

Security

lack assurance that it
tively prevent the loss
ge of its property, in-
employees, and com-
of its ability to perform
viation functions."

agency "has made lit-
ess" in assessing its op-
systems and therefore
know how vulner-
y of its systems are
little basis for deter-
what protective mea-
required."

the findings, FAA Ad-
or Jane Garvey is ex-
testify today that the
has taken the steps
to close the gaps
by the GAO."

Delay Experts' Concerns

will be delayed at least
two, and health experts
ad to more cases of the

empted local health of-
zation campaigns and
could get the first shots.
tee on Immunization
panel that advises the
control and prevention,
eting Thursday to dis-
on.

cern there will be a
Keitel of the Influenza
or College of Medicine
y's working very hard
ny doses of vaccine as
make smart decisions
doses wisely."

v-growing component
imulation and produc-
of the four pharmaceu-
duce flu vaccine —
ie the delay.

administration is work-
naceuticals and Wyeth
correct violations in
es that caused plants to

ded this summer that
off mass campaigns
hen vaccine should be
h high-risk categories,
the California Depart-
es. They include those
ie with chronic health

Texas Department of
being advised to give
greatest risk of serious
influenza, but "our rec-
that — recommenda-
supply of vaccine and
anyone who walks in
physician. We're not
dy's head."

on campaigns held by
might be delayed. If
ortage of vaccine, she
ere will be more people

at widespread flu activ-
mid-December. "Peo-
plicity will be able to get
ys."

rgan to recommend flu
er age 50, but, Keitel
apply problem this year,
being amended to in-
who have underlying

SEP

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Demographic medians of household income

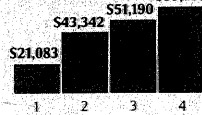
The median household income — meaning half earn more, half earn less — rose to \$40,816 in 1999, up 2.7% from 1998. Median incomes for various groups:

Household types

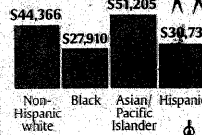
Married couples \$56,827

Those living alone:
Male \$26,852
Female \$17,347

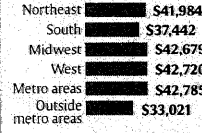
Number of persons in household:



Race, ethnicity



Geography



Age

(full-time year-round workers)

25-34
Male \$32,599
Female \$26,670

35-44
Male \$40,916
Female \$29,155

45-54
Male \$46,228
Female \$30,848

55-64
Male \$44,264
Female \$28,674

65 or older
Male \$45,781
Female \$30,013

Education

(25 or older)

High school graduate
Male \$33,184
Female \$23,061

Some college
Male \$39,221
Female \$27,757

Bachelor's degree or more
Male \$60,201
Female \$41,747

Doctoral degree
Male \$81,657
Female \$60,079

1 - Comparable American-Indian data not available.
2 - May be of any race.
Source: Census Bureau

By Frank Pompa, USA TODAY

Household income hits all

Gap between rich and poor remains wide, but one analyst notes that it's not getting worse

By Haya El Nasser
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — The income of the typical American household hit an all-time high of \$40,816 in 1999, significantly outpacing inflation for the fifth consecutive year, the Census Bureau said Tuesday.

After taking into account the higher cost of living, the median income rose 2.7% from 1998's inflation-adjusted \$39,744. The median refers to the figure at which half of U.S. households make more and half make less.

The Census Bureau's annual report on income and poverty also was filled with uplifting news on the state of the nation's poor and minority groups.

The poverty rate fell for a third consecutive year, from 12.7% in 1998 to 11.8% in 1999, the lowest level since 1979. (The record low of 11.1% was in 1973.) Among children, the poverty rate dropped to 16.9%, also the lowest in 20 years.

"Income gains have been pretty widely distributed by income class, by education, by race," said David Wyss, chief economist with Standard & Poor's.

But not so much by sex. Among full-time, year-round workers, women's median earnings dipped 0.4%, while men's earnings rose 1%. Men earned \$36,476; women earned \$26,324.

As a result, the gender wage gap widened slightly: Women earned 72 cents for every dollar men earned in 1999, down from 73 cents in 1998.

Household income rose more sharply than full-time workers' earnings because the overall figure includes income from part-time jobs as well as from such sources as pensions and rent.

Wyss said the figures suggest that a lot of women with relatively little job experience are working full time because jobs are so easy to come by in today's tight labor market. As a result, women's pay tends to be lower than that of their male counterparts, he said.

Also, a lot of women are willing to take jobs that don't pay well but aren't very demanding so they can "keep up with their kids' schedules," Wyss added.

AFL-CIO President John Sweeney hailed the report as "good news for working families. ... These figures underscore the importance of a high-employment economy."

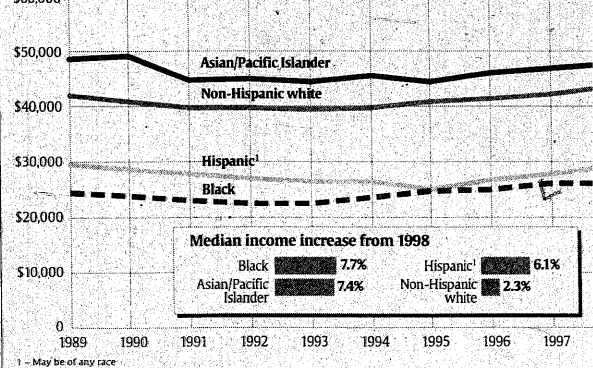
The Census numbers are traditionally used as a report card on a president's economic policies. That's especially the case in a presidential election year.

"The administration can make a great story out of this," Wyss said. Indeed, both President Clinton and his would-be Democratic successor, Vice President Gore, tried to do just that Tuesday.

"This is a good day for America," Clinton said. He called the Census report "another economic mile-

Black households' income had largest percentage increase

Overall median household income rose 2.7% in 1999, compared with the previous year. Black household largest percentage increase. Growth in median income, adjusted for inflation, by race and ethnicity.



By Bob Riba Jr., USA TODAY

Going to work: With the economy roaring and employment high, the poverty rate fell for the third straight year, to its lowest level since '79.

stone" for the administration.

"This certainly shows that progress has been made over the past eight years," added Douglas Hattaway, a spokesman for Gore, the Democratic presidential nominee. "But the central question of the presidential campaign is how we use our prosperity to make new progress and benefit even more of our families in the future."

Ari Fleischer, spokesman for the Republican presidential candidate, Texas Gov. George W. Bush, countered: "I'm not certain that the vice president has ever gotten credit for the strength of the economy. The strength of the economy derives

from the public."

Republicans on Capitol Hill said that if any credit goes to politicians, the GOP-controlled Congress should get it. Rep. Clay Shaw, R-Fla., said that less poverty and higher incomes are "the direct result of the welfare reform law Republicans wrote and finally pushed into law in 1996."

Despite the bounty of good economic news, the report also highlighted a gloomier trend: the persistence of a large gap between the most affluent Americans and the rest of the country.

Last year, the most affluent 20% of households collected 49.4% of

the nation's income in 1998; the poor just 3.6%, the smallest share.

The top 5% (counted for 21.5% in 1999, up slightly from 1998, the report said.)

The Center on Budget and Priorities, a liberal think tank, noted the gap between rich and poor is even wider than the report suggests. It says the report doesn't include the value of stock or other assets owned by the top 5%.

However, Wyss said the numbers on the poor and the poor also can be a glass half-full. "The gap between rich and poor is getting worse," he said. "We're not seeing a deteriorating class." Overall, he said, the gap is narrowing.

Poverty dropped from 12.7% in 1998 to 11.8% in 1999, the lowest level since 1979. Among children, the poverty rate dropped to 16.9%, also the lowest in 20 years.

The media households adjusted hit a record high in 1999, up from \$30,735 in 1998, the year before.

The income gap between blacks and whites is narrower than it was in 1998, but it is still wide, for example, the median income for blacks is just 62% of the median for whites.

There were some declines states or the D. "We haven't seen tracking it in a while," said Daniel Weinberg with the Census Bureau.

Median household income rose 2.7% in 1999, up from 2.3% in 1998. The increase was the largest since 1995.

Poverty dropped from 12.7% in 1998 to 11.8% in 1999, the lowest level since 1979.

Teen students shoot each other in La.

New Orleans police look into claims of gang conflict

The Associated Press



By Ted Jackson, The Times-Picayune, via AP

School violence: A woman embraces her daughter.

Movie market

Studios respond to critics of ads

By Andy Seiler
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — The Hollywood empire has struck back.

A day before movie studio chiefs were to testify on a Federal Trade Commission report that found they had misled parents about the content of their children's movies, the studios

Jack Valenti, former head of the Motion Picture Association, which repelled the initiative.

"We're going to show how we made it," he said.

Absent from the clear-cutting R-rated the FTC and the Committee have said. Nor did the