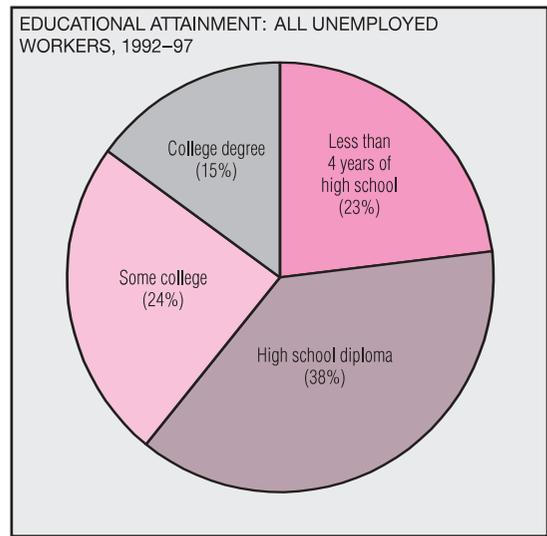
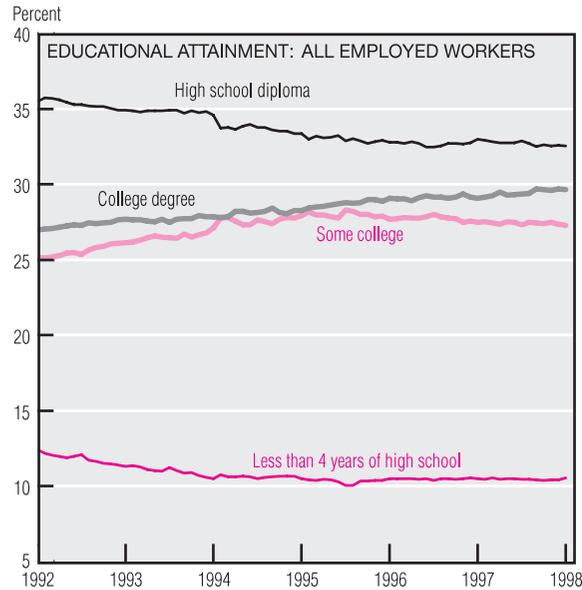
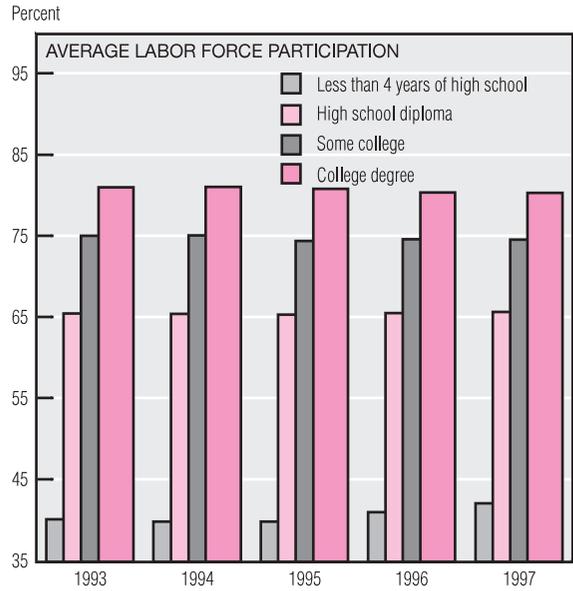
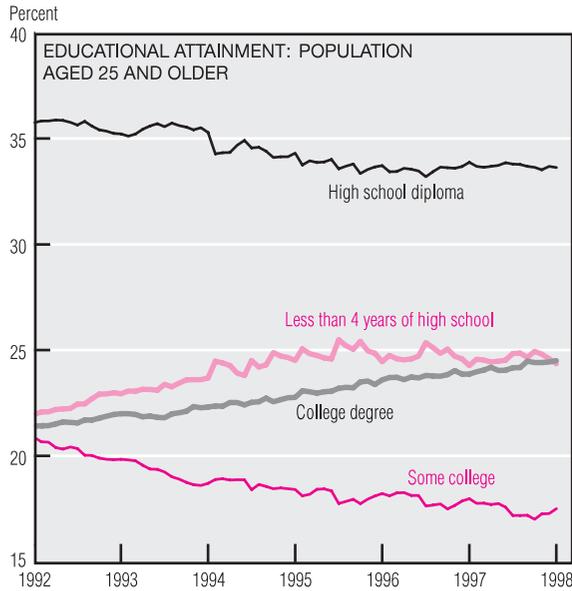


# Education and the Labor Force



NOTE: "High school diploma" includes equivalency certificate, and "some college" includes associate's degree. All data are seasonally adjusted.  
 SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The last quarter of the twentieth century has seen an industrial revolution of sorts, led by the advance of computers and other high-tech equipment. Many analysts worry, however, that this technological progress is outpacing the workforce's ability to adapt. If their fears are realized, society will not reap the full benefit of these advances, or will do so only with a lag.

At the end of 1997, 24.5% of Americans aged 25 or older held a four-year college degree. These individuals' labor force participation rate is substantially higher than that of any other educational group (the labor force includes people who are either employed or seeking work).

High school graduates make up the largest share of employed workers, but college graduates have been closing the gap in recent years. In

the five years ended in 1997, the fraction of employed workers holding a college degree grew from about 27% to almost 30%, while the share with a high school diploma decreased from 36% to 33%. Over the same period, high school graduates accounted for 38% of all unemployed workers, while college graduates made up just 15% of the jobless ranks.