

# Standard of living



### Standard of living facts

Several temporary income support provisions enacted during the COVID-19 pandemic have ended or reverted to previous levels. Congress also recently made changes to federal standard of living programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), through the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. This chapter presents government data on key indicators of household well-being — such as poverty rates, income, and food security — to understand the current standard of living in the US and the potential effects of policy changes.

#### Gross domestic product (GDP) per person

- In 2024, real gross domestic product (rGDP, or GDP adjusted for inflation) per person in the US was up 1.7% from 2023.
- The change in rGDP per person from 2023 to 2024 varied by state, decreasing most in North Dakota (-1.7%) and increasing most in West Virginia (+3.6%).

#### Wages, income, taxes, and transfers

- In 2022, the average middle-class family (40th-60th percentile
  of the income distribution) made about \$67,790 in market
  income, paid \$24,487 in taxes, and received \$26,918 in
  government assistance.
- Between 2000 and 2022, average tax payments increased (adjusted for inflation) for all families except the bottom 20% of earners; government assistance increased by more than 50% in every group, in part due to temporary COVID-19 programs.
- The nation's median annual wage, or the typical amount paid to individuals in exchange for their work or services, was \$49,440 in 2024, down 0.3% from 2023 after adjusting for inflation.

#### **Poverty**

- The poverty rate was 11.1% in 2023, while the child poverty rate was 15.3%. Both remained above 2019 levels.
- In 2023, three states had poverty rates of at least 16%: Louisiana, New Mexico, and Mississippi.

#### Housing

 In 2023, nearly 52% of renters and about 23% of homeowners spent 30% or more of their income on housing, qualifying as housing burdened under Department of Housing and Urban Development guidelines.

- The US had 15.1 subsidized housing units per 1,000 people in 2024. This included both occupied and unoccupied units and was at the lowest level since at least 2004.
- In 2024, the average wait time for subsidized housing rose to 27 months, two months longer than in 2023.

#### Food insecurity

- In 2023, 13.5% of US households experienced food insecurity, meaning they were uncertain about having enough food or did not have enough food at some point in the year.
- In FY 2024, an average of 41.7 million people received SNAP benefits monthly — 17% more than in FY 2019 but below the FY 2013 peak.
- 6.7 million people received nutrition benefits through WIC, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, in FY 2024; 21.4 million children per month received free or reduced lunch during the 2022–2023 school year.

#### Other government income support programs

- In 2023, 30% of US households received Social Security benefits, including retirement benefits, permanent disability insurance payments, and railroad retirement income.
- Five percent of households received Supplemental Security Income (SSI), while 2.4% received cash assistance through general welfare programs like Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).
- An average of 1.8 million people received unemployment insurance benefits each week of 2024.

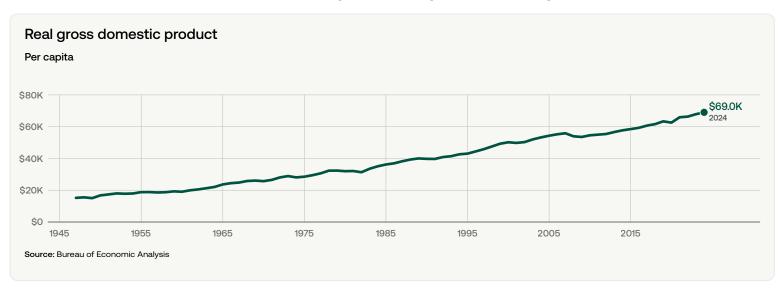
The federal government also tries to boost incomes of qualifying individuals and families through some tax credits. Check out the *Federal Individual Income Taxes* section of this report to learn more.



### How has gross domestic product (GDP) per person changed over time?

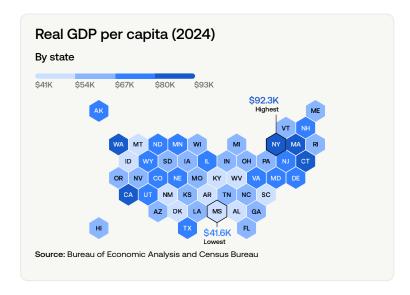
GDP per person is one way to measure a country's standard of living. It reflects the nation's average economic output per person by adjusting for differences in population size. This provides an idea of the amount of resources available, on average, for each person. Tracking this measure over time can indicate whether those resources are growing or dwindling.

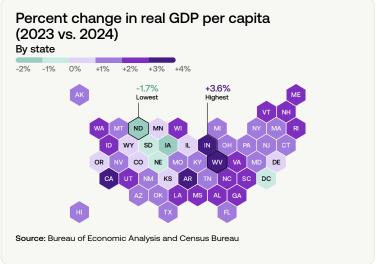
Real gross domestic product (GDP adjusted for inflation or rGDP) per person was \$69,006 in 2024, an all-time high. It increased 1.7% from 2023, higher than the 1.4% average annual change from 2000 through 2023.



### How does GDP vary by state?

In 2024, rGDP per person exceeded \$85,000 in four states: New York, Massachusetts, Washington, and California. It was less than \$49,000 in four states: Mississippi, West Virginia, Arkansas, and Alabama. From 2023 to 2024, the change in rGDP per person ranged from -1.7% in North Dakota to +3.6% in West Virginia.

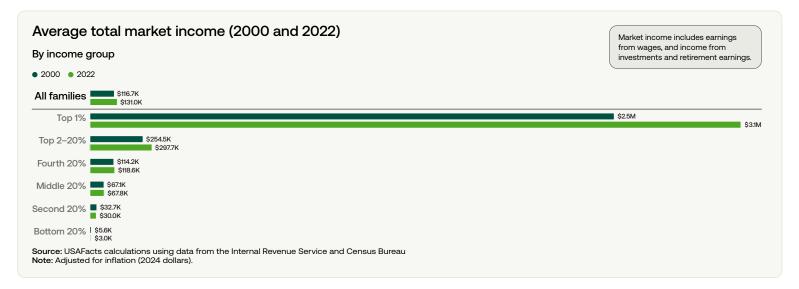






## How has family income changed over time?

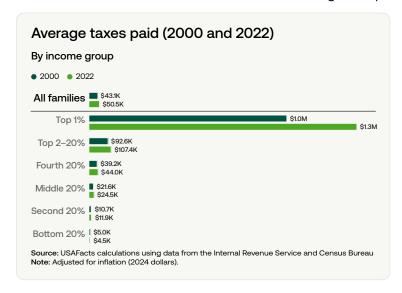
In 2022, the average middle-class family (middle 20% of income earners) had \$67,790 in market income. This is up 1.1% since 2000 (after adjusting for inflation). Meanwhile, the characteristics of these families shifted: the average age of the primary householder rose from 47 to 50, household size shrank slightly, and average weekly work hours declined from 43 to 40.

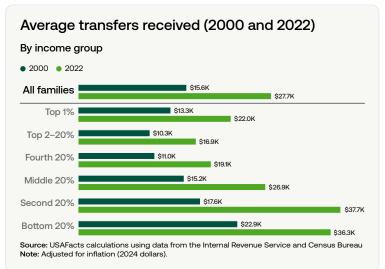


How much do families pay in taxes? How much do they receive from the government?

In 2022, the average middle-class family paid \$24,487 in taxes and received \$26,918 in government assistance. Taxes includes both direct (like income and sales taxes) and indirect taxes (like the employer share of the Federal Insurance Contributions Act). Transfers includes cash benefits such as Social Security, and noncash support such as Medicaid and SNAP.

Families in all but the bottom 20% paid more in taxes in 2022 than in 2000 (after adjusting for inflation), while government assistance rose over 50% across all income levels. This is partly due to COVID-19 programs that have since expired, including the expanded Child Tax Credit and emergency food aid.

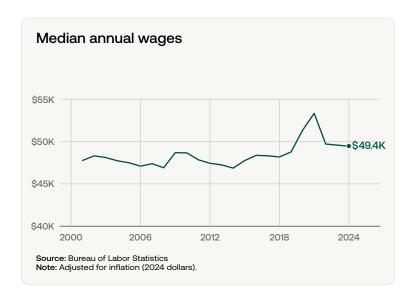


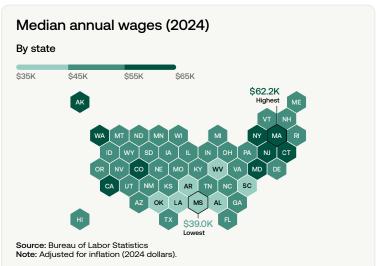




### How much do US workers earn?

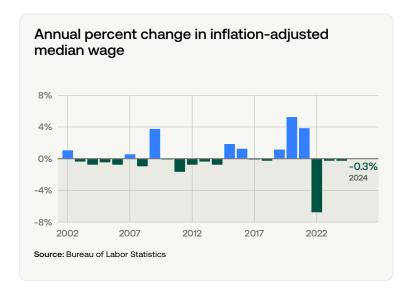
The nation's median annual wage was \$49,440 in 2024. Median wages reflect the typical amount of money an individual receives in exchange for their work. Massachusetts, Washington, and Alaska had the highest median wages, each over \$59,000. Six states had median wages under \$44,000: Mississippi, Arkansas, West Virginia, Louisiana, Alabama, and Oklahoma.





### Are wages keeping up with inflation?

After adjusting for inflation, median wages decreased from 2023 to 2024 by 0.3%. Wage growth lagged behind the annual inflation rate for three consecutive years. This includes 2022, when median wages fell 6.8% compared with 2021.

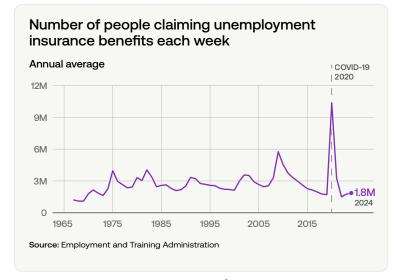


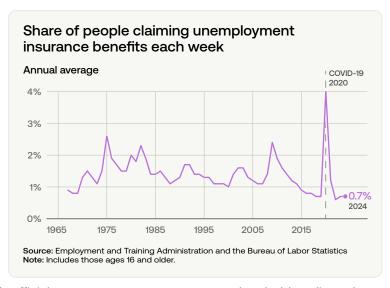




# How many people receive unemployment insurance benefits?

Unemployment insurance temporarily replaces a limited amount of earnings for eligible workers who lose their jobs through no fault of their own. States run their own unemployment insurance programs with some federal oversight and funding. An average of 1.8 million people claimed unemployment insurance benefits each week of 2024 — equal to 0.7% of people ages 16 and older. The share of the population claiming these benefits has remained at or near record lows since 2022.

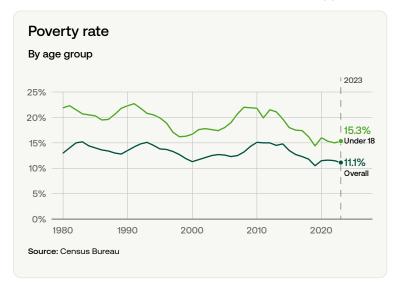


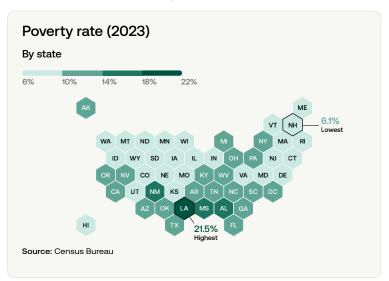


### What is the US poverty rate?

The federal government's official poverty measure sets poverty thresholds, adjusted by family size; anyone whose household income falls below the threshold is counted as in poverty. The share of people in poverty (the poverty rate) was 11.1% in 2023. This was lower than any other time in the last 45 years, aside from 2019. The poverty rate among children (those under 18) was 15.3% in 2023 and has only been lower in two other years, 2019 and 2022.

In 2023, three states had overall poverty rates of at least 16%: Louisiana, New Mexico, and Mississippi. It was lowest, below 7%, in New Hampshire, Utah, and Vermont.

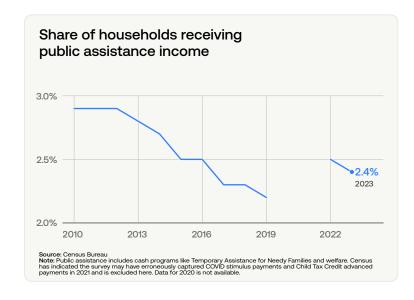


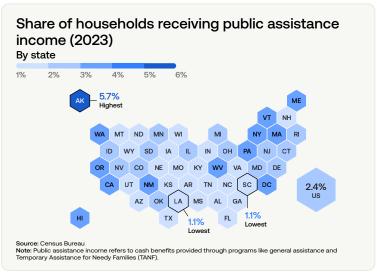




# What share of households receive government public assistance income?

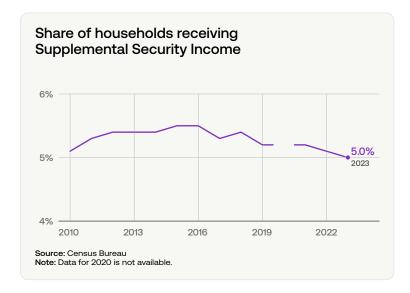
In 2023, 3.1 million or 2.4% of US households received cash benefits provided through Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and general assistance programs administered by state and local governments. These programs are often called "welfare." The share of households receiving these cash benefits in 2023 ranged from 1.1% in Louisiana and South Carolina to 5.7% in Alaska.

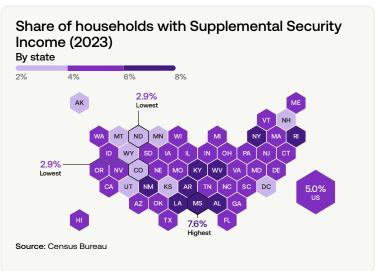




# What share of households receive Supplemental Security Income?

The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program provides cash assistance to people with disabilities and older adults with both low income and low wealth. One in 20 households received SSI each year from 2010 through 2023. In 2023, the share reached as high as 7.6% in Mississippi and as low as 2.9% in Colorado and North Dakota.



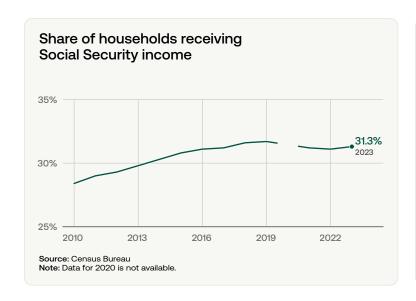


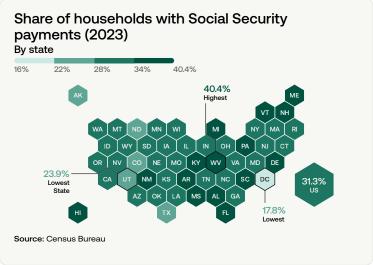


What share of households receive Social Security retirement or disability benefits?

Social Security is an insurance program that primarily provides monthly cash benefits to retired workers age 62 and older, or the eligible family members of deceased workers. It also has a component called Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), which provides benefits to people with a disability and qualifying work history.

In 2024, 12% of Social Security recipients received disability benefits, 9% received survivor benefits, and 79% received retirement benefits. The share of households receiving Social Security benefits increased from 28.4% in 2010 to 31.3% in 2023. Meanwhile, the share of the population age 62 and older grew from 16.4% to 21.6%. In 2023, the proportion of households receiving Social Security benefits ranged from 23.9% in Utah to 40.4% in West Virginia.

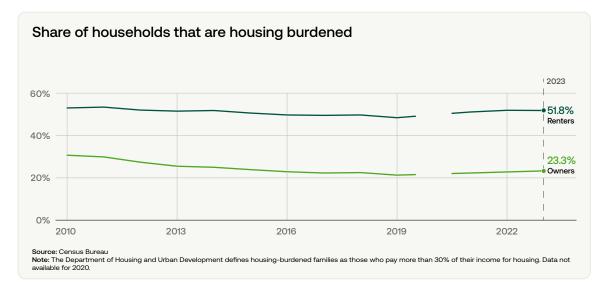






### What share of people are housing burdened?

Among homeowners in 2023, median monthly income was \$7,993, median housing costs were \$1,320, and 23.3% were housing burdened. Among renters, median monthly household income was \$4,310, median housing costs were \$1,406, and 51.8% were housing burdened. This was down since 2010, but up from 48.4% in 2019. Housing burden among homeowners is down from 2010 but up two percentage points from 2019.



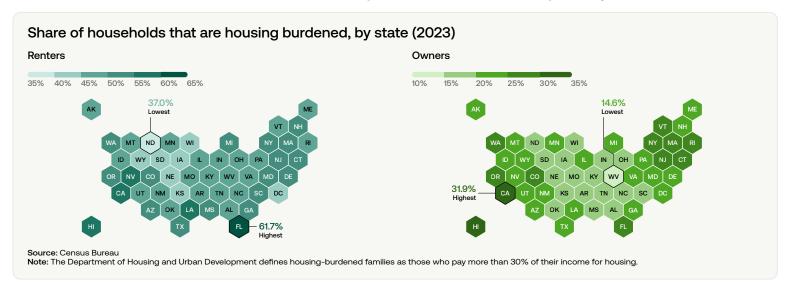


The Department of
Housing and Urban
Development (HUD) says
households should spend
less than 30% of their
income on housing to
have enough money for
other needs. Households
that spend more than this
are considered housing
burdened.

# Where are people most and least housing burdened?

In 2023, housing-burdened households were more likely to rent than own. This was the trend in every state without exception. Florida had the highest share of renters spending more than 30% of their income on housing at 61.7%. There, median monthly household income was \$4,480 and median renting costs were \$1,719.

Meanwhile, the share of housing-burdened homeowners ranged from 31.9% in California (\$10,231 homeowner household median monthly income; \$2,137 median monthly housing costs) to 14.6% in West Virginia (\$5,572 homeowner household median monthly income; \$621 median monthly housing costs).

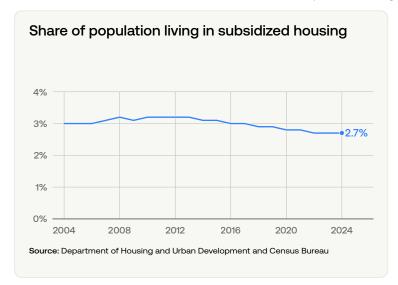


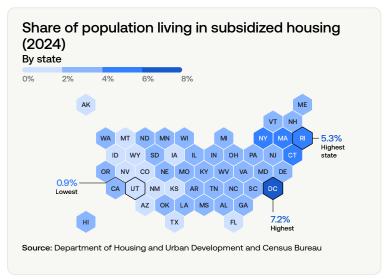


# What share of people live in subsidized housing?

In 2024, 2.7% of the US population, equal to 9 million people, lived in subsidized housing. The percentage has roughly been the same since 2022. The highest share in recent history was 3.2% in 2013, or 10.1 million people.

The share varies by state. In Utah, 0.9% of residents lived in subsidized housing in 2024 compared to a high of 5.3% in Rhode Island.



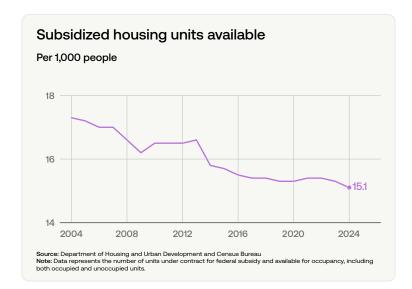


(i)

**Subsidized housing** is housing provided below market rates to low-income families and individuals. This assistance can include reduced rents in publicly owned buildings or programs that provide vouchers to help cover rent in privately owned housing.

# How many subsidized housing units are available?

There were 15.1 subsidized housing units available per 1,000 people in 2024, the fewest since at least 2004. While there were nearly 82,000 (or 1.6%) more subsidized units in 2024 than 2004, this increase lagged behind the 16.2% population growth in the US. On average, people who received subsidized housing in 2024 had waited 27 months. Average wait times were two months longer than in 2023.

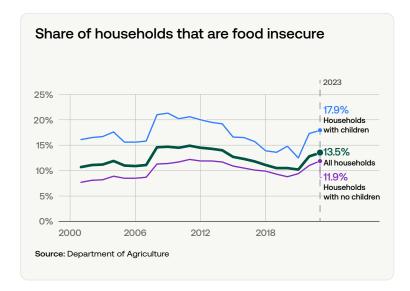


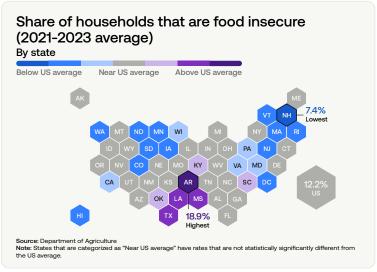




## What share of households are food insecure?

In 2023, 13.5% of households were food insecure, meaning they were uncertain about having enough food or did not have enough food at some point in the year. This was 1.4 percentage points lower than the peak of 14.9% in 2011, but 0.7 points higher than in 2022. Food insecurity rates for households with children rose 0.6 percentage points compared to 2022. Seven Southern states had food insecurity rates significantly higher than the national average.

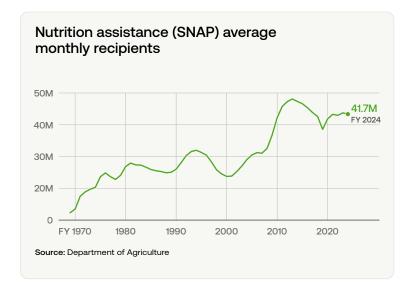


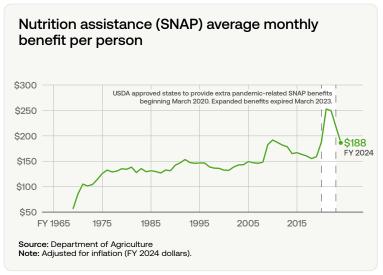


How many people receive SNAP assistance? How much do they receive?

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is a federally funded program that provides food benefits to low-income families and individuals who meet certain work requirements. An average of more than 41.7 million people received benefits each month in fiscal year (FY) 2024, 17% more than in FY 2019, but less than the peak of 47.6 million in FY 2013.

The average monthly benefit was \$187.54 per person, 18% higher than in FY 2019 but 14% lower than in FY 2023. Congress expanded SNAP benefits during the pandemic to combat food insecurity. These emergency allotments ended in March 2023.

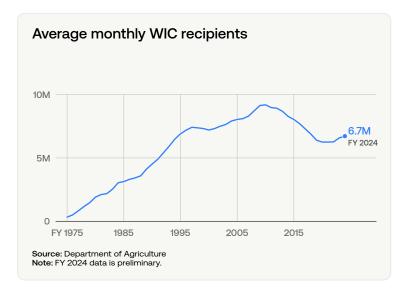


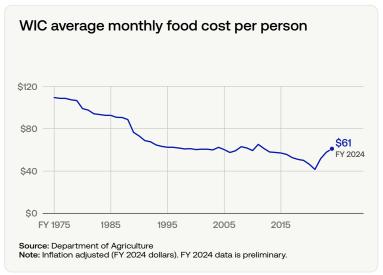




# How many people receive nutrition assistance through WIC?

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) provides nutrition benefits to qualifying low-income currently or recently pregnant women, and young children. In FY 2024, it served 6.7 million people at an average of \$61 per person per month in food benefits. Program participation peaked at 9.2 million in FY 2010, declined to 6.2 million in FY 2021, and has increased for the last three years.

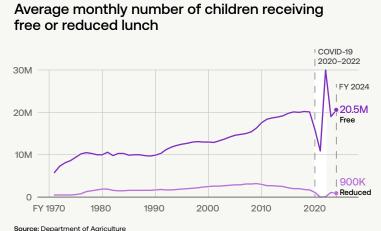




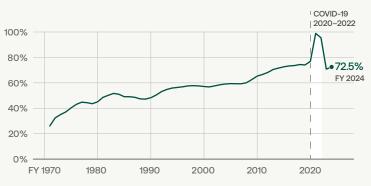
How many children use the free and reduced school lunch program?

Children from families earning below 130% of the federal poverty guidelines qualify for free school meals, while those between 130% and 185% qualify for reduced prices through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). Schools in high-poverty areas may also serve all students regardless of eligibility. About 25.5 million students (53%) were eligible in the 2022–2023 school year.

The NSLP served free or reduced lunch to an average of 21.4 million children monthly in FY 2024. While the program also offers full-priced meals in the schools in which it operates, three of four meals it served were free or reduced.



### Share of school lunches served at free or reduced price



Source: Department of Agriculture

Note: In school year 2020-2021, many schools served meals through the Summer Food Service Program due to the COVID-19 waiver and are not captured here. FY 2021-2022 data includes meals served through the Seamless Summer Option. 2024 data is preliminary.



### Chapter sources and data timeliness

Publishing agency	Program	Publication name	Release date	Most recent period in data
US Census Bureau	Current Population Survey	Annual Social and Economic Supplement, Historical poverty tables	Sep. 2024	2023
	Population Estimates Program	State population totals and components of change	Dec. 2024	2024
	American Community Survey	1-year estimates	Sep. 2024	2023
Bureau of Economic Analysis	National Income and Product Accounts	Gross domestic product	Updates quarterly for most recently completed quarter	
Bureau of Labor Statistics	Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics	OEWS tables	April 2025	2024
Department of Housing and Urban Development	Assisted Housing: National and Local	Picture of Subsidized Housing	Feb. 2025	2024
Department of Agriculture	Food Security in the US	National annual summary tables	Sep. 2024	2023
	Child nutrition programs	National annual summary tables	June 2025	FY 2024
	WIC	National level annual summary	June 2025	FY 2024
	SNAP	National level annual summary	June 2025	FY 2024
Internal Revenue Service	Statistics of Income	Public Use File	2023	2015
Employment and Training Administration	Unemployment Insurance	Weekly claims data	Updates weekly with data for about one month ago	

See sources and notes section at the end of this report for detailed citation information.

- There are many ways to define middle class. USAFacts
  defines it as those in the middle fifth of the family market
  income distribution or the 40th–60th percentile. Families
  are defined in this analysis as tax filing units and can consist
  of one or more individuals.
- USAFacts combines IRS, Census, and other government sources for a closer look at how certain economic and demographic characteristics differ among family types and across the income spectrum. Charts in this section showing market income, taxes paid, and transfers received by income
- quintile rely upon this combined data. USAFacts uses a procedure similar to that used by the Congressional Budget Office and others, as explained in our methodology that can be found at: <a href="https://usafacts.org/methodology/">https://usafacts.org/methodology/</a>.
- Our data on income quintiles makes use of the IRS's SOI public use microdata. The latest file, which provides detailed microdata on individual income tax returns, is from 2015.
- USAFacts notes when data is adjusted for inflation. Inflation adjustments use the Consumer Price Index for urban consumers (CPI-U), unless otherwise noted.



### **Endnotes**

- Social Security Administration (SSA) (2025). Benefits Paid by Type of Beneficiary (Time series report; Select beneficiary type(s): Retired workers & dependents, Survivors, Disabled workers & dependents; Frequency: Monthly (September of each year)). https:// www.ssa.gov/oact/ProgData/icp.html.
- Census Bureau (2010 and 2023). American Community Survey. (S0101 Age and sex). https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2010. S0101?q=age.
- National Center for Education Statistics (2024). Digest of Education Statistics (Table 204.10. Number and percentage of public school students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, by state). https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d23/tables/dt23\_204.10.asp.

### Chart sources and notes

For each chapter, all chart names are listed, and additional information is provided for each.

Chart sources and notes are structured as follows:

Chart title: Source(s) Note(s):

- For all population-adjusted data where the source does not provide adjustments, we use intercensal/postcensal estimates from the US Census Bureau, unless otherwise noted. Source details can be found in the citations for the "Population" chart below.
- Fiscal years (FY) are equivalent to the federal fiscal year, unless otherwise noted. The federal fiscal year begins on October 1 of the previous year and ends on September 30 of the following year. For example, FY 2024 began on October 1, 2023, and ended on September 30, 2024.
- USAFacts compiles data for government revenue, spending, and debt, as well as on family and individual income and taxes from various government sources, including the Office of Management and Budget, the Census Bureau, the Bureau of Economic Analysis, and the Federal Reserve. The full citations are not included below; to see detailed descriptions and notes about our methodology for compiling this data, please visit: https://usafacts.org/methodology.

### Standard of living

Real gross domestic product, per capita: BEA (2024). FRED (Real gross domestic product per capita (A939RX0Q048SBEA)). Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. <a href="https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/A939RXQQ048SBEA#0">https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/A939RXQQ048SBEA#0</a>.

Real GDP per capita (2024), by state: (1) BEA (2024). Real gross domestic product (GDP) by state: Millions of chained 2017 dollars (SAGDP1). Retrieved from interactive data tables. https://www.bea.gov/itable/regional-gdp-and-personal-income; (2) Census Bureau (2024). State population totals and components of change: 2020-2024 (Annual estimates of the resident population for the United States, regions, states, District of Columbia and Puerto Rico: April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2024 (NST-EST2024-POP)). https://www.census.gov/ data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2020s-state-total.html.

Percent change in real GDP per capita (2023 vs. 2024), by state: Ibid.



**Average total market income (2000 and 2022):** USAFacts calculations using data from the IRS and the Census Bureau. For more information on our methodology, see: <a href="https://usafacts.org/methodology/">https://usafacts.org/methodology/</a>.

Average taxes paid (2000 and 2022): Ibid.

Average transfers received (2000 and 2022): Ibid.

**Median annual wages:** BLS (2025). Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (Multiple years, National, XLS Version). <a href="https://www.bls.gov/oes/tables.htm">https://www.bls.gov/oes/tables.htm</a>.

Median annual wages (2024), by state: Ibid.

Annual percent change in inflation-adjusted median wage: (1) BLS (2025, May 2). Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (Multiple years, National, XLS Version). <a href="https://www.bls.gov/oes/tables.htm">https://www.bls.gov/oes/tables.htm</a>; (2) US Bureau of Labor Statistics (2025). CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) (All items in US city average, all urban consumers, not seasonally adjusted (CUUR0000SA0)). <a href="https://data.bls.gov/timeseries/CUUR0000SA0">https://data.bls.gov/timeseries/CUUR0000SA0</a>.

Change in inflation-adjusted median wage (May 2023 to May 2024), by state: (1) BLS (2025, May 2). Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (Multiple years, State, XLS Version). <a href="https://www.bls.gov/oes/tables.htm">https://www.bls.gov/oes/tables.htm</a>; (2) US Bureau of Labor Statistics (2025). CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) (All items in US city average, all urban consumers, not seasonally adjusted (CUUR0000SA0)). <a href="https://data.bls.gov/timeseries/CUUR0000SA0">https://data.bls.gov/timeseries/CUUR0000SA0</a>.

**Number of people claiming unemployment benefits each week, annual average:** US Employment and Training Administration (2025). Continued Claims (Insured Unemployment) [CCNSA], retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. <a href="https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/CCNSA">https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/CCNSA</a>.

Share of people claiming unemployment insurance benefits each week, annual average: (1) US Employment and Training Administration (2025). Continued Claims (Insured Unemployment) [CCNSA], retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. <a href="https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/CCNSA">https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/CCNSA</a>; (2) Bureau of Labor Statistics (2025). Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey (CPS) (Civilian noninstitutional population, 16 years and over [LNU00000000]). <a href="https://www.bls.gov/cps/lfcharacteristics.htm">https://www.bls.gov/cps/lfcharacteristics.htm</a>.

**Poverty rate, by age group:** Census Bureau (2024, August 16). *Historical Poverty Tables: People and Families - 1959 to 2020* (Table 3. Poverty Status of People by Age, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1959 to 2023). <a href="https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/historical-poverty-people.html">https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/historical-poverty-people.html</a>.

Poverty rate (2023), by state: Census Bureau (2023). Historical Poverty Tables: People and Families - 1959 to 2023 (Table 19. Number of Poor and Poverty Rate by State: 1980 to 2023). https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/historical-poverty-people.html.

Share of households receiving public assistance income: Census Bureau (2024). *American Community Survey (ACS): (Multiple Years) 1-year estimates* (B19057 Public Assistance Income in the Past 12 Months for All Households). <a href="https://data.census.gov/table?q=B19057&g=010XX00US,\$0400000">https://data.census.gov/table?q=B19057&g=010XX00US,\$0400000</a>.

Share of households receiving public assistance income (2023), by state: Ibid.

Share of households receiving Supplemental Security Income: Census Bureau (2024). ACS: (Multiple Years) 1-year estimates (B19056 Supplemental Security Income in the Past 12 Months for All Households). https://data.census.gov/table?q=B19056&g=010XX00US,\$0400000.

Share of households receiving Supplemental Security Income (2023), by state: Ibid.



Share of households receiving Social Security Income: Census Bureau (2024). ACS: (Multiple Years) 1-year estimates (B19055 Social Security Income in the Past 12 Months for All Households). https://data.census.gov/table?q=B19055&g=010XX00US,\$0400000.

Share of households receiving Social Security Income (2023), by state: Ibid.

Share of households that are housing burdened: (1) For renters: US Census Bureau (2023). American Community Survey: (Multiple Years) 1-year estimates (B25070 Gross Rent as a Percentage of Household Income in the Past 12 Months). https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDT1Y2022.B25070?q=&g=010XX00US,\$0400000; (2) For homeowners: US Census Bureau (2023). American Community Survey: (Multiple years) 1-year estimates (B25091 Mortgage Status by Selected Monthly Owner Costs as a Percentage of Household Income in the Past 12 Months). https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDT1Y2022.B25091?q=&g=010XX00US,\$0400000.

Share of households that are housing burdened, by state (2023): Ibid.

Share of population living in subsidized housing: (1) For 2004-2008: Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) (2025). Picture of Subsidized Households for 2004-2008 (Select Year, US total, Total for all HUD programs, people\_total). https://www.huduser.gov/portal/picture/query.html; (2) For 2009-2024: HUD (2025). Picture of Subsidized Households (Select Year, US total, Summary of all HUD programs, Number of people: Total). https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/assthsg.html#2009-2017\_query; (3) 2004-2010: Census Bureau (2017). Population Estimates (2010>2010-eval-estimates>co-est2010-alldata.csv). https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/datasets/; (4) 2011-2019: Census Bureau (2021). NST-EST2020-ALLDATA.csv (National Population Totals). https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/technical-documentation/research/evaluation-estimates/2020-evaluation-estimates/2010s-totals-national.html; (5) 2020-2024: Census Bureau (2024). NST-EST2024-ALLDATA.csv. https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2020s-national-total.html.

Share of population living in subsidized housing (2024), by state: (1) HUD (2025). Picture of Subsidized Households (2024, State, Summary of all HUD programs, Number of people: Total). <a href="https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/assthsg.html#2009-2017\_query">https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/assthsg.html#2009-2017\_query</a>; (2) Census Bureau (2024). State population totals and components of change: 2020-2024 (Annual estimates of the resident population for the United States, regions, states, District of Columbia and Puerto Rico: April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2024 (NST-EST2024-POP)). <a href="https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2020s-state-total.html">https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2020s-state-total.html</a>.

Subsidized housing units available, per 1,000 people: (1) For 2004-2008: HUD (2025). Picture of Subsidized Households for 2004-2008 (Select Year, State, Total for all HUD programs, months\_waiting). <a href="https://www.huduser.gov/portal/picture/query.html">https://www.huduser.gov/portal/picture/query.html</a>; (2) For 2009-2024: HUD (2025). Picture of Subsidized Households (Select Year, State, Summary of all HUD programs, Average months on waitlist). <a href="https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/assthsg.html#2009-2017\_query">https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/assthsg.html#2009-2017\_query</a>.

Average months on subsidized housing waitlist: (1) For 2004-2008: HUD (2025). Picture of Subsidized Households for 2004-2008 (Select Year, US total, Total for all HUD programs, months\_waiting). <a href="https://www.huduser.gov/portal/picture/query.html">https://www.huduser.gov/portal/picture/query.html</a>; (2) For 2009-2024: HUD (2025). Picture of Subsidized Households (Select Year, US total, Summary of all HUD programs, Average months on waitlist). <a href="https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/assthsg.html#2009-2017\_query">https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/assthsg.html#2009-2017\_query</a>.

**Share of households that are food insecure:** US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Economic Research Service (2023). *Food Security in the US* (Food Security Data file, Food security, all households). <a href="https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-u-s/interactive-charts-and-highlights/#trends">https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-u-s/interactive-charts-and-highlights/#trends</a>.

Share of households that are food insecure (2021-2023 average), by state: USDA Economic Research Service (2025). Food Security in the US (Food Security Data file, Food insecurity by state). https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-inthe-u-s/interactive-charts-and-highlights/#trends.



**Nutrition assistance (SNAP) average monthly recipients:** USDA Food and Nutrition Service (2024). SNAP Data Tables (National Level Annual Summary: Participation and Costs, 1969-2023). <a href="https://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap">https://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap</a>.

Nutrition assistance (SNAP) average monthly benefit per person: Ibid.

**Average monthly WIC recipients:** USDA Food and Nutrition Service (2025). *WIC Data Tables* (National Level Annual Summary [FY 1974-2024]). <a href="https://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/wic-program">https://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/wic-program</a>.

WIC average monthly food costs per person: Ibid.

Average monthly number of children receiving free or reduced lunch: Ibid.

Share of school lunches served at free or reduced prices: USDA Food and Nutrition Service (2025). *Child Nutrition Tables* (National Level Annual Summary Tables: FY 1969-2024 [National School Lunch - Participation and Meals Served]). <a href="https://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/child-nutrition-tables">https://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/child-nutrition-tables</a>.