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## Message from the SREB President

When SREB first published a *Fact Book on Higher Education* in 1956, only one in 20 of the SREB region's adults had bachelor's degrees. By 2009, that figure had grown to more than one in four. Now SREB is calling for six in 10 working-age adults to hold a postsecondary career certificate of value or at least an associate's degree by 2025. The mission is to remain economically and socially vibrant and competitive.

The public, education leaders and policy-makers in every state need to know how far we've come. But even more, all of us need to keep up to date on the current trends that shape and challenge the future we are building. Helping our 16 member states monitor their progress in education is a cornerstone of SREB's mission. The *SREB Fact Book on Higher Education 2011* breaks new ground by showing trends for all 50 states in a nationwide geographical context. We implement this expansion to fulfill even further SREB's commitment to help our states strive for — and then surpass — national benchmarks of educational progress. This *Featured Facts* report contains highlights for all four major U.S. regions. These *Fact Book* data are essential in understanding the issues that affect the future of education in our region and the nation.

Helping more students earn college degrees and career credentials is one of the most important priorities in public education — especially in this economic downturn and as our region's demographics change rapidly. This is a time that requires state education leaders to make the best use of the limited resources of students, their families and states — to keep students preparing for and progressing toward college completion and career readiness.

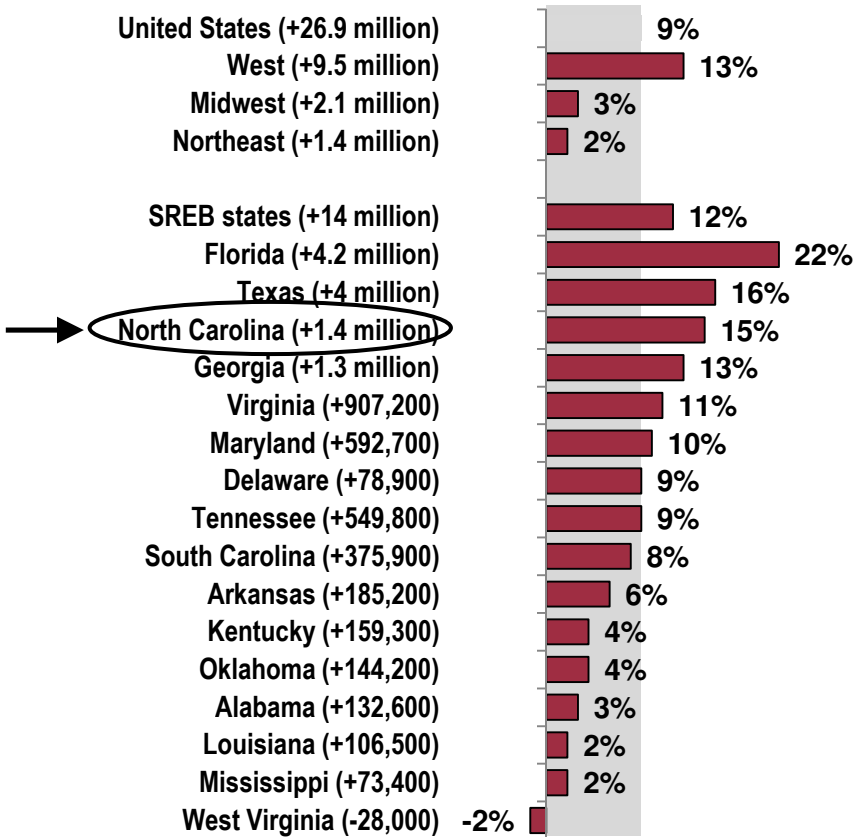
Challenging issues emerge on these pages. Much of our region's population growth in the coming years will be among racial and ethnic minorities who traditionally have been the least likely to attend and graduate from college. Without more attention to helping students from these underrepresented groups prepare for college and earn degrees, our region and the nation could see greater numbers of undereducated, working-age adults. Lower overall education attainment levels could result.

More students must be better prepared for postsecondary education and have the academic and financial support necessary to complete four-year degrees, two-year degrees, career certificates and other postsecondary workplace training. This is how we maintain America's educational progress. Our states' economic prospects and quality of life depend on how we succeed in this endeavor.

Dave Spence  
President



## Projected Population Change 2010 to 2020

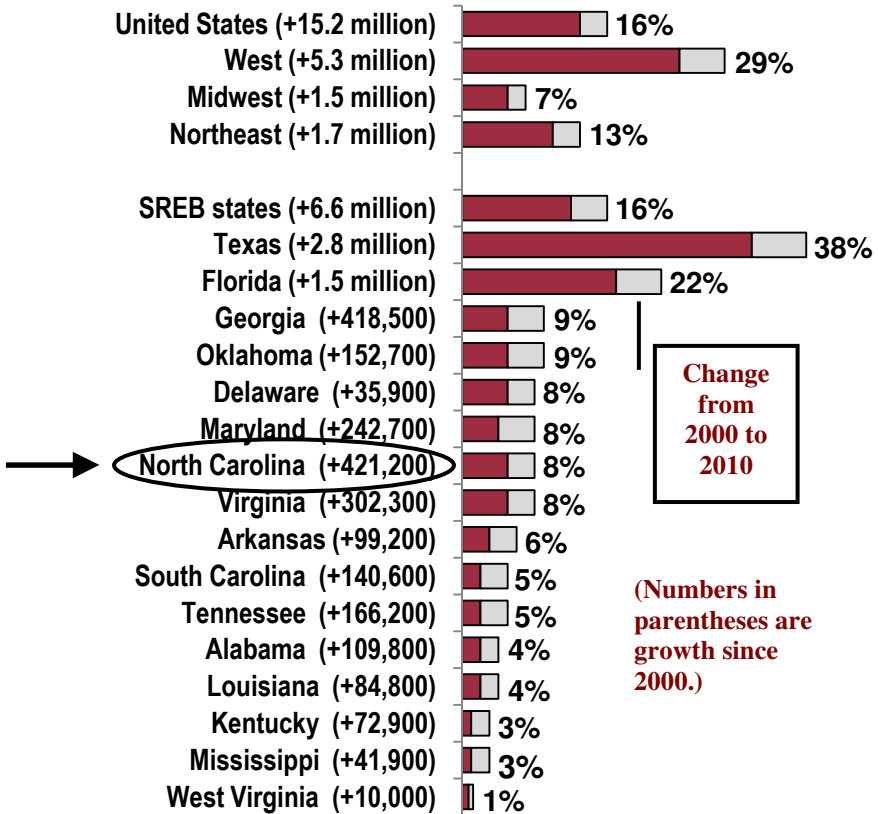


Source: Table 1, U.S. Census Bureau.

More than half (52 percent) of the nation's population growth from 2010 to 2020 is expected to be in the 16 SREB states — an increase of 14 million. North Carolina's population is projected to grow by 1.4 million, or 15 percent, one of the highest projected growth rates in the region.



## Hispanic Population Representation 2010 and Change 2000 to 2010



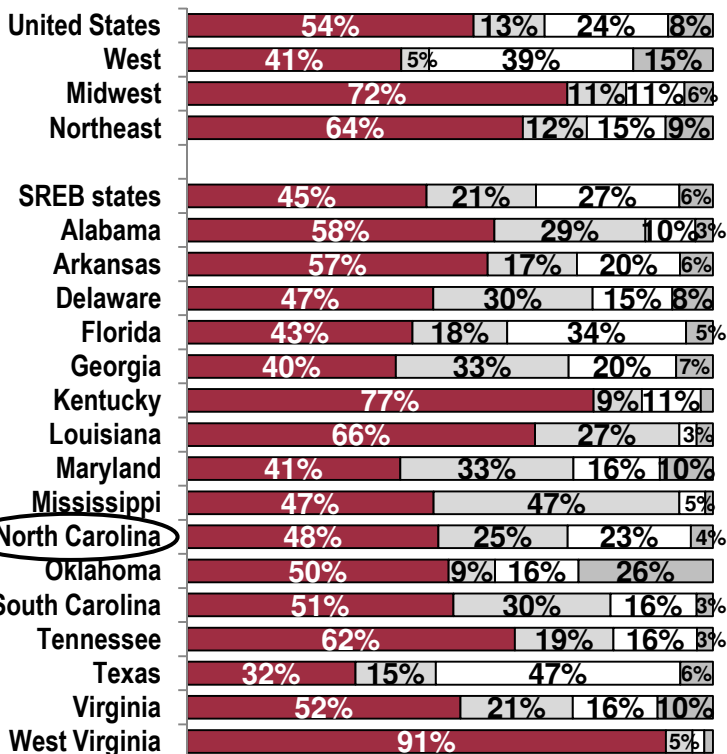
Source: Table 4, U.S. Census Bureau.

The increase in Hispanic residents is the region's major demographic trend. Hispanic population growth accounted for 46 percent of all growth in the SREB region from 2000 to 2010. North Carolina gained 421,200 Hispanic residents — 53 percent of all Hispanics in the state. This increase raised the proportion of Hispanic residents to 8 percent of the overall resident population of North Carolina in 2010.



## Public High School Graduates 2018-19

■ White  
 ■ Black  
 ■ Hispanic  
 ■ Other

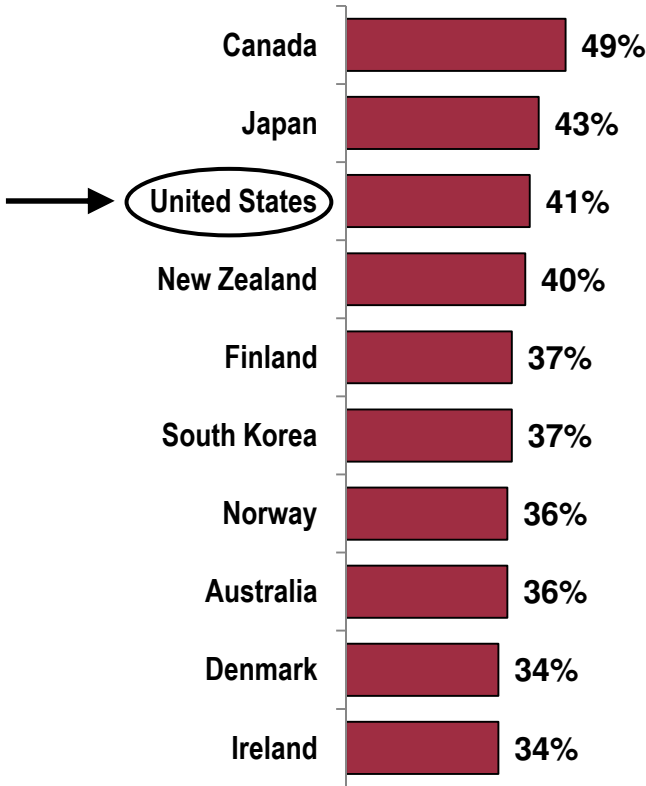


Source: Table 8, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education.

By 2019, black and Hispanic students are expected to account for 48 percent of the SREB region’s public high school graduates. White students, who were 56 percent of graduates in 2009, are projected to be 45 percent in 2019. In North Carolina, Hispanic and black students are expected to rise from 34 percent to 48 percent and white students to decrease from 61 percent to 48 percent. Black graduates are projected to fall from 28 percent of North Carolina graduates to 25 percent by 2019.



## Percent of Working-Age Population With an Associate's or Higher Degree Leading Nations, 2008



Note: Ages 25 to 64.

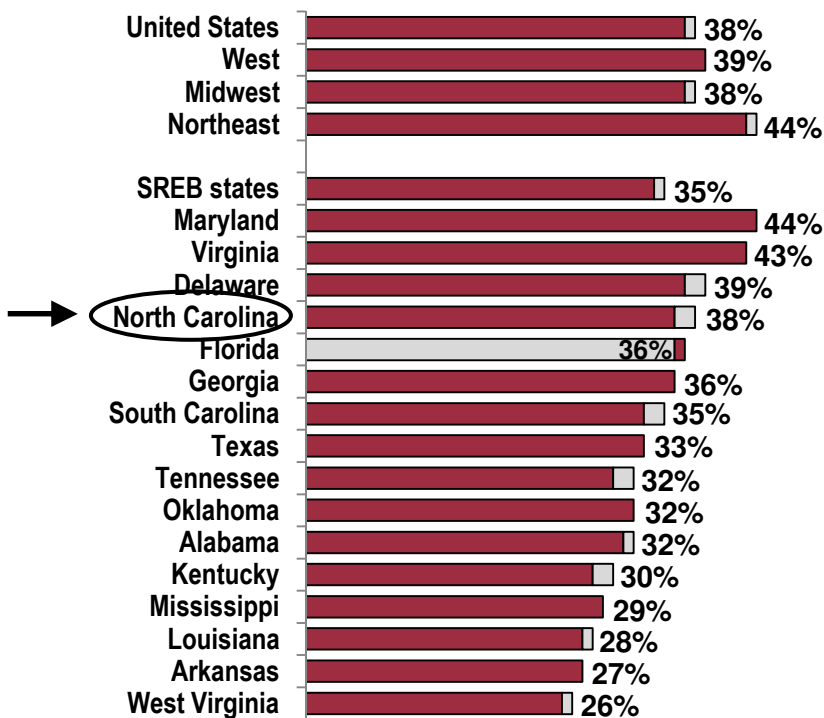
Source: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Working-age adults have become the new focus among national leaders when comparing education levels. Using an equivalency yardstick common for international attainment comparisons (percent with the equivalent of an associate's or a higher degree), the United States has slipped to third place internationally behind Canada and Japan.



## Working-Age Adults With an Associate's or Higher Degree 2005 and 2009

■ 2005 □ 2009



Note: Ages 25 to 64.

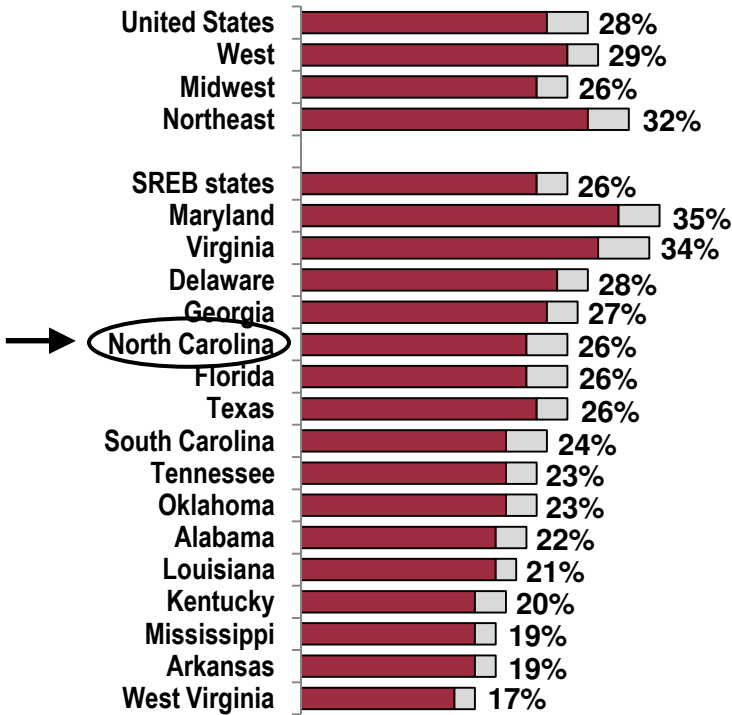
Source: Table 3, U.S. Census Bureau.

On U.S.-based measures of the 50 states, the percentage of adults with associate's or higher degrees has risen since 2005 nationally, regionally and in eight SREB states. In 2009, 38 percent of adults ages 25 to 64 in North Carolina had at least an associate's degree, up from 36 percent in 2005.



## Adults With a Bachelor's or Higher Degree 2000 and 2009

■ 2000 □ 2009



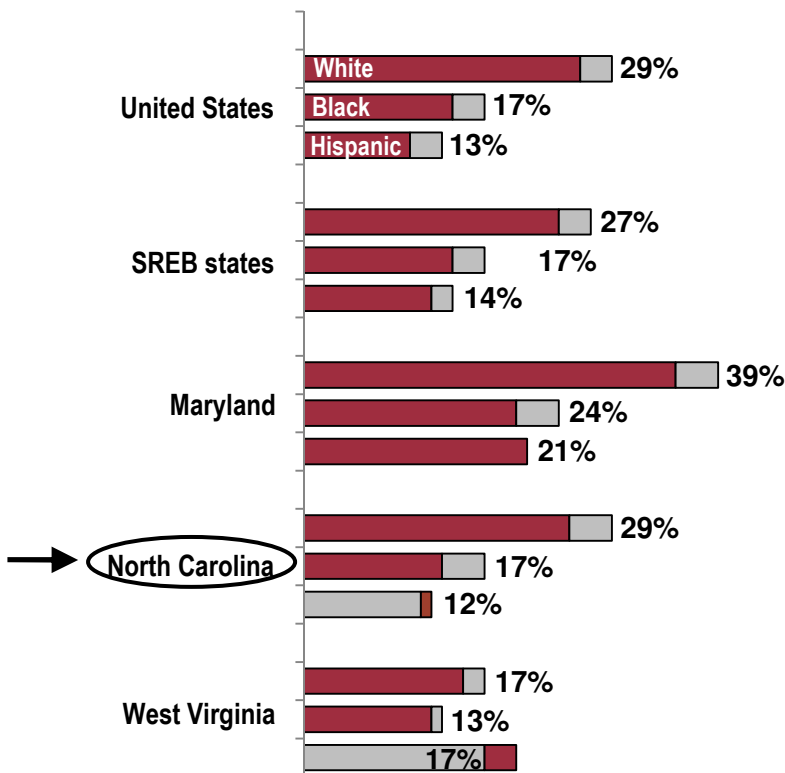
Source: Table 2, U.S. Census Bureau.

The percentage of adults with at least a bachelor's degree has risen since 2000 nationally, regionally and in every SREB state. In 2009, 26 percent of adults ages 25 and older in North Carolina had bachelor's or higher degrees, up from 22 percent in 2000.



## Adults With a Bachelor's or Higher Degree, 2000 and 2009

■ 2000 ■ 2009



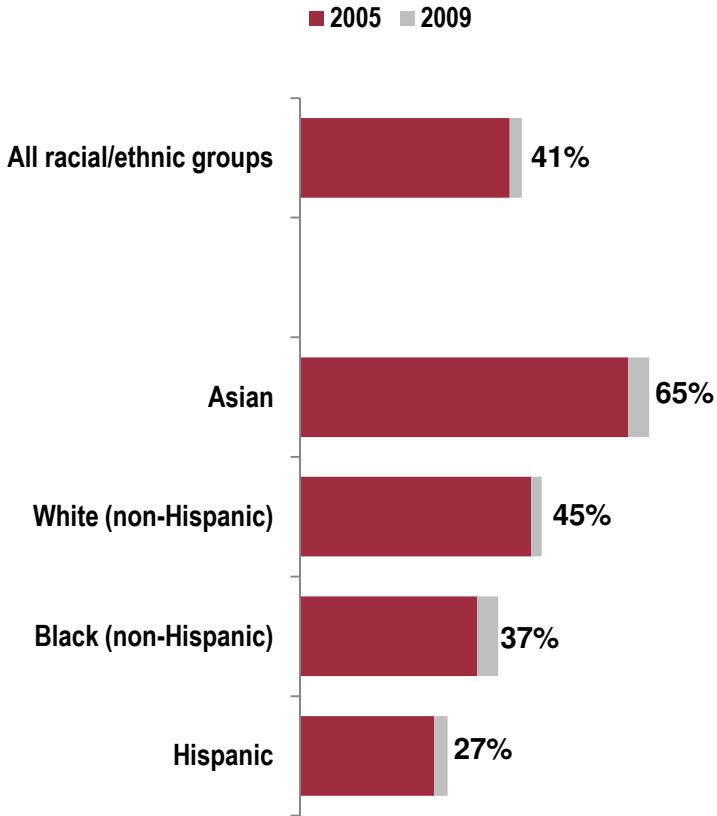
Note: SREB states with the smallest and largest percentages of white adults with bachelor's degrees are shown to put data in context.

Source: Table 6, U.S. Census Bureau.

The percentage of Hispanic adults with at least a bachelor's degree was higher than the percentage of black adults with degrees in five SREB states in 2009, down from 10 in 2000. In North Carolina, 29 percent of white adults and 17 percent of black adults had bachelor's or higher degrees in 2009. Twelve percent of Hispanic adults had bachelor's or higher degrees.



## 18- to 24-Year-Olds in College United States, 2005 and 2009

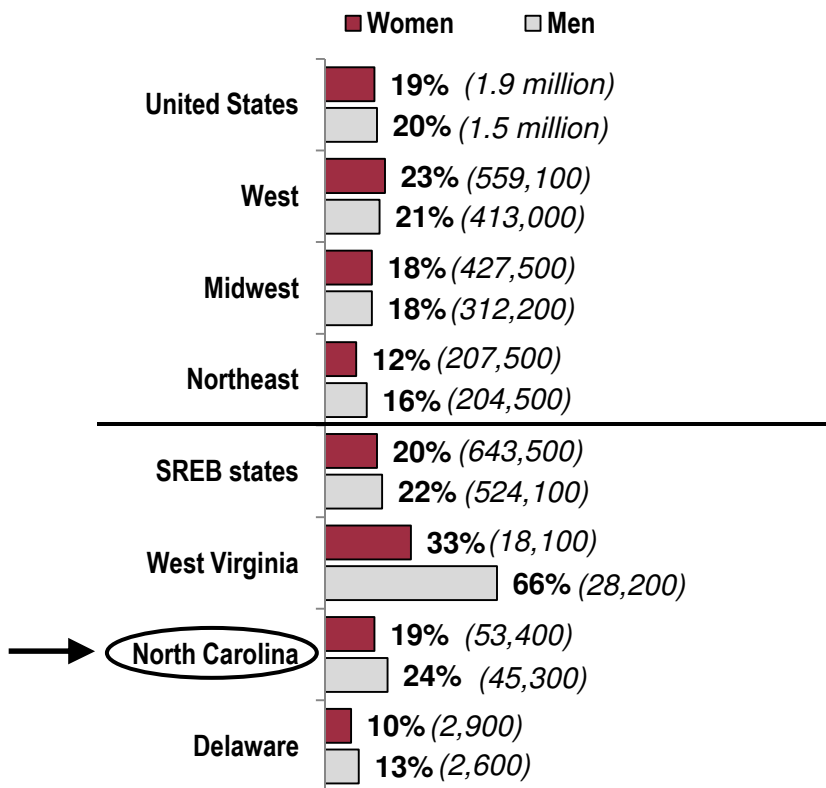


Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

Even after years of progress, a smaller proportion (27 percent) of Hispanic young adults attended college than black young adults (37 percent) and white young adults (45 percent) in 2009. This means that the fastest-growing population in the United States had the lowest percentage enrolled in college.



## Men's and Women's Enrollment Growth 2004 to 2009



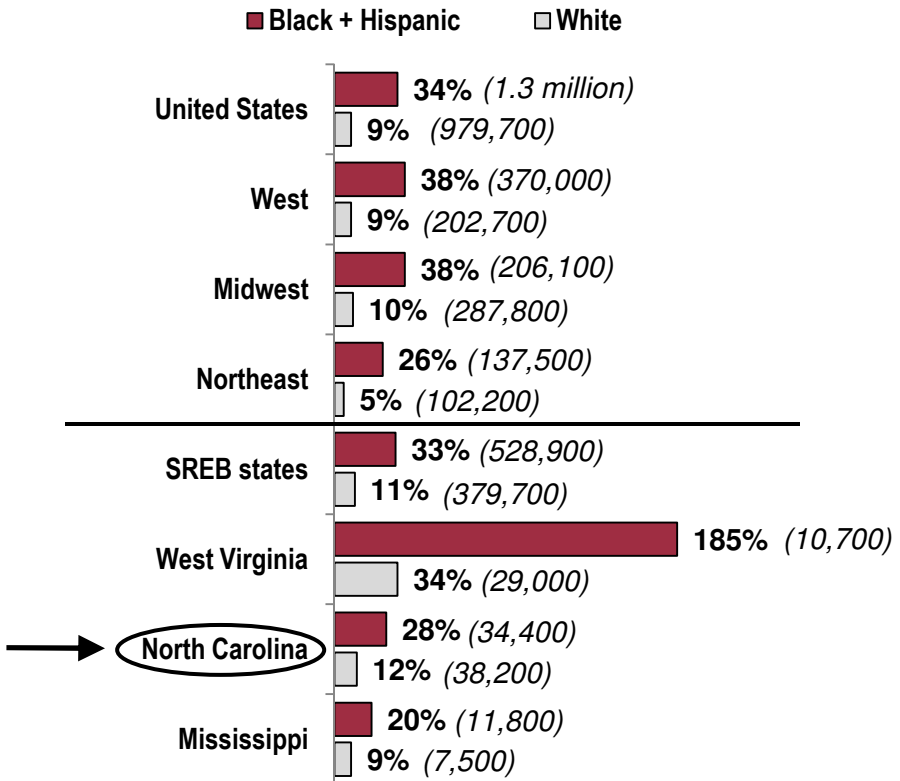
Note: SREB states with the smallest and largest percentages of women's enrollment growth are shown to put data in context.

Source: Table 23, National Center for Education Statistics.

Women accounted for most of the college enrollment growth in the SREB states from 2004 to 2009. In North Carolina, 53,400 more women and 45,300 more men were enrolled in college in 2009 than in 2004. Women represent 59 percent of enrollment in North Carolina.



## Black and Hispanic Enrollment Growth 2004 to 2009



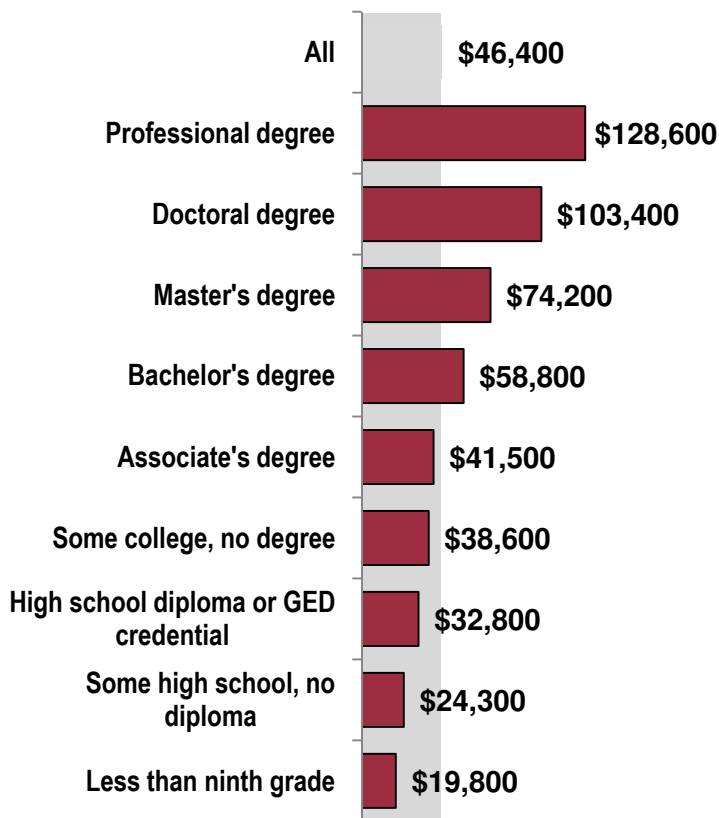
Note: SREB states with the smallest and largest percentages of black plus Hispanic enrollment growth are shown to put data in context.

Source: Table 23, National Center for Education Statistics.

The number of black and Hispanic students grew more rapidly from 2004 to 2009 than the number of white students in virtually every SREB state. In North Carolina, there were 34,400 more black and Hispanic students enrolled in 2009 than in 2004. This was a 28 percent increase, compared with a 12 percent increase in the enrollment of white students.



## Average Annual Earnings of Adults United States, 2009

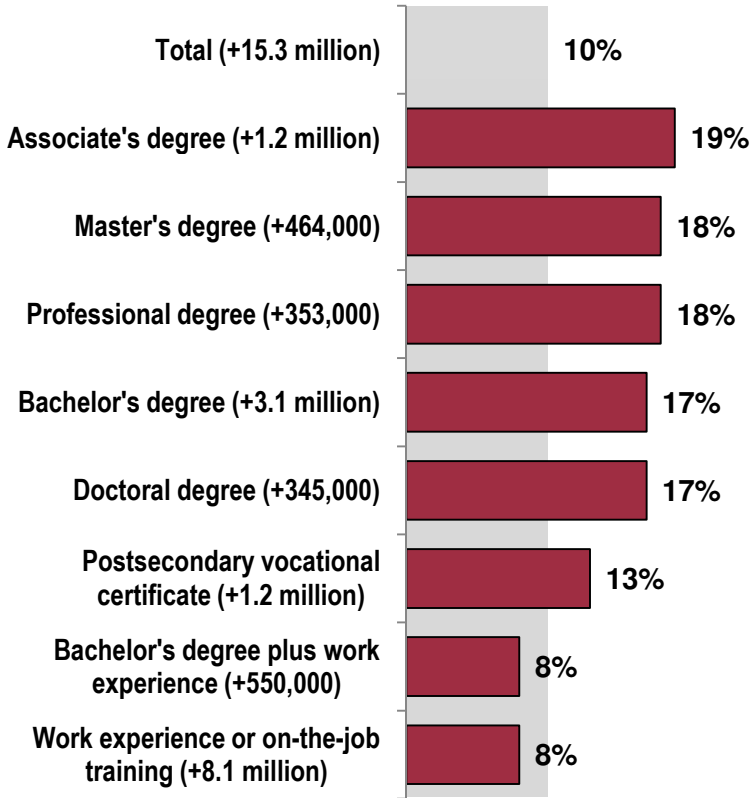


Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

More than ever, education pays. Adults ages 25 and older with associate's degrees earned 27 percent more than those with only high school-level credentials. Those with bachelor's degrees earned 79 percent more. And, those with professional degrees in fields such as law and medicine earned 119 percent more than those with bachelor's degrees.



## Projected Increase in Job Openings by Education or Training United States, 2008 to 2018



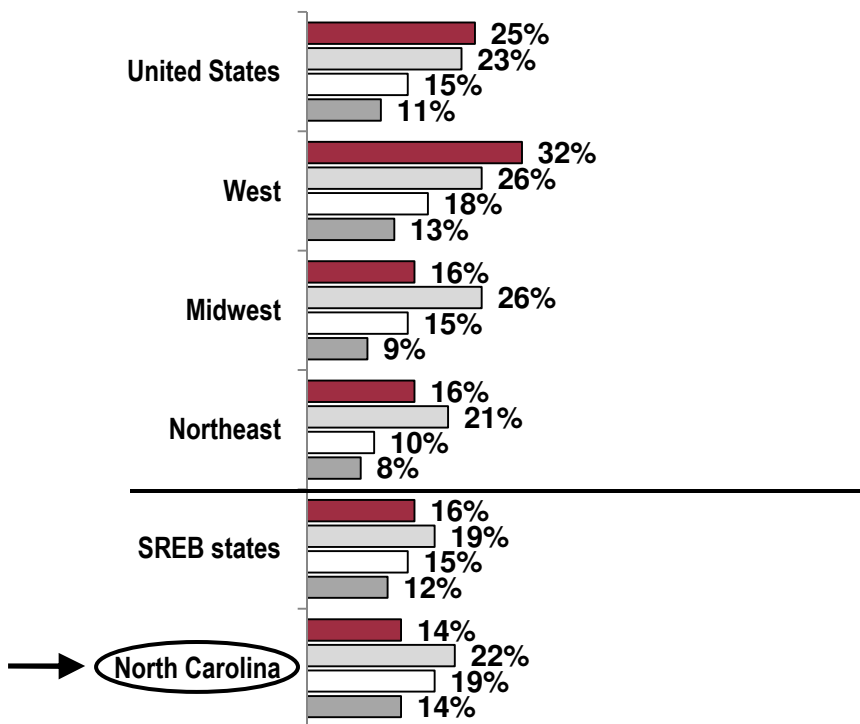
Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

The fastest-growing, highest-paying jobs require education beyond high school. Jobs in the United States are projected to increase by 19 percent (1.2 million) by 2018 for people with associate's degrees and by 17 percent (3.1 million) for those with bachelor's degrees. Most jobs openings still will require only work experience or on-the-job training.



## 150 Percent of Normal Time Graduation Rates Public Two-Year Colleges, 2006 Cohort

■ Asian   □ White   □ Hispanic   ■ Black



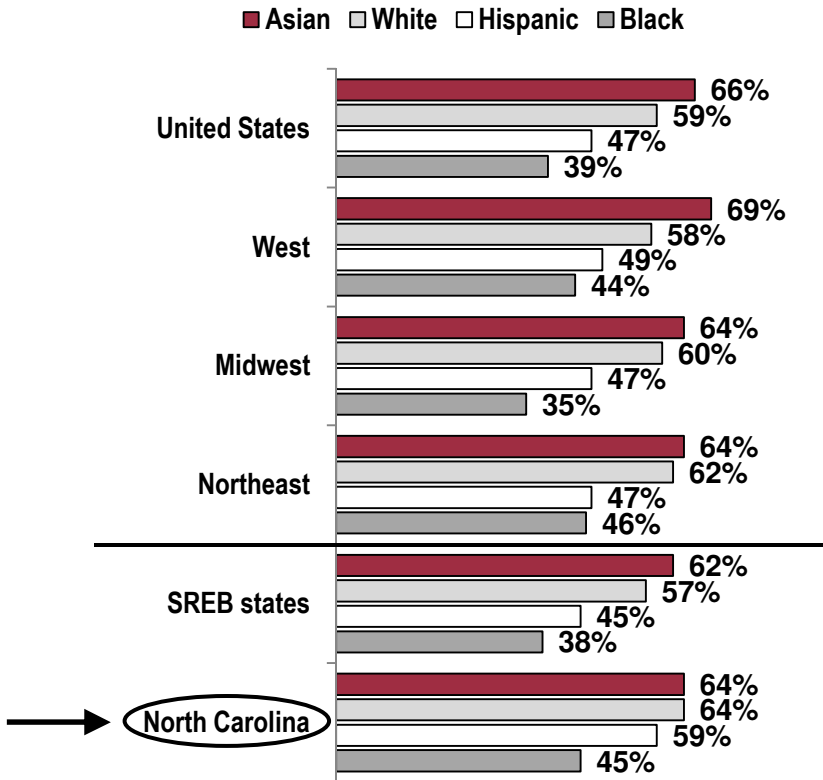
Note: Full-time, first-time, degree-seeking freshmen who graduated within 150 percent of normal program time, usually three years.

Source: Table 44, National Center for Education Statistics.

At public two-year colleges, the highest three-year graduation rates for the 2006 cohort were in the West. Gaps in the rates for racial and ethnic groups remain in all regions. Graduation rates in North Carolina were above the SREB average for each of the major groups except Asian.



## 150 Percent of Normal Time Graduation Rates Public Four-Year Colleges, 2003 Cohort



Note: Full-time, first-time, degree-seeking freshmen who graduated within 150 percent of normal program time, usually six years.

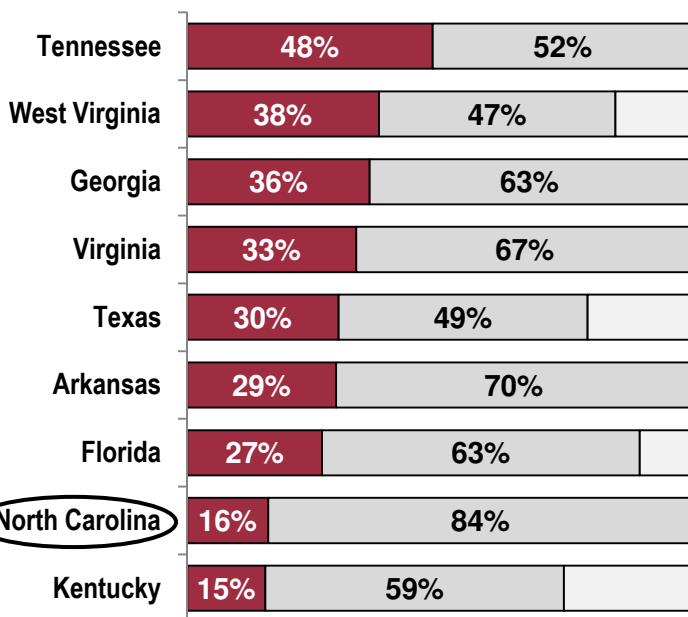
Source: Table 44, National Center for Education Statistics.

At public four-year colleges, the SREB region's six-year graduation rates for the 2003 cohort were below the national average for every major racial and ethnic group. Graduation rates in North Carolina were above the SREB average for each of the major groups.



## Entering Transfer Status of Associate's Graduates Public Two-Year Colleges, 2008-09

- Transfer student at graduating college
- First time in college at graduating college
- Other or unknown whether first-time or transfer



Note: These nine SREB states participated in the initial graduates' time- and credits-to-degree study.

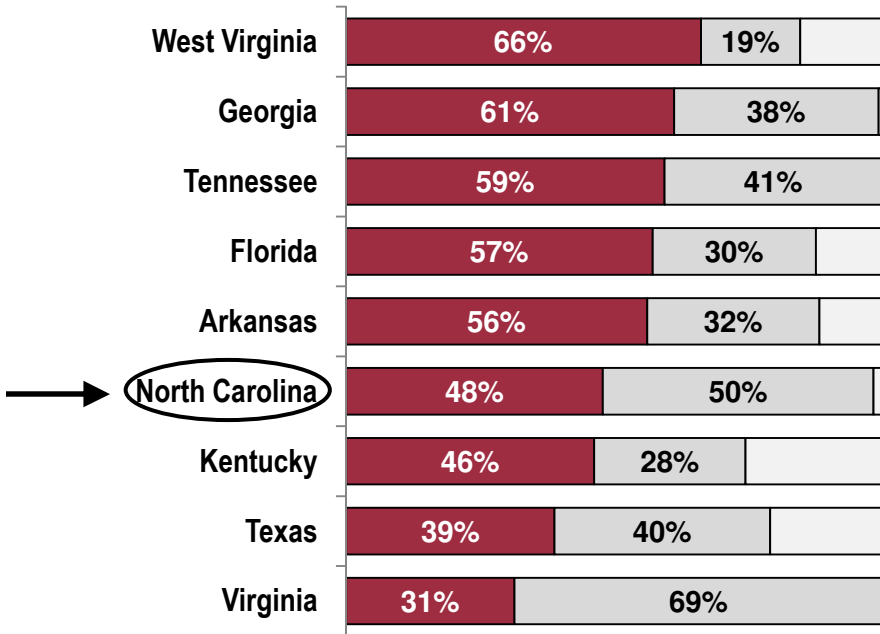
Source: Table 49, SREB-State Data Exchange.

A significant percentage of associate's degree graduates in 2008-09 were transfer students to the colleges awarding their degrees. Among the first nine states to participate in SREB's initial data collection, the percentage of transfers ranged from 48 percent in Tennessee to 15 percent in Kentucky.



## Entering Attendance Status of Associate's Graduates Public Two-Year Colleges, 2008-09

- Full time
- Part time
- Unknown whether full time or part time



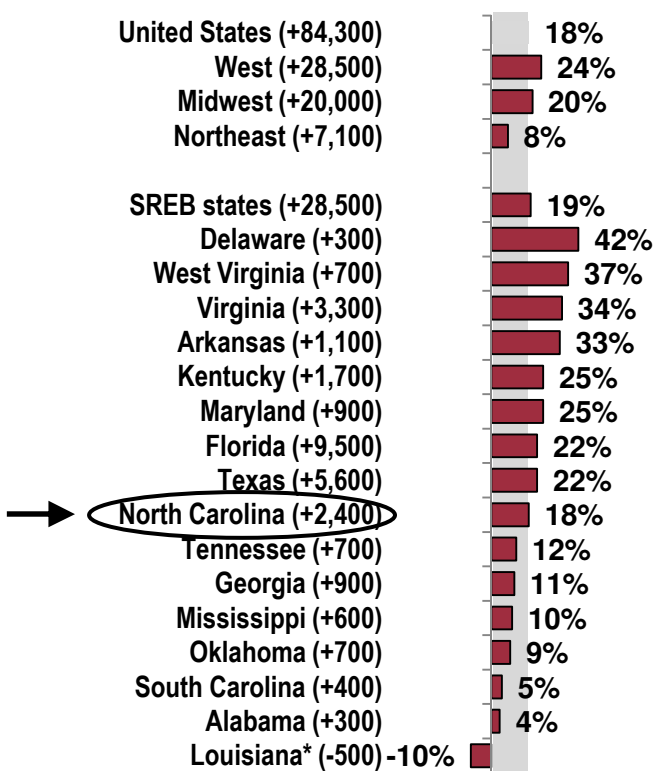
Note: These nine SREB states participated in the initial graduates' time- and credits-to-degree study.

Source: Table 49, SREB-State Data Exchange.

In many states, 2008-09 associate's degree graduates entered the colleges from which they graduated as full-time students. Among the nine states to participate in SREB's initial data collection, the percentage who attended full time ranged from 66 percent in West Virginia to 31 percent in Virginia.



## Change in Associate's Degrees Earned by Women 2003-04 to 2008-09



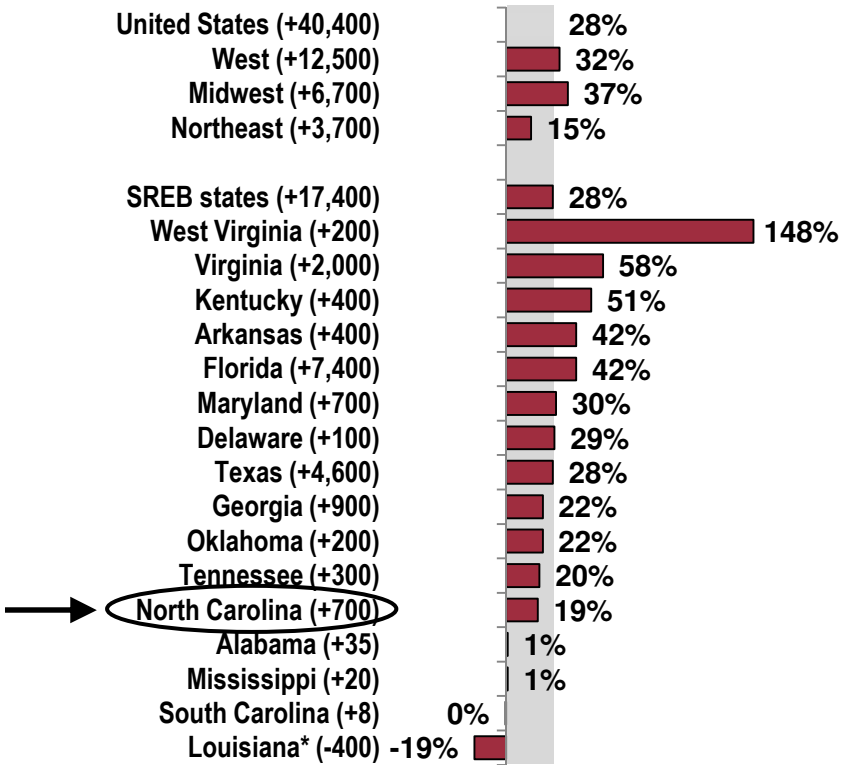
\*Due to the effects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Source: Table 47, National Center for Education Statistics.

Women accounted for 69 percent of the increase in associate's degrees in the SREB region from 2003-04 to 2008-09. In North Carolina, women accounted for 76 percent of the increase. North Carolina increased the number of degrees awarded to women by 18 percent. In North Carolina, women were 67 percent of graduates in 2008-09, up from 65 percent in 2003-04.



## Change in Associate's Degrees Earned by Black + Hispanic Students 2003-04 to 2008-09



\*Due to the effects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

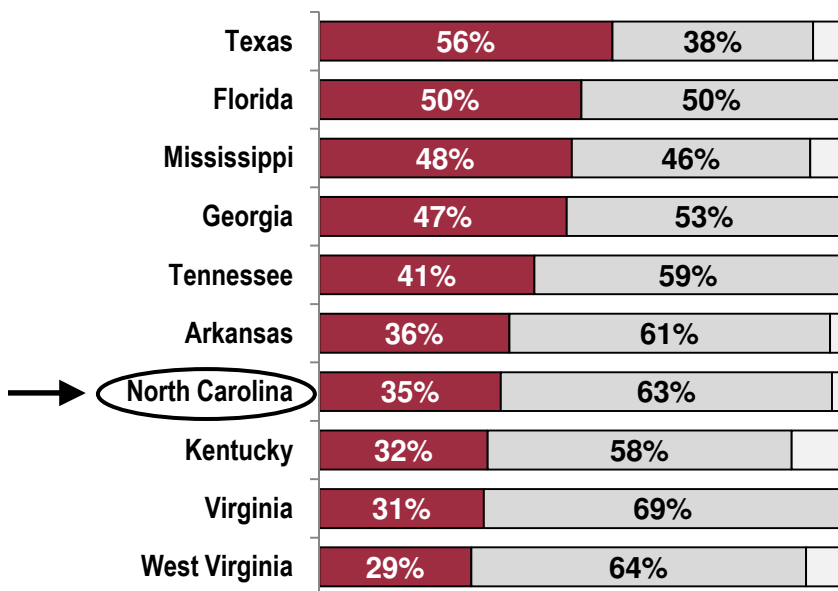
Source: Table 47, National Center for Education Statistics.

The number of black plus Hispanic graduates increased by 28 percent nationally and in the SREB region from 2003-04 to 2008-09. In North Carolina, black plus Hispanic graduates rose by 700 students or 19 percent. In North Carolina, black and Hispanic students added up to 30 percent of graduates in 2008-09 compared with 31 percent in 2003-04.



## Entering Transfer Status of Bachelor's Graduates Public Four-Year Colleges, 2008-09

- Transfer student at graduating college
- First time in college at graduating college
- Other or unknown whether first time or transfer



Note: These 10 SREB states participated in the initial graduates' time- and credits-to-degree study.

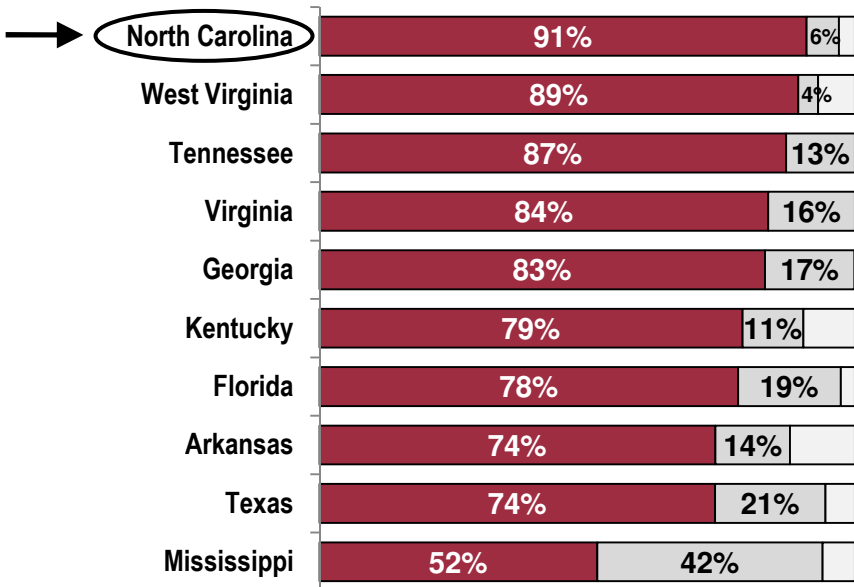
Source: Table 50, SREB-State Data Exchange.

A significant percentage of bachelor's degree graduates in 2008-09 were transfer students to the colleges awarding their degrees. Among the first 10 states to participate in SREB's data collection, the percentage of transfers ranged from 56 percent in Texas to 29 percent in West Virginia.



## Entering Attendance Status of Bachelor's Graduates Public Four-Year Colleges, 2008-09

- Full time
- Part time
- Unknown whether full time or part time



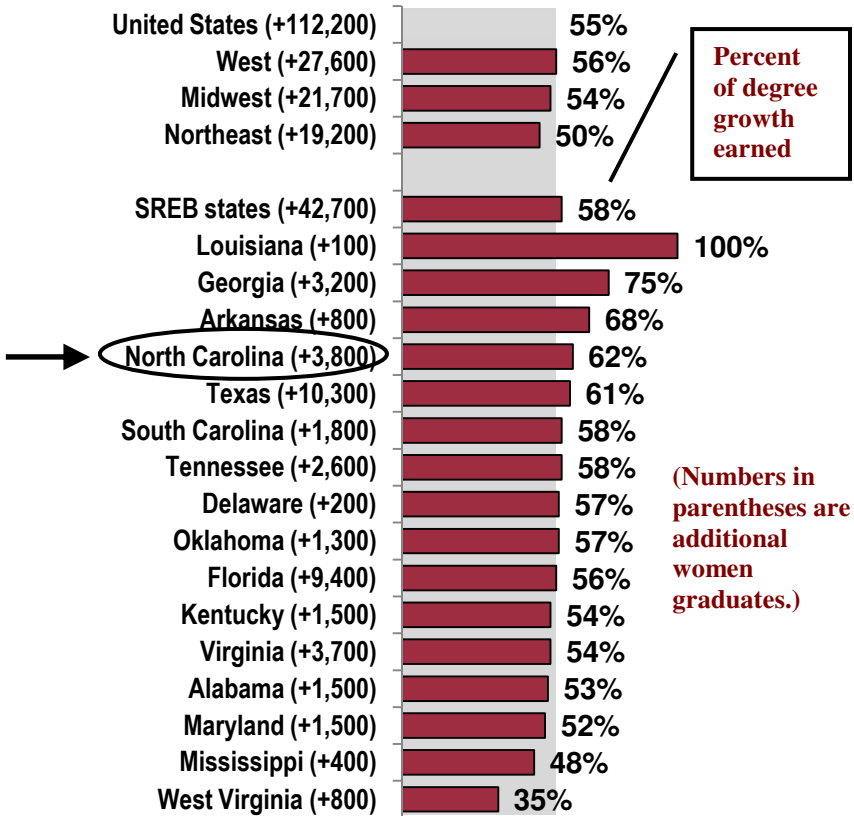
Note: These 10 SREB states participated in the initial graduates' time- and credits-to-degree study.

Source: Table 50, SREB-State Data Exchange.

A very high percentage of bachelor's degree graduates in 2008-09 entered the colleges from which they graduated as full-time students. Among the 10 states participating in SREB's initial data collection, the percentage who attended full time ranged from 91 percent in North Carolina to 52 percent in Mississippi.



## Bachelor's Degrees Earned by Women 2003-04 to 2008-09

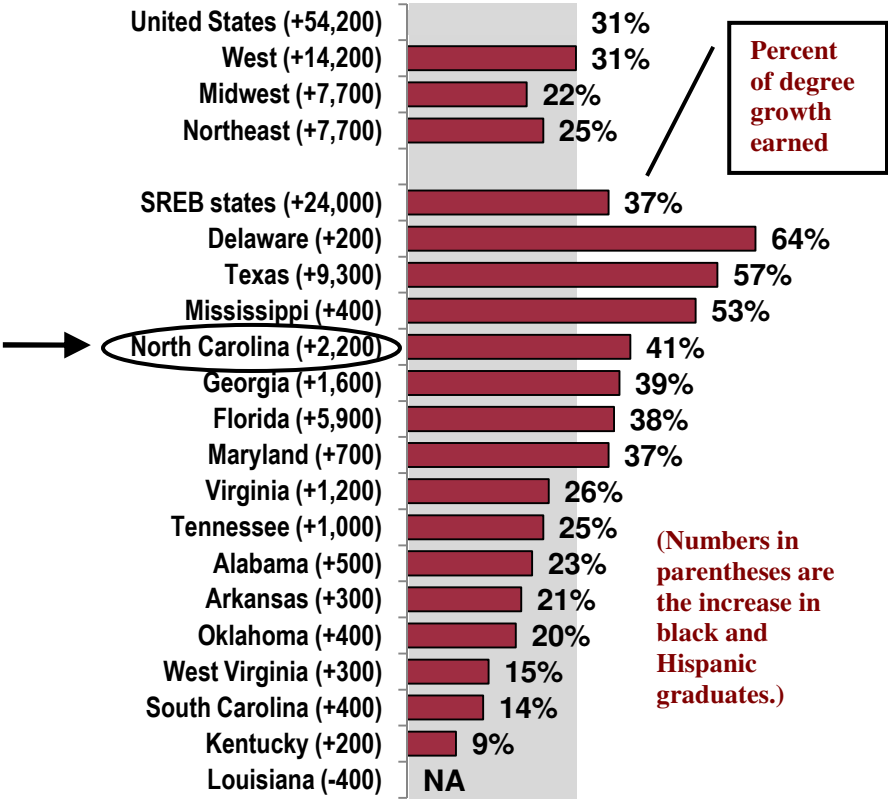


Source: Table 51, National Center for Education Statistics.

Women accounted for 58 percent of the increase in bachelor's degrees in the SREB region from 2003-04 to 2008-09. In North Carolina, women accounted for 62 percent of the increase. North Carolina increased the number of degrees awarded to women by 3,800. In North Carolina, women were 59 percent of graduates in 2008-09, the same as in 2003-04.



## Increases in Bachelor's Degrees Earned by Black + Hispanic Students 2003-04 to 2008-09

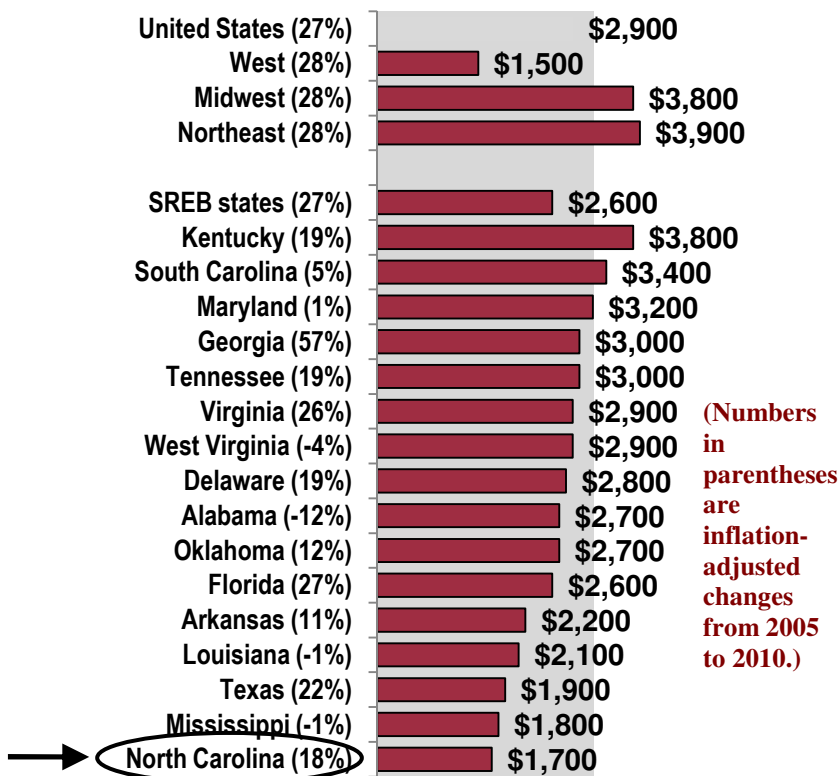


"NA" indicates not applicable. There was an overall decline in the state.  
Source: Table 51, National Center for Education Statistics.

Black and Hispanic graduates accounted for 37 percent of the increase in bachelor's degrees in the SREB region from 2003-04 to 2008-09. In North Carolina, the increase in degrees earned was 2,200. In North Carolina, black and Hispanic students were 21 percent of graduates in 2003-04 and 23 percent in 2008-09.



## Tuition and Required Fees Public Two-Year Colleges Full-Time, In-State Undergraduates, 2009-10



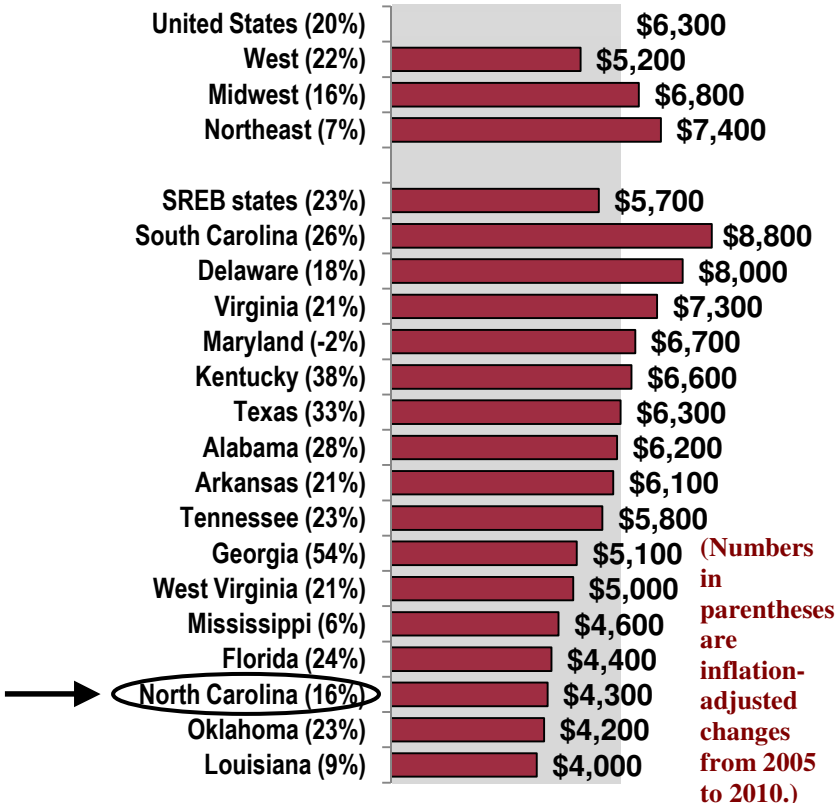
Note: Based on the academic-year Consumer Price Index, which rose 15.6 percent over the period.

Source: Table 61, SREB-State Data Exchange and National Center for Education Statistics.

Median annual tuition and required fees (often called sticker price) reached \$2,600 in SREB states in 2009-10. This was 27 percent more than in 2004-05 after adjusting for inflation. In North Carolina, tuition and fees were \$1,700 — 18 percent more than in 2004-05 after adjusting for inflation.



## Tuition and Required Fees Public Four-Year Colleges Full-Time, In-State Undergraduates, 2009-10



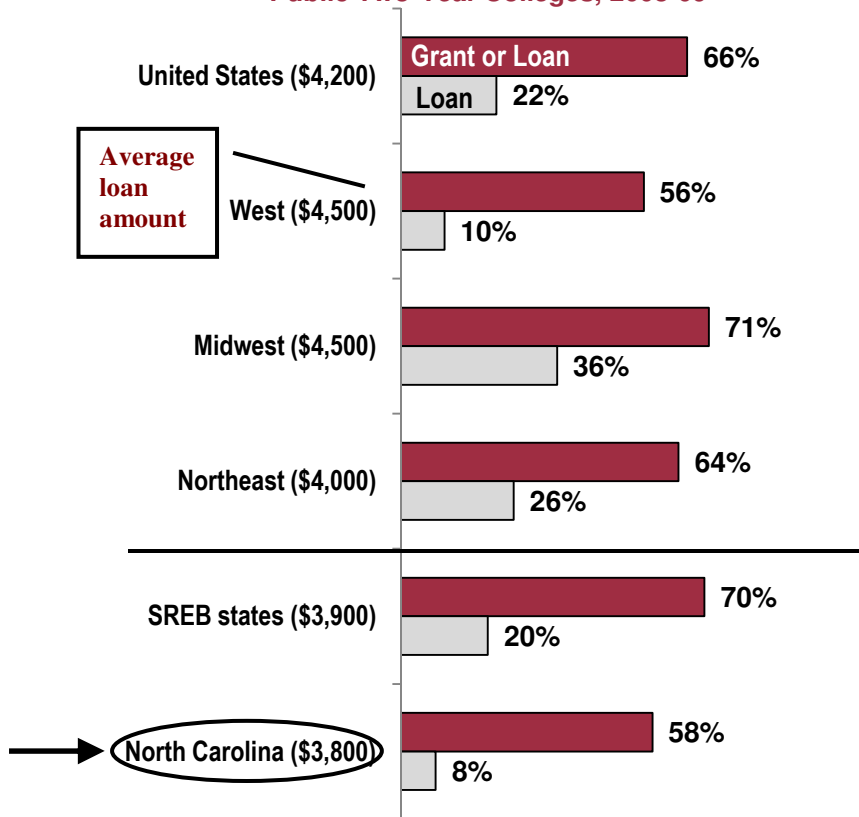
Note: Based on the academic-year Consumer Price Index, which rose 15.6 percent over the period.

Source: Table 61, SREB-State Data Exchange and National Center for Education Statistics.

Median annual tuition and required fees (often called sticker price) were \$5,700 for the SREB region in 2009-10. This was 23 percent more than in 2004-05 after adjusting for inflation. In North Carolina, tuition and fees were \$4,300 — an increase of 16 percent from 2004-05 after adjusting for inflation.



## Percent of Freshmen With Grants and Loans Public Two-Year Colleges, 2008-09

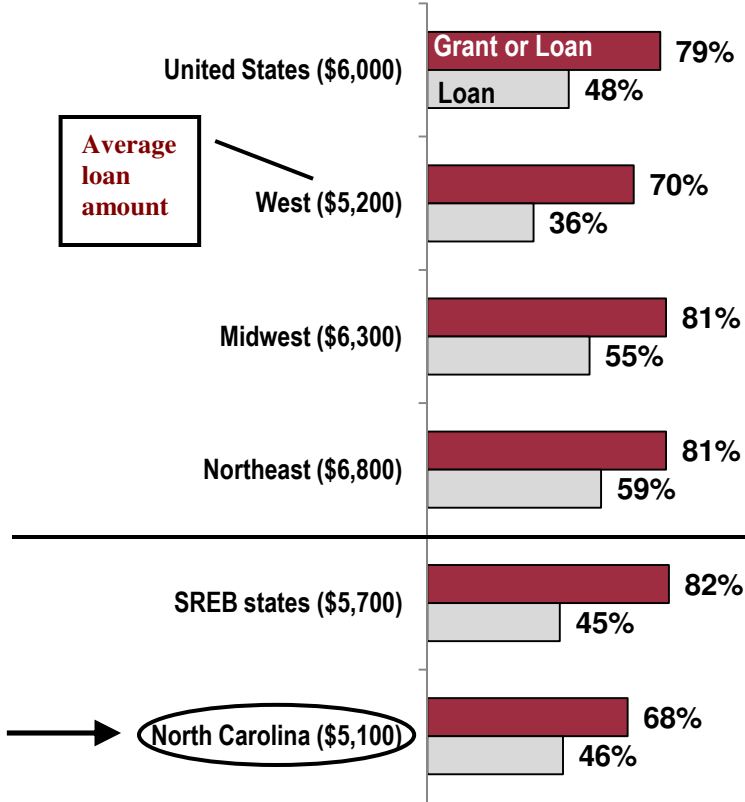


Source: Table 69, National Center for Education Statistics.

Nationally, 66 percent of first-time, full-time freshmen seeking degrees or certificates at public two-year colleges received a financial aid grant, took out a student loan, or both, in 2008-09. Twenty-two percent took out loans. In North Carolina, 58 percent had a grant, loan or both, and 8 percent had loans that averaged \$3,800 that year.



## Percent of Freshmen With Grants and Loans Public Four-Year Colleges, 2008-09



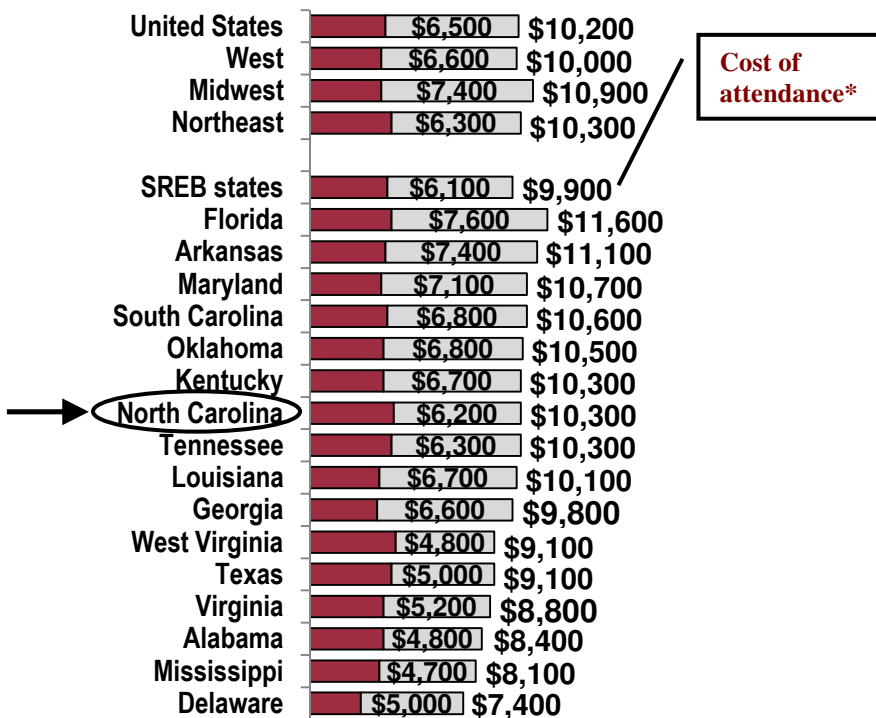
Source: Table 68, National Center for Education Statistics.

Nationally, 79 percent of first-time, full-time freshmen seeking undergraduate degrees at public four-year colleges received a financial aid grant, took out a student loan, or both, in 2008-09. Forty-eight percent took out loans. In North Carolina, the percentages were 68 percent and 46 percent, respectively. The average loan amount for North Carolina freshmen taking out loans that year was \$5,100.



## Cost of Attendance and Net Price After Grant Aid Public Two-Year Colleges, 2008-09

■ Grant and scholarship aid    □ Net price



\*Cost of attendance consists of tuition/fees, books/supplies, room/board and other expenses. Figures are for full-term, full-time, degree-/certificate-seeking undergraduates who paid in-state or in-district tuition and received government or institutional scholarships or grants.

Source: Table 70, National Center for Education Statistics.

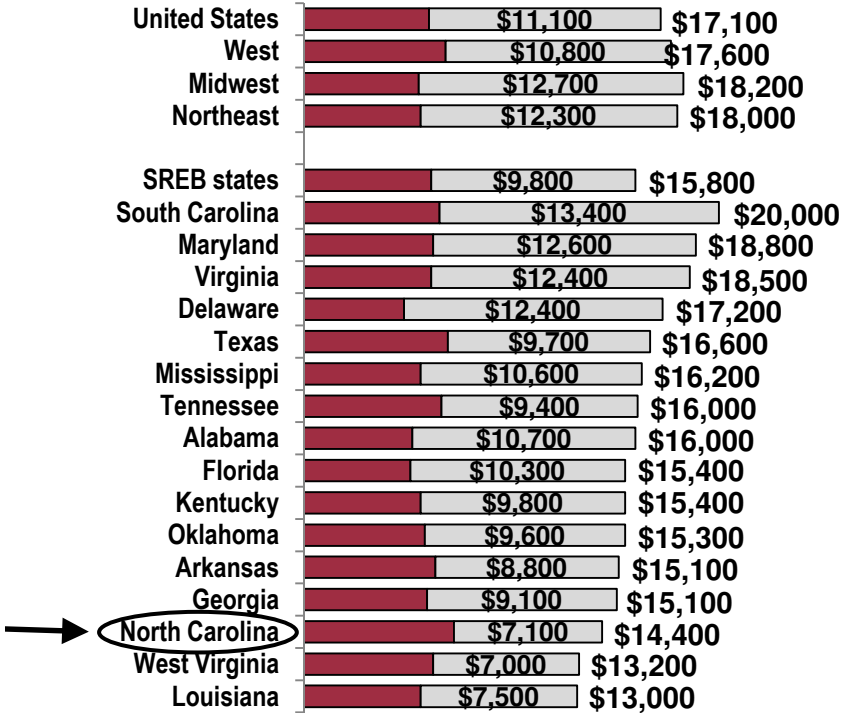
The net price of college (cost of attendance minus grant and scholarship aid) for full-time, in-state undergraduates at public two-year colleges in the SREB region in 2008-09 was \$6,100, the lowest of any U.S. region. In North Carolina, the net price was \$6,200.



## Cost of Attendance and Net Price After Grant Aid Public Four-Year Colleges, 2008-09

■ Grant and scholarship aid   □ Net price

Cost of  
attendance\*



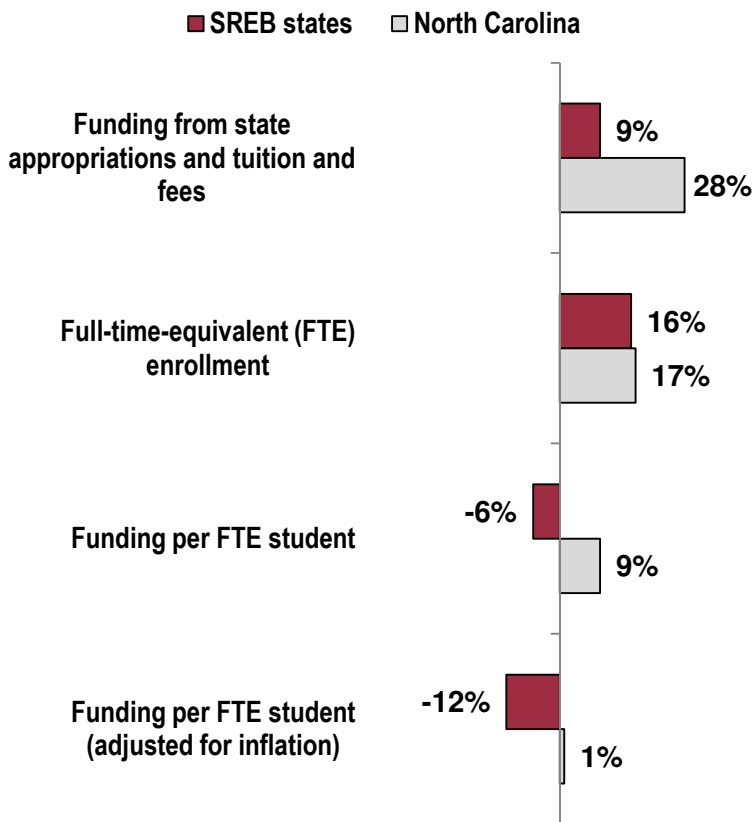
\*Cost of attendance consists of tuition/fees, books/supplies, room/board and other expenses. Figures are for fall-term, full-time, degree-/certificate-seeking undergraduates who paid in-state or in-district tuition and received government or institutional scholarships or grants.

Source: Table 70, National Center for Education Statistics.

The net price of college (cost of attendance minus grant and scholarship aid) for full-time, in-state undergraduates at public four-year colleges in the SREB region in 2008-09 was \$9,800, the lowest of any U.S. region. In North Carolina, the net price was \$7,100.



## Enrollment and Funding Changes Public Two-Year Colleges, 2007-08 to 2009-10



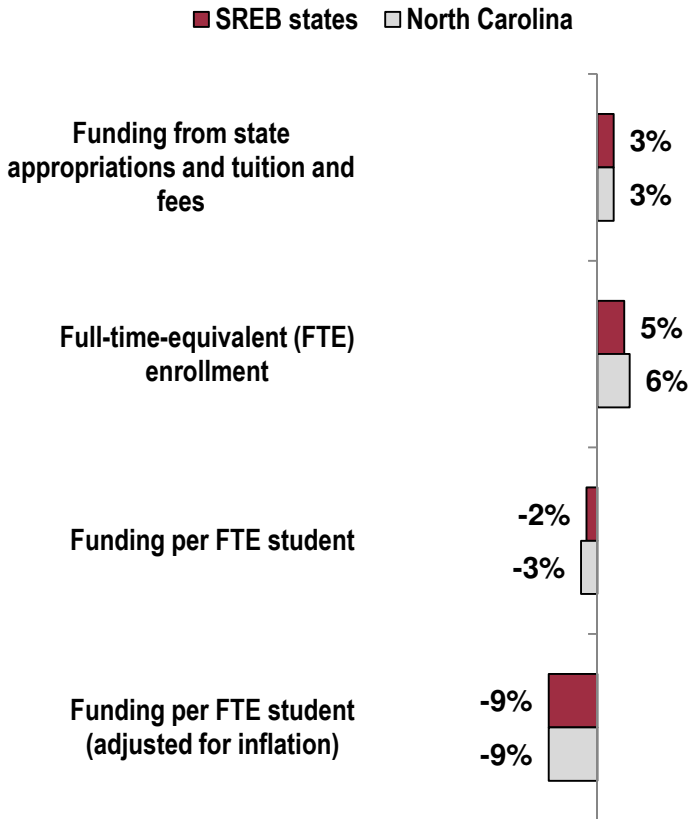
Note: Based on the Higher Education Price Index (HEPI), which increased by 7.3 percent from 2008 to 2010.

Source: Table 89, SREB-State Data Exchange.

In North Carolina in 2010, funding from state appropriations and tuition and fees per FTE student for public two-year colleges was \$5,900 — 1 percent more than in 2008 after adjusting for inflation. It was the only SREB state with such an increase. The regional average funding per FTE student was \$6,700 — 12 percent (\$1,000) less than in 2008 after adjusting for inflation.



## Enrollment and Funding Changes Public Four-Year Colleges, 2007-08 to 2009-10



Note: Based on the Higher Education Price Index (HEPI), which increased by 7.3 percent from 2008 to 2010.

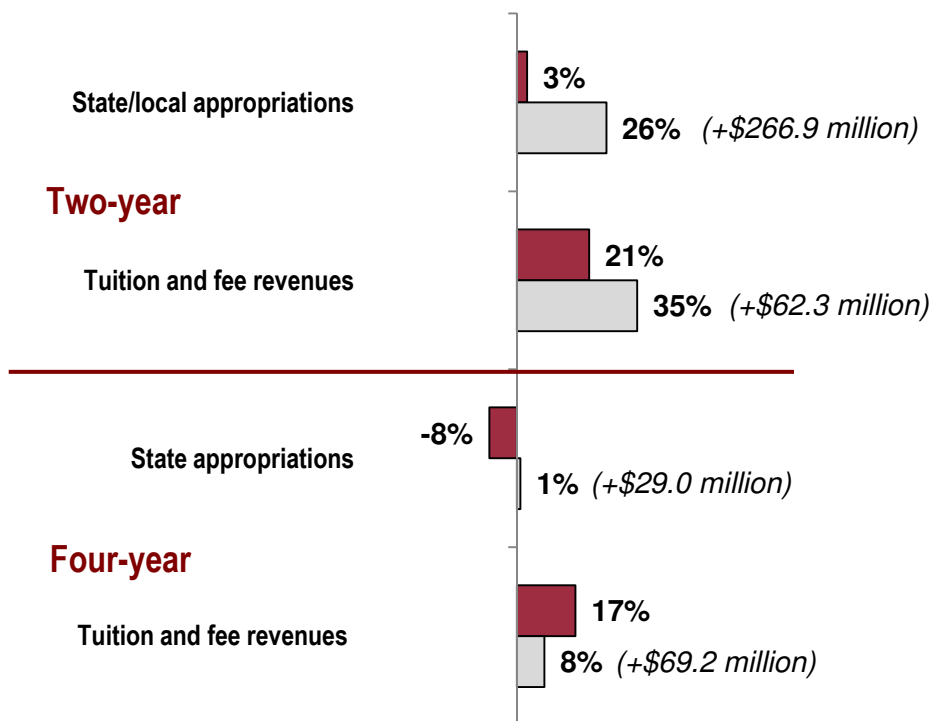
Source: Table 88, SREB-State Data Exchange.

In North Carolina in 2010, funding from state appropriations and tuition and fees per FTE student for public four-year colleges and universities was \$15,600 — 9 percent (\$1,600) less than in 2008 after adjusting for inflation. The regional average funding per FTE student was \$13,700 — 9 percent (\$1,400) less than in 2008 after adjusting for inflation.



## Appropriations and Tuition Revenue Changes Public Colleges, 2007-08 to 2009-10

■ SREB states   □ North Carolina



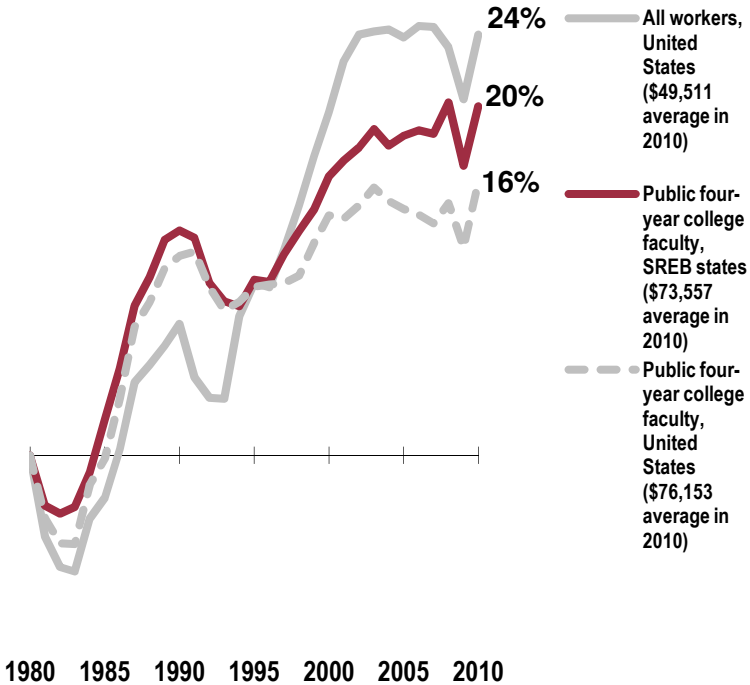
Note: Sum of amounts may not equal totals below due to rounding.  
Sources: Tables 88-89, SREB-State Data Exchange.

At North Carolina's public two-year colleges, state/local appropriations increased \$266.9 million from 2008 to 2010, while tuition and fees revenue increased \$62.3 million — for a net funding increase of \$329.1 million.

At North Carolina's public four-year colleges, state appropriations rose \$29.0 million from 2008 to 2010, while tuition and fees revenue increased \$69.2 million — for a net funding increase of \$98.2 million.



## Changes in Annual Pay (adjusted for inflation)

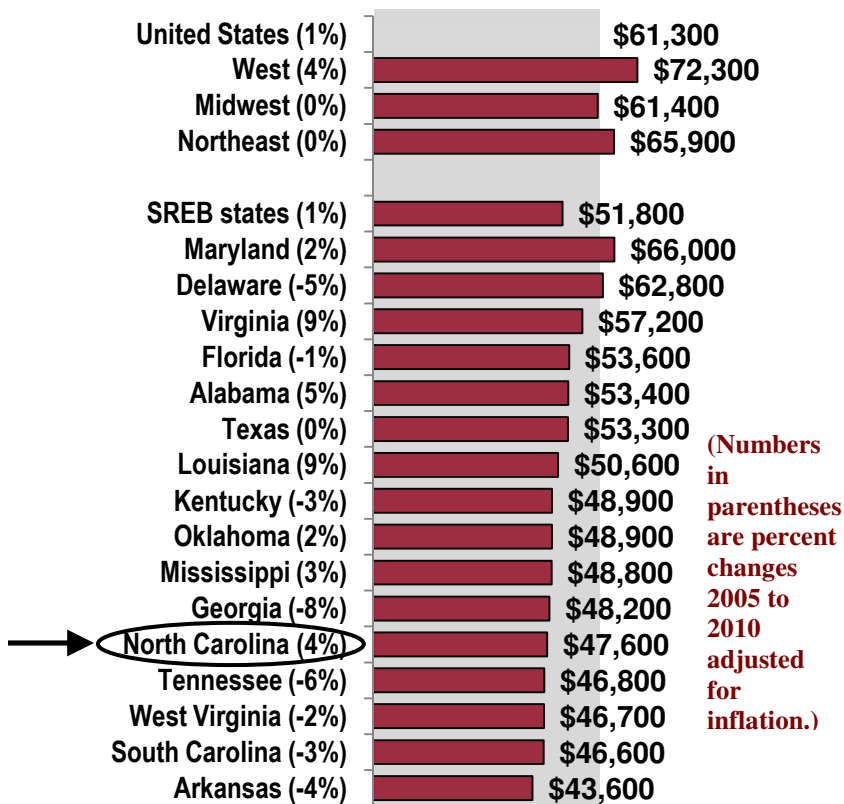


Sources: SREB-State Data Exchange, National Center for Education Statistics and U.S. Census Bureau.

College faculty have higher levels of education and higher pay than American workers overall, but faculty salaries nationwide and in the SREB region have not grown as fast when compared with growth of the average American wage. Faculty salaries at public four-year colleges and universities in the SREB region were 20 percent higher in 2010 than in 1980 when adjusted for inflation. The average increase for all workers nationwide was 24 percent.



## Faculty Salaries Public Two-Year Colleges 2009-10



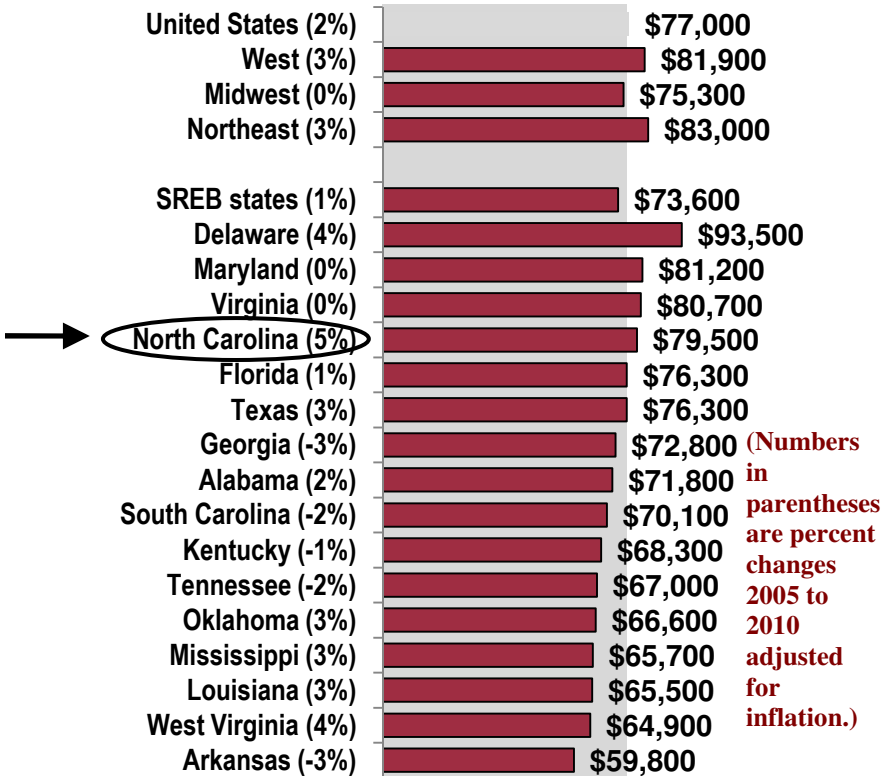
Note: Inflation adjustment based on the academic-year Consumer Price Index, which rose 13.7 percent over the period.

Source: Table 82, SREB-State Data Exchange and National Center for Education Statistics.

From 2005 to 2010, the SREB region's average two-year faculty salary increased 1 percent to \$51,800 and remained lower than the national average of \$61,300. The average salary in North Carolina rose 4 percent to \$47,600. The two-year college average salary in North Carolina in 2010 was 12th highest in the SREB region.



## Faculty Salaries Public Four-Year Colleges 2009-10



Note: Inflation adjustment based on the academic-year Consumer Price Index, which rose 13.7 percent over the period.

Source: Table 83, SREB-State Data Exchange and National Center for Education Statistics.

From 2005 to 2010, the SREB region's average four-year faculty salary rose 1 percent to \$73,600, but remained below the national average of \$77,000. The average salary in North Carolina rose 5 percent to \$79,500. The four-year college and university average salary in North Carolina in 2010 was the fourth highest in the SREB region.