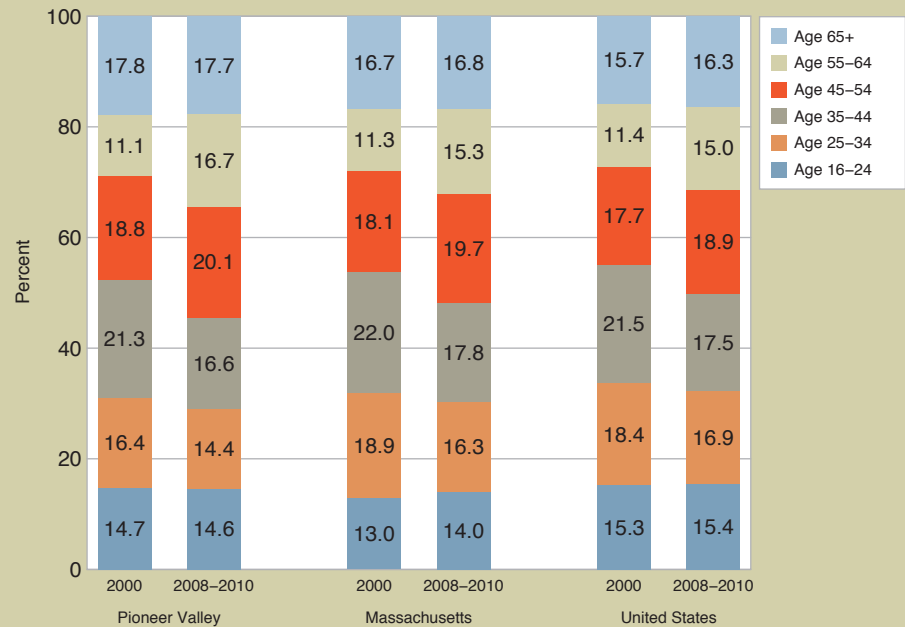


THE AGE PROFILE OF THE WORKING-AGE POPULATION

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.

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

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



Growth of Working-Age Population by Age in Pioneer Valley

	2000	2008–2010	Absolute Change	Annual Growth Rate (Percent)
Age 16–24	77,393	79,561	2,168	0.3
Age 25–34	86,272	78,184	–8,088	–1.1
Age 35–44	112,169	90,277	–21,892	–2.4
Age 45–54	98,968	109,333	10,365	1.1
Age 55–64	58,644	90,742	32,098	5.0
Age 65+	93,736	96,250	2,514	0.3