GROWTH IN WORKING-AGE POPULATION BY NATIVITY STATUS

Although the region’s total population declined over the past decade, its working-age population (the potential labor supply, typically defined as people 16 years of age or older) grew slightly. Between 2000 and 2005–2007, the number of working-age immigrants in the region grew at a strong annual rate of 6.9 percent, while the working-age native-born population increased by 0.2 percent annually. As a result, the region’s total working-age population grew at an annual rate of 0.8 percent. Between 2005–2007 and 2008–2010, the region’s working-age native-born population reversed course and declined at an annual rate of 0.4 percent. More surprisingly, the working-age immigrant population in the Cape & Islands declined at an annual rate of 6.1 percent; it was the only regional labor market to see a decline in its immigrant population during this period. As a result, the region’s working-age population declined at an annual rate of 0.9 percent between 2005–2007 and 2008–2010, in contrast to growth at the state and national levels. However, such losses were not enough to offset the earlier growth, and the working-age population in the region increased at an annual rate of 0.2 percent over the entire decade.


Note: The working-age population is defined as individuals 16 years of age or older, excluding institutionalized populations. Immigrants are individuals born outside the country.