## Household Income for States: 2008 and 2009

## American Community Survey Briefs

## INTRODUCTION

This report presents data on median household income at the national and state levels based on the 2008 and 2009 American Community Surveys (ACS). ${ }^{1}$ The data are presented first in tabular form and then displayed on maps. The ACS provides detailed estimates of demographic, social, economic, and housing characteristics for states, congressional districts, counties, places, and other localities every year. A description of the ACS is provided in the text box "What Is the American Community Survey?"

In the 2009 ACS, information on income was collected between January and December 2009 and people were asked about income for the previous 12 months (the income reference period), yielding a total income time span covering 23 months January 2008 to November 2009). ${ }^{2}$ Therefore, adjacent ACS years have income reference months in common and comparing 2009 economic conditions with those in 2008 will not be precise. ${ }^{3}$

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## Household Income: Includes income of

 the householder and all other people 15 years and older in the household, whether or not they are related to the householder.Median: The point that divides the household income distribution into halves, one half with income above the median and the other with income below the median. The median is based on the income distribution of all households, including those with no income.

Gini Index: Summary measure of income inequality. The Gini Index varies from 0 to 1,0 indicating perfect equality where there is a proportional distribution of income. A 1 indicates perfect inequality where one person has all the income and no one else has any.

## MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Real median household income in the United States fell between the 2008 and 2009 ACSdecreasing by 2.9 percent from $\$ 51,726$ to \$50,221.

State estimates in the 2009 ACS ranged from $\$ 69,272$ in Maryland to $\$ 36,646$ in Mississippi. ${ }^{4}$ The median household incomes were lower than the U.S. median in 29 states and higher in 20 states and the District of Columbia. Wisconsin had a median household income of $\$ 49,993$, which was not significantly different from the U.S. median.

[^1]

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009, Puerto Rico Community Survey, 2009.

Real median household income increased between the 2008 ACS and the 2009 ACS in one state. North Dakota's median rose 5.1 percent from \$45,497 in 2008 to $\$ 47,827$. This compares to increases in two states between the 2007 and the 2008 ACS. Between the 2006 and 2007 ACS there were increases in 33 states.

Real median household income decreased between the 2008 and the 2009 ACS in 34 states. Pennsylvania (1.4 percent) was among the smallest percent decreases, and Michigan (6.2 percent) was among the largest percent decreases. Between the 2007 and the 2008 ACS there were decreases in eight states. These decreases ranged from 1.5 percent to 4.0 percent. Only one state, Michigan ( 1.2 percent), had a
decrease between the 2006 and the 2007 ACS.

In 15 states and the District of Columbia, the real median household income in the 2009 ACS was not statistically different from that in the 2008 ACS.

## GINI INDEX OF INCOME INEQUALITY

The Gini Index in 2009 for the United States was 0.469. Gini Indexes by state ranged from 0.532 (District of Columbia) to 0.402 (Alaska). ${ }^{5}$ Three states as well as the District of Columbia had a Gini Index higher than the United States-Connecticut, New York, and Texas. Eleven states had a Gini
${ }^{5}$ The Gini Index for Alaska was not statistically different from the Gini Index for Wyoming and Utah.

Index which was not statistically different from the U.S. Index. There were 36 states with Gini Indexes significantly lower than the U.S. Index.

The Gini Index increased in three states (Maryland, Nebraska, and New Hampshire) from 2008 to 2009 showing increasing inequality in the distribution of income. The Gini Index also decreased in three states (California, Montana, and Wyoming) from 2008 to 2009, which shows more equality in the distribution of income for these states. There were forty-four states that showed no change in Gini Index from 2008 to 2009. The United States had a Gini Index of 0.469 in the 2008 ACS and 2009 ACS. ${ }^{6}$

[^2]

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009, Puerto Rico Community Survey, 2009.

## SOURCE AND ACCURACY

Data presented in this report are based on people and households that responded to the ACS in 2008 and 2009. The resulting estimates are representative of the entire population. All comparisons
presented in this report have taken sampling error into account and are significant at the 90 percent confidence level unless otherwise noted. Due to rounding, some details may not sum to totals. For information on sampling and estimation methods, confidentiality protection, and
sampling and nonsampling errors, please see the "2009 ACS Accuracy of the Data" document located at <www.census.gov/acs/www /Downloads/data_documentation /Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of _Data_2009.pdf>.

## WHAT IS THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey designed to provide communities with reliable and timely demographic, social, economic, and housing data for the nation, states, congressional districts, counties, places, and other localities every year. It has an annual sample size of about 3 million addresses across the United States and Puerto Rico and includes both housing units and group quarters (e.g., nursing facilities and prisons). The ACS is conducted in every county throughout the nation, and every municipio in Puerto Rico, where it is called the Puerto Rico Community Survey. Beginning in 2006, ACS data for 2005 were released for geographic areas with populations of 65,000 and greater. For information on the ACS sample design and other topics, visit <www.census.gov/acs/www>.

## Median Household Income and Gini Index in the Past 12 Months by State and Puerto Rico: 2008 and 2009

(In 2009 inflation-adjusted dollars. Data are limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters)

| Area | 2008 median household income (dollars) |  | 2009 median household Income (dollars) |  | Change in median income |  | 2008 Gini coefficients |  | 2009 Gini coefficients |  | Change in Gini coefficients |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  | Perc | cent |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Estimate | Margin of error ${ }^{1}( \pm$ | Estimate | Margin of error ${ }^{1}( \pm$ | Estimate | Margin of error ${ }^{1}( \pm)$ | Estimate | Margin of error ${ }^{1}( \pm)$ | Estimate | Margin of error ${ }^{1}( \pm$ | Estimate | Margin of error ${ }^{1}( \pm)$ |
| United States . | 51,726 | 73 | 50,221 | 74 | *-2.9 | 0.2 | 0.469 | 0.001 | 0.469 | 0.002 | - | 0.002 |
| Alabama | 42,408 | 542 | 40,489 | 528 | *-4.5 | 1.7 | 0.467 | 0.006 | 0.471 | 0.005 | 0.004 | 0.008 |
| Alaska | 67,413 | 2,295 | 66,953 | 2,331 | -0.7 | 4.8 | 0.406 | 0.015 | 0.402 | 0.014 | -0.004 | 0.020 |
| Arizona | 50,489 | 542 | 48,745 | 484 | *-3.5 | 1.4 | 0.453 | 0.004 | 0.451 | 0.005 | -0.002 | 0.006 |
| Arkansas | 38,778 | 652 | 37,823 | 629 | *-2.5 | 2.3 | 0.459 | 0.007 | 0.461 | 0.006 | 0.002 | 0.009 |
| California | 60,625 | 251 | 58,931 | 274 | *-2.8 | 0.6 | 0.473 | 0.003 | 0.467 | 0.002 | *-0.006 | 0.003 |
| Colorado | 57,030 | 646 | 55,430 | 704 | *-2.8 | 1.7 | 0.456 | 0.005 | 0.453 | 0.005 | -0.003 | 0.007 |
| Connecticut | 68,283 | 983 | 67,034 | 993 | -1.8 | 2.0 | 0.485 | 0.006 | 0.480 | 0.006 | -0.005 | 0.009 |
| Delaware | 58,173 | 1,472 | 56,860 | 1,744 | -2.3 | 3.9 | 0.442 | 0.011 | 0.434 | 0.010 | -0.008 | 0.014 |
| District of Columbia | 57,654 | 2,445 | 59,290 | 1,710 | 2.8 | 5.3 | 0.540 | 0.013 | 0.532 | 0.010 | -0.008 | 0.016 |
| Florida | 47,452 | 354 | 44,736 | 290 | *-5.7 | 0.9 | 0.472 | 0.004 | 0.469 | 0.003 | -0.003 | 0.005 |
| Georgia | 50,328 | 443 | 47,590 | 414 | *-5.4 | 1.2 | 0.468 | 0.005 | 0.469 | 0.004 | 0.001 | 0.006 |
| Hawaii | 67,384 | 1,992 | 64,098 | 1,574 | *-4.9 | 3.7 | 0.425 | 0.010 | 0.425 | 0.009 | - | 0.013 |
| Idaho | 47,248 | 905 | 44,926 | 953 | *-4.9 | 2.7 | 0.422 | 0.009 | 0.421 | 0.008 | -0.001 | 0.012 |
| Illinois. | 55,671 | 407 | 53,966 | 404 | *-3.1 | 1.0 | 0.467 | 0.004 | 0.469 | 0.004 | 0.002 | 0.005 |
| Indiana. | 47,657 | 521 | 45,424 | 455 | *-4.7 | 1.4 | 0.438 | 0.005 | 0.434 | 0.004 | -0.004 | 0.006 |
| lowa | 48,559 | 600 | 48,044 | 426 | -1.1 | 1.5 | 0.429 | 0.005 | 0.431 | 0.005 | 0.002 | 0.007 |
| Kansas. | 49,686 | 571 | 47,817 | 670 | *-3.8 | 1.7 | 0.442 | 0.006 | 0.444 | 0.005 | 0.002 | 0.008 |
| Kentucky | 41,299 | 472 | 40,072 | 535 | *-3.0 | 1.7 | 0.468 | 0.006 | 0.464 | 0.005 | -0.004 | 0.008 |
| Louisiana | 43,288 | 652 | 42,492 | 629 | -1.8 | 2.1 | 0.478 | 0.006 | 0.473 | 0.006 | -0.005 | 0.008 |
| Maine | 46,331 | 810 | 45,734 | 935 | -1.3 | 2.7 | 0.434 | 0.008 | 0.432 | 0.008 | -0.002 | 0.012 |
| Maryland | 69,844 | 755 | 69,272 | 696 | -0.8 | 1.5 | 0.438 | 0.005 | 0.448 | 0.004 | *0.010 | 0.006 |
| Massachusetts. | 64,941 | 703 | 64,081 | 680 | -1.3 | 1.5 | 0.472 | 0.004 | 0.468 | 0.005 | -0.004 | 0.007 |
| Michigan | 48,246 | 455 | 45,255 | 358 | *-6.2 | 1.2 | 0.451 | 0.003 | 0.453 | 0.004 | 0.002 | 0.005 |
| Minnesota | 56,767 | 513 | 55,616 | 546 | *-2.0 | 1.3 | 0.444 | 0.005 | 0.439 | 0.004 | -0.005 | 0.006 |
| Mississippi | 37,749 | 698 | 36,646 | 695 | *-2.9 | 2.6 | 0.479 | 0.007 | 0.470 | 0.008 | -0.009 | 0.010 |
| Missouri. | 46,654 | 377 | 45,229 | 519 | *-3.1 | 1.4 | 0.448 | 0.005 | 0.450 | 0.004 | 0.002 | 0.006 |
| Montana. | 43,443 | 1,176 | 42,322 | 1,073 | -2.6 | 3.6 | 0.447 | 0.010 | 0.431 | 0.009 | *-0.016 | 0.013 |
| Nebraska | 49,342 | 756 | 47,357 | 804 | *-4.0 | 2.2 | 0.427 | 0.006 | 0.440 | 0.007 | *0.013 | 0.009 |
| Nevada | 56,137 | 805 | 53,341 | 981 | *-5.0 | 2.2 | 0.432 | 0.008 | 0.433 | 0.006 | 0.001 | 0.010 |
| New Hampshire | 63,650 | 1,598 | 60,567 | 1,385 | *-4.8 | 3.2 | 0.418 | 0.007 | 0.431 | 0.009 | *0.013 | 0.012 |
| New Jersey | 69,938 | 638 | 68,342 | 659 | *-2.3 | 1.3 | 0.462 | 0.004 | 0.465 | 0.004 | 0.003 | 0.005 |
| New Mexico | 43,177 | 938 | 43,028 | 1,033 | -0.3 | 3.2 | 0.459 | 0.007 | 0.453 | 0.007 | -0.006 | 0.009 |
| New York | 55,486 | 433 | 54,659 | 396 | *-1.5 | 1.0 | 0.505 | 0.003 | 0.502 | 0.003 | -0.003 | 0.005 |
| North Carolina | 46,244 | 438 | 43,674 | 375 | *-5.6 | 1.2 | 0.463 | 0.004 | 0.464 | 0.004 | 0.001 | 0.006 |
| North Dakota | 45,497 | 1,018 | 47,827 | 995 | *5.1 | 3.2 | 0.450 | 0.012 | 0.450 | 0.013 |  | 0.018 |
| Ohio. | 47,428 | 288 | 45,395 | 350 | *-4.3 | 0.9 | 0.450 | 0.003 | 0.453 | 0.003 | 0.003 | 0.004 |
| Oklahoma | 42,624 | 646 | 41,664 | 502 | *-2.3 | 1.9 | 0.456 | 0.005 | 0.460 | 0.005 | 0.004 | 0.007 |
| Oregon. | 49,714 | 651 | 48,457 | 623 | *-2.5 | 1.8 | 0.447 | 0.005 | 0.443 | 0.005 | -0.004 | 0.007 |
| Pennsylvania | 50,245 | 274 | 49,520 | 286 | *-1.4 | 0.8 | 0.458 | 0.003 | 0.460 | 0.003 | 0.002 | 0.004 |
| Rhode Island | 54,877 | 1,705 | 54,119 | 1,522 | -1.4 | 4.1 | 0.460 | 0.014 | 0.457 | 0.011 | -0.003 | 0.017 |
| South Carolina. | 44,053 | 589 | 42,442 | 565 | *-3.7 | 1.8 | 0.463 | 0.006 | 0.462 | 0.005 | -0.001 | 0.008 |
| South Dakota. | 46,008 | 1,133 | 45,043 | 1,214 | -2.1 | 3.6 | 0.448 | 0.013 | 0.452 | 0.015 | 0.004 | 0.019 |
| Tennessee | 43,311 | 375 | 41,725 | 439 | *-3.7 | 1.3 | 0.471 | 0.005 | 0.467 | 0.005 | -0.004 | 0.007 |
| Texas | 49,453 | 279 | 48,259 | 244 | *-2.4 | 0.7 | 0.475 | 0.002 | 0.474 | 0.003 | -0.001 | 0.004 |
| Utah. | 56,304 | 772 | 55,117 | 803 | *-2.1 | 2.0 | 0.411 | 0.007 | 0.414 | 0.008 | 0.003 | 0.010 |
| Vermont | 52,207 | 1,064 | 51,618 | 950 | -1.1 | 2.7 | 0.432 | 0.012 | 0.428 | 0.009 | -0.004 | 0.016 |
| Virginia. | 61,064 | 462 | 59,330 | 482 | *-2.8 | 1.1 | 0.460 | 0.004 | 0.456 | 0.003 | -0.004 | 0.005 |
| Washington | 57,536 | 529 | 56,548 | 528 | *-1.7 | 1.3 | 0.443 | 0.005 | 0.439 | 0.004 | -0.004 | 0.006 |
| West Virginia | 37,677 | 915 | 37,435 | 707 | -0.6 | 3.1 | 0.453 | 0.009 | 0.463 | 0.008 | 0.010 | 0.012 |
| Wisconsin | 51,942 | 348 | 49,993 | 405 | *-3.8 | 1.0 | 0.426 | 0.004 | 0.432 | 0.004 | 0.006 | 0.006 |
| Wyoming | 52,931 | 1,838 | 52,664 | 1,877 | -0.5 | 5.0 | 0.444 | 0.020 | 0.415 | 0.014 | *-0.029 | 0.025 |
| Puerto Rico | 18,318 | 338 | 18,314 | 327 | - | 2.6 | 0.541 | 0.007 | 0.532 | 0.007 | -0.009 | 0.009 |

* Statistically different at the 90 percent confidence level.
- Represents or rounds to zero.
${ }^{1}$ Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. A margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. This number when added to and subtracted from the estimate forms the 90 percent confidence interval.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Surveys, 2008 and 2009, Puerto Rico Community Surveys, 2008 and 2009.


[^0]:    The text of this report discusses data for the United States, including the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Data for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, collected with the Puerto Rico Community Survey, are shown in Figure 1, Figure 2, and a table.
    ${ }^{2}$ All income data are inflation adjusted to 2009 dollars. "Real" refers to income after adjusting for inflation.
    ${ }^{3}$ For a discussion of this and related issues, see Hogan, Howard, "Measuring Population Change Using the American Community Survey," Applied Demography in the 21 Sentury, eds., Steven H. Murdock and David A. Swanson, Springer Netherlands, 2008.

[^1]:    ${ }^{4}$ The median household income for Maryland was not statistically different from the median household income for New Jersey and Alaska. The median household income for Mississippi was not statistically different from the median household income for West Virginia.

[^2]:    ${ }^{6}$ See <www.census.gov/prod/2010pubs /acsbr09-1.pdf> for more information on poverty publications.

