An Overview of Income and Poverty and Related Statistics

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Outline

- Income
  - Highlights
  - Define terms
- Poverty
  - Highlights
  - Define terms
- Search and Navigation
- Data Visuals
- Resources
- Data Tools (live demo)
- How to Use the Data
- Questions and Evaluation

What do We Do?

Decennial Census
  Every 10 years, Counts Residents

American Community Survey (ACS)
  Annual Social, Economic and Housing data

Other Surveys and Censuses
  ✓ Current Population Survey (CPS)
  ✓ National Crime and Victimization Survey (NCVS)
  ✓ Health Interview Survey (HIS)
  ✓ Consumer Expenditure Survey (CE)
  ✓ Population Estimates
  ✓ Economic Census
  ✓ Census of Governments
  + over 130 statistical programs

http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/surveys-programs.html
Income

What is Income?

- “Money Income” is the income received on a regular basis (excludes certain money such as capital gains and lump-sum payments) before payments for personal incomes taxes, social security, union dues, medicare deductions, etc.
### What is Considered Income?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Sources</th>
<th>Income Sources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wages</td>
<td>Salary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commissions</td>
<td>Bonuses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tips</td>
<td>Self-Employment income from nonfarm or farm businesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>Proprietorships and partnerships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dividends</td>
<td>Net rental income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royalty income</td>
<td>Income from estates and trusts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Security</td>
<td>Railroad retirement income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplemental Security Income (SSI)</td>
<td>Cash public assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welfare payments (state and local offices)</td>
<td>Retirement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survivor or disability benefits</td>
<td>Veteran (VA) payments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment and/or worker’s compensation</td>
<td>Child support and alimony</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Money income does not include:
- Capital gains or losses
- Noncash benefits (e.g. food stamps and housing subsidies)
- Tax credits

### 2017 Income Highlights

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stats</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Real median household income for the nation was $61,372. Was $60,309 in 2016. This is an increase in real terms of 1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This is the third consecutive increase in median household income.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real median earnings of men $52,146 and women $41,977 who worked full time, year round</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of men and women working full-time, year-round increased by 1.4 million and 1.0 million, respectively, between 2016 and 2017.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The real median income of households maintained by non-Hispanic whites ($68,145) and Hispanics ($50,486) increased 2.6 percent and 3.7 percent, respectively, between 2016 and 2017.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Poverty

Following the Office of Management and Budget’s (OMB’s) Directive 14, the Census Bureau uses a set of “money income” thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is in poverty. If the total income for a family or unrelated individual falls below the relevant poverty threshold, then the family (and every individual in it) or unrelated individual is considered in poverty.
## 2017 Poverty Thresholds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size of family unit</th>
<th>Weighted average thresholds</th>
<th>Related children under 18 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>None</td>
<td>One</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One person (unrelated individual)</td>
<td>12,489</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under age 15.</td>
<td>12,725</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aged 65 and older</td>
<td>11,756</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two people</td>
<td>16,077</td>
<td>16,416</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Householder under age 65</td>
<td>16,416</td>
<td>16,895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Householder aged 65 and older</td>
<td>14,836</td>
<td>14,836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three people</td>
<td>19,510</td>
<td>19,773</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four people</td>
<td>25,094</td>
<td>25,283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five people</td>
<td>29,716</td>
<td>29,408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six people</td>
<td>33,616</td>
<td>35,069</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seven people</td>
<td>38,173</td>
<td>40,351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eight people</td>
<td>42,094</td>
<td>45,279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nine people or more</td>
<td>50,681</td>
<td>54,308</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

[www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/historical-poverty-thresholds.html](http://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/historical-poverty-thresholds.html)

## 2017 Poverty Highlights

<table>
<thead>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Official poverty rate is 12.3 percent</td>
<td>39.7 million people in poverty..</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate is 2.5 percentage points lower than in 2014.</td>
<td>This is the third consecutive annual decline in the poverty rate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between 2016 and 2017, people with at least a bachelor’s degree were the only group to have an increase in the poverty rate or the number of people in poverty.</td>
<td>Even with this increase, among educational attainment groups, people with at least a bachelor’s degree had the lowest poverty rates in 2017.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty rate for children under 18.</td>
<td>17.5 percent from 18.0 percent in 2016.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty rate for age 65 years and up.</td>
<td>9.2 percent from 9.3 percent in 2016.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Search and Navigation

www.census.gov

Locate Topic of interest
Income is the gauge many use to determine the well-being of the U.S. population. Survey and census questions cover poverty, income, and wealth.

- Income
- Income Inequality
- Poverty
- Public Assistance
- Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates (SAIPE)
- Supplemental Poverty Measure
- Wealth and Asset Ownership
- Well-Being

News

STATES FOR STORIES | MARCH 01, 2019
Employee Appreciation Day: March 1, 2019
According to the 2016 American Community Survey, there were more than 106 million full-time, year-round workers in the U.S. and median earnings were $49,800.

https://www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty.html

The Census Bureau reports income from several major household surveys and programs. Each differs from the others in some way, such as the length and detail of its questionnaire, the number of households included (sample size), and the methodology used.

Quick Links | Visualizations | Data Tables

News

PRESS RELEASE | DECEMBER 30, 2018
Median Household Income, Poverty Rates and Computer and Internet Use
The 2012-2016 American Community Survey five-year estimates feature more than 60 social, economic, housing and demographic topics.

PRESS RELEASE | DECEMBER 30, 2018
Ingreso mediano del hogar, tasas de pobreza y uso de Internet
https://www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/income.html
Data Visuals

The Census Bureau provides poverty data from several household surveys and programs. Here you can find poverty estimates, learn about these surveys and programs, and get guidance on how to choose the right estimate for your needs.

Poverty Thresholds
Poverty Data Tools
2017 Official Poverty Report

Median Household Income, Poverty Rates and Computer and Internet Use
The 2018 2017 American Community Survey five-year estimates feature more than 40 social, economic, housing and demographic topics.

https://www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/poverty.html
2017 Median Household Income in the United States

Real Median Household Income by Race and Hispanic Origin of Householder: 1967 to 2017

Total and Full-Time, Year-Round Workers With Earnings by Sex: 1967 to 2017

Numbers in millions

- Male workers
- Female workers
- Male full-time, year-round workers
- Female full-time, year-round workers

Note: The data for 2001 and beyond reflect the implementation of the redesigned income questions. The data points are placed at the midpoints of the respective years. Data on number of workers are not reliably available before 1967. Data are for people aged 16 and older beginning in 1967 and people aged 16 and older for previous years. Before 1995, data are for civilian workers only. For information on revisions, see Appendix A. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdoc/ctopenhtml.html.


2017 Poverty Rate in the United States

Note: U.S. percentage does not include data for Puerto Rico.

Source: 2017 American Community Survey.

U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. Census Bureau

census.gov
Poverty Rates by Age and Sex: 2017 (in percent)

Sources for Reporting Income & Poverty

- **Current Population Survey (CPS)**
  - Serves as the nation’s primary source of statistics on labor force characteristics.
  - The Annual Social and Economic Supplement provides the official annual statistics on the nation’s poverty levels as well as statistics on income, health insurance coverage, marital status, educational attainment, employee benefits, work schedules, school enrollment, noncash benefits and migration.

- **American Community Survey (ACS)**
  - Provides single and multi-year estimates for smaller areas

- **Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP)**
  - Provides longitudinal estimates

- **Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE)**
  - Provides model-based poverty estimates for counties and school districts
Compare Sources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographic Level</th>
<th>Cross-Sectional Estimates</th>
<th>Longitudinal Estimates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>CPS ASEC</td>
<td>CPS ASEC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SIPP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>States</td>
<td>ACS 1-year estimates</td>
<td>ACS 1-year estimates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ACS 1-year estimates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SIPP for select states</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substate (areas with populations of 65,000 or more)</td>
<td>ACS 1-year estimates</td>
<td>ACS 1-year estimates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ACS 1-year estimates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SIPP for counties and school districts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substate (areas with populations less than 20,000)</td>
<td>SAIPE for counties and school districts</td>
<td>SAIPE for counties and school districts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ACS 5-year estimates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SIPP for select states</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State-to-Nation comparison</td>
<td>CPS ASEC</td>
<td>CPS ASEC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SIPP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Tools

- Quick Facts
- Small Area Income and Poverty Estimate (SAIPE)
- American FactFinder (AFF)
Hierarchy of Census Geographic Entities

Population 1,200-8,000

Population 600-3,000 lowest level for ACS

https://www.census.gov/geo/education
Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE)

http://quickfacts.census.gov/

https://www.census.gov/data-tools/demo/saipe/saipe.htm
American FactFinder

Other Tool Resources

- DataFerrett – create custom tables
- CPS table creator – custom tables
- Statistical Abstract
Summary

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Continue the Conversation #ACSdata

Sign up for and manage alerts at https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USCENSUS/subscriber/new

More information on the American Community Survey: http://www.census.gov/acs

(844) ASK-DATA / (844) 275-3282

Chat or submit a question at ask.census.gov
census.askdata@census.gov

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Bring our data experts to you. To request free webinars for your organization/yourself: Anthony.Eremitaggio@census.gov
In-person free workshops: census.askdata@census.gov
Take part in this community. Share your feedback and ideas for our educational content: Census.academy@census.gov

Our Development Depends on YOUR Feedback

Explore Census Data

The Census Bureau serves as the leading source of quality data about the nation's people and economy.

Check out our preview platform at data.census.gov and tell us how we can make Census data easier to access for your news stories at cedsci.feedback@census.gov.
Please Complete the Evaluation!

- **Link:** [https://questionweb.com/59212/](https://questionweb.com/59212/)
- **Type of Event:** Workshop/Training
- **Lead Census Presenter:** Anthony Eremitaggio