

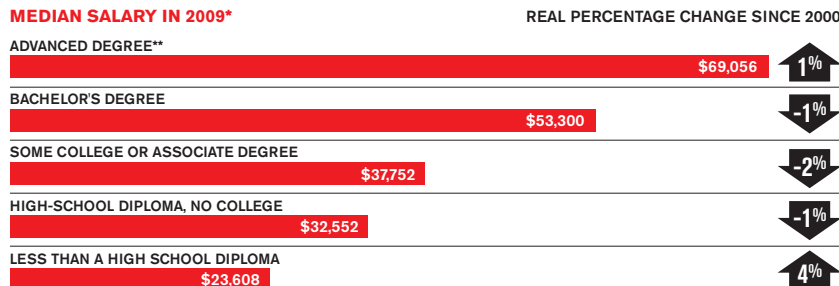
# NUMBERS

## THE BENEFITS—AND COSTS—OF COLLEGE

By Tara Kalwarski/Charts by Stanford Kay

College tuition and fees are up 92% since 2000. Is it worth the cost? Highly educated workers earn more, though pay raises have barely kept up with inflation. They have more job security, too.

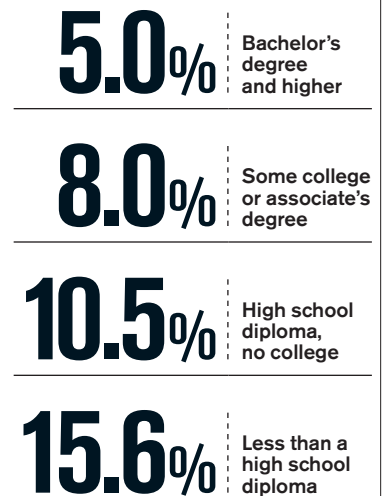
**Salary Edge:** Advanced-degree holders earn triple what high school grads make. But nobody has been getting big raises.



\*Calculated by taking the annual average weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers age 25 and over, and multiplying by 52 \*\*Includes master's, professional, and doctoral degrees  
Data: Bureau of Labor Statistics

**Employability:** The more educated you are, the less likely you are to be out of work.

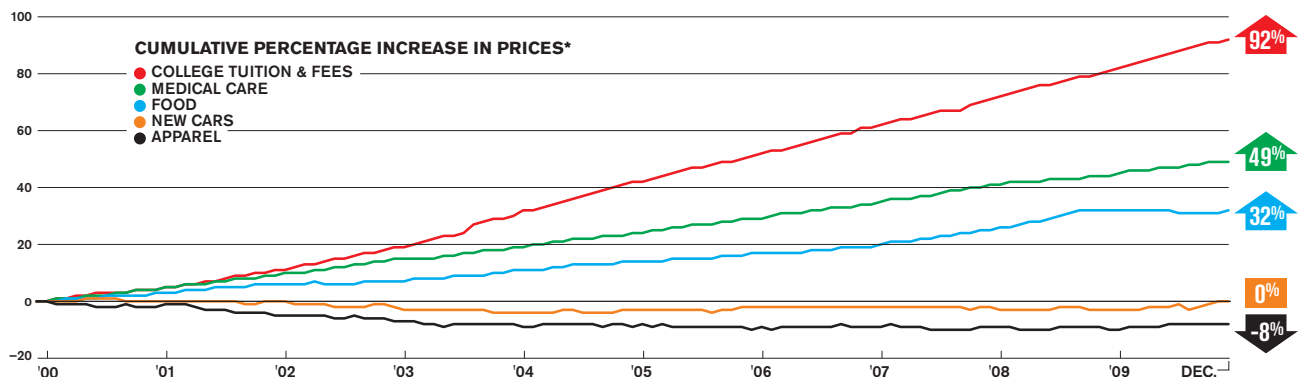
Unemployment rates by level of education\*



\*As of February 2010; seasonally adjusted  
Data: Bureau of Labor Statistics

## A SMALL PRICE TO PAY?

Inflation in higher education expenses has been nearly double that of medical care.



\*Seasonally adjusted

Data: Bureau of Labor Statistics, American Institute for Economic Research

To join a debate about whether college is worth the cost, click here  
([http://www.businessweek.com/debateroom/archives/2010/03/college\\_is\\_wort.html](http://www.businessweek.com/debateroom/archives/2010/03/college_is_wort.html)).