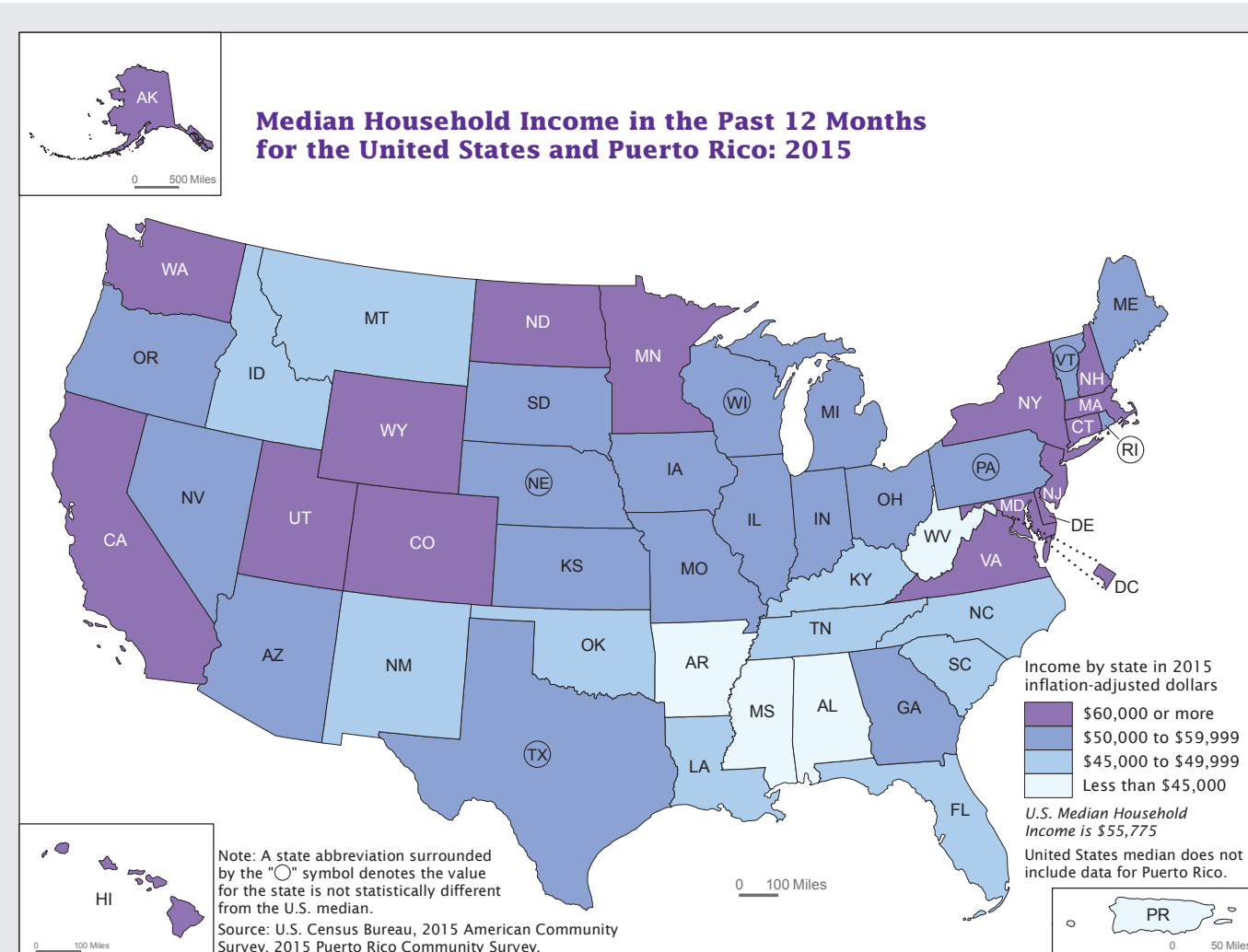


American Community Survey Household Income: 2015

What is the American Community Survey?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey designed to provide communities with reliable and timely demographic, social, economic, and housing data for the nation, states, congressional districts, counties, places, and other localities every year. It has an annual sample size of about 3.54 million addresses across the United States and Puerto Rico and includes both housing units and group quarters.

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.



Median Household Income

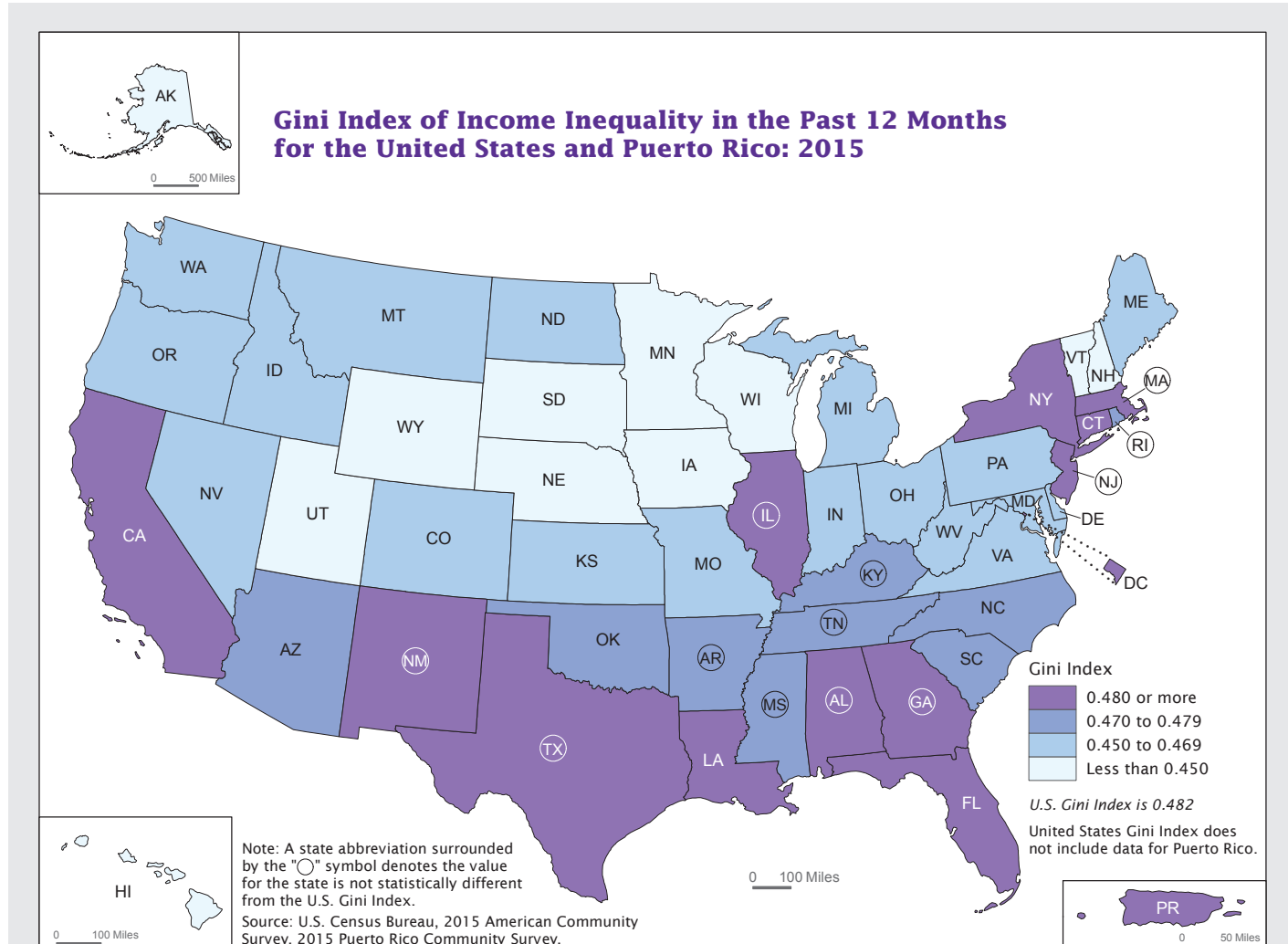
Real median household income in the United States showed a statistically significant increase between the 2014 ACS and the 2015 ACS. The 2015 U.S. median household income was \$55,775, 3.8 percent higher than the 2014 median. This was the third consecutive year with a statistically significant increase in the national median household income.

State income estimates from the 2015 ACS ranged from \$75,847 in Maryland to \$40,593 in Mississippi. Median household income was lower than the U.S. median in 26 states and higher than the U.S. median in 18 states and the District of Columbia. Rhode Island (\$58,073), Vermont (\$56,990), Pennsylvania (\$55,702), Texas (\$55,653), Wisconsin (\$55,638), and Nebraska (\$54,996) had median household income not statistically different from the U.S. median.

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.

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

Gini index: Summary measure of income inequality. The Gini index varies from 0 to 1, with a 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 and all others have no income.



Gini Index

The Gini index for the United States in the 2015 ACS (0.482) was significantly higher than in the 2014 ACS (0.480). This increase suggests that income inequality increased across the country.

Gini indexes from the 2015 ACS ranged from 0.535 in the District of Columbia to 0.425 in Utah. Five states and the District of Columbia had a Gini index higher than that for the United States. There were 33 states with Gini indexes lower than the U.S. index. The remaining 12 states had a Gini index that was not statistically different from the U.S. index. Since 2006, the earliest year available in the ACS, the national Gini index was up 3.9 percent from 0.464 to 0.482.