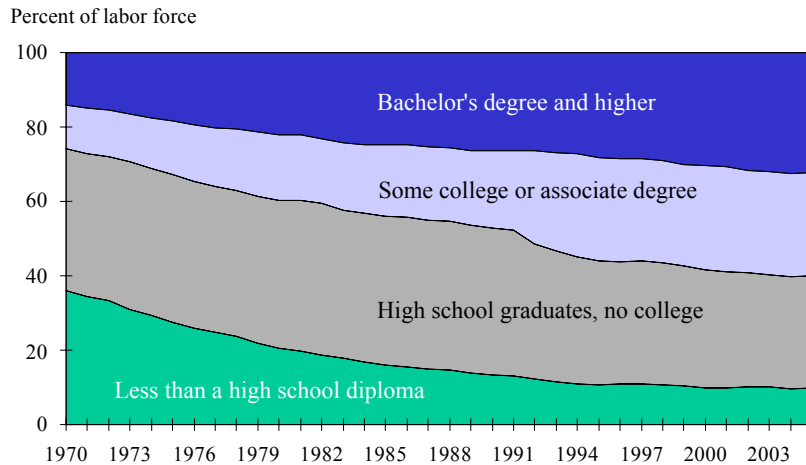


Chart 2-1. The educational attainment of the labor force has improved over time



NOTE: Data are from the March 1970-2005 Current Population Survey and are for persons age 25-64. Beginning in 1992, data are based on highest diploma or degree received; prior to this time, data were based on years of school completed.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Chart 2-1. The educational attainment of the labor force has improved over time

- Education is an important determinant of labor market outcomes. The more education a person has, the more likely he or she is to be in the labor force and the less likely he or she is to be unemployed.
- The proportion of persons 25 to 64 years old with some college (or an associate degree) more than doubled between 1970 and 2005. The share with a bachelor's degree and higher also more than doubled over the period. In contrast, the share of the labor force with less than a high school diploma declined markedly.