

NUMBER OF DEGREE COMPLETIONS BY DEGREE TYPE: METRO SOUTH/ WEST (2000-2010)

Adding up Bachelor's and Associate's Degrees and Certificates, the total number of people awarded a postsecondary degree by institutions in Metro South/West grew 1.4 percent between 2000 and 2010. Such growth was slower than in Massachusetts (2.5 percent) and the United States (3.7 percent), as both experienced stronger growth in completions, particularly in Certificates and Associate's Degrees. The low growth in the supply of new graduates suggests that Metro South/West may have to rely on commuters or transplants from other regional labor markets and states to meet the needs of its employers who seek to create new high- and middle-skill jobs as the economy continues to recover. While the region may be able to attract highly mobile populations such as recent college graduates with Bachelor's Degrees, the region may face challenges filling middle-skill positions requiring Associate's Degrees or Certificates that are often obtained by less mobile student populations.

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

