

Household Income: 2021

American Community Survey Briefs

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INTRODUCTION

This report presents statistics on median household income and the Gini index of income inequality based on the 2019 and 2021 American Community Surveys (ACS) 1-year estimates, and 2019 and 2021 Puerto Rico Community Surveys (PRCS) 1-year estimates.¹ This report also presents data on median household income back to the 2005 ACS. The ACS data (which include the PRCS) provide detailed estimates of demographic, social, economic, and housing characteristics for states, congressional districts, counties, places, and other localities every year.² The ACS is described in more detail in the text box “What Is the American Community Survey?”

In 2020, the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted data collection and resulted in lower survey response rates. Those who responded to the survey had statistically different social, economic, and housing characteristics than those who did not. This resulted in unreasonable estimates, or ones that were inconsistent with benchmarks and administrative data. These inconsistencies signaled a serious quality issue and nonresponse bias in the 2020 ACS 1-year data. Rather than release the estimates using standard methodology, the U.S. Census Bureau created experimental estimates using a new weighting

¹ The U.S. Census Bureau reviewed this data product for unauthorized disclosure of confidential information and approved the disclosure avoidance practices applied to this release. CBDRB-FY22-SEHSD003-046.

² The text of this report discusses statistics for the United States, including the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Statistics for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, collected with the Puerto Rico Community Survey, are included in Table 1 and Figures 2 and 4.

KEY DEFINITIONS

Household income: Includes pretax cash income of the householder and all other people 15 years old and older in the household, whether or not they are related to the householder.

Median: The point that divides the household income distribution into halves, one-half with income above the median and the other with income below the median. The median is based on the income distribution of all households, including those with no income.

Gini index: A summary measure of income inequality. The Gini index varies from 0 to 1, with 0 indicating perfect equality, where there is a proportional distribution of income. A Gini index of 1 indicates perfect inequality, where one household has all the income.

methodology aimed at mitigating the nonresponse bias in the 2020 data. Rather than comparing 2021 estimates to 2020 experimental estimates, the comparisons in this report are made between 2021 and 2019 data, which used consistent weighting methodologies. For additional information on the experimental data, visit <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/data/experimental-data.html>.

The ACS is conducted every month, with income data collected for the 12 months preceding each interview. Therefore, comparing the 2019 ACS with the 2021 ACS is not an exact comparison of the

economic conditions in 2019 with those in 2021, and comparisons should be interpreted with care.³ In addition, 2019 estimates in this report are weighted using population estimates based on the 2010 Census population counts, while the 2021 estimates in this report are weighted using the 2020 Census population counts. Therefore, comparisons between 2019 and 2021 estimates in part reflect the differences in the base population in 2010 and 2020. For more information on the ACS sample design and other

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

topics, visit www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/.

Median household income was not statistically different between the 2019 ACS and 2021 ACS at the national level, for 27 states and Puerto Rico. This marks the first time since 2013 that the median household income did not show an increase at the national level (Figure 1). There was a statistically significant increase in median household income for ten states and four of the 25 most populous metropolitan areas.⁴ The Gini index

⁴ Metropolitan statistical areas (metro areas) are geographic entities delineated by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for use by federal statistical agencies in collecting, tabulating, and publishing federal statistics. For more information, refer to www.census.gov/programs-surveys/metro-micro/about.html.

was also higher for the United States and 21 states in the 2021 ACS compared to 2019.

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: 2019 AND 2021 NATIONAL AND STATE COMPARISONS⁵

The U.S. median household income from the 2021 ACS was \$69,717 (Table 1). Real median household income in the United States was not statistically different between the 2019 ACS and 2021 ACS.⁶

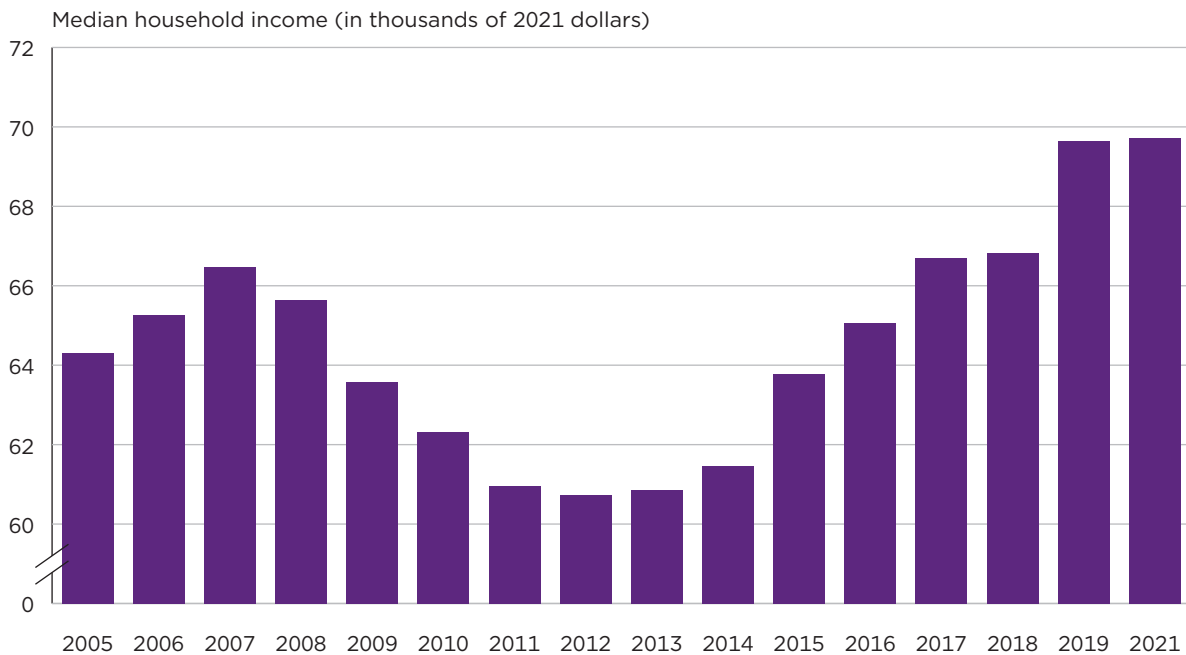
⁵ All income estimates in this report are inflation-adjusted to 2021 dollars. Inflation adjustments are computed using the Consumer Price Index Research Series (CPI-U-RS).

⁶ "Real" refers to income after adjusting for inflation.

Figure 1.

Median Household Income in the Past 12 Months in the United States: 2005-2021

(Information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at www.census.gov/acs)



Note: Estimates for 2020 experimental data not shown. For more information on the 2020 experimental data products, refer to www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/user-notes/2021-02.html.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2019 and 2021 American Community Surveys, 1-year estimates.

Table 1.

Median Household Income and Gini Index in the Past 12 Months by State and Puerto Rico: 2019 and 2021

(In 2021 inflation-adjusted dollars. Data are limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. Information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at <www.census.gov/acs>.)

State	2019 ACS median household income (dollars)		2021 ACS median household income (dollars)		Change in median income (percent)		2019 ACS Gini Index		2021 ACS Gini Index		Change in Gini Index (percent)	
	Estimate	Margin of error (±) ¹	Estimate	Margin of error (±) ¹	Estimate	Margin of error (±) ¹	Estimate	Margin of error (±) ¹	Estimate	Margin of error (±) ¹	Estimate	Margin of error (±) ¹
United States.....	69,639	125	69,717	134	0.1	0.3	0.481	0.001	0.485	0.001	*0.8	0.2
Alabama.....	54,826	635	53,913	781	-1.7	1.8	0.474	0.005	0.482	0.005	*1.7	1.5
Alaska.....	79,973	2,855	77,845	2,148	-2.7	4.4	0.438	0.012	0.439	0.011	0.4	3.8
Arizona.....	65,764	472	69,056	686	*5.0	1.3	0.459	0.004	0.463	0.004	0.8	1.3
Arkansas.....	51,878	915	52,528	1,002	1.3	2.6	0.475	0.006	0.475	0.006	Z	1.9
California.....	85,248	332	84,907	542	-0.4	0.7	0.487	0.002	0.492	0.002	*1.2	0.5
Colorado.....	81,737	839	82,254	791	0.6	1.4	0.455	0.005	0.460	0.005	1.2	1.5
Connecticut.....	83,545	1,439	83,771	1,112	0.3	2.2	0.502	0.005	0.499	0.005	-0.8	1.4
Delaware.....	74,370	1,720	71,091	1,795	*-4.4	3.3	0.451	0.013	0.455	0.015	0.8	4.4
District of Columbia..	97,781	2,647	90,088	3,477	*-7.9	4.3	0.512	0.010	0.531	0.013	*3.7	3.2
Florida.....	62,767	469	63,062	425	0.5	1.0	0.481	0.003	0.487	0.003	*1.3	0.8
Georgia.....	65,684	463	66,559	712	*1.3	1.3	0.480	0.004	0.479	0.005	-0.2	1.4
Hawaii.....	88,069	2,266	84,857	2,106	*-3.6	3.4	0.440	0.008	0.455	0.010	*3.5	2.9
Idaho.....	64,645	1,134	66,474	1,752	2.8	3.3	0.434	0.010	0.458	0.012	*5.5	3.7
Illinois.....	73,322	620	72,205	574	*-1.5	1.1	0.480	0.003	0.482	0.004	0.5	1.0
Indiana.....	61,046	721	62,743	716	*2.8	1.7	0.458	0.005	0.448	0.005	*-2.3	1.5
Iowa.....	65,378	795	65,600	777	0.3	1.7	0.442	0.006	0.449	0.007	1.5	2.0
Kansas.....	65,798	733	64,124	951	*-2.5	1.8	0.450	0.006	0.460	0.007	*2.2	2.0
Kentucky.....	55,421	662	55,573	701	0.3	1.7	0.476	0.005	0.476	0.005	-0.1	1.6
Louisiana.....	54,126	621	52,087	750	*-3.8	1.8	0.498	0.005	0.499	0.006	0.2	1.5
Maine.....	62,446	1,863	64,767	1,258	*3.7	3.7	0.449	0.008	0.466	0.011	*3.9	3.1
Maryland.....	91,922	990	90,203	1,065	*-1.9	1.6	0.456	0.004	0.463	0.005	*1.6	1.3
Massachusetts.....	90,974	1,050	89,645	1,287	-1.5	1.8	0.480	0.004	0.489	0.004	*1.9	1.1
Michigan.....	63,145	606	63,498	526	0.6	1.3	0.463	0.003	0.466	0.003	0.5	1.0
Minnesota.....	79,051	875	77,720	915	*-1.7	1.6	0.443	0.004	0.449	0.004	*1.3	1.3
Mississippi.....	48,529	1,255	48,716	1,242	0.4	3.6	0.490	0.009	0.481	0.007	-1.8	2.2
Missouri.....	60,840	681	61,847	669	*1.7	1.6	0.463	0.004	0.471	0.005	*1.6	1.3
Montana.....	60,569	1,277	63,249	1,423	*4.4	3.2	0.460	0.010	0.469	0.013	2.1	3.6
Nebraska.....	67,008	992	66,817	1,060	-0.3	2.2	0.440	0.006	0.456	0.006	*3.6	2.0
Nevada.....	67,058	1,082	66,274	1,011	-1.2	2.2	0.471	0.007	0.473	0.007	0.3	2.1
New Hampshire.....	82,591	2,113	88,465	2,144	*7.1	3.8	0.441	0.009	0.435	0.009	-1.3	2.8
New Jersey.....	90,876	806	89,296	1,088	*-1.7	1.5	0.478	0.004	0.485	0.004	*1.5	1.1
New Mexico.....	55,050	1,027	53,992	1,483	-1.9	3.3	0.477	0.007	0.486	0.009	2.0	2.5
New York.....	76,418	479	74,314	613	*-2.8	1.0	0.515	0.003	0.514	0.003	-0.2	0.7
North Carolina.....	60,768	648	61,972	541	*2.0	1.4	0.474	0.003	0.480	0.004	*1.2	1.1
North Dakota.....	68,437	3,191	66,519	1,823	-2.8	5.3	0.456	0.010	0.453	0.012	-0.6	3.4
Ohio.....	62,147	597	62,262	456	0.2	1.2	0.465	0.003	0.469	0.003	0.8	1.0
Oklahoma.....	57,703	635	55,826	624	*-3.3	1.5	0.474	0.004	0.462	0.004	*-2.6	1.2
Oregon.....	71,066	925	71,562	1,058	0.7	2.0	0.450	0.005	0.461	0.005	*2.5	1.6
Pennsylvania.....	67,256	455	68,957	505	*2.5	1.0	0.475	0.003	0.472	0.002	-0.5	0.8
Rhode Island.....	75,423	1,652	74,008	2,381	-1.9	3.8	0.463	0.010	0.468	0.011	1.1	3.2
South Carolina.....	59,588	885	59,318	852	-0.5	2.1	0.475	0.006	0.476	0.006	0.3	1.7
South Dakota.....	63,091	2,066	66,143	2,258	4.8	5.0	0.436	0.009	0.452	0.014	3.7	4.0
Tennessee.....	59,422	697	59,695	788	0.5	1.8	0.475	0.005	0.482	0.005	*1.5	1.5
Texas.....	67,861	530	66,963	513	*-1.3	1.1	0.475	0.002	0.478	0.003	0.7	0.7
Utah.....	80,309	1,158	79,449	1,246	-1.1	2.1	0.427	0.007	0.445	0.008	*4.2	2.5
Vermont.....	66,766	1,860	72,431	2,216	*8.5	4.5	0.447	0.011	0.453	0.010	1.3	3.5
Virginia.....	81,026	893	80,963	731	-0.1	1.4	0.469	0.004	0.472	0.003	0.7	1.0
Washington.....	83,390	978	84,247	844	1.0	1.6	0.458	0.004	0.470	0.004	*2.8	1.3
West Virginia.....	51,770	1,199	51,248	1,085	-1.0	3.1	0.464	0.007	0.486	0.008	*4.6	2.4
Wisconsin.....	68,003	636	67,125	605	*-1.3	1.3	0.439	0.004	0.446	0.004	*1.7	1.3
Wyoming.....	68,888	2,245	65,204	2,744	*-5.3	5.0	0.435	0.015	0.464	0.020	*6.7	5.9
Puerto Rico.....	21,698	405	22,237	478	2.5	2.9	0.551	0.007	0.542	0.007	-1.6	1.8

* Statistically different from zero at the 90 percent confidence level. Z Represents or rounds to zero.

¹ Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. A margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. This number, when added to and subtracted from the estimate, forms the 90 percent confidence interval.

Note: Comparisons are made from 2021 to 2019, the most recent data year with standard data collection. For more information on the 2020 experimental data products, refer to <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/user-notes/2021-02.html>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 and 2021 American Community Surveys (ACS), 1-year estimates and 2019 and 2021 Puerto Rico Community Surveys, 1-year estimates.

The District of Columbia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and New Jersey were among the states with the highest median household income. Mississippi and Puerto Rico had the lowest (Table 1 and Figure 2). Median household income was lower than the U.S. median in 30 states and Puerto Rico. It was higher than the U.S. median in 18 states and the District of Columbia. The medians

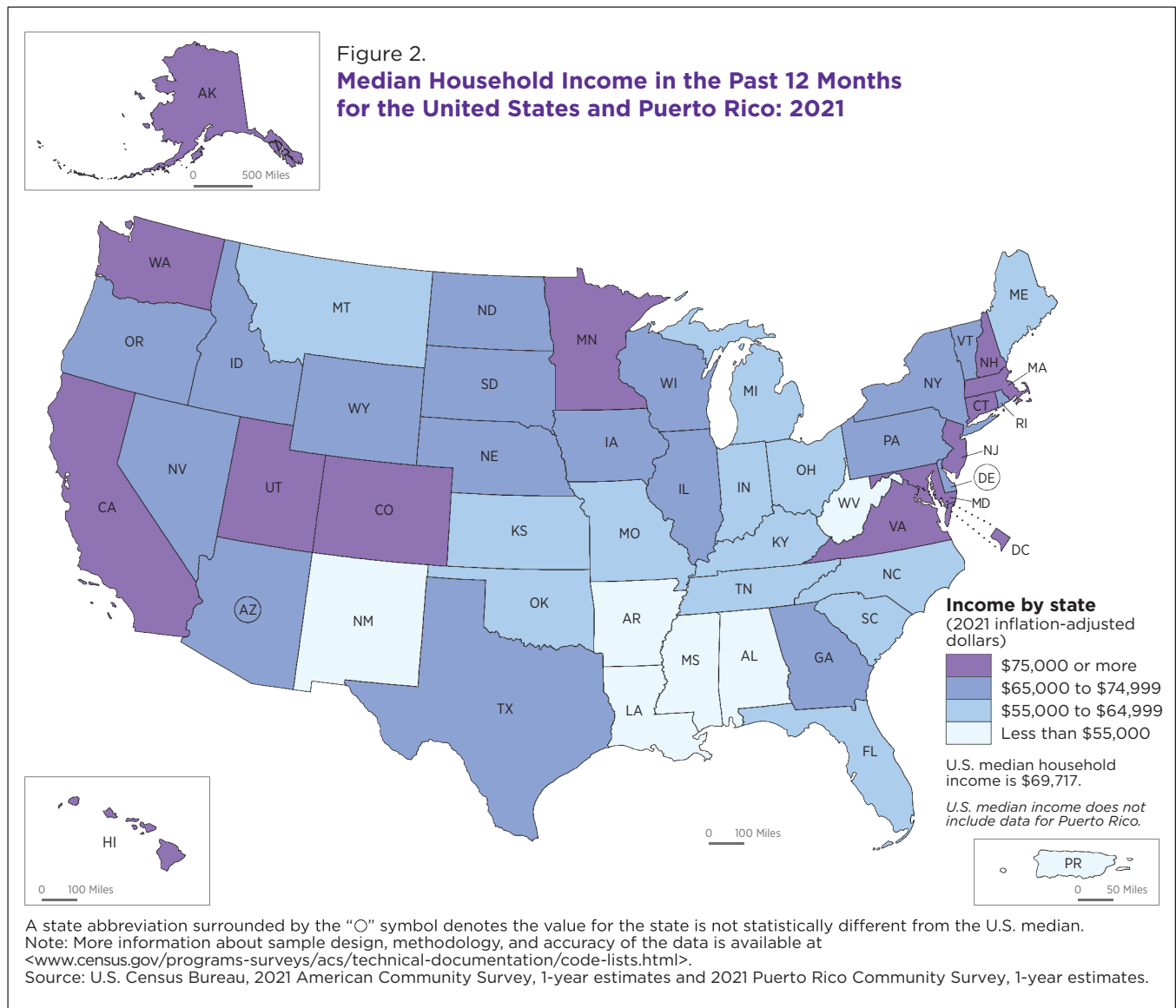
for Arizona and Delaware were not statistically different from the U.S. median.

Between the 2019 ACS and the 2021 ACS, ten states showed a statistically significant increase in real median household income. Thirteen states and the District of Columbia showed a decrease. Real median household income in the 2021 ACS was not statistically

different from that in the 2019 ACS for 27 states and Puerto Rico.

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: 25 MOST POPULOUS METROPOLITAN AREAS

Table 2 shows median household income for the 25 most populous metropolitan areas.



According to the 2021 ACS, median household income ranged from \$116,005 in the San Francisco metro area to \$62,951 in the Tampa metro area.⁷ Median household income increased between 2019 and 2021 in the Atlanta,

⁷ Median household income for the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL Metro Area was not statistically different from the median household income for the Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL Metro Area.

Phoenix, Seattle, and Tampa metro areas. Median household income decreased in the Chicago metro area, Houston metro area, New York City metro area, and San Francisco metro area. The remaining 17 metro areas did not have a statistically significant change between 2019 and 2021 (Figure 3).

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN OF HOUSEHOLDER⁸

Median household income in 2021 ranged from \$100,572 for households with Asian householders to \$46,774

⁸ The householder is the person in whose name the home is owned or rented. This brief uses the characteristics of the householder to describe the household.

Table 2.

Median Household Income in the Past 12 Months by the 25 Most Populous Metropolitan Areas

(In 2021 inflation-adjusted dollars. Data are limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. Information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at <www.census.gov/acs>)

Metropolitan area	2019 ACS median household income (dollars)		2021 ACS median household income (dollars)		Change in median income (percent)	
	Estimate	Margin of error (±) ¹	Estimate	Margin of error (±) ¹	Estimate	Margin of error (±) ¹
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Alpharetta, GA Metro Area	76,030	743	77,589	1,068	*2.1	1.7
Baltimore-Columbia-Towson, MD Metro Area	88,130	1,804	86,302	1,862	-2.1	2.9
Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH Metro Area	100,074	1,285	100,750	1,474	0.7	2.0
Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia, NC-SC Metro Area	70,368	1,453	71,041	1,298	1.0	2.8
Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI Metro Area	79,884	737	78,166	830	*-2.2	1.4
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX Metro Area	76,584	646	75,975	920	-0.8	1.5
Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO Metro Area	90,760	1,216	90,716	1,559	Z	2.2
Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI Metro Area	67,268	944	67,153	871	-0.2	1.9
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX Metro Area	73,329	1,462	70,893	1,037	*-3.3	2.4
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA Metro Area	82,422	900	82,503	785	0.1	1.4
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL Metro Area	63,736	721	63,814	803	0.1	1.7
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI Metro Area	88,700	1,265	87,433	1,286	-1.4	2.0
New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA Metro Area	88,130	839	84,409	717	*-4.2	1.2
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL Metro Area	65,574	1,243	64,936	1,329	-1.0	2.8
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD Metro Area	78,988	942	80,007	1,028	1.3	1.8
Phoenix-Mesa-Chandler, AZ Metro Area	71,954	1,045	75,731	741	*5.2	1.8
Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA Metro Area	83,127	1,893	83,943	1,164	1.0	2.7
Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA Metro Area	75,195	1,090	77,018	1,484	2.4	2.5
St. Louis, MO-IL Metro Area	70,387	959	70,189	1,020	-0.3	2.0
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro Area	66,082	996	66,775	1,353	1.0	2.6
San Diego-Chula Vista-Carlsbad, CA Metro Area	89,005	2,022	91,003	1,377	2.2	2.8
San Francisco-Oakland-Berkeley, CA Metro Area	121,551	2,082	116,005	2,033	*-4.6	2.3
Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA Metro Area	99,647	1,633	101,721	1,148	*2.1	2.0
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL Metro Area	61,367	1,215	62,951	877	*2.6	2.5
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metro Area	111,974	1,195	110,355	1,335	-1.4	1.6

* Statistically different from zero at the 90 percent confidence level.

Z Represents or rounds to zero.

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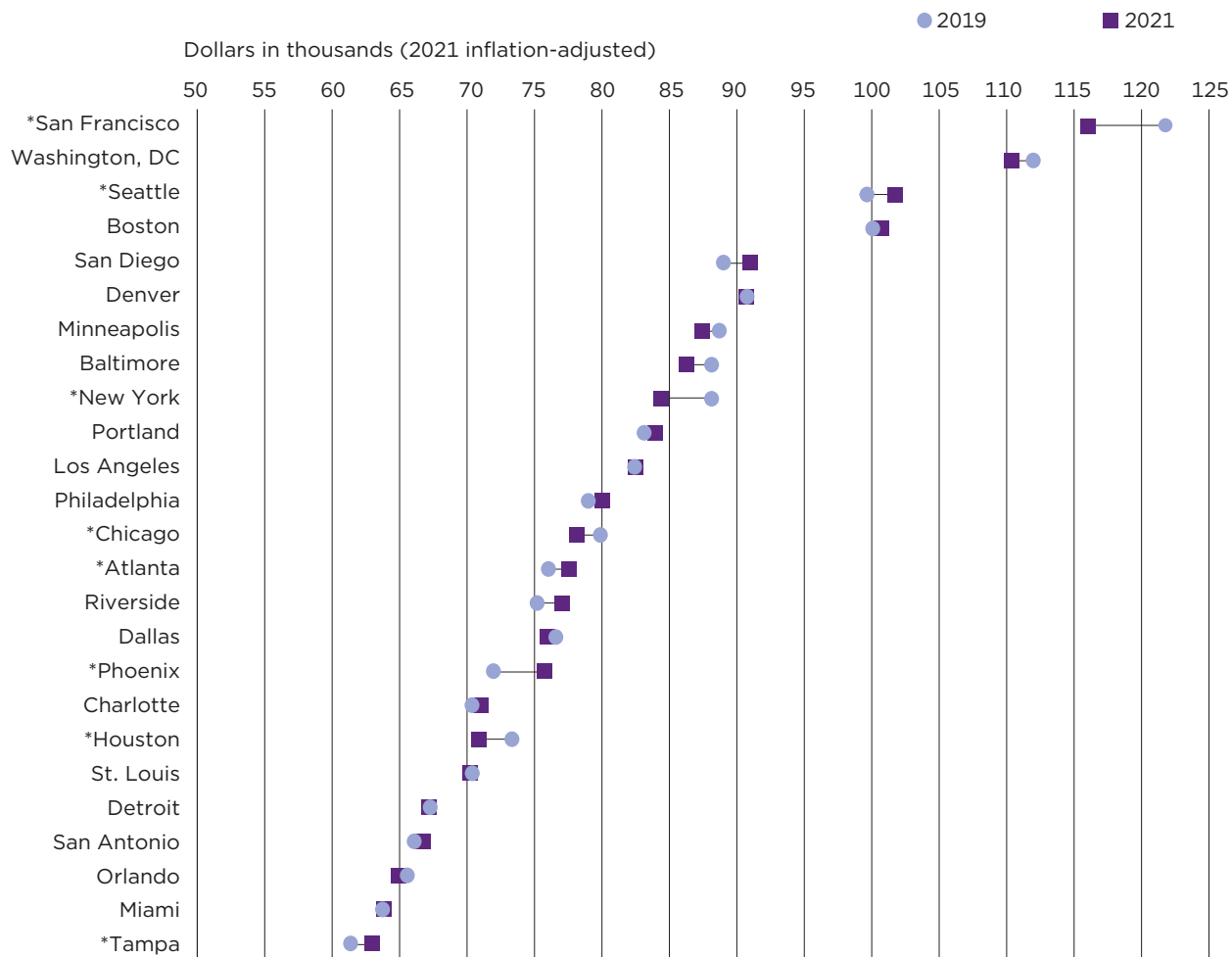
Note: Comparisons are made from 2021 to 2019, the most recent data year with standard data collection. For more information on the 2020 experimental data products, refer to <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/user-notes/2021-02.html>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 and 2021 American Community Surveys (ACS), 1-year estimates and 2019 and 2021 Puerto Rico Community Surveys, 1-year estimates.

Figure 3.

Median Household Income for the 25 Most Populous Metro Areas: 2019 and 2021

(Information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at <www.census.gov/acs>)



* Statistically different from zero at the 90 percent confidence level.

Note: Comparisons are made from 2021 to 2019, the most recent data year with standard data collection. More information on the 2020 experimental data products is available at <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/user-notes/2021-02.html>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 and 2021 American Community Surveys, 1-year estimates.

for households with Black householders.⁹ Households with

⁹ Federal surveys give respondents the option of reporting more than one race. Therefore, two basic ways of defining a race group are possible. A group, such as Asian may be defined as those who reported Asian and no other race (the race-alone or single-race concept) or as those who reported Asian regardless of whether they also reported another race (the race-alone-or-in-combination concept). This report shows data using the race-alone approach. Use of the single-race population does not imply that it is the preferred method of presenting or analyzing data. The Census Bureau uses a variety of approaches. In this report, the terms “White, not Hispanic” and “non-Hispanic White” are used interchangeably and refer to people who are not Hispanic and who reported White and no other race. Since Hispanics may be any race, data in this report for Hispanics overlap with data for race groups.

Black householders did not experience a statistically significant change between 2019 and 2021. Households with non-Hispanic White householders experienced a decrease of 0.7 percent in median household income. Median household incomes for White, Hispanic, and Asian households increased between 2019 and 2021. The median household income for households with Hispanic householders increased by 2.7 percent, from \$58,984 in 2019 to \$60,566 in 2021. Median household income for households with White householders increased by 1.3 percent, from \$73,996 to

\$74,932. Households with Asian householders increased by 1.2 percent, from \$99,362 to \$100,572.

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: AGE OF HOUSEHOLDER

Real median household income increased 1.3 percent between 2019 and 2021 for households headed by householders aged 25 to 44 and decreased 1.6 percent for households maintained by householders 65 years and older (Table 3). There was no significant change in median household income between 2019 and 2021 for the remaining age groups.

Table 3.

Household Income by Selected Characteristics: 2019 and 2021

(In 2021 inflation-adjusted dollars. Data are limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. Information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at <www.census.gov/acs>)

Characteristic	2019 ACS median household income (dollars)		2021 ACS median household income (dollars)		Percentage change in median household income	
	Estimate	Margin of error (±) ¹	Estimate	Margin of error (±) ¹	Estimate	Margin of error (±) ¹
HOUSEHOLDS						
All households	69,639	125	69,717	134	0.1	0.3
Race and Hispanic Origin of Householder						
White	73,996	174	74,932	163	*1.3	0.3
White, not Hispanic	75,947	135	75,412	159	*-0.7	0.3
Black	46,483	355	46,774	335	0.6	1.1
Asian	99,362	998	100,572	606	*1.2	1.3
Hispanic (any race)	58,984	296	60,566	294	*2.7	0.8
Age of Householder						
Under 25 years	38,150	341	38,164	576	Z	1.9
25 to 44 years	76,334	164	77,338	220	*1.3	0.4
45 to 64 years	83,896	306	83,812	240	-0.1	0.5
65 years and older	51,815	176	50,969	156	*-1.6	0.5

* Statistically different from zero at the 90 percent confidence level.

Z Represents or rounds to zero.

¹ Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. A margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. This number, when added to and subtracted from the estimate, forms the 90 percent confidence interval.

Note: Comparisons are made from 2021 to 2019, the most recent data year with standard data collection. For more information on the 2020 experimental data products, refer to <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/user-notes/2021-02.html>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 and 2021 American Community Surveys (ACS), 1-year estimates.

Households maintained by householders aged 45 to 64 had the highest median household income in 2021 (\$83,812), followed by those with householders aged 25 to 44 (\$77,338) and those with householders 65 years and older (\$50,969). Households maintained by householders under the age of 25 had the lowest median household income (\$38,164).

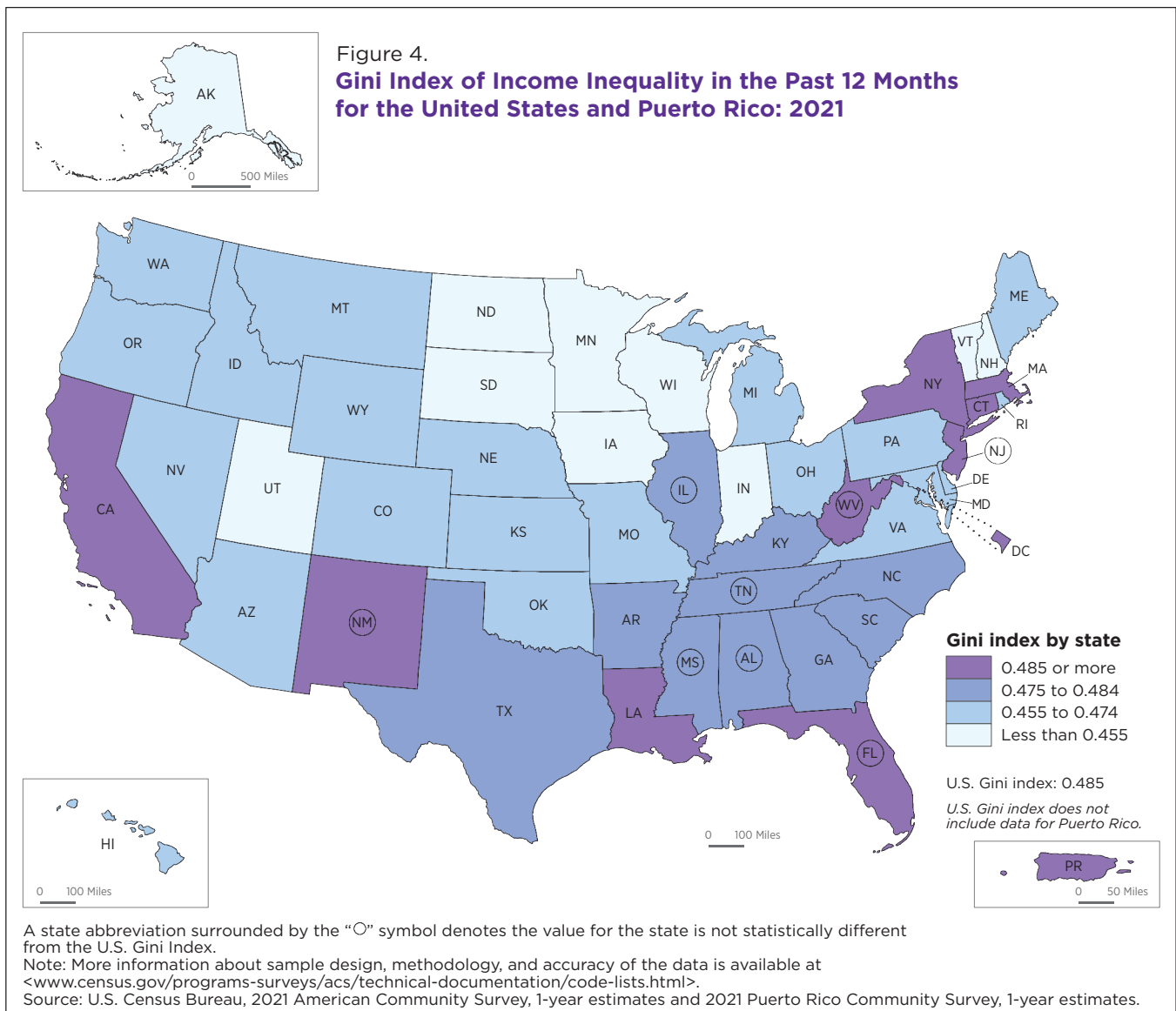
INCOME INEQUALITY

The Gini Index for the United States from the 2021 ACS (0.485)

was significantly higher than the 2019 ACS estimate (0.481). The 2021 ACS Gini index increased in 21 states and the District of Columbia from the 2019 Gini index. Indiana and Oklahoma had lower Gini indexes than they did in 2019. Changes from 2019 were not statistically significant for 27 states and Puerto Rico. Among the 50 states, New York had the highest Gini index, though both the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico had even higher Gini indexes. Alaska, New Hampshire, and Utah were

among the states with the lowest Gini index (Table 1 and Figure 4).¹⁰ There were 5 states with Gini indexes higher than the U.S. index and 37 states that were lower. Eight states had Gini indexes that

¹⁰ Alaska, New Hampshire, and Utah each had a Gini index that was not statistically different from one another. Alaska had a Gini index that was not statistically different from the Gini index in Delaware, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, and Wisconsin. Utah had a Gini index that was not statistically different from the Gini index in Alaska, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.



were not statistically different from the U.S. index (Table 1 and Figure 4). Since 2006, the earliest year available in the ACS, the national Gini index has increased 4.5 percent, from 0.464 to 0.485.

SUMMARY

For the first time since 2013, real median household income did not show an increase. The majority of states and metropolitan areas also showed no change between 2019 and 2021 (27 states and 17 of the 25 largest metro areas). White and Asian households experienced an increase in median household income between 2019 and 2021, as did Hispanics (of any race). Black households did not show a change in median household income for 2021 compared to 2019. Households headed by householders aged 25 to 44 experienced an increase in median household income between 2019 and 2021 while households maintained by householders 65 years and older experienced a decrease. There was no significant change in median household income between 2019 and 2021 for the remaining age groups. The Gini index showed an increase nationally between 2019 and 2021, and for 21 states and the District of Columbia.

SOURCE AND ACCURACY

The data presented in this report are based on the ACS and PRCS samples interviewed from January 1, 2019, through December 31, 2019 (2019 ACS and 2019 PRCS), and January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021 (2021 ACS and 2021 PRCS). The estimates based on these samples describe the average values of person, household, and housing unit characteristics over this period of collection. Sampling error is the uncertainty between an estimate based on a sample and the corresponding value that would be obtained if the estimate were based on the entire population (as from a census). Measures of sampling error are provided in the form of margins of error for all estimates included in this report. All comparative statements in this report have undergone statistical testing, and comparisons are significant at the 90 percent confidence level unless otherwise noted. In addition to sampling error, nonsampling error may be introduced during any of the operations used to collect and process survey data, such as editing, reviewing, or keying data from questionnaires. For more information on sampling and estimation methods, confidentiality protection, and sampling and nonsampling errors, refer to the 2021 ACS Accuracy of the Data

document at <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/code-lists.html>.

NOTES

The Census Bureau also reports income estimates based on data from the Current Population Survey (CPS). The CPS is the longest-running household survey conducted by the Census Bureau. The CPS Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) asks detailed questions categorizing income into over 50 sources. The key purpose of the CPS ASEC is to provide timely and detailed estimates of income and to measure change in national-level estimates. The CPS ASEC is the official source of national poverty estimates. More information is provided in the “Poverty in the United States: 2021” report available at <www.census.gov/library/publications/2022/demo/p60-277.pdf>.

For information on income estimates from the ACS and how they differ from those based on the CPS ASEC, refer to “Fact Sheet: Differences Between the American Community Survey and the Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey” at <www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/poverty/guidance/data-sources/acs-vs-cps.html>.

WHAT IS THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey designed to provide reliable and timely demographic, social, economic, and housing data for the nation, states, congressional districts, counties, places, and other localities every year. It has an annual sample size of about 3.5 million addresses across the United States and Puerto Rico and includes both housing units and group quarters (e.g., nursing homes and prisons). The ACS is conducted in every county throughout the nation and every municipio in Puerto Rico, where it is called the Puerto Rico Community Survey. Beginning in 2006, ACS data for 2005 were released for geographic areas with populations of 65,000 and greater. For information on the ACS sample design and other topics, visit <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/>.