

NUMBERS

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, AND EARNINGS

By Tara Kalwarski/Charts by David Foster

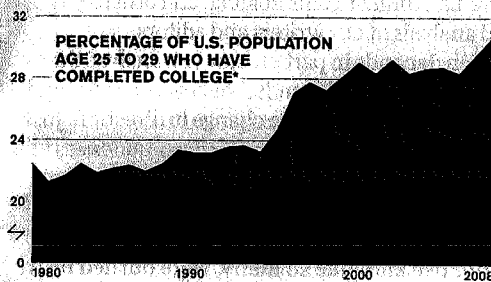
Going to school pays off, and earnings for U.S. adults with college degrees have held up well during the downturn. That might explain why more people are getting higher degrees than ever before. Nevertheless, a surprisingly large number of Americans lack even a high school diploma.

63%

Private and public colleges and universities that say they have not made and are not considering layoffs due to the downturn. More than half (52%) have no plans to freeze hiring of new faculty members.

Data: *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, Moody's Investors Service

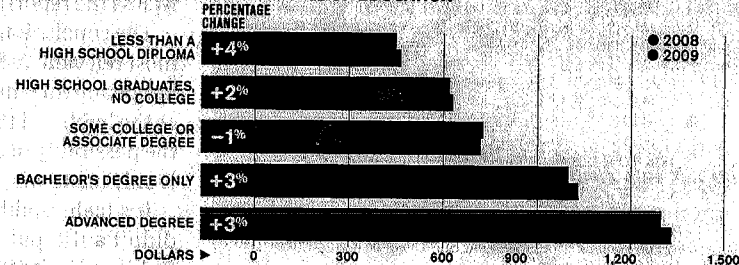
More Diplomas: The percentage of young adults with college degrees has jumped.



*Noninstitutionalized population
Data: U.S. Census Bureau

Educational Enrichment: Workers with college diplomas received the biggest dollar pay increases over the past year.

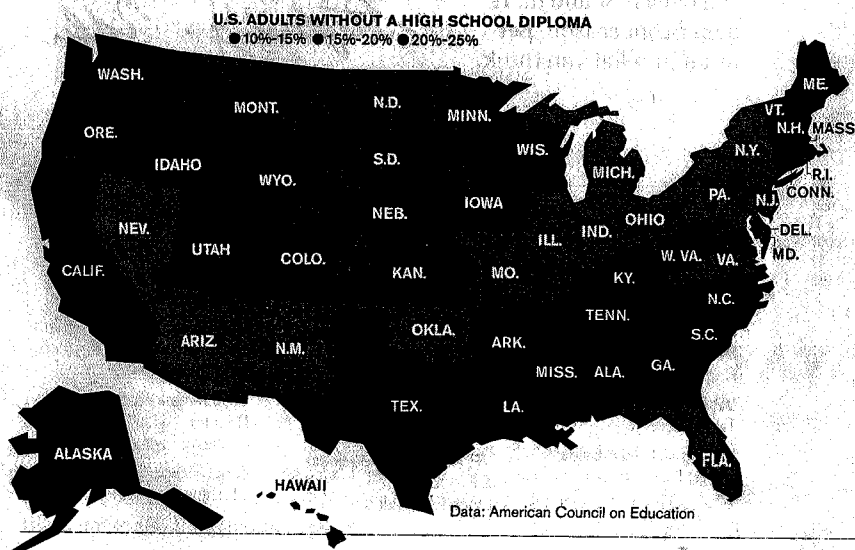
MEDIAN WEEKLY EARNINGS BY LEVEL OF EDUCATION*



*Among full-time wage and salary workers over age 25; second-quarter averages
Data: Bureau of Labor Statistics

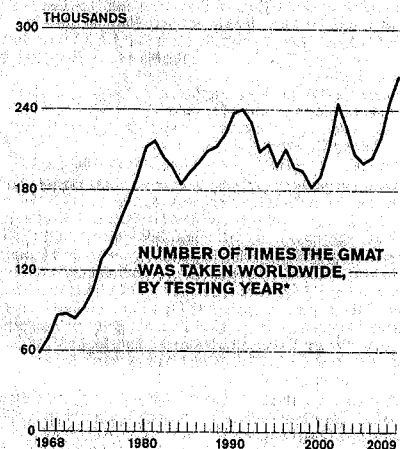
WHERE THE DROPOUTS ARE

About 15% of adults in the U.S. do not have a high school degree. In some states, though, that figure is higher.



Data: American Council on Education

Busts and MBAs: In periods of economic downturn, more college graduates consider pursuing advanced degrees in business.



*Testing year is July 1 through June 30; 2009 is preliminary
Data: Graduate Management Admission Council