Income in the United States: 2023

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Census Bureau collects data and publishes estimates on income, earnings, and inequality in order to evaluate national economic trends and to understand their effect on the well-being of households, families, and individuals.

The estimates in this report are based on data collected in the 2024 and earlier Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC) conducted by the Census Bureau.* This report presents estimates on income in the United States for calendar year 2023. Historical estimates are expressed in real or 2023 dollars to account for the change in the cost of living over time.[1] The current method for inflation-adjustment is based on the Chained Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (C-CPI-U) between 2000 and 2023 and the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers Retroactive Series (R-CPI-U-RS) prior to 2000.[2] The C-CPI-U measured a 4.0 percent increase in consumer prices between 2022 and 2023, down from a 7.7 percent increase between 2021 and 2022.

* The Census Bureau reviewed this data product to ensure appropriate access, use, and disclosure avoidance protection of the confidential source data used to produce this product (Data Management System [DMS] number: P-7534374, Disclosure Review Board [DRB] approval number: CBDRB-FY24-0434). To further protect respondent privacy, all estimates in this report have undergone additional rounding. As a result, this year's estimates may differ from previous publications and details may not sum to totals. All comparative statements have undergone statistical testing and are statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level unless otherwise noted.

This report begins with a section discussing median household income, highlighting year-to-year comparisons by characteristics such as race and Hispanic origin, nativity, region, and education. This is followed by sections on income inequality, workers, and median earnings. The income estimates in the main sections of this report are based on the concept of money income, which is pretax and does not account for the value of in-kind transfers. Estimates of post-tax income and inequality are included in Appendix B.

This report is released alongside two other reports focused on poverty estimates and health insurance coverage in the United States. For poverty and health insurance estimates, refer to "Poverty in the United States: 2023" and "Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2023."[3]

Highlights

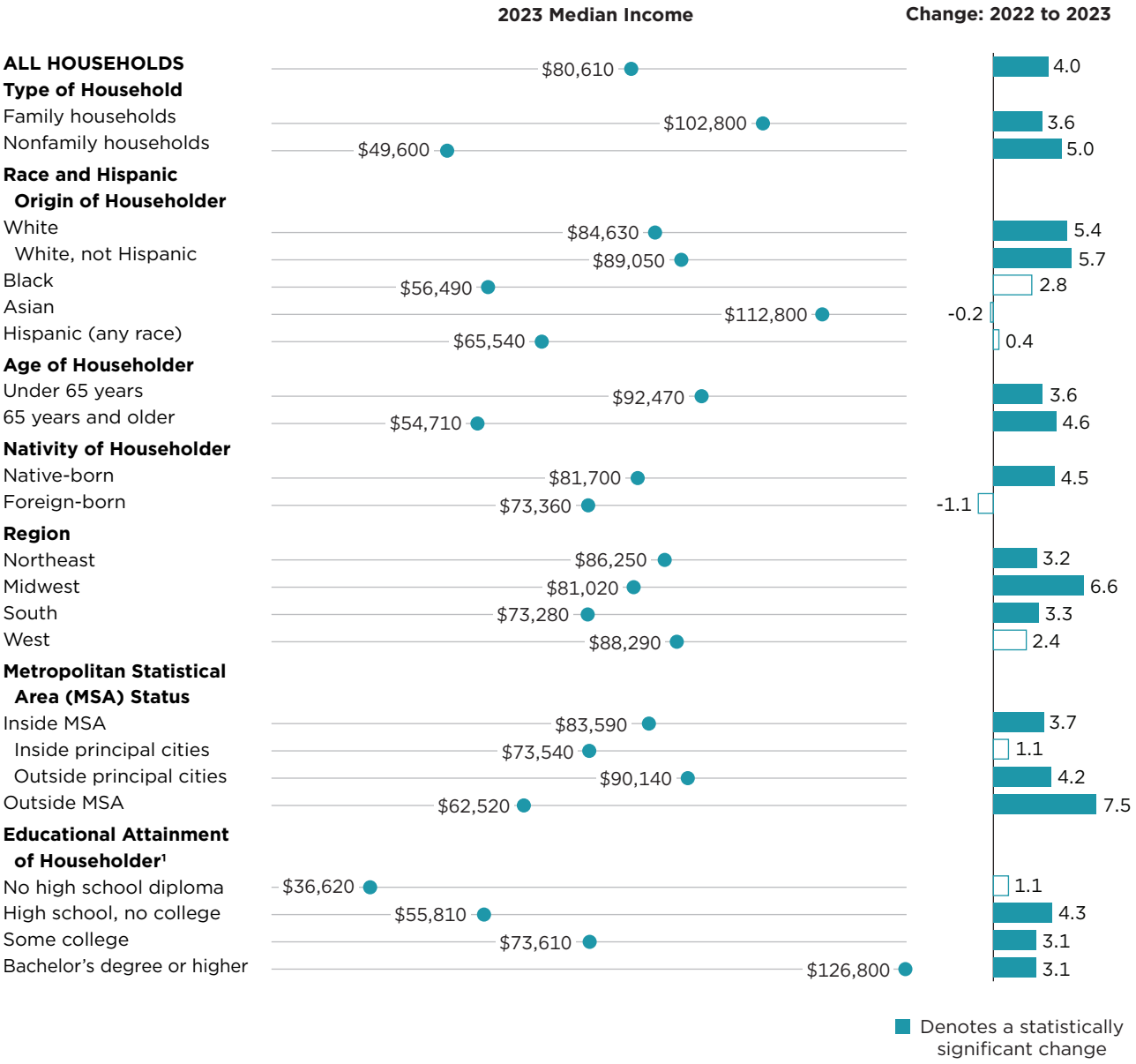
- Real median household income was $80,610 in 2023, a 4.0 percent increase from the 2022 estimate of $77,540 (Figure 1 and Table A-1). This is the first statistically significant annual increase in real median household income since 2019.[4]
- Real median household incomes increased by 5.4 percent for White households and by 5.7 percent for non-Hispanic White households between 2022 and 2023. There was no significant change in median incomes for Black, Asian, and Hispanic households (Figure 2 and Table A-1).
- Household income rose throughout the income distribution, increasing 6.7 percent at the 10th percentile and 4.6 percent at the 90th percentile (Table A-3).
- Income inequality as measured by the Gini index and income percentile ratios was not significantly different between 2022 and 2023 (Figure 3 and Table A-3).
- Between 2022 and 2023, the number of total workers increased by 2.2 million, or 1.3 percent. The change in the number of full-time, year-round workers was not statistically significant (Figure 5 and Table A-6).
- Real median earnings for men who worked full-time, year-round increased by 3.0 percent, and real median earnings increased 1.5 percent for women who worked full-time, year-round (Figure 4 and Table A-6).
- For full-time, year-round workers, the female-to-male earnings ratio in 2023 fell to 82.7 percent from 84.0 percent in 2022 (Figure 6 and Table A-6). This is the first statistically significant annual decrease in the female-to-male earnings ratio since 2003.

HOUSEHOLD INCOME BY SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS

This section focuses on median household income by selected characteristics of the householder, including race and Hispanic origin, nativity, region, and education. The householder is the person (or

Figure 1.

Median Household Income and Percent Change by Selected Characteristics



[1] Householders aged 25 and older. In 2023, the median household income for this group was $82,010.

Note: Households as of March of the following year. Percent change estimate may be different due to rounded components. Statistically significant indicates the change is statistically different from zero at the 90 percent confidence level. Margins of error and other related estimates and notes are available in Table A-1. Information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar24.pdf>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2023 and 2024 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC).

Table A-1.

Income Summary Measures by Selected Characteristics: 2022 and 2023

(Income in 2023 dollars, adjusted using the C-CPI-U. Households as of March of the following year. Information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar24.pdf>)

Characteristic	2022			2023			Percent change in real median income (2023 less 2022)*, [2]	
	Number (thousands)	Median income (dollars)		Number (thousands)	Median income (dollars)			
		Estimate	Margin of error[1] (±)		Estimate	Margin of error[1] (±)	Estimate	Margin of error[1] (±)
HOUSEHOLDS								
All households	**131,400**	**77,540**	**1,006**	**132,200**	**80,610**	**634**	***4.0**	**1.40**
Type of Household								
Family households	84,330	99,250	996	84,680	102,800	1,200	*3.6	1.41
Married-couple	62,180	115,200	1,166	62,300	119,400	1,576	*3.6	1.55
Female householder, no spouse present	15,030	58,260	1,258	15,180	59,470	1,774	2.1	3.72
Male householder, no spouse present	7,128	76,550	2,824	7,208	81,890	2,059	*7.0	4.10
Nonfamily households	47,100	47,250	861	47,530	49,600	895	*5.0	2.53
Female householder	24,360	41,790	812	24,680	42,140	947	0.8	2.74
Male householder	22,740	53,990	1,029	22,850	57,200	1,190	*5.9	2.81
Race[3] and Hispanic Origin of Householder								
White	101,400	80,320	905	101,900	84,630	1,182	*5.4	1.60
White, not Hispanic	84,490	84,280	997	84,440	89,050	1,234	*5.7	1.63
Black	18,080	54,960	1,528	18,040	56,490	1,328	2.8	3.65
Asian	7,609	113,100	4,040	7,655	112,800	4,187	–0.2	4.69
Hispanic (any race)	19,320	65,300	1,659	19,860	65,540	1,259	0.4	2.77
Age of Householder								
Under 65 years	94,300	89,270	985	94,590	92,470	1,088	*3.6	1.46
15 to 24 years	6,136	54,540	3,591	5,881	54,930	2,870	0.7	7.95
25 to 34 years	20,720	83,420	1,566	20,910	85,780	1,190	*2.8	2.30
35 to 44 years	22,530	100,500	1,870	23,060	101,300	1,234	0.8	2.00
45 to 54 years	21,500	105,600	1,440	21,660	110,700	1,887	*4.9	1.95
55 to 64 years	23,410	84,470	1,899	23,080	90,640	1,773	*7.3	3.11
65 years and older	37,130	52,290	1,014	37,630	54,710	1,018	*4.6	2.39
Nativity of Householder								
Native-born	110,300	78,200	821	110,300	81,700	683	*4.5	1.22
Foreign-born	21,140	74,180	1,384	21,920	73,360	2,546	–1.1	3.32
Naturalized citizen	11,770	83,970	2,237	12,220	86,060	2,773	2.5	3.75
Not a citizen	9,375	64,490	1,826	9,700	61,440	1,109	*–4.7	3.01
Region								
Northeast	22,630	83,550	2,008	22,590	86,250	1,816	*3.2	2.80
Midwest	28,280	75,980	2,009	28,410	81,020	1,319	*6.6	3.01
South	51,080	70,940	1,533	51,550	73,280	1,750	*3.3	2.84
West	29,440	86,190	2,068	29,670	88,290	2,212	2.4	3.01
Residence[4]								
Inside metropolitan statistical areas	113,500	80,580	1,011	114,300	83,590	1,140	*3.7	1.67
Inside principal cities	43,710	72,720	1,436	43,910	73,540	1,547	1.1	2.66
Outside principal cities	69,770	86,530	1,542	70,360	90,140	1,087	*4.2	1.94
Outside metropolitan statistical areas	17,950	58,180	1,393	17,950	62,520	1,723	*7.5	2.82
Educational Attainment of Householder								
Total, aged 25 and older	125,300	79,000	708	126,300	82,010	633	*3.8	1.06
No high school diploma	9,632	36,230	1,553	9,546	36,620	1,162	1.1	5.29
High school, no college	31,830	53,510	801	31,810	55,810	988	*4.3	2.15
Some college	33,650	71,420	1,389	33,830	73,610	1,540	*3.1	2.69
Bachelor's degree or higher	50,180	123,000	1,900	51,150	126,800	1,462	*3.1	1.84

* An asterisk preceding an estimate indicates change is statistically different from zero at the 90 percent confidence level.

[1] A margin of error (MOE) is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the MOE 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. MOEs shown in this table are based on standard errors calculated using replicate weights.

[2] Calculated estimate may be different due to rounded components.

[3] 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 table shows data using the first approach (race alone). The 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. Data for American Indians and Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders, and those reporting Two or More Races are not shown separately.

[4] Information on metropolitan statistical areas and principal cities is available at <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/metro-micro/about/glossary.html>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2023 and 2024 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC).