

Not Just Kid Stuff Anymore: The Economic Imperative for More Adults to Complete College

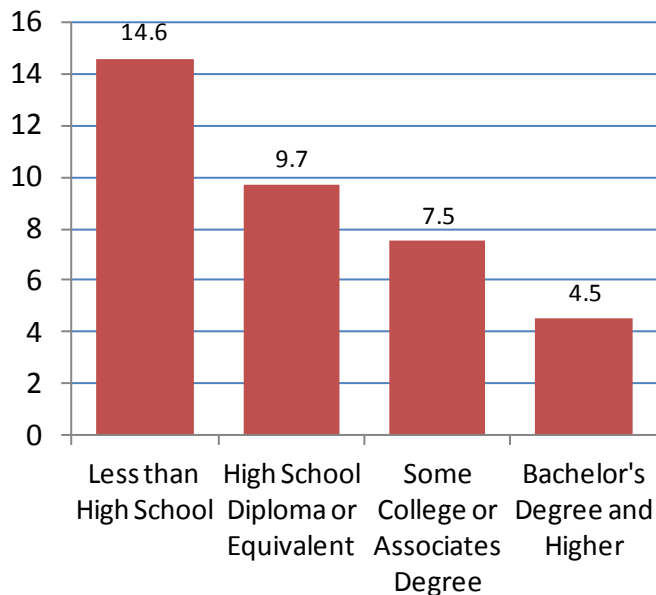
June 2011

Patrick Kelly and Julie Strawn



Higher Skills Needed for Today's Economic Recovery And Tomorrow's Economic Growth

Unemployment Rates (%) by
Level of Education (April 2011)



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2009.

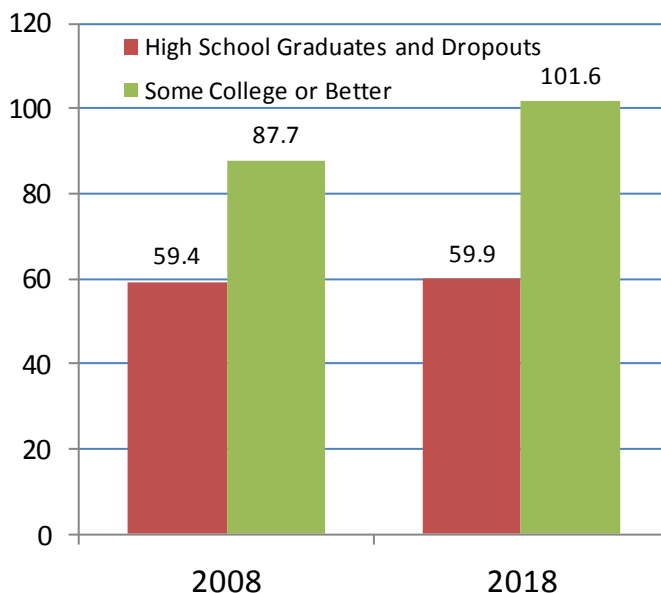
Less Educated Workers Are More Likely to Be Out of Work

- Even during tough economic times, skills and credentials matter for labor market success.
- Adults without a high school credential are twice as likely to be out of work as adults with some college education (14.6 percent v. 7.5 percent).
- Adults who have completed high school fare much better than dropouts. Yet even these workers face unemployment rates nearly a third higher than adults with some college, and twice as high as those with a bachelor's degree (9.7 percent v. 4.5 percent).

Demand for College-Educated Workers will Keep Rising Over the Next Ten Years

- Between 2008 and 2018 demand for college-educated workers will rise by 16 percent while demand for other workers will stay flat.
- Demand for college-educated workers in nearly half of the states will grow 2 to 3 times faster than demand for high school graduates or dropouts. In six states (IN, MA, ME, MI, MN and OH), jobs that require a college education will grow 5-7 times faster (see Appendix 2).
- Demand for college-educated workers in four states (ME, MI, MN, and OH) will grow five to six times faster than demand for high school graduates or dropouts.
- By 2018, nearly two-thirds of the nation's jobs will require some postsecondary education or training.

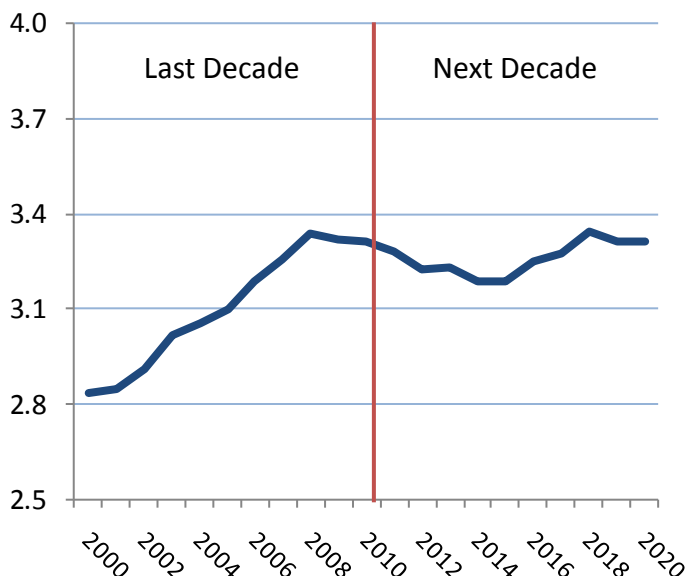
Educational Distribution of Total Jobs in 2008 and in 2018 (in Millions)



Source: *Help Wanted: Projections of Jobs and Education Requirements Through 2018*. Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce (2010).

Aging Population Means No Future Growth in High School Graduates, and Sharply Rising College Enrollment Among Adults

Projections of High School Graduates in the U.S. to 2020 (in Millions)



Source: *Knocking at the College Door*. Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (2008).

Number of High School Graduates Will Level Off Nationally and Decline in Many States

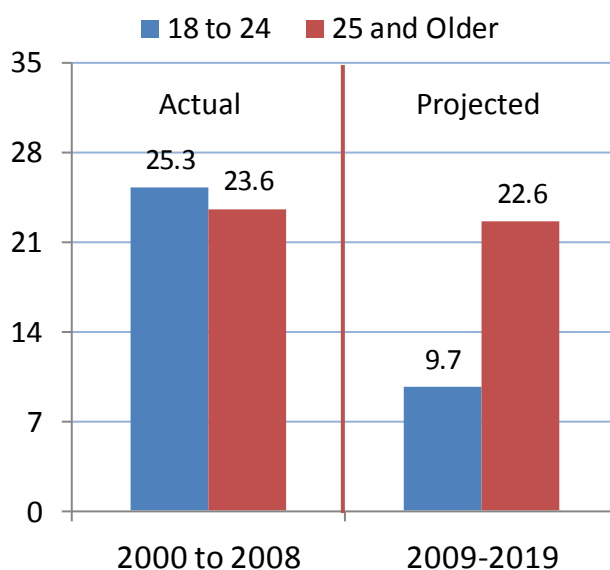
- Over the next decade there will be no national growth in the number of high school graduates.
- Thirty-one states and the District of Columbia will experience a decline in the number of high school graduates between 2010 and 2020.
- Thirteen of these states (AK, HI, IL, MA, ME, MD, MS, MO, MT, NH, OH, PA, and WV) will have 5 to 10 percent fewer high school graduates in 2020.
- Five states (CT, MI, NY, ND, and RI) will have 10 to 15 percent fewer high school graduates over the next decade, while two states, LA and VT, and the District of Columbia will see drops of about 20 percent.

College Enrollment by Adults Will Grow Twice as Fast as Enrollments by Traditional-Age Students

- From 2000 to 2008, enrollments by recent high school graduates grew faster than enrollments by adults age 25 and older (25.3 percent v. 23.6 percent).
- Between 2009 and 2019, this trend is expected to reverse, with adult enrollments increasing by twice as much as enrollments by traditional age students (22.6 percent vs. 9.7 percent).

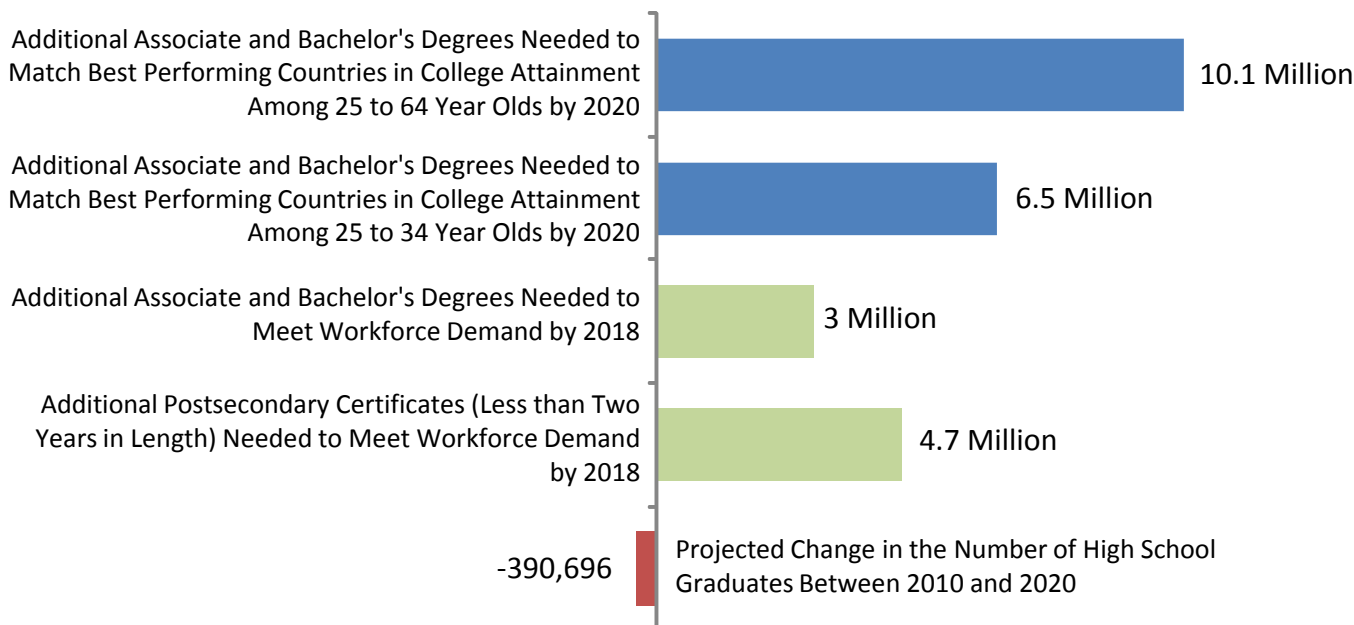
(This projection assumes no changes in grant aid or other policies that affect enrollment.)

Percent Change in College Enrollment by Age-Group, Past and Future



Source: National Center for Education Statistics.
Projections of Education Statistics to 2019.

Increasing the Number of Adults Completing College Credentials Is Critical for Reaching Key National Goals, Such as International Competitiveness and Meeting Employers' Workforce Needs



Sources: National Center for Higher Education Management Systems, Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce, and the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education.

Policy Implications

- Just as our economy is demanding that more workers have some postsecondary education or training, the number of recent high school graduates, our traditional source of such workers, is leveling off and even declining in many states.
- Helping workers weather economic downturns, helping employers meet their needs for skilled workers, and competing internationally for high-skilled, high-wage jobs are all important goals that will require we help many more adults complete college credentials.
- Congress, state governments, and colleges can all support adult credential completion by recognizing that adult students are a substantial and growing share of the undergraduate student population and adjusting policies accordingly. In particular, it is critical that federal student aid be responsive to the needs of adults who often must juggle work, family and school responsibilities and who are on their own financially.
- Federal funding for adult basic education and English language services, for job training, and for postsecondary career and technical education is also essential, as these programs are often the first steps in a college and career pathway for working adults.

Appendix 1: Unemployment Rates by Level of Education – by State (2009)

	Less Than High School	High School Graduate or GED	Some College, No Degree	Associate's Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Graduate or Professional Degree	All Education Levels
Alabama	19.9	10.8	8.6	6.8	3.7	2.6	8.9
Alaska	10.9	11.0	9.6	5.8	1.9	1.3	7.4
Arizona	17.9	11.5	9.3	7.6	5.3	3.5	9.4
Arkansas	12.7	9.4	7.9	5.1	3.6	2.2	7.6
California	13.7	12.3	10.4	8.1	6.6	4.8	9.6
Colorado	13.2	8.2	8.1	6.2	4.9	3.6	6.9
Connecticut	17.9	11.0	9.3	6.9	4.4	2.7	7.9
Delaware	14.2	7.6	9.1	5.8	2.6	5.2	7.0
DC	23.1	21.2	13.2	10.1	3.7	2.8	9.5
Florida	18.3	13.3	10.3	8.3	6.5	4.7	10.5
Georgia	16.9	11.7	10.1	7.8	5.8	3.6	9.4
Hawaii	9.6	9.9	7.2	5.1	3.8	2.6	6.5
Idaho	15.0	9.9	8.5	5.9	4.2	3.1	8.0
Illinois	16.6	11.9	10.7	7.1	5.5	4.1	9.2
Indiana	19.1	11.5	9.9	6.9	4.9	2.9	9.4
Iowa	10.6	6.3	5.0	3.6	2.4	2.1	4.7
Kansas	12.9	7.7	6.9	3.4	3.3	2.2	5.9
Kentucky	16.3	10.5	9.1	7.6	4.5	1.9	8.5
Louisiana	14.3	7.8	6.2	4.0	3.4	3.3	6.7
Maine	20.9	6.4	7.6	3.7	3.3	1.6	5.9
Maryland	14.5	9.3	6.7	3.9	3.9	2.6	6.4
Massachusetts	14.7	11.2	8.8	6.9	5.1	4.1	7.7
Michigan	27.1	18.0	13.8	10.6	6.7	4.1	13.1
Minnesota	16.3	9.1	7.6	4.5	4.5	3.1	6.8
Mississippi	16.3	9.7	7.6	4.8	4.2	1.4	7.9
Missouri	17.4	9.4	8.5	5.3	4.1	2.4	7.6
Montana	16.2	6.2	5.7	5.5	3.0	2.7	5.6
Nebraska	10.2	4.8	6.3	3.2	1.8	1.4	4.4
Nevada	16.5	11.8	10.7	7.2	7.4	4.9	10.5
New Hampshire	13.3	9.1	8.4	6.2	4.2	3.2	6.9
New Jersey	13.4	10.8	10.2	7.0	5.9	4.0	8.4
New Mexico	13.7	9.3	7.3	6.1	4.2	3.4	7.5
New York	13.1	8.5	8.8	6.1	6.3	4.3	7.6
North Carolina	17.0	12.0	10.8	7.3	4.8	3.0	9.3
North Dakota	9.6	2.4	4.1	1.0	3.2	1.1	3.1
Ohio	21.2	11.9	11.0	6.1	4.5	3.0	9.5
Oklahoma	11.1	6.5	5.1	4.1	2.4	2.0	5.2
Oregon	17.3	12.9	10.3	10.6	6.1	4.4	10.0
Pennsylvania	18.0	9.0	8.7	5.8	4.8	3.0	7.6
Rhode Island	17.7	10.5	8.9	6.6	4.4	2.1	8.0
South Carolina	22.4	11.8	10.2	7.2	5.6	3.8	10.1
South Dakota	20.7	5.3	4.6	3.2	1.5	1.1	4.6
Tennessee	18.5	12.2	8.9	7.1	4.2	2.4	9.2
Texas	10.0	8.7	6.9	5.6	4.0	3.4	6.8
Utah	13.8	8.5	6.8	4.8	3.5	2.2	6.4
Vermont	16.2	5.8	6.8	2.9	2.0	3.4	5.1
Virginia	13.3	7.5	5.9	4.6	3.3	2.8	5.7
Washington	14.5	10.3	8.6	7.2	4.8	3.5	7.8
West Virginia	14.0	6.1	6.9	5.5	4.5	0.8	6.1
Wisconsin	15.5	9.3	6.9	5.0	3.5	2.8	6.9
Wyoming	16.3	6.7	2.5	3.3	0.7	1.1	4.2

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009 American Community Survey (Public Use Microdata Sample)

Appendix 2: Change in Jobs by Education Level by State – 2008 to 2018

State	2008 Jobs			2018 Jobs			Difference		
	High School Dropouts	High School Graduates	Postsecondary	High School Dropouts	High School Graduates	Postsecondary	High School Dropouts	High School Graduates	Postsecondary
Alabama	280,000	691,000	1,155,000	306,000	754,000	1,287,000	26,000	63,000	132,000
Alaska	24,000	104,000	213,000	25,000	109,000	225,000	1,000	5,000	12,000
Arizona	399,000	733,000	1,683,000	423,000	797,000	1,910,000	24,000	64,000	227,000
Arkansas	162,000	472,000	663,000	178,000	519,000	750,000	16,000	47,000	86,000
California	2,914,000	3,833,000	10,195,000	3,163,000	4,198,000	11,522,000	249,000	365,000	1,327,000
Colorado	257,000	612,000	1,693,000	324,000	761,000	2,104,000	68,000	149,000	411,000
Connecticut	139,000	537,000	1,154,000	145,000	562,000	1,239,000	6,000	25,000	85,000
Delaware	46,000	149,000	261,000	49,000	160,000	286,000	3,000	11,000	26,000
DC	72,000	144,000	500,000	78,000	155,000	543,000	6,000	11,000	43,000
Florida	961,000	2,607,000	4,923,000	1,047,000	2,878,000	5,603,000	86,000	271,000	679,000
Georgia	546,000	1,347,000	2,523,000	590,000	1,463,000	2,830,000	43,000	117,000	306,000
Hawaii	44,000	205,000	429,000	46,000	212,000	451,000	2,000	7,000	21,000
Idaho	76,000	211,000	439,000	84,000	235,000	503,000	8,000	25,000	65,000
Illinois	661,000	1,711,000	3,964,000	699,000	1,820,000	4,382,000	38,000	110,000	418,000
Indiana	326,000	1,119,000	1,667,000	330,000	1,132,000	1,747,000	3,000	13,000	79,000
Iowa	124,000	538,000	999,000	135,000	583,000	1,100,000	11,000	46,000	101,000
Kansas	142,000	432,000	940,000	155,000	470,000	1,039,000	13,000	38,000	99,000
Kentucky	225,000	714,000	1,051,000	237,000	751,000	1,138,000	12,000	37,000	87,000
Louisiana	289,000	748,000	1,024,000	308,000	790,000	1,089,000	19,000	42,000	65,000
Maine	36,800	240,000	381,000	37,000	242,000	396,000	200	2,000	15,000
Maryland	275,000	787,000	1,751,000	305,000	863,000	1,964,000	30,000	77,000	213,000
Massachusetts	271,000	934,000	2,290,000	276,000	954,000	2,438,000	5,000	20,000	148,000
Michigan	350,000	1,320,000	2,767,000	354,000	1,338,000	2,883,000	4,000	18,000	116,000
Minnesota	185,000	759,000	1,987,000	189,000	782,000	2,139,000	4,000	24,000	152,000
Mississippi	176,000	403,000	667,000	192,000	442,000	740,000	16,000	39,000	73,000
Missouri	297,000	965,000	1,718,000	305,000	991,000	1,803,000	8,000	26,000	86,000
Montana	33,000	161,000	308,000	35,000	170,000	331,000	2,000	9,000	23,000
Nebraska	81,000	287,000	658,000	87,000	307,000	715,000	5,000	20,000	56,000
Nevada	211,000	432,000	719,000	270,000	554,000	938,000	60,000	123,000	218,000
New Hampshire	47,000	215,000	433,000	51,000	233,000	486,000	4,000	18,000	53,000
New Jersey	400,000	1,263,000	2,591,000	408,000	1,300,000	2,739,000	8,000	35,000	148,000
New Mexico	122,000	268,000	515,000	135,000	297,000	574,000	13,000	30,000	58,000
New York	950,000	2,490,000	5,775,000	989,000	2,588,000	6,134,000	39,000	98,000	359,000
North Carolina	550,000	1,310,000	2,553,000	593,000	1,425,000	2,875,000	42,000	115,000	322,000
North Dakota	21,000	108,000	262,000	23,000	114,000	277,000	1,000	5,000	14,000
Ohio	484,000	2,045,000	3,185,000	490,000	2,069,000	3,337,000	6,000	23,000	153,000
Oklahoma	194,000	550,000	978,000	211,000	592,000	1,064,000	17,000	42,000	87,000
Oregon	201,000	490,000	1,179,000	214,000	525,000	1,302,000	13,000	34,000	123,000
Pennsylvania	468,000	2,277,000	3,365,000	478,000	2,331,000	3,546,000	10,000	53,000	181,000
Rhode Island	57,000	144,000	302,000	58,000	150,000	321,000	1,000	5,000	19,000
South Carolina	249,000	680,000	1,110,000	258,000	710,000	1,204,000	9,000	31,000	94,000
South Dakota	34,000	145,000	270,000	37,000	156,000	294,000	3,000	11,000	25,000
Tennessee	358,000	1,052,000	1,588,000	397,000	1,159,000	1,781,000	39,000	106,000	194,000
Texas	1,946,000	3,114,000	6,391,000	2,301,000	3,673,000	7,677,000	356,000	559,000	1,286,000
Utah	124,000	363,000	861,000	148,000	436,000	1,063,000	24,000	73,000	202,000
Vermont	18,000	113,000	202,000	19,000	113,000	211,000	1,000	0	9,000
Virginia	413,000	1,140,000	2,441,000	451,000	1,253,000	2,830,000	37,000	113,000	389,000
Washington	298,000	808,000	2,075,000	325,000	888,000	2,334,000	27,000	80,000	259,000
West Virginia	76,000	317,000	378,000	79,000	328,000	398,000	3,000	10,000	20,000
Wisconsin	231,000	984,000	1,787,000	241,000	1,026,000	1,925,000	10,000	42,000	139,000
Wyoming	24,000	102,000	193,000	28,000	119,000	208,000	4,000	17,000	15,000

Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce. *Help Wanted*.

Appendix 3: High School Graduates from the Past Decade and for the Future Decade

State	1999-00	2004-05	2009-10	2014-15	2019-20	Projected % Change from 2010 to 2020
Alabama	42,077	43,087	47,187	46,178	44,856	-4.9
Alaska	6,879	7,241	7,872	7,241	7,224	-8.2
Arizona	40,543	61,928	81,853	92,865	107,706	31.6
Arkansas	28,613	27,949	30,402	31,303	32,421	6.6
California	340,462	387,691	419,638	399,487	401,760	-4.3
Colorado	41,368	46,978	50,548	50,397	60,231	19.2
Connecticut	36,696	41,404	42,741	39,420	38,444	-10.1
Delaware	7,661	8,714	9,572	9,432	10,133	5.9
DC	4,088	3,791	5,172	4,143	3,931	-24.0
Florida	120,026	150,645	174,924	185,030	198,860	13.7
Georgia	69,284	78,140	89,800	95,332	107,190	19.4
Hawaii	13,398	13,374	13,837	13,114	13,030	-5.8
Idaho	16,630	16,296	17,839	18,882	21,415	20.0
Illinois	127,972	137,557	146,084	137,482	137,471	-5.9
Indiana	63,228	62,762	70,972	69,767	71,010	0.1
Iowa	36,606	36,050	38,155	36,814	37,687	-1.2
Kansas	31,089	32,196	31,020	28,796	30,688	-1.1
Kentucky	40,656	41,950	43,972	42,054	42,935	-2.4
Louisiana	46,987	44,717	36,507	29,924	29,173	-20.1
Maine	14,259	16,215	16,786	16,034	15,503	-7.6
Maryland	55,480	62,839	66,607	60,782	61,846	-7.1
Massachusetts	62,609	70,165	71,320	64,703	65,131	-8.7
Michigan	106,849	110,757	113,715	102,093	99,816	-12.2
Minnesota	61,659	63,267	62,911	59,695	63,072	0.3
Mississippi	27,783	26,419	28,002	25,504	25,542	-8.8
Missouri	59,715	65,650	70,136	64,921	66,661	-5.0
Montana	11,372	10,897	10,794	9,698	9,978	-7.6
Nebraska	22,488	22,315	22,091	21,001	23,008	4.2
Nevada	15,173	16,426	21,826	24,502	29,537	35.3
New Hampshire	13,871	16,228	16,013	14,538	14,628	-8.6
New Jersey	86,129	99,248	111,103	106,830	108,347	-2.5
New Mexico	19,431	18,792	19,239	18,412	19,139	-0.5
New York	168,189	181,388	188,531	165,168	160,185	-15.0
North Carolina	66,418	80,675	92,540	96,582	105,883	14.4
North Dakota	9,017	8,041	7,296	6,417	6,172	-15.4
Ohio	125,300	130,540	134,595	123,460	122,120	-9.3
Oklahoma	39,254	37,599	38,619	36,910	39,053	1.1
Oregon	32,598	35,037	34,458	33,434	34,597	0.4
Pennsylvania	132,006	143,431	146,604	133,422	132,618	-9.5
Rhode Island	9,987	11,933	12,444	11,140	11,061	-11.1
South Carolina	34,536	36,161	38,221	35,364	37,097	-2.9
South Dakota	9,754	9,149	8,677	8,228	8,532	-1.7
Tennessee	47,658	53,255	56,448	54,572	56,918	0.8
Texas	223,169	249,514	280,802	301,783	337,406	20.2
Utah	33,307	31,350	35,038	37,980	43,489	24.1
Vermont	7,983	8,448	7,857	6,536	6,381	-18.8
Virginia	70,836	79,971	87,513	84,362	91,692	4.8
Washington	60,991	65,185	69,519	67,457	68,129	-2.0
West Virginia	20,292	17,985	18,192	16,646	16,825	-7.5
Wisconsin	64,001	68,981	68,921	64,588	66,697	-3.2
Wyoming	6,510	5,652	5,316	4,950	5,279	-0.7
United States	2,832,879	3,096,834	3,310,631	3,189,364	3,311,763	0.0

Source: Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, Knocking at the College Door)