

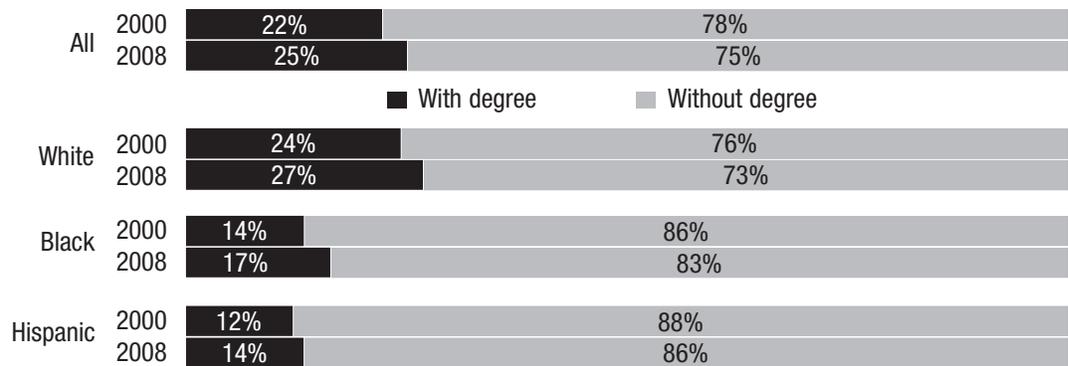


SREB

# Fact Book Bulletin

REPORTING SIGNIFICANT TRENDS AFFECTING EDUCATION PROGRESS IN THE SREB STATES

## Adults 25 and Older With At Least a Bachelor's Degree, SREB States



Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

## A Paradox of Education Progress

Is the SREB region making progress in whether adults have at least a bachelor's degree? This is a more difficult question to answer than one might think.

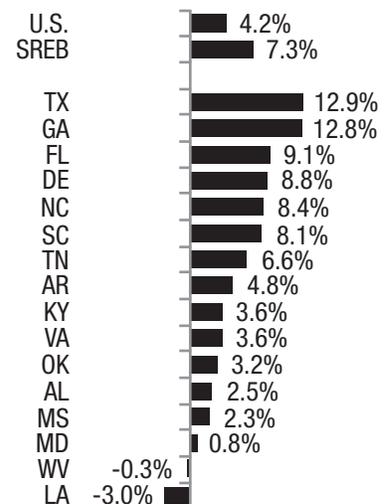
The **percentage** of adults 25 and older with at least a bachelor's degree rose from 2000 to 2008 in the region — and the percentage without declined. This trend *looks* like progress.

Yet the **number** of adults without a bachelor's or higher degree *increased* 4 percent nationwide and 7 percent in the SREB region over the period. In some SREB states, the number without a bachelor's degree increased significantly. Texas and Georgia had almost 13 percent more adults without bachelor's degrees in 2008 than in 2000. Only two SREB states, Louisiana and West Virginia, had fewer adults without at least a bachelor's in 2008 than in 2000. The SREB region accounted for 63 percent of the increase in the number of adults in the nation without bachelor's degrees.

Both the **percentage** and **number** trends are important for policy-makers. State leaders recognize that the proportion of adults with bach-

elor's degrees changes as people migrate from state to state. But it is also vital for leaders to strengthen the state's economy and work force by stepping up efforts to ensure that the sheer number of adults who earn bachelor's degrees increases — especially those from groups that have not historically gone to college.

### Change in Number Without a Bachelor's



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The overall population of the SREB region grew 11 percent from 2000 to 2008, compared with 9 percent nationwide — but the growth was not evenly distributed across the key racial and ethnic groups in the population. The number of white adults in the SREB region rose 9 percent, black

adults rose 15 percent, and Hispanic adults rose 42 percent over the period. Policy-makers should recognize that the population in their states is growing — and some groups are growing faster than others. These differential growth rates have serious implications for continued education progress.

### Change in the Number of Adults 25 and Older Without a Bachelor's Degree, 2000 to 2008<sup>1</sup>

(Supplements Tables 2 and 4, *SREB Fact Book on Higher Education, 2009*)

	All	White	Black	Other Races and Multi-Racial <sup>2</sup>	Hispanic <sup>3</sup>
<b>United States</b>	5,823,600	2,733,510	1,319,008	1,771,082	5,245,208
<b>SREB states</b>	3,660,468	1,916,015	1,025,263	719,190	2,100,964
<b>SREB states as a percent of U.S.</b>	62.9	70.1	77.7	40.6	40.1
<b>Alabama</b>	58,181	11,735	37,058	9,388	21,012
<b>Arkansas</b>	69,477	35,598	16,875	17,004	27,827
<b>Delaware</b>	34,029	18,587	12,225	3,217	9,185
<b>Florida</b>	776,543	457,309	239,243	79,991	462,010
<b>Georgia</b>	503,701	180,550	227,095	96,056	143,384
<b>Kentucky</b>	79,747	61,020	10,830	7,897	15,042
<b>Louisiana</b>	-66,641	-39,093	-30,815	3,267	14,496
<b>Maryland</b>	20,119	-74,278	55,810	38,587	61,208
<b>Mississippi</b>	33,617	-14,925	43,782	4,760	7,369
<b>North Carolina</b>	343,718	147,048	91,802	104,868	128,495
<b>Oklahoma</b>	56,344	20,393	6,875	29,076	44,599
<b>South Carolina</b>	167,050	102,921	47,248	16,881	36,464
<b>Tennessee</b>	199,627	125,875	51,451	22,301	44,212
<b>Texas</b>	1,269,063	875,875	155,056	238,132	1,006,598
<b>Virginia</b>	119,360	14,189	58,583	46,588	76,447
<b>West Virginia</b>	-3,467	-6,789	2,145	1,177	2,616

<sup>1</sup> The 2008 figures are three-year averages of 2006, 2007 and 2008. Such three-year estimates create larger samples and better estimates than single-year estimates.

<sup>2</sup> Includes American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, Some Other Race, and Two or More Races.

<sup>3</sup> Hispanics may be of any race.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau: "Educational Attainment of Persons 25 Years and Over, 1990 and 2000" (2002); and "Sex by Educational Attainment for the Population 25 Years and Over, 3-Year Estimates, 2006-2008," American Community Survey (2010) — ([www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)).

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