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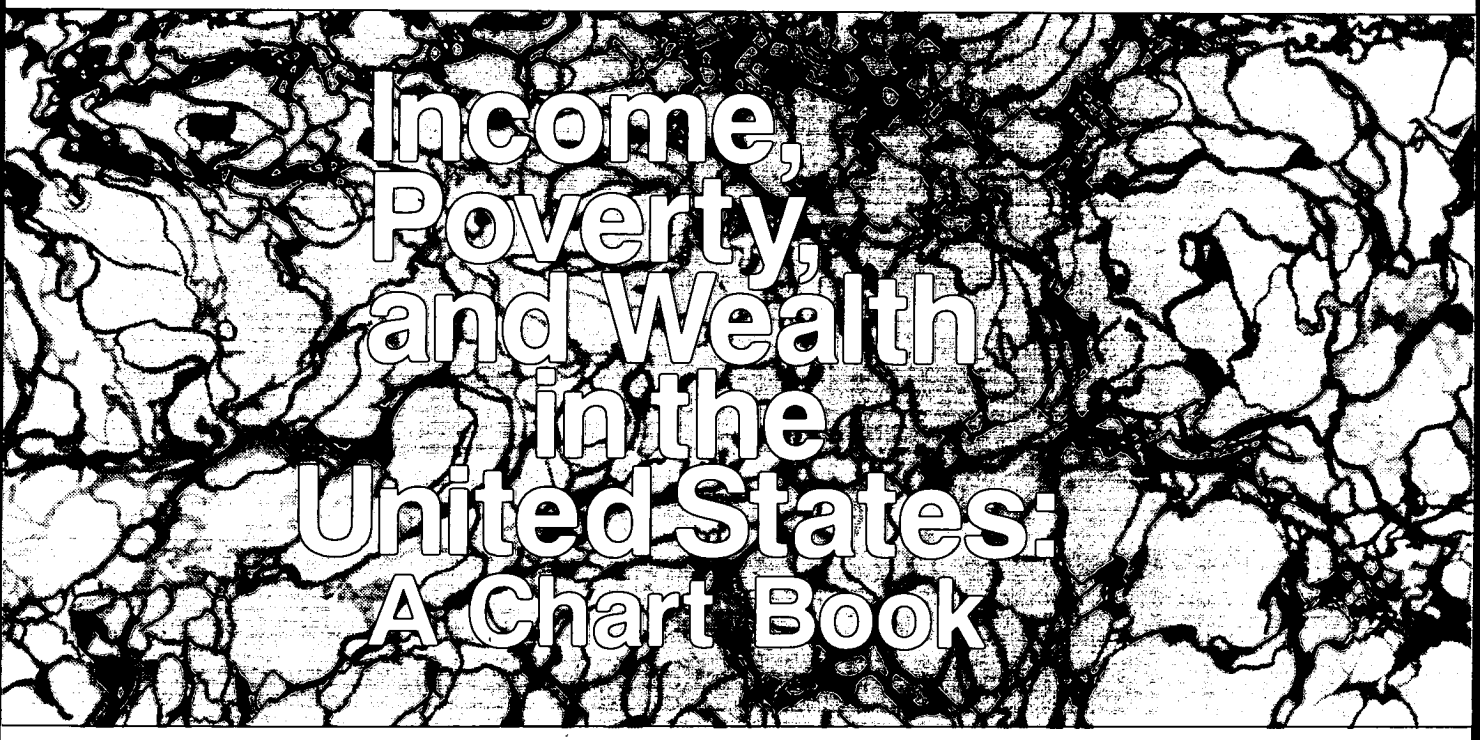

Income, Poverty, and Wealth in the United States: A Chart Book

by
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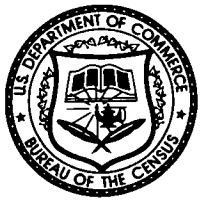

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Contents

Page

Part I.
Money Income of Households, Families, and Persons
Introduction 1

Income of Households: 1990
Median Household Income, by Race and Hispanic Origin: 1990 2
Median Household Income, by Type of Residence: 1990 2
Median Income, by Region: 1990 3
Percent Change in Median Household Income: 1967-90 3
Median Household Income, by Tenure: 1990 4
Share of Aggregate Household Income: 1990 4

Income of Families: 1990
Median Family Income by Age, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1990 5
Median Income, by Type of Family and Presence of Children: 1990 6
Ratio of Black-to-White and Hispanic-to-White Median Family Income for Married Couples: 1967-90 6
Median Income, by Family Type and Race: 1990 7
Percent Change in Median Family Income: 1967-90 7

Earnings of Persons, Working Year-Round, Full-Time: 1990
Median Earnings for Year-Round, Full-Time Workers, by Sex: 1990 8
Female-to-Male Ratio Earnings for Year-Round, Full-Time Workers: 1960-90 8
Median Earnings of Persons Working Year-Round, Full-Time, by Occupation: 1990 9
Median Earnings of Persons 25 Years and Over Working Year-Round, Full-Time, by Education: 1990 9

Per Capita Income
Per Capita Income Over Time: 1967-90 10

Part II.
Poverty in the United States: 1990
Introduction 11

Poverty of Persons
Distribution of Poor, by Race: 1990 12
Poverty Rate of Persons, by Race: 1959-90 13
Poverty Rate of Persons, by Age: 1959-90 14
Poverty Rate, by Area of Residence: 1990 14
Poverty Rate, by Region: 1990 15
Poverty Rate of Persons, by Years of School Completed: 1990 15

Poverty of Families
Poverty Rate of Families, by Type: 1959-90 16
Mean Income Deficit for Families Below Poverty Level, by Type: 1990 17
Work Experience of Poor Married Couples: 1990 17
Work Experience of Poor Female Householders, No Husband Present: 1990 18

Poverty of Unrelated Individuals: 1990
Poverty Rate of Unrelated Individuals, by Age and Race: 1990 19
Mean Income Deficit for Unrelated Individuals Below the Poverty Level: 1990 19

Part III.
Measuring The Effect of Benefits and Taxes on Income and Poverty
Introduction 21

Income: 1990
Median Household Income, by Income Definition: 1990 22
Gini Index, by Income Definition: 1990 23

Poverty: 1990
Poverty Rates, by Income Definition: 1990 24

Part IV.
Household Wealth and Asset Ownership: 1988
Introduction 25

Distribution of Net Worth: 1988 26
Median Net Worth, by Quintile: 1988 26
Median Net Worth, by Age: 1988 27
Distribution of Net Worth, by Age and Asset Type: 1988 28
Median Net Worth, by Household Type and Race: 1988 29
Median Net Worth for Households, by Monthly Household Income Quintile: 1988 30
Percent of Net Worth Held, by Selected Asset Types and Race: 1988 31

Appendixes
A. Definitions and Explanations A-1
B. Detailed Tables B-1
C. Source and Accuracy C-1

Part I.
Money Income of Households, Families, and Persons

Introduction

This section presents data on the income of households, families, and persons in the United States for the calendar year 1990. These data were compiled from information collected in the March 1991 Current Population Survey (CPS) conducted by the Bureau of the Census. The survey consisted of approximately 60,000 households nationwide.

The official income estimates in this report are based solely on money income before taxes and do not include the value of noncash benefits such as food stamps, Medicare, Medicaid, public housing, and employer-provided fringe benefits.

This part of the report begins with a section on household income, with comparisons by region, type of residence, race and Hispanic origin[1], tenure and the share of aggregate income by quintile. Following household income, is a section on family income and a section on earnings of persons working year-round, full-time. The last section is on per capita income.[2]

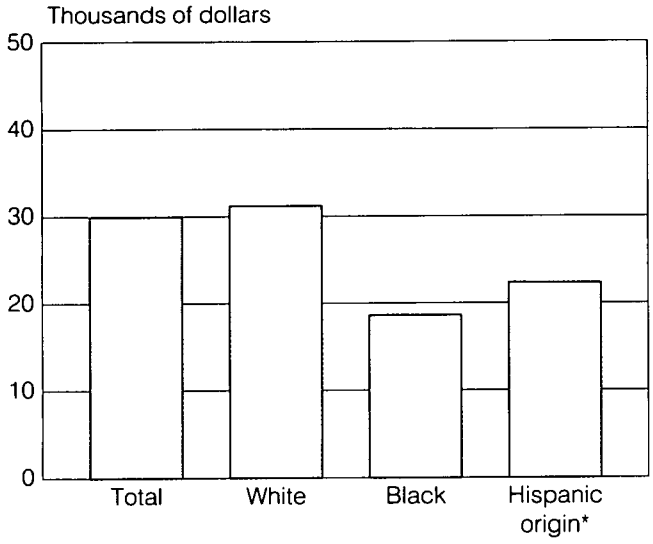
---

[1] Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

[2] For more detail and explanation, refer to Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 174, Money Income of Households, Families, and Persons in the United States: 1990.

Income of Households: 1990

Figure 1.
Median Household Income, by Race and Hispanic Origin: 1990



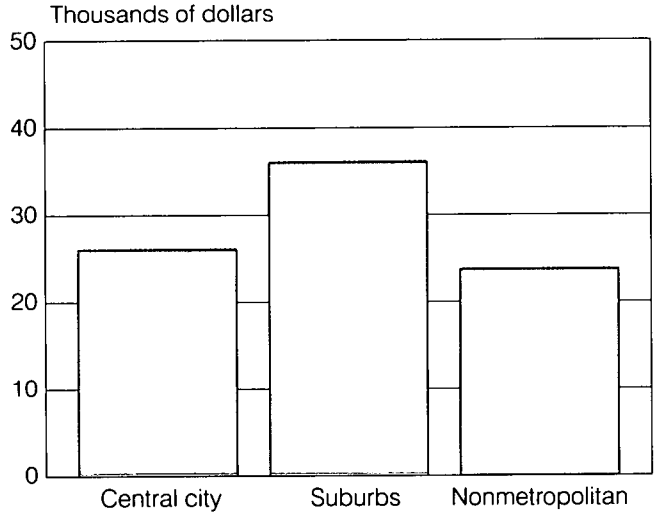
* May be of any race

had income of

Households are persons sharing one housing unit. Half of households ~~earned~~ more than $29,943 in 1990 and half earned less.

- The median income of White, Black, and Hispanic households was quite different. Half of White households received $31,231 or more income, while Blacks received 67.2 percent less, $18,676, and Hispanics received $22,330, 39.9 percent less.

Figure 2.
Median Household Income, by Type of Residence: 1990



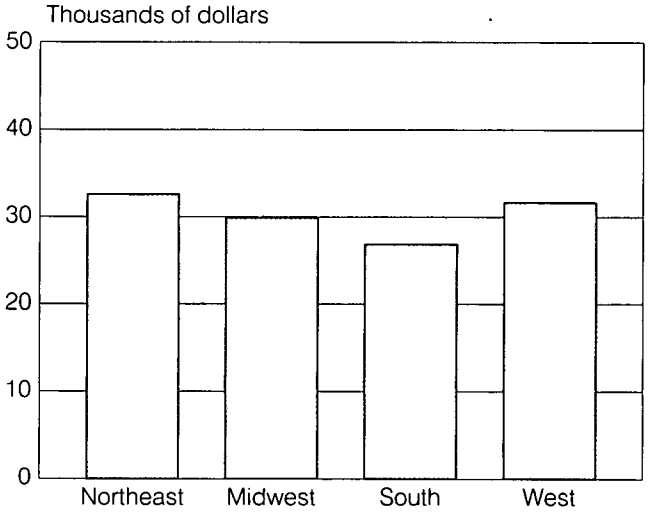
Median household income was significantly higher inside metropolitan areas.

- Nationally, households inside metropolitan areas (central city and suburbs) had a median income 34.2 percent higher than those in nonmetropolitan areas in 1990 ($31,823 vs $23,709).

Suburban households fared better than their counterparts in our Nation's cities.

- The median income of households in the suburbs ($36,038) was substantially higher than those inside central cities ($26,052).

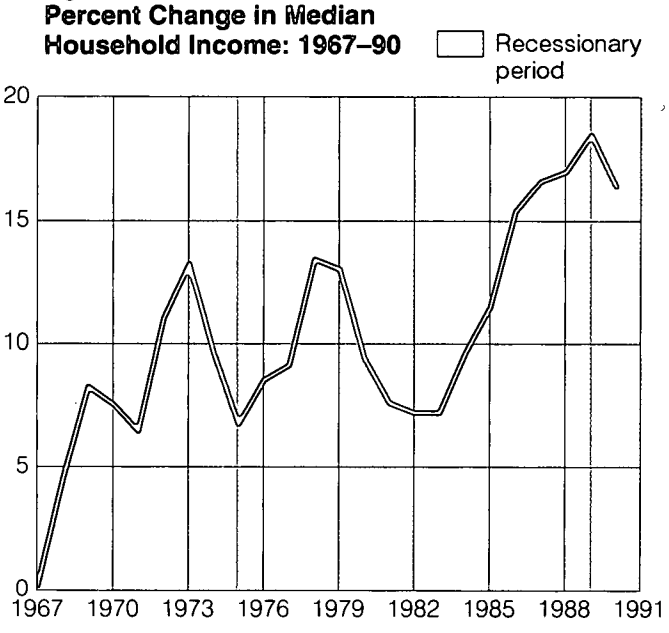
Figure 3.
Median Income, by Region: 1990



Regionally, households in the Northeast had the highest median.

- The median income of households in the Northeast was $32,676, 9.1 percent higher than the median for all households.
- For households in the West, the median income was $31,761, 2.8 percent less than the median income of households in the Northeast.
- The South was the only region with a median income ($26,942) that was significantly lower than the national median.

Figure 4.
Percent Change in Median Household Income: 1967–90

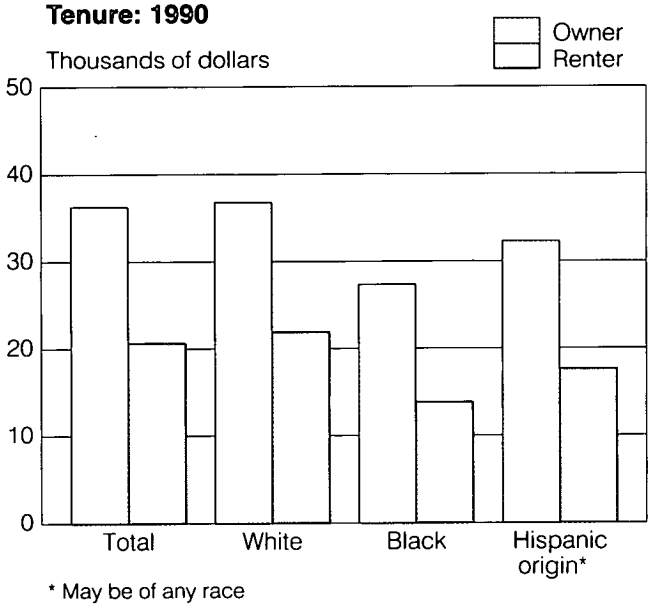


Note: Based on the CPI-U-X1.

Household income in 1990 was 2.9 percent higher than in 1973.

- Income tends to fall during recessions and rise during recoveries.
- Between 1973 and 1975 household income declined by 5.7 percent; during the 1979 to 1982 recession, household income fell 5.1 percent.
- The 1976 to 1978 period shows a 4.5 percent real increase in income and the 1983 to 1990 period shows 8.6 percent.

Figure 5.
Median Household Income, by Tenure: 1990

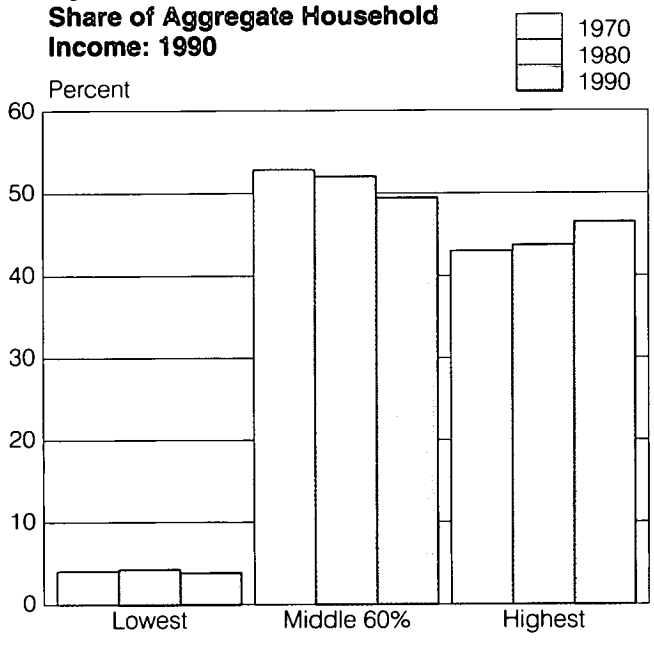


* May be of any race

Nationally, the median household income of owner-occupied households was 75.2 percent higher than renters in 1990.

- The median household income of owner-occupied households was $36,298 compared to $20,722 for renters.
- The median income of White owner-occupied households ($36,810) was 67.6 percent higher than that of White renter-occupied households ($21,962).
- Black owner-occupied households had a median income ($27,377) 96.5 percent higher than Black renter-occupied ($13,929).
- Hispanic owner-occupied households ($32,321) had a median income 83.3 percent higher than Hispanic renter-occupied ($17,632).

Figure 6.
Share of Aggregate Household Income: 1990

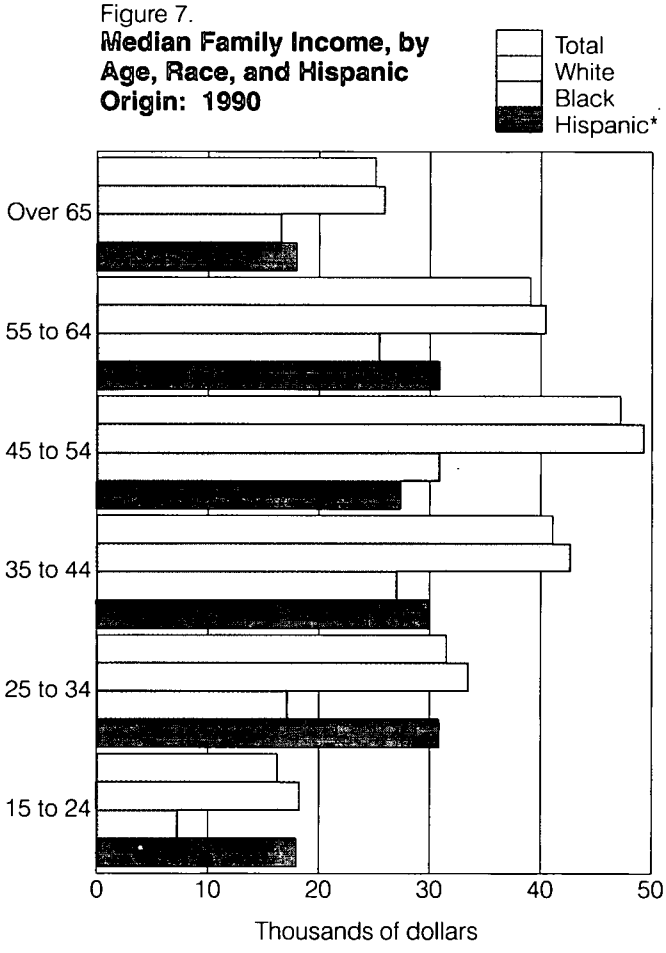


The growing inequality of the income distribution has been a topic of interest over the last few years. A commonly used measure of income inequality is the share of aggregate income received by each fifth of the population.

- The proportion of the aggregate income received by the highest fifth of households has grown over the past 20 years from 43.3 percent in 1970 to 46.6 percent in 1990.
- The share of aggregate income received by the middle 60 percent of households declined from 52.7 percent in 1970 to 49.5 percent in 1990.

Income of Families: 1990

Figure 7.
Median Family Income, by Age, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1990



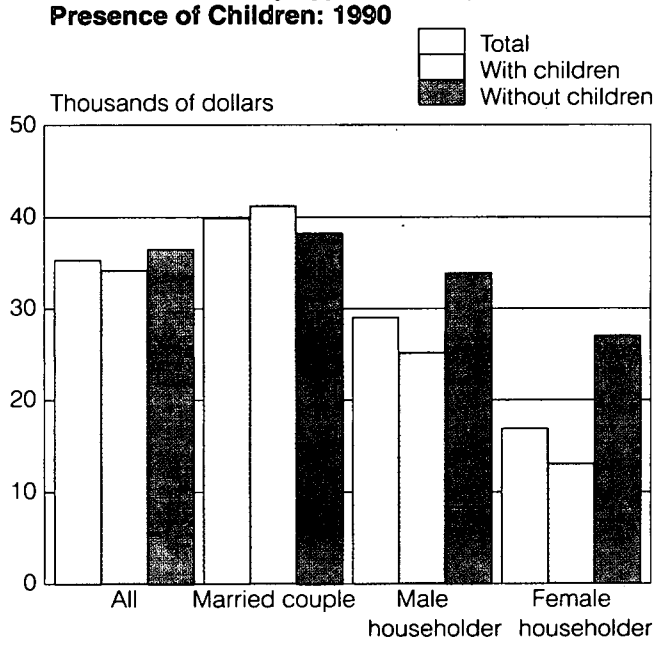
* May be of any race

Families are persons living together who are related by blood or marriage.

- Median family income is highest among families with a householder between the ages of 45 and 54.
- The median income of families with a householder between the ages of 15 and 24 was $16,219 in 1990, less than one-half of the median income for all families ($35,353).
- Black/White family income ratios vary widely by age; for families with a householder between the ages of 15 and 24, the Black/White median income ratio in 1990 was .40. The comparable ratio for families with a householder 35 to 44 years of age was .63.[3]
- The Hispanic/White family income ratios did not vary widely by age as the Black/White income ratios. For families with a householder between the age of 15 to 24, the Hispanic/White median income ratio in 1990 was .71; the comparable ratio for families with a householder 35 to 44 years of age was .64. This difference is not significant.

[3] The ratios for families with a householder 35 to 44, 45 to 54, 55 to 64, and 65 and over are not significantly different.

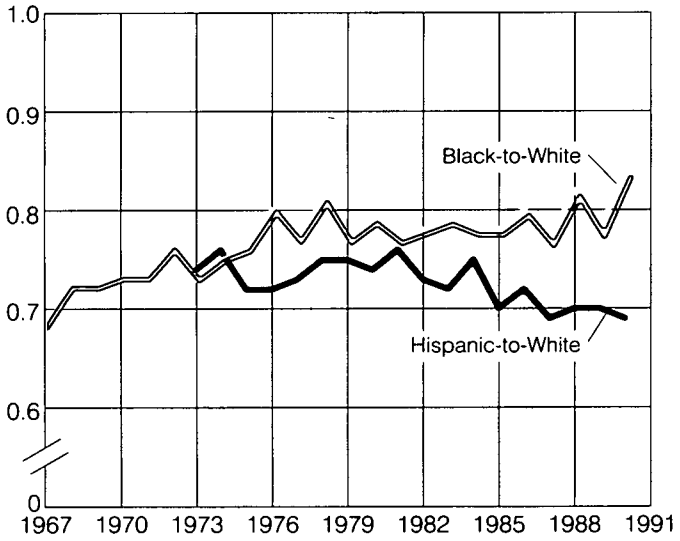
Figure 8.
Median Income, by Type of Family and Presence of Children: 1990



The median income of families with a female householder, no husband present is substantially lower than that of other family types.

- In 1990, the median income of families with a female householder, no husband present was $16,932, ~~42.4~~ percent lower than the median income of married-couple families ($39,895).
- Among families with children, the difference in median income between married-couples and families with a female householder, no husband present was even larger. The median income of families with a female householder with children was $13,092, ~~32.7~~ percent lower than the median for the married-couple with children ($41,260).

Figure 9.
Ratio of Black-to-White and Hispanic-to-White Median Family Income for Married Couples: 1967–90

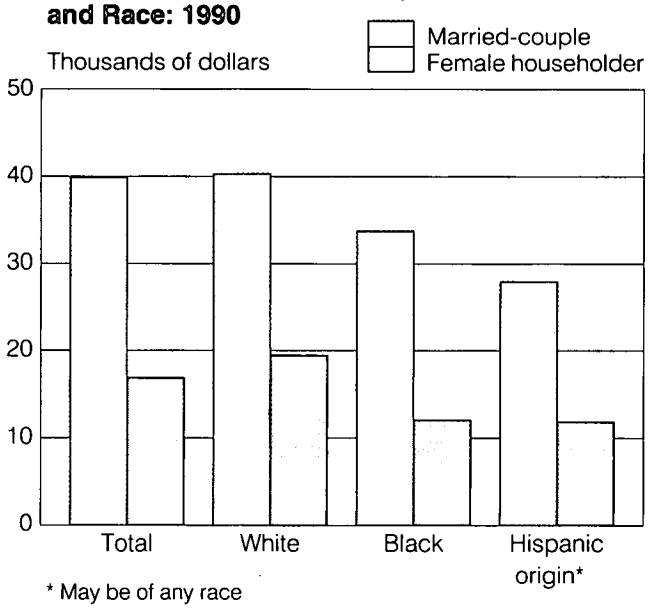


The income disparity between White and Black married-couple families is lessening.

- In 1990, the median family income of Black married-couple families was $33,784; for White families the median was $40,331—a Black to White income ratio of .84. This income ratio was much higher than the Black to White income ratios of .76 in 1975 and .68 in 1967.
- In contrast, the income disparity between White and Hispanic origin married-couple families is widening. The ratio of Hispanic to White married-couple family income was .69 in 1990, lower than the 1984 ratio of .75 and the 1973 ratio of .74.[4]

[4] The difference between the 1984 and 1981 ratio of Hispanic-to-White married-couple family median income was not statistically significant.

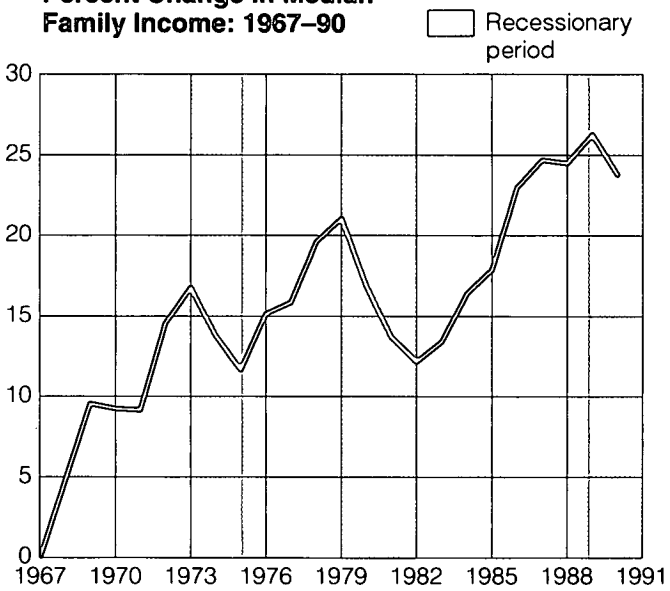
Figure 10.
Median Income, by Family Type and Race: 1990



The median income of families with female householder, no husband present remains substantially below married-couple families.

- In 1990, the median income in White female householder, no husband present families was 51.6 percent that of White married-couple families.
- The median income in Black female householder, no husband present families was 37.9 percent that of White female householder families. For families of Hispanic origin the percent was 38.9 that of White female householder families.

Figure 11.
Percent Change in Median Family Income: 1967–90



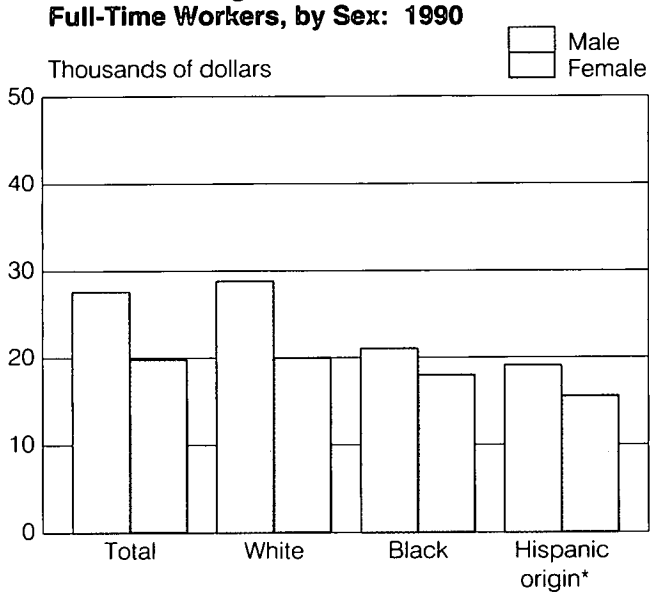
Note: Based on the CPI-U-X1.

Family income in 1990 was 5.9 percent higher than in 1973.

- Income tends to fall during recessions and rise during recoveries.
- Between 1973 and 1975 family income declined by 4.4 percent; during the 1979 to 1982 recession, income fell 7.4 percent. The 1976 to 1978 period show a 3.6 percent real increase in income and the 1983-90 period shows 9.2 percent.

Earnings of Persons, Working Year-Round, Full-Time: 1990

Figure 12.
Median Earnings for Year-Round, Full-Time Workers, by Sex: 1990

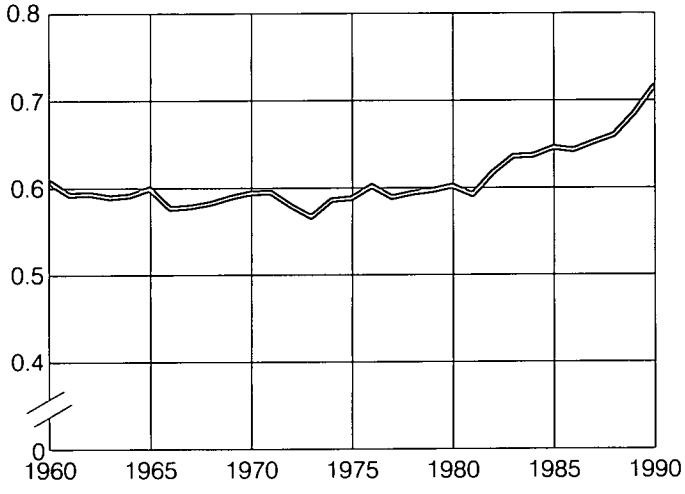


* May be of any race

Difference in earnings between males and females 15 years old and older who worked year-round, full-time are larger for Whites than for Blacks or those of Hispanic origin.

- In 1990, the median earnings of males working year-round, full-time was 39.6 percent higher than that of females.
- White males had median earnings 44.0 percent higher than White females. For Blacks and those of Hispanic origin, the differences between males and females who worked year-round, full-time were only 17.0 and 22.1 percent, respectively.

Figure 13.
Female-to-Male Ratio of Earnings for Year-Round, Full-Time Workers: 1960–90

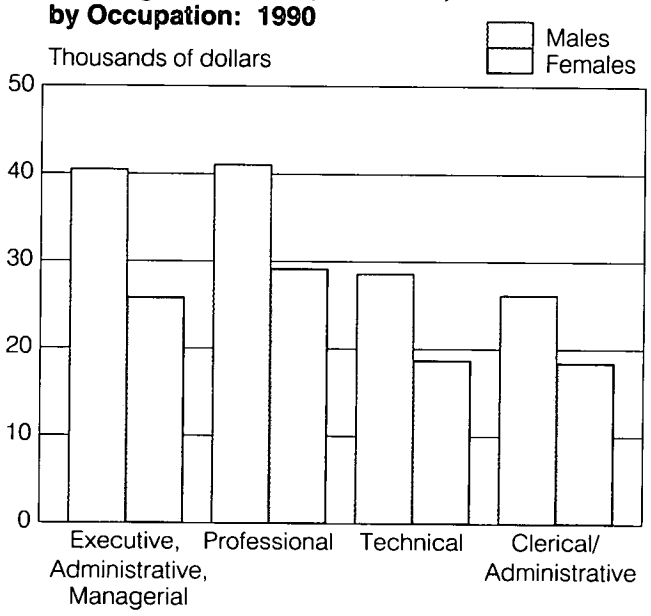


Note: Data for 1974, 1979, and 1983 are revised.

The differing trends in male and female earning patterns is responsible for a significant increase in the female-to-male ratio.

- In 1990, the female-to-male earnings ratio reached an all-time high of .71, representing an 18.3 percent increase over 1980 ratio of .60.

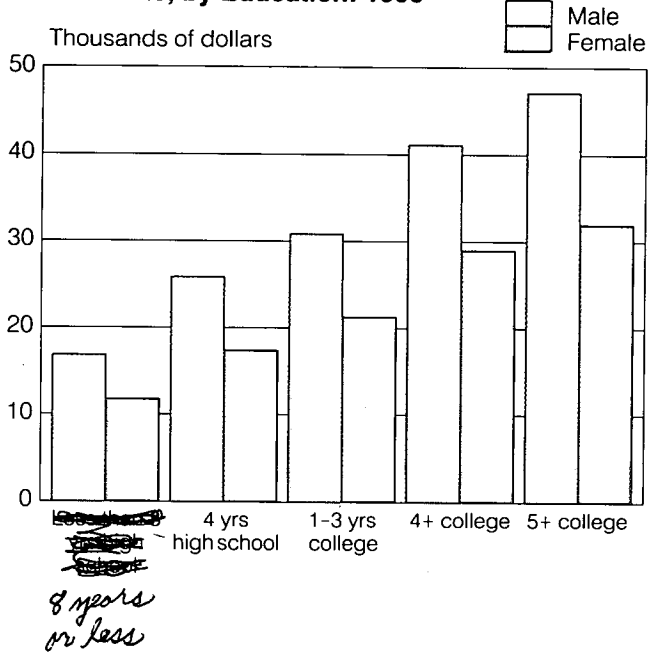
Figure 14.
Median Earnings of Persons Working Year-Round, Full-Time, by Occupation: 1990



The median earnings of women are significantly lower than men in every occupational category.

- Males working year-round, full-time in executive, administrative, and managerial occupations had median earnings 56.8 percent higher than females.
- In professional occupations, the median earnings for men was 40.8 percent higher than that of women; male medians were 52.8 percent higher in technical occupations and 41.8 percent higher in clerical occupations.

Figure 15.
Median Earnings of Persons 25 Years and Over Working Year-Round, Full-Time, by Education: 1990

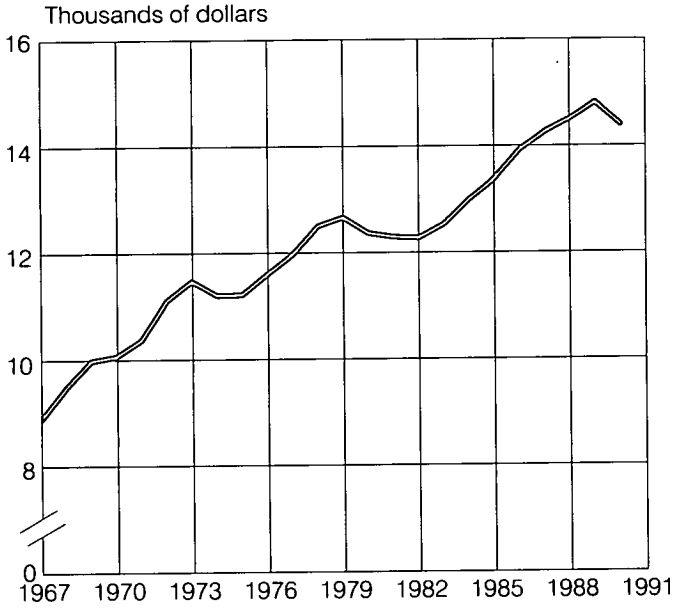


The correlation between educational attainment and earnings is very strong.

- Median earnings in 1990 was $16,840 for males who had completed 8 years or less of school, compared to $11,831 for females. The differences were even greater for high school graduates, $25,872 and $17,412, respectively.
- The difference in median earning of males and females increased with education. Differences range between $5,009 for persons with 8 years or less of school to $15,162 for persons with 5 or more years of college.

Per Capita Income

Figure 16.
Per Capita Income Over Time: 1967–90



Note: Based on the CPI-U-X1.

Per capita income declined 2.9 percent in real terms between 1989 and 1990 after 7 consecutive years (1983 to 1989) of increase.

- Nationally, the per capita income was $14,387 in 1990, compared to $15,265 for Whites, ~~$9,881~~ for Blacks and $8,424 for persons of Hispanic origin.

Part II.

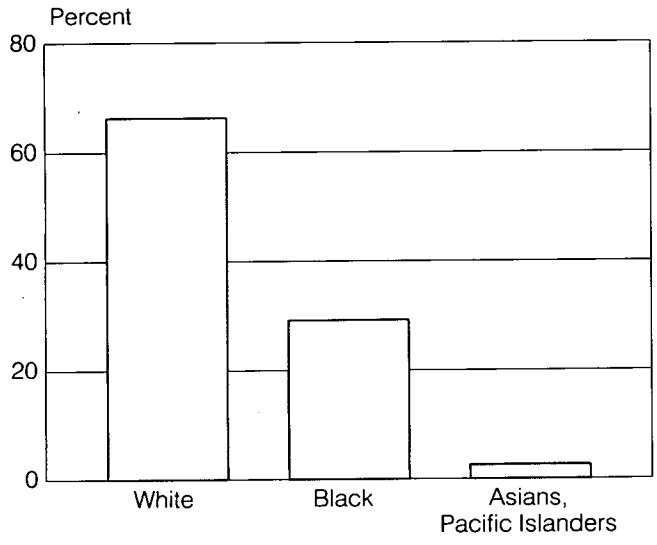
Poverty in the United States: 1990

Introduction

This section presents social and economic characteristics of the population below the poverty level in 1990 based on the March 1991 Current Population Survey (CPS) and historical data based on the CPS from 1959 to present. The poverty definition used in this report is that adopted for official government use by the Office of Management and Budget and consists of a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition. Families or individuals with income below their appropriate poverty threshold are classified as below the poverty level. These poverty statistics exclude inmates of institutions, (Armed Forces members living in barracks), and unrelated individuals under 15 years of age. Poverty thresholds are updated every year to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index. For example, the average poverty threshold for a family of four was $12,674 in 1989 but $13,359 in 1990. Average poverty thresholds in 1990 varied from $6,652 for a person living alone to $26,848 for a family of nine or more members. The poverty definition is based on pre-tax money income only, excluding capital gains, and does not include the value of noncash benefits such as employer-provided health insurance, food stamps, or Medicaid.

Poverty of Persons

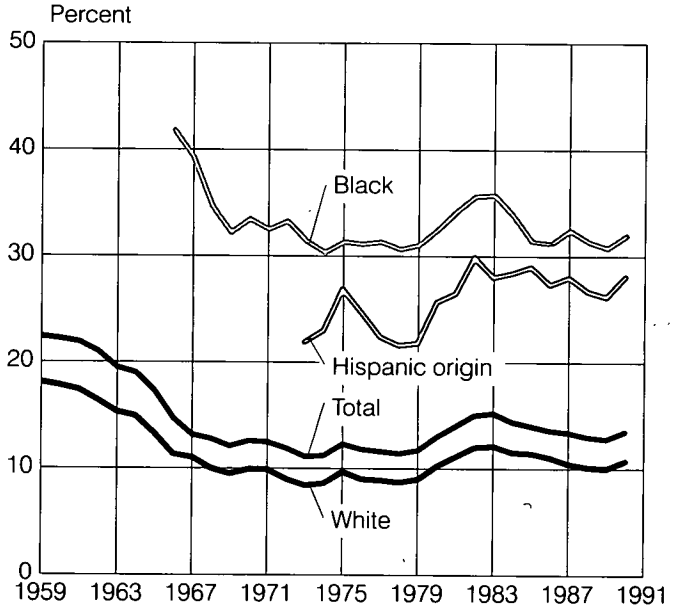
Figure 17.
Distribution of Poor, by Race: 1990



In 1990, the majority of the Nation's poor were White.

- Even though the poverty rate for Whites was lower than that of the other groups, the majority of the poor persons in 1990 were White (66.5 percent).
- Blacks constituted 29.3 percent of all persons below the poverty level.
- The remaining 4.2 percent were persons of "other" races. Most of this group were Asians or Pacific Islanders who, combined, represented 2.6 percent of the Nation's poor.

Figure 18.
Poverty Rate of Persons, by Race: 1959–90



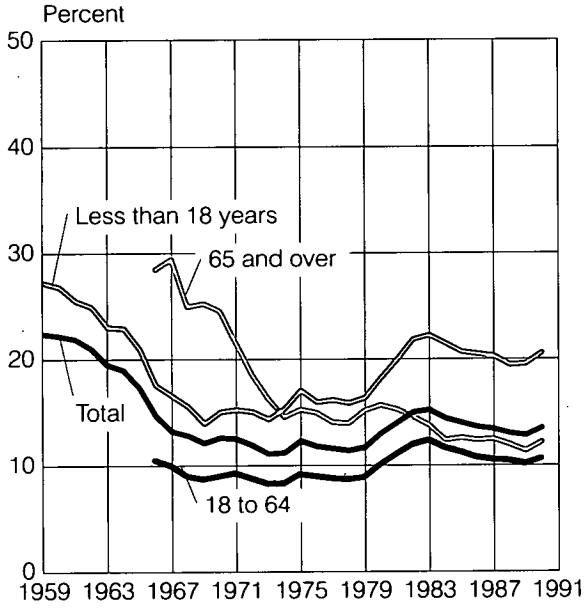
From 1983 to 1989 both the number of poor and the poverty rate declined. In 1990, however, both the number and the rate increased from 1989.

- From 1959 to 1969 the overall rate dropped about 10 percent, from 22.4 to 12.1 percent; for the next 10 years the rate fluctuated only between 11.1 and 13.0 percent.
- Between 1970 and 1980, the poverty rate increased from 12.6 to 13.0 percent and the number of poor increased from 25.4 million to 29.3 million.[1]
- From 1960 through 1990, the poverty rate for Blacks has been significantly higher than the poverty rate for any other race group, followed by the rate for persons of Hispanic origin. The poverty rate for Whites was lowest.
- Asians and Pacific Islanders represented 2.6 percent of the Nation's poor, with a poverty rate of 12.2.
- About 17.9 percent of the poor in 1990 were of Hispanic origin. This fraction was only 10.3 percent in 1973.[2]

[1] The poverty rates in 1970 and 1980 are not significantly different.

[2] Data on the poverty status of persons of Hispanic origin were first published in 1973. In 1990, persons of Hispanic origin represented 8.6 percent of the population, while they only represented 5.2 percent in 1973.

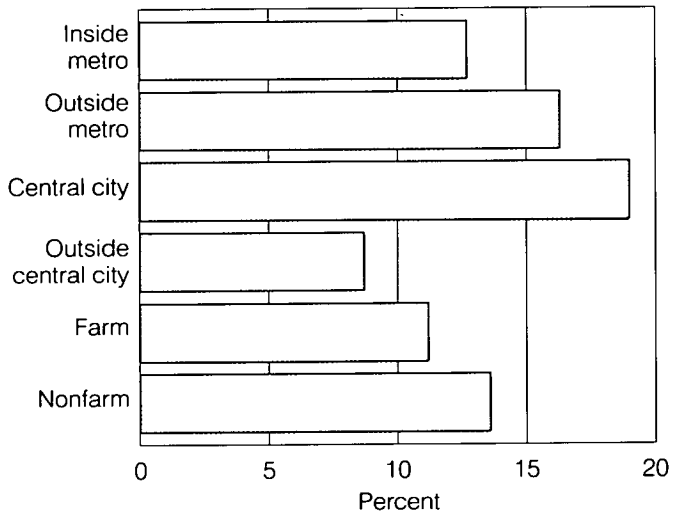
Figure 19.
Poverty Rate of Persons, by Age: 1959-90



Age has a significant influence on poverty status.

- Half the Nation's poor in 1990 were either children under 18 years (40.0 percent) or the elderly (10.9 percent).
- The poverty rate for children continues, as it has since 1975, to be higher than that for any other age group. In 1990 the poverty rate for children under 18 years was 19.9 percent.
- The poverty rate for the elderly exceeded that for children until approximately 1973.
- Though the poverty rate for the elderly was lower in 1990 than that for children, a higher proportion of elderly than children were concentrated just over their respective poverty threshold. Consequently, 18.2 percent of the Nation's 11.3 million "near poor" persons were elderly compared with 10.9 percent of persons below the official poverty level.

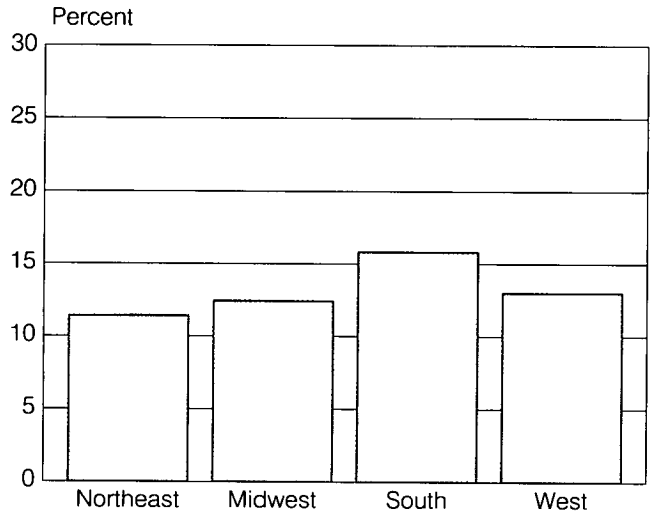
Figure 20.
Poverty Rate, by Area of Residence: 1990



As historically been the case, persons living in nonmetropolitan areas in 1990 had higher poverty rates than those in metropolitan areas.

- The poverty rate outside metropolitan areas (16.3 percent) exceeded that for metropolitan areas (12.7 percent).
- Persons living in metropolitan areas in central cities had higher poverty rates (19.0 percent) than those living in suburban areas outside central cities (8.7 percent).
- The majority of poor metropolitan residents were in central cities (58.2 percent), while nonpoor metropolitan residents were concentrated in suburbs (64.0 percent).
- Poor Hispanic-origin persons were more concentrated in metropolitan areas (91.9 percent) than poor Whites (70.4) or poor Blacks (78.2 percent).

Figure 21.
Poverty Rate, by Region: 1990

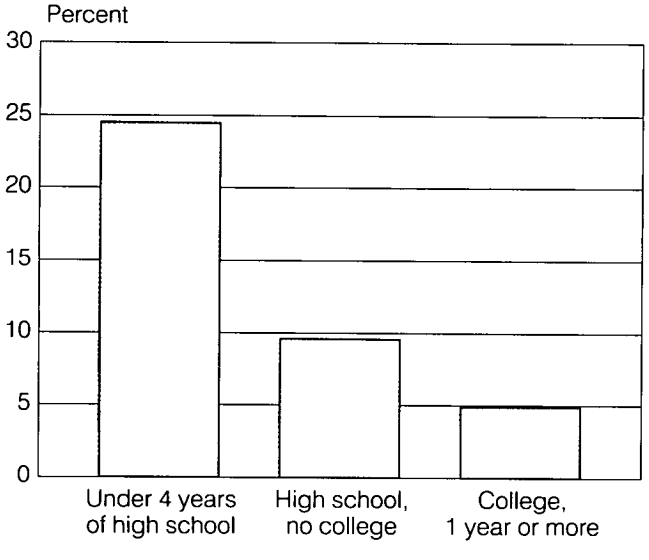


As has been the case since 1985, the Northeast had the lowest poverty rate among the Nation's four regions.

- The poverty rate was highest in the South (15.8 percent) followed by the West (13.0 percent) and Midwest (12.4 percent).[3] The poverty rate in the Northeast was 11.4 percent.
- The South continues to have a disproportionately large share of the Nation's poverty population, 40.1 percent compared to only 33.3 percent of U.S. population with income above the poverty level.

[3] The poverty rate in the West and Midwest are not significantly different.

Figure 22.
Poverty Rate of Persons, by Years of School Completed: 1990

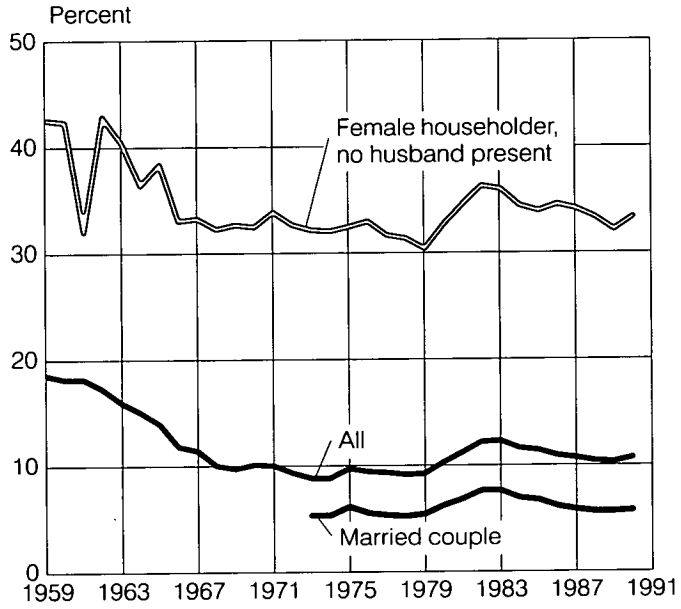


Poverty rates decreased as educational attainment increased.

- About 24.5 percent of persons 18 years and over with less than 4 years of high school were poor in 1990, compared to 9.6 percent for those who completed high school and 4.9 percent for those with 1 or more years of college.
- The proportion of the poor who had less than high school education (48.3 percent) was larger than the proportion of the poor who had completed high school but had not attended college (34.3 percent). The smallest proportion of the poor were those who had one or more years of college (17.4 percent).

Poverty of Families

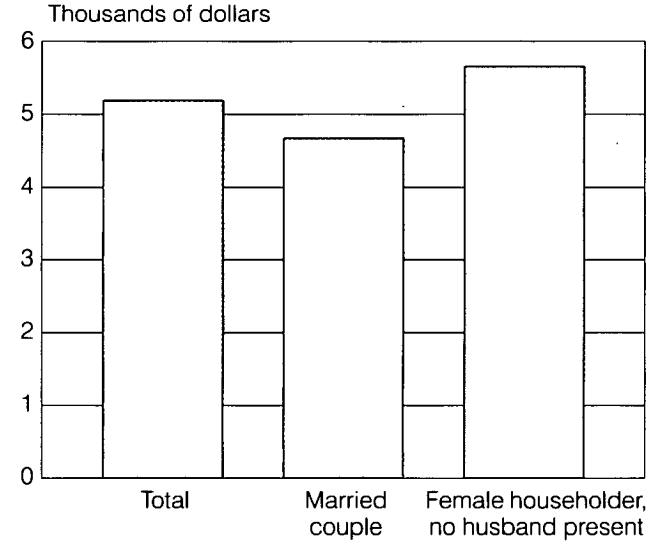
Figure 23.
Poverty Rate of Families, by Type: 1959–90



Female-householder families with no husband present have considerably higher poverty rates than other family types.

- Married-couple families continued to have the lowest poverty rates (5.7 percent) in 1990, followed by families with a male householder, no wife present (12.0 percent), and families with a female householder, no husband present (33.4 percent).
- Overall, in 1990, 42.0 percent of all poor families were maintained by a married couple, while 53.0 percent were maintained by a female householder, no husband present. The other 5.0 percent were families with a male householder, no spouse present. In 1990 only 12.7 percent of nonpoor families were maintained by a female householder, no husband present, while 78.6 percent were married couples.
- The proportion of female-householder families among all poor families leveled off in the early 1980's and was actually slightly lower in 1985 than 1978 (48.1 percent versus 50.3 percent).

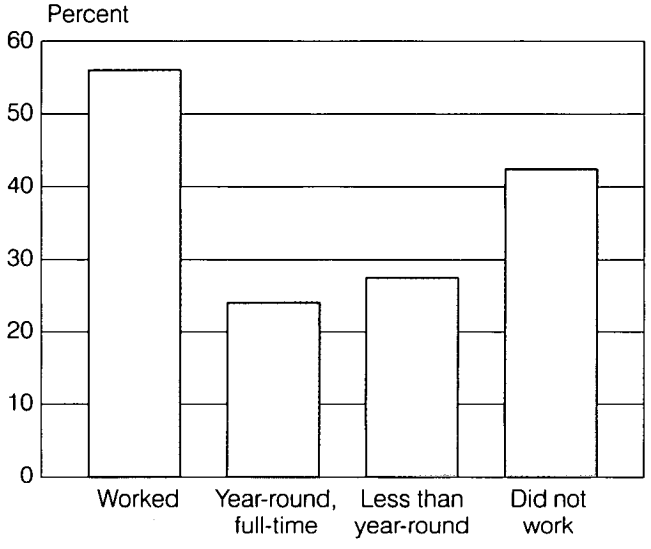
Figure 24.
Mean Income Deficit for Families Below Poverty Level, by Type: 1990



In 1990 the average amount of money needed to raise the incomes of each poor family to its respective poverty threshold was $5,192.

- The average income deficit for a poor family with a female householder, no husband present ($5,661) was higher than that for married-couple families ($4,673).
- The deficit per family member was $1,696 in 1990 for families with a female householder, no husband present, compared with $1,197 for married-couple families.
- In 1990 there were 11.0 million poor persons whose family income was between 75 percent and 99 percent of their poverty threshold.

Figure 25.
Work Experience of Poor Married Couples: 1990

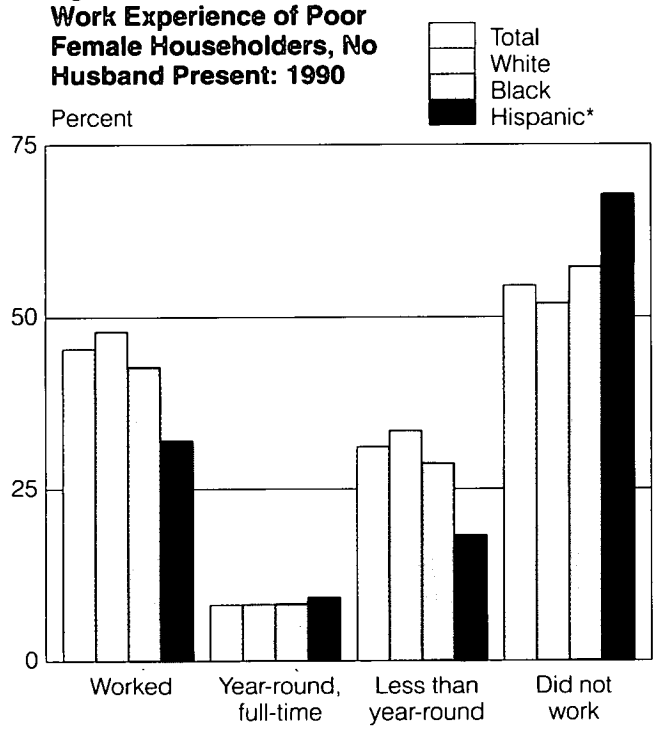


Most of the householders in married-couple families worked in 1990 (56.2 percent).

- About 35.9 percent of poor married-couple householders who did not work in 1990 indicated retirement as the reason, while 33.3 percent gave illness or disability as the reason, and the remaining 30.8 percent gave a reason such as unable to find work, keeping house, or going to school.[4]
- For nonpoor married-couple householders, the vast majority (76.2 percent) of those who did not work were retired.
- Nearly forty three percent of poor married-couple householders did not work, in comparison to 19.9 percent of nonpoor married-couple householders.

[4] The percentages in this sentence are not significantly different from each other.

Figure 26.
Work Experience of Poor Female Householders, No Husband Present: 1990



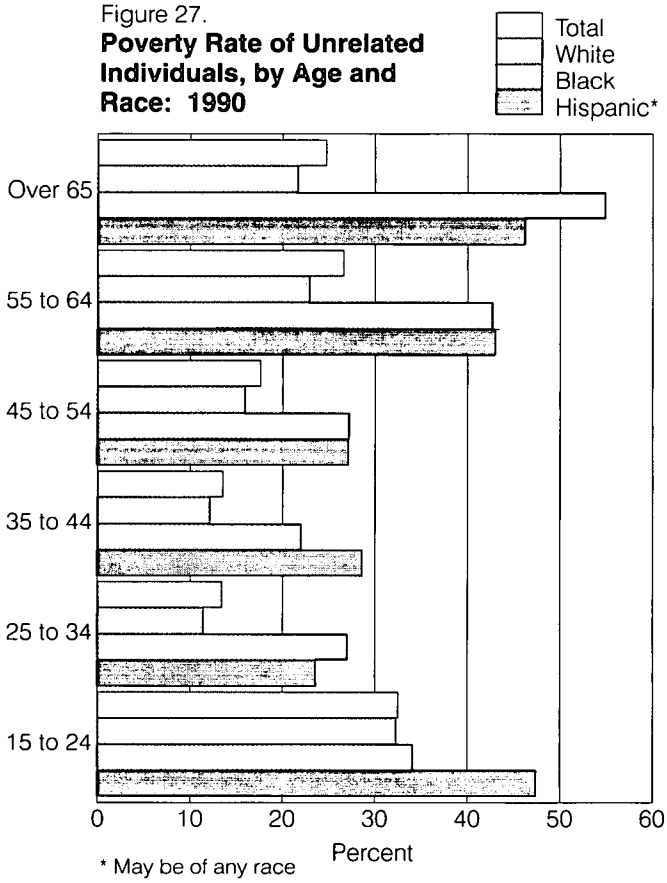
* May be of any race

About 45.4 percent of poor female householders with children worked in 1990, with 8.2 percent working year-round, full-time.

- The comparable percentages for nonpoor female-householder families with children were 69.4 percent who worked, and 39.8 percent worked year-round, full-time.
- The predominant reason given by those who did not work was family responsibilities (64.1 percent for the poor and 69.5 percent for the nonpoor).
- While the proportions of all racial and ethnic groups working year-round full-time were about 8.5 percent, a much larger proportion of poor Hispanic female householders did not work at all (67.9 percent) compared to 57.3 percent for Black householders and 52.0 percent for White householders.

Poverty of Unrelated Individuals: 1990

Figure 27.
Poverty Rate of Unrelated Individuals, by Age and Race: 1990



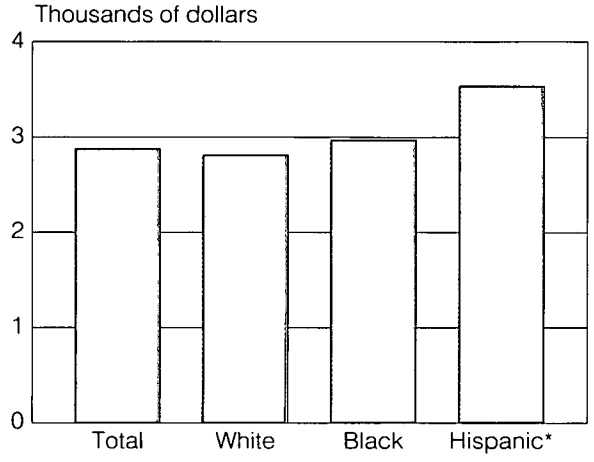
* May be of any race

The 7.4 million unrelated individuals who were poor in 1990 accounted for 22.2 percent of the poverty population.

- Overall, unrelated individuals 15 to 24 years old had higher poverty rates than other age groups. For Blacks, however, elderly unrelated individuals had the highest poverty rate of any age group.[5]
- Young unrelated individuals (15 to 24 years old) of Hispanic origin had poverty rates that were significantly higher than young White unrelated individuals (47.4 percent versus 32.3 percent).

[5] The poverty rates between the age groups 15 to 44 and 35 to 44 are not significantly different.

Figure 28.
Mean Income Deficit for Unrelated Individuals Below the Poverty Level: 1990



* May be of any race

For unrelated individuals the average income deficit was $2,880 in 1990.

- The mean income deficit of unrelated individuals also varies by racial or ethnic subgroup: for Whites the mean income deficit was $2,817, for Blacks, $2,977, and for persons of Hispanic origin, $3,544. [6]
- For women, the average income deficit in 1990 for unrelated individuals was $2,645, lower than the $3,527 for men.

[6] The income deficit between Blacks and Whites are not significantly different.

Part III.
Measuring the Effect of Benefits and Taxes on Income and Poverty

Introduction

Traditionally, income and poverty data presented in Census Bureau reports have been based on the amount of money income received during a calendar year before any taxes and excluding capital gains. This definition of income is narrow and does not provide a completely satisfactory measure of the distribution of income. The omission of data on taxes, capital gains, and the value of noncash benefits has an effect on comparisons over time and between population subgroups.

The Census Bureau has had a research program on the measurement of taxes and the value of noncash benefits. Calculations show how income and poverty estimates change when specific taxes are deducted and specific benefits are added to the income definition.

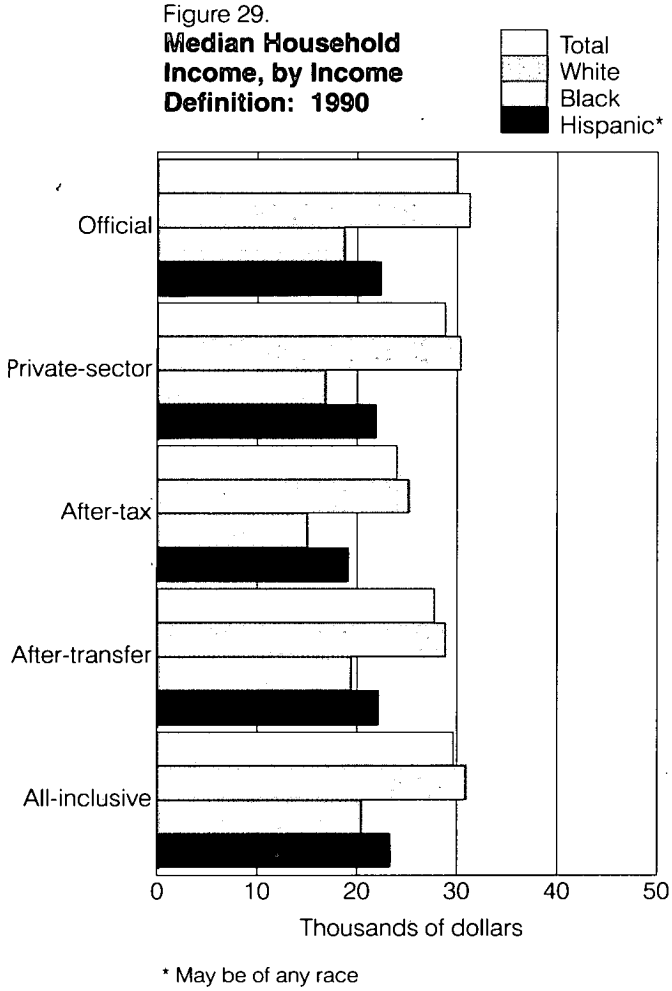
The income definitions that are presented in this section are explained briefly below.

1. Money income excluding capital gains before taxes. This is the *official* definition used in Census Bureau reports.
2. *Private-sector* income is official money income less government cash transfers plus capital gains and employer-provided health insurance supplements to wage or salary income.
3. *After-tax* income deducts all payroll and income taxes from private sector income.
4. *After-transfer* income includes all money income after taxes plus the value of noncash transfer benefits, such as food stamps, rent subsidies, and free and reduced-priced school lunches.
5. Our most *inclusive* definition of income adds in the net imputed return on equity in own home.

See *Measuring the Effects of Benefits and Taxes on Income and Poverty: 1990* for a fuller discussion of measurement issues.

Income: 1990

Figure 29.
Median Household Income, by Income Definition: 1990



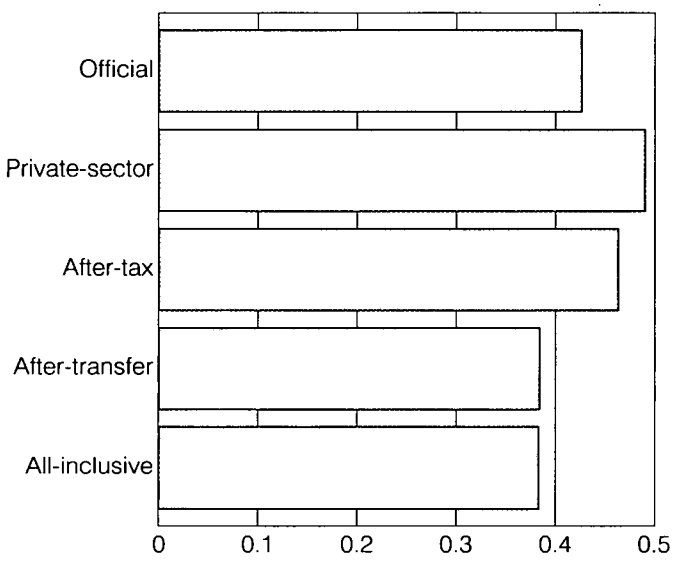
* May be of any race

The equalizing effect of taxes and transfers effects income comparisons between subgroups of the population.

- Under the official income definition the median income of Black households was 59.8 percent of the White median.
- Subtracting cash transfers and adding capital gains and health insurance supplements (private-sector income) reduced the ratio to 55.2 percent.
- The subtraction of federal and state income taxes and payroll taxes (after-tax income) results in an increase in the ratio to 59.7 percent.[1]
- The addition of cash and noncash transfers (after-transfer income) results in a further increase in the Black to White income ratio to 67.3 percent.
- Based on the official income definition, the median income of Hispanic households ($22,330) was 71.5 percent of that of White households ($31,231). Using the after-transfer income the ratio was 76.7 percent.

[1] Black-to-White income ratios under the official income definition and the after tax income definition were not statistically different from one another.

Figure 30.
Gini Index, by Income Definition: 1990

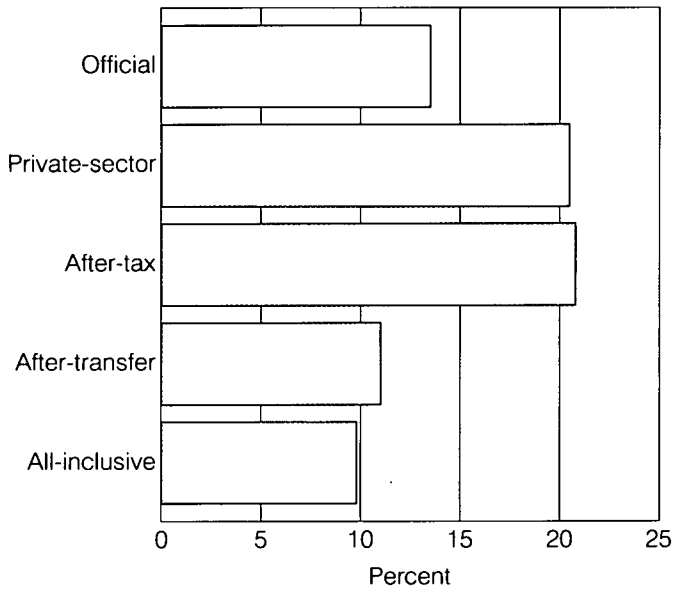


The degree of income inequality is summarized by the Gini Index, a statistic that varies between 0 (perfect equality) and 1 (perfect inequality).

- In 1990, the Gini index of official household income was .426.
- Employer contributions to health insurance represent a major source of private sector compensation as shown in the private-sector income definition, however there was no significant change in the Gini index under this income definition.
- The payment of taxes (after-tax income) lowered inequality as measured by the Gini index 5.5 percent.
- The inclusion of government benefits (after-transfer income) lowered the Gini index 17.1 percent.
- The inclusion of net imputed return on home equity (all-inclusive income) did not have an effect on the Gini index, a reflection of the fact that homeowners are spread throughout the income distribution.

Poverty: 1990

Figure 31.
Poverty Rates, by Income Definition: 1990



Overall poverty figures changed when specific components were subtracted or added to the definition of income.

- In 1990 the official estimate of number of persons in poverty was 33.6 million or 13.5 percent of the population.
- When the current income measure was modified to exclude government money transfers, the number of persons below the poverty line rose sharply from 33.6 to 50.9 million and the poverty rate rose from 13.5 percent to 20.5 percent. Adding in capital gains and the value of employer-provided health insurance had a relatively small effect on the poverty estimates.
- Adjusting the income definition for payroll taxes and Federal and State income taxes produced an increase of 2.3 million persons in poverty (49.4 to 51.8 million).
- The addition of all government benefits lowered the estimate of the number of persons in poverty to 27.3 million and lowered the poverty rate to 11.0 percent.

Part IV.
Household Wealth and Asset Ownership: 1988

Introduction

This section presents data on the wealth of U.S. households in 1988. The data are from the 1986 and 1987 panels of the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) and represent information collected in January through May 1988.

Wealth is a particularly important dimension of well-being for certain subgroups of the population such as the elderly, who tend to have lower retirement incomes but higher wealth holdings. Household surveys are the primary means of obtaining data on the wealth holdings of various subgroups of the population, but it should be noted that the holdings of certain types of wealth tend to be underreported in household surveys.

The household net worth estimates shown in this report are based on the sum of the market value of assets owned by every member of the household minus liabilities (secured or unsecured) owed by household members.

The median net worth is the amount which divides the net worth distribution into two equal groups, one having household net worth less than that amount and the other having net worth above that amount.

Figure 32.
Distribution of Net Worth: 1988

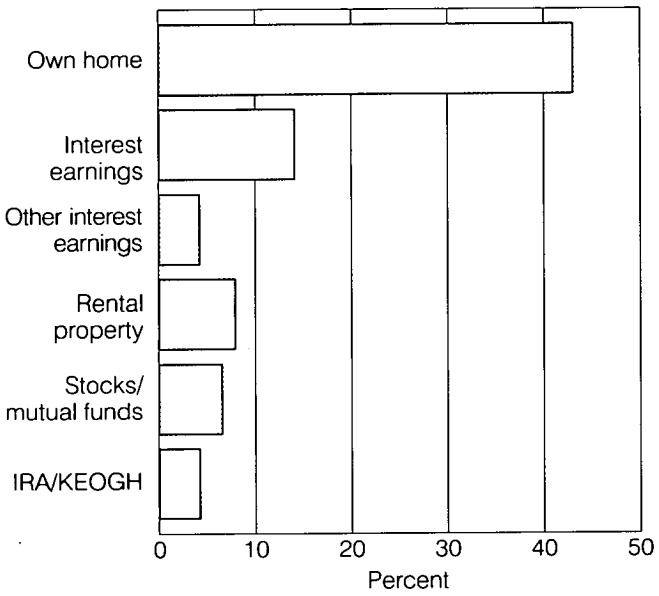
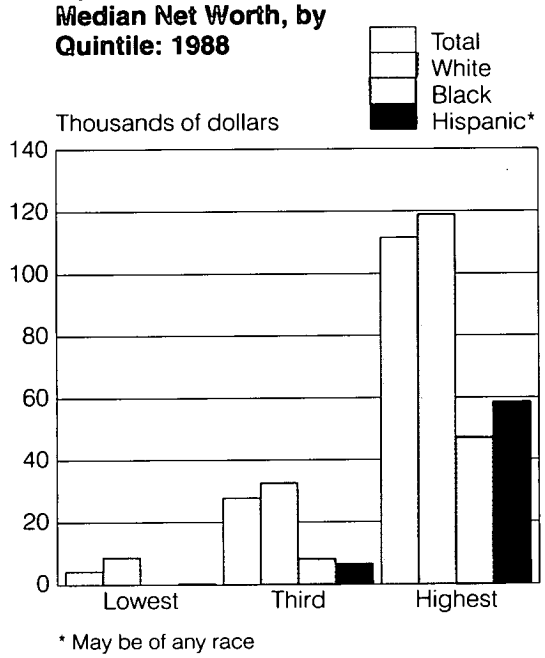


Figure 33.
Median Net Worth, by Quintile: 1988



* May be of any race

Overall, home equity constituted the largest share of net worth in 1988.

- Home ownership was reported by almost two-thirds of all households and accounted for 43.0 percent of total net worth.
- Deposits at financial institutions accounted for 14.1 percent of net worth and other interest earning assets made up another 4.2 percent of net worth.
- Stocks and mutual funds shares were owned by 21.8 percent of households and accounted for 6.5 percent of net worth.
- IRA and KEOGH accounted for 4.2 percent of net worth and rental property accounted for 7.9 percent.

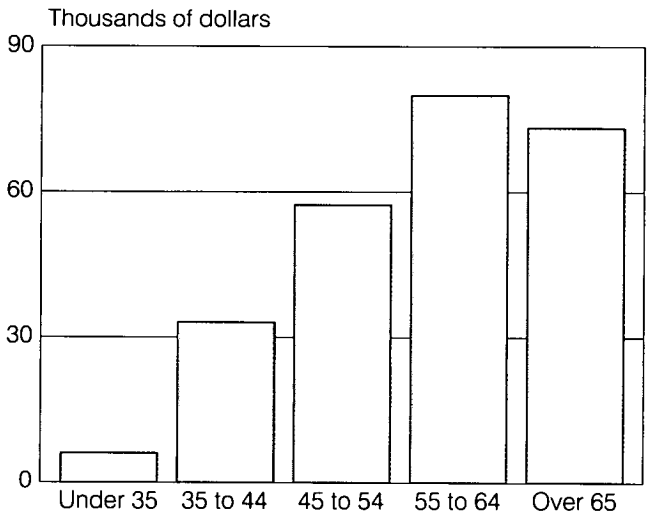
Net worth holdings differ by the race and ethnicity of the householder. The largest differential in wealth occurred between White and Black householders.

- White householders had a median net worth of $43,279, while the figure for Black householders was $4,169. Householders of Hispanic origin had median net worth of $5,524. The median net worth of Black householders and householders of Hispanic origin were not significantly different.

The relative difference in median net worth was smaller for upper income householders than householders in general.

- In the highest income fifth of household (quintile) the White-to-Black ratio of net worth was 2.5. In the middle fifth, the ratio was significantly higher (3.9).
- In the lowest fifth, median net worth for White householders was $8,839 while that of Black householders in this quintile was $0.

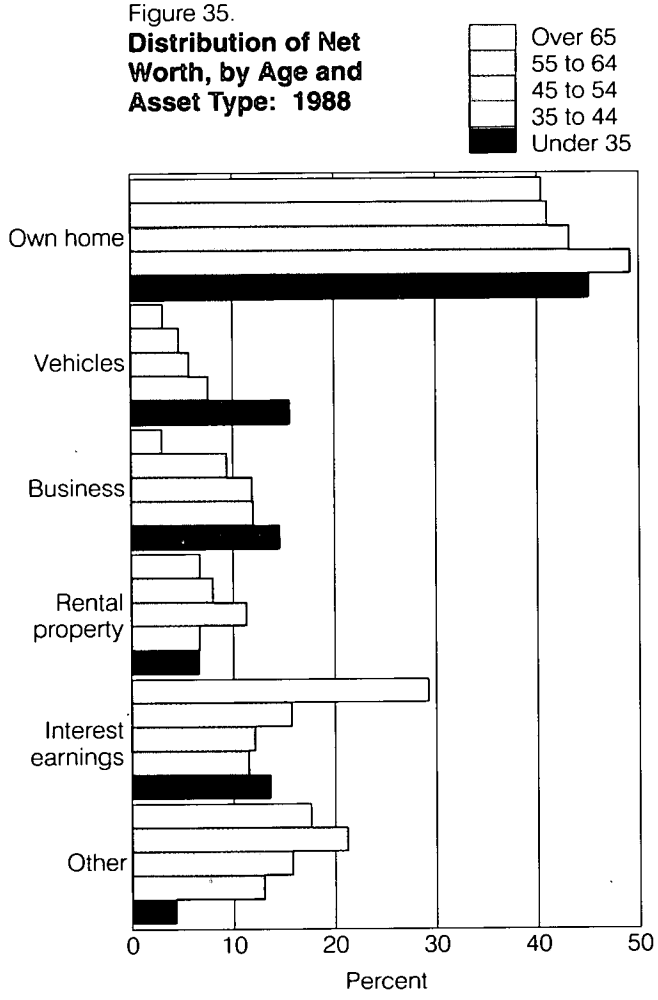
Figure 34.
Median Net Worth, by Age: 1988



As expected, age is correlated with net worth because increasing age offers an opportunity to accumulate wealth.

- In 1988, median net worth increased significantly from $6,078 for the youngest households (those under 35 years) to $80,032 for households in the 55-64 year old category and then declined to $61,491 for the oldest group (75 years and over).
- Although the older group had higher equity in their own homes, the difference in the distribution of net worth and income was not entirely attributable to differences in home equity. Even when home equity was excluded, the oldest group had a much greater net worth than that of the youngest group.

Figure 35.
Distribution of Net Worth, by Age and Asset Type: 1988



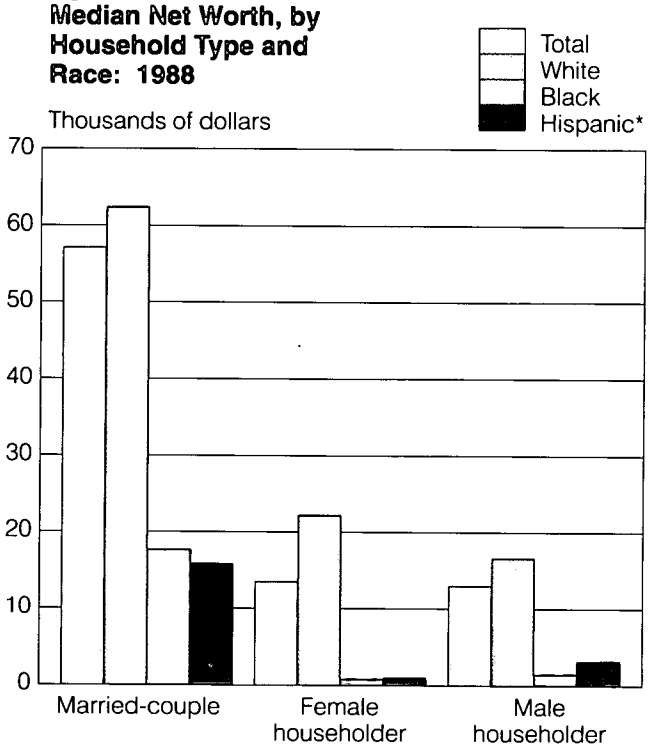
Home equity was the major asset holding for the under 45 age group, but was somewhat less important for older householders.

- Home equity constituted about 45 percent of net worth for householders under 35, not significantly different from 49 percent for householders 35 to 44 years old.
- Home equity represented about 40 percent of net worth of households with a householder 65 years old and older, not significantly different from the under-35 age group.
- Equity in motor vehicles declined significantly with increasing age, from 16 percent of all net worth for those less than 35 years old to 3 percent for those 65 and older.
- Interest-earning assets at financial institutions represented 11 percent of net worth for those under 35 years of age and 22 percent for those over 65 years old.

For explanation of "Other" category, see footnote 1.

[1] Other categories include checking accounts, stocks and mutual funds, U.S. saving bonds, IRA and KEOGH, other financial investments, other real estate, and unsecured liabilities.

Figure 36.
Median Net Worth, by Household Type and Race: 1988



* May be of any race

The net worth holding of married-couple, female, and male-maintained households differ significantly.[2]

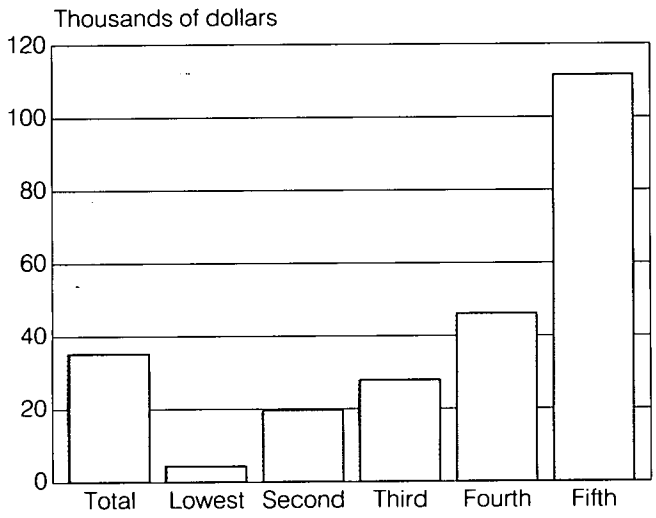
- Married-couple households were the largest category of households and overall had the largest median net worth.
- Female-headed households had a median net-worth of $13,571 in 1988 approximately one-fourth that of married-couple households, while male-maintained households had the lowest net worth of $13,053, approximately one-fifth that of married-couple households.[2]

The distribution of types of households among White, Black, and Hispanic origin households may explain part of the difference in median net worth between White and Black households.

- In 1988 Black households had approximately one-tenth of the median net worth of White households.
- Married-couple households had the largest median net worth for all households whether they were White, Black, or of Hispanic origin.
- The difference in Black and White median net worth may be partially explained by the fact that only 35 percent of black households were married-couple households, whereas 60 percent of White households were married-couple households. In addition, Black households were on average, younger than White households.

[2] The median net worth for male-headed and female-headed households are not significantly different.

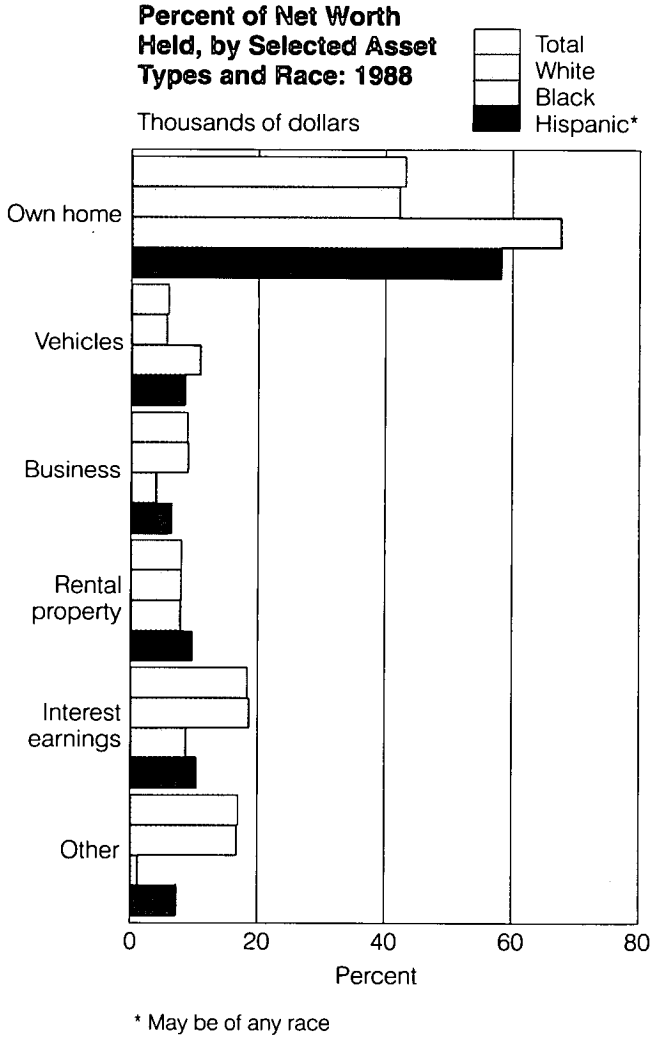
Figure 37.
Median Net Worth for Households, by Monthly Household Income Quintile: 1988



Those with higher income also had higher net worth.

- Net worth for the lowest income fifth was $4,324. It increased to $28,044 in the middle fifth and $111,770 in the highest fifth.
- Those in the highest fifth held 44.4 percent of all net worth, compared to 7.0 percent for those in the lowest fifth.
- The home ownership rate increased significantly from 42 percent for the lowest income group to 85 percent for the highest. Median equity in own homes increased from $33,361 in the lowest fifth to $61,209 in the highest fifth.
- Other assets with large increases in ownership rates between the lowest and highest income groups in 1988 were stocks and mutual funds shares (6 to 44 percent), IRA or KEOGH accounts (5 to 52 percent), and business equity (6 to 21 percent).

Figure 38.
Percent of Net Worth Held, by Selected Asset Types and Race: 1988



* May be of any race

Net worth holding differed by race and ethnicity of householder.

- Compared with White households, Black households held a significantly greater percentage of their net worth in durable goods such as housing (68 versus 42 percent) and motor vehicles (11 versus 6 percent).
- Black households held a significantly lower percentage than white households in financial assets such as stocks and mutual fund shares (1 versus 7 percent) and deposits at financial institutions (8 versus 14 percent).
- For explanation of the "Other" category see footnote 1 in this section.

Appendix A.
Definitions and Explanations

Population coverage. This report includes the civilian noninstitutional population of the United States and members of the Armed Forces in the United States living off post or with their families on post, but excludes all other members of Armed Forces.

Farm-nonfarm residence. The farm population refers to rural residents living on farms. The March 1980 CPS to March 1990 CPS employed a different definition of a farm than used in past Current Population Surveys or decennial censuses before 1980. Under the new definition, as used in the 1974 Census of Agriculture, a farm is any place in rural territory from which $1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold in the reporting year. All other households were classified as nonfarm, which comprises persons living in urban areas and persons not on farms living in rural areas. Rural persons in institutions, motels, and tourist camps, and those living on rented places where no land is used for farming are classified as nonfarm population. According to the old definition, farm residence was determined by responses to two questions: (1) "Does this place you (own/rent) have 10 acres or more?" and (2) "During the past 12 months, how much did sales from this place amount to (under $50, $50 to $249, $250 to $999, or $1,000 or more)?" The household was classified as being in the farm population if either (a) the acreage response was "yes" and sales amounted to $50 or more or (b) the acreage response was "no" and sales amounted to $250 or more.

Metropolitan-nonmetropolitan residence. The population residing in metropolitan statistical areas (MSA's) constitutes the metropolitan population. MSA's are defined by the Office of Management and Budget for use in the presentation of statistics by agencies of the Federal Government. An MSA is a geographic area consisting of a large population nucleus, together with adjacent communities which have a high degree of economic and social integration with that nucleus. The definitions specify a boundary around each large city so as to include most or all its suburbs. Entire counties form the MSA building blocks, except in New England where cities and towns are used. The former term SMSA was changed to MSA in 1983.

An area qualifies for recognition as an MSA if (1) it includes a city of at least 50,000 population, or (2) it includes a Census Bureau-defined urbanized area of at least 50,000 with a total metropolitan population of at least 100,000 (75,000 in New England). In addition to the county containing the main city or urbanized area, an MSA may include other counties having strong commuting ties to the central county. If specified conditions are met, certain large MSA's are designated as consolidated MSA's (CMSA's) and divided into component primary MSA's (PMSA's). References to metropolitan-nonmetropolitan residence by size are based on the population of the CMSA.

Central cities. The largest city in each MSA is always designated a central city. There may be additional central cities if specified requirements, designed to identify places of central character within the MSA, are met. Although the largest central cities are generally included in the title of the MSA, there may be central cities that are not part of the title. The balance of the MSA outside the central city or cities often is regarded as equivalent to "suburbs."

Geographic regions. The four major regions and nine Census divisions of the United States for which data are presented in this report represent groups of States as follow:

Northeast:
- *New England:* Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.
- *Middle Atlantic:* New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania.

Midwest (formerly North Central):
- *East North Central:* Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

West North Central: Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

South:

South Atlantic: Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia.
East South Central: Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee.
West South Central: Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas.

West:

Mountain: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming.
Pacific: Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington.

North and West:

Northeast, Midwest, and West combined.

Tenure. A housing unit is "owner occupied" if the owner or co- owner lives in the unit, even if it is mortgaged or not fully paid for. A cooperative or condominium unit is "owner occupied" only if the owner or co-owner lives in it. All other occupied units are classified as "renter occupied," or "occupied without payment of cash rent". For some tabulations, the latter of the groups are combined into a single "renter occupied" group.

Official definition of income. For each person in the sample 15 years old and over, questions were asked on the amount of money income received in the preceding calendar year from each of the following sources: 1) earnings from longest job (or self- employment); 2) earnings from jobs other than longest job; 3) unemployment compensation; 4) Social Security; 5) Supplemental Security income; 6) public assistance; 7) veterans' payments; 8) survivor benefits; 9) disability benefits; 10) retirement pensions; 11) interest; 12) dividends; 13) rents and royalties or estates and trusts; 14) educational assistance; 15) alimony; 16) child support; 17) financial assistance from outside of the household, and other periodic income.

It should be noted that although the income statistics refer to receipts during the preceding calendar year, the demographic characteristics such as age, labor force status, and family or household composition are as of the survey date. The income of the family/household does not include amounts received by persons who were members during all or part of the income year if these persons no longer resided in the family/household at the time of interview. However, income data are collected for persons who are current residents but did not reside in the household during the income year.

Data on consumer income collected in the CPS by the Bureau of the Census cover money income received (exclusive of certain money receipts such as capital gains) before payments for personal income taxes, Social Security, union dues, Medicare deductions, etc. Therefore, money income does not reflect the fact that some families receive part of their income in the form of noncash benefits such as food stamps, health benefits, noncash benefits in the form of rent-free housing and goods produced and consumed on the farm; or that non-cash benefits are also received by some nonfarm residents which often take the form of the use of business transportation and facilities, full or partial payments by business for retirement programs, medical and educational expenses, etc. These elements should be considered when comparing income levels. Moreover, readers should be aware that for many different reasons there is a tendency in household surveys for respondents to underreport their income. From an analysis of independently derived income estimates, it has been determined that income earned from wages or salaries is much better reported than other sources of income, and is nearly equal to independent estimates of aggregate income.

Alternative definitions of income. The income definitions that are shown in this report are explained briefly below.

1. Money income excluding capital gains before taxes. This is the official definition used in Census reports.
2. Private-sector income is official money income less government cash transfers plus capital gains and employer- provided health insurance supplements to wage or salary income.
3. After-tax income deducts all payroll and income taxes from private sector income.
4. After-transfer income includes all money income after taxes from private-sector income.

5. Our most inclusive definition of income adds in the net imputed return on equity in own home.

Median income is the amount which divides the income distribution into two equal groups, half having incomes above the median, half having incomes below the median. The medians for households, families, and unrelated individuals are based on all households, families, and unrelated individuals. The medians for persons are based on persons 15 years old and over with income.

Mean income is the amount obtained by dividing the total aggregate income of a group by the number of units in that group. The means for households, families, and unrelated individuals are based on all households, families, and unrelated individuals. The means for persons are based on persons 15 years old and over with income.

Per capita income is the mean income computed for every man, woman, and child in a particular group. It is derived by dividing the total income of a particular group by the total population in that group (excluding patients or inmates in institutional quarters).

Index of income concentration or Gini index is a statistical measure of income inequality. A measure of 0 indicates perfect equality, i.e., all persons having equal shares of the income. A measure of 1 indicates perfect inequality, i.e., one person has all the income and the rest have none. For a more detailed discussion see Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 123.

Households consist of all persons who occupy a housing unit. A house, an apartment or other group of rooms, or a single room is regarded as a housing unit when it is occupied or intended for occupancy as separate living quarters; that is, when the occupants do not live and eat with any other persons in the structure and there is direct access from the outside or through a common hall.

A household includes the related family members and all the unrelated persons, if any, such as lodgers, foster children, wards, or employees who share the housing unit. A person living alone in a housing unit, or a group of unrelated persons sharing a housing unit as partners, is also counted as a household. The count of households excludes group quarters.

Householder is the person (or one of the persons) in whose name the home is owned or rented. If the house is owned jointly by a married couple, either the husband or the wife may be listed first, thereby becoming the reference person, or householder, to whom the relationship of the other household members is recorded. One person in each household is designated as the "householder." The number of householders, therefore, is equal to the number of households.

Families are groups of two persons or more (one of whom is the householder) related by birth, marriage, or adoption and residing together; all such persons (including related subfamily members) are considered as members of one family. Beginning with the 1980 CPS, unrelated subfamilies (referred to in the past as secondary families) were no longer included in the count of families, nor are the members of unrelated subfamilies included in the count of family members.

Family households are households maintained by a family (as defined above). Members of family households include any unrelated persons (unrelated subfamily members and/or secondary individuals) who may be residing there. The number of family households is equal to the number of families. The count of family household members differs from the count of family members, however, in that the family household members include all persons living in the household, whereas family members include only the householder and his/her relatives. (See the definition of family.)

Married couples as defined for census purposes, consist of a husband and wife enumerated as members of the same family household. A married couple may or may not have children living with them.

Unrelated individuals are persons (other than inmates of institutions) who are not living with any relatives. An unrelated individual may (1) constitute a one-person household, (2) be part of a household including one or more other families or unrelated individuals, or (3) reside in group quarters such as a rooming house. Thus, a widow living by herself or with one or more other persons

not related to her, a lodger not related to the householder or to anyone else in the household, and a servant living in an employer's household with no relatives are examples of unrelated individuals.

Related children under 18 years of age in a family include sons and daughters, including stepchildren and adopted children, of the householder and all other children in the household who are related to the householder by blood, marriage, or adoption.

Age classification is based on the age of the person at his last birthday.

Race is based on five groups: (1) White, (2) Black, (3) Asian or Pacific Islander, (4) American Indian, Aleut, or Eskimo, and (5) other.

Persons of Hispanic origin are identified by a question that asks for self-identification of the person's origin or descent. Respondents are asked to select their origin (and the origin of other household members) from a "flash card" listing ethnic origins. Persons of Hispanic origin, in particular, are those who indicate that their origin is Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or some other Hispanic origin. It should be noted that persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Years of school completed are derived from the combination of answers to questions concerning the highest grade of school attended by the person and whether or not that grade was finished. The questions of educational attainment apply only to progress in "regular" schools. Such schools include public, private and parochial elementary and high schools (both junior and senior), colleges, universities, and professional schools (whether day schools or night schools). Thus, regular schooling is that which may advance a person toward an elementary school certificate, a high school diploma, or a college, university, or professional school degree. Schooling in other than regular schools is counted only if the credits obtained are regarded as transferable to school in the regular school system.

The median years of school completed is defined as the value which divides the distribution into two equal groups, one having completed more schooling and one having completed less schooling than the median. These medians are expressed in terms of a continuous series of numbers representing years of school completed. For example, a median of 9.0 represents the completion of the first year of high school and a median of 13.0 means completion of the first year of college.

Occupation data in this report refer to the job held longest during the income year. The occupation groupings were derived from occupation subgroups delineated on the basis of the classification system used in the 1980 census. For more detailed information, see the February 1983 issue of "Employment and Earnings," Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Work experience is based on work for pay or profit or work without pay on a family-operated farm or business at any time during the previous year on a part time or full time basis.

Year-round, full-time indicates 50 or more weeks of full-time employment during the previous calendar year.

Workers are persons who worked one or more days during the previous calendar year.

Symbols. A dash (-) represents zero or rounds to zero, the symbol "B" means that the base for the derived figure is less than 75,000, the symbol "X" means not applicable, the symbol "NA" means not available, and the symbol "r" means revised.

Rounding. Percentages are rounded to the nearest tenth of a percent; therefore, the percentages in a distribution do not always add to exactly 100.0 percent. The totals, however, are always shown as 100.0. Moreover, individual figures are rounded to the nearest thousand without being adjusted to group totals, which are independently rounded; percentages are based on the unrounded numbers.

Base figures since 1979 are based on civilian noninstitutional population controls for age, race, and sex established by the 1980 census. The base figures shown for 1971 to 1978 were prepared by inflating weighted sample results to agree with independent estimates of the population based on statistics updated from the 1970 census, whereas the base figures for the years

from 1961 to 1970 were inflated to estimates derived from the 1960 census. The data for the years prior to 1961 were based on the 1950 census.

Computation of aggregate income by fifths. The data shown on aggregate income and dollar cutoffs for fifths (and top 5 percent) of households and families, ranked by size of their total money income, were calculated using sorted microdata.

Computation of constant dollar distributions. For the years since 1967, adjustments for price change have been made by converting the incomes of households, families, or persons on the microdata file into constant dollars on the basis of the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U or CPI-U-X1). The microdata were then tallied into the appropriate income interval.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI-U or CPI-U-X1) is an index designed to measure changes in family purchasing power. While the CPI is a good measure of the changes in prices paid by the average family represented in the index (urban consumers), it is not necessarily a good measure of the changes in prices faced by consumers of different characteristics and income levels. These limitations should be noted when comparing figures adjusted to constant dollars using the CPI since the same index was used for all families and all income levels.

Poverty definition. Poverty statistics presented in this report are based on a definition developed by the Social Security Administration in 1964 and revised in 1969 and 1981 by interagency committees. This definition was established as the official definition of poverty for statistical use in all Executive departments by the Bureau of the Budget (in Circular No. A-46) and later by the Office of Management and Budget (in Statistical Directive No. 14).

The original poverty index provided a range of income cutoffs adjusted by such factors as family size, sex of the family head, number of children under 18 years old, and farm-nonfarm residence. At the core of this definition of poverty was the economy food plan, the least costly of four nutritionally adequate food plans designed by the Department of Agriculture. It was determined from the Department of Agriculture's 1955 survey of food consumption that families of three or more persons spent approximately one-third of their income on food; the poverty level for these families was, therefore, set at three times the cost of the economy food plan. For smaller families and persons living alone, the cost of the economy food plan was multiplied by factors that were slightly higher in order to compensate for the relatively larger fixed expenses of these smaller households. Annual revisions of these SSA poverty cutoffs were based on price changes of the items in the economy food budget.

As a result of deliberations of a Federal Interagency Committee in 1969, the following two modifications to the original SSA definition of poverty were recommended: (1) that the SSA thresholds for nonfarm families be retained for the base year 1963, but that annual adjustments in the levels be based on changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rather than on changes in the cost of food included in the economy food plan; and (2) that the farm thresholds be raised from 70 to 85 percent of the corresponding nonfarm levels. The combined impact of these two modifications resulted in an increase of 360,000 poor families and 1.6 million poor persons in 1967.

In 1980, another interagency committee recommended three additional modifications what were implemented in the March 1982 CPS as was the 1980 census: (1) elimination of separate thresholds for farm families, (2) averaging of thresholds for female-householder and "all other" families, and (3) extension of the poverty matrix to families with nine or more members. For further details, see the section, "Changes in the Definition of Poverty," in Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 133. The poverty thresholds rise each year by the same percentage as the annual average Consumer Price Index.

Weighted average thresholds at the poverty level. The poverty cutoffs used by the Bureau of the Census to determine the poverty status of families and unrelated individuals consist of a set of 48 thresholds arranged in a two-dimensional matrix consisting of family size (from one person, i.e., unrelated individuals, to nine or more persons) cross-classified by presence and number of family members under 18 years old (from no children present to eight or more children present). Unrelated individuals and two- person families are further differentiated by the age of the individual

or family householder (under 65 years and 65 years and over).

The total family income of each family in the sample is tested against the appropriate dollar threshold to determine the poverty status of the family. If the family's total income is less than its poverty level. The average thresholds shown in these tables were weighted by the presence and number of children. For a given size of family, the weighted average threshold for that group is obtained by multiplying the threshold for each presence and number of children category within the given family size by the number of families in that category. These products are then aggregated across the entire range of presence and number of children categories, and the total aggregate is divided by the total number of families in the group to yield the weighted average threshold at the poverty level for that size family. Because family composition does not remain constant from year to year, the weighted average thresholds for 1990 will not reflect, identically, the change in the CPI between 1990 and earlier years. Since the basic thresholds used to determine the poverty status of families and unrelated individuals are applied to all families and unrelated individuals, the weighted poverty thresholds are derived using all families and unrelated individuals rather than just those families and unrelated individuals classified as below the poverty level. In a few instances these weighted thresholds are slightly different from those published in earlier reports due to corrections to the CPS files.

Income deficit. Income deficit is the difference between the total income of families and unrelated individuals below the poverty level, and their respective poverty thresholds. In computing the income deficit, families reporting a net income loss are assigned zero dollars and for such cases the deficit is equal to the poverty threshold. This measure provides an estimate of the amount which would be required to raise the incomes of all poor families and unrelated individuals to their respective poverty thresholds. The income deficit is thus a measure of the degree of impoverishment of a family or unrelated individual. However, caution must be exercised in comparing the average deficit of families classified by the race or sex of the householder. Since the poverty thresholds used in this report are based on family size and composition, apparent differences in the average income deficits may, to some extent, be a function of the differences in these characteristics.

Median income deficit. The mean income deficit is the amount which divides the distribution into two equal groups, one having an income deficit above the median and the other having an income deficit below the median.

Mean income deficit. The mean income deficit is the amount obtained by dividing the total income deficit of a group below the poverty level by the number of families or unrelated individuals (as appropriate) in that group.

Deficit per family member. The deficit per family member is the average amount of money necessary to raise every man, woman and child in a family out of poverty. The deficit per family member is derived by dividing the total family income deficit of a group by the number of family members in the same group.

Monthly income. The monthly income estimates shown in this report for households are based on the sum of the monthly income received by each member of the household age 15 years old or over at the date of interview. The figures represent the average monthly amounts received by households during the appropriate four-month reference period for each rotation group. To calculate the monthly income figures, the composition of the household was fixed at the date of the interview and the total cash income of household members 15 years and older for the four- month reference period was divided by four. The cash income concept used in this report includes the sum of all income received from any of the source listed in table B-1. Rebates, refunds, loans, and capital gain or loss amounts from the sale of assets, and interhousehold transfers of cash such as allowances are not included. Accrued interest on individual Retirement Accounts, KEOGH retirement plans, and U.S. Saving bonds are also excluded. This definition differs somewhat from that used in the annual income reports based on the March CPS income supplement questionnaire. The data in those reports, published in the Consumer Income Series, P-60, are based only on income received in a regular or periodic manner and, therefore, exclude lump-sum or one-time payments, such as inheritances, or insurance

settlements. The March CPS income definition also excludes those same income sources excluded by SIPP.

Income Sources Included in Monthly Cash Income

1. **Earnings from employment**
   - Wages and salary
   - Nonfarm self-employment income
   - Farm self-employment income

2. **Income from assets (property income)**
   - Regular/passbook savings accounts in a bank, savings and loan or credit union
   - Money market deposit accounts
   - Certificate of deposit
   - NOW, Super NOW, or other interest-earning checking account
   - Money market funds
   - U.S. Government securities
   - Municipal or corporate bonds
   - Other interest-earning assets
   - Stocks or mutual funds shares
   - Rental property
   - Mortgages
   - Royalties
   - Other financial investments

3. **Other income sources**
   - Social Security
   - U.S. Government Railroad Retirement
   - Federal Supplemental security Income
   - State Administered Supplemental Security Income
   - State unemployment Benefits
   - Black Lung payments
   - Worker's compensation
   - State temporary sickness or disability benefits
   - Employer or union temporary sickness policy
   - Payments from a sickness, accident, or disability insurance policy purchased on your own
   - Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), (ADC)
   - General assistance of General relief
   - Indian, Cuban, or Refugee assistance
   - Foster child care payments
   - Other welfare
   - Child support payments
   - Alimony payments
   - Pensions from a company or union
   - Federal Civil Service or other Federal civilian employee pensions
   - U.S. Military retirement
   - National Guard or Reserve Forces retirement
   - State government pensions
   - Local government pensions
   - Income from paid-up life insurance policies or annuities
   - Estates and trusts
   - Other payments for retirement, disability or survivors G.I.
   - Bill/VEAP education benefits
   - Income assistance from a charitable group
   - Other unemployment compensation (Trade Adjustment Act benefits, strike pay, other)
   - Veterans' compensation or pensions
   - Money from relatives or friends
   - Lump sum payments
   - Income from roomers or boarders
   - National Guard or Reserve pay
   - Incidental or casual earnings
   - Other cash income not included elsewhere

Assets and Liabilities Included in Net Worth

1. **Assets**
   - Interest-earning assets held at financial institutions
     - Passbook savings account
     - Money market deposit accounts
     - Certificate of deposit
     - Interest-earning checking accounts
   - Other interest-earning assets
     - Money market funds
     - U.S. Government securities
     - Municipal or corporate bonds
     - Other interest-earning assets
   - Stocks and mutual fund shares
   - Rental property Mortgages held for sale of real estate
   - Amount due from sale of business or property
   - Regular checking accounts
   - U.S. Saving bonds
   - Home ownership Vacation homes and other real estate
   - IRA and KEOGH accounts
   - Motor vehicles
   - Other financial assets

2. **Liabilities**
   - Secured liabilities
   - Margin and broker accounts
     - Mortgages on own home

Mortgages on rental property
Mortgages on other homes or real estate
Debt on business or profession
Vehicle loans

Unsecured liabilities
Credit card and store bills
Doctor, dentist, hospital and nursing home bills
Loans from individuals
Loans from financial institutions
Educational loans
Other unsecured liabilities

The income amounts represent amounts actually received during the four-month reference period, before deductions for income and payroll taxes, union dues, Part B Medicare premiums, etc.

The SIPP income definition includes three types of earnings: wages and salary, nonfarm self-employment, and farm self- employment. The definition of nonfarm self-employment and farm self-employment is not based on the net difference between gross receipts or sales and operating expenses, depreciation, etc. The monthly amounts for these income types are based on the salary or other income received from the business by the owner of the business or farm during the four-month period. Earnings from all jobs and self-employment ar included.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes quarterly averages for an earnings concept called "usual weekly earnings" for employed, full-time wage and salary workers. The concept differs from the SIPP earnings concept since it is based on usual, not actual earnings, excludes the self-employed, and excludes earnings from secondary jobs.

While the income amounts from most sources are recorded monthly for the four-month reference period, property income amounts such as interest, dividends, and rental income, were recorded as totals for the four-month period.

Net worth. The household net worth estimates shown in this report are based on the sum of the market value of assets owned by every member of the household minus liabilities (secured or unsecured) owed by household members. The estimates represent the net worth of households as of the end of the appropriate reference period. The net worth concept is based on the value of all assets minus all liabilities listed in table B-2. The major assets not covered in this report are equities in pension plans, the cash value of life insurance policies, and value of home furnishings and jewelry. These items were not covered because it is particularly difficult to obtain reliable estimates of the value of these assets in a household survey.

Median net worth. The median net worth is the amount which divides the net worth distribution into two equal groups, one having household net worth less than that amount and the other having net worth above that amount.

Mean net worth. The mean networth is the average obtained by dividing the total net worth of a group by the number of households in that group.

Appendix B.
Detailed Tables

Table 1. **Median Income of Households, by Selected Characteristics, Race, and Hispanic Origin of Householder: 1990**

(Numbers in thousands. For meaning of symbols, see Appendix A.)

Characteristic	All races			White			Black			Hispanic origin[1]		
	Number	Median income	Standard error	Number	Median income	Standard error	Number	Median income	Standard error	Number	Median income	Standard error
All households	94,312	29,943	153	80,968	31,231	143	10,671	18,676	426	6,220	22,330	458
Type of residence												
Nonfarm	92,670	29,901	158	79,373	31,216	145	10,645	18,734	426	6,180	22,326	459
Farm	1,642	31,589	1,262	1,595	31,819	1,337	27	(B)	(B)	40	(B)	(B)
Inside metropolitian area	73,135	31,823	154	61,842	33,460	203	897	20,121	409	5,776	22,737	500
Inside central cities	29,897	26,052	239	22,435	28,368	339	6,223	17,476	474	3,313	19,896	632
Outside central cities	43,238	36,038	215	39,407	36,536	226	2,744	26,299	885	2,463	26,968	740
Outside metroploitian areas	21,177	23,709	314	19,127	24,887	329	1,704	13,119	901	444	18,392	1,453
Region												
Northeast	19,271	32,676	337	16,870	34,387	373	1,952	20,674	778	1,123	18,128	1,013
Midwest	23,223	29,897	307	20,772	31,054	269	2,121	17,204	796	408	24,346	2,053
South	32,312	26,942	221	26,104	29,162	297	5,737	17,662	525	1,982	21,702	842
West	19,506	31,761	292	17,222	31,794	306	862	23,987	1,837	2,706	24,148	777
Tenure												
Owner occupied	60,395	36,298	185	54,527	36,810	193	4,526	27,377	725	2,423	32,321	786
Renter occupied	32,218	20,722	164	24,976	21,962	180	5,945	13,929	436	3,677	17,632	507
Per capita Income	248,886	14,387	(X)	208,754	15,265	(X)	30,895	9,017	(X)	21,437	8,424	(X)

[1]Households of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Source: Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 174, table A and table 1.

Table 2. **Share of Aggregate Household Income, by Quintile 1970, 1980, 1990**

Year	Percent distribution of aggregate income				
	Lowest fifth	Second fifth	Third fifth	Fourth fifth	Highest fifth
1990	3.9	9.6	15.9	24.0	46.6
1980	4.2	10.2	16.8	24.8	44.1
1970	4.1	10.8	17.4	24.5	43.3

Source: Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 174, table B.

Table 3. Median Earning of Persons 25 Years Old and Over Working Year Round, Full-Time, by Sex: 1990

(Numbers are in thousands)

Sex	Number	8 years or less	Standard error	Number	High school 4 years (earnings)	Standard error	Number	1 to 3 years (earnings)	Standard error	Number	College 4 years or more (earnings)	Number	Number	5 years or more (earnings)	Standard error
Male . . .	2,250	16,840	353	16,658	25,872	154	9,324	30,865	200	13,516	41,131	252	5,862	47,131	633
Female .	857	11,831	302	11,801	17,412	127	6,474	21,324	183	7,662	28,992	323	2,960	31,969	355

Table 3A. Median Earnings For Year Round, Full-Time Workers, by Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1990

	Number	Total (earnings)	Standard error	Number	White (earnings)	Standard error	Number	Black (earnings)	Standard error	Number	Hispanic origin (earnings)	Standard error
Male . .	45,014	29,987	166	39,578	30,598	117	3,934	22,176	382	3,178	20,556	397
Female	28,649	20,556	102	24,001	20,759	110	3,560	18,838	376	1,815	16,480	421

[1]Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Source: Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 174, table 29.

Table 4. Median Earnings of Persons 15 Years Old and Older Working Year Round, Full-Time, by Sex and Occupation: 1990

(Numbers in thousands.)

Occupation	Number	Male (earnings)	Standard error	Number	Female (earnings)	Standard error
Executive, administrative, and managerial occupations	7,873	40,546	393	4,857	25,858	255
Professional speciality occupations	6,192	41,100	327	4,982	29,181	353
Technical, sale, and administrative support occupations	10,024	28,626	428	14,267	18,735	150
Clerical/administrative support	2,835	26,192	376	9,760	18,475	164

Source: Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 174, table 32.

Table 5. Median Household Income, by Income Definition : 1990

Characteristic	Official			Private sector		After tax		After transfer		All inclusive	
	Number	Median income	Standard error	Median income	Standard error	Median income	Standard error	Median income	Standard error	Median income	Standard error
Race											
Total	94,312	29,943	153	28,779	180	23,947	131	27,720	118	29,615	122
White	80,968	31,231	143	30,330	176	25,069	139	28,812	125	30,828	134
Black	10,671	18,676	426	16,757	386	14,966	350	19,391	293	20,391	317
Hispanic origin[1]	6,220	22,330	458	21,802	515	19,072	438	22,087	353	23,193	431
Type of household											
Total	94,312	29,943	153	28,779	180	23,947	131	27,720	118	29,615	122
Married-couple	52,147	39,996	206	40,217	231	33,108	171	36,328	154	38,721	161
Female household, no husband present	11,268	18,069	351	15,929	352	14,609	276	19,399	229	20,423	259
Gini Index	(NA)	0.426	0.0037	0.490	0.0038	0.463	0.0037	0.384	0.0037	0.383	0.0037

[1]Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Source: Current Population Survey, P60, No. 176 RD, table 1.

Table 6. **Work Experience in 1990 of Poor Married-Couple Householder and Poor Female Householder, no Husband Present, by Race and Hispanic Origin: 1990**

Characteristic	Total	White	Black	Hispanic origin[1]
Married-couple households	56.2	59.1	45.3	66.6
Worked year-round, full-time	24.1	25.4	18.5	28.9
Worked less than year-round, full-time	27.5	29.5	20.3	34.4
Did not work	42.5	39.8	52.7	32.7
Female Householder, no Husband Present				
Worked	43.6	46.1	41.0	31.4
Worked year-round, rull-time	8.0	8.5	7.8	9.2
Worked less than year-round, full-time	29.8	31.9	27.4	17.8
Did Not Work	56.4	53.9	59.1	68.6

[1]Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Source: Current Population Survey, P60, No. 175, table 14.

Table 7. **Poverty Status of Persons, by Age and Race: 1959 to 1990**

Year	Total	Age			Total	Race		
		Under 18	18 to 64	65 and over		White	Black	Hispanic origin[1]
1959	22.4	27.3	17.0	35.2	22.4	18.1	55.1	(NA)
1960	22.2	26.9	22.2	17.8	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
1961	21.9	25.6	21.9	17.4	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
1962	21.0	25.0	21.0	16.4	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
1963	19.5	23.1	19.5	15.3	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
1964	19.0	23.0	19.0	14.9	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
1965	17.3	21.0	17.3	13.3	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
1966	14.7	17.6	10.5	28.5	14.7	11.3	41.8	(NA)
1967	13.2	16.6	10.0	29.5	13.2	11.0	39.3	(NA)
1968	12.8	15.6	9.0	25.0	12.8	10.0	34.7	(NA)
1969	12.1	14.0	8.7	25.3	12.1	9.5	32.2	(NA)
1970	12.6	15.1	9.0	24.6	12.6	9.9	33.5	(NA)
1971	12.5	15.3	9.3	21.6	12.5	9.9	32.5	(NA)
1972	11.9	15.1	8.8	18.6	11.9	9.0	33.3	(NA)
1973	11.1	14.4	8.3	16.3	11.1	8.4	31.4	21.9
1974	11.2	15.4	8.3	14.6	11.2	8.6	30.3	23.0
1975	12.3	17.1	9.2	15.3	12.3	9.7	31.3	26.9
1976	11.8	16.0	9.0	15.0	11.8	9.0	31.1	24.7
1977	11.6	16.2	8.8	14.1	11.6	8.9	31.3	22.4
1978	11.4	15.9	8.7	14.0	11.4	8.7	30.6	21.6
1979	11.7	16.4	8.9	15.2	11.7	9.0	31.0	21.8
1980	13.0	18.3	10.1	15.7	13.0	10.2	32.5	25.7
1981	14.0	20.0	11.1	15.3	14.0	11.1	34.2	26.5
1982	15.0	21.9	12.0	14.6	15.0	12.0	35.6	29.9
1983	15.2	22.3	12.4	13.8	15.2	12.1	35.7	28.0
1984	14.4	21.5	11.7	12.4	14.4	11.5	33.8	28.4
1985	14.0	20.7	11.3	12.6	14.0	11.4	31.3	29.0
1986	13.6	20.5	10.8	12.4	13.6	11.0	31.1	27.3
1987	13.4	20.3	10.6	12.5	13.4	10.4	32.4	28.0
1988	13.0	19.5	10.5	12.0	13.0	10.1	31.3	26.7
1989	12.8	19.6	10.2	11.4	12.8	10.0	30.7	26.2
1990	13.5	20.6	10.7	12.2	13.5	10.7	31.9	28.1

[1]Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Source: Current Population Survey, P60, No. 175, table 2 and table 3.

Table 8. **Poverty Rate, by Region: 1990**

Region	Total	White	Black	Hispanic origin[1]
Northeast	11.4	9.2	28.9	36.4
Midwest	12.4	9.5	36.0	22.7
South	15.8	11.6	32.6	26.9
West	13.0	12.2	23.7	26.6

[1]Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Source: Current Population Reports, Series, P-60, No. 175, table G.

Table 9. **Poverty Rate of Persons, by Years of School Completed: 1990**

Years of school	Total	White	Black	Hispanic origin[1]
Under 4 years of High school	24.5	20.3	40.5	33.1
High school, no college	9.6	7.8	23.3	15.3
College 1 year or more	4.9	4.1	11.6	9.0

[1]Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Source: Current Population Survey, P60, No. 175, table 11.

Table 10. Poverty Status of Persons, by Type of Deflator: 1968 to 1990

Year	Poverty level based on CPI-U-XI		Year	Poverty level based on CPI-U-XI	
	Number	Percent		Number	Percent
1968	10,954	12.8	1980	25,869	11.5
1969	9,691	11.9	1981	27,731	12.2
1970	10,440	12.2	1982	30,288	13.2
1971	10,551	12.1	1983	31,649	13.7
1972	10,284	11.4	1984	29,971	12.8
1973	9,642	10.7	1985	29,558	12.5
1974	22,076	10.5	1986	29,101	12.2
1975	24,232	11.5	1987	28,890	12.0
1976	23,347	11.0	1988	28,544	11.7
1977	22,933	10.7	1989	27,967	11.4
1978	22,472	10.4	1990	30,097	12.1
1979	23,504	10.5			

Source: Current Population Report, Series P-60, No. 176 RD, table I-1.

Table 11. **Poverty Status of Unrelated Individuals, by Age, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1990**

Age	Total	White	Black	Hispanic origin[1]
15 to 24 years	32.5	32.3	34.1	47.4
25 to 34 years	13.4	11.4	27.0	23.6
35 to 44 years	13.5	12.1	22.0	28.6
45 to 54 years	17.6	15.9	27.2	27.1
55 to 64 years	26.6	22.9	42.7	43.0
65 years and over	24.7	21.6	54.9	46.2

[1]Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Source: Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 175, table 5.

Table 11a. **Poverty Status of Unrelated Individuals, by Age, Sex: 1990**

Age	Male	Female
15 to 24 years	29.1	36.2
25 to 44 years	15.1	15.4
45 to 54 years	16.8	18.5
55 to 59 years	21.3	27.6
60 to 64 years	26.2	29.7
65 years and over	17.3	26.9

Table 12. Poverty Status of Families, by Type of Family: 1959 to 1990

Year	All	Married couple	FHNHP	Year	All	Married couple	FHNHP
1959	18.5	(NA)	42.6	1975	9.7	6.1	32.5
1960	18.1	(NA)	42.4	1976	9.4	5.5	33.0
1961	18.1	(NA)	32.1	1977	9.3	5.3	31.7
1962	17.2	(NA)	42.9	1978	9.1	5.2	31.4
1963	15.9	(NA)	40.4	1979	9.2	5.4	30.4
1964	15.0	(NA)	36.4	1980	10.3	6.2	32.7
1965	13.9	(NA)	38.4	1981	11.2	6.8	34.6
1966	11.8	(NA)	33.1	1982	12.2	7.6	36.3
1967	11.4	(NA)	33.3	1983	12.3	7.6	36.0
1968	10.0	(NA)	32.3	1984	11.6	6.9	34.5
1969	9.7	(NA)	32.7	1985	11.4	6.7	34.0
1970	10.1	(NA)	32.5	1986	10.9	6.1	34.6
1971	10.0	(NA)	33.9	1987	10.7	5.8	34.2
1972	9.3	(NA)	32.7	1988	10.4	5.6	33.4
1973	8.8	5.3	32.2	1989	10.3	5.6	32.2
1974	8.8	5.3	32.1	1990	10.7	5.7	33.4

Source: Current Pupolation Reports, Series P-60, No. 175, table 4.

Table 13. Median Net Worth, by Household Type: 1988

Type	Total	White	Black	Hispanic origin[1]
Married couple	57,134	62,386	17,635	15,691
Female householder	13,571	22,099	757	736
Male householder	13,053	16,584	1,457	2,973

[1]Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.
Source: Current Population Reports, Series P-70, No. 22, table L.

Table 14. Mean Income Deficit for Families Below Poverty Level, by Type: 1990

(Number in thousands. Families as of March of the following year)

Characteristic	Total			White			Black			Hispanic origin[1]		
	Number	Median income	Standard error	Number	Median income	Standard error	Number	Median income	Standard error	Number	Median income	Standard error
Total	7,098	5,192	64	4,622	4,863	77	2,193	5,845	120	1,244	5,352	158
Married Couple	2,981	4,673	102	2,386	4,656	113	448	4,350	252	605	5,128	232
Female householder, no spouse present	3,768	5,661	85	2,010	5,150	107	1,648	6,336	137	573	5,678	224

[1]Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Source: Current Population Survey, P-60, No. 175, table 5.

Table 15. Mean Income Deficit for Unrelated Individuals Below Poverty Level, by Sex: 1990

Sex	Total			White			Black			Hispanic origin[1]		
	Number	Median income	Standard error	Number	Median income	Standard error	Number	Median income	Standard error	Number	Median income	Standard error
Total	7,446	2,880	38	5,739	2,817	43	1,491	2,977	82	774	3,544	126
Male	2,857	3,257	63	2,099	3,206	73	671	3,302	128	404	3,715	175
Female	4,588	2,645	46	3,640	2,592	52	820	2,711	103	369	3,357	182

[1]Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Source: Current Population Survey, P-60, No. 175, table 22.

Table 16. **Poverty Rate, by Type of Residence: 1990**

Residence	Rate
Inside metro	12.7
Outside metro	16.3
Central City	19.0
Outside Central City	8.7
Farm	11.2
Nonfarm	13.6

Source: Current Population Reports, Series, P-60, No.175, table 1.

Table 17. **Poverty, by Income Definition: 1990**

Characteristic	Official	Private sector	After tax	After transfer	All inclusive
Race and Hispanic origin[1]					
Total	13.5	20.5	20.8	11.0	9.8
White	10.7	17.7	18.0	9.0	7.9
Black	31.9	39.7	39.9	24.3	22.3
Hispanic origin[1]	28.1	33.7	34.5	22.7	21.4
Type of Householder					
Married couple	6.9	11.5	12.3	5.4	4.7
Female Householder, no spouse present	37.2	44.5	45.3	28.5	26.8
Age					
Under 18 years	20.6	22.5	23.4	15.8	14.9
18 to 24 years	15.9	18.4	19.8	14.3	13.6
25 to 44 years	10.4	12.1	13.0	8.6	8.1
45 to 64 years	8.6	13.8	14.1	7.6	6.0
65 years and over	12.2	46.1	46.8	9.5	6.2

[1]Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Source: Current Population Reports Series, P-60, No. 176 RD, table 2 and table 3.

Table 18. **Distribution of Net Worth, by Race: 1988**

Asset	Total	White	Black	Hispanic origin[1]
Own home	43.1	42.2	67.6	58.2
Vehicles	5.8	5.5	10.8	8.4
Business	8.8	8.9	3.9	6.3
Rental property	7.9	7.9	7.8	9.6
Interest earnings	18.3	18.6	8.7	10.3
Other	16.9	16.7	1.1	7.1

[1]Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Source: Current Population Reports, Series P-70, No. 22, table J.

Table 19. **Median Net Worth, by Household Type: 1988**

(Number in thousands. Families as of March of the following year)

Household type	Total			White			Black			Hispanic origin[1]		
	Number	Median income	Standard error	Number	Median income	Standard error	Number	Median income	Standard error	Number	Median income	Standard error
Married couple	51,697	57,134	1,139	46,766	62,386	1,273	3,630	17,635	1,701	3,281	15,691	3,146
Female householder	25,437	13,571	1,023	20,352	22,099	1,270	1,927	757	179	1,011	736	381
Male Householder	14,383	13,053	988	12,051	16,584	1,373	4,721	1,457	369	1,625	2,973	1,272

[1]Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Source: Current Population Reports, Series P-70, No. 22, table L.

Table 20 . **Median Net Worth, by Age, Race, and Hispanic Origin**

Characteristic	Number	Median	Standard error
Race			
Total	91,554	35,752	779
White	79,169	43,279	924
Black	10,278	4,169	446
Hispanic origin[1]	5,916	5,524	796
Age			
Under 35 years	25,379	6,078	291
35 years to 44 years	19,916	33,183	1,264
45 years to 54 years	13,613	57,466	1,953
55 years to 64 years	13,090	80,032	2,684
65 years or over	19,556	73,471	1,950

[1]Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.
Source: Current Population Reports, Series P-70, No. 22, table 1.

Table 21. **Distribution of Net Worth: 1988**

Age	Own home	Vehicles	Business	Rental property	Interest earning	Other
Under 35 years	45.1	15.6	14.6	6.8	13.6	4.3
35 to 44 years	49.1	7.6	12.0	6.7	11.5	13.0
45 to 54 years	43.2	5.7	11.9	11.3	12.1	15.8
55 to 64 years	41.0	4.7	9.4	8.0	15.7	21.1
65 years and over	40.4	3.1	3.0	6.7	29.2	17.6

Source: Current Population Reports, Series P-70, No. 22, table G.

Table 22. **Median Net Worth, by Quintile: 1988**

Quintile	Total			White			Black			Hispanic origin[1]		
	Number	Net worth	Standard error	Number	Net worth	Standard error	Number	Net worth	Standard error	Number	Net worth	Standard error
Lowest	18,299	4,324	390	14,049	8,839	1,190	3,840	-	32	1,621	377	262
3rd	18,378	28,044	1,405	16,154	32,802	1,836	1,840	8,461	1,965	1,233	6,695	2,374
Highest	18,314	111,770	4,755	16,959	119,057	4,856	839	47,160	5,361	761	58,731	7,288

[1]Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Source: Current Population Reports, Series P-70, No. 22, table L.

Table 23. **Median Value of Holdings for Asset Owners, by Region and Quintile: 1988**

Area	Number	Median	Standard error
Region			
Northwest	18,418	51,537	2,428
Midwest	23,649	36,304	1,231
South	31,219	28,987	1,004
West	18,268	36,081	2,259
Quintile			
Total	91,554	35,752	779
Lowest	18,299	4,324	390
Second	18,253	19,694	1,484
Third	18,378	28,044	1,405
Fourth	18,310	46,253	1,677
Fifth	18,314	111,770	4,755

Table 24. **Median Family Income by Age, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1990**

Age	Total			White			Black			Hispanic origin[1]		
	Number	Medium income	Standard error	Number	Medium income	Standard error	Number	Medium income	Standard error	Number	Medium income	Standard error
15 to 24 years	2,726	16,219	453	2,163	18,234	788	476	7,218	707	423	13,009	1,160
24 to 34	14,590	31,497	295	12,189	33,457	349	1,943	17,130	706	1,495	20,439	806
35 to 44 years	17,078	41,061	323	14,431	42,632	395	2,023	27,025	1,020	1,323	27,350	1,097
45 to 54 years	11,701	47,164	483	9,990	49,269	595	1,249	30,847	1,445	808	29,908	1,581
55 to 64 years	9,326	39,035	492	8,232	40,416	566	856	25,442	1,674	527	30,839	2,036
65 and over	10,900	25,049	310	9,797	25,864	320	923	16,585	744	405	17,962	1,263

[1]Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.
Source: Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 174, table 13 B to 24.

Cumulative

Table 25. **Percent Change in Median Family Income: 1967 to 1990**

(In 1990 dollars)

Year	Families CPI-U-X1	Year	Families CPI-U-X1
1967	0.0	1979	21.1
1968	4.8	1980	16.9
1969	9.6	1981	13.7
1970	9.3	1982	12.2
1971	9.2	1983	13.4
1972	14.6	1984	16.4
1973	16.8	1985	17.9
1974	13.8	1986	23.0
1975	11.7	1987	24.7
1976	15.2	1988	24.5
1977	15.9	1989	26.3
1978	19.6	1990	23.8

Appendix C.
Source and Accuracy of Estimates

Source of Data

Most estimates in this chart book come from data obtained in March of years 1960 through 1991 in the Current Population Survey (CPS). The Bureau of the Census conducts this survey every month, although this chart book uses only March data for its estimates. The March survey uses two sets of questions, the basic CPS and the supplement. The basic CPS collects labor force data for the civilian noninstitutional population ages 15 years and older. In March, supplemental data is collected on money income received the previous calendar year.

Some estimates in this chart book come from data obtained in the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP). The 1988 data were collected during the fourth interview of the 1987 panel and the seventh interview of the 1986 panel of SIPP in a supplement to the standard questionnaire. The SIPP universe is the noninstitutionalized resident population living in the United States and at least 15 years of age. However, the information collected for the supplement from persons living in group quarters were not included in the tabulations shown in this report.

Survey estimates. The estimation procedures used for CPS and SIPP data inflates weighted sample results to independent estimates of the civilian noninstitutional population of the United States by age, sex, race, and Hispanic/non-Hispanic categories. These independent estimates are based on statistics from decennial censuses; statistics on births, deaths, immigration, and emigration; and statistics on the size of the Armed Forces. The estimation procedure for 1981 through 1990 (1980 for income estimates) data used independent estimates based on the 1980 decennial census; 1970 through 1979 data used independent estimates based on the 1970 decennial census; 1960 through 1969 data used independent estimates based on the 1960 decennial census. This change in independent estimates had relatively little impact on summary measures, such as medians and percent distributions, but did have a significant impact on levels. For example, use of the 1980 based population controls resulted in about a 2 percent increase in the civilian noninstitutional population and in the number of families and households. Thus, estimates of levels for 1980 and later will differ from those for earlier years by more than what could be attributed to actual changes in the population. These differences could be disproportionately greater for certain population subgroups than for the total population.

Accuracy of Estimates

Since the CPS and SIPP estimates are based on samples, they may differ somewhat from the figures from a complete census using the same questionnaires, instructions, and enumerators. There are two types of errors possible in an estimate based on a sample survey: sampling and nonsampling. The standard errors provided in most Current Population Reports primarily indicate the magnitude of the sampling errors. They also partially measure the effect of some nonsampling errors in response and enumeration, but do not measure any systematic biases in the data. Bias is the difference, averaged over all possible samples, between the estimate and the desired value. The accuracy of a survey result depends on the net effect of sampling and nonsampling errors. Particular care should be exercised in the interpretation of figures based on a relatively small number of cases or on small differences between estimates.

Nonsampling variability. As in any survey work, the results are subject to errors of response and nonreporting in addition to sampling variability. Nonsampling errors can be attributed to many sources, e.g., inability to obtain information about all cases in the sample, definitional difficulties,