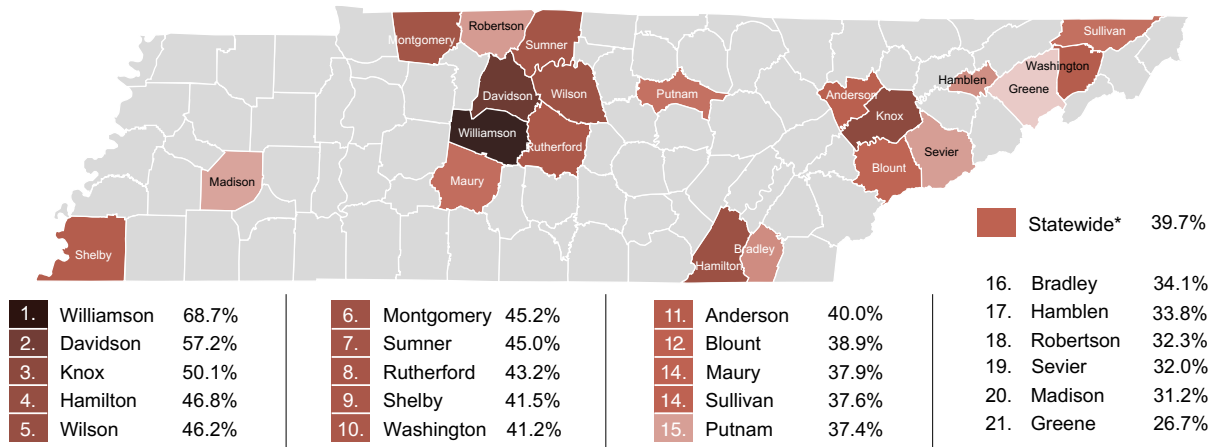


Figure 4. In Tennessee's Most Populous Counties, 25% to 68% of Adults Aged 25+ Have at Least an Associate's Degree

% of Tennesseans Ages 25+ with an Associate's Degree or Higher (2023)

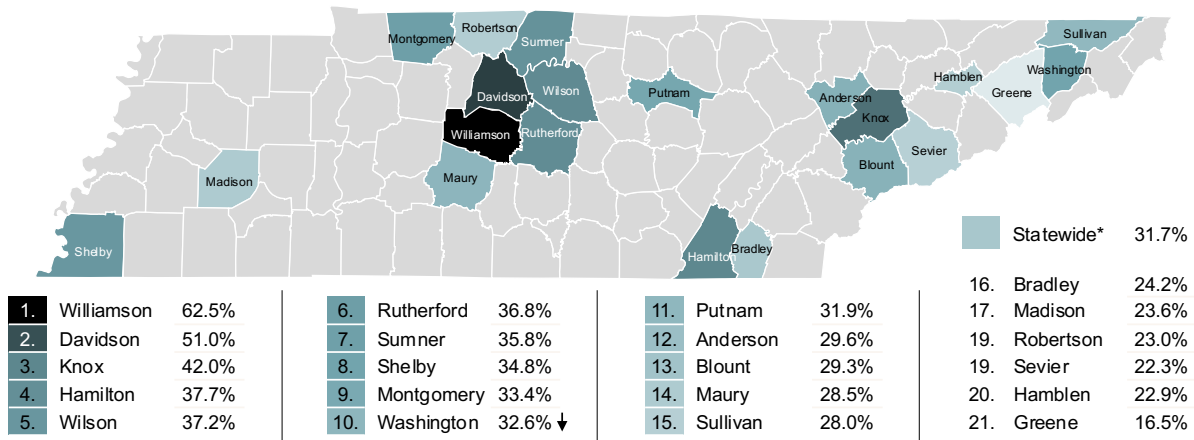


Due to the margins of error, the differences in 2022 and 2023 estimates are not statistically significant. *One-year estimates are unavailable for the 74 grey counties due to small sample sizes, but the statewide estimate includes every county.

Source: 2022-2023 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (1)

Figure 5. In Tennessee's Most Populous Counties, 20% to 63% of Adults Aged 25+ Have at Least a Bachelor's Degree

% of Tennesseans Ages 25+ with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher (2023)



↓↑ Denotes a statistically significant change from 2022. Due to the margins of error, the difference in all other 2022 and 2023 estimates is not statistically significant. *One-year estimates are unavailable for the 74 grey counties due to small sample sizes, but the statewide estimate includes every county.

Source: 2022-2023 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (1)

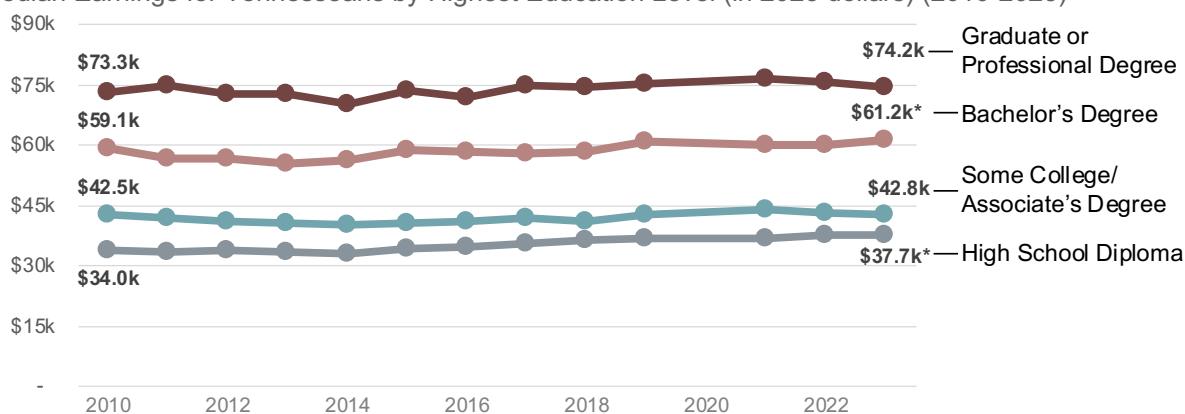
Education and Earnings in Tennessee

Higher education levels continue to be associated with higher earnings in Tennessee (Figure 6). In 2023, for example, Tennesseans with a bachelor's degree had median earnings of about \$57,500. In other words, half of the people in that group made more, and half earned less. For comparison, median earnings were 28% lower for Tennesseans with only some college or an associate's degree—about \$42,000.

Since 2010, median earnings grew for Tennesseans with a high school diploma and those with bachelor's degrees, while the others remained unchanged (Figure 6). (1) (2) After adjusting for inflation, the earnings for those with a high school diploma increased 11% from 2010 to 2023, while earnings were up 4% for those with a bachelor's degree. The difference between 2023 and 2010 earnings for those with some college or an associate's degree and those with a graduate degree was not statistically significant.

Figure 6. Median Earnings Have Grown for Tennesseans at Every Education Level

Median Earnings for Tennesseans by Highest Education Level (in 2023 dollars) (2010-2023)



Inflation-adjusted median earnings are shown in 2023 dollars using the CPI-U. (2) Note: Due to pandemic-related disruptions, detailed ACS 1-year estimates are unavailable for 2020. *Denotes a statistically significant change from 2010. Due to the margins of error, the difference in all other 2010 and 2023 estimates is not statistically significant. Sources: 2010-2023 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (1)

THE SYCAMORE INSTITUTE

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1. **U.S. Census Bureau.** 2010-2023 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. [Online] September 2024. Available via <http://data.census.gov>.
2. **U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.** Consumer Price Index: CPI-U. [Online] Accessed from <https://www.bls.gov/>.

Table A1. 2022-2023 Census Data on Tennesseans' Education Levels

American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (2022-2023)

	% of Adults 25+ with an Associate's Degree or Higher		% of Adults 25+ with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher	
	2022	2023	2022	2023
Tennessee	38.9%	39.7%	31.1%	31.7%
Anderson	38.0%	40.0%	25.8%	29.6%
Blount	39.8%	38.9%	29.3%	29.3%
Bradley	38.0%	34.1%	26.7%	24.2%
Davidson	55.0%	57.2%	49.1%	51.0%
Greene	27.3%	26.7%	20.7%	16.5%
Hamblen	25.4%	33.8%	20.0%	22.9%
Hamilton	47.2%	46.8%	38.4%	37.7%
Knox	49.3%	50.1%	39.8%	42.0%
Madison	31.9%	31.2%	22.4%	23.6%
Maury	36.3%	37.9%	28.3%	28.5%
Montgomery	43.5%	45.2%	31.1%	33.4%
Putnam	38.1%	37.4%	30.9%	31.9%
Robertson	31.8%	32.3%	22.4%	23.0%
Rutherford	42.5%	43.2%	33.8%	36.8%
Sevier	30.5%	32.0%	23.3%	22.3%
Shelby	42.8%	41.5%	35.6%	34.8%
Sullivan	34.5%	37.6%	24.7%	28.0%
Sumner	43.8%	45.0%	34.9%	35.8%
Washington	45.1%	41.2%	37.2%	32.6%*
Williamson	67.7%	68.7%	62.6%	62.5%
Wilson	45.7%	46.2%	35.9%	37.2%

*Denotes a statistically significant change from 2022. Due to the margins of error, the difference in other 2022 and 2023 estimates is not statistically significant.

Notes: Because of small sample size, one-year estimates are unavailable for the 74 TN counties with populations below 65,000. However, statewide estimates include residents of every county.

Source: 2022-2023 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates