

## CROSSING THE FINISH LINE: TRENDS IN DEGREE COMPLETIONS OVER THE PAST DECADE (2000-2010)

Total annual completions show the number of people who have earned a degree or certificate in a given year. In the Northeast region, the strongest annual growth (8.6 percent) over the course of the decade came from the number of students earning Certificates, which nearly doubled at public institutions and more than tripled at private institutions. The region also experienced strong annual growth in the number of students earning Bachelor's Degrees at both public (3.2 percent) and private (2.8 percent). As a result, the growth in completions of Bachelor's Degrees exceeded both Massachusetts and the United States. The slowest growth in degree completions came from Associate's Degrees, where a 3.3 percent

annual increase in public completions was partially offset by a 3.6 percent decline in private degree completions. Although the total annual growth rate of 2.9 percent exceeded that of Massachusetts, Associate's Degrees in the Northeast region were the only post-secondary completion category to trail the United States over the past decade.

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

**Note:** Degree completions are for those students who completed degrees at institutions within the defined geography. The students may not actually live in the region. Completion totals are based on degrees completed in an academic year. For example, 2010 completions represent degrees completed in the 2009-2010 academic year.

		Certificates			Associate's Degrees			Bachelor's Degrees		
		Northeast	MA	US	Northeast	MA	US	Northeast	MA	US
Public	Completions 2000	480	2,273	298,282	1,018	7,487	471,339	1,981	12,718	811,076
	Completions 2010	848	3,618	460,865	1,404	9,831	670,395	2,722	16,251	1,049,058
	Absolute Change	368	1,345	162,583	386	2,344	199,056	741	3,533	237,982
	<i>Annual Growth Rate (Percent)</i>	<i>5.9</i>	<i>4.8</i>	<i>4.4</i>	<i>3.3</i>	<i>2.8</i>	<i>3.6</i>	<i>3.2</i>	<i>2.5</i>	<i>2.6</i>
Private	Completions 2000	334	5,221	258,503	85	3,812	135,604	1,046	29,658	431,412
	Completions 2010	1,006	8,195	430,685	59	4,366	249,258	1,379	35,972	603,141
	Absolute Change	672	2,974	172,182	-26	554	113,654	333	6,314	171,729
	<i>Annual Growth Rate (Percent)</i>	<i>11.7</i>	<i>4.6</i>	<i>5.2</i>	<i>-3.6</i>	<i>1.4</i>	<i>6.3</i>	<i>2.8</i>	<i>1.9</i>	<i>3.4</i>
Total	Completions 2000	814	7,494	556,785	1,103	11,299	606,943	3,027	42,376	1,242,488
	Completions 2010	1,854	11,813	891,550	1,463	14,197	919,653	4,101	52,223	1,652,199
	Absolute Change	1,040	4,319	334,765	360	2,898	312,710	1,074	9,847	409,711
	<i>Annual Growth Rate (Percent)</i>	<i>8.6</i>	<i>4.7</i>	<i>4.8</i>	<i>2.9</i>	<i>2.3</i>	<i>4.2</i>	<i>3.1</i>	<i>2.1</i>	<i>2.9</i>