Employment and Education in the United States, 1959-2001
Percent of total employment

Office Jobs

Education & Health Care Jobs

Technology Jobs

Factory Jobs

Low-Skilled Services Jobs

Natural Resource Jobs

Source: Author’s analysis of Census Public Use Microdata Sample (1960-1990) and Current Population Survey (March 2002).
Employment and Education in Colorado, 1959-2001

Percent of total employment

Office Jobs

Education & Health Care Jobs

Technology Jobs

Low-Skilled Services Jobs

Factory Jobs

Natural Resource Jobs

Employment and Education in Idaho, 1959-2001

Percent of total employment

- Office Jobs
- Education & Health Care Jobs
- Technology Jobs
- Low-Skilled Services Jobs
- Factory Jobs
- Natural Resource Jobs

Employment and Education in Louisiana, 1959-2001

Employment and Education in Maine, 1959-2001

Percent of total employment

Office Jobs
Education & Health Care Jobs
Technology Jobs

Factory Jobs
Low-Skilled Services Jobs
Natural Resource Jobs

Employment and Education in New Mexico, 1959-2001

Percent of total employment

Employment and Education in South Carolina, 1959-2001

Percent of total employment

- Office Jobs
- Education & Health Care Jobs
- Technology Jobs
- Factory Jobs
- Low-Skilled Services Jobs
- Natural Resource Jobs

Employment and Education in Tennessee, 1959-2001

Percent of total employment

Office Jobs
Education & Health Care Jobs
Technology Jobs
Factory Jobs
Low-Skilled Services Jobs
Natural Resource Jobs

Employment and Education in Washington, 1959-2001

Percent of total employment

Employment and Education in Wisconsin, 1959-2001

FIGURE 5
Distribution of Education in Jobs, 1973 and 2001

FIGURE 6

Distribution of Education in Office Jobs, 1973 and 2001


1973

Employment share
Earnings

- 16% $30,100
- 47% $33,500
- 17% $43,100
- 12% $61,100
- 8% $64,100

Some college (1973)

High school dropouts

4% $24,600

High school graduates

27% $32,600

No degree (2001)

21% $38,500

Associate degree (2001)

10% $39,400

Bachelor’s degree

26% $61,100

Graduate degree

12% $77,900

2001

Employment share
Earnings

FIGURE 7

Distribution of Education in Education and Health-Care Jobs, 1973 and 2001


FIGURE 8
Distribution of Education in Technology Jobs, 1973 and 2001

FIGURE 9

Distribution of Education in Low-Wage Services Jobs, 1973 and 2001

Percent of prime-age (30-50) employment. Earnings in 2001 dollars.

FIGURE 10

Distribution of Education in Factory Jobs, 1973 and 2001


1973:
- High school dropouts: 54% ($30,200)
- High school graduates: 38% ($37,300)
- Some college (1973): 6% ($42,600)
- No degree (2001): 1% ($40,000)
- Associate degree (2001): 1% (n/a)

2001:
- High school dropouts: 21% ($22,900)
- High school graduates: 48% ($32,900)
- Some college (1973): 17% ($36,900)
- No degree (2001): 8% ($39,000)
- Associate degree (2001): 5% ($37,200)
- Bachelor’s degree: 1% ($44,100)
- Graduate degree: 1% (n/a)

Employment share
Earnings
FIGURE 11

Distribution of Education in Natural Resource Jobs, 1973 and 2001


1973

- High school dropouts: 69% ($18,500)
- High school graduates: 24% ($25,100)
- Some college (1973): 4% n/a

2001

- No degree (2001): 11% ($32,100)
- Associate degree (2001): 4% n/a
- Bachelor's degree: 6% n/a
- Graduate degree: 2% n/a

Employment share
Earnings
FIGURE 12
Earnings Depend Increasingly on Educational Attainment


FIGURE 13
The Demand for College-Educated Workers Has Risen Faster than Supply Since 1979

Earnings of prime-age (30-59) workers with at least some college relative to high school graduates. Share of prime-age workers with at least some postsecondary education.

FIGURE 14
83% of Workers with Associate Degrees
Earn the Same as Workers with Bachelor’s Degrees
Share of workers, by education and 2007 earnings.

- 66% of workers with associate degrees earn less than $44,000, compared with 62% of workers with bachelor’s degrees.
- 34% of workers with bachelor’s degrees earn more than $44,000, compared with 20% of workers with associate degrees.

FIGURE 15
Workers with the Most Education Receive the Most Training

Percent of workers who received company training to improve their skills.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Formal company training</th>
<th>Informal company training</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>College graduate</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school graduate</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school dropout</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Eck (1993).
FIGURE 16
Workers Who Use Computers Earn More—and the More Educated the Worker, the Larger the Wage Premium for Computer Use

Percent wage premium earned by workers who use computers.

- Graduate degree: 27%
- College graduate: 24%
- Some college: 21%
- High school graduate: 17%
- High school dropout: 15%

Kruager (1993); Mishal and Bernstein (1995).
Labor Force Growth Is Not Expected to Keep Pace with Job Growth through 2020

Millions of jobs/workers. Labor force data have been adjusted to reflect multiple job holding.

Authors' analysis and adaptation of data from Ellwood (2001), Fullerton and Toossi (2001), and Hecker (2001).
Family Socioeconomic Status Helps Determine What Type of College Students Attend

Percent of students:

**Top-Scoring 25% of Students**
- **Attended 4-year college**
  - High SES: 80%
  - Low SES: 51%
- **Attended 2-year college**
  - High SES: 24%
  - Low SES: 21%
- **Didn't attend college**
  - High SES: 6%
  - Low SES: 10%

**Bottom-Scoring 25% of Students**
- **Attended 4-year college**
  - High SES: 21%
  - Low SES: 6%
- **Attended 2-year college**
  - High SES: 27%
  - Low SES: 19%
- **Didn't attend college**
  - High SES: 52%
  - Low SES: 66%

Authors' analysis of the National Educational Longitudinal Study (NELS:88).
FIGURE 24

The United States Had the Smallest Decade-Long Increase in the Share of Young Adults Enrolled in Postsecondary Education...

Percentage point increase between 1990 and 1999 in the share of 18- to 21-year-olds enrolled in a postsecondary institution.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

...But Maintains the Largest Share of Students Enrolled

Share of 18- to 21-year-olds enrolled in a postsecondary institution in 1999.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Share</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NCES (2002)