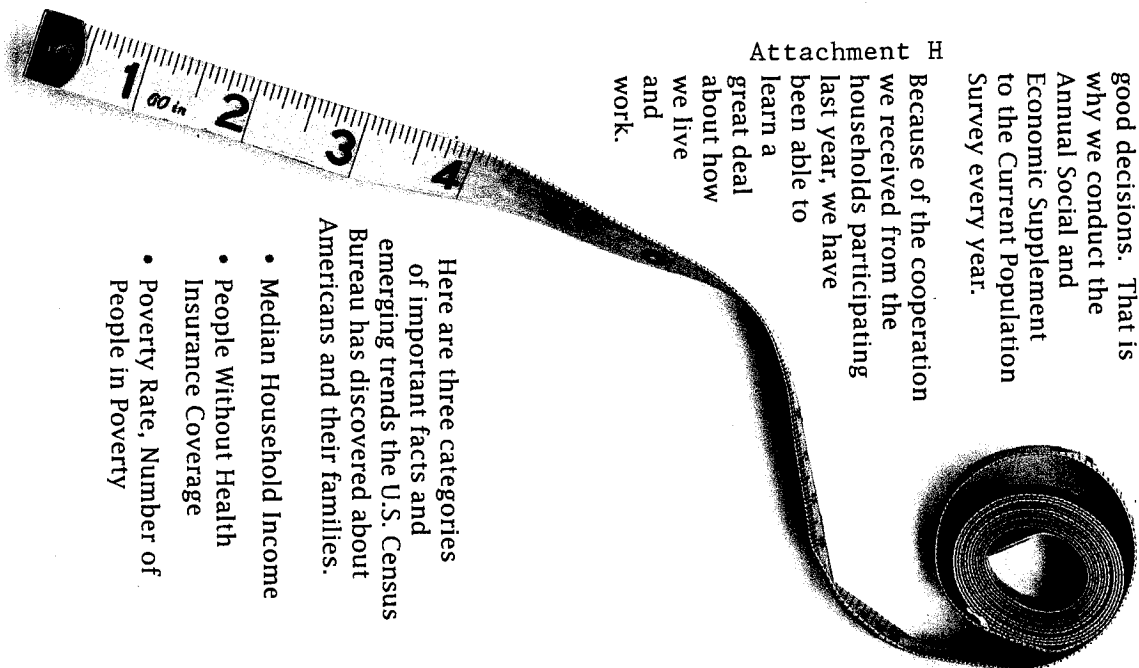


Measuring a Changing America

In our rapidly changing world, a census every 10 years doesn't provide the current information that leaders, policymakers, and researchers need to make good decisions. That is why we conduct the Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey every year.

Because of the cooperation we received from the households participating last year, we have

been able to learn a great deal about how we live and work.



Here are three categories of important facts and emerging trends the U.S. Census Bureau has discovered about Americans and their families.

- Median Household Income
- People Without Health Insurance Coverage
- Poverty Rate, Number of People in Poverty

Keeping Your Information Confidential

All the information that you give the Census Bureau for this survey is confidential by law (Title 13, United States Code, Section 9). Every Census employee takes an oath to this effect and is subject to a jail penalty and a fine if he or she discloses any information that would identify an individual or household in any Census Bureau survey. Information is used only for statistical summaries, and no identifiable information is ever released.

Thank you for your participation in the Current Population Survey.

For more information, call one of our regional offices or visit us on our Web site at www.bls.census.gov/cps.

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
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The Changing Situation of Americans and Their Families

Facts from the Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement

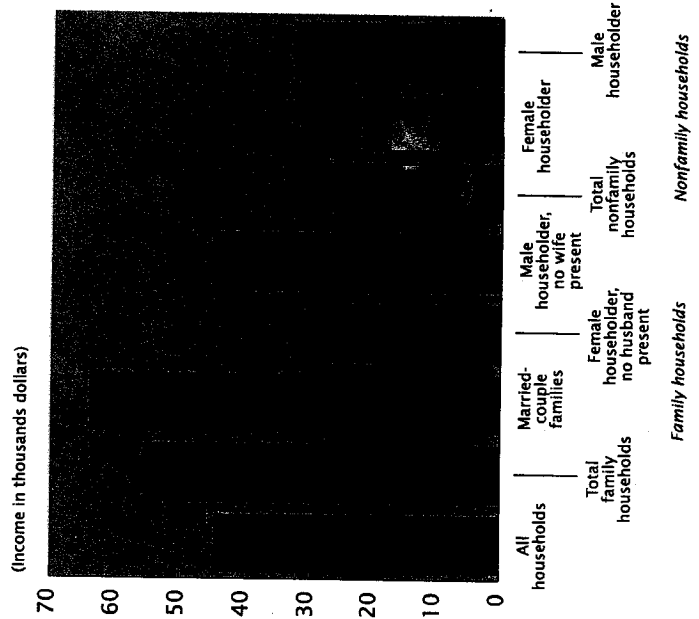


Household Income

Median household income was \$44,389 in 2004, unchanged from 2003 in real terms. Median household income was also unchanged in real terms between 2002 and 2003. Compared with 1967, the first year for which household income statistics are available, real median household income was up 30 percent. Earnings represent the largest component of income, but earnings trends and income trends are not perfectly correlated. While median household income in 2004 was not statistically different from 2003, the real median earnings of both men and women who worked full-time, year-round declined between 2003 and 2004.

Real median household income rose for six states and declined for eight states between 2002 and 2004 (based on percent changes in 2-year-average medians). Three states that experienced increases were in the west (Hawaii, Idaho, and Wyoming), two were in the Northeast (Maine and Rhode Island), and one was in the South (West Virginia). Three states that experienced declines were in the south (Delaware, Georgia, and Kentucky), three were in the Midwest (Kansas, Michigan, and Missouri), and two were in the West (Montana and Oregon).

Median Household Income by Type of Household: 2004



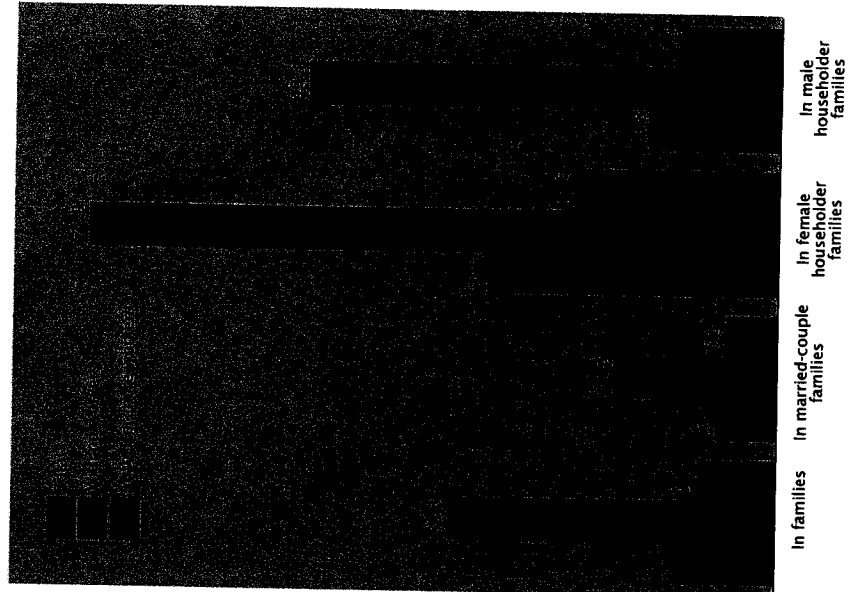
Poverty Rate, Number of People in Poverty

For the fourth consecutive year, both the poverty rate and the number in poverty rose from the prior year. In 2004, the poverty rate was 12.7 percent (37.0 million people), up from 12.5 percent (35.9 million people) in 2003.

The chart below shows lower poverty rates for family members living with at least one worker than for family members living with no worker—8.2 percent compared with 34.3 percent. The same pattern held when families were classified by family types.

Poverty Rates of People in Families by Family Type and Presence of Workers: 2004

(Percent)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2004 Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

