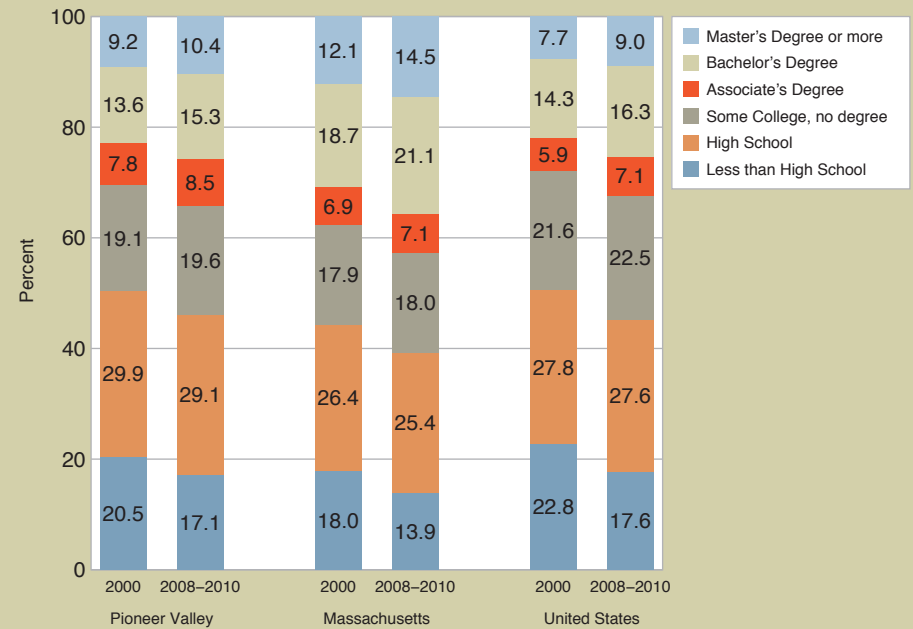


EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF THE WORKING-AGE POPULATION

While Massachusetts is one of the states with the highest share of population with a college degree, the educational attainment of the working-age population in Pioneer Valley more closely resembles that of the United States. Over the past decade, Pioneer Valley experienced strong growth at each level of higher educational attainment, with the working age population with a Bachelor's Degrees or Master's Degree increasing nearly 2.0 percent annually in the past decade. The only decline occurred among those with less than a High School Degree. The share of the population with a High School Degree or less declined to 46.2 percent in 2008-2010, nearly the same share as in the United States (45.2 percent) but still well above the statewide share (39.3 percent). And while the share of the population in Pioneer Valley with a Bachelor's Degree or higher rose to 25.7 percent by the end of the decade; it was nearly 10 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 Pioneer Valley

	2000	2008-2010	Absolute Change	Annual Growth Rate (Percent)
Less than High School	108,115	93,034	-15,081	-1.7
High School Graduate	157,467	158,200	733	0.1
Some College, no degree	100,751	106,680	5,929	0.6
Associate's Degree	40,895	46,429	5,534	1.4
Bachelor's Degree	71,481	83,283	11,802	1.7
Master's Degree or more	48,473	56,721	8,248	1.8