

→ Fast Facts

→ Degrees conferred

An increase in the number of post-secondary degrees conferred in all general categories is expected to continue between now and 2020. Between 2007 and 2020, the number of bachelor's degrees is projected to increase 23 percent overall (21 percent for men; 25 percent for women). The projected increase for master's degrees for the same period is 24 percent overall. For doctoral degrees: 54 percent overall (39 percent for men; 68 percent for women).

W. J. Hussar and T. M. Bailey (2011), Projections of Education Statistics to 2019 (NCES 2011-017), National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C., nces.ed.gov/pubst2011/2011017.pdf (retrieved March 10, 2011).

→ Instapaper

Instapaper is a simple tool to save Web pages for reading later. It facilitates easy offline reading of long textual Web content. As users discover Web content throughout the day, but may not have time to read it right away, they can mark them for later reading on a home computer or handheld device such as an iPad, smart phone, or Kindle. Users can also choose to print articles on paper.

www.instapaper.com (retrieved February 11, 2011).

→ Mobile workforce

The market intelligence firm IDC indicates that approximately 1 billion people fit the definition of mobile workers. They project that fully one-third of the global workforce—1.2 billion workers—will perform their work from multiple locations by 2013. Improvements in technology may facilitate this trend. For example, advances in gesture-based computing technologies are expected to make interactions with mobile electronic devices more intuitive and, one assumes, more usable by a broader spectrum of people.

L. Johnson, R. Smith, H. Willis, A. Levine, and K. Haywood (2011), The 2011 Horizon Report, Austin, Texas: The New Media Consortium, net.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/HR2011.pdf (retrieved March 1, 2011).

→ Female educational attainment

The trend toward increasing female educational attainment is not limited to the United States. In 2010, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) reported that females earned, on average, 58 percent of undergraduate degrees conferred in OECD countries. OECD member countries reported that in the fields of humanities, arts, education, health and welfare, women comprised nearly two-thirds of graduates; however, in science and technology, females made up only about one-quarter of graduates.

"Women in America: Indications of Social and Economic Well-being," U.S. Department of Commerce Economics and Statistics Administration, www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/rss_viewer/Women_in_America.pdf (retrieved March 10, 2011).

Gary Pattillo is reference librarian at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, e-mail: pattillo@email.unc.edu