

NUMBER OF DEGREE COMPLETIONS BY DEGREE TYPE: PIONEER VALLEY (2000–2010)

Adding up Bachelor's and Associate's Degrees and Certificates, the total number of postsecondary degrees granted by institutions in Pioneer Valley grew at an annual rate of 2.0 percent between 2000 and 2010. Such growth was slower than in Massachusetts (2.5 percent) and the United States (3.7 percent), both of which experienced particularly strong growth in Associate's Degrees. While growth in the three post-secondary educational attainment categories was fairly stable in the region over the course of the decade, all three experienced mid-decade lulls in 2006 and 2007. Between 2000 and 2005, completions grew at annual rates ranging from 1.4 percent for Associate's Degree to 7.6 percent for Certificates. However, in 2006 and 2007 the number of degree completions in Pioneer Valley for all categories declined before picking up at the end of the decade. As such completions of all degrees experienced their strongest annual increases of the decade between 2007 and 2010; increasing 12.1 percent for Certificates, 4.5 percent for Associate's Degrees, and 3.5 percent for Bachelor's Degrees.

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

