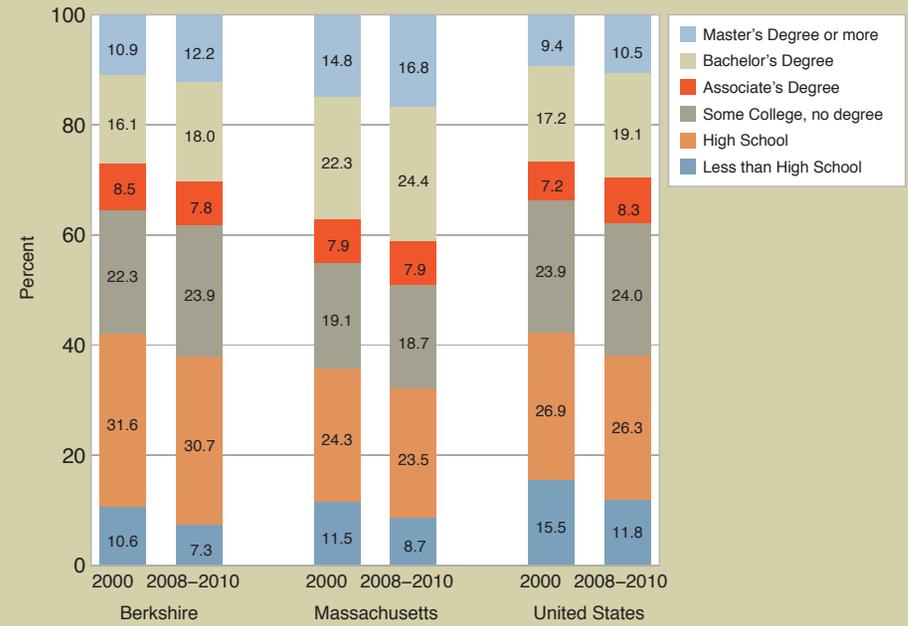


## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF THE CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

When looking at those actually participating in the labor force, we see higher levels of educational attainment than in the overall population. Much like the region's working-age population, the number of people in the civilian labor force in Berkshire with a Bachelor's Degree or higher is increasing while the number with a High School Degree or less is shrinking. By 2008-2010, 30.2 percent of the labor force in Berkshire had a Bachelor's Degree or higher, trailing the 41.2 percent in Massachusetts. However, 61.9 percent of the civilian labor force in Berkshire had completed at least some post-secondary education (Some College or higher). This trailed the nearly 68 percent of the Massachusetts labor force with some post-secondary education but was nearly the same as the 61.8 percent nationwide. While post-secondary educational attainment increased over the course of the decade, the most common level of educational attainment among the civilian labor force in Berkshire continued to be a High School Degree (30.7 percent in 2008-2010). While this exceeded both state and national shares, the share of individuals with less than a High School Degree in Berkshire (7.3 percent) was much smaller than it was statewide and nationally.

**Source:** US Census Bureau 2000 Decennial Census PUMS data files and 2008-2010 American Community Survey PUMS data files.

Educational Distribution of the Civilian Labor Force, 2000 and 2008–2010



Growth of Civilian Labor Force Population by Educational Attainment in Berkshire

	2000	2008-2010	Absolute Change	Annual Growth Rate (Percent)
Less than High School	6,167	4,374	-1,793	-3.7
High School Graduate	18,451	18,345	-106	-0.1
Some College, no degree	13,019	14,264	1,245	1.0
Associate's Degree	4,985	4,689	-296	-0.7
Bachelor's Degree	9,393	10,768	1,375	1.5
Master's Degree or more	6,336	7,301	965	1.6