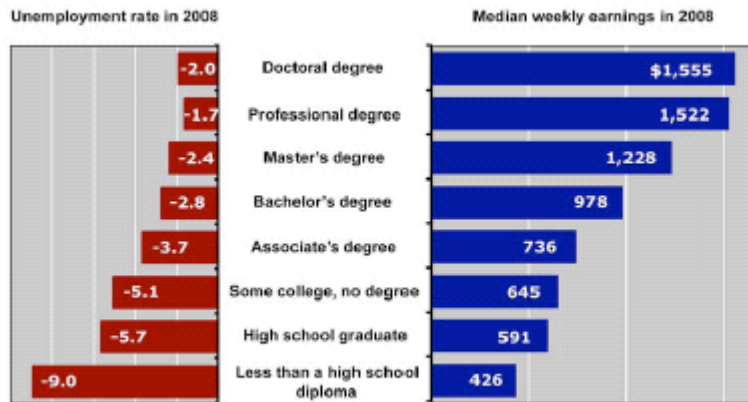


## Median Wages by Educational Attainment

Wages at the lower education level are shrinking across the nation and in Iowa and now low-wage workers need to acquire education to obtain higher paying jobs.

Figure 3. U.S. Unemployment Rate & Median Weekly Earnings by Education, 2008



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Educations Pays*, <http://www.bls.gov/emp/emptab7.htm>

The following chart illustrates the trends in hourly wages based on educational attainment since 1979 in Iowa.

Table 1. Median Wages in Iowa Differ by Education Level, 1979-2007 (2007 dollars)

	1979	1989	1995	2000	2007	since 1979
All	\$13.64	\$12.43	\$12.39	\$14.32	\$14.30	4.8%
Less than high school	\$12.76	*	*	*	\$9.31	-27.0%
High school	\$13.08	\$11.42	\$10.95	\$12.95	\$12.77	-2.4%
Some college	\$12.98	\$11.80	\$11.72	\$13.76	\$13.46	3.7%
Bachelor's or higher	\$17.18	\$17.41	\$18.33	\$21.02	\$20.03	16.6%

Source: EPI/IPP analysis of Current Population Survey data. Inflation-adjustment based on CPI-U-RS.

\* indicates insufficient sample size.

## Median Income of Households in the Cedar Rapids MSA by Educational Attainment (Population 25 years and over with earnings) (2005-2007 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates)

Less than high school graduate	\$16,848 or \$ 8.10/hour
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	\$27,829 or \$13.38/hour
Some college or associate's degree	\$31,457 or \$15.12/hour
Bachelor's degree	\$39,318 or \$18.90/hour
Graduate or professional degree	\$49,042 or \$23.58/hour

### Source:

Lily French and Peter S. Fisher. *Education Pays in Iowa; The State's Return on Investment in Workforce Education*, May 2009. The Iowa Policy Project.

U.S. Census Bureau. S1501. Educational Attainment. Retrieved from

[http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/STGeoSearchByListServlet?ds\\_name=ACS\\_2007\\_3YR\\_G00\\_&state=st&q\\_r\\_name=ACS\\_2007\\_3YR\\_G00\\_S1501&lang=en&ts=265888297218](http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/STGeoSearchByListServlet?ds_name=ACS_2007_3YR_G00_&state=st&q_r_name=ACS_2007_3YR_G00_S1501&lang=en&ts=265888297218)