

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

A larger share of the unemployed in Metro South/West is over the age of 45, compared with Massachusetts and the nation. This is a consequence of the region's older population. At the beginning of the decade, when the unemployment rate was at 2.1 percent, the unemployed population was largely concentrated among 25-54-year-olds. 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 over 50 percent. In comparison, only 35 percent of the unemployed in Massachusetts were age 45 or older in 2008-2010. Nationwide, the younger cohorts made up the largest share of unemployed, with 50 percent of the unemployed population age 34 or younger by the end of the decade. Nevertheless, even in Metro South/West individuals ages 16 to 24 were a disproportionately high share of the unemployed (17.5 percent), relative to their share of the civilian labor force (9.5 percent).

Source: US Census 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.

