The number and type of Certificates awarded by Central Mass institutions fluctuated considerably from year to year during the past decade. For example, from 2000 to 2010, Health Sciences Certificates in Central Mass grew at an annual rate of 10.4 percent. However, the region had much stronger growth between 2000 and 2007, with such certificates growing at an annual rate of 19.8 percent. Health Sciences Certificates then declined in 2008 and 2009 before growing modestly in 2010. The persistently large share of certificates in Health Sciences may reflect an increasing demand for employees with such education and training from growing industries such as Health Care & Social Assistance.

**Source:** National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Post Secondary Education Data System.