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

³ For a discussion of this and related issues, see Hogan, Howard, "Measuring Population Change Using the American Community Survey," *Applied Demography in the 21st Century*, eds., Steven H. Murdock and David A. Swanson, Springer Netherlands, 2008. **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 ACS decreasing 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.

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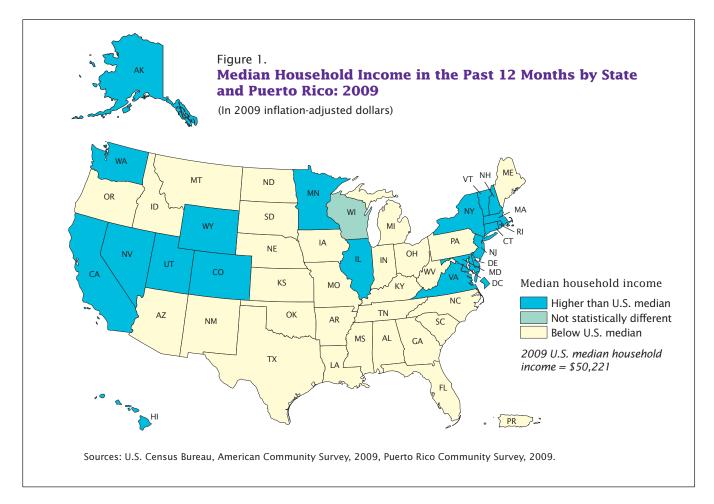
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¹ The text of this report discusses data for the United States, including the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Data for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, collected with the Puerto Rico Community Survey, are shown in Figure 1, Figure 2, and a table.

² All income data are inflation adjusted to 2009 dollars. "Real" refers to income after adjusting for inflation.

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.



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.

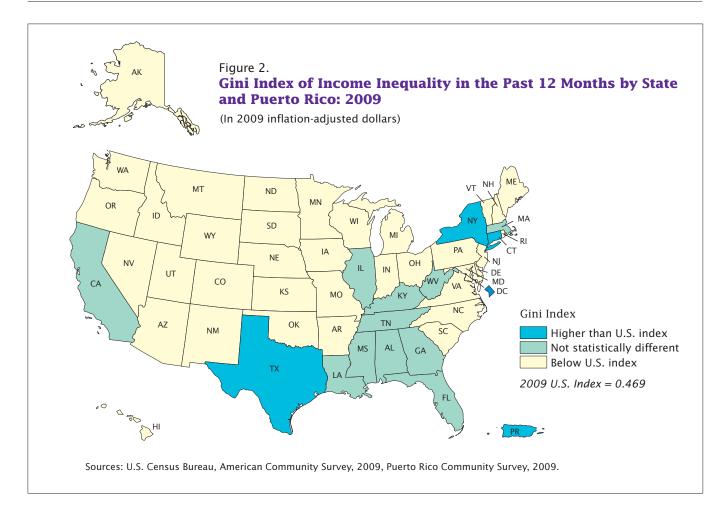
GINI INDEX OF INCOME INEQUALITY

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 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

⁵ The Gini Index for Alaska was not statistically different from the Gini Index for Wyoming and Utah.

⁶ See <www.census.gov/prod/2010pubs /acsbr09-1.pdf> for more information on poverty publications.



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)

	2008 median household income (dollars)		2009 median household Income (dollars)		Change in median income		2008 Gini coefficients		2009 Gini coefficients		Change in Gini coefficients	
Area					Per	cent						
	Estimate	Margin of error ¹ (±)		Margin of error ¹ (±)	Estimate	Margin of error ¹ (±)	Estimate	Margin of error ¹ (±)	Estimate	Margin of error ¹ (±)		Margin of error ¹ (±)
United States	51,726	73	50,221	74	*–2.9	0.2	0.469	0.001	0.469	0.002	_	0.002
Alabama Alaska Arizona Arkansas	42,408 67,413 50,489 38,778	542 2,295 542 652	40,489 66,953 48,745 37,823	528 2,331 484 629	*–4.5 –0.7 *–3.5 *–2.5	1.7 4.8 1.4 2.3	0.467 0.406 0.453 0.459	0.006 0.015 0.004 0.007	0.471 0.402 0.451 0.461	0.005 0.014 0.005 0.006	0.004 -0.004 -0.002 0.002	0.008 0.020 0.006 0.009
California Colorado Connecticut Delaware District of Columbia	60,625 57,030 68,283 58,173 57,654	251 646 983 1,472 2,445	58,931 55,430 67,034 56,860 59,290	274 704 993 1,744 1,710	*-2.8 *-2.8 -1.8 -2.3 2.8	0.6 1.7 2.0 3.9 5.3	0.473 0.456 0.485 0.442 0.540	0.003 0.005 0.006 0.011 0.013	0.467 0.453 0.480 0.434 0.532	0.002 0.005 0.006 0.010 0.010	*-0.006 -0.003 -0.005 -0.008 -0.008	0.003 0.007 0.009 0.014 0.016
Florida Georgia Hawaii Idaho Illinois Indiana	47,452 50,328 67,384 47,248 55,671 47,657	354 443 1,992 905 407 521	44,736 47,590 64,098 44,926 53,966 45,424	290 414 1,574 953 404 455	*–5.7 *–5.4 *–4.9 *–4.9 *–3.1 *–4.7	0.9 1.2 3.7 2.7 1.0 1.4	0.472 0.468 0.425 0.422 0.467 0.438	0.004 0.005 0.010 0.009 0.004 0.005	0.469 0.469 0.425 0.421 0.469 0.434	0.003 0.004 0.009 0.008 0.004 0.004	-0.003 0.001 -0.001 0.002 -0.004	0.005 0.006 0.013 0.012 0.005 0.006
lowa. Kansas. Kentucky . Louisiana. Maine.	48,559 49,686 41,299 43,288 46,331	600 571 472 652 810	48,044 47,817 40,072 42,492 45,734	426 670 535 629 935	-1.1 *-3.8 *-3.0 -1.8 -1.3	1.5 1.7 1.7 2.1 2.7	0.429 0.442 0.468 0.478 0.434	0.005 0.006 0.006 0.006 0.008	0.431 0.444 0.464 0.473 0.432	0.005 0.005 0.005 0.006 0.008	0.002 0.002 -0.004 -0.005 -0.002	0.007 0.008 0.008 0.008 0.008 0.012
Maryland Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota Mississippi Missouri Montana Nebraska Nevada New Hampshire	69,844 64,941 48,246 56,767 37,749 46,654 43,443 49,342 56,137 63,650	755 703 455 513 698 377 1,176 756 805 1,598	69,272 64,081 45,255 55,616 36,646 45,229 42,322 47,357 53,341 60,567	696 680 358 546 695 519 1,073 804 981 1,385	0.8 1.3 *6.2 *-2.0 *-2.9 *-3.1 2.6 *-4.0 *-5.0 *-4.8	1.5 1.5 1.2 1.3 2.6 1.4 3.6 2.2 2.2 3.2	0.438 0.472 0.451 0.444 0.479 0.448 0.447 0.427 0.422 0.432 0.418	0.005 0.004 0.003 0.005 0.007 0.005 0.010 0.006 0.008 0.007	0.448 0.453 0.439 0.470 0.450 0.431 0.440 0.433 0.431	0.004 0.005 0.004 0.004 0.008 0.004 0.009 0.007 0.006 0.009	*0.010 -0.004 0.002 -0.005 -0.009 0.002 *-0.016 *0.013 0.001 *0.013	0.006 0.007 0.005 0.006 0.010 0.006 0.013 0.009 0.010 0.012
New Jersey	69,938 43,177 55,486 46,244 45,497 47,428 42,624 49,714 50,245 54,877	638 938 433 438 1,018 288 646 651 274 1,705	68,342 43,028 54,659 43,674 47,827 45,395 41,664 48,457 49,520 54,119	659 1,033 396 375 995 350 502 623 286 1,522	*-2.3 -0.3 *-1.5 *-5.6 *5.1 *-4.3 *-2.3 *-2.5 *-1.4 -1.4	1.3 3.2 1.0 1.2 3.2 0.9 1.9 1.8 0.8 4.1	0.462 0.459 0.505 0.463 0.450 0.450 0.450 0.456 0.447 0.458 0.460	0.004 0.007 0.003 0.004 0.012 0.003 0.005 0.005 0.005 0.003 0.014	0.465 0.453 0.502 0.464 0.450 0.453 0.460 0.443 0.460 0.457	0.004 0.007 0.003 0.004 0.013 0.003 0.005 0.005 0.005 0.003 0.011	0.003 -0.006 -0.003 0.001 - - 0.003 0.004 -0.004 0.002 -0.003	0.005 0.009 0.005 0.006 0.018 0.004 0.007 0.007 0.007 0.004 0.017
South Carolina South Dakota Tennessee Texas Utah Vermont Virginia. Washington West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming	44,053 46,008 43,311 49,453 56,304 52,207 61,064 57,536 37,677 51,942 52,931	589 1,133 375 279 772 1,064 462 529 915 348 1,838	42,442 45,043 41,725 48,259 55,117 51,618 59,330 56,548 37,435 49,993 52,664	565 1,214 439 244 803 950 482 528 707 405 1,877	*-3.7 -2.1 *-3.7 *-2.4 *-2.1 -1.1 *-2.8 *-1.7 -0.6 *-3.8 -0.5	1.8 3.6 1.3 0.7 2.0 2.7 1.1 1.3 3.1 1.0 5.0	0.463 0.448 0.471 0.475 0.411 0.432 0.460 0.453 0.453 0.426 0.426	0.006 0.013 0.005 0.002 0.007 0.004 0.005 0.009 0.004 0.020	0.462 0.452 0.467 0.474 0.474 0.428 0.428 0.456 0.439 0.463 0.432 0.432	0.005 0.015 0.005 0.003 0.008 0.009 0.003 0.004 0.004 0.004 0.014	-0.001 0.004 -0.004 -0.004 -0.004 -0.004 -0.004 -0.004 0.010 0.006 *-0.029	0.008 0.019 0.007 0.004 0.010 0.016 0.005 0.006 0.012 0.006 0.025
Puerto Rico	18,318	338	18,314		-0.5	2.6	0.541	0.020	0.413	0.014	-0.029	0.025

* Statistically different at the 90 percent confidence level.

- Represents or rounds to zero.

¹Data 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.