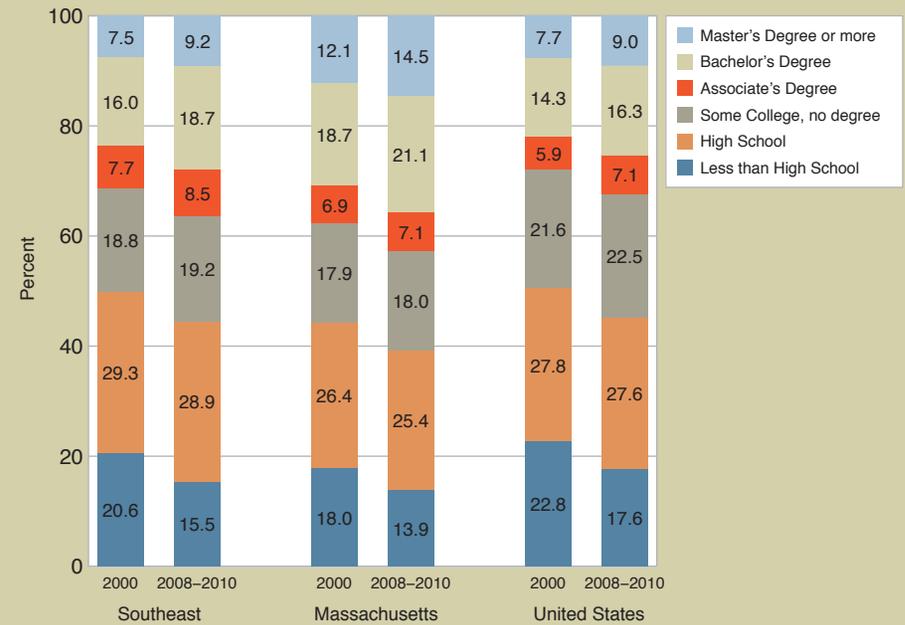


## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF THE WORKING-AGE POPULATION

Massachusetts is one of the states with the highest shares of population with a college degree; the educational attainment of the working-age population in the Southeast region has somewhat lagged that of the state. Over the past decade, the Southeast region saw progressively stronger growth in the share of the working-age population with higher levels of education, with declines occurring only among those with less than a High School Degree. But even with these educational gains, the share of the population with a High School Degree or less was 44.4 percent in 2008-2010, closer to that of the United States (45.2 percent) than of Massachusetts (39.3 percent). And though the share of the population in the Southeast region with a Bachelor's Degree or higher increased to 27.9 percent at the end of the decade, it was much lower than the share in Massachusetts (35.6 percent)—but still greater than the share in the United States (25.3 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 the Southeast Region

|                         | 2000    | 2008-2010 | Absolute Change | Annual Growth Rate (Percent) |
|-------------------------|---------|-----------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Less than High School   | 204,987 | 162,523   | -42,464         | -2.5                         |
| High School Graduate    | 290,844 | 303,784   | 12,940          | 0.5                          |
| Some College, no degree | 187,168 | 201,920   | 14,752          | 0.8                          |
| Associate's Degree      | 76,254  | 88,971    | 12,717          | 1.7                          |
| Bachelor's Degree       | 159,307 | 196,301   | 36,994          | 2.3                          |
| Master's Degree or more | 74,948  | 96,060    | 21,112          | 2.8                          |