Employment Growth over Two Decades

Employment growth in the past 2 decades has been entirely among those with at least some college education; employment for those with a high school diploma or less has declined.

College Attendance and Pre/Post Recession Employment

- Those with a high school diploma or less lost 5.6 million jobs in the recession.
- Those with a bachelor’s degree or better gained 1.6 million jobs in the recovery.
- Those with an associate’s degree/some college gained 1.73 million jobs in the recession.
- Those with a bachelor’s degree or better gained 2 million jobs in the recovery.

*Those with a four-year degree or better were much less affected by the recession.
*Those with only a high school diploma or less lost a huge number of jobs, with little recovery.