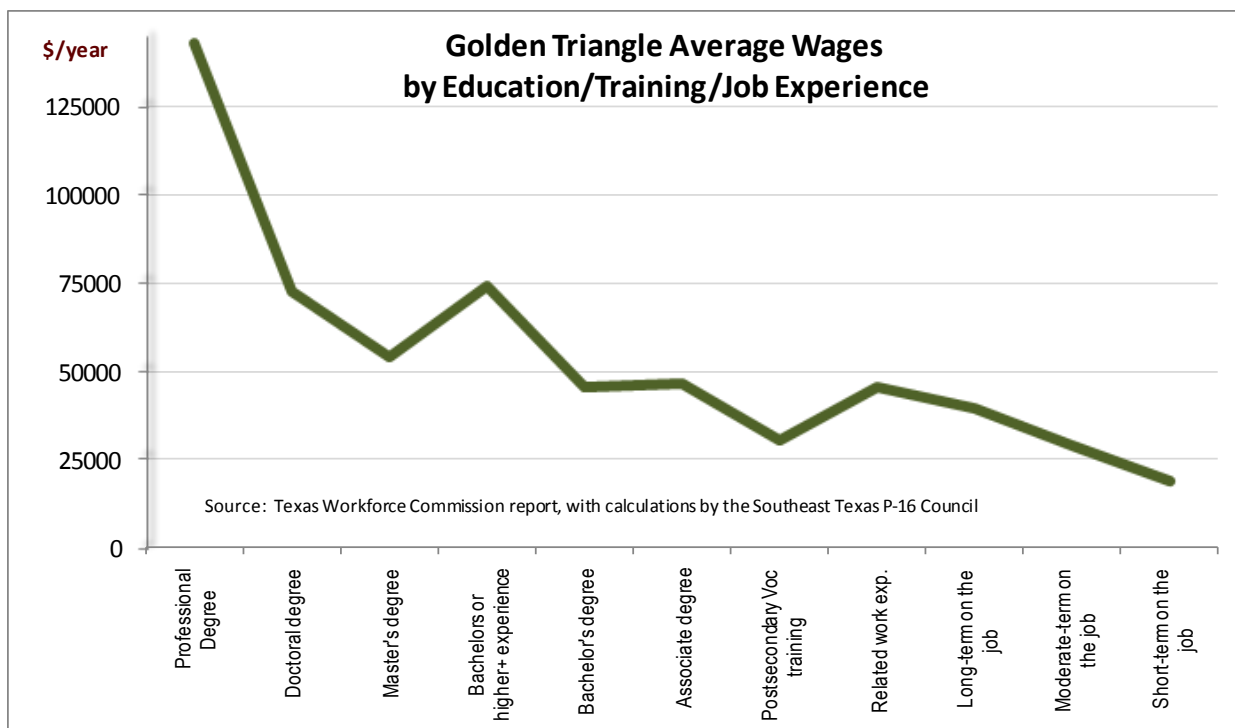


What's an education worth in Southeast Texas ?

"For generations of Americans, the high school diploma delivered on the value of an education. It got you a ticket to the American Dream. That meant a steady job to support your family and a chance to launch a career.

"But now, high school is no longer high enough. Success in the 21st century demands skills, attitudes, and abilities that make some form of postsecondary education a virtual requirement. In today's world, a postsecondary credential has become as important as a high school diploma used to be." — *Bill Gates Foundation* .

A high school diploma alone will not get you high paying jobs. You need to get career ready with post-secondary education — 2-year degree, 4-year degree, apprenticeship, military, or other.



In Southeast Texas, the average worker with a Bachelor's or Associate's degree will earn about \$25,000 a year more than someone without a high school education . Only long-term on-th-job training can bring the average worker with just a high school graduate up to the \$39,000 level

Those with Bachelor's degrees and higher levels of experience and earn an average of \$74,000— nearly three times those with only a high school education and moderate term on -the-job training.

The need for Highly Skilled workers is skyrocketing

Change in Regional Manufacturing Employment, 1983 to 2002

Percentage Change

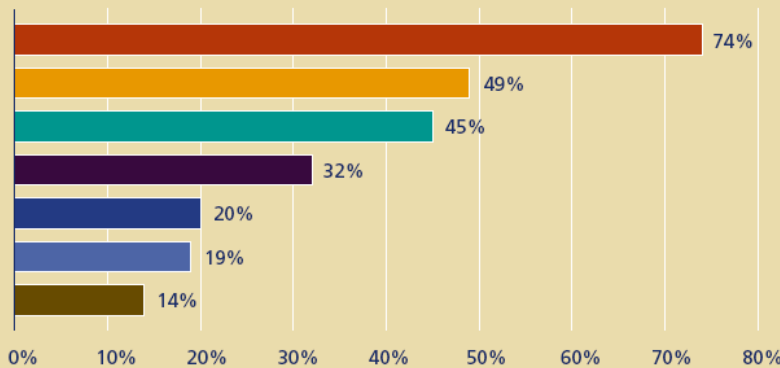
Region	Total	High-Skilled
Mountain	24.3	91.7
West North Central	12.1	60.9
West South Central	5.0	144.2
East South Central	3.5	29.2
East North Central	0.2	37.2
Pacific	-1.9	18.8
South Atlantic	-8.8	63.4
Middle Atlantic	-33.5	-0.2
New England	-34.4	12.8
United States	-9.3	36.6

Texas is in the West South Central region of the United States. Note that in this region, manufacturing employment rose only slightly over 10 years, while the High Skilled part of that workforce skyrocketed — increasing faster here than in any other region.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey.

The strongest need employers have is for higher skilled and high performance workers

Figure 2. Given Changes in the Economy and Business Environment, Which of the Following Will Be Most Important to Your Company's Future Business Success Over the Next Three Years? (Select Up to Three)



This survey question given to businesses in the United States showed that having a high performance workforce was the leading factor they considered important to their company's growth.

Southeast Texas
Closing the Gaps
P16-Council

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