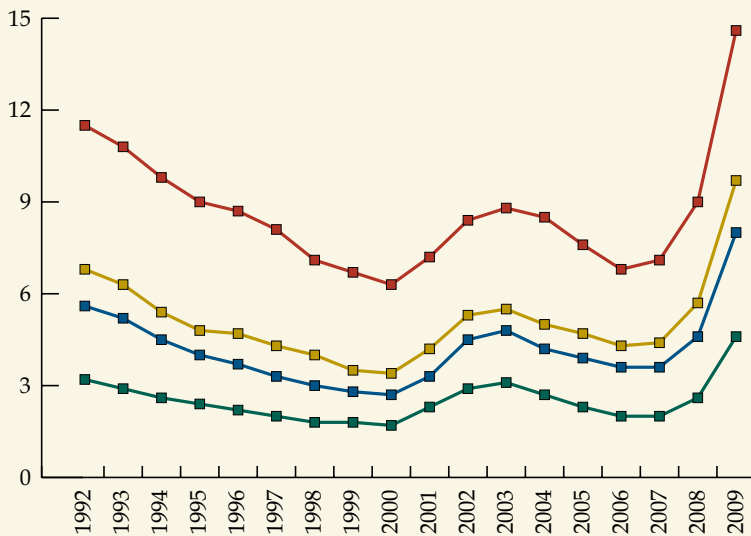


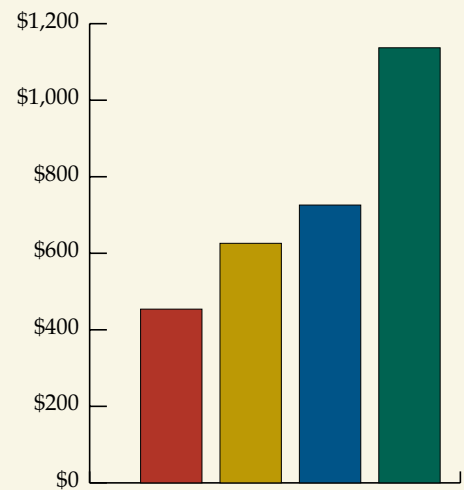
Education and the Payoffs

Unemployment Rate (age 25 and over)
1992–2009 annual averages (percent)



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

2009 Weekly Earnings
(full time, age 25 and over)



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

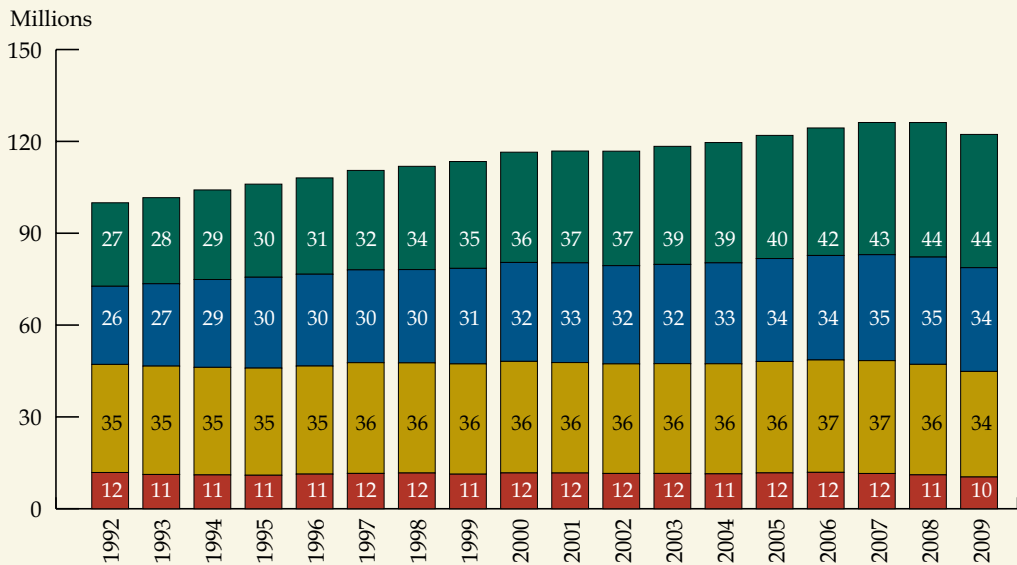
The increase in employment over the past two decades has been among workers who have taken at least some college classes or who have associate's or bachelor's degrees. Over the 1992–2009 period, the number of college-educated workers increased from 27 million to 44 million. In contrast, the number of employed people with only a high school diploma or without a high school diploma has remained steady or decreased.

Whether the economy is booming or contracting, an inverse relationship exists between education and unemployment: more education is associated with less unemployment.

In 2009, the unemployment rate for workers with college degrees was 4.6%. The rate for workers without a high school diploma was 10 points higher.

In 2009, the median weekly earnings of workers with bachelor's degrees were \$1,137. This amount is 1.8 times the average amount earned by those with only a high school diploma and 2.5 times the earnings of high school dropouts.

Employed People (age 25 and over)



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

- Less than a high school diploma
- High school graduates, no college
- Some college or associate degree
- Bachelor's degree and higher