

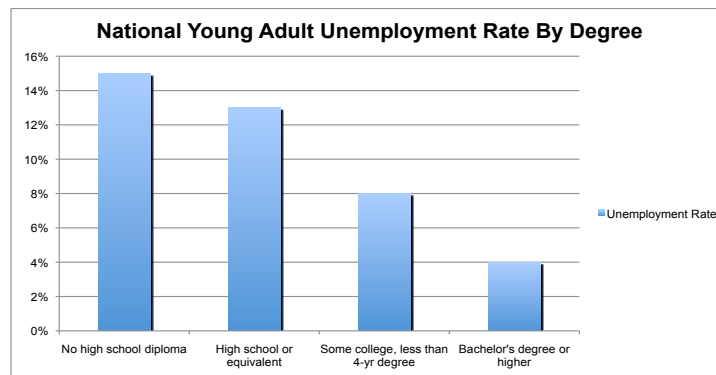


**YOUNG ADULT UNEMPLOYMENT BY DEGREE:
A NEW STATE-BY-STATE ANALYSIS**

More education means higher wages. That fact has been consistently supported and helps fuel the push to increase college completion.¹ However, the correlation between degree completion and economic opportunity is even greater when it comes to finding a job in the first place, particularly in this economy. Indeed, recent analysis by Young Invincibles shows that a staggering difference, by state, in young adult unemployment rates between those with college degrees and those with none. This difference highlights the importance of degree attainment to providing the greatest economic opportunity for young adults.

Using 2010 Census numbers, this state-by-state breakdown of the unemployment rate of 22- to 34-year-olds by their degree level shows that in every state there is a strong correlation between unemployment rates and educational background. While the unemployment rates between high school dropouts and those with a high school diploma varied in certain states, those with an associate’s degree or higher fared much better in the labor market, and the most employed cohort are those with a bachelor’s degree or higher.

On average, the unemployment rate for 22- to 34-year-olds with at least a bachelor’s degree is 4 percent, and increases to 13 percent for those with only a high school degree.²



The unemployment rate gaps between high school and college graduates are especially stark in some states. For instance, the unemployment rate in Wisconsin for high school graduates with no college was about 17 percent, about 8 percent for those with some college or an associate’s degree, and just 3 percent for those with a bachelor’s degree.

The numbers presented below demonstrate the importance of attaining some sort of higher education – be it in a 4-year degree, associate’s degree, or some sort of post-secondary training. They also cannot be separated from concerns about American competitiveness on a global scale. The economy will be 3 million college degrees short by 2018³, yet college costs keep skyrocketing.⁴ Supporting and improving federal policies that increase degree attainment, such as a strong Pell grant program, incentives toward completion, and programs that encourage institutions to become pipelines into jobs and links to businesses both small and large, are important steps in getting this generation back to work, and the economy back on track. In other words, an investment in the future requires an investment in educational opportunity.

1. Anthony Carnevale, Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, College for All?, January February 2008.
 2. Young Invincibles analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (2010).
 3. Anthony Carnevale, et. al, Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, Help Wanted, Projections of Jobs and Education Requirements Through 2018, June 2010.
 4. See College Board, Trends in College Pricing 2010, available at http://trends.collegeboard.org/downloads/College_Pricing_2010.pdf

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR 22-34 YEAR-OLDS

State	No high school diploma	High school or equivalent	Some college, less than 4-yr degree	Bachelor's degree or higher
AL	23.56%	16.13%	8.80%	8.75%
AK	14.70%	13.84%	6.56%	5.04%
AZ	7.09%	9.58%	7.45%	4.69%
AR	23.14%	12.11%	6.35%	4.44%
CA	15.64%	14.81%	9.52%	4.53%
CO	14.55%	10.56%	7.08%	3.67%
CT	7.89%	15.05%	10.70%	4.54%
DE	18.51%	13.43%	6.97%	4.97%
DC	14.97%	27.51%	17.70%	2.78%
FL	14.55%	16.91%	7.45%	4.19%
GA	5.76%	12.32%	12.30%	5.02%
HI	10.13%	8.39%	3.94%	3.29%
ID	12.47%	7.43%	10.32%	6.27%
IL	20.47%	13.03%	8.58%	5.29%
IN	20.45%	18.75%	9.93%	5.53%
IA	18.72%	13.80%	7.83%	2.37%
KS	18.05%	12.32%	6.16%	5.98%
KY	11.38%	14.51%	6.84%	5.00%
LA	6.93%	5.05%	7.59%	2.04%
ME	22.18%	13.03%	3.06%	4.17%
MD	20.01%	17.29%	4.38%	3.54%
MA	28.36%	10.21%	7.69%	3.31%
MI	21.27%	22.61%	12.13%	4.07%
MN	16.32%	14.23%	7.32%	4.90%
MS	15.50%	13.51%	5.65%	NA
MO	19.07%	15.28%	11.76%	1.35%
MT	35.18%	16.42%	6.71%	NA
NE	19.76%	6.29%	1.71%	0.45%
NV	16.67%	15.76%	14.03%	6.19%
NH	10.49%	11.07%	7.75%	3.04%
NJ	13.30%	14.59%	8.79%	3.17%
NM	9.32%	9.84%	8.02%	4.31%
NY	13.25%	8.43%	7.67%	6.46%
NC	18.53%	11.68%	7.81%	1.81%
ND	6.19%	9.50%	4.36%	1.45%
OH	37.43%	17.07%	11.32%	2.08%
OK	7.56%	7.02%	4.22%	2.82%
OR	20.20%	21.37%	8.84%	6.45%
PA	14.94%	13.95%	9.62%	3.80%

**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT
FOR 22-34 YEAR-OLDS** *CONTINUED*

State	No high school diploma	High school or equivalent	Some college, less than 4-yr degree	Bachelor's degree or higher
RI	19.26%	19.49%	16.23%	5.65%
SC	14.96%	20.91%	4.20%	4.60%
SD	21.80%	9.36%	4.33%	1.09%
TN	8.51%	13.73%	9.78%	4.42%
TX	10.45%	8.66%	6.26%	3.91%
UT	16.09%	9.00%	5.02%	4.42%
VT	11.69%	7.80%	8.41%	1.47%
VA	14.84%	10.94%	12.23%	4.18%
WA	21.82%	15.86%	4.87%	6.35%
WV	7.16%	12.05%	12.07%	6.77%
WI	19.87%	17.05%	7.98%	2.49%
WY	9.83%	12.25%	2.58%	2.81%