

# **Job Growth: Why Increasing Educational Attainment is so Important for Creating Jobs**

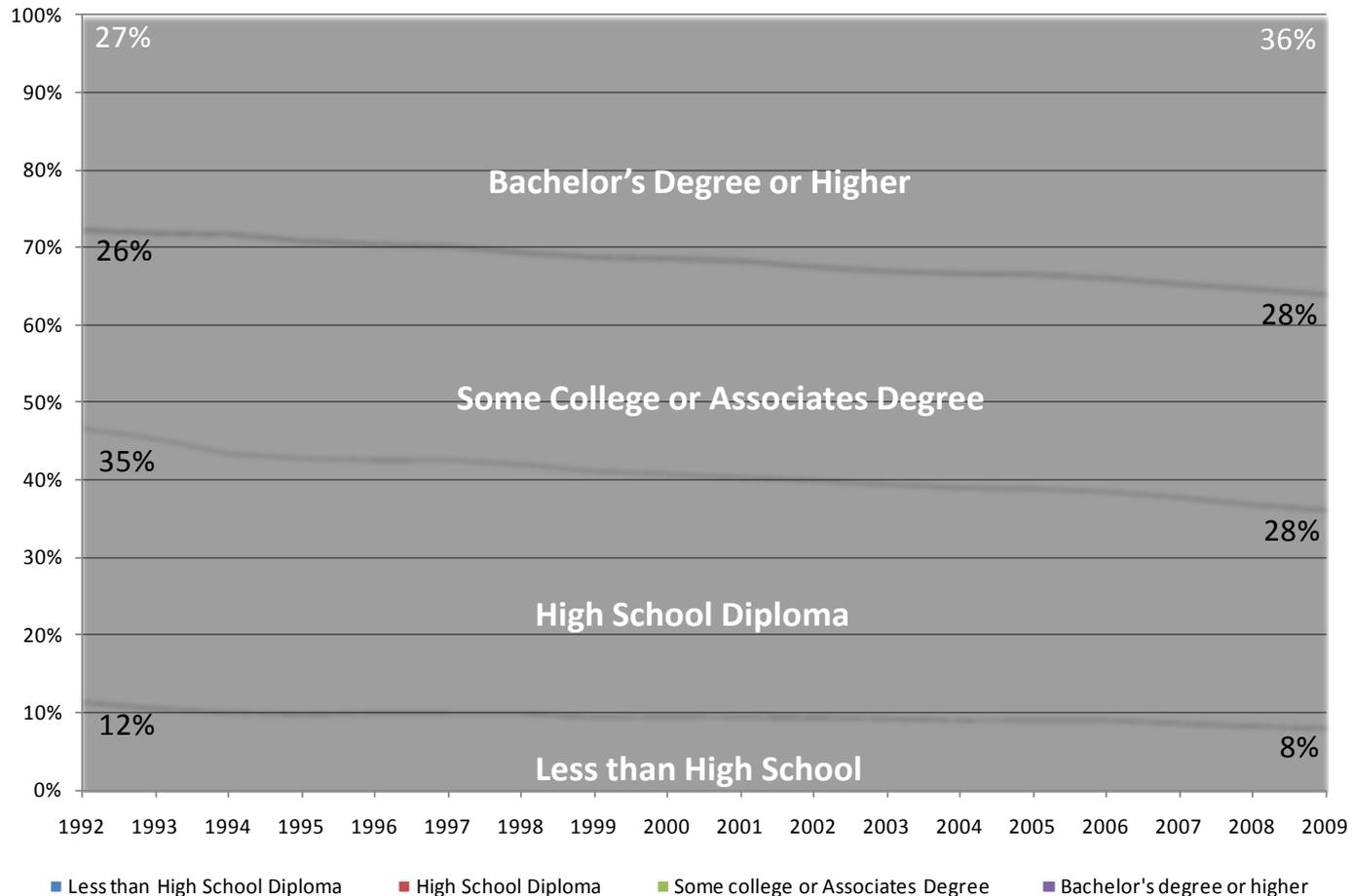
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# Summary of Findings

- Nationally and in Washington, the employed workforce is better educated today than it was 20 years ago.
- States with higher levels of educational attainment had lower unemployment rates during the recession.
- Nationally and in Washington, most of the recession's job losses were jobs requiring a high school diploma or less. Baccalaureate employment in Washington actually continued to grow during the recession.
- Looking forward, jobs requiring well-educated workers in STEM occupations and health services will continue to grow faster than the rest of the Washington economy.
- Washington has a problem with low levels of college attainment among its young adult population.

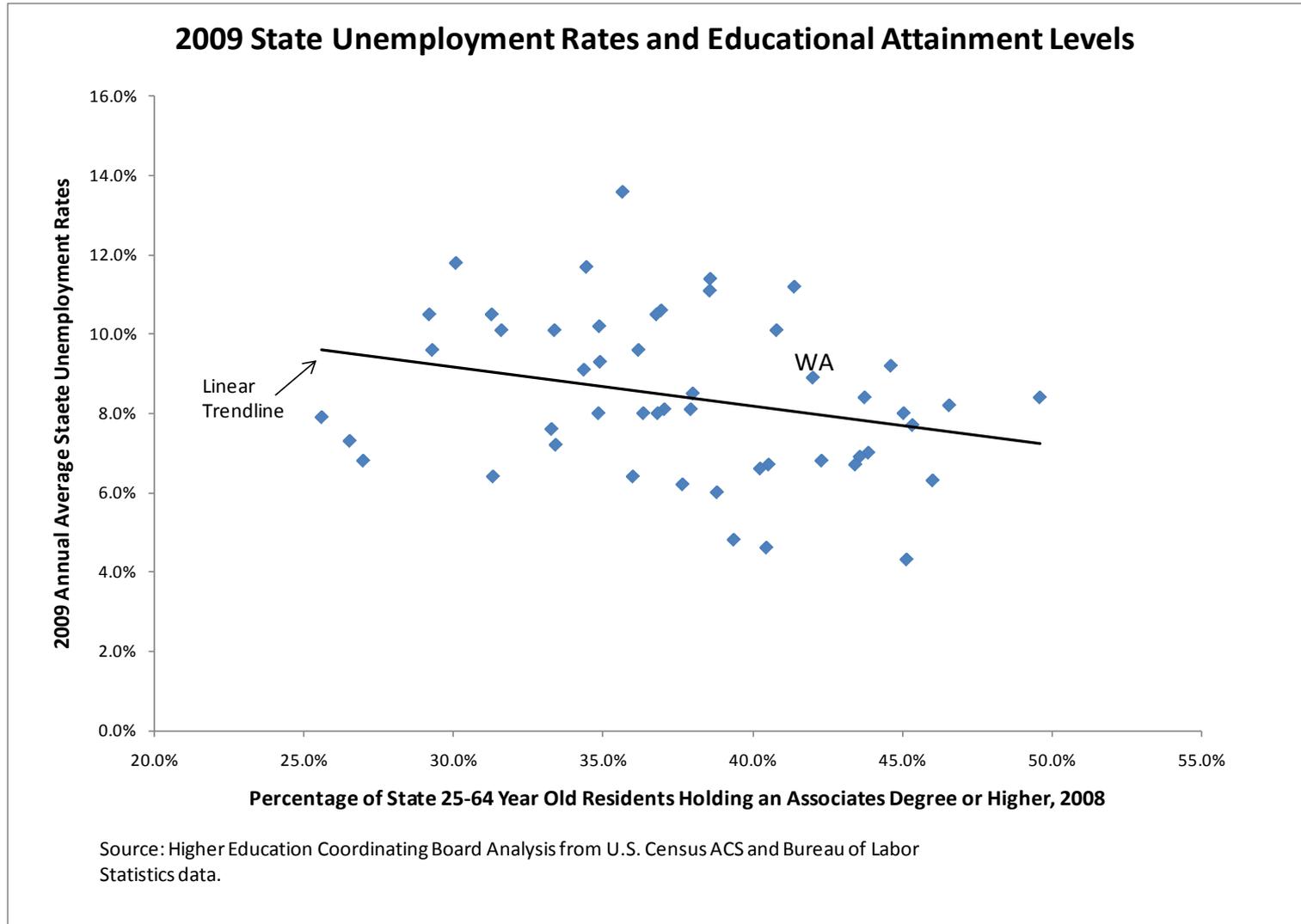
# Who's Working in the U.S. by Education Level

Distribution by educational attainment of employed workers in the United States, 25 years and over, 1992-2009 annual averages



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics "Back to College" Spotlight,  
<http://www.bls.gov/spotlight/2010/college/home.htm>

# Education and Unemployment



# Staying employed today requires higher levels of education

Percentage of Employed Washington Workers, Age 25-64, by Highest Education Level Achieved

Education Level	2000 Census (1999 Data)	2006-08 ACS Survey	2000-08 Change
Less than High School	7.9%	6.3%	-1.7%
High School	21.7%	21.2%	-0.6%
Some College	8.9%	7.9%	-1.0%
1 Year College Plus	18.3%	16.9%	-1.5%
Associate Degree	9.7%	11.1%	1.4%
Bachelor's Degree	21.9%	23.4%	1.5%
Grad or Professional	11.5%	13.3%	1.8%

Source: HECB analysis of decennial and American Community Survey census data.

# During the recession, only Bachelor's degree jobs continued to grow

Changes in Washington State Employment by Education Requirements

Education Level	Percent Change from 2006 to 2007	Percent Change from 2007 to 2008	Percent Change from 2008 to 2009	Average Annual Change from 2006 to 2009
Less than High School	2.8%	-0.5%	-6.0%	-1.2%
High School Diploma/GED	0.8%	-0.3%	-4.9%	-1.4%
Sub-Bacc. Credential	1.6%	1.8%	-3.8%	-0.1%
Bachelor's Degree	1.9%	4.4%	0.8%	2.4%
Graduate/Prof. Degree	0.7%	1.1%	-2.5%	-0.2%

Source: 2d Quarter OES Survey Data, Washington Employment Security Dept., LMEA Division.

Note: Data does not include self-employment.

# Reason for Concern

Percentage of Residents Holding an Associate Degree or Higher, 2008

Age Cohort	Washington			Massachusetts			United States	
	Number	% of Cohort	State Rank	Number	% of Cohort	State Rank	Number	% of Cohort
25-34	358,197	39.4%	21	439,226	53.4%	1	15,223,040	37.8%
35-44	400,561	43.2%	13	477,325	50.0%	1	16,885,294	39.5%
45-64	755,932	42.7%	8	833,427	47.6%	1	28,982,990	37.1%
25-64	1,514,690	42.0%	13	1,749,978	49.6%	1	61,091,324	37.9%

Source: <http://www.higheredinfo.org> from Census ACS data, 2008.

- Our young adult workers are have the lowest degree attainment rates and the lowest state rank when compared to our older adults.
- Leading states like Massachusetts show the opposite trend with its youngest residents being the best educated.

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