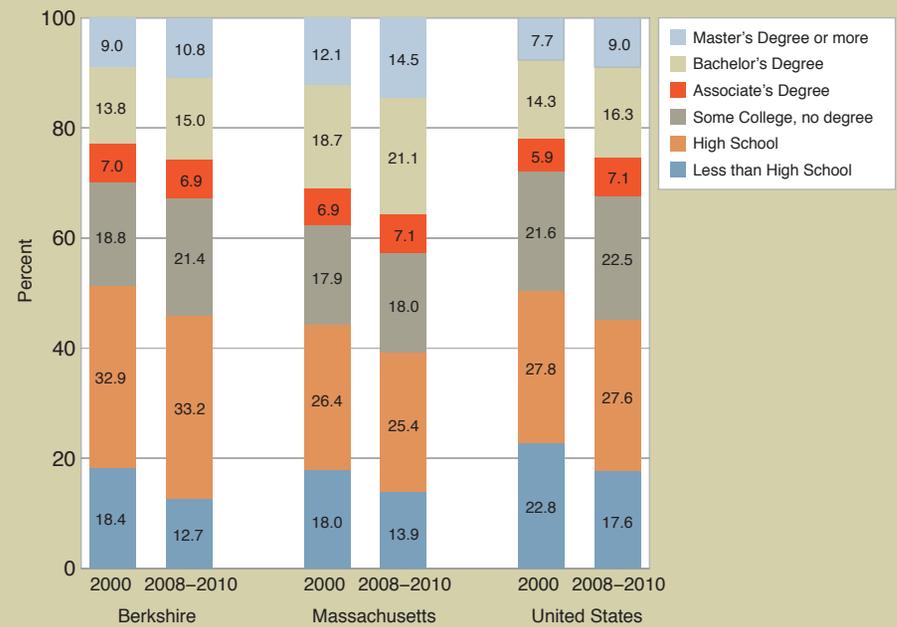


## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF THE WORKING-AGE POPULATION

While Massachusetts is one of the states with the highest share of people with a college degree, the educational attainment of the working-age population in Berkshire more closely resembles that of the United States. Over the past decade, Berkshire saw a shift toward more people with post-secondary degrees. There was an increase in the number of working-age people with a Bachelor's Degree or higher, as well as those with Some College education, but a declining number with an Associate's Degree. At the same time, the region saw fewer people with less than a High School Degree over the course of the decade and a fairly consistent number with a High School Degree. The share of the population with a High School Degree or less declined to 45.9 percent in 2008-2010, which was nearly the same share as in the United States (45.2 percent) but well above the statewide share (39.3 percent). Although the share of the population in Berkshire with a Bachelor's Degree or higher increased to 25.8 percent by the end of the decade, it was still nearly 10 percentage points lower than 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 Berkshire

	2000	2008-2010	Absolute Change	Annual Growth Rate (Percent)
Less than High School	16,704	11,528	-5,176	-4.0
High School Graduate	29,937	30,129	192	0.1
Some College, no degree	17,125	19,470	2,345	1.4
Associate's Degree	6,390	6,262	-128	-0.2
Bachelor's Degree	12,578	13,628	1,050	0.9
Master's Degree or more	8,142	9,833	1,691	2.1