Document 1815 The government said 13.1 % of Americans , or 31.9 million people , were living in poverty in 1988 . q.i-h-h n_of:x-i v_to:e-i-h-i card:i-i-c n_of:x p:e-u-i n:x p:e-u-i yofc:x-c _ While last year 's figure was down from 13.4 % in 1987 and marked the fifth consecutive annual decline in the poverty rate rice-h-h q:i-h-h n:x _ n:x _ p:e-i- p:e-i- p:e-i- p:e-i- p:e-i- p:e-i-h-h ord:i-i-c a:e-p a:e-p n:x p:e-u-i q:i-h-h n:x n_of:x-i _ q:i-h-h named:x-c named:x-c v_to:e-i-h-i q:i-h-h yofc:x-c n_of:x-i _ neg:e-h a:e-e a_for:e-p The bureau 's report also showed that while some measures of the nation 's economic well-being improved modestly in 1988 , the fruits of prosperity were shared less equitably than the year before q:i-h-h n_of:x-i _ n_of:x-i a:e-h v:e-i-h _ x:e-h-h q:i-h-h n:x p:e-x-i q:i-h-h n:x p:e-x-i n:x _ v:e-i-p comp:e-u-u a:e-e _ q:i-h-h n:x p:e-x-i ARG2 ARG2 ARG2 comp_less he added "Since the late 1960s , the distribution of income has been slowly getting less equal pre-u-i q:i-h-h a_for:e-p year_range:x-c _q:i-h-h n:x _p:e-x-i n:x _ _ a:e-e v_state:e-i-h compre-u-u a_to:e-p-i _ was no reversal { of that trend } between 1987 and 1988 . " v_there:e-i q:i-h-h n_of:x-i _ p:e-x-i q_dem:i-h-h n:x _ p:e-u-i yofc:x-c _ yofc:x-c _ _ hit a record in 1988 ve-i-p q:i-h-h n_of:x-i p:e-u-i yofc:x-c a widely used measure of a nation 's economic health q:i-h-h a:e-e a:e-p n:x p:e-x-i q:i-h-h n_of:x-i a:e-p n:x But the median income of American families fell 0.2 %, the first time it has failed to rise since 1982 .cii-i-i q:i-h-h n:x n:x p:e-x-i a:e-p n_of:x-i v:e-i card:i-i-c n_of:x _ q:i-h-h ord:i-i-c n_of:x _ p:e-u-i yofc:x-c _ Mr. Butz said the divergence in the two measures reflects changes in family size and structure, including the rising number of female-headed families and a sharp increase in income reported by Americans who are n't living in families n.x. named:x-c v_to:e-i-h-i q:i-h-h n:x p:e-u-i q:i-h-h card:i-i-c n:x v:e-i-p n_of:x-i p:e-u-i n_of:x-i p:e-u-i



