

EDUCATION

During the intercensal period, very significant strides were made in the area of educational attainment. Table 1 shows that between 1980 and 1991, the proportion of the population aged 16 years or older who had progressed beyond primary level education in their formal schooling rose from 72% to 84% of the population.

Table 1
Population Aged 16 Years and Older by Highest Level of Educational Attainment
1991 and 1980

Level of Educational Attainment	1991		1980	
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total
All Levels of Attainment	46,348	100	40,855	100
No formal schooling	192	**	481	1
Nursery/Pre-school	18	**	28	**
Primary	7,190	16	10,265	25
Secondary	18,561	40	19,741	48
College/University	19,948	43	7,996	20
Other	295	1	1,575	4
Not Stated	144	**	769	2

**less than 1%

Within this general improvement in educational levels of the population, there was a dramatic rise in the number of people who had attended college or university : more than a two-fold increase over the period with nearly 20,000 people having attended such institutions in 1991 compared to some 8,000 persons in 1980.

A significant part of the above change was attributable to the influx of persons with university degrees to fill professional, technical and managerial jobs in Bermuda's expanding economy. However, Table 2 shows that Bermudians made significant strides of their own in the important area of educational qualifications.

Table 2 differs from Table 1 in that it analyses the educational profile of the adult population by reference to completed levels of educational achievement generally recognized by the award of certificates, diplomas and degrees. Table 2 also provides separate profiles for the Bermudian and non-Bermudian components of the civilian non-institutional population.

Table 2
Population Aged 16 years and older by Bermudian Status and Highest Educational Qualification 1991 and 1980

	1991*			1980		
	Total	Bermudian	Non-Bermudian	Total	Bermudian	Non-Bermudian
All Qualifications	46,348	36,097	10,232	40,855	32,466	8,389
No formal certificates	16,983	14,844	2,134	22,489	19,886	2,603
High school (SLC,GCE,BSSC)	14,535	11,648	2,879	9,623	7,228	2,395
Diploma	8,555	5,981	2,572	3,763	2,450	1,313
Degree	5,857	3,333	2,522	3,130	1,530	1,600
Other	255	161	94	1,178	886	292
Not Stated	163	130	31	672	486	186

Percentage Distribution

All Qualifications	100	100	100	100	100	100
No formal certificates	37	41	21	55	61	31
High school (SLC,GCE,BSSC)	31	32	28	24	22	29
Diploma	19	17	25	9	8	16
Degree	13	9	25	8	5	19
Other/Not stated	1	1	1	4	4	6

* Nineteen persons who did not answer question on Bermudian status are not included in the analysis.

Table 2 reflects the results of the increased availability of scholarships, awards and student loans for higher education during the intercensal period. Bermudians took advantage of the opportunities and as a result, the number of Bermudians with college and university degrees more than doubled between 1980 and 1991, increasing from approximately 1,500 to about 3,300 in 1991.

The stimulus toward higher educational standards was partially rooted in the growing awareness of the correlation between education and job type, and between education and earning capacity. Table 3 shows the median income of persons in the workforce according to their level of education. It shows clearly that higher levels of educational qualifications confer higher earnings potential. This does not mean, for example, that a person with a high-school qualification will never earn more than someone with a university degree; it simply means that on balance, those with higher qualifications will tend to earn more than those who finished their formal schooling at a less advanced stage.

Table 3
Median Annual Incomes by Education Level of Earner 1991

Level of Qualification	Median Annual Income*
No formal certificates	\$20,016
RSA/BSSC	\$24,360
GCE 1-4/BSSC	\$26,400
GCE 5+/GCE 'A' Level	\$28,116
Technical certificate	\$28,776
Assoc. degree/Bermuda College	\$30,468
Bachelor's Degree	\$37,248
Master's Degree	\$47,700
Doctorate (Ph.D.)	\$62,988

* Income includes wages, salaries, pensions, investment income, etc.

Apart from earning capacity and job type, education influences other dimensions as well, for example, fertility patterns and family size. These influences are merely alluded to here, leaving further comment for follow-up studies.

