

NUMBER OF DEGREE COMPLETIONS BY DEGREE TYPE: THE SOUTHEAST REGION (2000-2010)

Adding up Bachelor's and Associate's Degrees and Certificates, the total number of post-secondary degrees awarded by institutions in the Southeast region grew at an annual rate of 3.6 percent between 2000 and 2010, due largely to increases in Certificates and Associate's Degrees. This was faster than in Massachusetts (2.5 percent) and close to the growth in the United States (3.7 percent). Between 2000 and 2004, the number of Certificates completed in the Southeast region declined at an annual rate of 3.6 percent. Thereafter, the number of completions increased rapidly, growing at an annual rate of 14.1 percent between 2004 and 2010. By contrast, Associate's Degree completions grew at a strong annual rate at the beginning of the decade (5.8 percent between 2000 and 2005) before declining at an annual rate of 4.6 percent between 2005 and 2008. However, completions rebounded in 2009 and 2010, growing at an annual rate of 13.2 percent. Bachelor's Degree completions were fairly consistent, slowly growing over the course of the decade.

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

