

THE UNEMPLOYED: AGE DISTRIBUTION (2000 AND 2008–2010)

Compared with Massachusetts and the United States, larger shares of the unemployed in the Cape & Islands are over the age of 45. This is a consequence of the region's older population. At the beginning of the decade, when the unemployment rate was at 3.3 percent, the age of the unemployed population was more evenly distributed. As the region's population increased in age over the decade and the Great Recession took hold, the share of the unemployed age 45 or older grew to nearly 50 percent. In comparison, only 36.6 percent of the unemployed in Massachusetts were age 45 or older in 2008–2010. Nationwide, the situation was reversed, with 50.6 percent of the unemployed age 34 or younger. However, in 2008–2010, people in the Cape & Islands between the ages of 16 and 34 still accounted for a disproportional share of the unemployed (32.5 percent), when compared with their share of the civilian labor force (23.3 percent).

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

Note: Unemployed are individuals age 16 or older not employed and actively looking for work.

