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Today's News

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Census Data Show Value of a College Education

College graduates earned nearly double the pay of people with only a high-school diploma, according to data released on Monday by the U.S. Census Bureau. But what was much more surprising in the new statistics was that Asian-American and black women with undergraduate degrees outearned their white counterparts.

White women with bachelor's degrees took home almost \$37,800, on average, in 2003, the year covered by the Census Bureau data on earnings, but African-American women with a college education were paid \$41,100 and Asian women earned almost \$43,700. Hispanic women with undergraduate degrees had annual incomes of \$37,600.

People with a college education earned, on average, \$51,000 a year, nearly twice the \$28,000 that high-school graduates took in. But college-educated white men, who were paid more than \$66,000 a year, outearned their counterparts in minority groups, including black (\$45,000), Hispanic (\$49,000), and Asian (\$52,000) men.

The [information from the Census Bureau](#), which came from an annual survey, was not accompanied by an analysis or explanation of the statistical findings.

Other parts of the data released on Monday described the education attainments of different sectors of the American population, by sex, by age, by race, by citizenship status, and by employment status, among other factors.

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