GROWTH IN WORKING-AGE POPULATION BY NATIVITY STATUS

Although the total population in Pioneer Valley remained essentially the same over the course of the past decade, there was growth in the region’s working-age population (a region’s potential labor supply, typically defined as people 16 years of age or older). Between 2000 and 2005–2007, the number of working-age immigrants in the region grew at an annual rate of 2.4 percent, while the region’s native-born working-age population increased by the slight annual rate of 0.1 percent. As a result, the total working-age population actually grew at an annual rate of 0.4 percent, compared to no change in the total population. Between 2005–2007 and 2008–2010, the region’s native-born, working-age population declined slightly. However, the total working-age population increased annually by a modest 0.2 percent due to a 2.0 percent annual growth in the immigrant population. Despite such gains, the region trailed Massachusetts and the United States in the growth of the working-age population in the past 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.