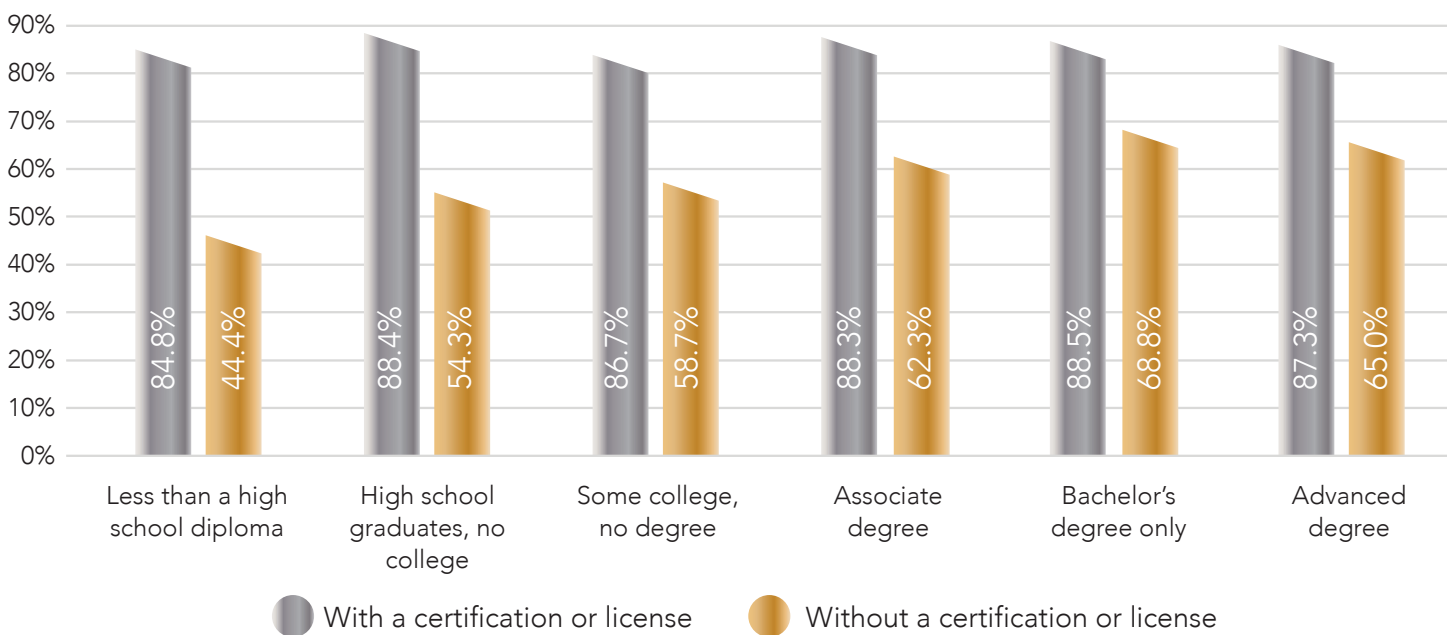


The value of certifications and licenses

Individuals with a certification or professional license have higher labor market participation rates.

Labor force participation rates of people 25 years and older by professional certification and licensing status and education attainment: 2018



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, “Professional Certifications and Occupational Licenses: Evidence From the Current Population Survey,” June 2019.



Professional certifications and licenses have been important in promoting employment pipelines for individuals, especially in occupations such as healthcare, law and project management. The Bureau of Labor Statistics used Current Population Survey (CPS) data to examine labor market participation in the U.S. by education attainment and whether the individual had a professional certification or license. In 2018, there were more than 43 million people in the U.S. with a professional certification or license. Certification or license status was less important as education attainment levels increased (except for holding an advanced degree). The gap between those with and without a certification or license was 40.4 percentage points (84.8 percent compared to 44.4 percent) for individuals whose highest educational attainment was less than a high school degree, while the gap for associate degree completers was 26 percentage points (88.3 percent compared to 62.3 percent).

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