Over the decade, the number of people living in Boston/Metro North increased at an annual rate of 0.3 percent. The growth of the region’s immigrant population (an annual rate of 1.5 percent) offset a decline in the native-born population. The region also became more diverse in the past decade, with strong growth among Asian and Hispanic populations. Even though the region is one of the state’s youngest, the region’s population became increasingly older over the decade as baby boomers (born between 1946 and 1964) neared retirement age. In particular, the 55-64-year-old age cohort grew at the fastest annual rate (2.9 percent) among age groups in the region. The second fastest growing age cohort in the region was 16-24-year-olds, who are mostly the children of both immigrants and native-born baby boomers (whose children are commonly referred to as the echo-boom generation). Boston/Metro North was also the only region in Massachusetts to see growth, albeit modest growth, among residents between the ages of 25 and 34, the region’s largest age cohort.


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.