

# 2002-03

## United States

By the 21st century, the U.S. population had exceeded 281 million, a gain of 13.2 percent from the previous decade. Not only had the population grown, but it also had aged: the median age in the country had increased to 35.3 years (36.5 for women and 34.0 for men)—the highest in 100 years.

The percentage of the population younger than 15 had held steady at 21.4. The percentage of Americans who were white was 75.1, a notable drop from the

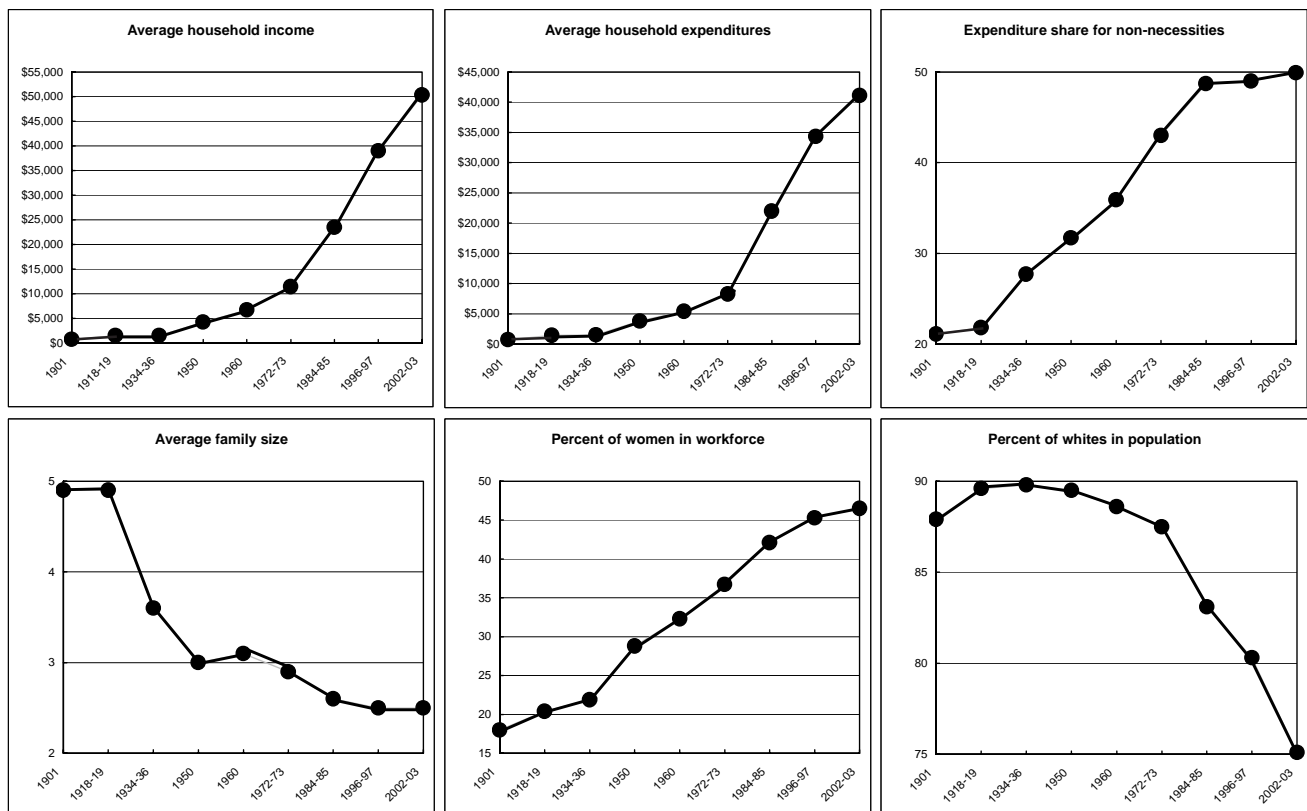
previous decade. (See chart 33.) The male-to-female ratio had increased to 96.3 men for every 100 women.

The size of the average U.S. household had remained 2.5 people, with 29.5 percent of households consisting of only one person, 26.2 percent made up of two people, and 9.9 percent consisting of five or more people. Statistically, the average household contained 0.6 children under 18 and 0.3 people aged 65 or older. The average number of earners was 1.3.

The age of the reference person was

48.2. In 57 percent of households, this individual had attended college; in 37 percent, he or she had attended high school; and in 6 percent, the person had at most an eighth grade education. The highest concentration of reference persons (24.3 percent) was in managerial or professional occupations. After that came technical, sales, or clerical workers (19.2 percent); operators, fabricators, or laborers (9.8 percent); service workers (9.3 percent); construction workers (4.6 percent); and the self-employed (4.4 percent). The share

Chart 33. Economic and demographic indicators, United States, 2002–03



SOURCES: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, and U.S. Census Bureau, *Statistical Abstract of the United States*

of reference persons who were retired was 17.5 percent, and those who were not noted made up 11.0 percent.

Following 10 years of expansion, from March 1991 to March 2001, the country had slipped into an 8-month downturn ending in November 2001. The terrorist attacks on September 11 of that year aggravated the recession, further slowing both the national and regional economies.

Unemployment had risen from 4.0 percent in 2000 to 4.7 percent in 2001, and to 5.8 percent in 2002. Female labor force participation, after peaking in 1991 at 60 percent, had drifted downward to 59.6 percent in 2002. Male labor force participation had declined slightly from 74.8 percent in 2000 to 74.1 percent in 2002. Women made up 46.5 percent of the U.S. workforce. Wages also had increased, especially in services. (See table 27.)

Average family income in the country was \$50,302, an increase of 29.0 percent from the mid-1990s. Sources of family income were varied. For the average family, 80.6 percent (\$40,550) of income came from wages and salaries; 4.3 percent (\$2,186) came from self-employment income; 10.8 percent (\$5,422) came from Social Security and from private and government retirement; 2.0 percent (\$1,013) came from interest, dividends, and rental income; 0.5 percent (\$252) came from unemployment and workers' compensation and from veterans' benefits; 0.7 percent (\$333) came from public assistance; 0.7 per-

cent (\$377) came from gifts; while 0.3 percent (\$169) came from other sources.

The average U.S. family had an after-tax income of \$47,787, having allocated 5.0 percent of income for taxes: \$1,843 for Federal income taxes, \$504 for State and local income taxes, and \$168 for other taxes. Of all U.S. families, 3.7 percent earned less than \$5,000, 10.9 percent earned between \$20,000 and \$29,999, and 17.1 percent earned \$70,000 or more.

Average household expenses, \$40,748, had grown by 18.8 percent from the mid-1990s. This amount would have purchased \$35,827 worth of goods and services in 1996 dollars. Consumer prices, after averaging a gain of 3.4 percent in 2000, had increased at a rate of 2.8 percent in 2001 and 1.6 percent in 2002.

Expenditures for food, clothing, and housing accounted for 50.1 percent of household spending, a slightly lower share than that recorded during the mid-1990s. The share for food had declined from 13.8 percent in 1996-97 to 13.1 percent (\$5,357); the share for clothing had decreased notably, to 4.2 percent (\$1,694); and the share for housing had increased slightly, to 32.8 percent (\$13,359).

Of total spending on housing, the average U.S. family allotted 58.8 percent (\$7,859) for shelter, 20.6 percent (\$2,749) for fuels and utilities, 9.3 percent (\$1,243) for household operations and supplies, and 11.2 percent for furnishings and equipment. Two-thirds of U.S. households (67 percent) owned

their home (41 percent with a mortgage and 26 percent without a mortgage), while 33 percent rented. The estimated market value of the average home was \$114,522, and its estimated monthly rental value was \$735.

Of spending on food, 58.1 percent (\$3,114) of the average household's expenditures went for food at home, while 41.9 percent (\$2,243) went for food away from home. Less than 1 percent of total spending was allocated for alcoholic beverages. Grocery spending was divided as follows: 26.0 percent (\$812) was for meat, poultry, fish, and eggs; 17.5 percent (\$544) was for fruits and vegetables; 14.3 percent (\$446) was for cereals and baked goods; and 10.5 percent (\$328) was for dairy products. Table 28 provides retail prices for selected food items.

Of family spending on clothing, 39.0 percent (\$669) was for women's and girls' clothing, 23.0 percent (\$390) was for men's and boys' apparel, 4.8 percent (\$82) was for infants' clothing, 17.9 percent (\$303) was for footwear, and 14.7 percent (\$249) was for other apparel products and services.

To get around, 88 percent of U.S. families owned at least one motor vehicle, with the average family owning 2.0. These households allotted 19.1 percent (\$7,770) of their total spending for transportation expenses, with 9.1 percent (\$3,699) for the purchase of vehicles; 3.2 percent (\$1,285) for gasoline and motor oil; and 5.9 percent (\$2,400) for other vehicle expenses, including

Table 27. Hourly wages for selected industries, United States, 2002

Year	Manu- facturing	Mining	Con- struction	Transpor- tation	Communi- cations and public utilities	Trade	Finance, insurance, and real estate	Services	Govern- ment
1901 .....	\$ 0.23	\$ 0.26	\$ 0.28	\$ 0.24	\$ 0.24	\$ 0.25	\$ 0.50	\$ 0.17	\$ 0.28
1918 .....	.53	.67	.57	.61	.42	.45	.69	.31	.49
1935 .....	.58	.55	.49	.72	.71	.61	.78	.42	.62
1950 .....	1.59	1.66	1.60	1.79	1.61	1.46	1.55	1.05	1.45
1960 .....	2.57	2.73	2.62	2.97	2.73	2.21	2.42	1.69	2.25
1970 .....	3.92	4.45	4.47	4.77	4.28	3.31	3.86	2.86	3.83
1979 .....	6.69	6.16	9.26	8.18	7.85	5.06	5.28	5.36	(n/a)
1996 .....	12.78	15.60	15.43	14.52	16.04	10.41	12.80	11.80	16.73
2002 .....	15.30	17.77	18.87	17.29	(n/a)	13.13	16.35	15.24	18.80

SOURCES: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Expenditure Survey and Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

Table 28. Retail prices of selected foods in U.S. cities, 2003

Year	Flour 5 lb.	Round steak lb.	Pork chops lb.	Bacon lb.	Butter lb.	Eggs dozen	Milk 1/2 gallon
1901 .....	\$ 0.13	\$ 0.14	\$ 0.13	\$ 0.16	\$ 0.27	\$ 0.22	\$ 0.14
1918 .....	.34	.37	.39	.53	.58	.57	.28
1934 .....	.25	.28	.26	.29	.32	.33	.22
1950 .....	.49	.94	.75	.64	.73	.60	.41
1960 .....	.55	1.06	.86	.66	.75	.57	.52
1970 .....	.59	1.30	1.16	.95	.87	.61	.66
1984 .....	1.07	2.91	2.38	1.86	2.11	1.00	1.13
1996 .....	1.44	3.12	3.41	2.47	2.05	1.11	1.56
2003 .....	1.56	3.84	3.13	3.20	2.81	1.24	n/a

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Expenditure Survey

financing and maintenance costs.

Additionally, the average U.S. household allotted 5.9 percent (\$2,384) of total spending for healthcare, with 50.8 percent (\$1,210) going for health insurance premiums; 5.1 percent (\$2,069) for entertainment; 1.3 percent (\$526) for personal care products; and 2.2 percent (\$901) for reading and education. Families donated \$1,324

in charitable contributions.

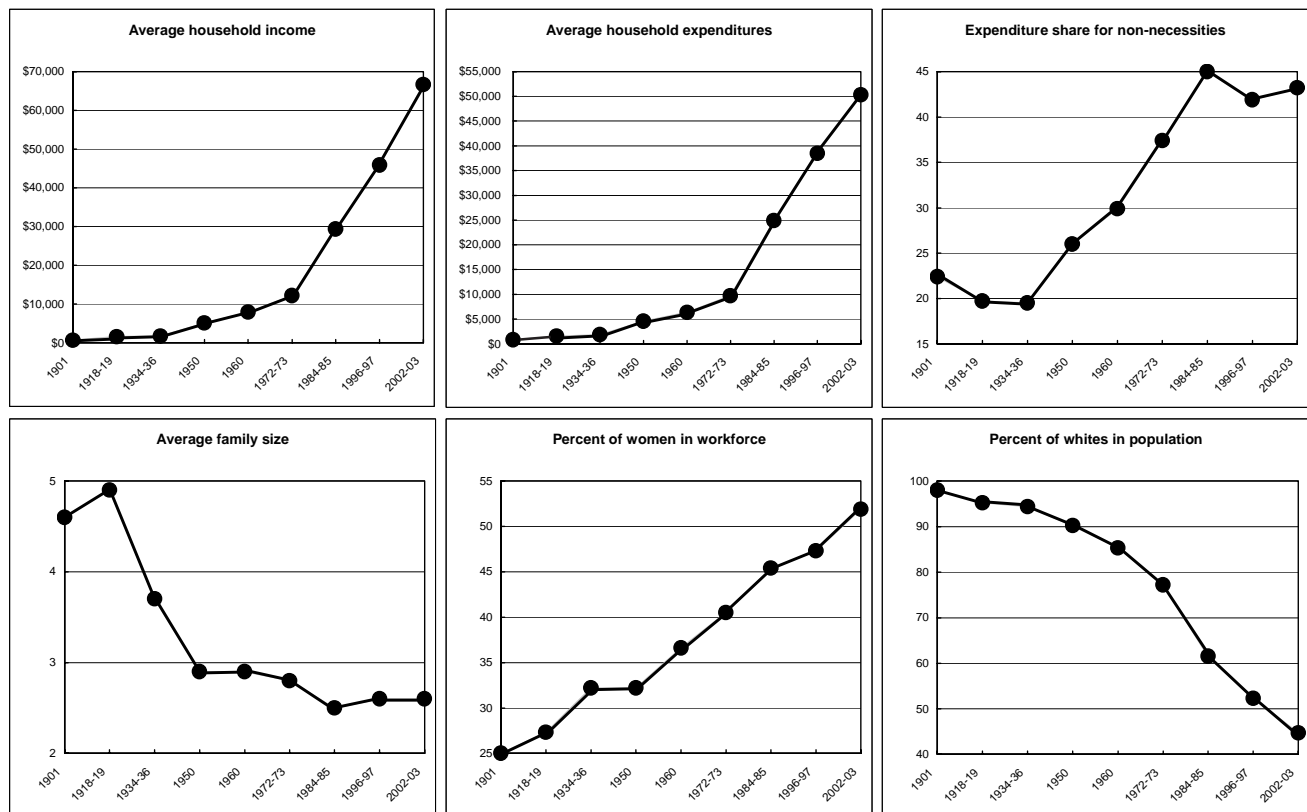
### New York City

At the beginning of this century, the population of New York State had reached 19.0 million, an increase of 5.5 percent over the decade. New York residents made up 6.7 percent of the U.S. population. Meanwhile, New York

City's population had increased 9.4 percent, surpassing 8.0 million and accounting for 42.2 percent of the State's total.

There were 3.0 million households in New York City, with an average size of 2.6 people, slightly larger than the average for the United States. (See chart 34.) Married couples with at least one child accounted for 47.4 percent of

Chart 34. Economic and demographic indicators, New York City, 2002-03



SOURCES: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, and U.S. Census Bureau, *Statistical Abstract of the United States*

these households, female-headed families made up 19.1 percent of households, and one-person households constituted 31.9 percent of the total. Slightly less than one-fifth (18.5 percent) of households lived below the poverty level.

Demographically, the city was aging: the median age had risen slightly to 34.2. Three-quarters of the population was 18 or older, with 6.8 percent younger than 5 and 11.7 percent aged 65 or older. The male-to-female ratio was 90.0 men for every 100 women.

The percentage of residents who were white had dwindled to less than half (44.7 percent), while blacks made up 26.6 percent of the population; Asians, 9.8 percent; and Hispanics, who may be of any race, 27.0 percent. Of all city residents, 35.9 percent were foreign born, 52.6 percent of them from Latin America. In 47.6 percent of city households, a language other than English was spoken.

During 2000, there were 121,000 live births in the city—a decline of 4.7 percent from 1990—and 60,000 deaths.

In terms of educational attainment, 72.3 of all New Yorkers had graduated from high school, and 27.4 percent had earned at least a bachelor's degree—both higher percentages than in 1990.

In a sign that the population had become slightly less mobile than in the 1970s, 61.0 percent of residents had lived in the same dwelling for the last 5 years.

Occupationally, 36.8 percent of New Yorkers held managerial or professional positions, 27.4 percent worked in sales or office positions, 18.6 percent held service positions, 10.9 percent were employed in production or transportation, and 6.4 percent worked in construction or maintenance.

As for the city's job base, 23.4 percent of jobs were in education, healthcare, or social services; 12.1 percent in retail or wholesale trade; 11.9 percent in professional, scientific, and managerial fields; 11.4 percent in finance, insurance, and real estate; 8.3 percent in the arts, entertainment, rec-

reation, food, and accommodations sectors; 6.6 percent in manufacturing; 6.5 percent in transportation, warehousing, or utilities; 5.3 percent in information; 4.5 percent in public administration; and 4.3 percent in construction.

For the first time, women represented more than half of the New York City workforce (51.9 percent). The overall unemployment rate was 5.5 percent. In commuting to work, 24.9 percent of city residents drove alone, 8.0 percent were in carpools, and 52.8 percent used public transportation.

Average household income had risen 45.3 percent from 1996–97 to \$66,643, 32.5 percent higher than average U.S. family income. Of family income, 86.6 percent (\$57,741) came from wages and salaries; 3.4 percent (\$2,248) came from self-employment income; 6.8 percent (\$4,503) came from Social Security and from private and government retirement; 1.7 percent (\$1,122) came from interest, dividends, and rental income; 0.4 percent (\$262) came from unemployment and workers' compensation and from veterans' benefits; 0.6 percent (\$406) came from public assistance; 0.4 percent (\$262) came from gifts; and 0.1 percent (\$99) came from other sources.

The average New York City family had an after-tax income of \$63,884, having allotted 4.1 percent of income for taxes: \$1,969 for Federal income taxes, \$641 for State and local income taxes, and \$148 for other taxes.

Average household expenses, \$50,319, had risen 30.8 percent during the same period and were 23.5 percent greater than those of the average U.S. family. This sum would have purchased \$42,267 worth of goods and services in 1996 dollars.

Expenditures for food, clothing, and housing accounted for 56.7 percent (\$28,562) of family spending, a decrease from the 1996–97 level. The shares for food (13.9 percent, \$7,005) and clothing (5.2 percent, \$2,638) had decreased, while the share for housing had risen slightly (37.6 percent, \$18,919).

There were 3.2 million housing units in the city, of which 16.7 percent were single-unit structures, and 60.8 percent contained 5 or more units. The size of the average unit was 3.8 rooms. Of total households, 55 percent were homeowners (35 percent having a mortgage and 21 percent living mortgage free), and 45 percent were renters. The estimated market value of a home was \$178,654, which translated into a monthly rental value of \$1,061.

Of total spending on housing, the average city household allotted 65.6 percent (\$12,402) for shelter, 16.1 percent (\$3,055) for utilities and fuel, 9.5 percent (\$1,796) for furniture and equipment, and 5.9 percent (\$1,113) for household operations.

Food at home accounted for 54.4 percent (\$3,808) of food expenditures. Of this spending, New Yorkers allotted 28.3 percent (\$1,079) for meat, poultry, fish, and eggs; 19.2 percent (\$732) for fruits and vegetables; 15.0 percent (\$570) for cereals and bakery products; and 10.4 percent (\$396) for dairy products. Food away from home accounted for 45.6 percent (\$3,197) of total food spending. Alcoholic beverages claimed 0.9 percent (\$469) of total spending.

Of spending for clothing, 38.2 percent (\$1,008) went for women's and girls' clothes, 22.3 percent (\$587) for men's and boys' clothes, 3.8 percent (\$101) for infants' apparel, 19.0 percent (\$502) for footwear, and 16.6 percent (\$439) for other apparel products and services.

The average New York City household owned 1.4 vehicles, compared with 2.0 for the average U.S. family. City families allotted 15.4 percent (\$7,729) of their total spending for transportation expenses, with 5.8 percent (\$2,928) for the purchase of vehicles; 2.2 percent (\$1,101) for gasoline and motor oil; and 5.3 percent (\$2,658) for other vehicle expenses, including financing and maintenance costs.

Additionally, New York City households allotted 4.4 percent (\$2,235) of total spending for healthcare (with 55.8

percent or \$1,208 of this amount allotted for health insurance), 4.7 percent (\$2,350) for entertainment, 1.3 percent (\$643) for personal care products, and 2.8 percent (\$1,426) for reading and education. New Yorkers gave \$949 in charitable contributions.

### Boston

By 2000, the population of Massachusetts had reached 6.3 million—a gain of 5.5 percent over the decade—and accounted for 2.3 percent of the U.S. population. During the same period, the population of Boston had risen to 590,000, a gain of 2.6 percent, and represented 9.3 percent of the Commonwealth's residents.

In the city there were 240,000 households, with an average size of 2.5 people, slightly smaller than the average New York City household. (See chart 35.) Married couples with at least

one child accounted for just 42.9 percent of Boston households, while female-headed families made up 16.4 percent and one-person households were 37.1 percent of the total. Roughly 1 in 7 families (15.3 percent) lived below the poverty level.

Demographically, Boston's population was aging. The median age had increased to 31.1 but still was younger than that recorded in New York City. Four out of five Bostonians were at least 18 years of age, 5.4 percent were younger than 5, and 10.4 percent were 65 or older. The male-to-female ratio was 92.8 men for every 100 women.

Whites represented 54.5 percent of the city's residents, while blacks accounted for 25.3 percent and Asians 7.5 percent. Hispanics, who may be of any race, made up 14.4 percent of the population. One-fourth (25.8 percent) of the residents were foreign born, and in 33.4 percent of households, a lan-

guage other than English was spoken.

During 2000, there were 8,100 live births in the city—a decline of 16.5 percent from 1990—and 4,500 deaths.

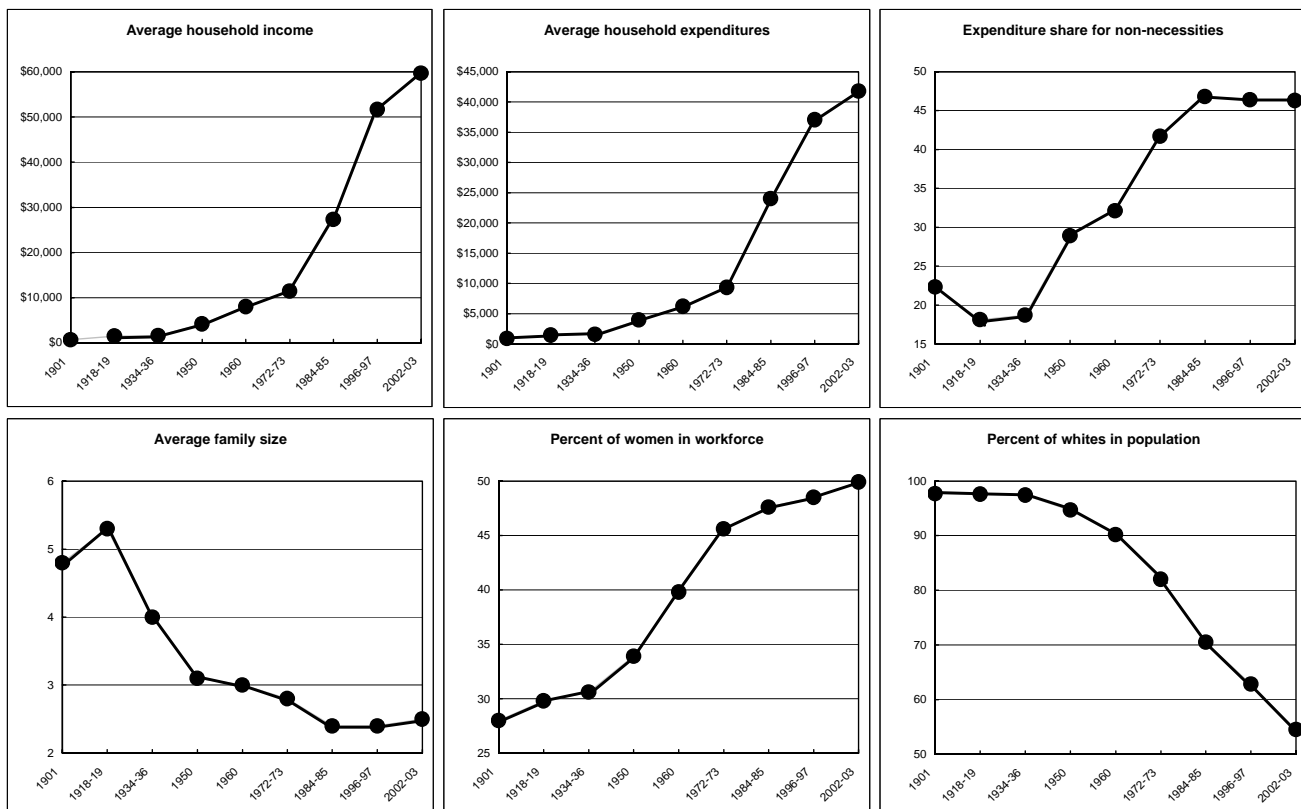
In terms of education, 78.9 percent of Bostonians had graduated from high school, and 35.6 percent had earned at least a bachelor's degree.

Nearly half (47.8 percent) of residents had lived in the same dwelling for the past 5 years. This percentage was lower than it had been in the early 1970s (49.9 percent).

Occupationally, 43.3 percent of Bostonians worked in management or in the professions, 25.6 percent in sales or office positions, 17.8 percent in service jobs, 8.3 percent in production or transportation, and 4.9 percent in construction or maintenance.

Boston workers were employed in numerous sectors, with the highest concentration (26.8 percent) in education, healthcare, and social services.

Chart 35. Economic and demographic indicators, Boston, 2002-03



SOURCES: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, and U.S. Census Bureau, *Statistical Abstract of the United States*

After that, 14.9 percent were in professional, scientific, or management fields; 10.4 percent were in finance, insurance, or real estate; 10.4 percent were in retail or wholesale trade; 9.2 percent were in the arts, entertainment, recreation, food service, or accommodations sectors; 6.1 percent were in manufacturing; 5.1 percent were in public administration; 4.4 percent were in information; 4.1 percent were in transportation, warehousing, or utilities; and 3.8 percent were in construction.

Women represented 49.9 percent of Boston's workforce. The unemployment rate in the city was 4.6 percent. In commuting to work, 41.5 percent of residents drove alone, while 9.2 percent participated in carpools, and 32.3 percent used public transportation.

Average family income in Boston was \$59,648, 18.6 percent higher than the income of the average U.S. family and 15.6 percent more than that reported for Bostonians in the mid-1990s. The portion of the average family income that came from wages and salaries was up to 86.5 percent (\$51,614) from 82.7 percent (\$37,068) in 1996–97. As for the other components, 2.8 percent (\$1,647) came from self-employment income; 6.6 percent (\$3,957) came from Social Security and from private and government insurance; 2.1 percent (\$1,227) came from interest, dividends, and rental income; 0.4 percent (\$239) came from unemployment and workers' compensation and from veterans' benefits; and 0.7 percent came from public assistance.

The average Boston household had an after-tax income of \$57,252, having allotted 4.0 percent of income for taxes: \$1,726 for Federal income taxes, \$587 for State and local income taxes, and \$83 for other taxes.

Average household expenses, \$41,814, had increased 12.8 percent from the mid-1990s and were 2.6 percent more than the expenditures of the average U.S. household. This amount would have purchased \$33,451 worth of goods and services in 1996 dollars.

Expenditures for food, clothing, and

housing accounted for 53.8 percent (\$22,448) of spending, an increase from 1996. The share for food (13.5 percent, \$5,627) had increased, the share for clothing (3.9 percent, \$1,610) had decreased, and the share for housing (36.4 percent, \$15,211) had remained constant.

There were 252,000 housing units in the city, of which 16.6 percent were single-unit structures, and 42.6 percent contained 5 or more units. The average size of these units was 4.2 rooms. Among Boston households, 59 percent were homeowners (37 percent having a mortgage and 22 percent living mortgage free), while 41 percent were renters. The estimated market value of a home was \$183,467, which translated into a monthly rental value of \$1,051.

Of total spending on housing, the average Boston family allotted 66.7 percent (\$10,145) for shelter, 17.6 percent (\$2,676) for utilities and fuels, 8.0 percent (\$1,212) for furniture and equipment, and 7.8 percent (\$1,179) for household operations and supplies.

Food at home accounted for 58.7 percent (\$3,303) of food expenditures, an increase from the mid-1990s. Of this spending, Boston families allocated 27.2 percent (\$897) for meat, poultry, fish, and eggs; 17.0 percent (\$557) for fruits and vegetables; 15.0 percent (\$495) for cereals and bakery products; and 10.8 percent (\$356) for dairy products. Food away from home accounted for 41.3 percent (\$2,324) of total food spending, a decrease from 1996, while 1.0 percent (\$389) of total expenditures went for alcoholic beverages.

Women's and girls' clothing accounted for the largest share of spending on clothing, 38.7 percent (\$623). Beyond that, 20.4 percent (\$329) went for men's and boys' clothing, 5.9 percent (\$95) for infants' clothes, 20.6 percent (\$332) for footwear, and 14.5 percent (\$233) for other apparel products and services.

The average Boston household owned 1.6 vehicles, more than the average for New York City, but less than the average for the United States. House-

holds allocated 17.2 percent (\$7,175) of their spending on transportation, the bulk of it distributed as follows: 8.4 percent (\$3,518) on the purchase of vehicles; 2.8 percent (\$1,159) on gasoline and motor oil; and 5.0 percent (\$2,074) for other vehicle expenses, including financing and maintenance costs.

Additionally, Boston households allotted 4.8 percent (\$2,007) of total spending for healthcare (with 63.7 percent or \$1,278 of this spending allotted for health insurance), 4.8 percent (\$2,019) for entertainment, 1.2 percent (\$496) for personal care products, and 3.1 percent (\$1,281) for reading and education. Boston households gave \$1,016 in charitable contributions. (See chart 36 and table 29.)

## Perspective

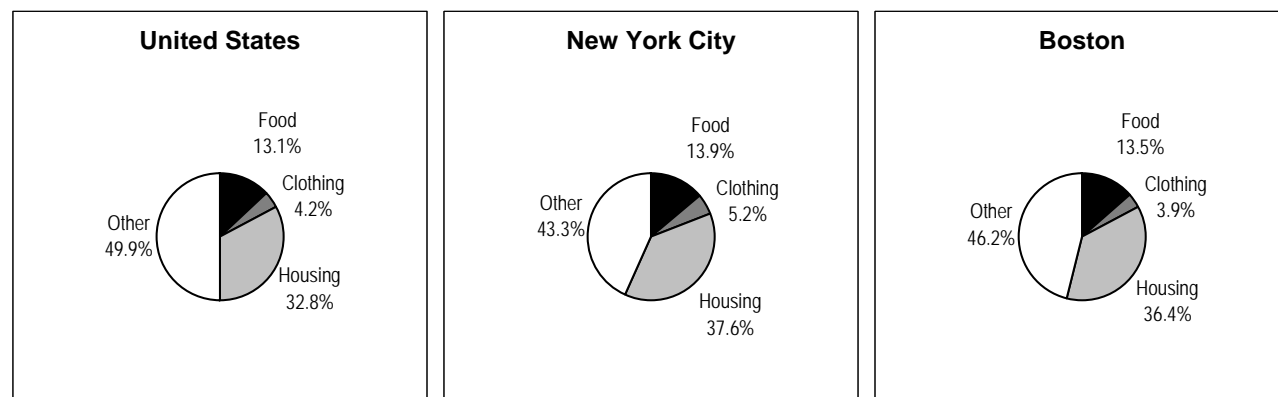
As the 21st century began, the U.S. economy, which had been expanding for a decade, stalled and entered a recession that was aggravated by the tragedy of 9/11. Nonetheless, household incomes continued to increase, having risen over the decade by 29 percent nationwide, 45 percent in New York City, and 16 percent in Boston. By 2002–03, average family income in New York City exceeded that in Boston by 12 percent.

The average U.S. family spent 85 percent of its after-tax income, while New York City families spent 79 percent, and Boston families spent 73 percent. Total expenditures of New York City households exceeded those of Boston households by 20 percent.

Prices throughout the country had increased at a more moderate rate since 1996 than during the previous decade. The cost of a pound of round steak, for example, had risen 23 percent; the cost of a dozen eggs was up 12 percent; and the price of a pound of butter had increased 37 percent.

Demographic change had continued to alter U.S. households, including those in New York City and Boston. The median age in the country had risen to 35.3, the oldest in a cen-

Chart 36. Expenditure shares, United States, New York City, and Boston, 2002-03



SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Expenditure Survey

Table 29. Expenditures and expenditure shares, United States, New York City, and Boston, 2002-03

Item	United States		New York City		Boston	
	Expenditures	Shares	Expenditures	Shares	Expenditures	Shares
Food .....	\$ 5,357	13.1	\$ 7,005	13.9	\$ 5,627	13.5
Alcoholic beverages .....	384	.9	469	.9	504	1.2
Housing .....	13,359	32.8	18,919	37.6	15,211	36.4
Apparel and services .....	1,694	4.2	2,638	5.2	1,610	3.9
Transportation .....	7,770	19.1	7,729	15.4	7,175	17.2
Healthcare .....	2,384	5.9	2,235	4.4	2,007	4.8
Entertainment .....	2,069	5.1	2,350	4.7	2,019	4.8
Personal care products and services .....	526	1.3	643	1.3	496	1.2
Reading and education .....	901	2.1	1,426	2.8	1,281	3.1
Tobacco .....	305	.7	266	.5	273	.7
Miscellaneous .....	698	1.7	771	1.5	473	1.1
Cash contributions .....	1,324	3.2	949	1.9	1,016	2.4
Personal insurance and pensions .....	3,978	9.8	4,918	9.8	4,121	9.9
Average income per family .....	50,302		66,643		59,648	
Average expenditures, all items .....	40,748		50,319		41,814	

NOTE: Itemized expenditures are not all-inclusive and may differ from total expenditures. Expenditure shares do not add to 100 due to rounding.  
SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Expenditure Survey

tury, while in New York City it was 34.2 and in Boston, 31.1.

Average family size in the country had held steady at 2.5, the same figure recorded for Boston. New York City households were slightly larger, with 2.6 people.

For the first time, women constituted the majority (52 percent) of New York City's workforce, while women's share of the workforce approached 50 percent in Boston and was less for the country as a whole.

Two-thirds of Americans owned their home, while the percentages in New York City and Boston were lower—55 and 57, respectively.

On average, U.S. families devoted 50 percent of their budget to spending for necessities, while households in New York City and Boston allotted higher shares—57 percent and 54 percent, respectively.

Housing expenditure shares, particularly those for shelter, were equivalent in New York City and Boston. Boston families, however, allotted larger shares of their housing spending for utilities and fuel and less for household operations than did their New York City counterparts.

Expenditure shares for food also were similar in the two cities, although New York City families spent slightly

more for food at home. In buying groceries, New Yorkers allocated more for meat, poultry, fish, eggs, fruits, vegetables, cereal, and baked goods than did Bostonians, who spent more on dairy products.

New York City households allocated greater expenditure shares for clothing overall and for women's apparel than did households in Boston, which spent more on men's clothing.

Spending for transportation, reading and education, healthcare, and personal care continued to represent important components of family expenditures throughout the country and in New York City and Boston. ■