THE AGE PROFILE OF THE WORKING-AGE POPULATION

Massachusetts is one of the oldest states in the country, and Pioneer Valley is even slightly older. Nearly 55 percent of the region’s working-age population was 45 years of age or older in 2008–2010. In contrast, only 51.8 percent of the statewide working-age population was 45 or older. The region’s older population was largely due to two demographic trends over the course of the past decade: the slower growth of 16–24-year-olds and the faster growth of 55–64-year-olds in the region relative to Massachusetts. Combined with the steep decline in the region’s population of 25–44-year-olds, the age distribution of the working-age population in Pioneer Valley in 2008-2010 was older than that of Massachusetts and far older than that of the United States.