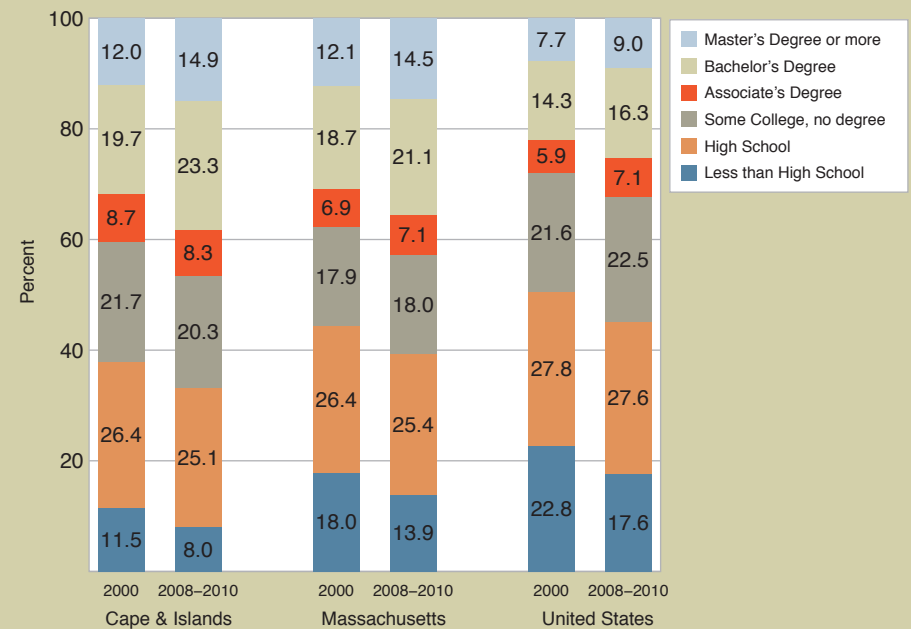


EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF THE WORKING-AGE POPULATION

Of the eight regional labor markets in Massachusetts, the Cape & Islands has the third highest share of working-age residents with a college degree. By 2008–2010, 38.1 percent of the working-age population had a Bachelor’s Degree or higher. The region’s educational attainment even exceeded the average for Massachusetts, which has one of the highest rates of residents with a college degree in the country. However, nearly a third of the region’s population with a Bachelor’s Degree or higher was 65 years of age or older, a large share of whom were retired. Over the past decade, the share and number of working-age individuals in the Cape & Islands with a Bachelor’s Degree or higher increased, while those with a High School Degree or less declined. In fact, since the region’s largest population decline occurred among those with less than a High School Degree, the share of the region’s working-age population with such an education (8.0 percent) fell far below that of the state (13.9 percent) and the nation (17.6 percent), and was the lowest among all regional labor markets by the end of the decade.

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 Cape & Islands

	2000	2008–2010	Absolute Change	Annual Growth Rate (Percent)
Less than High School	22,578	15,999	–6,579	–3.8
High School Graduate	51,914	50,258	–1,656	–0.4
Some College, no degree	42,661	40,704	–1,957	–0.5
Associate's Degree	17,202	16,689	–513	–0.3
Bachelor's Degree	38,756	46,594	7,838	2.1
Master's Degree or more	23,496	29,814	6,318	2.7