

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT BY AGE GROUP: CENTRAL MASS (2008–2010)

If we look at the region's population by both age and education, we get an understanding of the workers who will be replacing the baby boomers. As the baby boomers have aged, 45-54-year-olds have become the largest age cohort. As the boomers continue to age and, over time, leave the labor force, nearly every educational category may face a shortfall of workers. For example, in 2008-2010, over 12,000 people between the ages 45 and 54 had an Associate's Degree in Central Mass, but only 5,200 between the ages 25 and 34 had such an education. This amounts to a potential shortage of over 6,800 individuals, equivalent to more than 50 percent of the 45-54-year-old population with such an education. There may be similar shortages of working-age individuals with High School Degrees (11,200 or 35.3 percent) or with Some College (4,200 or 20.1 percent). However, such shortages may actually be much less, given the long-term trend of a shift toward employees with higher levels of education in most occupations and industries.

Source: US Census Bureau 2008-2010 American Community Survey PUMS data files.

