

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 U.S. 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
Chicago	800-865-6384
Denver	800-593-5096
Los Angeles	800-992-3530, #2
New York	800-991-2520, #43475
Philadelphia	800-262-2367

The Changing Situation of Americans and Their Families

Facts From the Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement



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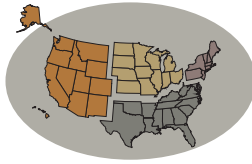


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Household Income

Median household income was \$50,054 in 2011, a 1.5 percent decline in real terms from 2010. This was the second consecutive annual decline in household income.



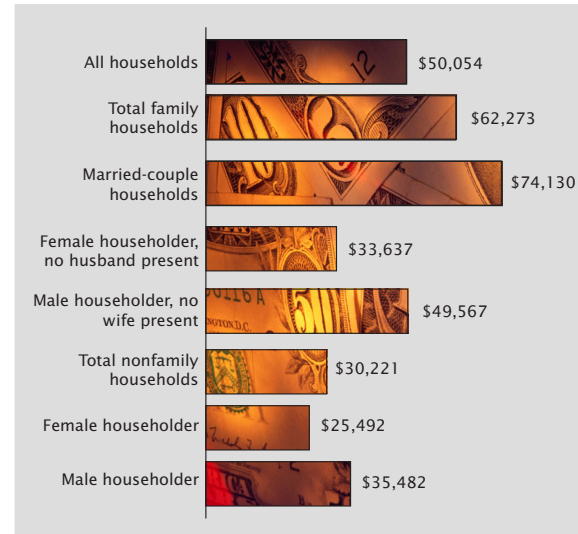
In 2011, real median household income was 8.1 percent lower than in 2007, the year before the most recent recession, and was 8.9 percent lower than the median household income peak that occurred in 1999.

Median family household income declined by 1.7 percent in real terms between 2010 and 2011 to \$62,273. The change in the median income of nonfamily households was not statistically significant.

Real median income declined for non-Hispanic White households and Black households between 2010 and 2011, while the changes for Asian households and Hispanic households were not statistically significant.

Real median household incomes for each race and the Hispanic origin group have not yet recovered to their pre-2001 recession all-time highs.

Median Household Income By Type of Household: 2011



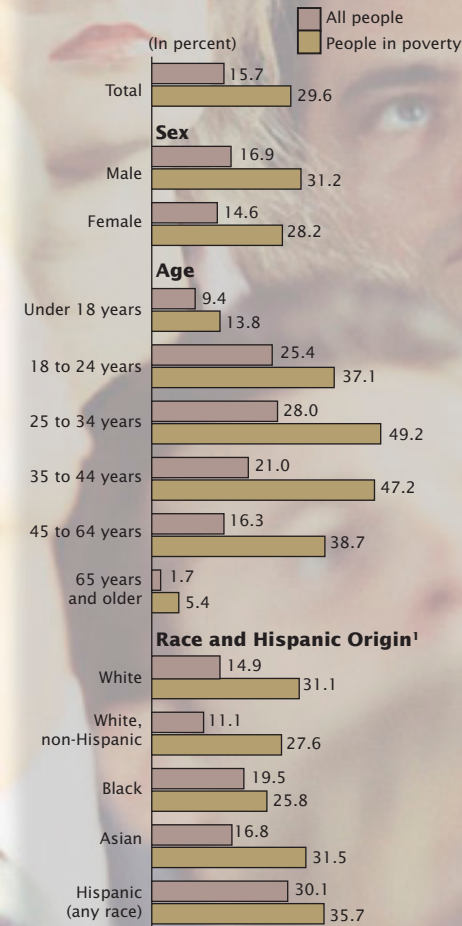
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2012 Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

Health Insurance Coverage

In 2011, the percentage of people without health insurance decreased to 15.7 percent from 16.3 percent in 2010. The number of uninsured people decreased to 48.6 million, down from 50.0 million in 2010.

Both the percentage and number of people with health insurance increased in 2011, to 84.3 percent and 260.2 million, up from 83.7 percent and 256.6 million in 2010.

People Without Health Insurance Coverage for the Entire Year by Selected Characteristics: 2011



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 table 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 2010 through American FactFinder. About 2.9 percent of people reported more than one race in Census 2010.

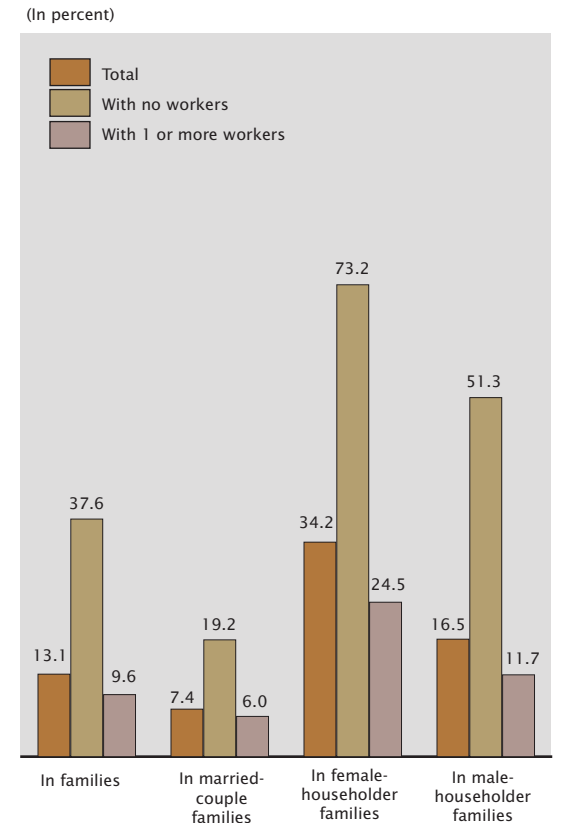
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2012 Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

Poverty Rate, Number of People in Poverty

In 2011, the official poverty rate was 15.0 percent. After 3 consecutive years of increases, neither the official poverty rate nor the number of people in poverty were statistically different from the 2010 estimates. The number of people in poverty rose for 4 consecutive years.

The chart below shows lower poverty rates for family members living with at least one worker than for family members living with no worker—9.6 percent compared with 37.6 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: 2011



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2012 Annual Social and Economic Supplement.