

NUMBER OF DEGREE COMPLETIONS BY DEGREE TYPE: CENTRAL MASS (2000-2010)

Adding up Bachelor's and Associate's Degrees and Certificates, the total number of postsecondary degrees awarded by institutions in Central Mass grew at an annual rate of 3.2 percent between 2000 and 2010. Such growth was faster than the growth in Massachusetts (2.5 percent) but slower than the growth in United States (3.7 percent). Between 2000 and 2007, the number of Certificates completed in Central Mass doubled and grew at an annual rate of 12.0 percent. However, in 2007 the region's Certificate completions peaked and subsequently declined at an annual rate of 1.5 percent through the end of the decade. In comparison, Associate's Degree completions increased consistently between 2000 and 2008, growing at an annual rate of 1.1 percent. Between 2008 and 2010, the number of people earning Associate's Degrees in Central Mass grew considerably faster, increasing at an annual rate of 15.2 percent. The number of people earning Bachelor's Degrees, on the other hand, increased at a fairly stable rate over the course of the decade, with a moderately higher growth in completions in 2009 and 2010.

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Post Secondary Education Data System.

