

# INVESTING IN PEOPLE

**T**HE recent economic crisis reinforced the importance of a *good education*. People with more education were in general better able to get and keep jobs, even during the global financial crisis, according to a new study from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

For example, between 2008 and 2010, unemployment rates in OECD countries for people with only a high school education increased from 4.9 percent to 7.6 percent. By contrast, rates for people with a college education were much lower, rising from 3.3 percent to 4.7 percent during the same period.



UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

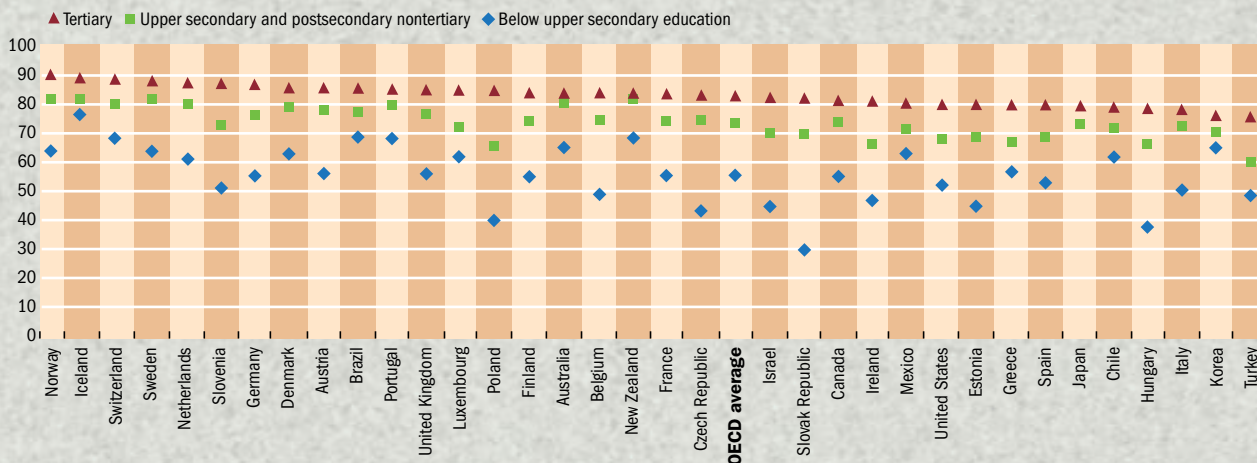
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR COLLEGE GRADUATES

The *Education at a Glance* report reveals stark differences between countries when it comes to higher education opportunities for young people, particularly children from poor families and those whose parents are undereducated. To tackle the growing problem of young people who are not employed, in school, or in training, OECD countries must give priority to policies that ease the transition from school to work and examine such measures as vocational education and training that can productively engage this crucial age group.

**ONLY 20%**  
OF PEOPLE WHOSE PARENTS HAVE LOW LEVELS OF EDUCATION COMPLETE A COLLEGE EDUCATION

## Employment prospects increase with the level of education.

(percent of 25- to 64-year-olds in employment, by educational attainment level, 2010)



Note: Data for Brazil are for 2009.



**A new study says the global recession underscored the importance of education**

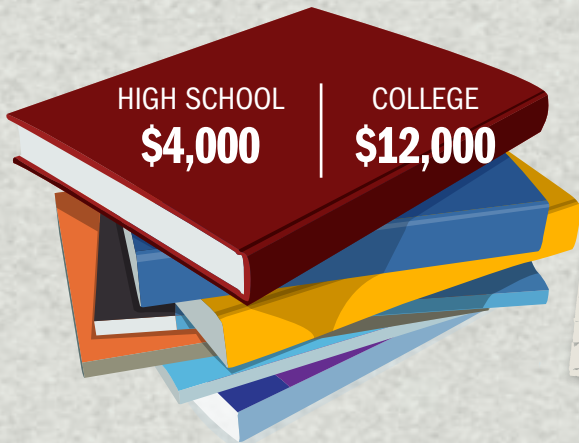
**62%**      **17%**

**OF YOUNG ADULTS**

ENTER  
COLLEGE  
PROGRAM

ENTER  
VOCATIONAL  
PROGRAM

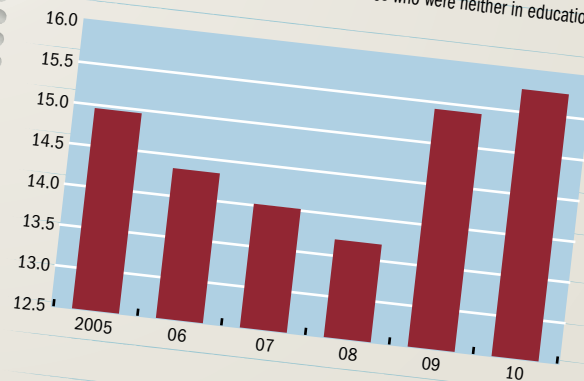
EXTRA ANNUAL INCOME  
FROM COMPLETING



NET RETURNS FROM A  
COLLEGE EDUCATION OVER  
WORKING LIFE COMPARED WITH  
A HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION

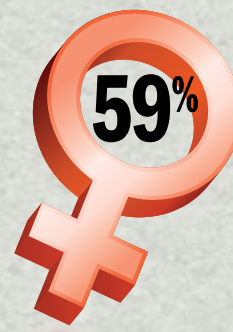
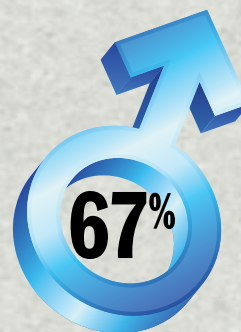


**The number of students who were not successful in moving from education to work peaked in 2010.**  
(percent of 15- to 29-year-olds in OECD countries who were neither in education nor employed)



MALE COLLEGE  
GRADUATE EARNS

FEMALE COLLEGE  
GRADUATE EARNS



MORE THAN HIGH  
SCHOOL GRADUATE

*Prepared by Dirk Van Damme, Corinne Heckmann, and Elisabeth Villoutreix. Text and charts are based on Education at a Glance 2012: OECD Indicators, published by the OECD in September 2012. (Unless indicated otherwise, data are for 2010.) The report provides data on the structure, finances, and performance of the education systems in the OECD's 34 member countries plus Argentina, Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Russia, Saudi Arabia, and South Africa and is available at [www.oecd.org/edu/eag2012.htm](http://www.oecd.org/edu/eag2012.htm)*