

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

While 31.5 percent of the civilian labor force in the Southeast region was 34 years of age or younger at the end of the decade, 45.1 percent of the region's unemployed was 34 or younger. The share of unemployed 34 or younger is down from more than 50 percent at the beginning of the decade. This is because the region's aging population has contributed to higher shares of individuals ages 45 and older among the unemployed. Most notably, the number of unemployed individuals who were 65 or older in the Southeast region more than quadrupled over the course of the decade, nearly doubling this age group's share of the unemployed from 2.7 percent in 2000 to 4.9 percent in 2008-2010. However, the younger age cohorts continue to be disproportionately represented among the unemployed. For example, in 2008-2010, 16-24-year-olds accounted for the largest share of the unemployed among all age cohorts (27.7 percent) but were the second-smallest age cohort in the civilian labor force (behind those age 65 and older), at only 13.6 percent.

Source: US Census Bureau 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.

