

# Money Income

WILFRED T. MASUMURA

## Household income declined between 1989 and 1993.

Real median household income (in 1993 dollars) in the United States fell 7.0 percent from \$33,585 in 1989 to \$31,241 in 1993.<sup>1</sup> Most recently, real median household income fell 1.0 percent between 1992 and 1993. This continuing decline occurred during and after the 1990-91 recession.

## Household income varied by household composition.

In 1993, the median income of married-couple households was \$43,129. The median income was much less for households with a female householder, no husband present (\$18,545), and for nonfamily households, mainly one-person households (\$18,880).<sup>2</sup>

Households with the oldest householders and the

youngest householders had the lowest median incomes in 1993. Households with householders 65 years old and over had a median income of only \$17,751. Somewhat higher was the median income of households with householders 15 to 24 years old, \$19,340. In contrast, households with householders 45 to 54 years old had the highest median income, \$46,207.

## Household income varied by race and ethnic origin.

In 1993, Asian and Pacific Islander households had the highest median income (\$38,347); whereas, Black households had the lowest (\$19,532). The 1993 median income was \$32,960 for White households and \$22,886 for Hispanic households.<sup>3</sup>

## Household income varied by the number of earners in a household.

Households with no earners had the lowest median income in 1993 (\$11,807); whereas, households with two or more earners had the highest median income (\$49,430). Households with one earner had a median income of \$25,560.

## Household income varied by the householder's job status.

In 1993, the median household income of householders who were employed year-round, full-time was \$44,834. Among householders who were part-time workers, the median household income was \$21,608. Householders who did not work had a median household income of only \$14,787.

## Median earnings of year-round, full-time workers varied by gender.

In 1993, the median earnings of year-round, full-time workers was \$30,407 for men and

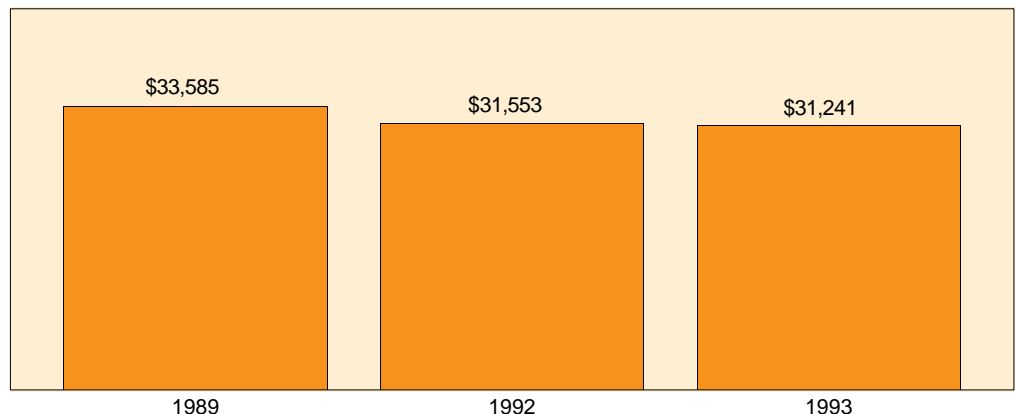
<sup>1</sup>Changes in "real" income refer to comparisons after adjusting for inflation based on changes in the Consumer Price Index.

<sup>2</sup>The difference between \$18,880 and \$18,545 is not statistically significant.

<sup>3</sup>Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. These data do not include the population of Puerto Rico. Due to the small number of American Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut households, a median income figure for them would be statistically unreliable.

## Median Household Income, 1989, 1992, and 1993

(In 1993 dollars)



Percent change: 1992-93 = 1.0 percent decline  
1989-93 = 7.0 percent decline

\$21,747 for women. The female-to-male earnings ratio for year-round, full-time workers was 0.72, comparable to the all-time high reached in 1990.<sup>4</sup>

**Median earnings of year-round, full-time workers varied by occupation.**

In 1993, among male year-round, full-time workers, the median earnings was \$42,722 for executives and managers; \$32,327 for sales workers; and \$27,653 for precision production, craft, and repair workers. For women, the figures were \$28,876, \$18,743, and \$21,357, respectively.

**Median earnings of year-round, full-time workers varied by educational attainment.**

In 1993, the median earnings of male year-round, full-time workers 25 years old and over with a college degree was

<sup>4</sup>The earnings data and female-to-male earnings ratio for 1989 and 1990 were modified based on the inclusion of data on members of the Armed Forces.

\$45,987. In comparison, the median earnings for those with only a high school diploma was \$26,820, and the median earnings for those with some high school education but no diploma was \$21,402. For female year-round, full-time workers, the comparable figures were \$32,291, \$19,168, and \$14,700, respectively.

**The distribution of income has become somewhat more unequal over time.**

The household income distribution changed over the past 25 years. In 1993, those at the bottom 20 percent of the income distribution received less of the Nation's income than previously, while those at the top 20 percent received more.

In 1968, the poorest 20 percent of households received 4.2 percent of the aggregate household income. By 1993, their share declined to just 3.6 percent. In contrast, the highest 20 percent of households received 42.8 percent of the aggregate household income in 1968. By 1993, their

share had increased to 48.2 percent.

Those in the middle of the income distribution also received proportionally less of the Nation's income in 1993 than previously. The middle 60 percent of households received 53.0 percent of the aggregate household income in 1968. By 1993, their share had declined to 48.2 percent.

**For Further Information**

See: Current Population Reports, Series P60-188, *Income, Poverty, and Valuation of Noncash Benefits: 1993.*

Contact: Wilfred T. Masumura  
Income Statistics Branch  
301-763-8576

**Share of Aggregate Household Income, by Quintile: 1968 to 1993**

