

Barnstable County, MA: Populations of The Fifteen Towns of Cape Cod

Town	Census 2000 Population	1990 Census Population	Recent Growth (1990 – 2000)
Bourne	18,721	16,064	+16.5%
Falmouth	32,660	27,960	+16.8%
Sandwich	20,136	15,489	+30.0%
Mashpee	12,946	7,884	+64.2%
Barnstable (town)	47,821	40,958	+16.8%
Yarmouth	24,807	21,196	+17.0%
Dennis	15,973	13,858	+15.3%
Brewster	10,094	8,415	+20.0%
Harwich	12,386	10,275	+20.5%
Chatham	6,625	6,579	+0.6%
Orleans	6,341	5,838	+8.6%
Eastham	5,453	4,462	+21.8%
Wellfleet	2,749	2,438	+12.8%
Truro	2,087	1,573	+32.7%
Provincetown	3,431	3,617	-5.4%
Barnstable County Total (Cape Cod)	222,230	186,605	19.1%

Section 5. Research Findings

1. Socio-Demographic Profile of Barnstable County, Massachusetts

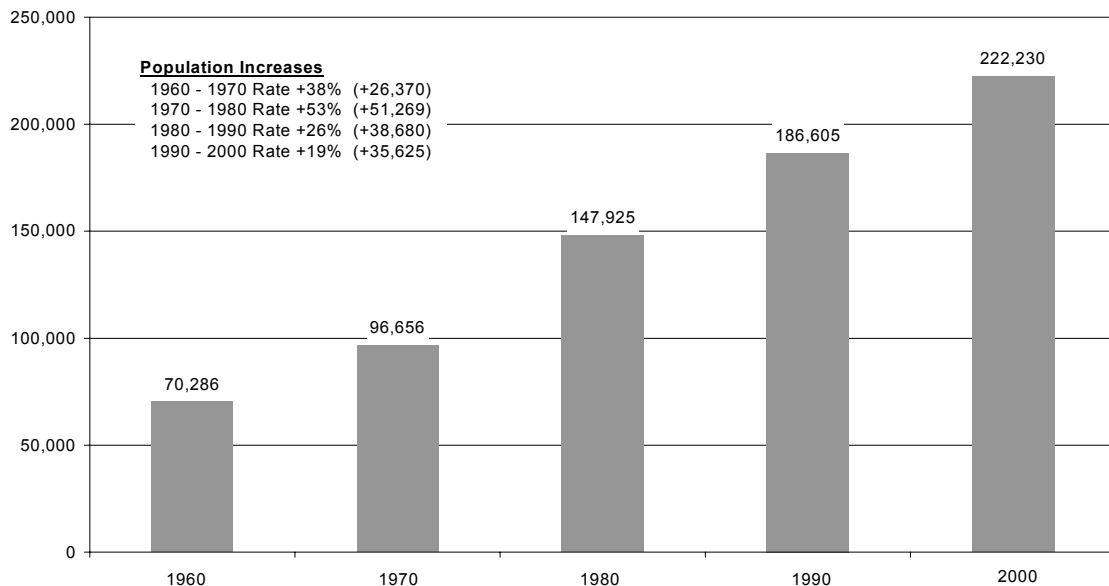
Cape Cod

Cape Cod is a narrow, sandy peninsula some 70 miles in length extending 35 miles out into the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of southeastern Massachusetts. Officially named Barnstable County, the region consists of the fifteen towns stretching from Bourne to Provincetown.

Almost entirely separated from coastal Massachusetts by the Cape Cod Canal, the County is virtually an island. Only parts of the towns of Bourne and Sandwich are accessible from mainland Massachusetts without a bridge crossing. To some, the Cape is thought of as the largest of the three islands referred to collectively as “Cape Cod and the Islands.” In many ways, the “big island” is more similar to the adjacent islands of Martha’s Vineyard and Nantucket than it is to its mainland neighbors of Plymouth and Bristol Counties. Together, Cape Cod and Island residents make-up just under 4% of the total Massachusetts population.

Year-round, well over 220,000 persons reside on Cape Cod. “In season”—from April to October--we are joined by literally hundreds of thousands of tourists and seasonal residents. Cape Cod is a tourism Mecca of international repute. With over 586 miles of natural shoreline and beaches, the Cape is one of the premier coastal resort areas in the United States. Cape Cod is also home to a major summer destination and tourist attraction, the Cape Cod National Seashore Park. With an ocean-moderated, temperate climate, Cape Cod enjoys a pleasant natural environment year-round.

Population of Barnstable County, MA: 1960 - 2000



Source:
U.S. Census Bureau

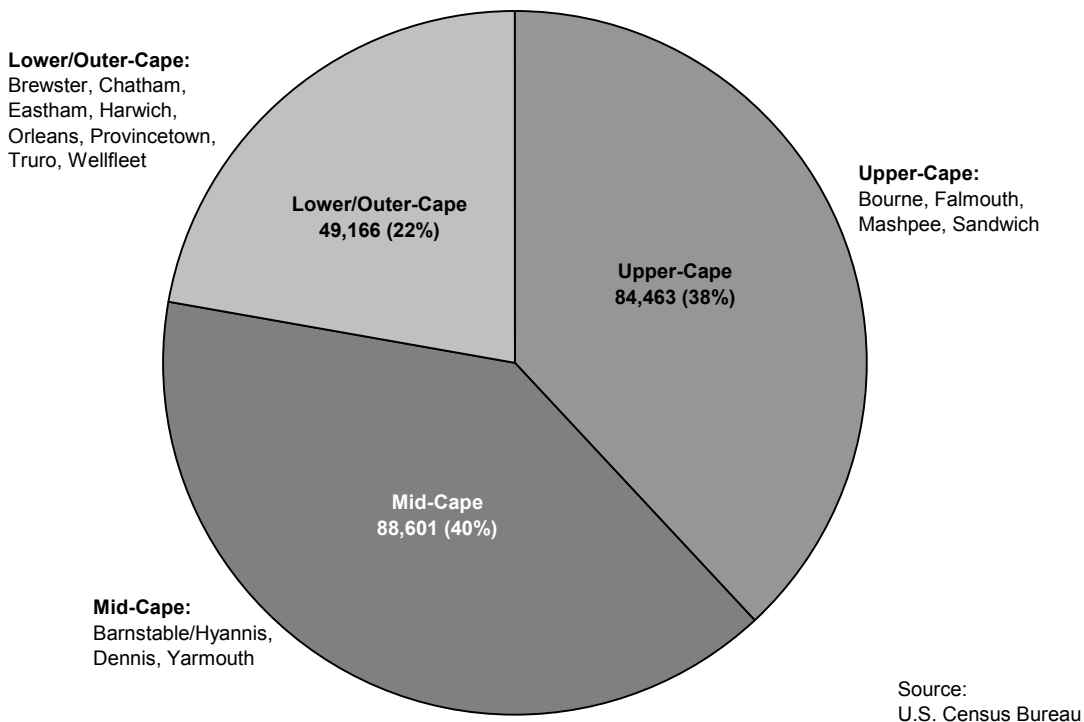
Total Population: Persons

Cape Cod's Permanent, Year-Round Population

Census 2000 figures tell us that we are a population of 222,230 year-round residents. With nearly 177,000 adults and more than 45,000 children (age 17 or younger), Barnstable County is the 9th largest of the fourteen Massachusetts counties—but represents just 3.5% of the State's population. The Upper-Cape is home to 84,463 residents, the Mid-Cape 88,601 residents, and the Lower/Outer-Cape 49,166 residents. Four towns dominate in population size. Barnstable (including the “village” of Hyannis) is the largest with nearly 48,000 residents. Falmouth is next in population size with over 32,000 residents. Our other two largest towns are Yarmouth (at almost 25,000) and Sandwich with just over 20,000 citizens. Our smallest towns are Wellfleet (2,800 persons) and Truro (2,100 persons). Hyannis, the Cape's true urban and commercial “heart”, has over 19,500 residents—a population approaching that of the towns of Orleans, Eastham, Truro, Wellfleet, and Provincetown combined.

Females outnumber males on Cape Cod, with a ratio of 53% females to 47% males. This disproportionate female proportion is most pronounced among our elderly citizens with one-third more females than males aged 65 years or older. The median age of Cape Codders is 44.6 years—meaning that one-half of all residents is younger and one-half is older than 44.6 years of age.

Cape Cod Population By Region



Year 2000 Total Population: 222,230

Cape Cod: Then and Now

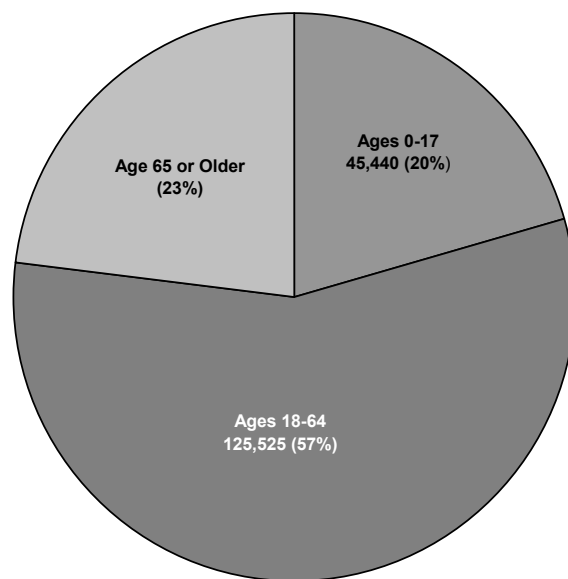
Cape Codders	1980	1990	2000
Median Age (years)	37.3	39.5	44.6
% Ages 0-19 years	26%	23%	22%
% Age 65+	21%	22%	23%

Source:
U.S. Census Bureau

Racial, Ethnic, Cultural, and Linguistic Diversity on Cape Cod

Unquestionably, white residents dominate Cape Cod, comprising almost 96% of all citizens recorded by the Census 2000. An historic Native American segment of our population, primarily members of the Wampanoag nation, numbers well over 1,200 persons. Native Americans reside mainly in the Upper-Cape towns of Mashpee, Falmouth, Bourne, and Sandwich, and in the town of Barnstable. One-in-twenty (5%) of our permanent residents is foreign born. Cape Codders of Cape Verdean origin live throughout our region, many families having lived here now for several generations. More recent arrivals to Cape Cod are immigrants from Eastern Europe, Asia, the Caribbean region, Latin America, and South America. Thousands of persons have arrived on Cape in recent years—coming from countries such as Brazil, Romania, Poland, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and from several other countries in Central and South America. As well as English, several Slavic languages, Portuguese, Spanish, Chinese, and Haitian Creole languages are frequently spoken on Cape Cod today.

Cape Cod Population By Age Range



Source:
U.S. Census Bureau
Census 2000

Year 2000 Total Population: 222,230

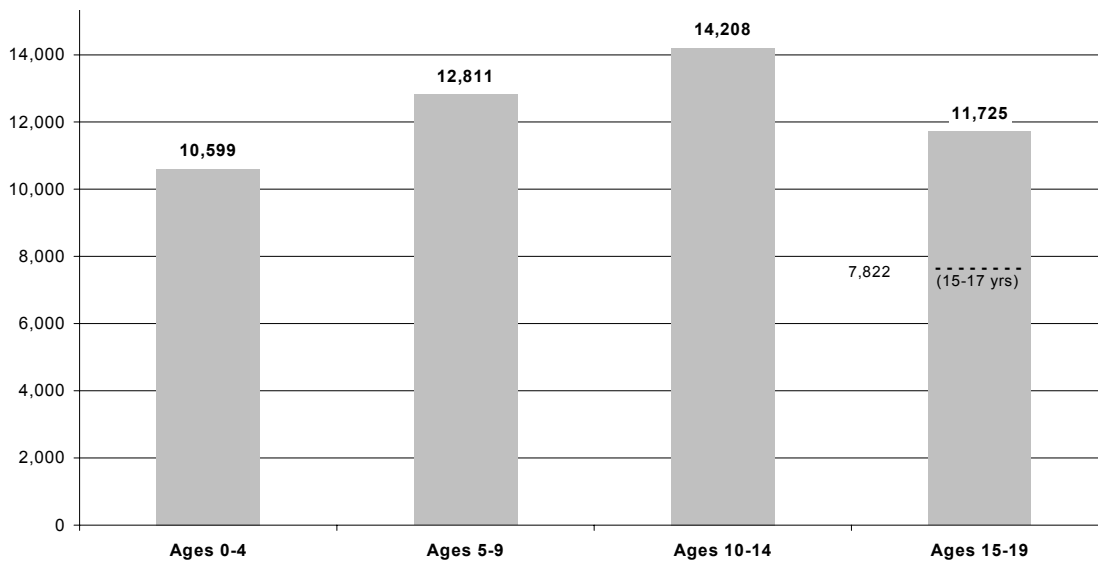
Blacks or African Americans number nearly 4,000 on Cape Cod (or 2% of our permanent, year-round resident population). Persons of Asian origin number over 1,400. Growing numbers of persons of Chinese, Indian, Korean, or Filipino origin now reside on Cape Cod.

Cape Cod’s Young People

There are more than 45,000 Cape Codders age 17 years or younger. Each year, over 1,900 babies are born to Cape Cod mothers. Total enrollment in Cape Cod schools today is approaching 48,000 students (pre-K – Grade 12).

Age-wise, approximately 23,000 Cape Codders are under 10 years of age (equaling over one-half of all of our young people). About 14,000 are pre-teens and young teens (ages 10-14 years) and 12,000 are older teenagers ranging in age from 15 to 19 years old. The Cape’s largest group of young people is between the ages 10 and 14 years. Most of our young people live at home with their families. Average family size (the sum of all related adults and young people) is 2.82 persons per household.

Cape Cod's Young People



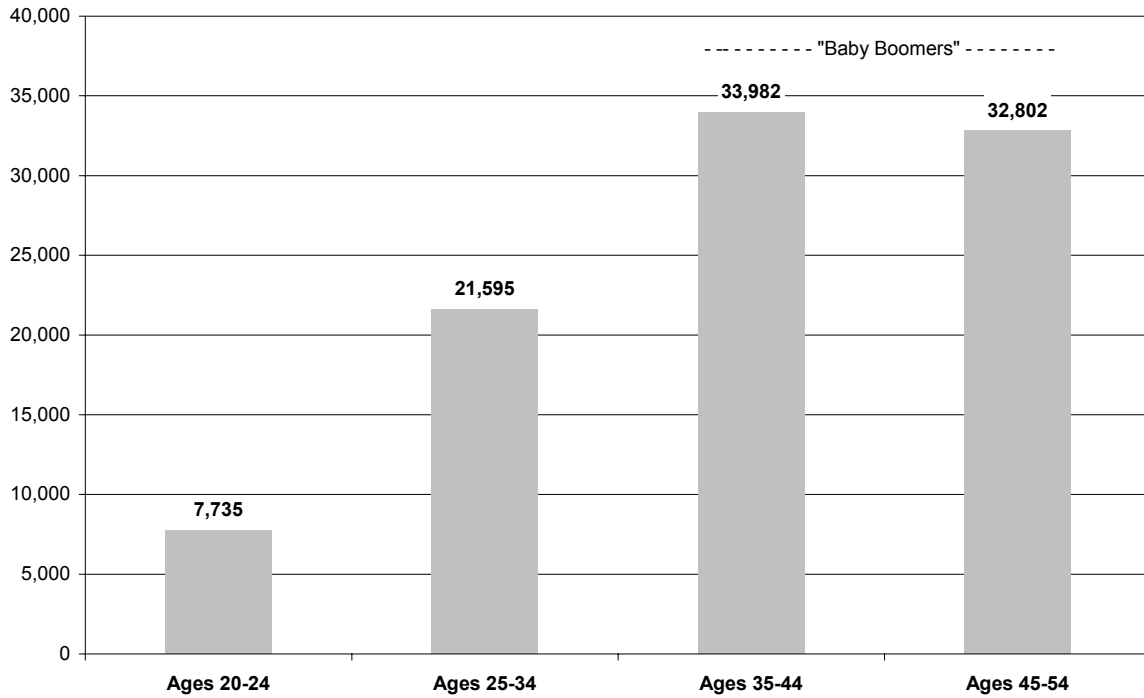
Source:
U.S. Census Bureau
Census 2000

Year 2000 Population: Cape Codders Under Age 20 Years (Total: 49,343)

Senior Citizens and Elderly Residents of Cape Cod

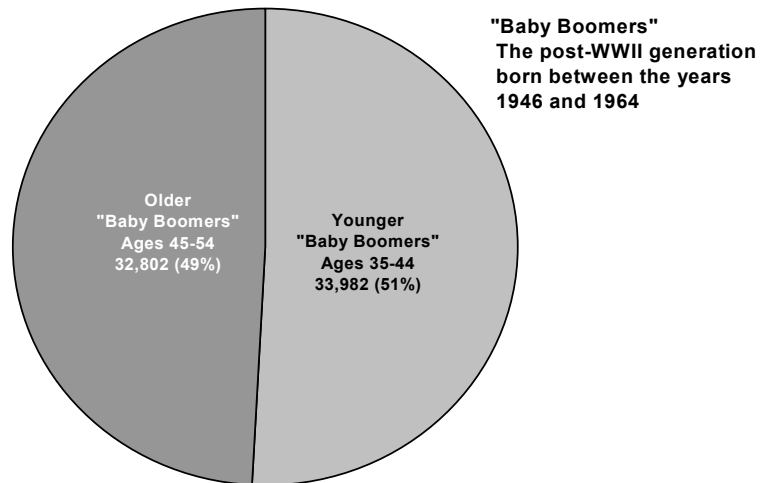
More than one-third of year-round dwellers on Cape are considered a “senior” or “elderly” citizen. That is, more than 75,000 of us are age 55 or older—approximately one in every four adults. “Baby Boomers” abound. Over 65,000 of us (or 38% of the Cape’s adult population) are between the ages of 35 and 54 years (Note: “Baby Boomers” are defined as being born between 1946-1964). Also, over 63,000 adults of parenting age (between the ages of 20 and 44 years) live on Cape Cod today—a somewhat smaller group of potential parents than in 1990.

Cape Cod's Young Adult & Middle-Age Adult Populations



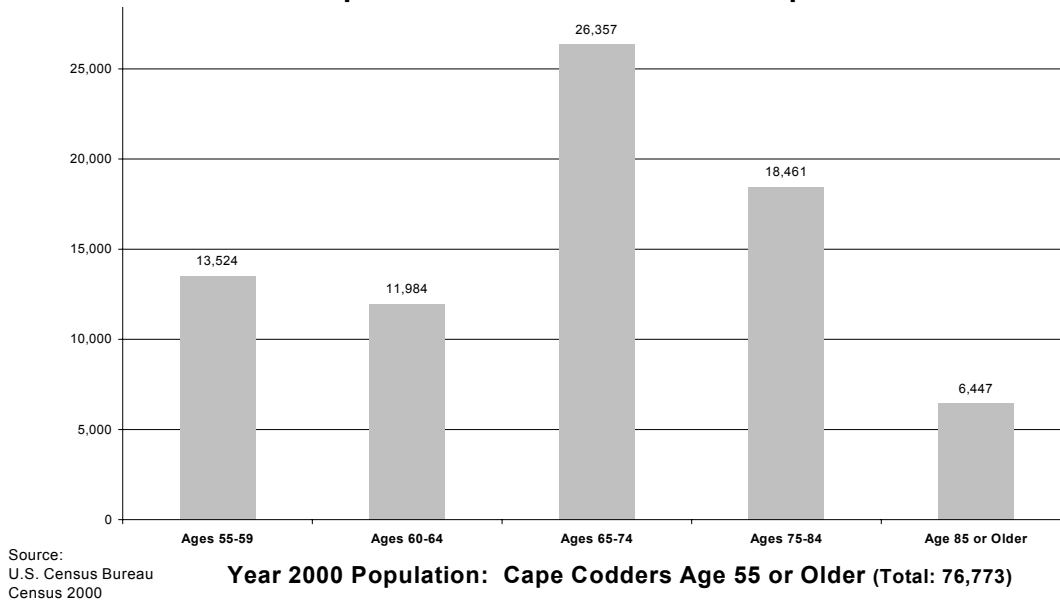
Source:
U.S. Census Bureau
Census 2000

Year 2000 Population: Cape Codders Ages 20-54 Years (Total: 96,114)



Year 2000 Population: Cape Cod's "Baby Boomers" Ages 35-54 (Total: 66,784)

Cape Cod's Senior and Elder Population



Population Growth on Cape Cod

Barnstable County is part of the fastest growing region of Massachusetts—Cape Cod and the Islands. Between the 1990 Census and the year 2000, the Barnstable County population increased by almost 20 percent. This is four times faster than the State’s growth in that same time period. Over the decade, only Nantucket (with 58% growth) and Martha’s Vineyard (29% growth) grew faster than Cape Cod. Since 1970, Cape Cod’s population has grown by nearly two and one-half times (adding more than 125,000 residents). The towns of Mashpee and Truro are currently the fastest growing of the fifteen County towns. In the decade since 1990 the population of Provincetown actually decreased slightly.

Population Density on Cape Cod

Cape Cod has approximately 395 square miles of land, of which only a portion is suitable for habitation. Today, with over 220,000 year-round residents, our population density is 562 persons per square mile (of land area), making Barnstable County the 8th most densely populated county in Massachusetts. This population density figure represents an increase of 90 persons per square mile since 1990, 187 since 1980, and 317 since 1970.

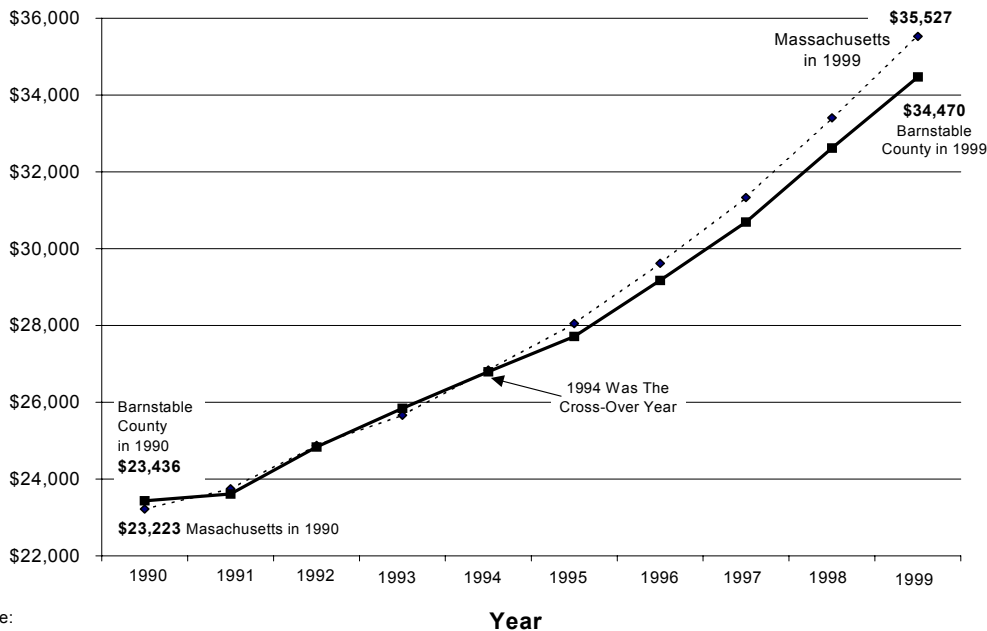
Cape Cod’s land area is finite. The limits of our population growth—and especially the impact of people on our natural resources—are within sight. Just as important, however, research shows that population density can have a direct and long-lasting effect on a region’s “human environment” and impacts our individual and collective human condition. Increases in the Cape’s population density deserve to be monitored carefully and thoughtfully.

Income and Poverty on Cape Cod

In 2000, the median household income on Cape Cod was estimated by the US Census Bureau to be \$45,933. This means that one-half of all households (not necessarily family units) on Cape Cod have a combined annual income of less than \$45,933 and one-half have an income higher than that figure.

The poverty level on Cape Cod (estimated at about 7%) is somewhat lower than the Massachusetts average. However, poverty varies immensely by household situation, with over 17% of female-headed single parent families living in poverty. The per capita income of Barnstable County residents is also lower than that of the average State resident. From a level slightly above the State average a decade ago, the Cape's per capita annual income has dropped steadily downward relative to the State average, to a point where it was recently about \$1,000 (or 3%) below the State level. (Note: This State per capita income figure includes individuals living in all regions of Massachusetts-- urbanized areas such as Boston, Springfield, Lowell/Lawrence, Fall River/New Bedford, Springfield, as well as more rural regions such as Berkshire and Franklin counties).

**Per Capita Annual Income in
Barnstable County, MA: 1990-1999**



Source:
U.S. Dept. of Commerce
Bureau of Econ. Analysis

The Cape Cod Economy

Business and commercial interests of Cape Cod are dominated by a complex seasonal, tourism/second-homeowner, and retiree economy. Cape Cod is a premier retirement community, with nearly one-third of surveyed households reporting that all adults are "retired." Assisted living facilities are today a growing industry on the Cape. Commercial ventures once primarily based upon the fishing industry are now centered on hospitality-related service industries such as lodging, food services, retail stores, and attractions. A well-established healthcare industry serves the growing senior, elderly, and retiree community—including the rapidly aging "Baby Boom" generation—as well as our younger families and workers. Construction/building trades and associated services such as

landscaping, security, and custodial work play a large part in the region's economy. The Cape's large and growing service industry is characterized by low-wage, minimal benefits jobs, and can be expected to represent the greater portion of the future economic base of the region. Low wage employment has a profoundly negative impact on workers' ability to provide even the basic necessities of life for themselves and their families—such as food, housing, clothing, and access to medical and dental care--and as such, is a key force impacting the human condition of residents of our region.