

Poverty and Income - 2008

Poverty and Income Stats at a Glance

	2008	2007	1998
Poverty rate	13.2%	12.5%	12.7%
Number in poverty	39.8 million	37.3 million	34.5 million
Median household income (2008 \$)	\$50,303	\$52,163	\$51,295
Median earnings – men who work full-time, full-year (2008 \$)	\$46,367	\$46,846	\$46,625
Median earnings – women who work full-time, full-year (2008 \$)	\$35,745	\$36,451	\$34,116
Female-to-male earnings ratio	77%	78%	73%

- The poverty rate in 2008 was the highest since 1997, and will probably be higher this year and next given the rise in unemployment.
- The average family in poverty had earnings \$9,102 below the poverty line. In 2008, the poverty line for a family of four was \$21,834.
- Poverty rate by race/ethnicity
 - African-American: 24.7 %
 - White (non-Hispanic): 8.6 %
 - Asian: 11.8 %
 - Hispanic: 23.2 %

Asians and Hispanics saw the greatest increases in poverty rates between 2007 and 2008.

- Three years of income gains were wiped out in 2008 as real median household income fell 3.6%
- Median household income by race/ethnicity
 - African-American: \$34,218
 - White (non-Hispanic): \$55,530
 - Asian: \$65,637
 - Hispanic: \$37,913
- Income distribution
 - Poorest 20% of all households (2008 incomes less than \$20,712) received just 3.4% of all income

- Richest 20% of all households (2008 incomes more than \$100,240) received 50% of all income

An equal distribution of income would mean that each group gets 20%

The Census Bureau's report can be found at:
www.census.gov/prod/2009pubs/p60-236.pdf

Next release: 2009 figures will be available in late summer/early fall 2010.

UAW Research Department
September 14, 2009