

Measuring a Changing America

In our rapidly changing world, leaders, policy-makers, and researchers need current information to make good decisions. That is why we conduct the Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey every year.

Because of the cooperation we received from the households participating last year, we have been able to learn a great deal about how we live and work.

Here are three categories of important facts and emerging trends the U.S. Census Bureau has discovered about Americans and their families:

- Median household income
- People without health insurance coverage
- Poverty rate and number of people in poverty



Keeping Your Information Confidential

All the information given by you to the U.S. Census Bureau for this survey is confidential by law (Title 13, U.S. Code, Section 9). All Census Bureau employees take an oath of non-disclosure and are subject to imprisonment and/or a fine if they disclose any confidential information. We use computers to collect the survey data, but the information is encrypted to ensure its confidentiality. We present published information only in the form of statistical summaries, and we never release any information that could identify individuals. The Census Bureau has established rigid procedures and guidelines to ensure data confidentiality and is proud of the excellent reputation it has earned in this regard.

The Changing Situation of Americans and Their Families

Facts From the Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement

Thank you for your participation in the Current Population Survey.

For more information, call one of our regional offices or visit us on our Web site at www.bls.census.gov/cps.

Atlanta	800-424-6974, #53939
Chicago	800-865-6384, #2
Denver	800-593-5096
Los Angeles	800-992-3530, #2
New York	800-991-2520
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Household Income

Median household income was \$59,039 in 2016, an increase in real terms of 3.2 percent from the 2015 median. This is the second consecutive annual increase in median household income since 2007, the year before the most recent recession.



Median family household income (\$75,062) and nonfamily household income (\$35,761) increased 2.7 percent and 4.5 percent, respectively, from their 2015 medians.

The real median income of non-Hispanic White, Black, and Hispanic-origin households increased 2.0 percent, 5.7 percent, and 4.3 percent, respectively, between 2015 and 2016. Asian households had the highest median income in 2016, though the 2015 to 2016 percentage change in their real median income was not statistically significant. Households in all regions experienced an increase in real median income between 2015 and 2016. Median household income increased 3.9 percent in the South, 3.3 percent in the West between 2015 and 2016, while the changes for the Northeast and Midwest were not statistically significant. Households with the highest median household incomes were in the Northeast (\$64,390) and the West (\$64,275), followed by the Midwest (\$58,305) and the South (\$53,861).

Median Household Income by Type of Household: 2016



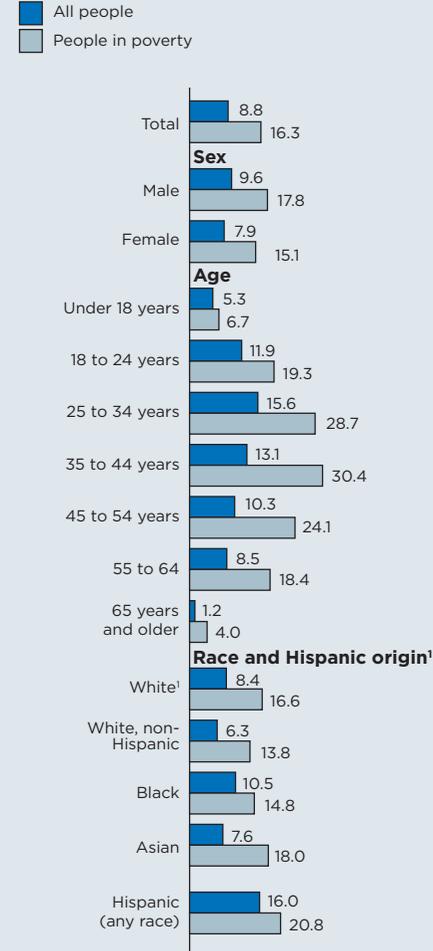
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2017 Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

Health Insurance Coverage

In 2016, the percentage of people without health insurance for the entire calendar year was 8.8 percent, or 28.1 million, lower than the rate and number of uninsured in 2015 (9.1 percent or 29.0 million).

People Without Health Insurance for the Entire Year by Selected Characteristics: 2016

(In percent)



¹Federal surveys now give respondents the option of reporting more than one race. Therefore, two basic ways of defining a race group are possible. A group such as Asian may be defined as those who reported Asian and no other race (the race-alone or single-race concept) or as those who reported Asian regardless of whether they also reported another race (the race-alone-or-in-combination concept). This table shows data using the first approach (race alone). The use of the single-race population does not imply that it is the preferred method of presenting or analyzing data. The Census Bureau uses a variety of approaches. Information on people who reported more than one race, such as White and American Indian and Alaska Native, or Asian and Black or African American, is available from the 2010 Census through American FactFinder. About 2.9 percent of people reported more than one race in the 2010 Census.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2017 Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

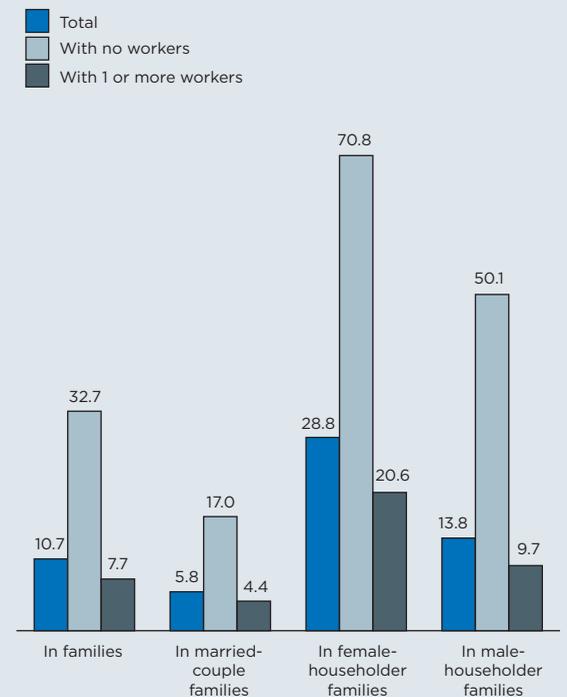
Poverty Rate, Number of People in Poverty

The official poverty rate in 2016 was 12.7 percent, down 0.8 percentage points from 13.5 percent in 2015. In 2016, there were 40.6 million people in poverty, 2.5 million less than in 2015 and 6.0 million fewer than in 2014. The poverty rate in 2016 (12.7 percent) was not significantly different than the poverty rate in 2007 (12.5 percent), the year before the most recent recession.

The chart below shows lower poverty rates for family members living with at least one worker than for family members living with no worker—7.7 percent compared with 32.7 percent. The same pattern held when families were classified by family type.

Poverty Rates of People in Families by Family Type and Presence of Workers: 2016

(In percent)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2017 Annual Social and Economic Supplement.