

Diploma is income safety net

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 The value of high school diplomas and college degrees in the Sacramento region last year, even as school district cutbacks are raising university fees for obtaining them more than last year, median earnings of workers without a high school diploma fell to \$18,394 in 2009, an 11 percent drop from 2008, new census

figures show. High school dropouts made 65 cents for each dollar earned by graduates, a decline of 3 cents from the previous year.

And those with only a high school diploma earned just 54 cents for each dollar earned by those with a bachelor's degree, down 5 cents from the prior year.

A college graduate in Sacramento now generally earns as much in four months as a

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DURING DOWNTURN, EDUCATION PAYS OFF

Those with more education have recently seen their earnings fall much less than those with little, new census figures show.

Median earnings by education level for adults 25 and older, Sacramento region

Education level	2008	2009	Change
Less than high school graduate	\$20,762	\$18,394	-11.4%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	\$30,590	\$28,032	-8.4%
Some college or associate's degree	\$36,868	\$35,274	-4.3%
Bachelor's degree	\$51,422	\$51,247	-0.3%
Graduate or professional degree	\$69,162	\$73,272	+5.9%
TOTAL MEDIAN	\$38,815	\$37,359	-3.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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FIRMS TOUGHEN SAFETY RULES AND FIRE USERS

By **KATIE ZEZIMA**
 AND **ABBY GOODNOUGH**
New York Times

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