 percent. The region became more diverse over the past decade, with strong growth among minority populations, most notably Asian and Hispanic residents. However, immigrants and racial minorities account for such small shares of the population in Berkshire that their growth was more than offset by declining native-born and White Non-Hispanic populations. Already one of the oldest regions in the state in 2000, Berkshire became considerably older as baby boomers (born between 1946 and 1964) neared retirement age by the end of the decade. In particular, the 55-64-year-old age cohort increased at an annual rate of 3.7 percent over the course of the decade. Residents who were age 65 or older, despite a small decline in absolute numbers, became the largest of all age groups by the end of the decade (replacing residents younger than 16). The region experienced modest annual growth (1.0 percent) in 16-24-year-olds but larger declines in people under 16 and those between 35 and 44 years old.

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	114,409	110,614	-3,795	-0.4
Gender				
Male	53,993	52,561	-1,432	-0.3
Female	60,416	58,053	-2,363	-0.4
Nativity				
Native Born	110,266	104,058	-6,208	-0.6
Immigrant	4,143	6,556	2,413	5.2
Race/Ethnicity				
White, non-Hispanic	108,671	100,238	-8,433	-0.9
Black, non-Hispanic	1,887	2,591	704	3.6
Asian, non-Hispanic	744	1,334	590	6.7
Hispanic	1,722	3,870	2,148	9.4
Other race, non-Hispanic	1,385	2,581	1,196	7.2
Age				
Less than age 16	23,533	19,764	-3,769	-1.9
Age 16-24	10,462	11,428	966	1.0
Age 25-34	13,513	11,717	-1,796	-1.6
Age 35-44	17,668	13,319	-4,349	-3.1
Age 45-54	17,324	18,396	1,072	0.7
Age 55-64	11,376	15,783	4,407	3.7
Age 65+	20,533	20,207	-326	-0.2