US Education vs Salary over time

Hypothesis – There is a difference in wages over time based on education level, gender and race.

Project Description - Using the Wages by Education in the USA (1973-2022) data set found on Kaggle and sourced from the Economic Policy Institute’s State of Working America Data Library. We would like to determine if there are wage differences over time based on the criteria of education level, gender and race. The data has been adjusted for inflation.

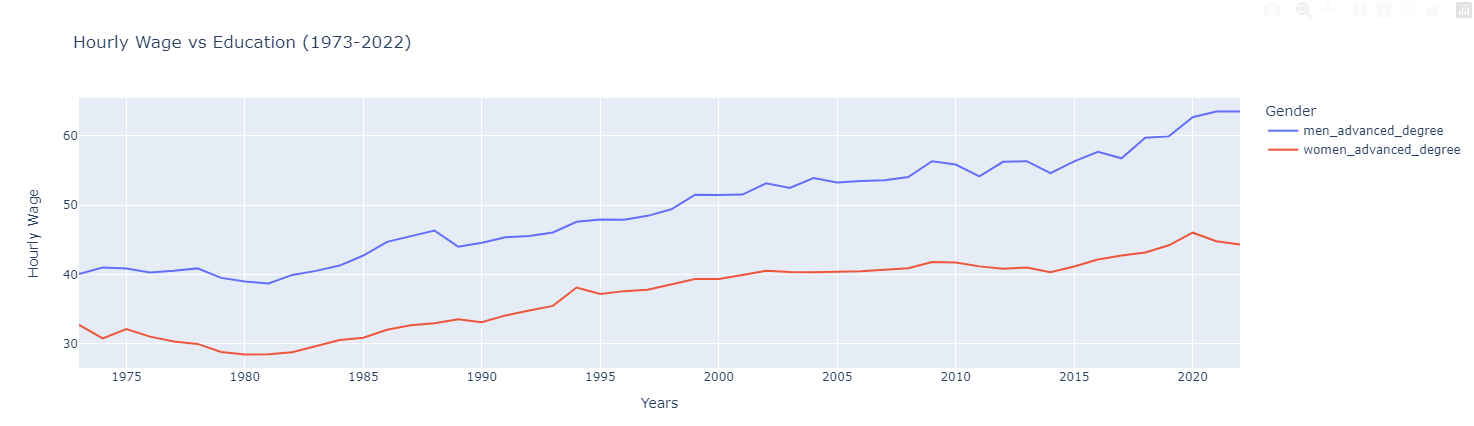
Research Questions to Answer:

* Are salaries trending towards females earning as much as males for those with an advanced degree?
* Does the increase in education affect the increase in salary for both men and women equally?
* For those with an advanced degree, is there a difference between one of the groups based on race for the last 5 years?

Question 1 - Are salaries trending towards females earning as much as males for those with an advanced degree?

For this question, data was obtained from the data set for total women and total men with advanced degrees.

We first looked at a line chart of salary over the years for men and women individually. As noted below, there is a consistent gap over the years in salary between the genders, though in general it moves in the same directions.



Next we looked at

Question 2 - Does the increase in education affect the increase in salary for both men and women equally?

A graph of a graph with blue and orange lines

Description automatically generated

The average hourly wage of 50 years grouped by men and women with different education level are plotted on the graph above. As shown from the graph, men have a greater rate of increase then women for most education levels.

A graph of a graph of a number of people

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

Taking a closer look at just the percent of increase with a high school degree. The histogram above shows a 1% difference in the rate increase for hourly wages.

The histogram below takes a closer look at the rate of change of hourly rate. There is about a 5% difference for men and women with men having a larger rate of increase.

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Question 3 - For those with an advanced degree, is there a difference between one of the groups based on race for the last 5 years?

Limitations:

All occupations are grouped together.

Data covers 50 years.

Does not show experience that would increase hourly wage.

Conclusion:

The increase in education does not affect the increase in hourly wage for men and women equally. Men get a better rate of increase then women and the difference increases with higher education levels.