

# Human Capital?

What to Expect with Less Than a High School Diploma

## WHAT IS HUMAN CAPITAL?

The skills, knowledge, and training people possess, measured by their economic value.



## HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO EARN A MILLION?

YEARS TO EARN \$1 MILLION BY EDUCATION LEVEL



**32.4**  
years

at 2019 annual median income to earn a million dollars with less than a high school diploma



**26**  
percent

2018 poverty rate for individuals 25 and older with less than a high school diploma



**5.4**  
percent

2019 unemployment rate for those in the labor force with less than a high school diploma



**592**  
dollars

2019 median weekly earnings for workers with less than a high school diploma

Jennifer Ma, Matea Pender, and Meredith Welch, Education Pays 2019: The Benefits of Higher Education for Individuals and Society, <https://research.collegeboard.org/pdf/education-pays-2019-full-report.pdf>; Current Population Survey, (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, [https://www.bls.gov/emp/images/ep\\_chart\\_001.png](https://www.bls.gov/emp/images/ep_chart_001.png)); and Atlanta Fed calculations

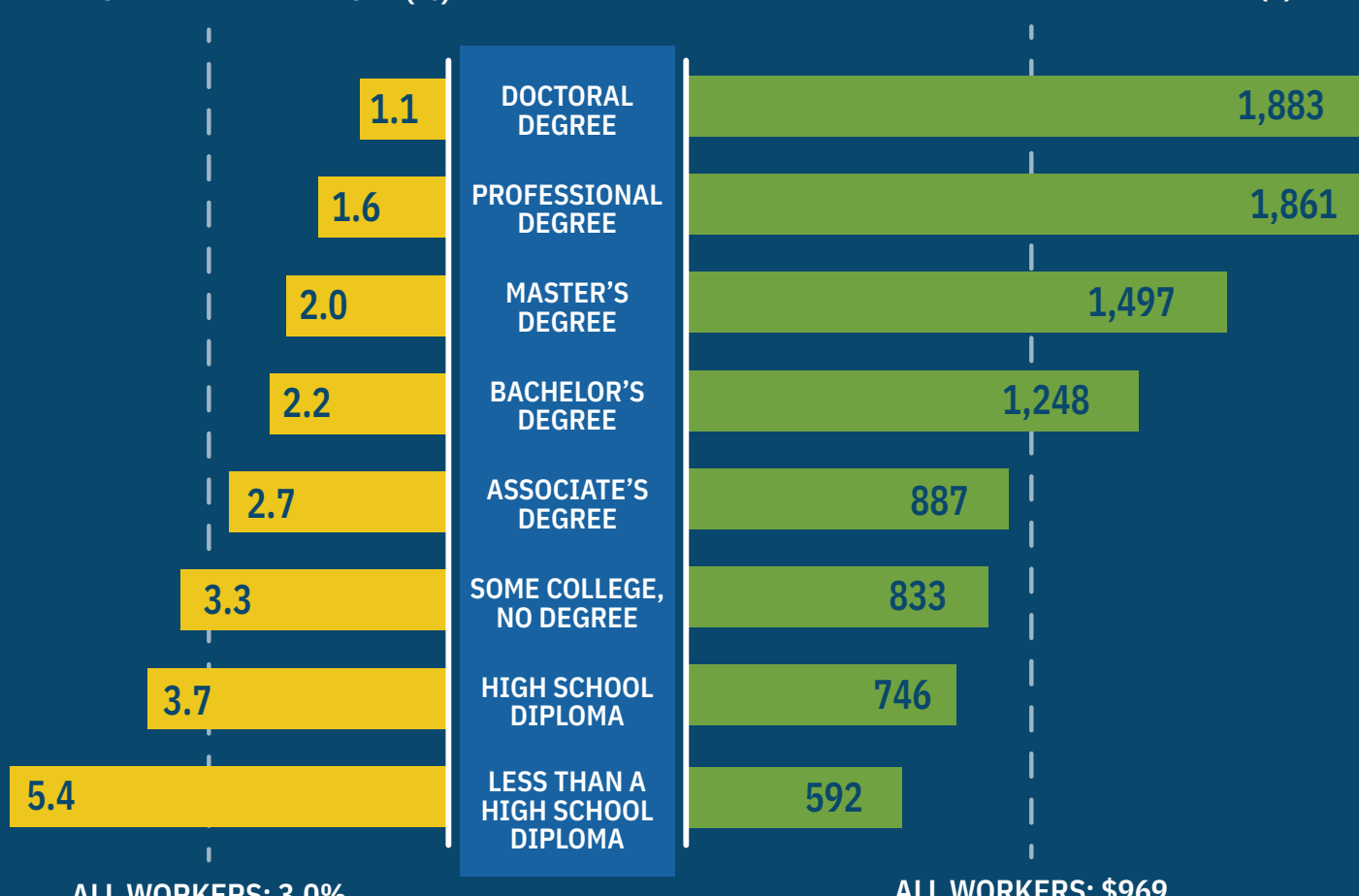
## EDUCATION PAYS



EARNINGS AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATES BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN 2019 (%)

MEDIAN WEEKLY EARNINGS IN 2019 (\$)



Current Population Survey, (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, [https://www.bls.gov/emp/images/ep\\_chart\\_001.png](https://www.bls.gov/emp/images/ep_chart_001.png))

Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

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