

Household Income: 2016

American Community Survey Briefs

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INTRODUCTION

This report presents data on median household income and the Gini index of income inequality based on the 2015 and 2016 American Community Surveys (ACS). 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?”¹ Estimates from the 2016 ACS show a significant increase in median household income at the national level and for 30 states.² Median household income increased between 2015 and 2016 for 21 of the 25 most populous metropolitan areas.³ The Gini index was not significantly higher in 2016 than 2015 for the United States.

The estimates contained in this report are primarily based on the 2015 and 2016 ACS. The ACS is conducted every month, with income data collected for the 12 months preceding the interview. Since the survey is continuous, adjacent ACS years have income reference months in common. Therefore, comparing the 2015 ACS with the 2016 ACS is not an exact comparison of

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 Gini index of 1 indicates perfect inequality, where one household has all the income.

the economic conditions in 2015 with those in 2016, and comparisons should be interpreted with care.⁴ For more information on the ACS sample design and other topics, visit <www.census.gov/acs/www>.

Median Household Income: 2015–2016 National and State Comparisons

Real median household income in the United States increased 2.4 percent between the 2015 and 2016 ACS.⁵ The 2016 U.S. median household income was \$57,617 (see Table 1). This was the fourth consecutive

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 Table 1, Figure 1, and Figure 3.

² The medians from this report were calculated from the microdata and household and family distributions using 2016 dollars. Inflation adjusting previous year published estimates using the CPI-U-RS will not match exactly the estimates in this report.

³ Metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas (metro and micro areas) are geographic entities delineated by the Office of Management and Budget for use by federal statistical agencies in collecting, tabulating, and publishing federal statistics. The term “Core Based Statistical Area” is a collective term for both metro and micro areas. A metro area contains a core urban area of 50,000 or more population, and a micro area contains an urban core of at least 10,000 (but less than 50,000) population. For more information, see <www.census.gov/population/metro/>.

⁴ 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.

⁵ All income estimates in this report are micro data inflation-adjusted to 2016 dollars. “Real” refers to income after adjusting for inflation.

year with a statistically significant increase in the ACS estimate of median household income for the nation.

State household median income estimates from the 2016 ACS ranged from \$78,945 in Maryland to \$41,754 in Mississippi (see Table 1).⁶ The median household income for Puerto Rico in 2016 was \$20,078. 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, Oregon, and Nebraska had medians not statistically different from the U.S. median.

⁶ There was no statistically significant difference between Maryland and the District of Columbia.

For 20 states and the District of Columbia, real median household income in the 2016 ACS was not statistically different from that in the 2015 ACS. Between the 2015 ACS and the 2016 ACS, 30 states showed an increase in real median household income. Pennsylvania (1.2 percent) had one of the smallest increases, and Idaho (6.3 percent) had one of the largest increases. Puerto Rico showed an increase of 6.7 percent in real median household income. No state showed a significant decrease in median household income.

Median Household Income: 25 Most Populous Metropolitan Areas

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

According to the 2016 ACS, median household income ranged from \$96,667 in the San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA Metro Area to \$51,115 in the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL Metro Area. Median household incomes for San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA Metro Area (\$96,667) and the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metro Area (\$95,843) were among the highest medians for the most

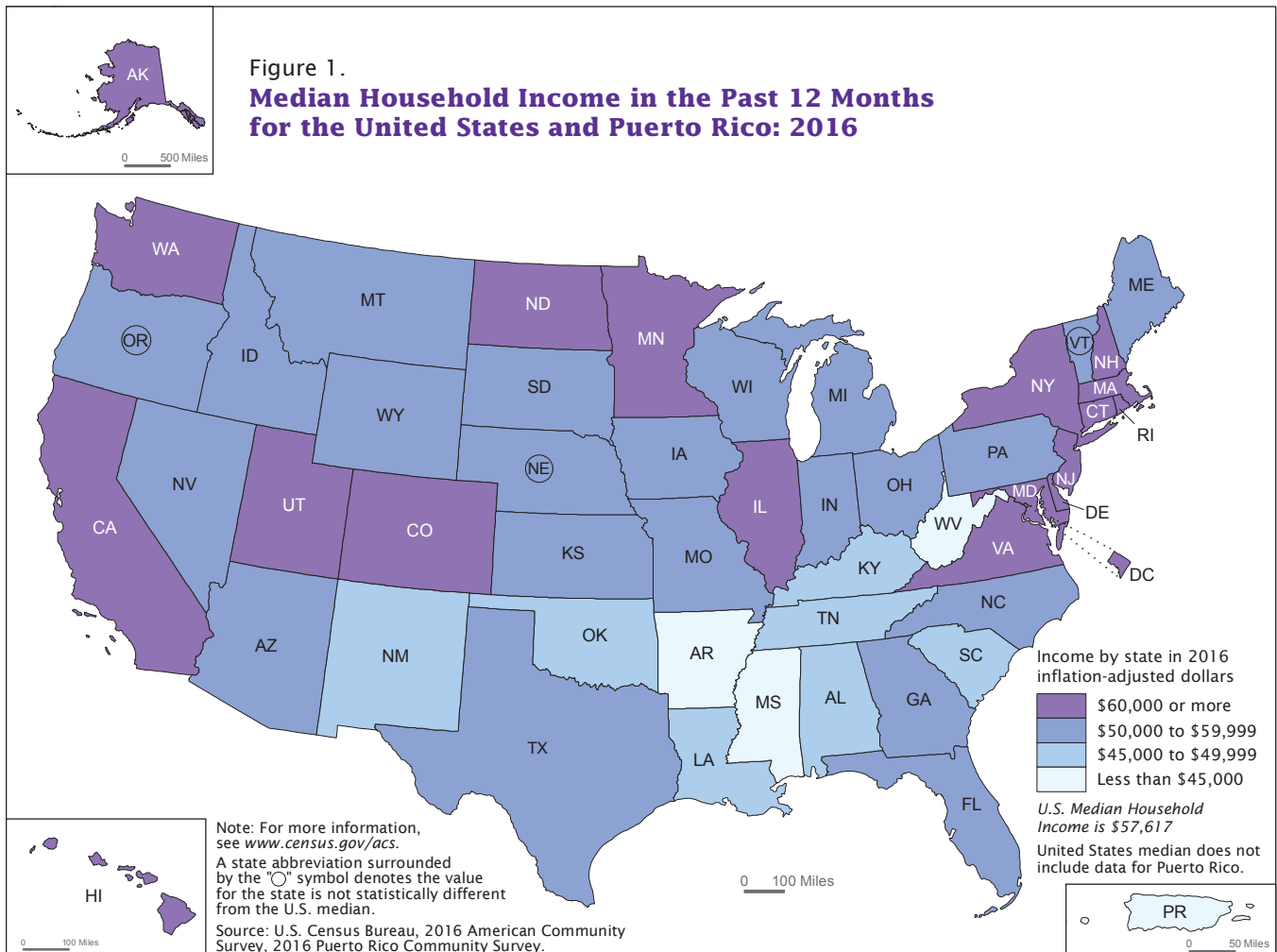


Table 1.

Median Household Income and Gini Index in the Past 12 Months by State and Puerto Rico: 2015 and 2016

(In 2016 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)

State	2015 ACS median household income (dollars)		2016 ACS median household income (dollars)		Change in median income (Percent)		2015 ACS Gini coefficients		2016 ACS Gini coefficients		Change in Gini coefficients	
	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	56,277	93	57,617	115	*2.4	0.3	0.482	0.001	0.482	0.001	0.001	0.001
Alabama	45,182	723	46,257	677	*2.4	2.2	0.481	0.005	0.485	0.005	0.004	0.007
Alaska	74,165	1,968	76,440	2,230	3.1	4.1	0.432	0.014	0.408	0.011	*-0.024	0.017
Arizona	52,062	504	53,558	634	*2.9	1.6	0.470	0.004	0.471	0.005	0.001	0.007
Arkansas	42,530	631	44,334	921	*4.2	2.7	0.477	0.006	0.472	0.006	-0.005	0.009
California	65,087	326	67,739	356	*4.1	0.8	0.488	0.002	0.490	0.002	0.002	0.002
Colorado	64,598	749	65,685	636	*1.7	1.5	0.458	0.005	0.459	0.004	0.001	0.006
Connecticut	72,121	989	73,433	1,059	1.8	2.0	0.492	0.004	0.495	0.005	0.003	0.007
Delaware	61,882	1,453	61,757	1,492	-0.2	3.4	0.452	0.012	0.452	0.011	0.000	0.016
District of Columbia	75,991	1,705	75,506	3,416	-0.6	5.0	0.535	0.016	0.542	0.012	0.007	0.020
Florida	49,852	296	50,860	241	*2.0	0.8	0.487	0.003	0.485	0.003	-0.002	0.004
Georgia	51,753	436	53,559	710	*3.5	1.6	0.480	0.004	0.481	0.004	0.001	0.005
Hawaii	74,451	1,787	74,511	1,776	0.1	3.4	0.435	0.007	0.442	0.007	0.007	0.010
Idaho	48,728	951	51,807	963	*6.3	2.9	0.453	0.011	0.450	0.010	-0.002	0.014
Illinois	60,094	345	60,960	389	*1.4	0.9	0.482	0.003	0.481	0.003	-0.001	0.004
Indiana	50,896	446	52,314	371	*2.8	1.2	0.452	0.004	0.453	0.004	0.001	0.006
Iowa	55,172	719	56,247	695	*1.9	1.8	0.439	0.005	0.445	0.005	0.006	0.007
Kansas	54,520	719	54,935	893	0.8	2.1	0.460	0.007	0.455	0.005	-0.005	0.009
Kentucky	45,541	508	46,659	600	*2.5	1.7	0.478	0.005	0.481	0.006	0.003	0.008
Louisiana	46,106	755	45,146	776	-2.1	2.3	0.491	0.005	0.499	0.006	*0.008	0.007
Maine	52,111	1,000	53,079	1,379	1.9	3.3	0.452	0.010	0.452	0.008	0.000	0.013
Maryland	76,596	612	78,945	737	*3.1	1.3	0.452	0.004	0.450	0.003	-0.003	0.005
Massachusetts	71,146	738	75,297	771	*5.8	1.5	0.485	0.004	0.479	0.003	*-0.006	0.005
Michigan	51,584	267	52,492	402	*1.8	0.9	0.467	0.003	0.470	0.003	0.003	0.004
Minnesota	64,188	557	65,599	606	*2.2	1.3	0.449	0.004	0.450	0.004	0.000	0.005
Mississippi	40,910	620	41,754	556	*2.1	2.1	0.476	0.006	0.483	0.007	0.007	0.009
Missouri	50,642	472	51,746	374	*2.2	1.2	0.463	0.004	0.465	0.005	0.001	0.006
Montana	49,924	1,218	50,027	1,096	0.2	3.3	0.462	0.009	0.467	0.011	0.004	0.014
Nebraska	55,474	886	56,927	767	*2.6	2.1	0.447	0.007	0.448	0.007	0.000	0.010
Nevada	53,320	1,004	55,180	901	*3.5	2.6	0.455	0.007	0.458	0.007	0.003	0.010
New Hampshire	70,813	1,395	70,936	1,422	0.2	2.8	0.435	0.008	0.430	0.009	-0.004	0.012
New Jersey	73,242	869	76,126	701	*3.9	1.6	0.483	0.003	0.481	0.003	-0.002	0.004
New Mexico	45,710	941	46,748	826	2.3	2.8	0.480	0.007	0.477	0.007	-0.003	0.009
New York	61,311	349	62,909	631	*2.6	1.2	0.514	0.003	0.513	0.002	-0.001	0.004
North Carolina	48,420	477	50,584	292	*4.5	1.2	0.478	0.004	0.478	0.004	0.000	0.005
North Dakota	60,944	1,682	60,656	1,528	-0.5	3.7	0.466	0.012	0.453	0.012	-0.013	0.017
Ohio	51,610	284	52,334	275	*1.4	0.8	0.464	0.003	0.468	0.003	0.004	0.005
Oklahoma	49,062	483	49,176	625	0.2	1.6	0.470	0.005	0.465	0.005	-0.006	0.006
Oregon	54,748	740	57,532	855	*5.1	2.1	0.462	0.005	0.458	0.005	-0.004	0.007
Pennsylvania	56,207	408	56,907	360	*1.2	1.0	0.469	0.003	0.469	0.003	0.000	0.004
Rhode Island	58,826	1,924	60,596	1,591	3.0	4.3	0.473	0.009	0.478	0.010	0.005	0.014
South Carolina	47,790	582	49,501	601	*3.6	1.8	0.470	0.005	0.474	0.005	0.004	0.007
South Dakota	53,746	970	54,467	1,289	1.3	3.0	0.444	0.009	0.450	0.012	0.006	0.015
Tennessee	47,818	526	48,547	675	1.5	1.8	0.479	0.005	0.479	0.004	0.000	0.006
Texas	56,139	362	56,565	300	0.8	0.8	0.482	0.002	0.480	0.002	-0.002	0.003
Utah	63,794	1,128	65,977	955	*3.4	2.4	0.425	0.005	0.426	0.007	0.001	0.009
Vermont	57,565	1,454	57,677	1,672	0.2	3.9	0.445	0.010	0.454	0.009	0.009	0.014
Virginia	66,916	631	68,114	748	*1.8	1.5	0.468	0.003	0.471	0.003	0.002	0.005
Washington	64,764	641	67,106	595	*3.6	1.4	0.456	0.004	0.459	0.005	0.003	0.006
West Virginia	42,620	847	43,385	1,112	1.8	3.3	0.458	0.006	0.471	0.008	*0.013	0.010
Wisconsin	56,115	470	56,811	549	1.2	1.3	0.441	0.003	0.450	0.004	*0.009	0.005
Wyoming	60,570	1,772	59,882	2,214	-1.1	4.7	0.437	0.015	0.436	0.013	-0.001	0.020
Puerto Rico	18,810	325	20,078	354	*6.7	2.6	0.559	0.008	0.542	0.007	*-0.017	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, 2015 and 2016 American Community Surveys, 2015 and 2016 Puerto Rico Community Surveys.

populous metropolitan areas.⁷ Median household incomes for Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL Metro Area (\$51,115), Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL Metro Area (\$51,362), and the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL Metro Area (\$52,385) were among the lowest medians for the most populous metropolitan areas.⁸

Median household income increased in 21 of the 25 most

⁷ There was no statistically significant difference between the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metro Area and the San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA Metro Area.

⁸ There was no statistically significant difference between the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL Metro Area and the Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL Metro Area.

populous metropolitan areas between 2015 and 2016. None of these 25 metropolitan areas experienced a statistically significant decrease. Changes for Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX; Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL; Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD; and San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro Areas were not statistically significant (see Figure 2).

Median Household Income: Race and Hispanic Origin of Householder

Real median household income between 2015 and 2016 increased for all households across all major race and Hispanic-origin groups

(see Table 3).⁹ The median household income ranged from \$80,720 for households with Asian householders to \$38,555 for households

⁹ Federal surveys 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 report shows data using the race alone approach. 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. In this report, the terms "White, not Hispanic" and "non-Hispanic White" are used interchangeably and refer to people who are not Hispanic and who reported White and no other race. Since Hispanics may be any race, data in this report for Hispanics overlap with data for race groups.

Table 2.

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

(In 2016 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)

Metropolitan area	2015 ACS median household income (dollars)		2016 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	60,554	503	62,613	890	*3.4	1.7
Baltimore-Columbia-Towson, MD Metro Area	73,395	917	76,788	1,312	*4.6	2.2
Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH Metro Area	79,783	1,330	82,380	1,171	*3.3	2.3
Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia, NC-SC Metro Area	55,235	872	59,979	1,223	*8.6	2.8
Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI Metro Area	63,959	680	66,020	578	*3.2	1.4
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX Metro Area	62,135	533	63,812	923	*2.7	1.7
Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO Metro Area	70,686	884	71,926	781	*1.8	1.7
Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI Metro Area	54,268	639	56,142	588	*3.5	1.6
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX Metro Area	61,931	615	61,708	615	-0.4	1.4
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA Metro Area	63,443	562	65,950	495	*4.0	1.2
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL Metro Area	50,752	451	51,362	402	*1.2	1.2
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI Metro Area	71,593	659	73,231	899	*2.3	1.6
New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA Metro Area	69,437	573	71,897	442	*3.5	1.1
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL Metro Area	51,540	976	52,385	963	1.6	2.7
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD Metro Area	65,647	741	65,996	762	0.5	1.6
Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ Metro Area	56,034	728	58,075	803	*3.6	2.0
Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA Metro Area	64,592	1,106	68,676	1,175	*6.3	2.6
Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA Metro Area	56,619	1,023	58,236	1,104	*2.9	2.7
St. Louis, MO-IL Metro Area	57,049	870	59,780	991	*4.8	2.4
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro Area	55,533	996	56,105	1,019	1.0	2.6
San Diego-Carlsbad, CA Metro Area	68,116	1,538	70,824	995	*4.0	2.8
San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA Metro Area	89,469	1,373	96,677	1,273	*8.1	2.2
Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA Metro Area	76,061	764	78,612	1,063	*3.4	1.7
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL Metro Area	49,402	799	51,115	514	*3.5	2.0
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metro Area	94,430	976	95,843	925	*1.5	1.4

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

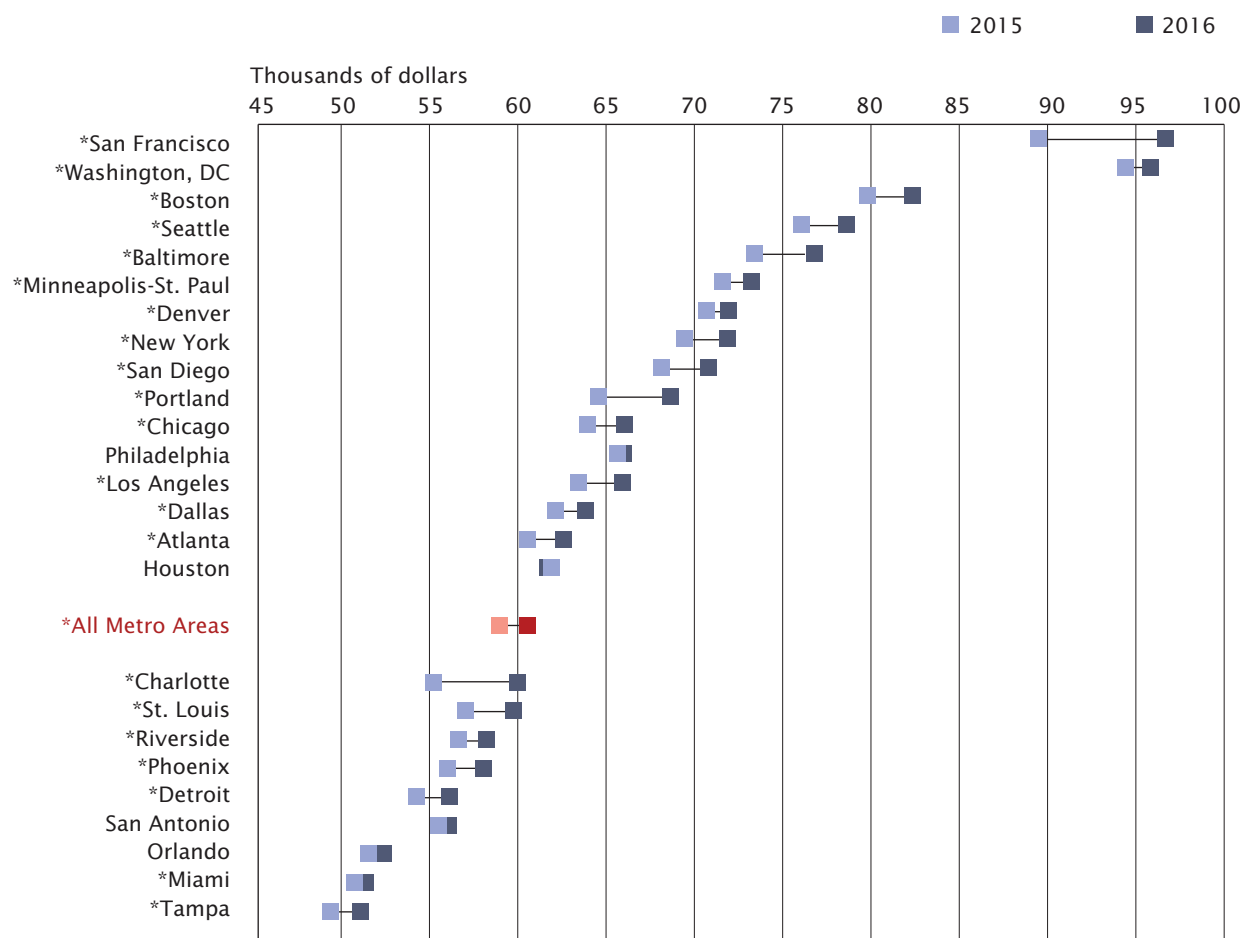
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Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 and 2016 American Community Surveys.

Figure 2.

Median Household Income for the 25 Most Populous Metropolitan Areas: 2015 and 2016

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/code-lists.html)



* Change statistically different from zero at the 90 percent confidence level.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 and 2016 American Community Surveys.

with Black householders. The median household income for households with Black householders increased by 4.4 percent, from \$36,923 in 2015 to \$38,555 in 2016. Median household income for households with non-Hispanic White householders increased by 2.0 percent, from \$61,941 in 2015 to \$63,155 in 2016. Median household income for households with Asian householders increased by 3.1 percent, while median household income for households

with Hispanic-origin householders increased by 3.9 percent.¹⁰

Median Household Income: Age of Householder

Real median household income between 2015 and 2016 increased for households across all age groups. Households maintained by householders aged 45 to 64 had the highest median household

¹⁰ The differences between the 2015–2016 percentage changes in median household income for Black, Asian, and Hispanic-origin households were not statistically significant.

income in 2016 (\$69,822), followed by those with householders aged 25 to 44 (\$62,815), and those with householders aged 65 and older (\$42,113). Those maintained by householders under age 25 had the lowest median household income (\$30,524).

Income Inequality

The Gini index for the United States in the 2016 ACS (0.482) was not statistically different from the 2015 ACS estimate. The Gini index

Table 3.

Household Income by Selected Characteristics: 2015 and 2016

(In 2016 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)

Characteristic	2015 ACS median household income (dollars)		2016 ACS median household income (dollars)		Percent change in median household income	
	Estimate	Margin of error ¹ (±)	Estimate	Margin of error ¹ (±)	Estimate	Margin of error ¹ (±)
HOUSEHOLDS						
All households	56,277	93	57,617	115	*2.4	0.27
Race and Hispanic Origin of Householder						
White	60,157	96	61,349	88	*2.0	0.22
White, not Hispanic	61,941	107	63,155	127	*2.0	0.27
Black	36,923	180	38,555	248	*4.4	0.84
Asian	78,285	680	80,720	446	*3.1	1.06
Hispanic (any race)	45,124	232	46,882	210	*3.9	0.71
Age of Householder						
Under 25 years	28,609	329	30,524	223	*6.7	1.45
25 to 44 years	61,179	127	62,815	204	*2.7	0.40
45 to 64 years	68,001	188	69,822	202	*2.7	0.41
65 years and older	41,501	130	42,113	138	*1.5	0.46

*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, 2015 and 2016 American Community Surveys, and 2015 and 2016 Puerto Rico Community Surveys.

for the 2016 ACS increased in Louisiana, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. Massachusetts, Alaska, and Puerto Rico showed a decrease in the Gini index. The remaining 45 states and the District of Columbia showed no statistically significant changes between the 2015 ACS and the 2016 ACS. Gini indexes from the 2016 ACS ranged from 0.542 in the District of Columbia to 0.408 in Alaska (Table 1, Figure 3). Five states and the District of Columbia had Gini indexes higher than the index for the United States. There were 36 states with Gini indexes lower than the U.S. index. The remaining nine states had Gini indexes that were not statistically different from the U.S. index (Table 1, Figure 3). Since 2006, the earliest year available in the ACS, the national Gini index increased 3.9 percent from 0.464 to 0.482.

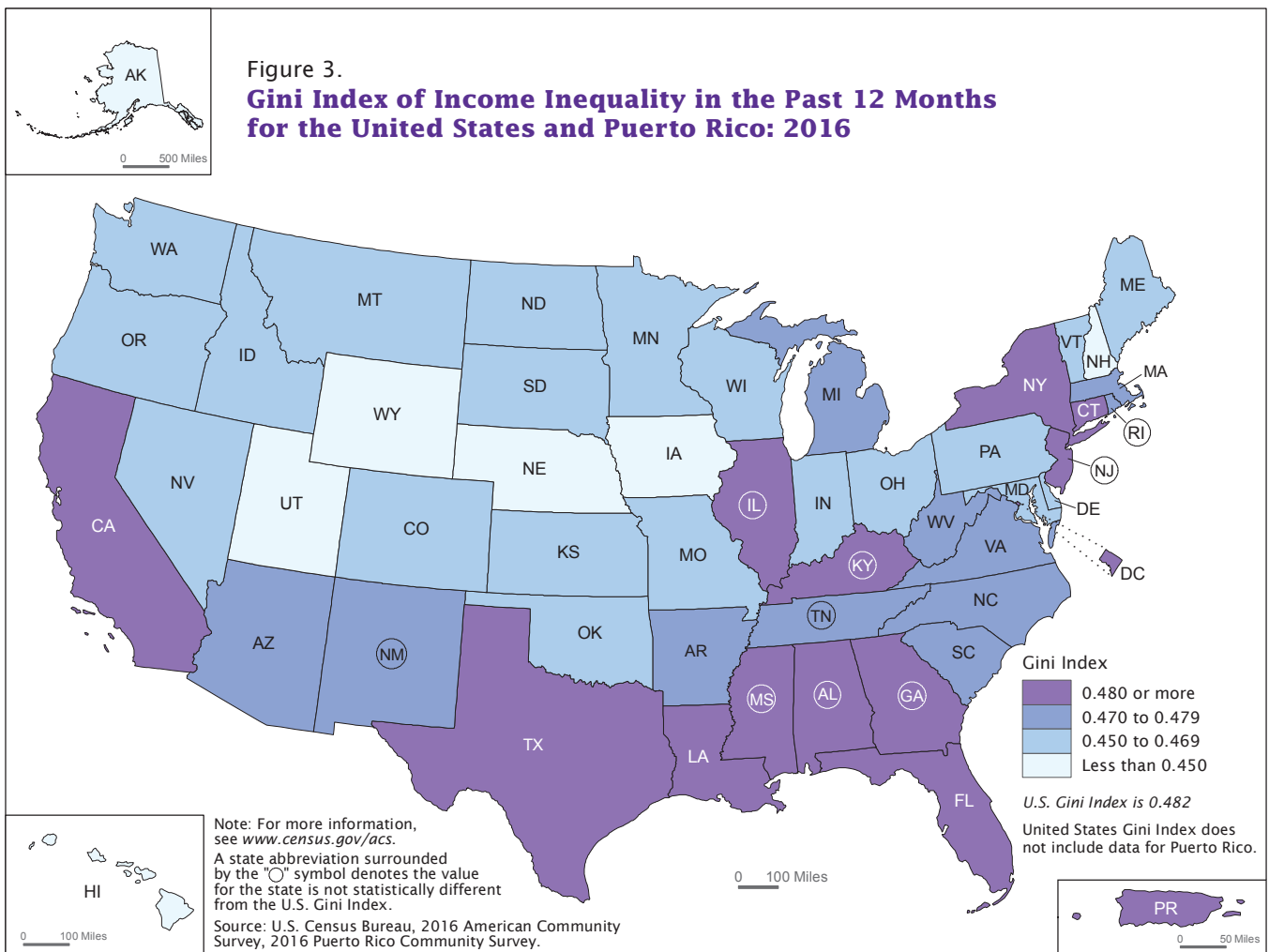
What Is the American Community Survey?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey designed to provide 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 3.5 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/programs-surveys/acs/.

Source and Accuracy

The data presented in this report are based on the ACS sample interviewed from January 1, 2015, through December 31, 2015 (2015 ACS), and the ACS sample interviewed January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2016. The estimates based on this sample describe the

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 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 2016 ACS Accuracy of the Data document located at

www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/code-lists.html.

NOTES

The U.S. Census Bureau also reports income estimates based on data from the Current Population Survey (CPS). The CPS is the longest-running survey conducted by the Census Bureau. The CPS Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) asks detailed questions categorizing income into over 50 sources. The key purpose of the CPS ASEC is to provide timely and detailed estimates of income and to measure change in national-level estimates. The CPS ASEC is the official source

of national poverty estimates. See www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2017/demo/p60-259.pdf.

For information on income estimates from the ACS and how they differ from those based on the CPS ASEC, see "Fact Sheet: Differences Between the American Community Survey and the Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey" at www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/poverty/guidance/data-sources/acs-vs-cps.html.