

## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT BY AGE GROUP

If we look at the region's population by both age and education, we get an understanding of the workers who will be replacing the baby boomers. As the baby boomers have aged, 45-54-year-olds have become the largest age cohort in nearly all educational attainment groups. As the boomers continue to near retirement age and, over time, leave the labor force, nearly every educational category faces a potential shortfall of workers. For example, in 2008-2010, there were over 43,000 people with only High School Degrees between the ages of 45 and 54 in the Northeast region but only 26,000 between the ages of 25 and 34. The difference of 17,000 individuals is equivalent to 40 percent of the 45-54-year-olds who will need to be replaced as they leave the workforce. Similar potential shortfalls of working-age individuals exist for people with Some College (8,600 or 27 percent) and with an Associate's Degree (5,600 or 35 percent). However, these gaps may not be as large since the educational requirements for most industries and occupations has been increasing, and some positions that have traditionally been filled by people with a High School or Associate's Degree are now held by people with a Bachelor's Degree or higher.

**Source:** US Census Bureau 2008-2010 American Community Survey PUMS data files.

