

Income and Poverty in Hawaii: 2007

The U.S. Census Bureau released income and poverty data from its American Community Survey on August 26, 2008. The following is a brief summary of the data released related to Hawaii:

Income

Hawaii's median household¹ income was \$63,746 in 2007, ranked the 5th in the nation among all the states and District of Columbia.

By county, Honolulu County had the highest median household income at \$65,367, followed by Maui County at \$63,550, and Hawaii County at \$59,111.

Asians had the highest median household income at \$65,986, followed by White at \$65,589. Households with householder age 45-64 years of age had the highest median household income at \$74,984.

Hawaii families had a median family income of \$73,879 in 2007, ranked the 6th place among all the states. Married couple families had the highest median family income at \$82,934, while families with female householder without husband had the lowest median family income at \$43,716.

Median income for non-family households was \$37,798 in 2007, only 51.2% of median family income.

Per capita income at the state level was \$28,287 in 2007, higher than the U.S. average of \$26,688. Maui County had the highest per capita income at \$30,165, followed by Honolulu County at \$28,413, and Hawaii County at \$26,657.

Poverty

5.4% of Hawaii families fell below poverty level in 2007 as compared with 9.5% for the U.S. Asian families had the lowest poverty rate at 2.6%, while Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islander families had the highest poverty rate at 11.7%. Poverty rate for married couples was 2.7%, while for families with female householder no husband present, poverty rate was 15.9%.

¹ A household consists of all the people who occupy a housing unit. A household includes the related family members and all the unrelated people who share the housing unit. There are two major categories of households: "family" and "nonfamily". A family is a group of two people or more (one of whom is the householder) related by birth, marriage, or adoption and residing together. All such people (including related subfamily members) are considered as members of one family. A family is a subset of a household.

8.0% of Hawaii’s population was below poverty level as compared with 13% for the U.S. Hawaii’s poverty rate was the third lowest in the nation among all the states. By county, Maui County had the lowest poverty rate at 4.9%, while Hawaii County had the highest poverty rate at 12.8%.

Table 1. Hawaii Income and Poverty Indicators and Ranking in the U.S.: 2007

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>U.S.</i>	<i>Hawaii</i>	<i>Rank in U.S. 1/</i>
Median Earnings for Female Full-Time, Year-Round Workers (\$)	34,278	35,471	17
Median Earnings for Male Full-Time, Year-Round Workers (\$)	44,255	44,802	19
Median Family Income (\$)	61,173	73,879	6
Median Household Income (\$)	50,740	63,746	5
% of Households With Cash Public Assistance Income	2.1	2.9	10
% of Households With Retirement Income	17.5	22.4	3
% of People Below Poverty Level	13.0	8.0	49
% of People 65+ Below Poverty Level	9.5	6.3	49
% of Children <18 Below Poverty Level	18.0	9.8	50
% of Related Children <18 Below Poverty Level	17.6	9.4	50

1/ Ranking among 50 states and District of Columbia. For income categories, highest income state ranks 1. For poverty categories, state with the lowest poverty rate ranks 51.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 American Community Survey.