

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF MINNESOTA'S ADULTS

KEY POINTS IN THIS SECTION

- At 50 percent, Minnesota's population (age 25 to 64) is second highest in nation with an associate degree or higher.

How Educated are Minnesotans?

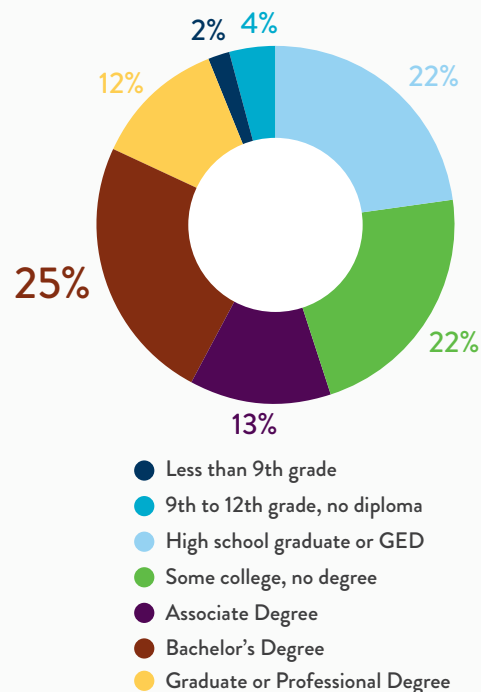
In 2015, 72 percent of Minnesotans age 25 to 64 had at least some college or higher.



States benefit both economically and socially from having an educated population.

Those benefits include: improved employee-employer job match, lowered crime rates, greater and more informed civic participation, improved health outcomes, increased life expectancy, and intergenerational degree attainment effects. A state's educational attainment population levels are a product of the effectiveness and success of the state's postsecondary institutions, the vitality and diversity of the state's economy, and quality of life in the geographic area. Some states or geographies can also benefit more than others if they can attract more educated populations through migration¹.

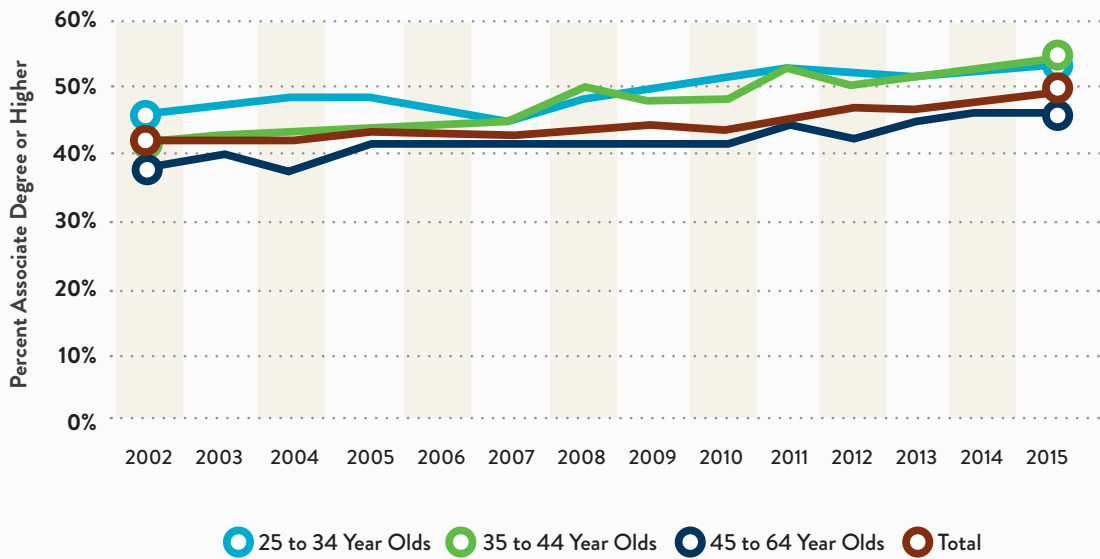
Educational Attainment Minnesota
Population Age 25 to 64



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

¹Wolfe, B.L., & Haveman, R.H. (2002, June). Social and nonmarket benefits from education in an advanced economy. In Conference Series-Federal Reserve Bank of Boston (Vol. 47, pp. 97-131). Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, 1998.

Percent of Minnesota Population with an Associate Degree or Higher



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1 year Estimate



DATA SUGGESTS

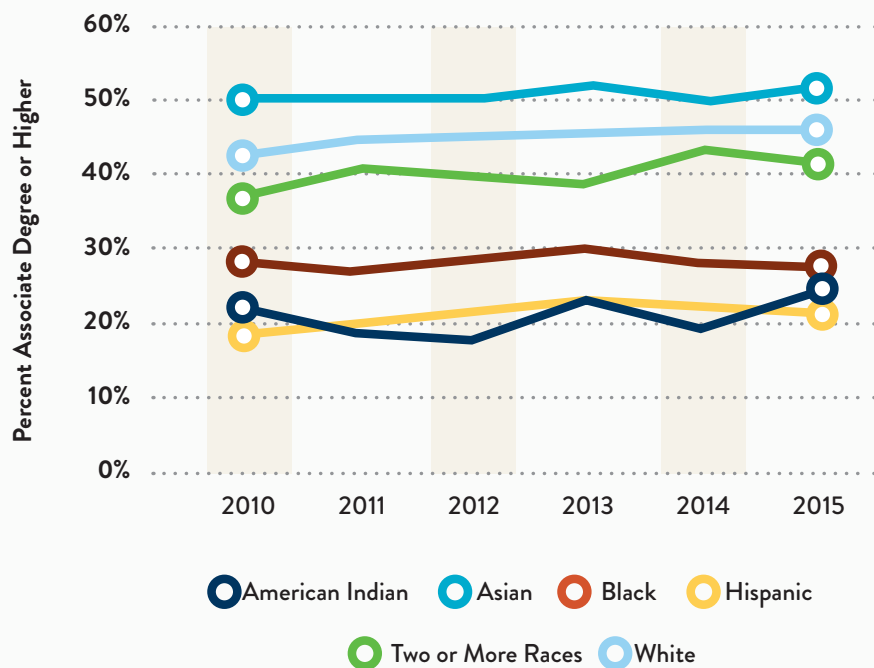
Younger Minnesotans are attaining more education than their parents and grandparents.



The populations with the highest attainment level are 25 to 44 year olds; 54 percent had earned an associate degree or higher compared to 45 percent for those age 45 to 64.



Minnesota Population Age 25 and Older
Associate Degree or Higher



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

DATA SUGGESTS

Even though Minnesotans are highly educated there are disparities in educational attainment by race and ethnicity.

Specifically, Asian (51 percent) and White (47 percent) adults had attainment levels above the state average of 45 percent for those age 25 and older. In order to maintain Minnesota’s high levels of educational attainment given the changing state demographics with a growing non-White population, Minnesota must identify and implement effective strategies to integrate and support to completion historically underserved non-White populations.



Disparities persisted from 2011 to 2015.

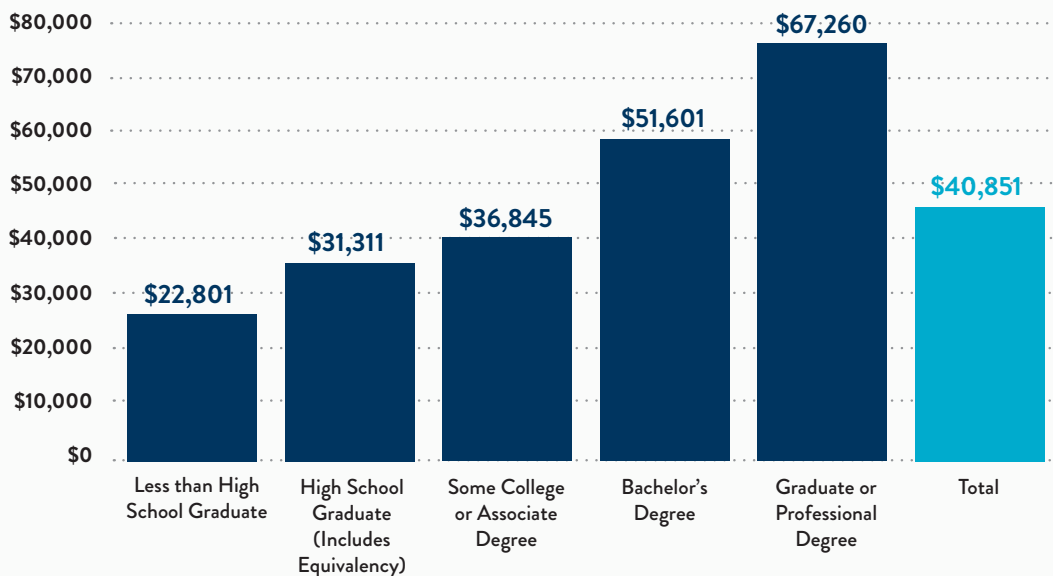
Employment and Wages

In 2015, the median annual wage level for Minnesotans was \$40,851; however, those with less than a high school diploma had a median annual wage of only \$22,801. Wage growth in Minnesota is occurring mainly in jobs requiring the highest levels of education. “The lowest-paid jobs are those that are least likely to have wage gains that keep pace with inflation creating a widening gap between the affluent and the struggling, those

with years of postsecondary education and those without” according to an August 2015 analysis by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED)².



Median Annual Wages Increase with Higher Levels of Educational Attainment, 2015
Minnesotans Age 25 and Older



SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

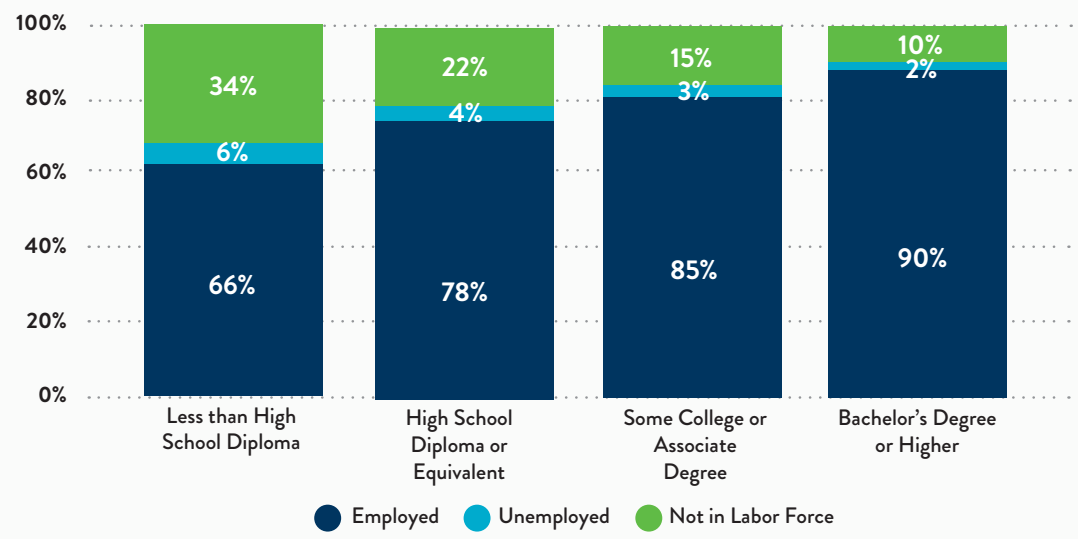
Note: “Some College” also includes those who completed one- or two-year certificate programs



DATA SUGGESTS

Minnesotans experienced higher median annual wages as their level of educational attainment increased.

Minnesotans Age 25 to 64 had Higher Rates of Employment with Higher Levels of Educational Attainment, 2015



SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

Note: "Some College" also includes those who completed one- or two-year certificate programs



DATA SUGGESTS
 In addition to higher wages, Minnesotans were more likely to be employed based on higher levels of educational attainment.



Only 66 percent of Minnesotans with less than a high school diploma were employed, compared to 78 percent with a high school diploma or equivalent, according to U.S. Census data. Participating in postsecondary education increased Minnesotans likelihood of employment; 85 percent of Minnesotans with some college experience or an associate degree were employed. The “some college” category includes individuals that earned a postsecondary diploma or one- or two-year certificate. Minnesotans with bachelor’s degrees or higher had the highest employment level, at 90 percent.



Minnesota’s population ranks high in degree attainment.

The percentage of Minnesota’s population having attained a bachelor’s degree has exceeded the national average since 1970. It remains higher than the Midwest Region average, and equivalent to that of the Northeast Region, which contains several states with high percentages of college-educated populations.

In comparing state populations with an associate degree or higher, Minnesota ranked second in the nation with 50 percent of its adult population (aged 25 to 64) with an associate degree or higher in 2015. The percentage of the adult population with an associate degree or higher by state ranged from 52 percent in Massachusetts to a low of 29 percent in West Virginia.



The Twin Cities also has a well-educated population compared to other large metropolitan areas.

A 2016 Lumina Foundation report³ ranked metropolitan areas with the highest percentage of their population, aged 25 to 64, with an associate degree or higher. Minneapolis/St. Paul ranked ninth (52 percent) behind San Jose (56), Washington D.C. (56 percent), Madison WI (55 percent), Boston (55 percent), Bridgeport-Stamford (54 percent), San Francisco (54 percent), Raleigh NC (54 percent) and Durham-Chapel Hill (53 percent).

³https://www.luminafoundation.org/stronger_nation

Minnesota Ranks High in Percent of Population with an Associate Degree or Higher, 2015

AGE 25-64 TOTAL		25-34 YEAR OLDS		35-44 YEAR OLDS		45-64 YEAR OLDS	
Top States	Percent	Top States	Percent	Top States	Percent	Top States	Percent
Massachusetts	52%	Massachusetts	57%	Massachusetts	54%	Massachusetts	49%
Minnesota	50%	Minnesota	54%	Minnesota	54%	Colorado	48%
Colorado	49%	New York	52%	Colorado	52%	Connecticut	47%
Connecticut	49%	New Jersey	51%	Maryland	51%	Vermont	46%
New Hampshire	48%	Connecticut	50%	North Dakota	50%	Maryland	46%
Maryland	47%	North Dakota	50%	Virginia	50%	New Hampshire	46%
New Jersey	47%	New Hampshire	50%	New Hampshire	50%	Minnesota	45%
Virginia	47%	Illinois	48%	New Jersey	50%	Virginia	45%
North Dakota	47%	Colorado	48%	Connecticut	49%	New Jersey	44%
Vermont	47%	Iowa	48%	New York	49%	Washington	44%
NATION	41%	NATION	43%	NATION	43%	NATION	39%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

ABOUT EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

The U.S. Census Bureau annually collects information on the highest level of education attained by individuals age 18 and older via the American Community Survey⁴. The data are available by age, gender, race and geography. Most publications focus on adults aged 25 years and older after their education has been completed.

Educational attainment refers to the highest level of education an individual has completed at the time the survey is conducted. Data on educational attainment are derived from a single question that asks, “What is the highest grade of school completed, or the highest degree received?” This question was first implemented in the 1990 Decennial Census and changed in the Current Population Survey in 1992. The Census defines postsecondary as either “some college,” “associate degree,” “bachelor’s degree,” or a “graduate or professional degree.”

Degrees Versus Certificates

Most of the data compares the population with a degree (associate or higher) with non-degree holders. Quantifying non-degree, industry-recognized credentials, as well as individuals’ basic skills progress is of growing importance. A postsecondary certificate (awarded in many vocational programs) is the highest education level needed to enter several high-demand high-wage careers. Current national and state tracking systems are inadequate to quantify non-degree credentials earned as a percent of the population. The U.S. Census Bureau does not collect this data in a separate category. The Census category “some college, no degree” is a catch-all category that includes individuals who are currently enrolled in college and have not finished, individuals who attended college and dropped out before completing a program, and individuals who obtained a postsecondary credential below an associate degree (e.g., diploma or certificate). The U.S. Department of Education is working with the Census Bureau to improve the collection of postsecondary education attainment in non-degree programs and other industry-recognized credentials.

⁴<http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs.html>