

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. From 2000 to 2010, the number of people earning Certificates, Associate's Degrees, and Bachelor's Degrees granted by institutions in Massachusetts and the United States increased, while Berkshire actually registered fewer program and degree completions in all three categories. In fact, Berkshire was the only regional labor market to produce fewer Certificates, Associate's Degrees and Bachelor's Degrees over the course of the decade. The region's decline in Associate's Degrees was driven by a drop in such degrees from public institutions, combined with slow growth in completions at private institutions. The decline in completions of Certificates and Bachelor's Degrees

was the result of slumping completions at both public and private institutions. In comparison, both Massachusetts and the United States experienced completion growth at both private and public institution for all three post-secondary educational attainment categories.

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		
		Berkshire	MA	US	Berkshire	MA	US	Berkshire	MA	US
Public	Completions 2000	83	2,273	298,282	247	7,487	471,339	327	12,718	811,076
	Completions 2010	69	3,618	460,865	221	9,831	670,395	315	16,251	1,049,058
	Absolute Change	-14	1,345	162,583	-26	2,344	199,056	-12	3,533	237,982
	Annual Growth Rate (Percent)	-1.8	4.8	4.4	-1.1	2.8	3.6	-0.4	2.5	2.6
Private	Completions 2000	143	5,221	258,503	116	3,812	135,604	600	29,658	431,412
	Completions 2010	127	8,195	430,685	125	4,366	249,258	577	35,972	603,141
	Absolute Change	-16	2,974	172,182	9	554	113,654	-23	6,314	171,729
	Annual Growth Rate (Percent)	-1.2	4.6	5.2	0.8	1.4	6.3	-0.4	1.9	3.4
Total	Completions 2000	226	7,494	556,785	363	11,299	606,943	927	42,376	1,242,488
	Completions 2010	196	11,813	891,550	346	14,197	919,653	892	52,223	1,652,199
	Absolute Change	-30	4,319	334,765	-17	2,898	312,710	-35	9,847	409,711
	Annual Growth Rate (Percent)	-1.4	4.7	4.8	-0.5	2.3	4.2	-0.4	2.1	2.9