

CROSSING THE FINISH LINE: TRENDS IN DEGREE COMPLETIONS OVER THE PAST DECADE (2000-2010)

Total annual completions show the number of students who have earned a degree or certificate in a given year. From 2000 to 2010, the total number of students earning Certificates, Associate's Degrees, or Bachelor's Degrees at Boston/Metro North institutions increased, both in private and public institutions. While the annual growth rate in Associate's and Bachelor's Degree completions were strongest at public institutions, growth in Certificates was strongest at private institutions. Despite growth in all categories and institution types, the region lagged behind both Massachusetts and the United States in the growth of total degree comple-

tions for almost every type of degree. Bachelor's Degree completions were the exception, with an annual growth rate (2.3 percent) slightly exceeding the Massachusetts growth rate (2.1 percent) but trailing that of the United States (2.9 percent).

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		
		Boston/ Metro North	MA	US	Boston/ Metro North	MA	US	Boston/ Metro North	MA	US
Public	Completions 2000	270	2,273	298,282	568	7,487	471,339	1,559	12,718	811,076
	Completions 2010	312	3,618	460,865	1,002	9,831	670,395	2,123	16,251	1,049,058
	Absolute Change	42	1,345	162,583	434	2,344	199,056	564	3,533	237,982
	Annual Growth Rate (Percent)	1.5	4.8	4.4	5.8	2.8	3.6	3.1	2.5	2.6
Private	Completions 2000	2,241	5,221	258,503	1,852	3,812	135,604	14,414	29,658	431,412
	Completions 2010	3,170	8,195	430,685	1,974	4,366	249,258	17,970	35,972	603,141
	Absolute Change	929	2,974	172,182	122	554	113,654	3,556	6,314	171,729
	Annual Growth Rate (Percent)	3.5	4.6	5.2	0.6	1.4	6.3	2.2	1.9	3.4
Total	Completions 2000	2,511	7,494	556,785	2,420	11,299	606,943	15,973	42,376	1,242,488
	Completions 2010	3,482	11,813	891,550	2,976	14,197	919,653	20,093	52,223	1,652,199
	Absolute Change	971	4,319	334,765	556	2,898	312,710	4,120	9,847	409,711
	Annual Growth Rate (Percent)	3.3	4.7	4.8	2.1	2.3	4.2	2.3	2.1	2.9