CURRENT POPULATION REPORTS

CONSUMER INCOME

August 28, 1962 | Washington 25, D.C. | Series P-60, No. 38

AVERAGE FAMILY INCOME INCREASES IN 1961

(Advance data from March 1962 sample survey)

The average (median) money income of families in the United States was about $5,700 in 1961, according to estimates released today by the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce. This estimate, from a sample survey of some 26,000 households, was about $120, or 2 percent, higher than in 1960. Consumer prices rose during this period by about 1 percent; therefore, any increase in family income greater than this amount represented a net gain in purchasing power for the average family.[1]

About 10 million families, or 21 percent of the 46½ million families in the Nation, received money incomes under $3,000 in 1961. The number of families in that income range remained about the same as a year earlier. Another 9 million, or 20 percent, received incomes between $3,000 and $5,000 last year; and 10 million, or 22 percent, had incomes between $5,000 and $7,000. The remaining 17 million families, or 37 percent, reported incomes of $7,000 or more, representing an increase of about 1½ million families in this class since the March 1961 survey.

Table A.—NUMBER OF FAMILIES BY 1961 FAMILY INCOME, FOR THE UNITED STATES

Family income	Number of families
Total	46,341,000
Under $1,000	2,316,000
$1,000 to $1,999	3,573,000
$2,000 to $2,999	4,037,000
$3,000 to $3,999	4,387,000
$4,000 to $4,999	4,845,000
$5,000 to $5,999	5,439,000
$6,000 to $6,999	4,714,000
$7,000 to $7,999	4,231,000
$8,000 to $9,999	5,375,000
$10,000 to $14,999	5,219,000
$15,000 and over	2,205,000

For men, last year's median income advanced to $4,200, up $110, or 3 percent, from the preceding year. At $1,300, the median income of women in 1961 remained substantially the same as in 1960 and 1959.

[1] The Consumer Price Index of the Department of Labor averaged 103.1 in 1960 and 104.2 in 1961 (1957-59=100).

The 1961 income statistics presented in this report were obtained from the Bureau's Current Population Survey of March 1962. More detailed income data from the survey for families and persons will appear in a report to be issued later this year. Income statistics collected in the 1960 Census of Population appear in a number of published reports. Basic distributions of persons 14 years old and over, families, and unrelated individuals, by money income in 1959, for the United States, each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico are presented in U.S. Census of Population: 1960, "General Social and Economic Characteristics," Series PC(1)-1C to 53C. Statistics on income in 1959 by detailed characteristics, including cross-classifications by age, weeks worked, education, type of family, etc., are presented in Series PC(1)-D Reports entitled "Detailed Characteristics" for some or all of the following areas: States and their urban and rural parts, large counties, and standard metropolitan statistical areas of 250,000 or more.

The information on income in 1961 was collected from the civilian noninstitutional population and members of the Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post in the United States. Income data cover money income only, prior to deductions for taxes. The fact that many farm workers do not pay rent for their living quarters and that many receive an important part of their income in the form of goods produced and consumed on the farm rather than in money should be taken into consideration in comparing the income of farm and nonfarm residents.

Total income is defined as the sum of money wage or salary income, net income from self-employment, and income other than earnings, such as net rents, interest, dividends, Social Security benefits, pensions, and public assistance or other governmental payments. Family income represents the combined total received from these sources by all family members during the calendar year. Earnings are defined as the sum of money wage or salary income and net income from self-employment. A year-round full-time worker is one who worked primarily at full-time jobs (35 hours or more per week) for 50 weeks or more during 1961.

The median income is the amount which divides an income distribution into two equal groups, one group having incomes

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE,
Luther H. Hodges, *Secretary*

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS,
Richard M. Scammon, *Director*

For sale by the Bureau of the Census
Washington 25, D.C.
Price 10 cents.
Annual subscription (Series P-20, P-23, P-25, P-27, and P-60, combined), $3.00.

above the median and the other having incomes below the median. In comparing income data for 1961 with those for previous years, account should be taken of the fact that changes in income were accompanied by changes in prices. Therefore, an increase or decrease in income between selected years does not necessarily represent a similar change in economic well-being.

Other data relating to the income received by the population are available from the personal income series of the Department of Commerce, the Department of Agriculture's farm income series, Federal individual income tax tabulations, and Old-Age and Survivors Insurance earnings records. These sets of statistics are collected for different purposes and differ with respect to coverage and definitions. For a discussion of the comparability of these statistics with survey data collected by the Bureau of the Census, and for more detailed definitions of the terms and concepts used in this report, see Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 37, "Income of Families and Persons in the United States: 1960."

Since the estimates in this report are based on a sample, they are subject to sampling variability. Particular care should be exercised in interpreting medians and percents based on relatively small numbers of cases, as well as small differences between figures. Moreover, as in all field surveys of income, the figures are subject to errors of response and nonreporting.

Table 1.--COLOR AND FARM-NONFARM RESIDENCE: FAMILIES AND UNRELATED INDIVIDUALS BY TOTAL MONEY INCOME IN 1961, FOR THE UNITED STATES

(Median not shown where base is less than 200,000; percent not shown where less than 0.1)

Total money income	Families					Unrelated individuals				
	United States			Urban and rural nonfarm	Rural farm	United States			Urban and rural nonfarm	Rural farm
	Total	White	Nonwhite			Total	White	Nonwhite		
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under $500	2.4	2.2	4.3	2.0	7.6	14.0	12.7	21.3	13.7	21.9
$500 to $999	2.6	2.0	8.4	2.2	7.2	18.4	17.5	23.8	17.9	31.7
$1,000 to $1,499	3.6	3.1	9.0	3.3	8.1	13.2	12.9	15.0	13.1	16.0
$1,500 to $1,999	4.1	3.5	9.0	3.7	8.0	8.8	9.0	7.5	8.7	10.4
$2,000 to $2,499	4.6	4.0	9.6	4.2	8.6	7.5	7.6	6.6	7.5	6.2
$2,500 to $2,999	4.1	3.8	7.2	3.9	7.2	5.1	5.4	3.5	5.2	3.1
$3,000 to $3,499	4.8	4.6	6.8	4.7	6.8	5.4	5.2	6.6	5.5	2.8
$3,500 to $3,999	4.6	4.5	5.9	4.5	6.7	4.3	4.3	3.7	4.4	1.0
$4,000 to $4,499	5.4	5.2	6.4	5.4	4.7	4.3	4.7	2.2	4.4	1.4
$4,500 to $4,999	5.1	5.1	5.3	5.1	5.0	3.6	3.9	1.7	3.7	...
$5,000 to $5,999	11.7	12.1	8.0	11.9	9.5	6.0	6.3	4.2	6.0	4.8
$6,000 to $6,999	10.2	10.6	5.8	10.6	5.5	3.8	4.1	2.1	3.9	0.7
$7,000 to $7,999	9.1	9.7	4.3	9.5	4.7	1.7	2.0	0.2	1.8	...
$8,000 to $9,999	11.6	12.3	4.7	12.2	4.5	1.5	1.7	0.7	1.6	...
$10,000 to $14,999	11.3	12.0	4.4	11.9	4.0	1.5	1.7	0.4	1.6	...
$15,000 to $24,999	3.6	3.9	1.0	3.8	1.3	0.6	0.7	0.2	0.6	...
$25,000 and over	1.1	1.2	0.2	1.2	0.5	0.3	0.3	...	0.3	...
Median income	$5,737	$5,981	$3,191	$5,924	$3,241	$1,755	$1,885	$1,160	$1,805	$948
HEAD YEAR-ROUND FULL-TIME WORKER										
Percent of total	62.2	63.9	46.2	61.8	66.9	33.9	34.3	31.7	33.9	33.2
Median income	$6,875	$7,030	$4,628	$7,105	$3,788	$3,949	$4,127	$2,983	$4,032	...

Table 2.—SEX AND FARM-NONFARM RESIDENCE: PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER BY TOTAL MONEY INCOME IN 1961, FOR THE UNITED STATES

(Percent not shown where less than 0.1)

Total money income	Both sexes			Male			Female		
	United States	Urban and rural nonfarm	Rural farm	United States	Urban and rural nonfarm	Rural farm	United States	Urban and rural nonfarm	Rural farm
Number of persons ... thousands	127,518	117,331	10,187	61,098	55,784	5,314	66,420	61,547	4,873
Number of persons with income ... thousands	93,915	86,967	6,948	55,839	51,154	4,685	38,076	35,813	2,263
INCOME RECIPIENTS									
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
$1 to $499 or loss	15.6	14.5	28.8	9.0	8.0	20.0	25.2	23.7	47.0
$500 to $999	11.7	11.3	15.5	6.8	6.3	12.8	18.7	18.6	20.9
$1,000 to $1,499	8.4	8.2	9.7	6.6	6.2	10.4	10.9	11.1	8.3
$1,500 to $1,999	6.1	6.0	7.0	4.7	4.4	7.8	8.1	8.3	5.4
$2,000 to $2,499	6.3	6.2	7.7	5.5	5.2	8.6	7.5	7.6	6.0
$2,500 to $2,999	4.9	4.9	5.4	4.4	4.2	6.8	5.7	5.9	2.7
$3,000 to $3,499	5.8	5.8	5.4	5.6	5.5	6.9	6.0	6.3	2.4
$3,500 to $3,999	4.7	4.8	3.5	5.0	5.1	4.2	4.4	4.5	2.1
$4,000 to $4,499	5.1	5.3	2.9	5.9	6.1	3.6	3.9	4.1	1.4
$4,500 to $4,999	4.3	4.4	2.6	5.3	5.5	3.1	2.9	3.0	1.4
$5,000 to $5,999	8.6	9.0	4.4	12.2	12.7	6.1	3.4	3.6	1.0
$6,000 to $6,999	5.9	6.2	2.3	8.9	9.5	3.0	1.5	1.6	0.7
$7,000 to $7,999	4.2	4.5	1.3	6.7	7.1	1.8	0.6	0.7	0.2
$8,000 to $9,999	3.7	3.9	1.6	5.8	6.1	2.3	0.6	0.6	0.2
$10,000 to $14,999	3.0	3.1	1.2	4.8	5.1	1.8	0.3	0.3	...
$15,000 to $24,999	1.2	1.2	0.4	1.9	2.0	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.1
$25,000 and over	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.8	0.8	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.2
Median income	$2,699	$2,888	$1,293	$4,189	$4,418	$1,940	$1,279	$1,347	$971
YEAR-ROUND FULL-TIME WORKERS									
Percent of all income recipients	45.3	45.2	46.3	57.5	57.3	59.6	27.5	28.0	18.8
Median income	$5,031	$5,188	$2,665	$5,663	$5,842	$2,793	$3,342	$3,379	$2,236

Table 3.--SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS: MEDIAN INCOME IN 1961 OF FAMILIES, FOR THE UNITED STATES

(Median not shown where base is less than 200,000)

Selected characteristics	All families	Head year-round full-time worker	
	Median income	Percent of all families	Median income
All families	$5,737	62.2	$6,875
TYPE OF FAMILY			
Male head	$6,019	66.0	$6,965
Married, wife present	6,037	66.4	6,978
Wife in paid labor force	7,188	67.1	8,154
Wife not in paid labor force	5,992	66.1	6,516
Other marital status	5,069	53.3	6,340
Female head	2,993	27.3	4,699
AGE OF HEAD			
14 to 24 years	$4,231	56.0	$5,133
25 to 34 years	5,823	71.3	6,542
35 to 44 years	6,525	74.4	7,170
45 to 54 years	6,712	72.0	7,388
55 to 64 years	5,819	63.5	6,957
65 years and over	3,026	16.9	5,529
WORK EXPERIENCE OF HEAD IN 1961			
Worked at full-time jobs	$6,415	...	...
50 to 52 weeks	6,875	...	...
27 to 49 weeks	5,345	...	...
26 weeks or less	3,560	...	...
Worked at part-time jobs	2,820	...	...
50 to 52 weeks	3,440	...	...
27 to 49 weeks	3,026	...	...
26 weeks or less	2,286	...	...
Did not work	2,396	...	...
MAJOR OCCUPATION GROUP OF HEAD			
Professional, technical, and kindred workers	$8,806	81.0	$9,272
Self-employed	10,349	71.9	11,678
Salaried	8,667	82.6	9,100
Farmers and farm managers	3,131	78.7	3,337
Managers, officials, and propr's, exc. farm	7,904	86.9	8,255
Self-employed	6,527	81.1	6,877
Salaried	9,101	92.1	9,275
Clerical and kindred workers	6,317	83.0	6,560
Sales workers	7,354	78.4	7,930
Craftsmen, foremen, and kindred workers	6,806	75.6	7,187
Operatives and kindred workers	5,826	71.0	6,266
Private household workers	1,694	29.1	...
Service workers, exc. private household	4,998	70.7	5,571
Farm laborers and foremen	2,971	55.6	2,960
Laborers, exc. farm and mine	4,539	57.3	5,086
MAJOR INDUSTRY GROUP OF HEAD			
Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries	$3,090	73.4	$3,336
Mining	6,453	77.4	7,154
Construction	6,122	56.2	7,059
Manufacturing	6,850	78.7	7,335
Transport., commun., and other public util.	6,845	82.2	7,193
Wholesale trade	6,751	85.7	7,075
Retail trade	5,887	77.9	6,343
Finance, insurance, and real estate	7,411	79.9	7,851
Business and repair services	5,987	72.5	6,637
Personal services	4,176	62.6	5,246
Entertainment and recreation services	6,068	54.3	...
Professional and related services	7,218	74.0	7,707
Public administration	7,198	90.0	7,355

Table 4.—AGE AND SEX: PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER BY TOTAL MONEY INCOME IN 1961, FOR THE UNITED STATES

(Percent not shown where less than 0.1)

Total money income	Male								Female							
	Total	Age (years)							Total	Age (years)						
		14 to 19	20 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 and over		14 to 19	20 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 and over
Number of persons...thousands	61,098	8,645	5,015	10,614	11,609	10,162	7,584	7,469	66,420	8,854	5,844	11,310	12,394	10,635	8,190	9,193
Number of persons with income thousands	55,839	4,533	4,664	10,458	11,452	10,057	7,418	7,257	38,076	3,857	3,662	5,658	6,530	6,250	4,921	7,198
INCOME RECIPIENTS																
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
$1 to $499 or loss	9.0	62.6	9.8	2.7	2.6	3.9	4.8	5.8	25.2	67.0	23.7	22.3	19.1	17.9	20.8	20.5
$500 to $999	6.8	18.5	10.2	2.3	2.5	3.6	4.8	17.2	18.7	14.0	13.7	11.9	11.8	11.8	18.5	41.7
$1,000 to $1,499	6.6	8.0	9.8	2.9	2.0	4.0	6.3	20.2	10.9	6.9	10.0	9.5	9.2	10.0	11.2	16.8
$1,500 to $1,999	4.7	3.5	8.4	3.1	2.3	2.7	3.8	13.1	8.1	4.2	10.8	8.8	7.6	8.4	9.0	8.0
$2,000 to $2,499	5.5	2.8	10.1	5.5	3.7	3.5	4.8	10.6	7.5	2.5	9.0	8.3	9.3	9.9	8.6	4.1
$2,500 to $2,999	4.4	1.2	5.8	4.4	3.1	3.8	6.0	6.8	5.7	2.4	7.7	6.5	7.0	7.6	5.5	3.1
$3,000 to $3,499	5.6	1.5	9.3	6.5	4.8	5.2	6.7	5.0	6.0	1.8	9.8	8.5	7.8	7.7	5.6	1.7
$3,500 to $3,999	5.0	0.8	8.1	6.8	4.3	5.4	4.9	3.9	4.4	0.7	5.0	6.6	7.0	5.5	4.3	0.8
$4,000 to $4,499	5.9	0.5	7.0	7.4	7.1	6.9	6.8	2.3	3.9	0.2	5.6	5.8	5.9	4.9	4.2	0.8
$4,500 to $4,999	5.3	0.3	5.5	7.6	6.2	6.1	5.6	1.9	2.9	0.1	2.3	4.6	4.9	4.1	2.8	0.5
$5,000 to $5,999	12.2	0.1	8.6	17.8	15.7	15.1	12.8	3.6	3.4	0.1	1.6	4.1	5.7	5.8	4.3	0.7
$6,000 to $6,999	8.9	0.1	3.6	12.0	13.8	11.7	8.6	2.2	1.5	...	0.3	1.8	2.3	3.0	2.1	0.3
$7,000 to $7,999	6.7	0.1	2.3	8.5	10.5	8.8	6.9	1.8	0.6	0.1	0.3	0.6	0.7	1.4	0.9	0.2
$8,000 to $9,999	5.8	...	1.2	6.6	9.9	7.6	7.1	1.2	0.6	...	...	0.4	0.6	1.3	1.4	0.3
$10,000 to $14,999	4.8	...	0.2	4.4	7.9	6.7	6.5	2.2	0.3	...	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.4
$15,000 to $24,999	1.9	...	0.1	1.1	2.7	3.6	2.6	1.1	0.1	...	...	0.1	0.2	...	0.2	...
$25,000 and over	0.8	...	...	0.4	0.9	1.4	1.1	0.9	0.1	...	...	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1
Median income	$4,189	$399	$2,654	$5,045	$5,726	$5,321	$4,597	$1,758	$1,279	$373	$1,620	$1,861	$2,123	$2,094	$1,480	$854
YEAR-ROUND FULL-TIME WORKERS																
Percent of all income recipients	57.5	5.9	46.0	71.5	76.7	72.9	65.7	17.0	27.5	6.2	30.1	32.4	40.5	43.4	31.5	5.2
Median income	$5,663	$1,938	$4,045	$5,655	$6,190	$5,887	$5,533	$4,025	$3,342	$2,293	$3,143	$3,598	$3,557	$3,317	$3,323	$2,331

Table 5.--SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS: MEDIAN INCOME IN 1961 OF PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER, BY SEX, FOR THE UNITED STATES

Selected characteristics	Male			Female		
	All income recipients	Year-round full-time workers		All income recipients	Year-round full-time workers	
	Median income	Percent of all income recipients	Median income	Median income	Percent of all income recipients	Median income
Total	$4,189	57.5	$5,663	$1,279	27.5	$3,342
REGIONS						
Northeast	$4,559	61.8	$5,810	$1,576	30.2	$3,457
North Central	4,407	57.4	5,701	1,248	26.3	3,337
South	3,000	53.5	4,716	967	26.5	2,785
West	5,205	57.8	6,668	1,512	27.0	4,013
COLOR						
White	$4,432	58.6	$5,817	$1,358	27.9	$3,429
Nonwhite	2,292	47.1	3,692	910	24.1	2,264

Selected characteristics	Male			Female		
	All income recipients	Year-round full-time workers		All income recipients	Year-round full-time workers	
	Median income	Percent of all income recipients	Median income	Median income	Percent of all income recipients	Median income
RELATIONSHIP TO FAMILY HEAD						
In families	$4,283	58.6	$5,702	$1,200	27.0	$3,346
Head	5,014	66.4	5,857	1,825	29.7	3,516
Married, wife present	5,046	66.8	5,871	...	...	...
Other marital status	3,230	54.7	5,194	...	...	...
Wife of head	...	...	...	1,329	27.9	3,356
Other relative of head	978	26.3	3,949	732	23.4	3,251
Unrelated individuals	2,814	43.2	4,923	1,550	29.8	3,317

Table 6.--OCCUPATION AND INDUSTRY OF LONGEST JOB IN 1961: MEDIAN MONEY EARNINGS IN 1961 OF ALL CIVILIANS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER WITH EARNINGS AND OF YEAR-ROUND FULL-TIME WORKERS, BY SEX, FOR THE UNITED STATES

(Median not shown where base is less than 200,000)

Occupation group	All workers		Year-round full-time workers	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Total with earnings	$4,605	$1,751	$5,595	$3,315
Professional, technical, and kind. wkrs.	6,740	3,552	7,468	4,875
Self-employed	7,486	911	9,083	...
Salaried	6,683	3,723	7,380	4,902
Teachers, elem. and sec. schools	5,962	4,037	6,510	5,226
Other salaried workers	6,802	3,478	7,500	4,724
Farmers and farm managers	1,806	...	2,155	...
Managers, off'ls, & propr's, exc. farm	6,554	2,563	6,977	3,411
Self-employed	5,317	1,411	5,814	1,900
In retail trade	4,530	1,432	4,975	1,943
Other self-employed	5,909	...	6,519	...
Salaried	7,404	3,420	7,688	4,240
Clerical and kindred workers	4,790	2,835	5,355	3,719
Sales workers	4,878	1,038	6,021	2,391
Craftsmen, foremen, and kindred workers	5,404	2,750	6,005	...
Operatives and kindred workers	4,341	2,118	5,150	2,951
Private household workers	...	387	...	1,140
Service workers, exc. private household	3,114	1,069	4,322	2,302
Farm laborers and foremen	493	284	1,944	...
Laborers, exc. farm and mine	2,044	...	4,250	...

Industry group	All workers		Year-round full-time workers	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Total with earnings	$4,605	$1,751	$5,595	$3,315
Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries	1,281	307	2,223	...
Mining	5,663	...	6,515	...
Construction	4,132	...	5,540	...
Manufacturing	5,373	2,542	6,039	3,506
Durable goods	5,433	3,112	6,070	3,992
Nondurable goods	5,243	2,304	5,992	3,239
Transportation, communication, and other public utilities	5,472	3,500	5,934	4,051
Transportation industries	5,239	4,091	5,793	...
Other industries	5,942	3,390	6,206	3,850
Wholesale trade	5,002	2,455	5,685	3,634
Retail trade	3,700	1,225	4,925	2,459
Finance, insurance, and real estate	5,597	2,912	6,370	3,474
Business and repair services	4,359	1,784	5,257	...
Personal services	3,274	898	4,888	2,477
Entertainment and recreation services	2,140	1,208	5,382	...
Professional and related services	5,685	2,686	6,661	4,316
Public administration	5,654	3,899	5,923	4,450

Table 7.—EDUCATION: MEDIAN INCOME IN 1961 OF PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER, BY YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED, COLOR, AND SEX, FOR THE UNITED STATES

Years of school completed	Male			Female		
	Total	White	Nonwhite	Total	White	Nonwhite
Total	$4,189	$4,432	$2,292	$1,279	$1,358	$910
Elementary: Total	2,651	2,908	1,755	856	883	754
Less than 8 years[1]	2,090	2,303	1,554	791	817	709
8 years	3,452	3,617	2,505	950	955	919
High school: Total	4,540	4,718	2,840	1,535	1,626	1,187
1 to 3 years	3,865	4,090	2,427	994	996	988
4 years	5,052	5,155	3,381	1,938	1,965	1,566
College: Total	6,235	6,379	4,246	2,342	2,395	2,410
1 to 3 years	5,246	(2)	(2)	1,717	(2)	(2)
4 years	7,261	(2)	(2)	3,179	(2)	(2)
5 years or more	7,691	(2)	(2)	4,694	(2)	(2)

[1] Includes persons reporting no years of school completed, not shown separately.
[2] Not available.

FILE COPY DO NOT REMOVE