

# Unemployment rate for college grads more than doubled since '08

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Economic Snapshot is a weekly feature provided by the



In April, the U.S. Census reported that in 2008, workers with a bachelor's degree earned about \$26,000 more on average than those with a high school diploma.

For most people, more education translates into higher average incomes. Also, a college degree usually means more employment opportunities and greater job security. Over the last 10 years, the unemployment rate for college graduates has averaged about 2.3 percent compared to 4.5 percent for high

## Jobs Week 3: Unemployment by education

school graduates. In April, the unemployment rate for workers with at least a bachelor's degree reached 4.4 percent, more than double the rate in April 2008.

However, that is still less than half the unemployment rate for workers with a high school degree. The following chart provides unemployment rates and the rate of increase over the past 12-month reporting period by educational attainment. Similar data is available at: <http://www.bls.gov/webapps/legacy/cpsatab4.htm>.

## Unemployment by education

	Unemployment rate (April '09)	Increase in unemployment 2008 to '09
Less than high school	14.8%	87.3%
H.S. grad, no college	9.3%	86.0%
Some college/assoc. degree	7.4%	85.8%
Bachelor's degree/higher	4.4%	109.5%

\* Statistics are for adults age 25 and older

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics,  
<http://www.bls.gov/webapps/legacy/cpsatab4.htm>