THE AGE PROFILE OF THE WORKING-AGE POPULATION

Massachusetts is one of the older states in the country, and the Southeast region is fairly similar to the state in its age composition. In both the region and the state, more than half of the working-age population was 45 years of age or older in 2008-2010. Further, over the past decade the fastest growing age cohorts in the region were 45-54- and 55-64- year-olds, while the number and share of 25-34- and 35-44-year-olds declined. In fact, nearly one-third of the region's (and state's) working-age population was 55 years of age or older at the end of the decade, while less than 30 percent of the working-age population was 34 years or younger. In comparison, the working-age population in the United States was fairly evenly divided among age cohorts, with roughly a third of the population in the 16-34, 35-54, and 55-or-older age cohorts.

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

100 Age 65+ 15.7 16.7 16.3 16.8 17.1 16.8 Age 55-64 Aae 45-54 Age 35-44 80 11.4 11.9 11.3 Age 25–34 15.0 15.9 15.3 Age 16-24 17.7 18.1 60 18.9 19.7 20.4 Percent 21.5 22.0 22.2 17.5 40 17.8 18.5 18.4 16.9 18.9 16.3 17.6 14.5 20 14.0 15.4 12.8 0 2008-2010 2000 2000 2008-2010 2000 2008-2010 Southeast Massachusetts **United States**

Age Distribution of the Working-Age Population, 2000 and 2008–2010

Growth of Working-Age Population by Age in the Southeast Region

	2000	2008-2010	Absolute Change	Annual Growth Rate (Percent)
Age 16-24	126,986	142,701	15,715	1.3
Age 25-34	175,000	152,131	-22,869	-1.5
Age 35-44	220,097	194,252	-25,845	-1.4
Age 45-54	185,918	213,801	27,883	1.6
Age 55-64	118,214	166,844	48,630	3.9
Age 65+	167,293	179,830	12,537	0.8