EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF THE WORKING-AGE POPULATION

While Massachusetts is one of the states with the highest share of population with a college degree, the educational attainment of the working-age population in Pioneer Valley more closely resembles that of the United States. Over the past decade, Pioneer Valley experienced strong growth at each level of higher educational attainment, with the working age population with a Bachelor’s Degrees or Master’s Degree increasing nearly 2.0 percent annually in the past decade. The only decline occurred among those with less than a High School Degree. The share of the population with a High School Degree or less declined to 46.2 percent in 2008-2010, nearly the same share as in the United States (45.2 percent) but still well above the statewide share (39.3 percent). And while the share of the population in Pioneer Valley with a Bachelor’s Degree or higher rose to 25.7 percent by the end of the decade; it was nearly 10 percentage points behind the share in Massachusetts (35.6 percent).