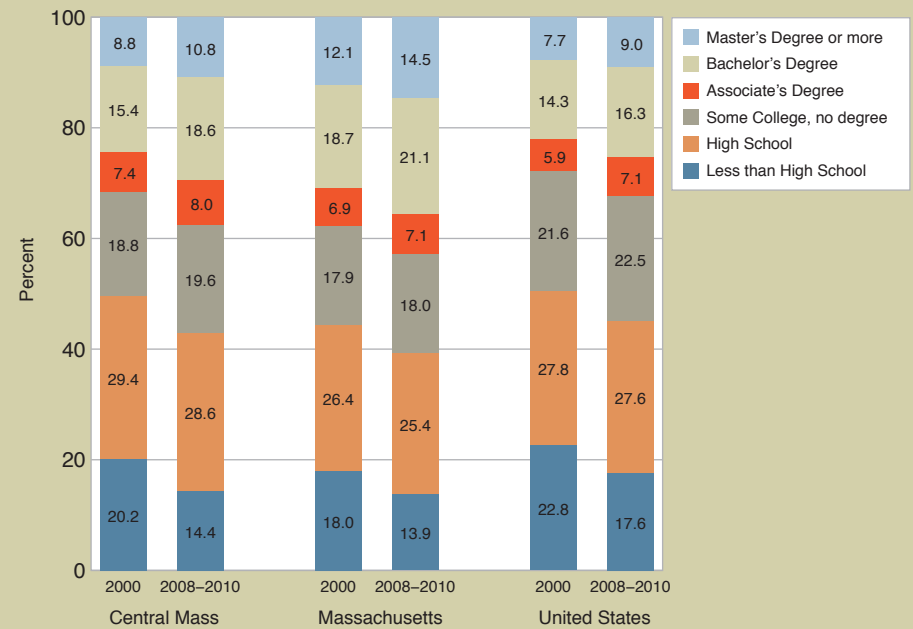


EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF THE WORKING-AGE POPULATION

Massachusetts is one of the states with the highest shares of population with a college degree; the educational attainment of the working-age population in Central Mass has somewhat lagged that of the state. Over the past decade, Central Mass has seen progressively stronger growth in the share of the working-age population with higher levels of education, coupled with declines among those with less than a High School Degree. Even with these educational gains, the share of the population with a High School Degree or less was 43.0 percent in 2008-2010, closer to the share in the United States (45.2 percent) than in Massachusetts (39.3 percent). And while the share of the population in Central Mass with a Bachelor's Degree or higher increased to 29.4 percent at the end of the decade, it was more than five percentage points behind the share in Massachusetts (35.6 percent).

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

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



Growth of Working-Age Population by Educational Attainment in Central Mass

	2000	2008-2010	Absolute Change	Annual Growth Rate (Percent)
Less than High School	97,303	75,425	-21,878	-2.8
High School Graduate	141,087	149,798	8,711	0.7
Some College, no degree	90,360	102,713	12,353	1.4
Associate's Degree	35,321	42,129	6,808	2.0
Bachelor's Degree	74,090	97,646	23,556	3.1
Master's Degree or more	42,351	56,613	14,262	3.3