

## **Bullet Points: Educational Attainment in the United States: 2009**

- People with a bachelor's degree had lower rates of unemployment than those with less education in every month from January 2008 to December 2010. This period includes all but one month of the recent recession, which began December 2007 and ended June 2009. The unemployment rate for people with less than high school reached a peak of 17.9 percent in February 2010. In the same month, unemployment for people with a bachelor's degree was 5.9 percent.
- From September 2008 to January 2009, unemployment rates shifted upwards for people at all levels of education. For people whose highest degree was a bachelor's degree, the increase was from 2.8 percent in September 2008 to 4.6 percent in January 2009. For people who completed less than high school, the increase was from 9.0 percent to 14.4 percent.
- In August 2010, the unemployment rate for people without a high school or GED diploma was 13.3 percent, while the unemployment rate for those with a high school or GED diploma was 9.7 percent, according to a report released today by the U.S. Census Bureau. For higher education recipients, the unemployment rate was 5.4 percent for those with a bachelor's degree and 4.1 percent for those with an advanced degree such as a master's or doctorate.
- Workers with a bachelor's degree had median earnings of about \$20,000 or more a year (\$47,510) than workers with a regular high school diploma (\$26,776) or a GED diploma (\$22,534).
- Sixty-eight percent of the foreign-born population 25 and older held a high school or higher degree compared with 89 percent of the native-born population.
- The foreign-born population made up 15 percent of the population 25 and over with a bachelor's degree, up from 13 percent in 2000. The number of foreign-born residents with bachelor's or higher degrees increased by 49 percent since 2000.
- The Midwest had the highest percentage of adults reporting a high-school diploma or more education, and the Northeast had the highest percentage with a bachelor's degree or more education.