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.

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.

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%).

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Our research confirms other reports on national trends regarding certification and licensing:

- Employed people with higher levels of education are more likely to have attained a certification or license.
- Employed people with a certification or license tend to have higher earnings.
- People 25 and older are more likely to have attained a certification or license and have a greater return to earnings with a certification or license than people younger than 25.