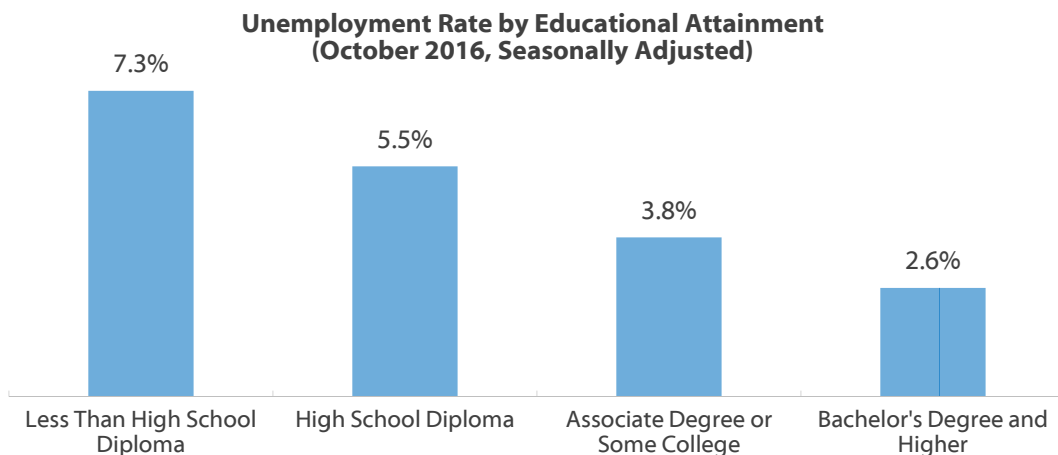
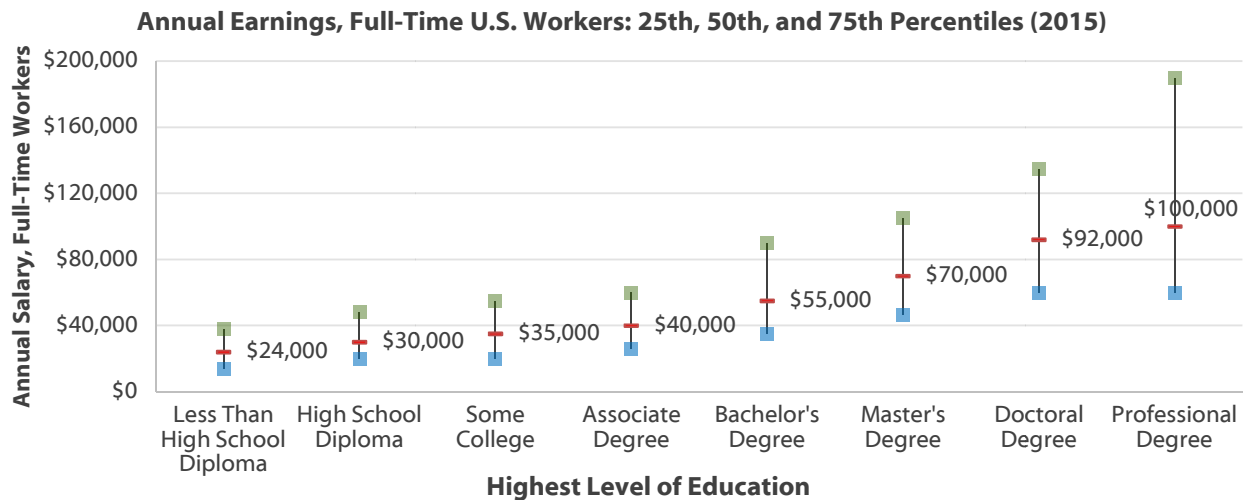


College Graduates Earn Far More Than High School Graduates and Experience Less Unemployment



The U.S. Census Bureau reports that higher levels of education are typically associated with higher median earnings; however, annual incomes in the U.S. also vary widely within the same level of education. Consequently, some workers with associate degrees earn more than those with bachelor's degrees, while other bachelor's-level graduates make more than some master's degree holders. While educational level is not the sole predictor of one's income, the income range also expands as level of education increases, suggesting that workers with higher levels of education may encounter more opportunities for financial growth.

More evidence for the economic value of education comes from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. For October 2016, the unemployment rate of workers age 25 and older who had not completed high school stood at 7.3 percent. The unemployment rate for high school graduates was 5.5 percent, while the unemployment rate for those with a bachelor's degree and higher was 2.6 percent.

Sources: Unemployment: Bureau of Labor Statistics. "Employment Status of the Civilian Population 25 Years and Over by Educational Attainment," October 2016 (<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.t04.htm>); Earnings: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2015 (<http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/data/pums.html>)

