

CENSUS BUREAU DATA UPDATE

Measuring America

2010 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates Released!

On September 22, the Census Bureau released the much anticipated 2010 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-Year Estimates. Detailed social, economic and housing characteristics have been updated for geographies with populations 65,000 and above. Additional ACS estimates will be released in October and December for smaller jurisdictions (see schedule on reverse).

New products for the 2010 ACS 1-Year Estimates include 2 new Detailed Tables published for total fertility rates of women aged 15 to 50; 2 new housing characteristics Detailed Tables for year the structure was built and year the householder moved in; 1 new Disability Ranking Table (R1811) for employment to population ratios for the population with a disability; 1 new Food

Stamps/SNAP Ranking Table (R2201); and 1 new Foreign Born; Citizenship; Year of Entry; Nativity Detailed Table for Puerto Rico. For additional 2010 product changes visit: www.census.gov/acs/www/data_documentation/2010_product_changes/



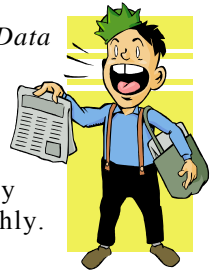
The 2010 ACS 1-Year Estimates are accessible through the new American FactFinder at aff2.census.gov. This is the first release of ACS data in the new system, which currently houses 2010 Census, Population Estimates and Business Patterns statistics. The legacy American FactFinder system will be retired this later fall.

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Census Bureau Data Update Change

The *Census Bureau Data Update* is changing its publishing schedule. Starting with this issue, the *Update* will be published on a quarterly basis, rather than monthly.



Income, Poverty and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States

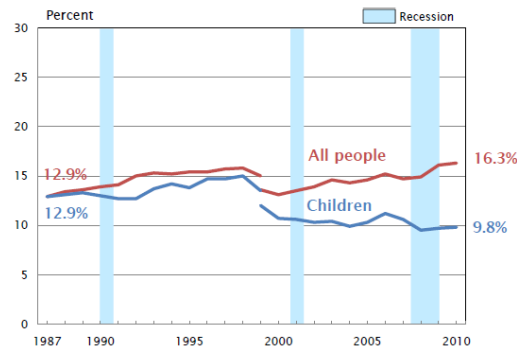
Earlier this month, the U.S. Census Bureau announced that in 2010, median household income declined, the poverty rate increased and the percentage without health insurance coverage was not statistically different from the previous year.

Real median household income in the United States in 2010 was \$49,445, a 2.3 percent decline from the 2009 median.

The nation's official poverty rate in 2010 was 15.1 percent, up from 14.3 percent in 2009 — the third consecutive annual increase in the poverty rate. There were 46.2 million people in poverty in 2010, up from 43.6 million in 2009 — the fourth consecutive annual increase and the largest number in the 52 years for which poverty estimates have been published.

The number of people without health insurance coverage rose from 49.0 million in 2009 to 49.9 million in 2010, while the percentage without coverage — 16.3 percent, was not statistically different from the rate in 2009.

People Without Health Insurance Coverage: 1987 to 2010



This information covers the first full calendar year after the December 2007-June 2009 recession. See related recession article on reverse.

These findings are contained in the report *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2010*. The results for the nation were compiled from information collected in the 2011 Current

Your Community by the Numbers: Data Access Workshops

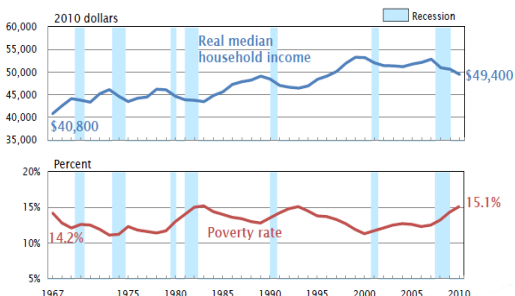


The Census Bureau provides free workshops to teach you how to use the American Factfinder online data retrieval tool, distinguish between types of data, compare data accurately, and much more! We will show you your community by the numbers in just a few clicks of the mouse. To inquire about our workshops or schedule one, **contact us at (617) 424-4510 or boston.pdsp@census.gov**.

Population Survey (CPS) Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC). See the full report at: www.census.gov/prod/2011pubs/p60-239.pdf

Annual estimates of median household income, poverty, and health insurance coverage by state and other smaller geographic units are based on data collected in the American Community Survey (ACS).

Real Median Household Income and Poverty Rate: 1967 to 2010



The *Census Bureau Data Update* is published to inform Census alumni and other stakeholders about current data releases, data dissemination activities of the Boston Regional Office, and current survey efforts.

End of Recession Doesn't Mean Good Times Return Right Away

Written by: David Johnson, US Census Bureau

An economic recession is typically defined by the National Bureau of Economic Research as a decline in the gross domestic product for two or more consecutive calendar quarters. The last recession began in December 2007 and ended in June 2009.

Numbers just released by the Census Bureau, however, illustrate that while the recession may technically be over, household economic conditions did not improve.

Every year, the Census Bureau collects data on how much income households receive. The year 2010 is the first full calendar year after the latest recession and the first chance we have to see whether, based on income, economic conditions have improved since the recession's end.

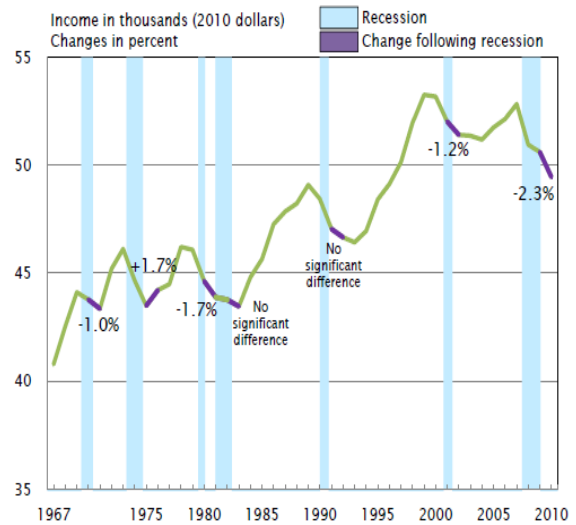
The answer is "no." During the 2010 calendar year, median household income was \$49,445, 2.3 percent lower than in 2009 after adjusting for inflation. Median indicates half of households had income more than this amount and half less. The total household income indicates the amount of money everyone 15 and older living in the household collectively brought in that year.

More often than not in recent history, the end of a recession has not immediately led to rising income levels. There have been seven recessions since 1969. In four of them, including the last one, median household income actually declined in the first full year after the recession. On two other occasions, the change was not statistically significant. Only once did it actually increase.

Over the years, researchers and analysts have used these annual income estimates to chart the effectiveness of government programs, gauge the economic well-being of the country, develop marketing strategies for business and assess the impact of changing demographic patterns. These numbers are considered the most timely and accurate national data on income.

Respondents in our surveys may feel uneasy giving information on personal subjects like income. However, this is how the nation determines our economic health – through analyzing the responses of households across America. Furthermore, there is no need to worry. All Census Bureau employees take an oath and are sworn for life not to share any personal data with anyone.

Change in Real Median Household Income in the First Full Calendar Year After the End of a Recession: 1967 to 2010



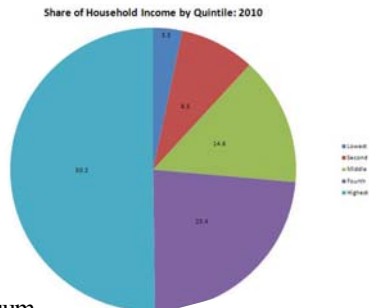
Income Gap: Is it Widening? *Written by: David Johnson, US Census Bureau*

Economists study closely the issue of income inequality in our nation; that is, the income gap between the wealthiest and least wealthy Americans.

The Census Bureau publishes several measures of income inequality every year. The two principal measures used are the share of aggregate household income received by quintiles (Quintiles mean the wealthiest 20 percent, the next wealthiest 20 percent, and so forth), and the Gini Index.

We found that, based on the quintile measure, income inequality increased between 2009 and 2010. In 2010, the bottom 20 percent of households received 3.3 percent of total income, down from 3.4 percent in 2009. These households had incomes of \$20,000 or less in 2010. There was also a decrease in the second lowest quintile from 8.6 percent to 8.5 percent.

Toward the other end of the continuum, those in the next-to-top 20 percent (fourth quintile) received 23.4 percent of income in 2010, up from 23.2 percent in 2009. These households had



incomes between \$61,736 and \$100,065. Those in the very top 20 percent, meanwhile, controlled about half the nation's income, not statistically different from 2009. These households had incomes of \$100,066 or more. About 23.7 million households fall into each quintile.

The other measure is the Gini index, which stood at 0.469 in 2010. The Gini indicates higher inequality as the index approaches one. In other words, if the index was one, it would mean a single household in the U.S. had all the country's income. Conversely, an index of zero would signal perfect equality, in which all the nation's households had the exact same amount of income.

Between 2009 and 2010, the change in the Gini index was not statistically significant. Since 1993, however, the earliest year for which comparable measures of income inequality are available, the Gini index is up 3.3 percent, which means inequality has increased somewhat over the long term.



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Upcoming Data Releases:

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|---------------------|--|
| September 22, 2011 | 2010 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Populations 65,000+ |
| October 2011 | 2008-2010 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Populations 20,000+ |
| December 2011 | 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All geographies down to the block group level |
| Dec 2011—April 2012 | 2010 Census Summary File 2 (SF2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pop and housing characteristics iterated for many detailed race and Hispanic/Latino categories, and American Indian/Alaska Native tribes |