

Survey of Household Economics and Decisionmaking: Higher Education Decisions

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ARTURO GONZALEZ. An important component of lifetime financial well-being is higher education, which is explored in a number of ways in the Federal Reserve Board's 2015 Survey of Household Economics and Decisionmaking.

JEFF LARRIMORE. Whether individuals feel that their education is worth the cost is impacted by, one, whether they completed their degree, and, two, by the type of institution that they attended. Those who didn't complete a degree, as well as those who completed a degree from a for-profit school, are less likely to feel their education paid off, compared to those who completed the degree from a public or from a non-profit school. In this survey, we also asked individuals what they would do differently if they could remake their educational choices. We find that just under half of people who went to a for-profit college would have attended a different school. We also see numbers of people who wished that they had completed more education than they did.

ARTURO GONZALEZ. The type of institution attended also appears to play a role in individuals' financial outcomes, as those who borrowed to attend a for-profit institution are more likely to be behind on their student loans than those who borrowed for their education at a public or non-profit school.