

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESIDENT POPULATION OF PIONEER VALLEY

Over the past decade, the number of people living in Pioneer Valley remained essentially the same. There was modest annual growth in the region's immigrant population (1.8 percent), but a declining native-born population offset such gains. The region became more diverse over the past decade, with strong growth among minority populations, most notably Asian and Hispanic residents. The region's population also became considerably older as baby boomers (born between 1946 and 1964) neared retirement age. In particular, the 55–64-year-old age cohort grew at a robust annual rate of 5.0 percent over the course of the decade. In contrast, the region experienced only modest annual growth (0.3 percent) in 16–24-year-olds, the children of baby boomers who are commonly referred to as the echo-boom generation. This age group had much stronger growth in the Massachusetts regions that gained population in the past decade. With large losses among 25–44-year-olds and those 16 years of age or younger, the region's population stagnated while it increased in age.

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

Note: Further data for racial/ethnic and gender characteristics for the residential population, as well as the working-age, civilian labor force, unemployed, and employed populations, are available in the on-line Data Appendix.

	2000	2008–2010	Absolute Change	Annual Growth Rate (Percent)
Resident Population	680,610	679,768	–842	0.0
Gender				
Male	326,958	325,509	–1,449	0.0
Female	353,652	354,259	607	0.0
Nativity				
Native Born	600,950	586,125	–14,825	–0.3
Immigrant	79,660	93,643	13,983	1.8
Race/Ethnicity				
White, non-Hispanic	547,634	515,440	–32,194	–0.7
Black, non-Hispanic	35,871	37,056	1,185	0.4
Asian, non-Hispanic	10,919	15,118	4,199	3.7
Hispanic	74,134	100,538	26,404	3.4
Other race, non-Hispanic	12,052	11,616	–436	–0.4
Age				
Less than age 16	153,428	135,421	–18,007	–1.4
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