

Measuring a Changing America

In our rapidly changing world, leaders, policymakers, and researchers need current information 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 and number of people in poverty

Keeping Your Information Confidential

All the information given by you to the Census Bureau for this survey is confidential by law (Title 13, U.S. Code, Section 9). All Census Bureau employees take an oath to this effect and are subject to a jail penalty and/or fine if they disclose any census information given to them. We use computers to collect the survey data, but the information is encrypted to ensure its confidentiality. We present published information only in the form of statistical summaries, and we never release any information that could identify individuals. The Census Bureau has established rigid procedures and guidelines to ensure data confidentiality and is proud of the excellent reputation it has earned in this regard.

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.

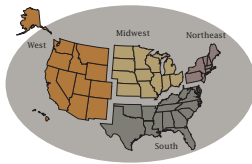
Atlanta	404-730-3832
Boston	617-424-4501
Charlotte	800-331-7358, #2
Chicago	800-865-6384
Dallas	800-835-9752, #34410
Denver	800-593-5096
Detroit	800-432-1495
Kansas City	913-551-6728
Los Angeles	800-992-3530, #2
New York	800-991-2520, #43475
Philadelphia	800-262-2367
Seattle	800-233-3308, #22

The Changing Situation of Americans and Their Families

*Facts From the Current Population Survey
Annual Social and Economic Supplement*



Household Income



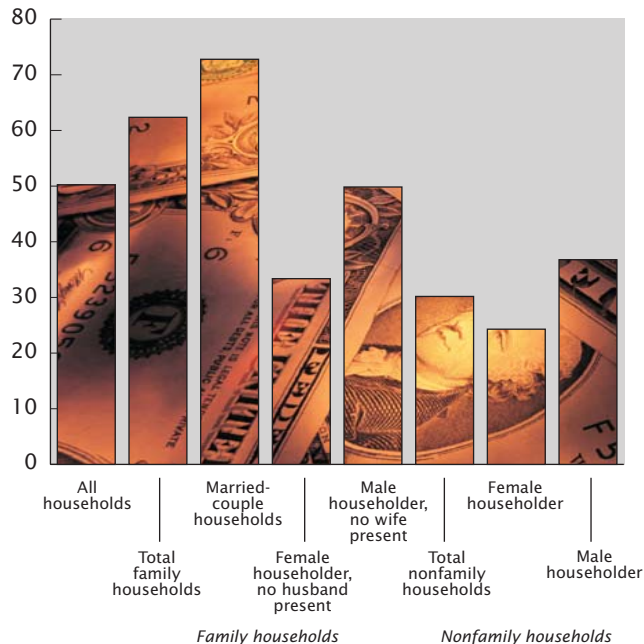
After adjusting for inflation, median household income in the United States declined by 3.6 percent between 2007 and 2008—from \$52,163 to \$50,303—following 3 years of annual income increases. The decline in income coincides with the recession that started in December 2007.

The decline in household income was widespread. Median income fell for family and nonfamily households; native and foreign-born households; households in the Midwest, South, and West; and households of each race category and those of Hispanic origin.

The number of working men aged 15 and older decreased by 0.4 million between 2007 and 2008 to 84.1 million. An estimated 71.2 percent worked full-time, year-round. The number of working women aged 15 and older was 74.6 million, statistically unchanged from 2007. About 59.2 percent of these women worked full-time, year-round in 2008. Between 2007 and 2008, the median earnings of men who worked full-time, year-round declined by 1.0 percent to \$46,367; and the earnings of women who worked full-time, year-round declined by 1.9 percent to \$35,745.

Median Household Income by Type of Household: 2008

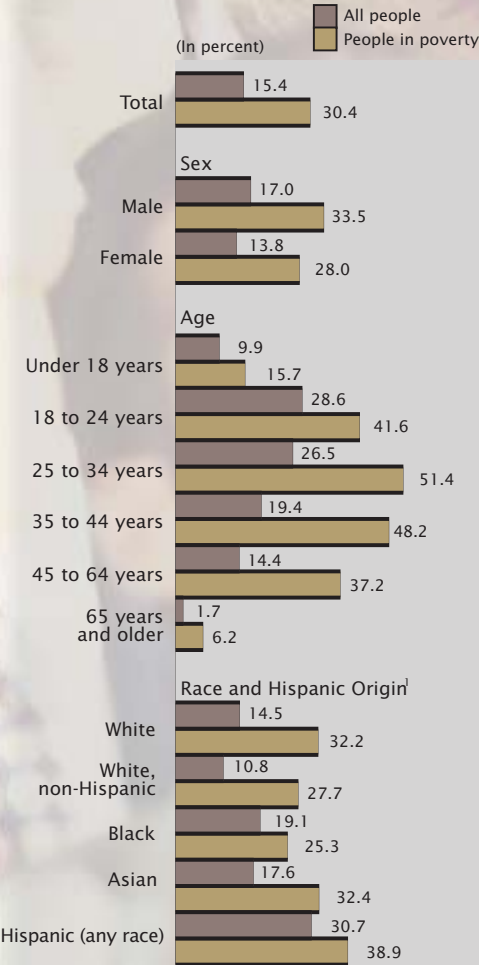
(Income in thousands of dollars)



Health Insurance Coverage

The percentage of people without health insurance in 2008 was not statistically different from 2007 at 15.4 percent. The number of uninsured increased to 46.3 million in 2008, from 45.7 million in 2007.

People Without Health Insurance Coverage for the Entire Year by Selected Characteristics: 2008



¹ Federal surveys now give respondents the option of reporting more than one race. Therefore, two basic ways of defining a race group are possible. A group such as Asian may be defined as those who reported Asian and no other race (the race-alone or single-race concept) or as those who reported Asian regardless of whether they also reported another race (the race-alone-or-in-combination concept). This figure shows data using the first approach (race alone). The use of the single-race population does not imply that it is the preferred method of presenting or analyzing data. The Census Bureau uses a variety of approaches. Information on people who reported more than one race, such as White and American Indian and Alaska Native or Asian and Black or African American, is available from Census 2000 through American FactFinder. About 2.6 percent of people reported more than one race in Census 2000.

Poverty Rate and Number of People in Poverty

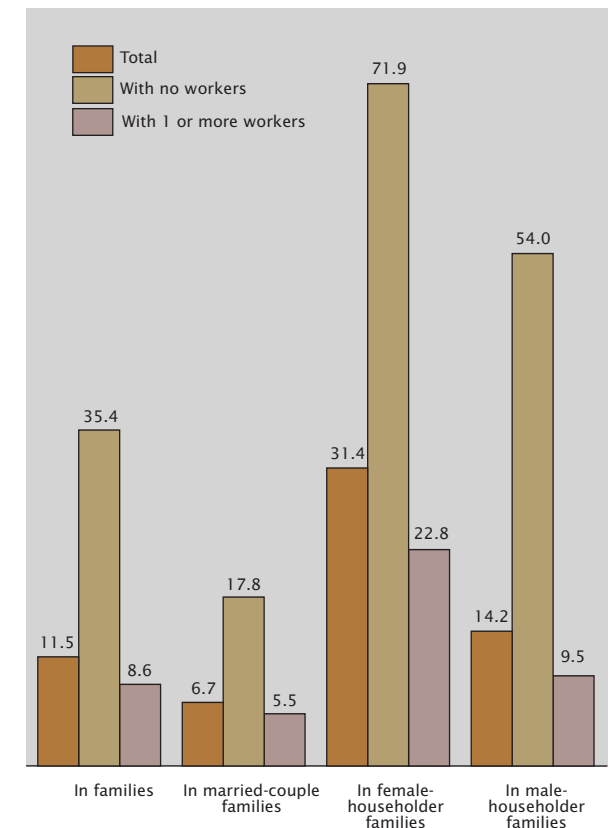
Attachment H

The official poverty rate in 2008 was 13.2 percent, up from 12.5 percent in 2007. This was the first statistically significant annual increase in the poverty rate since 2004, when poverty increased to 12.7 percent from 12.5 percent 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—8.6 percent compared with 35.4 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: 2008

(In percent)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2009 Annual Social and Economic Supplement.