

Earnings and unemployment rates by educational attainment, 2023



The government recorded what people earned (were paid for work) in 2023. They put what they learned in this graph.

What are “earnings?” _____ This bar graph shows each group’s pay for one (day or week or month or year?) _____. If you look at all workers, the average income was \$_____ per _____.

The graph shows what people at each educational level earned. An Associate’s degree takes 2 years to complete. Examples of Associate degree jobs include carpenter, an X-ray technician, welder, or beautician. How much do people in these jobs earn? \$_____

A Bachelor’s degree takes 4 years to complete. These graduates may get jobs in such fields as business, nursing, (art) design, or computer programmers. How much do people in these jobs earn? \$_____ Is their pay above or below the average for all workers? _____

A Master’s degree means a person went to school 2 more years after they got their _____ Bachelor’s degree. They have very special training. People with a Master’s degree have such jobs as psychologist, business administrator, mechanical engineers, or epidemiologists (people who study diseases.) How much do they earn? \$_____ Is their pay above or below the average for all workers? _____

To earn a Doctoral degree, a person must go to school for another 2 or 3 years after s/he finishes the Master's degree. They become experts. They may be professors, audiologists (check peoples' hearing), archaeologists (Indiana Jones!), or pharmacists (give medicine.) How much do they usually earn? \$_____ Is their pay above or below average for all workers? _____

Professional degrees require very special training. People with professional degrees may be doctors, engineers, lawyers, architects, or veterinarians. How much do these people typically earn? \$_____ Is their pay above or below average for all workers? _____

The most basic and MOST IMPORTANT degree is the High School diploma. If you don't have a diploma, there are not many jobs you can do. Jobs you can get with a High School diploma include truck driver, store clerk or cashier, security guard, or construction worker. What do people in these jobs usually earn? \$_____ Is their pay above or below average for all workers? _____

Without a High School diploma, people can find jobs, but these jobs are low-paying and often involve cleaning up after people. For example, high school drop-outs can work as maids, janitors, restaurant workers, and dog walker. How much do people in these jobs usually earn? \$_____ Is their pay above or below average for all workers? _____

Conclusions

In general, people make _____ money, the more education they have.

In general, people make _____ money, the less education they have.

Which group makes the most money? _____ Which groups makes the least money? _____

Look at the example jobs for each educational level. Choose one job you might like at each education level:

High School drop-out: _____ High School graduate: _____

Associate's degree: _____ Bachelor's degree: _____

Doctoral degree: _____ Professional degree: _____

In which educational group do you plan to be? _____ Will you make enough money to live as you want to? _____

A wise person said, "If you get paid for doing something you love, you will never work a day in your life." Do you agree? ____ Is this true? ____ Is this possible? ____ Explain: _____

