

Investigating Labor Statistics Portfolio

Answer Key

Directions: You will need to use the labor statistics document as a reference during this portfolio assessment. Complete the chart for Part 1. Then answer the questions for Part 2.

Part 1

What is your gender?	Male or Female
You are currently working toward earning a high school diploma. What would be your median weekly earnings based on your current education level?	Male: \$607/wk Female: \$469/wk
What will your median weekly earnings be after you graduate from high school but before you have any college education?	Male: \$819/wk Female: \$616/wk
What is the difference between your median weekly earnings with and without a high school diploma?	Male: $\$819/\text{wk} - \$607/\text{wk} = \$212/\text{wk}$ Female: $\$616/\text{wk} - \$469/\text{wk} = \$147/\text{wk}$
Think about your educational goals. What level of education do you aspire to have?	Answers will vary. Sample answer: I will earn a Bachelor's degree.
What are the median weekly earnings for someone of your gender with that level of education?	Answers will vary.
What is the difference between your median weekly earnings with your goal level of education and with a high school diploma but no college?	Answers will vary.

Part 2

1. Based on your current education level, what would be your median **yearly** earnings?

Male: $(\$607/\text{wk})(52 \text{ wk}/\text{yr}) = \$31,564/\text{yr}$

Female: $(\$469/\text{wk})(52 \text{ wk}/\text{yr}) = \$24,388/\text{yr}$

2. Once you graduate from high school, what will be your median **yearly** earnings?

Male: $(\$819/\text{wk})(52 \text{ wk}/\text{yr}) = \$42,588/\text{yr}$

Female: $(\$616/\text{wk})(52 \text{ wk}/\text{yr}) = \$32,032/\text{yr}$

3. If you achieve your education goal from Part 1, what will be your median **yearly** earnings?

Answers will vary.

4. Describe the connection between educational attainment and median earnings. Are you surprised? How does this make you feel about your education goals?

Answers will vary. Students should mention the significant increase in median weekly earnings as higher levels of education are attained.