Table 1.

**Synthetic Work-Life Earnings by Educational Attainment**

(In dollars. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www)

Educational attainment Synthetic work-life earnings Margin of error

None to 8th grade .................... . 936,000 7,000

9th to 12th grade ..................... . 1,099,000 7,000

High school graduate.................. . 1,371,000 3,000

Some college........................ . 1,632,000 5,000

Associate’s degree ................... . 1,813,000 9,000

Bachelor’s degree .................... . 2,422,000 8,000

Master’s degree...................... . 2,834,000 13,000

Professional degree................... . 4,159,000 33,000

Doctorate degree..................... . 3,525,000 29,000

Note: Synthetic work-life earnings represent expected earnings over a 40-year time period for the population aged 25–64 who maintain full-time, year-round employment the entire time. Calculations are based on median annual earnings from a single point in time for eight 5-year age groups and multiplied by five. 1

The margin of error can be interpreted roughly as providing a 90 percent probability that the interval defined by the estimate minus the margin of error and the estimate plus the margin of error (the lower and upper confidence bounds) contains the true value.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey.