

# Median Household Income for States: 2007 and 2008 American Community Surveys

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## Introduction

This report is one of a series produced to highlight results from the 2008 American Community Survey (ACS), focusing on changes between the 2007 ACS and the 2008 ACS. The report series is designed to cover a variety of economic topics, such as poverty, occupation, home values, and labor force participation. This series provides information about the changing economic characteristics of the nation and states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The ACS also provides detailed estimates of demographic, social, economic, and housing characteristics for 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?"

This report presents data on household income at the national and state levels based on the 2007 ACS and 2008 ACS. Household income includes the income of the householder and all other people 15 years and older in the household, whether or not they are related to the householder. For comparisons of household income, this report focuses on the 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.

## What Is the American Community Survey?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey designed to provide communities with reliable and timely demographic, social, economic, and housing data every year. It has an annual sample size of about 3 million addresses across the United States and Puerto Rico and includes both housing units and group quarters. 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. In 2008, the first set of multiyear estimates was released for data collected between January 2005 and December 2007.

These 3-year estimates were published for geographic areas with populations of 20,000 and greater. The U.S. Census Bureau is planning to release the first 5-year estimates in late 2010 for the smallest geographic areas based on data collected between January 2005 and December 2009.

The data contained in this report are based on the ACS sample interviewed in 2007 and 2008. For information on the ACS sample design and other topics, visit [www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www).

By  
Jessica Semega

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2007 ACS. For the states that experienced increases, two states were in the South, Louisiana and Texas; two were in the Northeast, New York and New Jersey; and one was in the Midwest, Kansas.

Real median household income decreased between the 2007 ACS and 2008 ACS in five states—

Arizona, Indiana, Michigan, California, and Florida—compared to only one state, Michigan, which experienced a decline between the 2006 ACS and the 2007 ACS.

In 40 states and the District of Columbia, real median household income in the 2008 ACS was not

statistically different from that in the 2007 ACS.

Median household incomes in 18 states and the District of Columbia were above the U.S. median, while 29 state medians were below it. Three states had median household incomes that were not statistically different from the U.S. median.

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