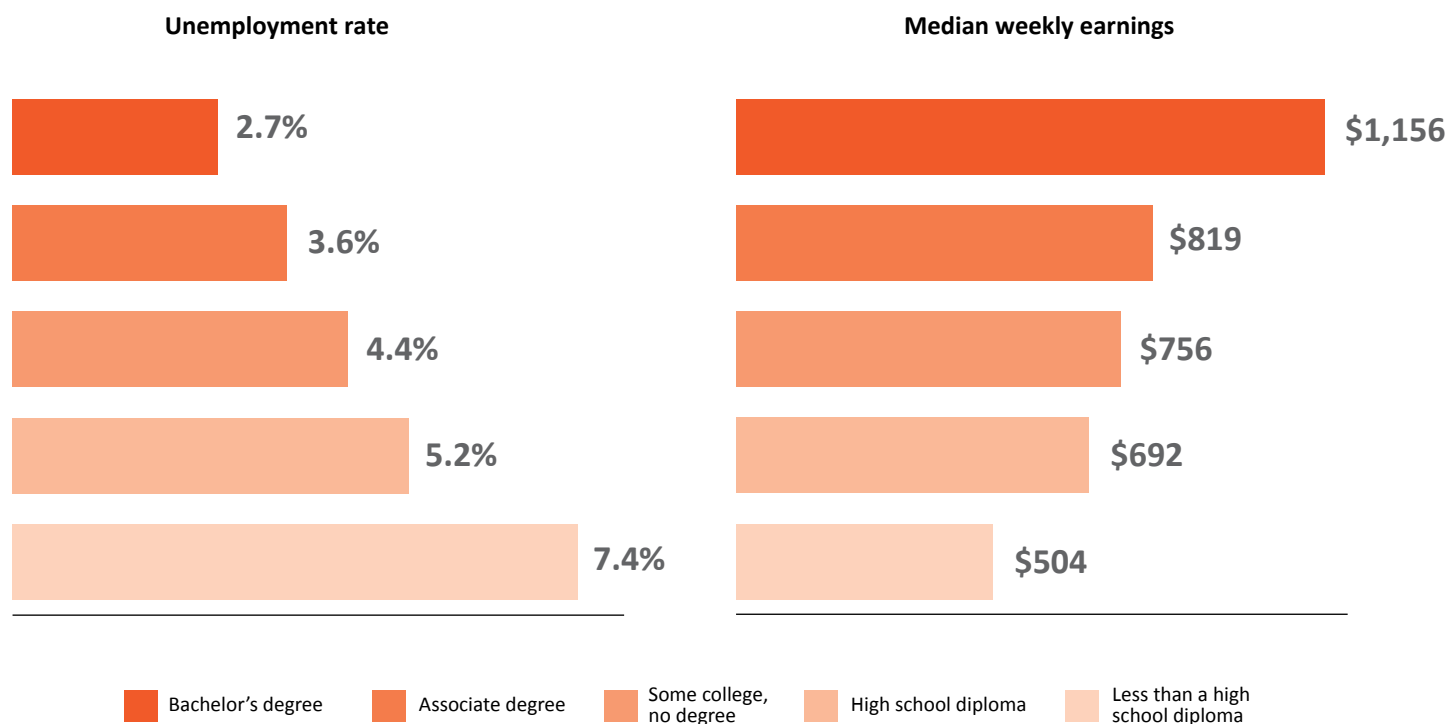


More education = better jobs

Higher educational attainment leads to increased earnings and lowers the likelihood of unemployment.

Unemployment rates and earnings by educational attainment, 2016



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey [“Career Outlook: More Education: Lower Unemployment, Higher Earnings.”](#) April 2017.

Editor's note: Data are for individuals age 25 and older. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers.



The median weekly earnings for individuals age 25 and older who worked full time and had less than a high school diploma was \$504 in 2016 (approximately \$26,200 per year), compared to \$819 (approximately \$42,600 per year) for individuals with an associate degree. Data show that more education not only leads to higher earnings but also to lower unemployment rates. For example, individuals with less than a high school diploma had the highest unemployment rate of 7.4 percent. Those with some postsecondary education had an unemployment rate of 4.4 percent. The unemployment rate was 3.6 percent for individuals with an associate degree and 2.7 percent for bachelor's degree holders.

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