

Household Income for States: 2008 and 2009

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INTRODUCTION

This report presents data on median household income at the national and state levels based on the 2008 and 2009 American Community Surveys (ACS).¹ The data are presented first in tabular form and then displayed on maps. The ACS provides detailed estimates of demographic, social, economic, and housing characteristics for states, congressional districts, counties, places, and other localities every year. A description of the ACS is provided in the text box “What Is the American Community Survey?”

In the 2009 ACS, information on income was collected between January and December 2009 and people were asked about income for the previous 12 months (the income reference period), yielding a total income time span covering 23 months (January 2008 to November 2009).² Therefore, adjacent ACS years have income reference months in common and comparing 2009 economic conditions with those in 2008 will not be precise.³

¹ The text of this report discusses data for the United States, including the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Data for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, collected with the Puerto Rico Community Survey, are shown in Figure 1, Figure 2, and a table.

² All income data are inflation adjusted to 2009 dollars. “Real” refers to income after adjusting for inflation.

³ For a discussion of this and related issues, see Hogan, Howard, “Measuring Population Change Using the American Community Survey,” *Applied Demography in the 21st Century*, eds., Steven H. Murdock and David A. Swanson, Springer Netherlands, 2008.

Household Income: Includes income of the householder and all other people 15 years and older in the household, whether or not they are related to the householder.

Median: The point that divides the household income distribution into halves, one half with income above the median and the other with income below the median. The median is based on the income distribution of all households, including those with no income.

Gini Index: Summary measure of income inequality. The Gini Index varies from 0 to 1, 0 indicating perfect equality where there is a proportional distribution of income. A 1 indicates perfect inequality where one person has all the income and no one else has any.

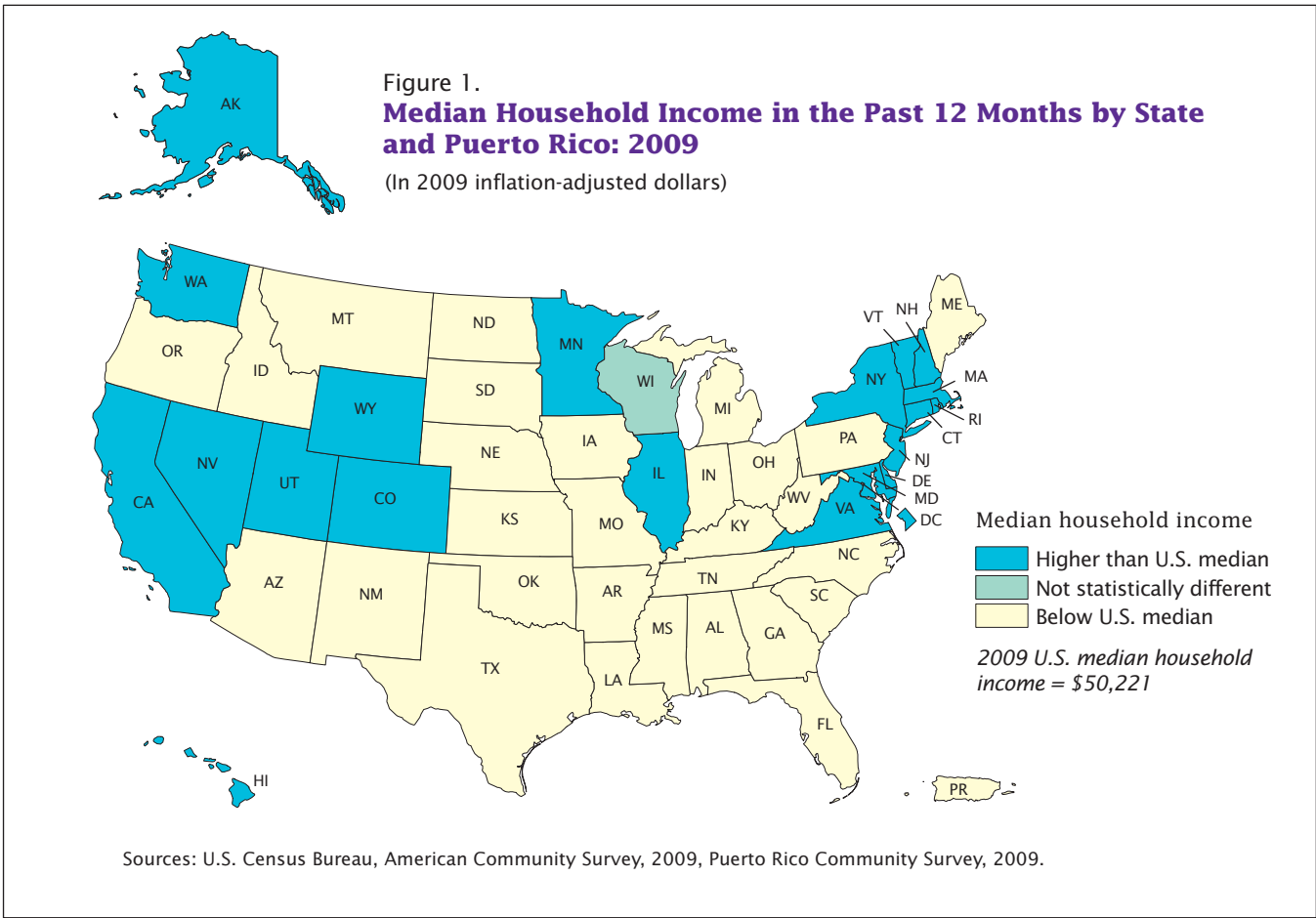
MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Real median household income in the United States fell between the 2008 and 2009 ACS—decreasing by 2.9 percent from \$51,726 to \$50,221.

State estimates in the 2009 ACS ranged from \$69,272 in Maryland to \$36,646 in Mississippi.⁴ The median household incomes were lower than the U.S. median in 29 states and higher in 20 states and the District of Columbia. Wisconsin had a median household income of \$49,993, which was not significantly different from the U.S. median.

⁴ The median household income for Maryland was not statistically different from the median household income for New Jersey and Alaska. The median household income for Mississippi was not statistically different from the median household income for West Virginia.

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Real median household income increased between the 2008 ACS and the 2009 ACS in one state. North Dakota's median rose 5.1 percent from \$45,497 in 2008 to \$47,827. This compares to increases in two states between the 2007 and the 2008 ACS. Between the 2006 and 2007 ACS there were increases in 33 states.

Real median household income decreased between the 2008 and the 2009 ACS in 34 states. Pennsylvania (1.4 percent) was among the smallest percent decreases, and Michigan (6.2 percent) was among the largest percent decreases. Between the 2007 and the 2008 ACS there were decreases in eight states. These decreases ranged from 1.5 percent to 4.0 percent. Only one state, Michigan (1.2 percent), had a

decrease between the 2006 and the 2007 ACS.

In 15 states and the District of Columbia, the real median household income in the 2009 ACS was not statistically different from that in the 2008 ACS.

GINI INDEX OF INCOME INEQUALITY

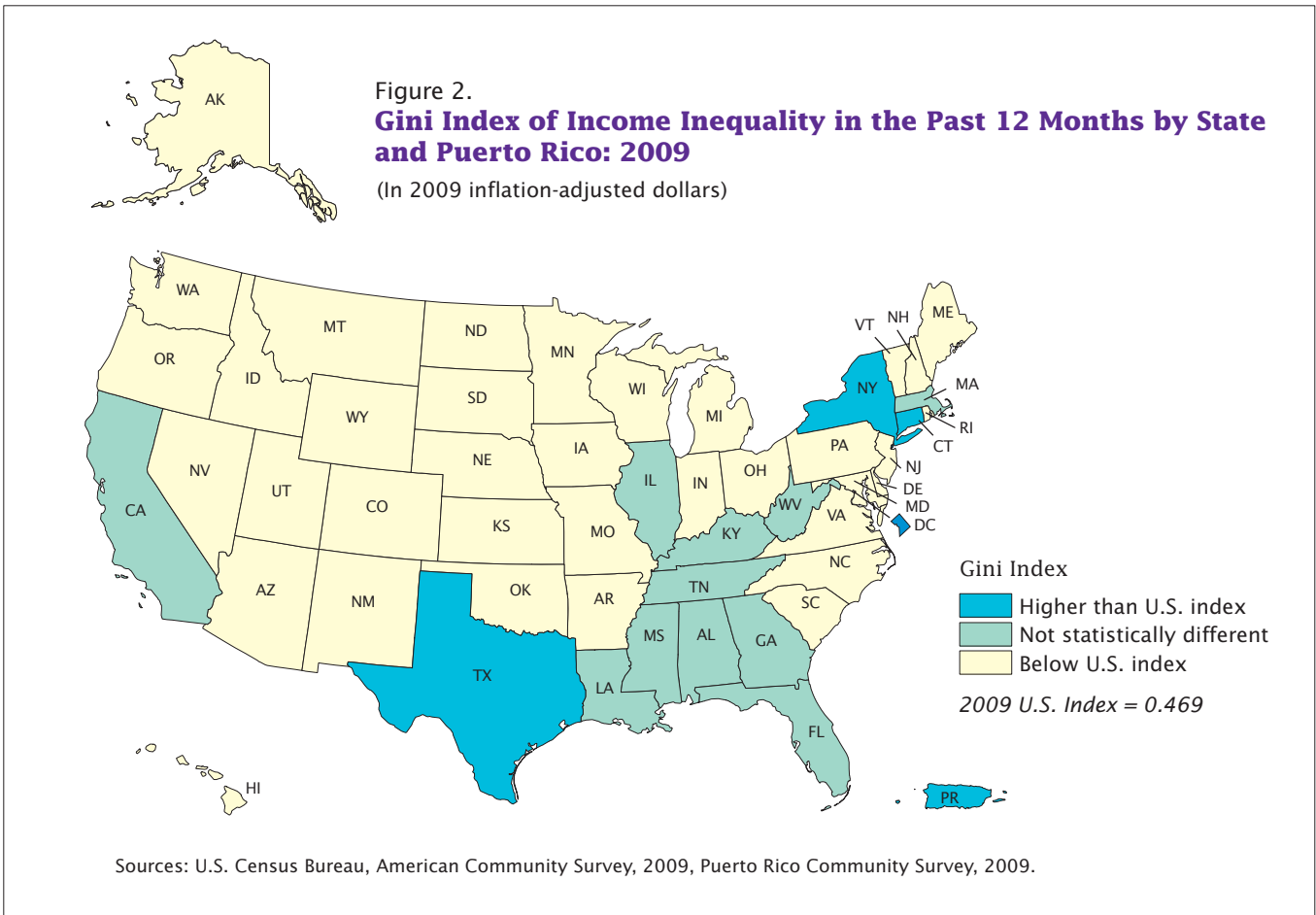
The Gini Index in 2009 for the United States was 0.469. Gini Indexes by state ranged from 0.532 (District of Columbia) to 0.402 (Alaska).⁵ Three states as well as the District of Columbia had a Gini Index higher than the United States—Connecticut, New York, and Texas. Eleven states had a Gini

⁵ The Gini Index for Alaska was not statistically different from the Gini Index for Wyoming and Utah.

Index which was not statistically different from the U.S. Index. There were 36 states with Gini Indexes significantly lower than the U.S. Index.

The Gini Index increased in three states (Maryland, Nebraska, and New Hampshire) from 2008 to 2009 showing increasing inequality in the distribution of income. The Gini Index also decreased in three states (California, Montana, and Wyoming) from 2008 to 2009, which shows more equality in the distribution of income for these states. There were forty-four states that showed no change in Gini Index from 2008 to 2009. The United States had a Gini Index of 0.469 in the 2008 ACS and 2009 ACS.⁶

⁶ See <www.census.gov/prod/2010pubs/acsbr09-1.pdf> for more information on poverty publications.



SOURCE AND ACCURACY

Data presented in this report are based on people and households that responded to the ACS in 2008 and 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 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.

Median Household Income and Gini Index in the Past 12 Months by State and Puerto Rico: 2008 and 2009

(In 2009 inflation-adjusted dollars. Data are limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters)

Area	2008 median household income (dollars)		2009 median household income (dollars)		Change in median income		2008 Gini coefficients		2009 Gini coefficients		Change in Gini coefficients	
	Estimate	Margin of error ¹ (±)	Estimate	Margin of error ¹ (±)	Percent		Estimate	Margin of error ¹ (±)	Estimate	Margin of error ¹ (±)	Estimate	Margin of error ¹ (±)
					Estimate	Margin of error ¹ (±)						
United States	51,726	73	50,221	74	*-2.9	0.2	0.469	0.001	0.469	0.002	-	0.002
Alabama	42,408	542	40,489	528	*-4.5	1.7	0.467	0.006	0.471	0.005	0.004	0.008
Alaska	67,413	2,295	66,953	2,331	-0.7	4.8	0.406	0.015	0.402	0.014	-0.004	0.020
Arizona	50,489	542	48,745	484	*-3.5	1.4	0.453	0.004	0.451	0.005	-0.002	0.006
Arkansas	38,778	652	37,823	629	*-2.5	2.3	0.459	0.007	0.461	0.006	0.002	0.009
California	60,625	251	58,931	274	*-2.8	0.6	0.473	0.003	0.467	0.002	*-0.006	0.003
Colorado	57,030	646	55,430	704	*-2.8	1.7	0.456	0.005	0.453	0.005	-0.003	0.007
Connecticut	68,283	983	67,034	993	-1.8	2.0	0.485	0.006	0.480	0.006	-0.005	0.009
Delaware	58,173	1,472	56,860	1,744	-2.3	3.9	0.442	0.011	0.434	0.010	-0.008	0.014
District of Columbia	57,654	2,445	59,290	1,710	2.8	5.3	0.540	0.013	0.532	0.010	-0.008	0.016
Florida	47,452	354	44,736	290	*-5.7	0.9	0.472	0.004	0.469	0.003	-0.003	0.005
Georgia	50,328	443	47,590	414	*-5.4	1.2	0.468	0.005	0.469	0.004	0.001	0.006
Hawaii	67,384	1,992	64,098	1,574	*-4.9	3.7	0.425	0.010	0.425	0.009	-	0.013
Idaho	47,248	905	44,926	953	*-4.9	2.7	0.422	0.009	0.421	0.008	-0.001	0.012
Illinois	55,671	407	53,966	404	*-3.1	1.0	0.467	0.004	0.469	0.004	0.002	0.005
Indiana	47,657	521	45,424	455	*-4.7	1.4	0.438	0.005	0.434	0.004	-0.004	0.006
Iowa	48,559	600	48,044	426	-1.1	1.5	0.429	0.005	0.431	0.005	0.002	0.007
Kansas	49,686	571	47,817	670	*-3.8	1.7	0.442	0.006	0.444	0.005	0.002	0.008
Kentucky	41,299	472	40,072	535	*-3.0	1.7	0.468	0.006	0.464	0.005	-0.004	0.008
Louisiana	43,288	652	42,492	629	-1.8	2.1	0.478	0.006	0.473	0.006	-0.005	0.008
Maine	46,331	810	45,734	935	-1.3	2.7	0.434	0.008	0.432	0.008	-0.002	0.012
Maryland	69,844	755	69,272	696	-0.8	1.5	0.438	0.005	0.448	0.004	*0.010	0.006
Massachusetts	64,941	703	64,081	680	-1.3	1.5	0.472	0.004	0.468	0.005	-0.004	0.007
Michigan	48,246	455	45,255	358	*-6.2	1.2	0.451	0.003	0.453	0.004	0.002	0.005
Minnesota	56,767	513	55,616	546	*-2.0	1.3	0.444	0.005	0.439	0.004	-0.005	0.006
Mississippi	37,749	698	36,646	695	*-2.9	2.6	0.479	0.007	0.470	0.008	-0.009	0.010
Missouri	46,654	377	45,229	519	*-3.1	1.4	0.448	0.005	0.450	0.004	0.002	0.006
Montana	43,443	1,176	42,322	1,073	-2.6	3.6	0.447	0.010	0.431	0.009	*-0.016	0.013
Nebraska	49,342	756	47,357	804	*-4.0	2.2	0.427	0.006	0.440	0.007	*0.013	0.009
Nevada	56,137	805	53,341	981	*-5.0	2.2	0.432	0.008	0.433	0.006	0.001	0.010
New Hampshire	63,650	1,598	60,567	1,385	*-4.8	3.2	0.418	0.007	0.431	0.009	*0.013	0.012
New Jersey	69,938	638	68,342	659	*-2.3	1.3	0.462	0.004	0.465	0.004	0.003	0.005
New Mexico	43,177	938	43,028	1,033	-0.3	3.2	0.459	0.007	0.453	0.007	-0.006	0.009
New York	55,486	433	54,659	396	*-1.5	1.0	0.505	0.003	0.502	0.003	-0.003	0.005
North Carolina	46,244	438	43,674	375	*-5.6	1.2	0.463	0.004	0.464	0.004	0.001	0.006
North Dakota	45,497	1,018	47,827	995	*5.1	3.2	0.450	0.012	0.450	0.013	-	0.018
Ohio	47,428	288	45,395	350	*-4.3	0.9	0.450	0.003	0.453	0.003	0.003	0.004
Oklahoma	42,624	646	41,664	502	*-2.3	1.9	0.456	0.005	0.460	0.005	0.004	0.007
Oregon	49,714	651	48,457	623	*-2.5	1.8	0.447	0.005	0.443	0.005	-0.004	0.007
Pennsylvania	50,245	274	49,520	286	*-1.4	0.8	0.458	0.003	0.460	0.003	0.002	0.004
Rhode Island	54,877	1,705	54,119	1,522	-1.4	4.1	0.460	0.014	0.457	0.011	-0.003	0.017
South Carolina	44,053	589	42,442	565	*-3.7	1.8	0.463	0.006	0.462	0.005	-0.001	0.008
South Dakota	46,008	1,133	45,043	1,214	-2.1	3.6	0.448	0.013	0.452	0.015	0.004	0.019
Tennessee	43,311	375	41,725	439	*-3.7	1.3	0.471	0.005	0.467	0.005	-0.004	0.007
Texas	49,453	279	48,259	244	*-2.4	0.7	0.475	0.002	0.474	0.003	-0.001	0.004
Utah	56,304	772	55,117	803	*-2.1	2.0	0.411	0.007	0.414	0.008	0.003	0.010
Vermont	52,207	1,064	51,618	950	-1.1	2.7	0.432	0.012	0.428	0.009	-0.004	0.016
Virginia	61,064	462	59,330	482	*-2.8	1.1	0.460	0.004	0.456	0.003	-0.004	0.005
Washington	57,536	529	56,548	528	*-1.7	1.3	0.443	0.005	0.439	0.004	-0.004	0.006
West Virginia	37,677	915	37,435	707	-0.6	3.1	0.453	0.009	0.463	0.008	0.010	0.012
Wisconsin	51,942	348	49,993	405	*-3.8	1.0	0.426	0.004	0.432	0.004	0.006	0.006
Wyoming	52,931	1,838	52,664	1,877	-0.5	5.0	0.444	0.020	0.415	0.014	*-0.029	0.025
Puerto Rico	18,318	338	18,314	327	-	2.6	0.541	0.007	0.532	0.007	-0.009	0.009

* Statistically different at the 90 percent confidence level.

- Represents or rounds to zero.

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 Surveys, 2008 and 2009, Puerto Rico Community Surveys, 2008 and 2009.