

Men's and Women's Earnings for States and Metropolitan Statistical Areas: 2009

Issued September 2010

American Community Survey Briefs

ACSBR/09-3

INTRODUCTION

This report presents data on men's and women's earnings at the national, state, and metropolitan levels based on the 2009 American Community Survey (ACS). "Earnings" are defined as the sum of wages, salary, and net self-employment income and do not include other income sources such as property income, government cash transfers, or other types of cash income. Estimates are restricted to full-time, year-round workers 16 years or older. To be considered a "year-round" worker, an individual must have worked 50 or more weeks in the past 12 months, including paid time off for vacation or sick leave. To be considered "full-time" an individual must have worked 35 or more hours per week in the weeks they worked in the past 12 months.

In the 2009 ACS, information on earnings was collected between January 2009 and December 2009. Respondents were asked about income from the previous 12 months. As a result, the 2009 ACS reference periods span a total of 23 months (January 2008 to November 2009).¹

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S EARNINGS

For full-time, year-round workers, the 2009 ACS median earnings for women were 78.2 percent of men's earnings—\$35,549 compared with \$45,485. As compared with 2008, median earnings for men were up from \$45,161, median earnings for women were up from \$35,104, and the ratio of women's

earnings to men's earnings was up from 77.7.^{2,3}

Women's earnings were lower than men's earnings in each of the 50 states and in the District of Columbia. Women's earnings were higher than men's in Puerto Rico.

In the District of Columbia and eight states—Arizona, California, Florida, Maryland, New York, Nevada, North Carolina, and Texas—the women's-to-men's earnings ratios were 80 percent or more and statistically higher than the national ratio of 78.2.⁴

At 88.2 percent, the District of Columbia was among the highest ratios of women's to men's earnings. Wyoming, at 65.5 percent, was among the lowest.⁵

In Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Washington, and the District of Columbia, median men's earnings were more than \$50,000.

² 2008 data are available via the Census Bureau Web site's American Fact Finder tool at <factfinder.census.gov>. Income data for data year 2008 are available in subject table S2002.

³ In addition to varying by sex, earnings vary widely based on occupation. For more information, see Day, Jennifer Cheeseman and Jeffrey Rosenthal, 2009, "Detailed Occupations and Median Earnings: 2008," U.S. Census Bureau, <www.census.gov/hhes/www/ioindex/reports.html>.

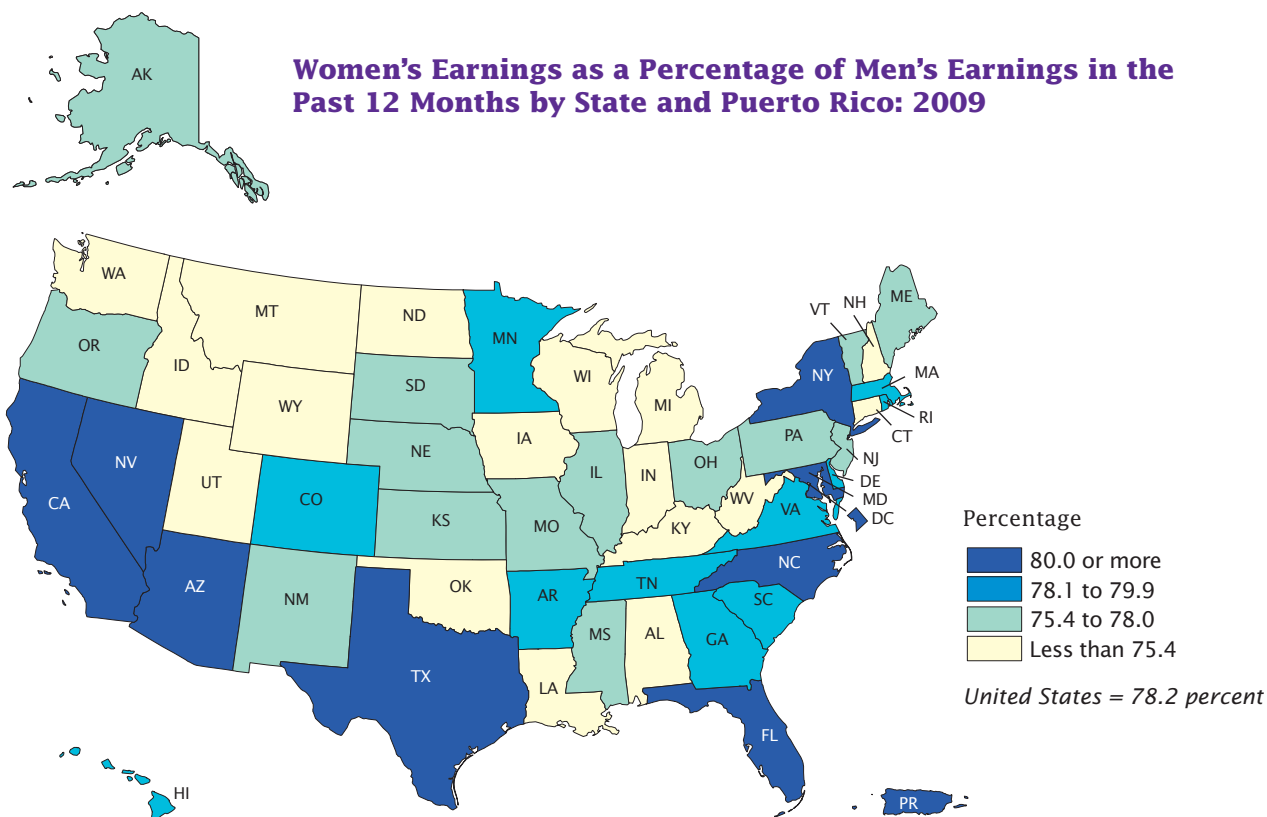
⁴ The ratio of women's-to-men's earnings for the District of Columbia was not statistically different from those of Arizona, California, Florida, Maryland, Nevada, or New York.

⁵ The ratio of women's-to-men's earnings for Wyoming was not statistically different from those of Louisiana, Utah, and West Virginia.

¹ All income data are inflation adjusted to 2009 dollars.

By
David M. Getz

Women's Earnings as a Percentage of Men's Earnings in the Past 12 Months by State and Puerto Rico: 2009



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009, Puerto Rico Community Survey, 2009.

Only the District of Columbia had median women's earnings above \$50,000.

EARNINGS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF METROPOLITAN AREAS

The 2009 ACS median earnings were \$41,735 for people who worked full-time, year-round and lived in metropolitan areas. For people who worked full-time, year-round and lived outside of metro areas, they were \$33,555, or 80.4 percent of the earnings in metropolitan areas.

In 43 of the 48 states with both metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas,⁶ median earnings were higher in metropolitan areas than in nonmetropolitan areas.

⁶ New Jersey, Rhode Island, and the District of Columbia do not contain any nonmetropolitan areas.

In four states—Alaska, Massachusetts, Montana, and Nevada—the differences between median earnings for workers in metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas were not statistically significant. Earnings for nonmetropolitan workers were lower than earnings for metropolitan workers in Wyoming.

Seven states—Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, and Virginia—had nonmetropolitan-to-metropolitan-earnings ratios below the national ratio of 80.4. A total of 35 states had nonmetropolitan-to-metropolitan-earnings ratios above the national ratio.⁷

⁷ The difference between earnings for workers in metropolitan areas and nonmetropolitan areas was not statistically significant from the national average in Delaware, Maryland, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, or Washington.

Wyoming was among the states with the highest ratios of earnings for nonmetropolitan workers to earnings of metropolitan workers at 110.1 percent.⁸ Virginia—at 71.4 percent—was the lowest.

SOURCE AND ACCURACY

Data presented in this report are based on people and households that responded to the ACS in 2009. The resulting estimates are representative of the entire population. All comparisons presented in this report have taken sampling error into account and are significant at the 90 percent confidence level unless otherwise noted. Due to rounding, some details may not sum to totals. For information on

⁸ The ratio of nonmetropolitan earnings to metropolitan earnings in Wyoming was not statistically different from the ratio in Nevada.

sampling and estimation methods, confidentiality protection, and sampling and nonsampling errors, please see the “2009 ACS Accuracy of the Data” document located at www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2009.pdf.

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 million addresses across the United States and Puerto Rico and includes both housing units and group quarters (e.g., nursing facilities and prisons). 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. For information on the ACS sample design and other topics, visit www.census.gov/acs/www.

Table 1.

Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months of Full-Time, Year-Round Workers 16 and Older by Sex and Women's Earnings as a Percentage of Men's Earnings by State and Puerto Rico: 2009

(In 2009 inflation-adjusted dollars)

Area	Median earnings (dollars)				Women's earnings as a percentage of men's earnings	
	Men		Women		Estimate	Margin of error ¹ (±)
	Estimate	Margin of error ¹ (±)	Estimate	Margin of error ¹ (±)		
United States	45,485	128	35,549	79	78.2	0.3
Alabama	41,331	481	30,658	499	74.2	1.5
Alaska	51,019	1,369	39,017	1,013	76.5	2.9
Arizona	41,916	446	34,651	551	82.7	1.6
Arkansas	36,465	826	28,640	493	78.5	2.2
California	48,389	232	40,019	276	82.7	0.7
Colorado	47,983	446	38,058	420	79.3	1.1
Connecticut	59,387	663	43,900	974	73.9	1.8
Delaware	48,038	1,287	37,645	1,435	78.4	3.7
District of Columbia	61,993	2,965	54,698	3,599	88.2	7.2
Florida	39,122	244	32,109	253	82.1	0.8
Georgia	42,667	537	33,665	457	78.9	1.5
Hawaii	45,911	2,055	35,977	979	78.4	4.1
Idaho	40,440	762	29,122	715	72.0	2.2
Illinois	49,336	323	37,841	281	76.7	0.8
Indiana	43,631	483	31,762	298	72.8	1.1
Iowa	42,634	611	31,431	416	73.7	1.4
Kansas	42,494	794	32,341	548	76.1	1.9
Kentucky	40,748	527	30,481	498	74.8	1.6
Louisiana	44,174	679	29,350	407	66.4	1.4
Maine	42,156	862	32,314	676	76.7	2.2
Maryland	55,116	866	44,937	709	81.5	1.8
Massachusetts	56,902	923	45,062	627	79.2	1.7
Michigan	48,066	350	34,542	410	71.9	1.0
Minnesota	48,492	313	38,025	379	78.4	0.9
Mississippi	37,528	780	28,506	627	76.0	2.3
Missouri	41,660	442	31,993	334	76.8	1.1
Montana	39,830	926	28,461	741	71.5	2.5
Nebraska	39,516	608	30,562	561	77.3	1.9
Nevada	43,425	1,057	35,691	794	82.2	2.7
New Hampshire	50,837	726	37,527	950	73.8	2.1
New Jersey	57,738	569	44,166	572	76.5	1.2
New Mexico	39,562	950	30,578	734	77.3	2.6
New York	49,174	279	40,584	311	82.5	0.8
North Carolina	40,359	419	32,576	384	80.7	1.3
North Dakota	40,693	736	29,742	662	73.1	2.1
Ohio	44,563	431	33,616	304	75.4	1.0
Oklahoma	39,174	494	29,413	436	75.1	1.5
Oregon	44,572	836	34,121	550	76.6	1.9
Pennsylvania	46,747	473	35,301	385	75.5	1.1
Rhode Island	49,439	1,025	39,248	1,028	79.4	2.7
South Carolina	39,648	518	31,010	386	78.2	1.4
South Dakota	36,977	1,263	28,515	555	77.1	3.0
Tennessee	39,509	356	31,222	379	79.0	1.2
Texas	40,621	291	32,578	267	80.2	0.9
Utah	45,800	1,010	31,186	491	68.1	1.8
Vermont	45,234	1,305	35,276	1,439	78.0	3.9
Virginia	50,236	466	39,354	363	78.3	1.0
Washington	51,305	498	38,521	483	75.1	1.2
West Virginia	40,231	799	27,855	677	69.2	2.2
Wisconsin	44,812	401	33,611	382	75.0	1.1
Wyoming	47,828	1,270	31,308	1,216	65.5	3.1
Puerto Rico	19,906	450	20,563	420	103.3	3.2

¹ Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. A margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error 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.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009, Puerto Rico Community Survey, 2009.

Table 2.

Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months of Full-Time, Year-Round Workers 16 and Older by Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Areas by State and Puerto Rico: 2009

(In 2009 inflation-adjusted dollars)

Area	Median earnings (dollars)						Nonmetropolitan areas earnings as a percentage of metropolitan areas earnings	
	Total		In metropolitan areas		In nonmetropolitan areas		Estimate	Margin of error ¹ (±)
	Estimate	Margin of error ¹ (±)	Estimate	Margin of error ¹ (±)	Estimate	Margin of error ¹ (±)		
United States	40,409	65	41,735	67	33,555	133	80.4	0.3
Alabama	36,731	457	38,008	348	32,542	970	85.6	2.7
Alaska	45,361	1,659	46,180	2,037	43,930	2,034	95.1	6.1
Arizona	38,573	275	38,801	297	35,184	1,203	90.7	3.2
Arkansas	32,365	423	34,266	634	29,769	471	86.9	2.1
California	44,313	280	44,450	288	38,989	1,526	87.7	3.5
Colorado	42,767	442	43,874	482	37,660	789	85.8	2.0
Connecticut	51,604	562	52,154	579	47,553	1,750	91.2	3.5
Delaware	42,458	1,063	44,701	1,366	36,443	2,159	81.5	5.4
District of Columbia	58,782	1,539	58,782	1,539	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Florida	35,891	248	36,246	252	30,292	711	83.6	2.0
Georgia	38,531	304	39,936	348	30,756	480	77.0	1.4
Hawaii	40,461	784	41,898	962	37,402	1,110	89.3	3.4
Idaho	35,374	582	37,137	752	32,401	931	87.2	3.1
Illinois	43,407	340	45,106	415	34,794	616	77.1	1.5
Indiana	38,442	237	39,295	275	34,740	572	88.4	1.6
Iowa	37,825	348	39,763	519	35,113	445	88.3	1.6
Kansas	38,157	387	41,367	655	31,544	473	76.3	1.7
Kentucky	35,854	414	37,914	497	31,938	499	84.2	1.7
Louisiana	37,040	464	38,035	455	33,256	923	87.4	2.6
Maine	37,777	564	39,231	748	34,972	1,000	89.1	3.1
Maryland	50,271	342	50,628	340	42,586	2,054	84.1	4.1
Massachusetts	50,596	355	50,610	358	48,368	4,933	95.6	9.8
Michigan	41,081	276	42,455	338	35,109	621	82.7	1.6
Minnesota	43,088	378	46,648	523	36,047	440	77.3	1.3
Mississippi	32,220	436	35,122	834	30,086	702	85.7	2.9
Missouri	37,145	354	39,220	308	29,824	398	76.0	1.2
Montana	33,848	1,035	34,276	1,323	33,503	1,330	97.7	5.4
Nebraska	35,643	462	38,612	593	31,593	498	81.8	1.8
Nevada	39,580	516	39,478	501	40,707	2,057	103.1	5.4
New Hampshire	44,014	839	47,119	1,504	40,076	1,029	85.1	3.5
New Jersey	50,688	315	50,688	315	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
New Mexico	35,003	876	36,829	1,039	31,908	1,133	86.6	3.9
New York	45,169	327	46,428	342	36,032	700	77.6	1.6
North Carolina	36,796	355	38,395	356	32,362	389	84.3	1.3
North Dakota	35,571	709	36,490	1,092	34,597	889	94.8	3.7
Ohio	39,403	217	40,353	298	34,715	534	86.0	1.5
Oklahoma	34,700	434	36,437	563	31,327	613	86.0	2.1
Oregon	39,514	429	40,693	571	35,130	907	86.3	2.5
Pennsylvania	41,076	229	42,248	249	34,383	533	81.4	1.3
Rhode Island	44,927	1,133	44,927	1,133	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
South Carolina	35,392	523	36,448	564	31,628	650	86.8	2.2
South Dakota	32,370	619	33,104	1,040	31,780	703	96.0	3.7
Tennessee	35,637	341	37,583	310	30,425	473	81.0	1.4
Texas	37,409	218	38,087	182	31,467	341	82.6	1.0
Utah	39,404	408	39,549	464	38,171	1,173	96.5	3.2
Vermont	40,319	920	44,538	2,106	38,697	762	86.9	4.4
Virginia	44,915	476	47,438	485	33,877	779	71.4	1.8
Washington	45,843	544	47,230	561	37,253	922	78.9	2.2
West Virginia	34,423	689	36,445	1,078	32,163	722	88.3	3.3
Wisconsin	39,718	239	41,125	324	35,886	453	87.3	1.3
Wyoming	39,871	1,449	37,619	1,705	41,417	2,040	110.1	7.4
Puerto Rico	20,261	358	20,345	360	18,651	1,143	91.7	5.8

(NA) Not available.

¹ Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. A margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error 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.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009, Puerto Rico Community Survey, 2009.