GROWTH IN THE WORKING-AGE POPULATION BY NATIVITY STATUS

Immigrants living in the Southeast region have been a major driver of growth in the 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 growth of working-age immigrants in the region (2.9 percent) slightly exceeded the growth of workingage immigrants in Massachusetts. With slow growth in native-born populations, working-age populations in both the Southeast region and Massachusetts increased by 0.5 percent over this time period, much slower than the 1.2 percent seen nationally. The influx of working-age immigrants slowed to an annual rate of 1.2 percent in recent years, trailing both state and national immigration trends. However, growth in the Southeast region's working-age population (0.8 percent) actually outpaced statewide growth (0.5 percent) due to a stronger recent increase in the native-born population relative to Massachusetts (0.7 percent versus 0.2 percent). Such growth still trailed that of the United States, which saw stronger increases for both native-born and immigrant populations.

Source: US Census 2000 Decennial Census PUMS data files, 2005-2007 and 2008-2010 American Community Survey PUMS data files.

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.



