Household Income: 2013

American Community Survey Briefs

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INTRODUCTION

This report presents data on median household income at the national and state levels based on the 2012 and 2013 American Community Surveys (ACS). Estimates from the 2013 ACS show a significant increase in median household income at the national level and for many states.[1] Some 2013 ACS metropolitan area income estimates are also discussed throughout this report.[2] 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 2013 ACS, information on income was collected between January and December 2013, and people were asked about income for the previous 12 months (the income reference period). This yielded a total income time span covering 23 months (January 2012 to November 2013). Therefore, adjacent ACS years have income reference months in common and comparisons of 2013 economic conditions with those in 2012 will not be precise.[3]

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, with a 0 indicating perfect equality, where there is a proportional distribution of income. A 1 indicates perfect inequality, where one household has all the income and all others have no income.

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: 2012–2013 NATIONAL AND STATE COMPARISON

Real median household income in the United States showed a statistically significant increase between the 2012 ACS and the 2013 ACS (see Table 1).[4] The 2012 U.S. median household income was $51,915, and the 2013 U.S. median household income was $52,250. (See Table 1.)

[1] The medians from this report were calculated from the microdata and household distributions using 2013 dollars. Inflation adjusting previous year published estimates using the CPI-U-RS will not match exactly to the estimates in this report.

[2] 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 Table 1, Table 2, Figure 1, and Figure 2.

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

[4] All income estimates in this report are micro data inflation-adjusted to 2013 dollars. "Real" refers to income after adjusting for inflation.

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State estimates from the 2013 ACS ranged from $72,483 in Maryland to $37,963 in Mississippi (see Figure 1).[5] Median household income was lower than the U.S. median in 28 states and higher than the U.S. median in 19 states and the District of Columbia. Vermont ($52,578), Iowa ($52,229), and Pennsylvania ($52,007) had median household income not statistically different from the U.S. median.[6]

For 36 states and the District of Columbia, real median household income in the 2013 ACS was not statistically different from that in the 2012 ACS. Between the 2012 ACS and the 2013 ACS, 14 states showed an increase in real median household income ranging from 1.0 percent (Texas and Florida) to 5.7 percent (Wyoming). No state showed a significant decrease in median household income.

Real median household income for Puerto Rico showed a statistically significant percentage decrease between the 2012 ACS and the 2013 ACS. The 2012 Puerto Rico median household income was $19,630 and the 2013 Puerto Rico median household income was $19,183, showing a 2.3 percent decrease.

Median Household Income: 25 Most Populous Metropolitan Areas

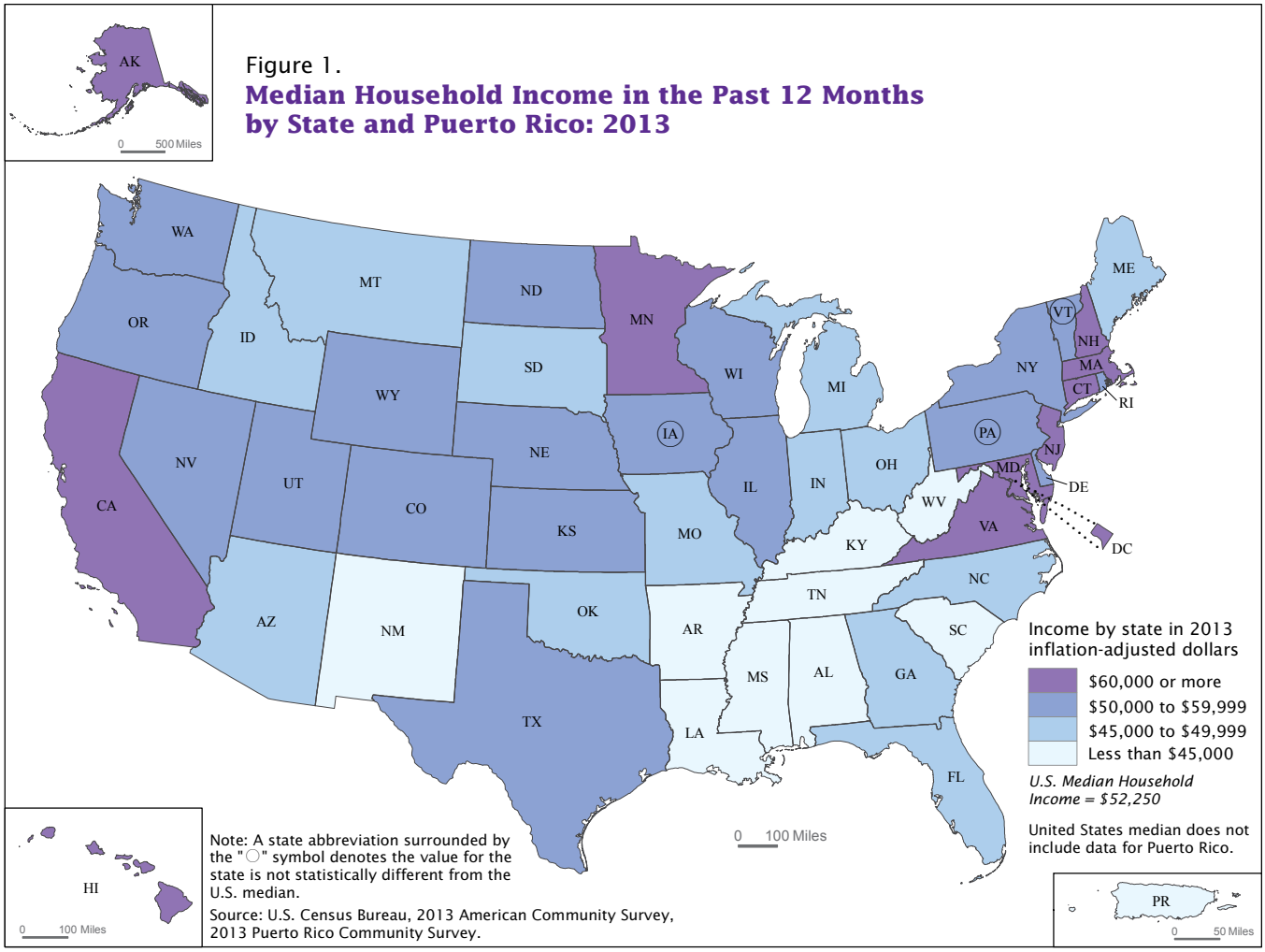
Table 2 shows median household income for the 25 most populated metropolitan areas.

According to the 2013 ACS, median household income ranged from $90,149 in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metro Area to $45,880 in the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL Metro Area. Along with the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metro Area, the San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA Metro Area ($79,624) and the Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH Metro Area ($72,907) were among metropolitan areas with the highest median household income. In

[5] Median household incomes for Maryland and Alaska are not statistically different from each other.

[6] Median household incomes for Vermont, Iowa, and Pennsylvania are not statistically different from each other.

Figure 1.
Median Household Income in the Past 12 Months by State and Puerto Rico: 2013



Note: A state abbreviation surrounded by the "○" symbol denotes the value for the state is not statistically different from the U.S. median.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 American Community Survey, 2013 Puerto Rico Community Survey.

Table 1.

Median Household Income and Gini Index in the Past 12 Months by State and Puerto Rico: 2012 and 2013

(In 2013 inflation-adjusted dollars. Data are limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/acs/www/*)

Area	2012 ACS median household income (dollars)		2013 ACS median household income (dollars)		Change in median income		2012 ACS Gini coefficients		2013 ACS Gini coefficients		Change in Gini coefficients	
					Percent							
	Estimate	Margin of error[1] (±)	Estimate	Margin of error[1] (±)	Estimate	Margin of error[1] (±)	Estimate	Margin of error[1] (±)	Estimate	Margin of error[1] (±)	Estimate	Margin of error[1] (±)
United States	**51,915**	**57**	**52,250**	**65**	***0.6**	**0.2**	**0.476**	**0.001**	**0.481**	**0.001**	***0.005**	**0.001**
Alabama	42,154	537	42,849	641	1.6	2.0	0.473	0.004	0.475	0.004	0.003	0.005
Alaska	68,577	1,742	72,237	1,892	*5.3	3.8	0.423	0.011	0.408	0.010	*–0.015	0.015
Arizona	48,520	577	48,510	587	0.0	1.7	0.461	0.004	0.468	0.005	*0.007	0.006
Arkansas	40,575	484	40,511	710	–0.2	2.1	0.463	0.006	0.469	0.008	0.005	0.009
California	59,184	344	60,190	255	*1.7	0.7	0.482	0.002	0.490	0.002	*0.008	0.002
Colorado	57,430	687	58,823	808	*2.4	1.9	0.458	0.004	0.461	0.004	0.004	0.006
Connecticut	68,181	930	67,098	1,058	–1.6	2.1	0.492	0.006	0.499	0.005	0.008	0.008
Delaware	59,025	1,630	57,846	1,876	–2.0	4.2	0.436	0.008	0.451	0.010	*0.016	0.013
District of Columbia	67,000	2,467	67,572	3,383	0.9	6.3	0.534	0.013	0.532	0.012	–0.002	0.017
Florida	45,578	329	46,036	310	*1.0	1.0	0.483	0.003	0.484	0.003	0.002	0.004
Georgia	47,811	471	47,829	628	0.0	1.6	0.481	0.003	0.484	0.004	0.003	0.005
Hawaii	67,053	1,720	68,020	1,523	1.4	3.5	0.426	0.006	0.440	0.009	*0.014	0.011
Idaho	46,086	951	46,783	930	1.5	2.9	0.430	0.009	0.438	0.008	0.007	0.012
Illinois	55,769	393	56,210	403	0.8	1.0	0.472	0.003	0.482	0.003	*0.011	0.004
Indiana	47,541	481	47,529	516	0.0	1.5	0.442	0.004	0.455	0.005	*0.014	0.006
Iowa	51,509	497	52,229	533	1.4	1.4	0.433	0.005	0.443	0.005	*0.010	0.007
Kansas	50,749	533	50,972	609	0.4	1.6	0.450	0.005	0.459	0.009	0.009	0.010
Kentucky	42,230	457	43,399	650	*2.8	1.9	0.467	0.004	0.472	0.007	0.005	0.008
Louisiana	43,660	649	44,164	869	1.2	2.5	0.486	0.005	0.491	0.005	0.006	0.007
Maine	47,330	966	46,974	797	–0.8	2.6	0.445	0.007	0.453	0.007	0.008	0.010
Maryland	71,818	578	72,483	718	0.9	1.3	0.447	0.003	0.456	0.004	*0.008	0.005
Massachusetts	66,025	600	66,768	715	1.1	1.4	0.481	0.004	0.484	0.004	0.002	0.005
Michigan	47,447	366	48,273	378	*1.7	1.1	0.462	0.003	0.464	0.003	0.002	0.004
Minnesota	59,747	655	60,702	432	*1.6	1.3	0.444	0.003	0.446	0.004	0.002	0.005
Mississippi	37,479	660	37,963	1,029	1.3	3.3	0.487	0.007	0.479	0.006	–0.008	0.009
Missouri	45,919	424	46,931	427	*2.2	1.3	0.461	0.004	0.461	0.004	0.000	0.006
Montana	45,588	1,016	46,972	1,140	3.0	3.4	0.450	0.011	0.462	0.009	0.012	0.014
Nebraska	51,161	629	51,440	493	0.5	1.6	0.434	0.005	0.445	0.006	*0.011	0.008
Nevada	50,343	653	51,230	589	1.8	1.8	0.452	0.008	0.454	0.008	0.003	0.011
New Hampshire	64,187	1,522	64,230	1,347	0.1	3.2	0.430	0.007	0.439	0.009	0.009	0.011
New Jersey	70,442	585	70,165	546	–0.4	1.1	0.472	0.003	0.480	0.003	*0.008	0.004
New Mexico	43,423	915	43,872	950	1.0	3.1	0.471	0.006	0.476	0.006	0.005	0.009
New York	57,096	374	57,369	431	0.5	1.0	0.501	0.003	0.510	0.004	*0.009	0.004
North Carolina	45,684	399	45,906	424	0.5	1.3	0.469	0.003	0.477	0.004	*0.007	0.005
North Dakota	54,647	1,553	55,759	1,452	2.0	3.9	0.460	0.011	0.455	0.009	–0.005	0.014
Ohio	47,454	317	48,081	406	*1.3	1.1	0.462	0.003	0.465	0.003	0.004	0.004
Oklahoma	44,903	432	45,690	534	*1.8	1.5	0.464	0.006	0.462	0.005	–0.002	0.007
Oregon	49,845	770	50,251	532	0.8	1.9	0.457	0.005	0.460	0.006	0.004	0.008
Pennsylvania	51,824	289	52,007	256	0.4	0.7	0.464	0.002	0.470	0.003	*0.005	0.003
Rhode Island	55,274	1,714	55,902	1,902	1.1	4.7	0.465	0.008	0.477	0.011	0.012	0.014
South Carolina	43,792	594	44,163	659	0.8	2.0	0.468	0.005	0.467	0.004	–0.002	0.006
South Dakota	48,956	958	48,947	1,091	0.0	3.0	0.434	0.011	0.443	0.009	0.009	0.014
Tennessee	43,504	539	44,297	501	*1.8	1.7	0.473	0.004	0.478	0.004	0.005	0.006
Texas	51,198	283	51,704	238	*1.0	0.7	0.477	0.002	0.481	0.003	*0.004	0.003
Utah	57,841	910	59,770	762	*3.3	2.1	0.424	0.007	0.426	0.006	0.002	0.009
Vermont	53,677	1,245	52,578	1,561	–2.0	3.7	0.439	0.009	0.454	0.013	0.015	0.015
Virginia	62,479	489	62,666	665	0.3	1.3	0.466	0.003	0.467	0.003	0.001	0.004
Washington	58,368	644	58,405	671	0.1	1.6	0.450	0.004	0.457	0.004	*0.007	0.005
West Virginia	40,555	719	41,253	746	1.7	2.6	0.464	0.007	0.465	0.007	0.001	0.010
Wisconsin	51,649	349	51,467	370	–0.4	1.0	0.440	0.004	0.445	0.003	0.005	0.005
Wyoming	55,569	1,567	58,752	1,796	*5.7	4.4	0.417	0.012	0.418	0.012	0.002	0.017
Puerto Rico	19,630	324	19,183	313	*–2.3	2.3	0.533	0.008	0.547	0.007	*0.015	0.011

*Statistically different from zero at the 90 percent confidence level.

[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.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 and 2013 American Community Surveys, 2012 and 2013 Puerto Rico Community Surveys.

addition to the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL Metro Area, the median household income for the Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL Metro Area ($46,946) was also among the lowest median household incomes for metropolitan areas.

The Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI Metro Area, St. Louis, MO-IL Metro Area, New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA Metro Area, and the San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA Metro area were the only areas that showed increases in median household income from the 2012 ACS to the 2013 ACS. The Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia, NC-SC Metro Area was the only area that showed a decrease in median household income from the 2012 ACS to the 2013 ACS. The remaining 20 metropolitan areas showed no significant change. (See Table 2.)

Income Inequality

The Gini Index for the United States in the 2013 ACS (0.481) was significantly higher than in the 2012 ACS (0.476). This increase suggests that income inequality increased across the country. The Gini Index for the 2013 ACS increased in 15 states. Alaska was the only state to have a decrease in the Gini Index. The remaining 34 states and the District of Columbia showed no statistically significant change between the 2012 ACS and the 2013 ACS. Gini Indexes from the 2013 ACS ranged from 0.532 in the District of Columbia to 0.408 in Alaska (Figure 2).[7] Five states and the District of Columbia had a Gini Index higher than that for the United States. There were 36 states with Gini Indexes lower than the U.S. Index. The remaining 9 states had a Gini Index that was not statistically different from the U.S. Index. (See Figure 2.)

[7] The Gini Index for Wyoming was not statistically different from the Gini Index for Alaska.

Table 2.
Median Household Income in the Past 12 Months by 25 Most Populous Metropolitan Areas

(In 2013 inflation-adjusted dollars. Data are limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/acs/www*)

Metropolitan area	2012 ACS median household income (dollars)		2013 ACS median household income (dollars)		Change in median income	
					Percent	
	Estimate	Margin of error[1] (±)	Estimate	Margin of error[1] (±)	Estimate	Margin of error[1] (±)
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA Metro Area	55,271	765	55,733	675	0.8	1.9
Baltimore-Columbia-Towson, MD Metro Area	67,756	1,247	68,455	1,082	1.0	2.5
Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH Metro Area	72,571	769	72,907	989	0.5	1.7
Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia, NC-SC Metro Area	53,288	1,204	51,251	724	*–3.8	2.6
Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI Metro Area	60,005	555	60,564	467	0.9	1.2
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX Metro Area	57,532	699	57,398	644	–0.2	1.6
Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO Metro Area	62,010	766	62,760	1,037	1.2	2.1
Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI Metro Area	50,885	545	51,857	582	*1.9	1.6
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX Metro Area	56,578	855	57,366	726	1.4	2.0
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA Metro Area[2]	58,065	599	58,869	555	1.4	1.4
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL Metro Area	47,154	632	46,946	602	–0.4	1.8
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI Metro Area	67,048	768	67,194	790	0.2	1.6
New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA Metro Area	64,936	496	65,786	424	*1.3	1.0
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD Metro Area	60,661	595	60,482	574	–0.3	1.4
Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ Metro Area	51,860	500	51,847	515	0.0	1.4
Pittsburgh, PA Metro Area	50,998	636	51,291	513	0.6	1.6
Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA Metro Area	57,597	1,115	59,168	1,127	2.7	2.8
Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA Metro Area	52,221	788	53,220	897	1.9	2.3
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro Area	52,131	1,060	51,716	830	–0.8	2.6
San Diego-Carlsbad, CA Metro Area	60,851	1,004	61,426	812	0.9	2.1
San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA Metro Area	75,779	903	79,624	1,280	*5.1	2.1
Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA Metro Area	66,345	803	67,479	899	1.7	1.8
St. Louis, MO-IL Metro Area	53,015	802	54,449	766	*2.7	2.1
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL Metro Area	45,053	759	45,880	669	1.8	2.3
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metro Area	89,593	1,144	90,149	795	0.6	1.6

*Statistically different from zero at the 90 percent confidence level.

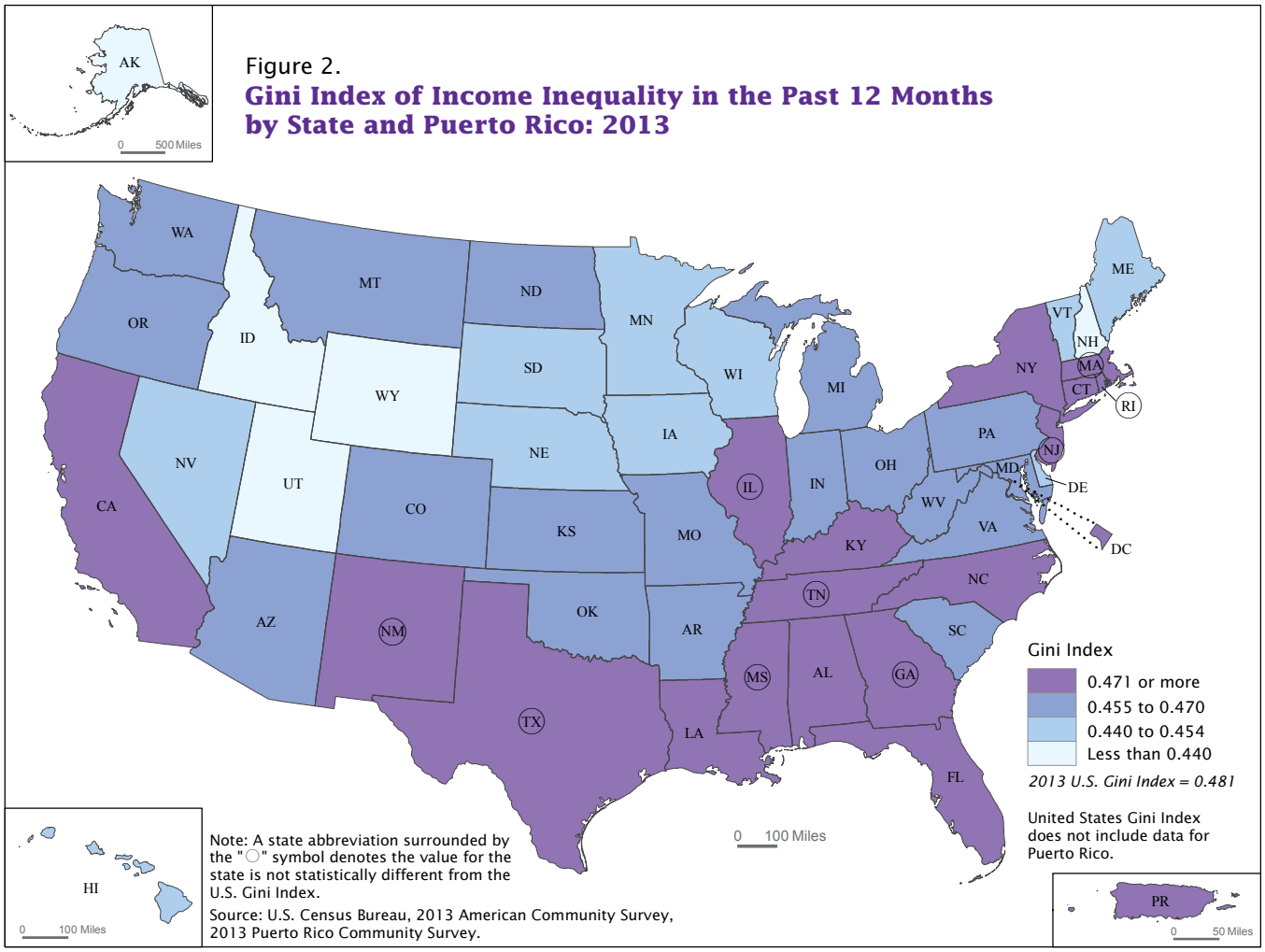
[1]Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. A margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. This number when added to and subtracted from the estimate forms the 90 percent confidence interval.

[2]As of 2013, the name for Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, CA metropolitan area changed to Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA metropolitan area.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 and 2013 American Community Surveys, 2012 and 2013 Puerto Rico Community Surveys.

Figure 2.

Gini Index of Income Inequality in the Past 12 Months by State and Puerto Rico: 2013



Note: A state abbreviation surrounded by the "◯" symbol denotes the value for the state is not statistically different from the U.S. Gini Index.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 American Community Survey, 2013 Puerto Rico Community Survey.

Source and Accuracy

The data presented in this report are based on the ACS sample interviewed from January 1, 2013, through December 31, 2013. The estimates based on this sample describe the actual average values of person, household, and housing unit characteristics over this period of collection. Sampling error is the uncertainty between an estimate based on a sample and the corresponding value that would be obtained if the estimate were based on the entire population (as from

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 3.54 million addresses across the United States and Puerto Rico and includes both housing units and group quarters (e.g., nursing homes 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>.

a census). Measures of sampling error are provided in the form of margins of error for all estimates included in this report. All comparative statements in this report have undergone statistical testing, and comparisons are significant at the 90 percent level unless otherwise noted. In addition to sampling error, nonsampling error may be introduced during any of the operations used to collect and process survey data such as editing, reviewing, or keying data from questionnaires. For more information on sampling and estimation methods, confidentiality protection, and sampling and nonsampling errors, please see the 2013 ACS Accuracy of the Data document located at <www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2013.pdf>.