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 Central Mass has somewhat lagged that of the state. Over the past decade, Central Mass has seen progressively stronger growth in the share of the working-age population with higher levels of education, coupled with declines among those with less than a High School Degree. Even with these educational gains, the share of the population with a High School Degree or less was 43.0 percent in 2008-2010, closer to the share in the United States (45.2 percent) than in Massachusetts (39.3 percent). And while the share of the population in Central Mass with a Bachelor’s Degree or higher increased to 29.4 percent at the end of the decade, it was more than five percentage points behind the share in Massachusetts (35.6 percent).