GROWTH IN POTENTIAL SUPPLY OF EDUCATED WORKERS:
FULL-TIME ENROLLMENT TRENDS IN THE PAST DECADE

Colleges and universities in Boston/Metro North account for nearly 40 percent of all students enrolled at four-year institutions in Massachusetts. Between 2000 and 2010, enrollments at Boston/Metro North institutions grew at an annual rate of 2.2 percent. While enrollments increased at similar rates for both public and private four-year institutions in the region, private institutions enrolled more than 89 percent of such students and are driving the region’s growth in enrollment. In contrast, 2010 full-time enrollments in private two-year Boston/Metro North institutions were half the level of enrollment in 2000. Even with a 2.9 percent annual increase in enrollments at public two-year institutions over the same period, the region’s total full-time enrollment at two-year institutions declined at an annual rate of 1.0 percent. With a strong annual increase in enrollments at private less-than-two-year institutions (16.1 percent) and no comparable public institutions, the region more than quadrupled the number of full-time enrollees in less-than-two-year institutions over the course of the decade.


Note: Enrollment data are from the fall semester of the academic year. For example, 2010 enrollment is from the fall of 2009 of the 2009-2010 academic year. Enrollment data are provided by the type of institution. Students can earn different types of degrees within an institution. For example, the enrollment at a community college would be categorized as being in a two-year institution for all students enrolled that year. However, students at community colleges complete different type of programs, such as Certificates and Associate’s Degrees.