



Economic Landscape in the US: Sources

Fact: Poverty grew from 39.8 million in 2008 to 43.6 million in 2009.

Source: DeGraw, David. "That 'Official' Poverty Rate? It's Much Worse than You Think." *AlterNet.org*. <http://www.alternet.org/story/148255/>

Facts: The US Census has been calculating poverty levels the same way since the 1960s. The National Academy of Sciences concluded that the current measure is not an accurate gauge of the current US population living in poverty; it fails to accurately reflect the differences in the extent of economic poverty among population groups or geographic areas of the US. Mollie Orshansky, an economist and statistician, created the original poverty level equations for research. These equations were later used by the Census even though they were not intended to determine eligibility for anti-poverty programs. In fact, these equations only reflect purchasing power as it was in 1963.

Source: "Institute for Research on Poverty." *How Is Poverty Measured in the United States?* <http://www.irp.wisc.edu/faqs/faq2.htm>

Fact: As of May 2012, California, Rhode Island, and Nevada have unemployment rates of 10.8%, 11%, 11.6%, respectively.

Source: "Current Unemployment Rates for States and Historical Highs/Lows." *U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics*. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. <http://www.bls.gov/web/laus/lausth1.htm>

Fact: The current national average for unemployment is about 8.2% according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, which is slightly better than the highest point after the most recent recession (10%)

Source: "Databases, Tables & Calculators by Subject." *Bureau of Labor Statistics Data*. <http://data.bls.gov/timeseries/LNS14000000>

Fact: In terms of race/ethnic groups, joblessness is 14.4% for Blacks, 11% for Hispanics, 6.3% for Asians, and 7.4% for Whites. In terms of age, unemployment is 8.2% for 25-34 year olds, 7% for 35-44 year olds, 6.3% for 45-54 year olds, and 6.2% for 55+ year olds

Source: "Unemployment Demographics." *Department of Numbers*. <http://www.deptofnumbers.com/unemployment/demographics/>

Fact: The poverty rate for children under 18 increased to 22% in 2010, meaning that more than 1 in 5 children in America live in poverty

Source: Censky, Annalyn. "Poverty Rate Rises in America." *CNNMoney*. Cable News Network, 13 Sept. 2011. http://money.cnn.com/2011/09/13/news/economy/poverty_rate_income/index.htm

Facts: In areas of concentrated poverty, there is a lack of critical resources for healthy growth & development, such as well-functioning schools, quality medical care, safe outdoor spaces, etc. There are 8 million children living in poverty concentrated areas.

The US Census' American Community Survey shows that after a period of decline from 1990 to 2000, the decade after showed a marked increase in the percentage and number of children living in high-poverty areas, from 9% to 11%. Native American, Black, and Latino children are 6 - 9 times more likely than white children to live in such communities.

Source: From *KIDS COUNT Data Snapshot* from the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Fact: The US Census considers a family of four (2 parents with 2 children) to be in poverty if they have an annual (pre-taxed) income of \$22,113 or less.

Source: "Children in Poverty." *Child Trends DataBank*. <http://www.childtrendsdatabank.org/?q=node/221>

Facts: The US Census showed that there were only a slight number of majority- immigrant occupations; this was actually found before the most current recession, 2005 to 2007. Of the 465 civilian occupations, considered by the Census, only 4 have a majority of immigrant workers. These 4 areas account for less than 1% of the total US workforce. And even with that, American-born workers make up 47% of workers in those 4 occupations.

Steven A. Camarota, Director of Research, and Karen Jensenius, a demographer at Center for Immigration Studies, point out: "the American economy is dynamic, and it would be a mistake to think that every job taken by an immigrant is a job lost by a native. Many factors impact employment and wages. But it would also be a mistake to assume that dramatically increasing the number of workers in these occupations as a result of immigration policy has no impact on the employment prospects or wages of natives."

Source: Camarota, Steven A., and Karen Jensenius. "Jobs Americans Won't Do? A Detailed Look at Immigrant Employment by Occupation." *Center for Immigration Studies*. <http://www.cis.org/illegalImmigration-employment>

Facts: Women working a full-time, salaried job earn a median weekly income of about \$657 (2009). This is 80% of what their male counterparts earned.

Women who work part-time earn more money than their male counterparts

Source: Rampell, Catherine. "The Gender Pay Gap by Industry." *Economix Blog*. <http://economix.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/02/17/the-gender-pay-gap-by-industry/>

Fact: Black women make only 62 cents, and Hispanic women only 53 cents, for every dollar earned by white male.

Source: "Closing the Wage Gap Is Especially Important for Women of Color in Difficult Times." *National Women's Law Center*. <http://www.nwlc.org/resource/closing-wage-gap-especially-important-women-color-difficult-times>
