

## **Thinking of getting more training or education?**

*This section will help you consider your options.*

It won't surprise you that higher education brings higher pay. That fact is well known. But a closer look shows that the "learn more, earn more" formula doesn't hold true for everyone. College-educated people earn more as a group than people without degrees. But here in Indianapolis and throughout Central Indiana, thousands of workers with vocational certificates or associate's degrees are earning more than a lot of people with bachelor's degrees. The average bachelor's degree wage is higher, but about half of all people with bachelor's degrees earn less than the average. Some earn a lot less.

***Each of the following charts shows the wage range for people in Central Indiana with a particular level of education. You will notice the wide range of hourly wages. The height of the blue bars shows how many people in our region are earning a particular hourly wage.***

By looking at the chart that fits with your level of education, you can see how you compare with others. Is your wage within the fattest part of the chart? Then you are earning about what most people with your experience and education earn. Is your wage far to the right side where the bars are shorter? Then you already have one of the best-paying jobs in Central Indiana.

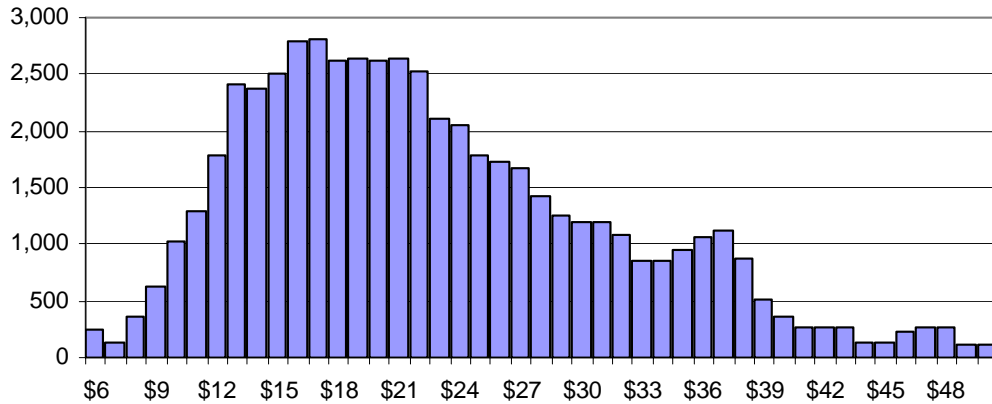
By looking at the other charts, you can learn what might happen if you get more education. Chances are you'll earn more. But if your wages already are relatively high for your education level, you may find that the people in the jobs that require more education earn the same as or even less than you. If so, going to the next higher level of training won't necessarily help you. You should be certain that any training you get is in demand – by your current employer or someone else.

As you look at the charts, you also may notice that some people with an associate's degree are earning less than \$10 an hour. Others with the same kind of degree are making more than \$40 an hour. What's the difference?

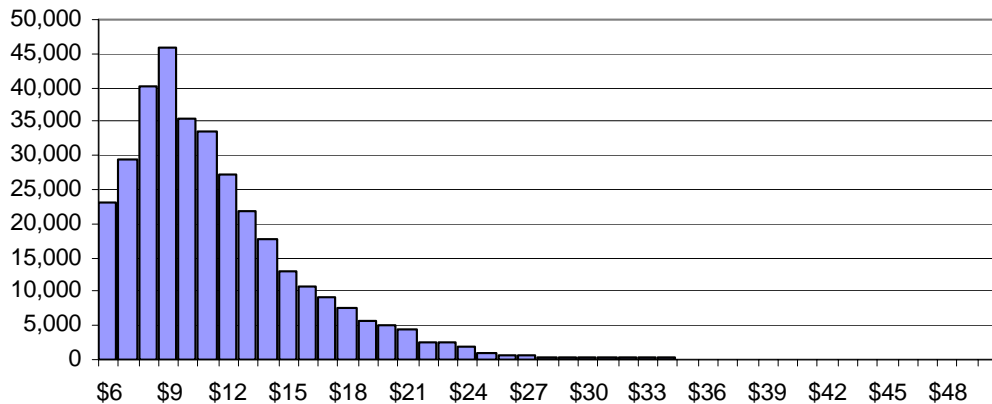
There are several answers. First, not all degrees are equal. People who prepare for occupations that are in high demand will earn more. Second, job experience is very important. The people earning lower wages often have little or no experience or seniority. People earning the top wages probably took several years to get there. Third, some employers just pay more than others.

If you want to understand the job market better, please discuss your questions with an employment counselor at your nearest WorkOne center.

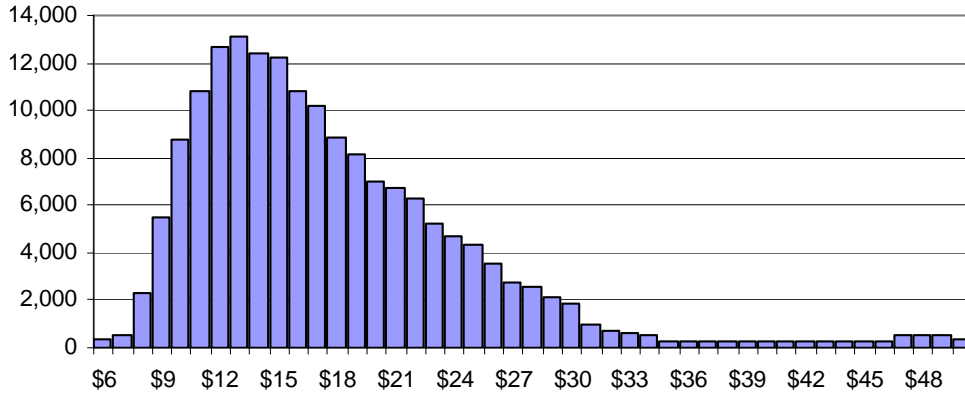
**Wage curve for occupations requiring work experience in the field**



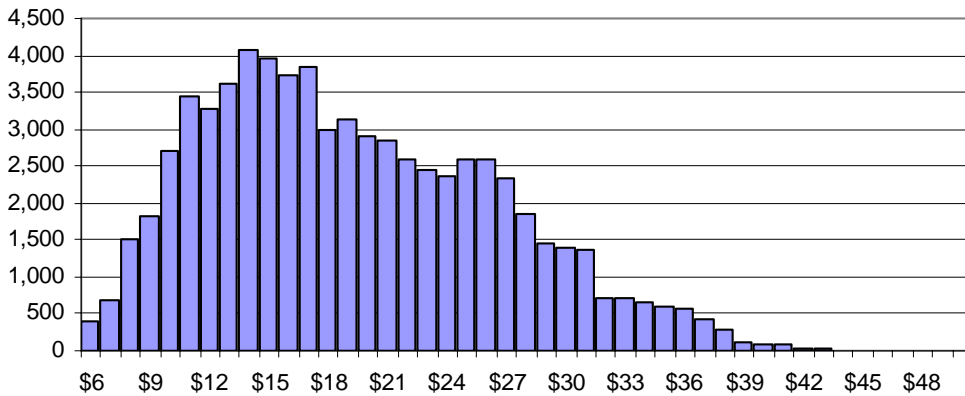
**Wage curve for occupations requiring short-term on-the-job training**



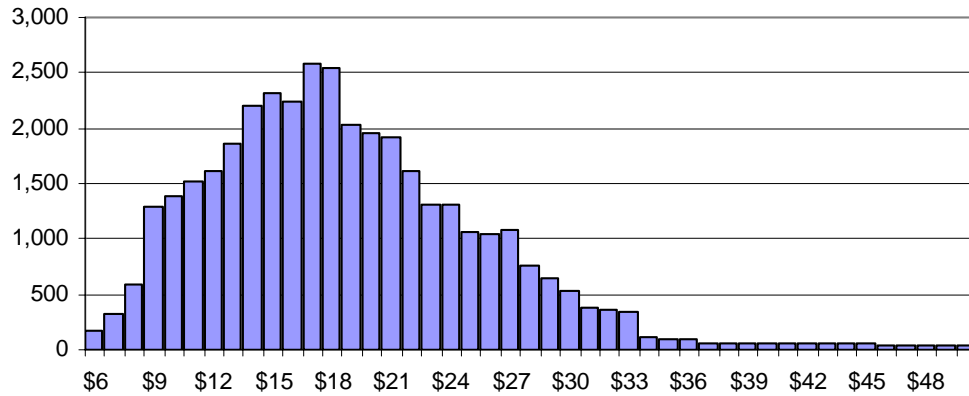
**Wage curve for occupations requiring moderate-term on-the-job training**



**Wage curve for occupations requiring long-term on-the-job training**



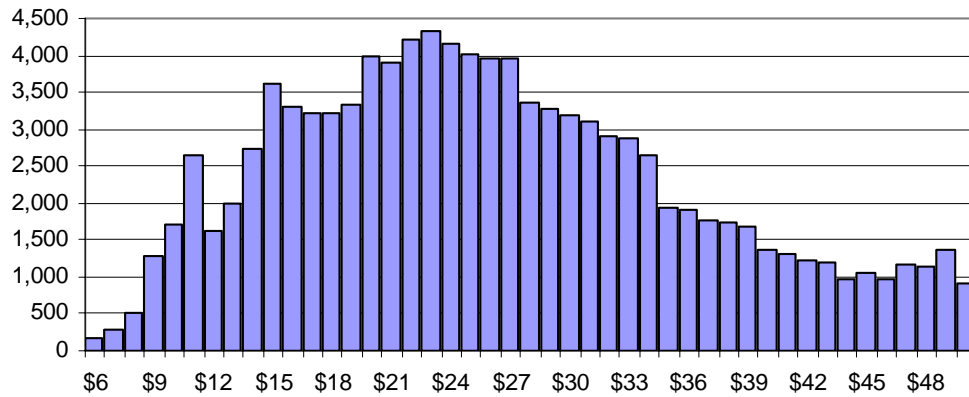
**Wage curve for occupations requiring postsecondary vocational training**



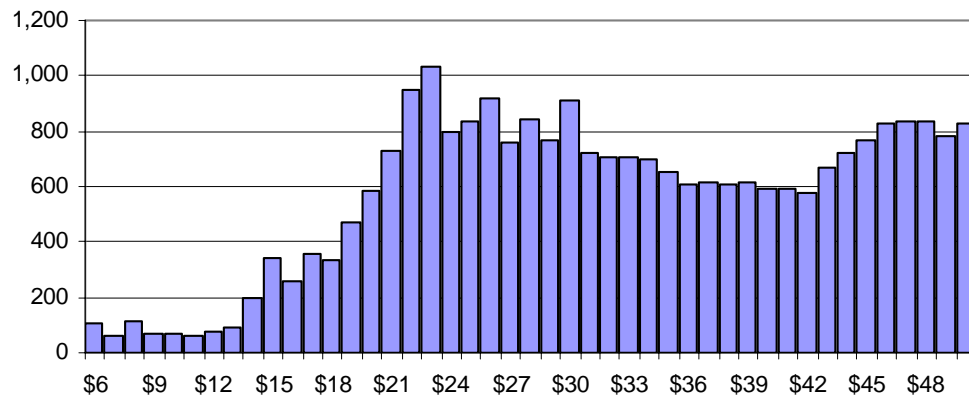
**Wage curve for occupations requiring associate's degree**



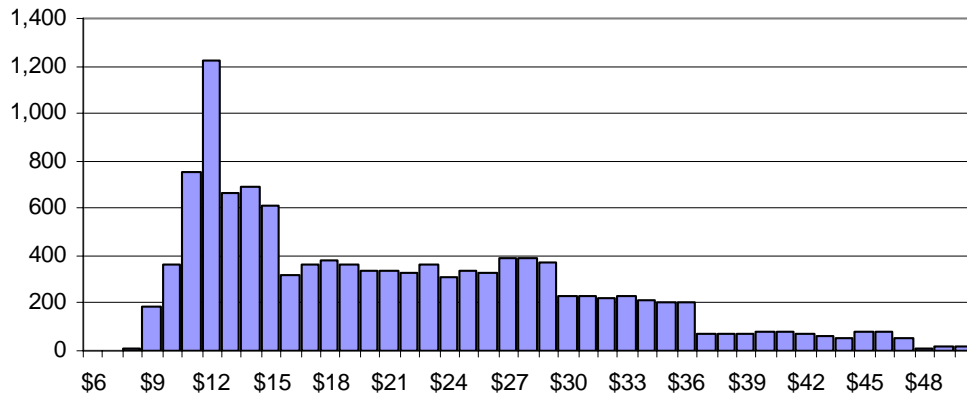
**Wage curve for occupations requiring bachelor's degree**



**Wage curve for occupations requiring bachelor's degree + experience**



**Wage curve for occupations requiring master's degree**



**Wage curve for occupations requiring first professional degree**

