

## THE UNEMPLOYED: EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT (2000 AND 2008-2010)

The unemployment situation in Metro South/West differs from that in the state and the nation: almost 50 percent of the unemployed in Metro South/West have a Bachelor's Degree or higher. This is a consequence of the high levels of educational attainment among the region's residents. In 2000, the share of the unemployed in Metro South/West with a High School Degree or less was slightly under 40 percent, similar to the share of the unemployed with a Bachelor's Degree or higher. By the end of the decade, the share of the unemployed with a Bachelor's Degree or higher grew to nearly 50 percent in Metro South/West, with the largest share of the unemployed being those with a Bachelor's Degree (27.9 percent). In comparison, a majority of the unemployed in both Massachusetts and the United States had a High School Degree or less. Nevertheless, even in Metro/South West those with a High School Degree or less accounted for a disproportionately high share of the unemployed (31.1 percent) in 2008-2010, relative to their share of the civilian labor force (20.8 percent).

**Source:** US Census 2000 Decennial Census PUMS data files and 2008-2010 American Community Survey PUMS data files.

