

EDUCATION AND EARNINGS

Key Findings: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom, United States

In 1999, adults ages 25 to 64 in the United States who completed less than upper secondary education earned, on average, about 67 percent of the earnings of adults who completed upper secondary education (figure 3 1a).

The earnings disadvantage for noncompleters of upper secondary education was smaller in the United States than in the United Kingdom and Italy, where upper secondary noncompleters earned 65 percent and 58 percent of the average earnings of completers of upper secondary education, respectively (figure 3 1a).

However, noncompleters of upper secondary education in the United States were at more of a disadvantage compared to completers in Germany, Canada, and France. In 1999, noncompleters of upper secondary education earned, on average, about 78 percent of the earnings of completers in Germany, about 83 percent of the earnings of completers in Canada, and about 84 percent of the earnings of completers in France (figure 3 1a).

Completers of academic higher education ages 25 to 64 in the United States earned, on average, about 180 percent of the earnings of completers of upper secondary education in 1999. The relative advantage of U.S. higher education completers over upper secondary education completers was greater than in the other four countries reporting data, although in every country presented those who completed academic higher education earned more than those who only completed upper secondary education (figure 3 1b).

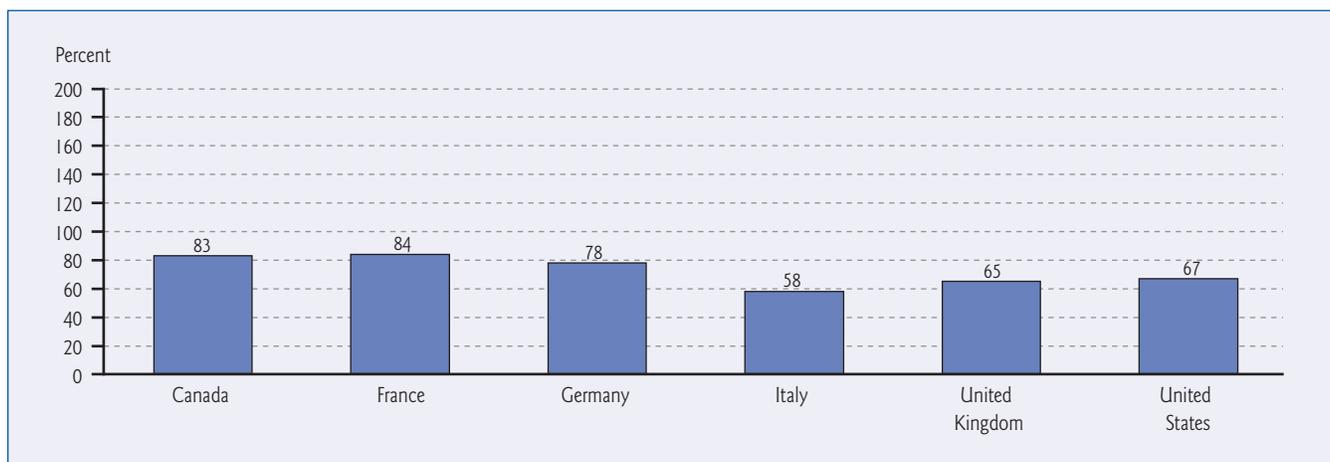
In the United Kingdom and France, in 1999, completers of academic higher education earned, on average, around 170 percent of the earnings of completers of upper secondary education. In Canada and Germany, completers of academic higher education earned, on average, 152 percent and 157 percent of the earnings of completers of upper secondary education, respectively (figure 3 1b).

Definition and Methodology

Relative earnings from employment are defined as the mean earnings (income from work before taxes) of persons at a given level of educational attainment divided by the mean earnings of persons with an upper secondary education multiplied by 100. These

estimates are restricted to individuals with income from employment during the reference period. Earnings are annual for the six countries reporting with the exception of France, which used monthly figures.

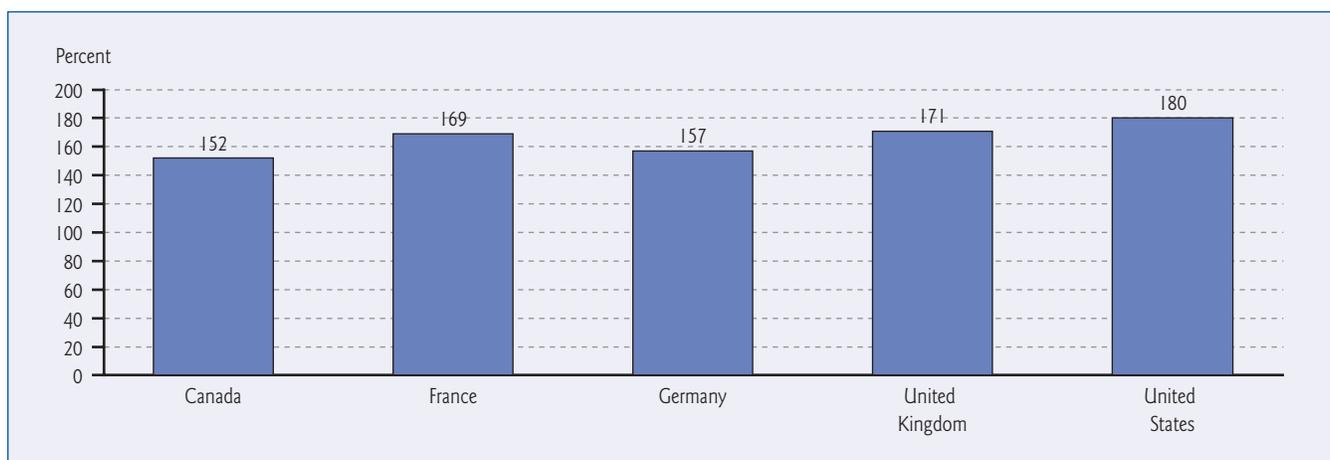
Figure 31a. Relative earnings of the adult population ages 25 to 64 who completed less than upper secondary education compared to adults who completed upper secondary education, by country: 1997, 1998, or 1999



NOTE: The United Kingdom includes England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. Data reported in 1997 for Canada, data reported in 1998 for Germany and Italy, data reported in 1999 for France, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Relative earning percentages are derived from the indexed relative earnings values reported by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Upper secondary education is set to 100.

SOURCE: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, *Education at a Glance*, 2001, Table E 5.1.

Figure 31b. Relative earnings of the adult population ages 25 to 64 who completed higher education compared to adults who completed upper secondary education, by country: 1997, 1998, or 1999



NOTE: The United Kingdom includes England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. Data reported in 1997 for Canada, data reported in 1998 for Germany and Italy, data reported in 1999 for France, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Relative earning percentages are derived from the indexed relative earnings values reported by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Upper secondary education is set to 100.

SOURCE: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, *Education at a Glance*, 2001, Table E 5.1.

Education and Earnings – Data Tables

Table A-31. Relative earnings of the adult population ages 25 to 64, by level of education and country (upper secondary set to 100): 1997, 1998, or 1999

| Country | Below upper secondary education | Upper secondary education | All higher education | Higher academic education |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Canada ¹ | 83 | 100 | 128 | 152 |
| France ² | 84 | 100 | 150 | 169 |
| Germany ³ | 78 | 100 | 130 | 157 |
| Italy ³ | 58 | 100 | 127 | — |
| United Kingdom ² | 65 | 100 | 157 | 171 |
| United States ² | 67 | 100 | 173 | 180 |

¹ Data reported in 1997.

² Data reported in 1999.

³ Data reported in 1998.

— Data not available or missing.

NOTE: The United Kingdom includes England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. Data reported in 1997 for Canada, data reported in 1998 for Germany and Italy, data reported in 1999 for France, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Relative earning percentages are derived from the indexed relative earnings values reported by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Upper secondary education is set to 100.

SOURCE: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, *Education at a Glance*, 2001, Table E 5.1.