

The non-seasonal economy

As reliant as we are on the summer season, the Cape increasingly is becoming a year-round economy. With that in mind, we look at the local employment picture - minus the dramatic three-month upsurge in temporary workers from June 1 through Labor Day.

Under those terms, Barnstable County is doing better than the state as a whole. But there is evident erosion in the Cape's employment picture compared with a year earlier. The number of people in the job market has dropped in many towns - probably a telltale sign that younger people have left the Cape because of high housing costs. And the actual unemployment rate is higher this year in most towns than in May 2005. A caveat: These statistics are not able to measure the suspected significant rise in home-based and self-employed businesses.

EMPLOYMENT FIGURES

Comparing May 2005 to May 2006

TOWN	2005		2006	
	NO. EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	NO. EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
BARNSTABLE	25,424	4.1	25,140	4.1
BOURNE	9,800	4.6	9,691	4.5
BREWSTER	5,369	3.2	5,309	3.5
CHATHAM	3,216	4.2	3,180	4.7
EASTHAM	2,738	4.1	2,596	4.5
DENNIS	7,749	4.5	7,662	4.6
FALMOUTH	17,049	3.8	16,859	4.7
HARWICH	6,020	4.2	5,953	4.2
MASHPEE	7,470	3.9	7,386	4.3
ORLEANS	2,882	3.4	2,850	4.7
PLYMOUTH	26,299	4.6	26,876	4.7
PROVINCETOWN	1,795	15.4	1,775	14.6
SANDWICH	11,033	3.4	10,910	4.0
TRURO	1,110	6.6	1,098	7.1
WAREHAM	11,154	5.7	11,029	5.1
WELLFLEET	1,532	4.8	1,515	5.4
YARMOUTH	11,519	4.1	11,391	5.1
STATE		4.6		4.7

June 2005

June 2006

TOTAL PRIVATE	92,800	92,900
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	20,800	20,800
FINANCE SERVICES	4,700	4,600
RETAIL	19,100	19,000
HEALTH CARE	16,000	16,200
PROFESSIONAL, BUSINESS SERVICES	10,100	10,100
TRADES	23,700	23,600

These numbers reflect the Barnstable metropolitan area. It includes most but not all Cape towns.

SOURCE: MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT