

Research Notes



Nevada Labor Force by Educational Attainment August 2025

Dionny McDonnell, Economist

September 12, 2025

Introduction

The monthly Current Population Survey (CPS) estimates, sponsored by the Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, allow for the analysis of the labor force 25 years and over by educational attainment. Please note that, CPS estimates in less populous states, are subject to rather large sampling error. Also due to a small sample size, there is considerable volatility in CPS-based estimates. To remove volatility in the estimates, a 12-month moving average was used. For more details, see notes about using CPS data in Appendix A at the end of this document.

Four major categories of educational attainment are considered in this research note: less than High School diploma, High School graduates no college (includes persons with a high school diploma or equivalent), Some college or Associate degree, and Bachelor's degree and higher (includes persons with bachelor's, master's, professional and doctoral degrees).

Labor Force 25 years and over by educational attainment

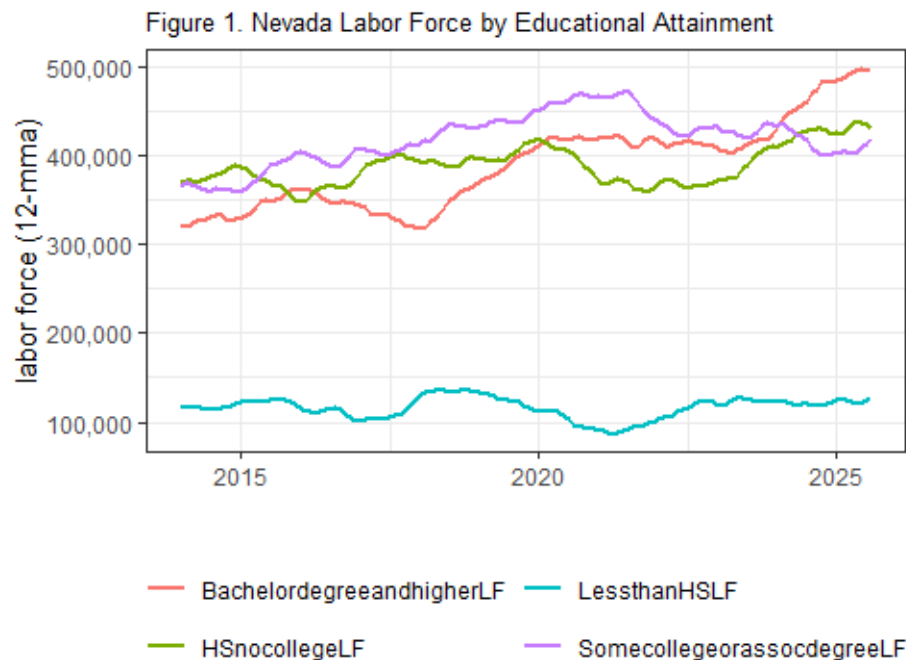
Since 2005 Nevadans in the labor force with less than a High School diploma have remained relatively steady at 11% of total labor force. Those with a High School diploma and no college are trending down, reaching around 32% of total labor force. Nevadans with Some college or Associate degree are trending up, with 31% of total labor force. People with a Bachelor's degree or higher are also trending up reaching 26% of total labor force.

On average, in 2005 one-third of the labor force in Nevada had a High School diploma and no college education; 29% of the labor force had Some college or Associate degree; 24% had a Bachelor's degree or higher, and 12% had less than a High School diploma.

From 2005 to 2011, the largest share of the Silver State labor force were High School graduates with no college (33.5%) compared to the other three categories of educational attainment: Some college or Associate degree (29.2%), Bachelor's degree and higher (25.4%), less than High School diploma (11.8%). Since February 2024, Nevadans with a Bachelor's degree and higher represent the largest share of the civilian labor force, about 32.8%.

During the year ending August 2025, 8.5 percent of the labor force had less than a High School diploma, 29.2 percent had a High School diploma no college, 33.7 percent had a Bachelor's degree or higher, and 28.5 percent had Some college or Associate degree.

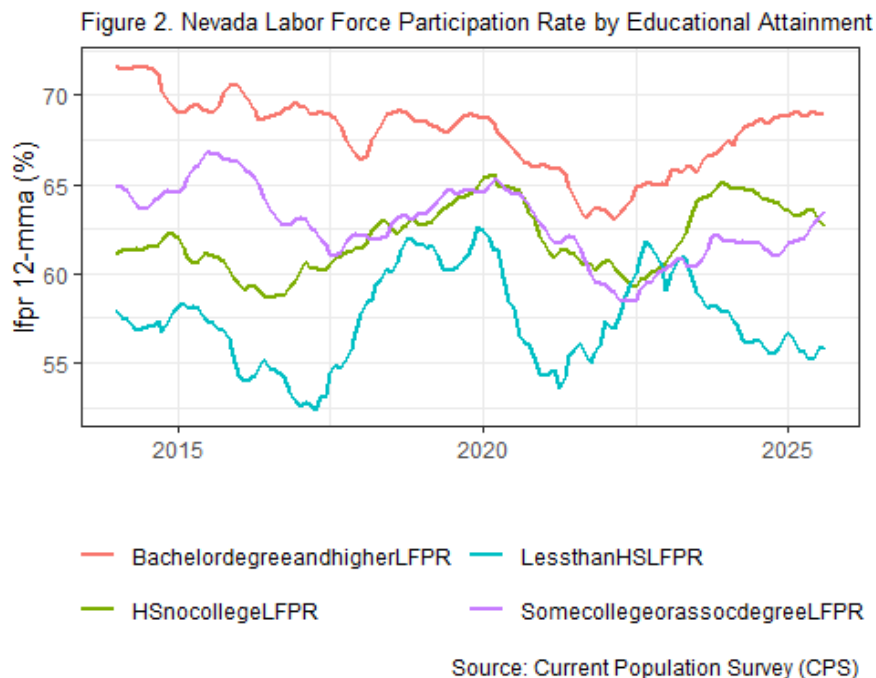
According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics(1), associate degrees in an academic program are primarily in the arts and sciences and are transferable to a bachelor's degree program, while associate degrees in occupational programs prepare graduates for a specific occupation.



Labor Force Participation Rate 25 years and over by educational attainment

Having a higher educational attainment is associated with a higher labor force participation rate (LFPR). In February 2020, the labor force participation rate for Nevadans with a Bachelor's degree or higher was 68.7 percent, followed by those who had a High School diploma and no college at 65.6 percent. Those with Some college or Associate degree at 64.9 percent, and Nevadans with less than a High School diploma at 61.9 percent.

For the year ending August 2025, the LFPR by educational attainment was: 68.9 percent for Bachelor's degree or higher, 62.6 percent for High School no college, 63.5 percent for Some college or Associate degree, and 55.9 percent for less than High School diploma.



APPENDIX A: Reliability of the Current Population Survey (CPS) estimates

Statistics based on the CPS are subject to both sampling and non-sampling error. When a sample, rather than the entire population, is surveyed, there is a chance that the sample estimates may differ from the true population values they represent. The component of this difference that occurs because samples differ by chance is known as sampling error, and its variability is measured by the standard error of the estimate. There is about a 90-percent chance, or level of confidence, that an estimate based on a sample will differ by no more than 1.6 standard errors from the true population value because of sampling error. BLS analyses are generally conducted at the 90-percent level of confidence. The monthly CPS data also are affected by non-sampling error. Non-sampling error can occur for many reasons, including the failure to sample a segment of the population, inability to obtain information for all respondents in the sample, inability or unwillingness of respondents to provide correct information, and errors made in the collection or processing of the data. General information on the reliability of data from the CPS is available at www.bls.gov/cps/documentation.htm#reliability

References

- (1) Profile of the labor force by educational attainment: Spotlight on Statistics: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Disclaimer

This workforce product was funded by the Workforce Information Grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The product was created by the recipient and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The U.S. Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership. This product is copyrighted by the institution that created it. Internal use by an organization and/or personal use by an individual for non-commercial purposes is permissible. All other uses require the prior authorization of the copyright owner.