

Indicator 20. Median Income

Median income of full-time, year-round workers, by sex and age: 1955 to 1994

Year	Men				Women			
	All ages, 15 and over*	15 to 19 years old	20 to 24 years old	25 to 29 years old	All ages, 15 and over*	15 to 19 years old	20 to 24 years old	25 to 29 years old
Current dollars								
1955	\$4,246	—	\$3,299	—	\$2,734	—	\$2,768	—
1960	5,435	\$1,974	3,916	—	3,296	\$2,450	3,155	—
1965	6,479	3,074	4,706	—	3,883	2,809	3,713	—
1970	9,184	3,950	6,655	—	5,440	3,783	4,928	—
1975	13,144	5,657	8,521	\$11,836	7,719	4,568	6,598	\$8,264
1980	19,173	7,753	12,109	13,986	11,591	6,779	9,407	11,958
1981	20,692	8,252	12,408	17,244	12,457	7,598	10,173	12,772
1982	21,655	8,475	12,530	18,359	13,663	7,879	10,943	13,904
1983	22,508	8,204	12,822	18,865	14,479	7,857	11,062	14,239
1984	24,004	8,886	13,043	20,112	15,422	8,509	11,435	15,129
1985	24,999	9,050	13,827	20,499	16,252	8,372	11,757	15,986
1986	25,894	9,730	14,152	20,720	16,843	8,333	12,192	16,400
1987	26,722	9,859	14,665	21,850	17,504	9,417	12,905	16,779
1988	27,342	10,768	15,373	22,029	18,545	9,329	13,652	17,475
1989	28,419	11,257	15,962	22,471	19,638	9,503	14,272	19,060
1990	28,983	10,513	16,164	22,637	20,597	10,360	14,451	19,475
1991	30,332	10,856	15,800	23,725	21,245	9,584	14,748	20,324
1992	31,011	10,963	16,247	23,545	22,157	9,915	15,260	21,221
1993	31,074	11,061	16,453	23,513	22,466	10,962	15,704	20,860
1994	31,609	12,260	16,276	24,508	23,261	11,083	15,434	21,353
Constant 1994 dollars								
1955	23,480	—	18,243	—	15,119	—	15,307	—
1960	27,212	9,883	19,606	—	16,502	12,267	15,796	—
1965	30,482	14,462	22,141	—	18,269	13,216	17,469	—
1970	35,079	15,087	25,419	—	20,779	14,450	18,823	—
1975	36,207	15,583	23,472	32,604	21,263	12,583	18,175	22,764
1980	34,483	13,944	21,779	25,154	20,847	12,192	16,919	21,507
1981	33,735	13,454	20,230	28,114	20,309	12,387	16,586	20,823
1982	33,257	13,015	19,243	28,195	20,983	12,100	16,806	21,353
1983	33,491	12,207	19,079	28,070	21,544	11,691	16,460	21,187
1984	34,239	12,675	18,604	28,687	21,998	12,137	16,311	21,580
1985	34,432	12,465	19,044	28,234	22,384	11,531	16,193	22,018
1986	35,014	13,157	19,136	28,017	22,775	11,268	16,486	22,176
1987	34,861	12,862	19,132	28,505	22,835	12,285	16,836	21,890
1988	34,253	13,489	19,258	27,597	23,232	11,687	17,103	21,892
1989	33,965	13,454	19,077	26,856	23,471	11,358	17,058	22,780
1990	32,864	11,921	18,329	25,668	23,355	11,748	16,385	22,083
1991	33,004	11,812	17,192	25,815	23,117	10,428	16,047	22,115
1992	32,757	11,580	17,162	24,871	23,405	10,473	16,119	22,416
1993	31,870	11,344	16,874	24,115	23,041	11,243	16,106	21,394
1994	31,609	12,260	16,276	24,508	23,261	11,083	15,434	21,353

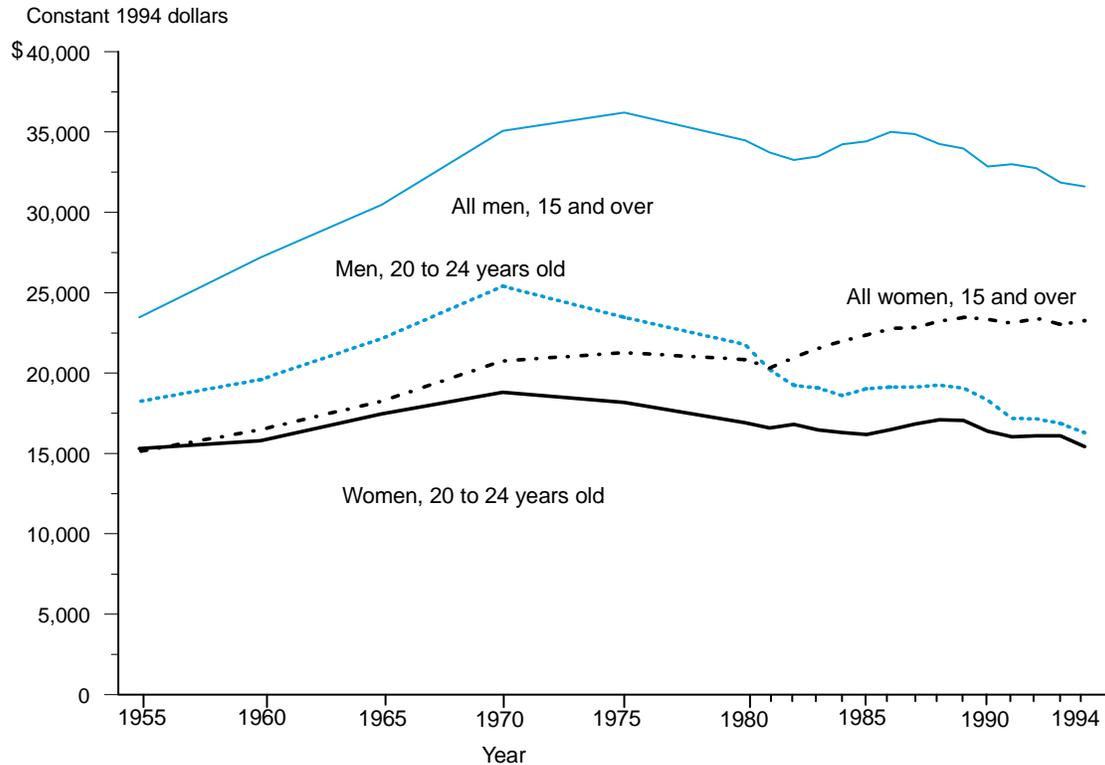
—Data not available.

* Before 1980, a relatively small number of 14-year-olds were included in the 15 to 19 years old and all ages categories.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-60, *Money Income of Households, Families, and Persons in the United States*, various years and unpublished data; and *Money Income and Poverty Status in the United States*, 1989.

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The median income for full-time workers 20 to 24 years old dropped between 1970 and 1994 (after adjustment for inflation). In contrast to the 36 percent income decline among young males, the median income for all men fell 10 percent during the 1970 to 1994 period, and the income for all women rose by 12 percent. During this period of decline, the income of women 20 to 24 years old fell at a slower rate than that of men, so that the gap between young men's and women's incomes narrowed to 5 percent in 1994. The gap between all men's and women's incomes remained much larger than that for younger age groups, with all men's salaries averaging 36 percent higher than those for women in 1994.