

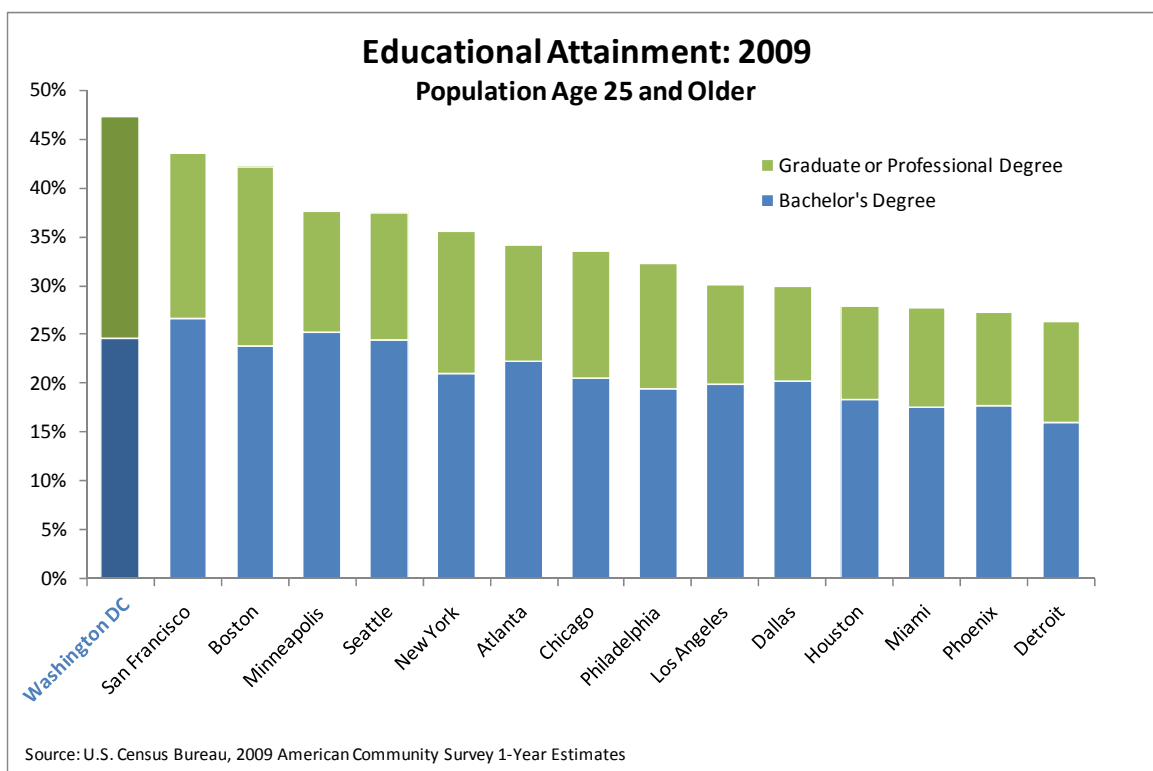


## Update from the American Community Survey

### Educational Attainment in the Washington DC Metropolitan Area

The Washington DC Metropolitan Area has a more highly educated population than any other major U.S. metropolitan area. In 2009, approximately 47.3 percent of adults age 25 and older in the Washington area had a bachelor’s degree or higher. The metropolitan areas with the next highest shares of college graduates were San Francisco (43.5%) and Boston (42.2%). Nationally, only 28 percent of adults age 25 and older has a bachelor’s degree or higher.

The Washington area has a particularly large population with graduate or professional degrees. (These advanced degrees include master’s degrees, PhDs, MBAs, JDs, and other post-undergraduate degrees.) In the Washington DC Metropolitan Area, nearly 23 percent of the adult population has a graduate or professional degree. In the next highest metropolitan area—Boston—the share is only 18.3 percent. Nationally, only about one in ten adults has a graduate or professional degree.



**Educational Attainment by Sex: 2009  
Population Age 25 and Older**

	Men		Women	
	Bachelor's Degree or Higher	Graduate or Professional Degree	Bachelor's Degree or Higher	Graduate or Professional Degree
<b>Washington DC</b>	<b>49.1</b>	<b>24.6</b>	<b>45.6</b>	<b>20.8</b>
San Francisco	44.0	18.1	43.0	15.7
Boston	42.6	18.6	41.8	18.0
Minneapolis	37.6	12.7	37.5	12.1
Seattle	38.5	13.7	36.4	12.4
New York	36.2	15.0	35.1	14.3
Atlanta	34.5	11.8	33.8	11.9
Chicago	33.9	13.4	33.2	12.7
Philadelphia	33.2	13.5	31.6	12.4
Los Angeles	31.0	11.0	29.3	9.7
Dallas	30.7	10.6	29.3	8.9
Houston	29.1	10.2	26.7	8.8
Miami	28.9	11.2	26.7	9.2
Phoenix	28.0	10.2	26.6	9.1
Detroit	27.5	11.0	25.2	9.6
<b>U.S.</b>	<b>28.4</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>27.4</b>	<b>9.9</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

Both men and women in the Washington DC region are more highly educated than men and women in other parts of the country. In the Washington DC metropolitan area, 49.1 percent of men have a bachelor's degree or higher. Nearly one-quarter of men has a graduate or professional degree. Nationally, 28.4 percent of men has a bachelor's degree or higher and only 10.8 percent has a graduate or professional degree.

Women in the Washington DC area are more highly educated than women in other major metropolitan areas. About 45.6 percent of women in the Washington DC metropolitan area has a bachelor's degree or higher and 20.8 percent has a graduate or professional degree. Nationally, 27.4 percent of women has a bachelor's degree or higher and 9.9 percent has a graduate or professional degree.

The relatively high levels of educational attainment in the Washington DC metropolitan area is indicative of the region's very well-educated and highly skilled labor force. The high level of human capital in the region—among other factors—makes the Washington DC metropolitan area an attractive location for business expansion or relocation.

**GMU Center for Regional Analysis**

The principal mission of the Center for Regional Analysis is to provide research and analytical services to local governments, businesses and other stakeholders in the Washington region focusing on economic, demographic, transportation, housing and fiscal trends and forecasts.

The Center for Regional Analysis has become the “go-to” organization for economic, demographic and housing data and analysis within the Washington and Baltimore regions and is cited locally and nationally as the source of information for the media, research scholars, and investors interested in understanding the Washington area's economy. The Center posts research reports, presentations, data and other information its website (policy-cra.gmu.edu)

**Updates from the 2010 Census and the American Community Survey**

The Center for Regional Analysis will issue periodic reports on demographic and economic topics based on newly released data from the 2010 Census and the American Community Survey. The American Community Survey (ACS) is an ongoing survey that provides detailed data every year about states, metropolitan areas, counties and cities. More information about the 2010 Census and the ACS can be found at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).