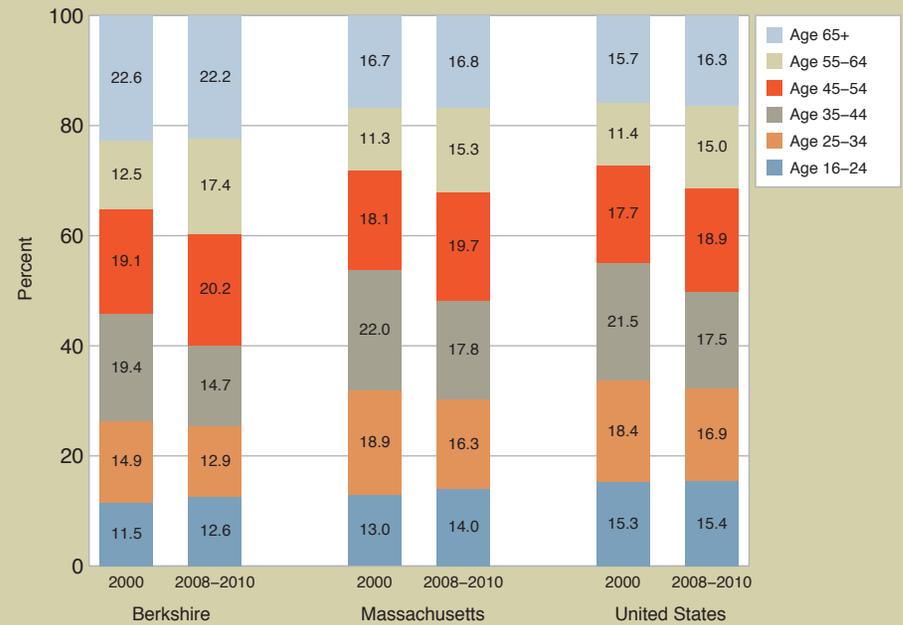


THE AGE PROFILE OF THE WORKING-AGE POPULATION

Massachusetts is one of the older states in the country, and Berkshire is the second oldest regional labor market in the state. Only the Cape & Islands is older. In 2008-2010, nearly 60 percent of the region's working-age population was 45 years of age or older, up from 54 percent at the beginning of the decade. The largest share of the working-age population in Berkshire was 65 or older (22.2 percent). In Massachusetts and the United States, the largest age group was 45-54-year-olds. The share of the working-age population between the ages of 25 and 34 is also particularly small in Berkshire; at 12.9 percent, it is much smaller than it is statewide (16.3 percent) or nationally (16.9 percent), indicating potential future workforce pipeline challenges.

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 Berkshire

	2000	2008-2010	Absolute Change	Annual Growth Rate (Percent)
Age 16-24	10,462	11,428	966	1.0
Age 25-34	13,513	11,717	-1,796	-1.6
Age 35-44	17,668	13,319	-4,349	-3.1
Age 45-54	17,324	18,396	1,072	0.7
Age 55-64	11,376	15,783	4,407	3.7
Age 65+	20,533	20,207	-326	-0.2