Certification and Licensing Facts

New Estimates From the LMI Institute’s State Certification and Licensing Data Tables

**Attainment Increases with Education**

Workers with higher levels of education are more likely to attain a certification or license.

Workers with less education have a larger increase in earnings with a certification or license.

**Attainment and Difference in Earnings by Level of Education**

- **High School Education or Less**: 8.2%, $120
- **Associate’s Degree, or Some College, No Degree**: 19.7%, $97
- **Bachelor’s Degree or Higher**: 30.1%, $61

**Findings by State**

- **Maine** has the highest attainment rate of any state (21.8%).
- **Delaware** has the lowest attainment rate (14.3%).
- **Hawaii** has the largest increase in earnings with a certification or license of any state ($422 or 55%).
- **Iowa** has the smallest increase in earnings with a certification or license of any state ($181 or 23.2%).

**Why do certifications and licenses matter?**

Job seekers and workers with a certification or government-issued occupational license signal to employers and customers that they have the skills needed to perform their trade.

**Where are people with certifications and licenses?**

Between 14 and 22 percent of each state’s population have attained a certification or license.

**Attainment and Difference in Earnings by Level of Education**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Level</th>
<th>Attainment Rate</th>
<th>Earnings Difference: With and Without a Certification or License</th>
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<tbody>
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Poll and Tableau Microdata released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.