

How Much Do You Earn?

Income distribution in the United States in the Year 2000

Income of all households in the United States

106,416,000 households

In 2000, just over 280 million people lived in the United States.

On average, 2.6 people were living in each household.

When determining how rich someone is, net worth (assets minus liabilities) is an alternative to income. For many people their income has a strong relationship with their net worth. Although, it is possible to have a high income and a low net worth or a low income and a high net worth (see Bill Gates' income).

Each 100,000 households
1 cm 1 inch
\$3,150,000 \$8,000,000

Who had the highest income in 2000?

We have no way to know, since tax returns are confidential (and not everyone is conscientious when reporting their income). Incomes are available for CEOs from publicly held companies but not privately held ones. Even incomes of celebrities are often just "guesstimates."

George Lucas
\$250,000,000

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
CEO Dell Computer
\$235,912,000

CEO Citigroup
\$216,183,000

\$200,000,000

"IRS Top 400"
\$173,915,617
This is average of the 400 top adjusted gross incomes reported to the IRS. Their combined income was \$70 billion or 0.7% of the United States' GDP.

CEO AOL/Time Warner
\$164,388,000

CEO Cisco Systems
\$157,305,000

Oprah Winfrey
\$150,000,000

CEO Cendant
\$137,447,000

CEO Tyco International
\$125,300,000

\$100,000,000

CEO Qwest Communications
\$97,387,000

CEO Advanced Micro
\$92,246,000

CEO Apple Computer
\$90,000,000

CEO Enron
\$84,445,000

Bruce Willis **Beatles**
\$70,000,000 \$70,000,000

Chief Financial Officer (CFO)
CFO Tyco International
\$61,613,000

David Copperfield **Michael Schumacher**
\$60,000,000 \$59,000,000

Tiger Woods
\$53,000,000

CFO Cisco Systems
\$49,419,000

Siegfried & Roy **Mike Tyson**
\$50,000,000 \$48,000,000

Stephen King **Tom Cruise** **'N Sync**
\$44,000,000 \$43,200,000 \$42,000,000

CFO Sun Microsystems
\$40,623,000

CEO Hewlett-Packard
\$37,125,000

The CFO of Sun Microsystems has an income higher than the CEO due to the gain on stock options exercised in 2000.

CEO Sun Microsystems
\$28,847,000

CFO Hewlett-Packard
\$22,257,000

CFO Apple Computer
\$17,482,000

Where is Bill Gates?

Although known for being one of the richest people in the world, Bill Gates' annual income does not place him at the top of this graph. For example, his income in fiscal year 2000 as Microsoft's Chairman was reported as \$639,401 while at the same time his Microsoft stock was worth around \$50 billion. Only when he sells his stock is it included in his income for that year. Otherwise, it is counted as part of his net worth.

Each 100,000 households
1 cm 1 inch
\$6,300 \$16,000

Income of households in the bottom 99%

105,354,000 households

Highest Quintile

Fourth Quintile

Middle Quintile

Second Quintile

Lowest Quintile

\$80,500
bottom 80%

Mean (Average) \$57,000

\$50,900
bottom 60%

Median \$40,700
bottom 50%

\$31,700
bottom 40%

\$16,500
bottom 20%

Internists
\$142,400

Dentists
\$129,030

Psychiatrists
\$118,640

Chief Executives
\$113,810

Podiatrists
\$107,560

Lawyers
\$88,280

Political Scientists
\$81,040

Astronomers
\$74,510

Sales Managers
\$68,520

Veterinarians
\$63,910

Computer Programmers
\$57,590

Chemists
\$50,080

Registered Nurses
\$44,840

Post Office Mail Carriers
\$38,420

Carpenters
\$32,640

Maintenance & Repair Workers
\$27,850

Office Clerks
\$21,130

Security Guards
\$17,200

Working full-time at minimum wage
\$10,712

Income statistics from Congressional Budget Office Effective Federal Tax Rates 1997 to 2000

Household income distribution based on U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey Annual Demographic Survey, March Supplement

Median job salaries from Bureau of Labor Statistics Department of Labor Occupational Employment Statistics (OES)

High Income Individuals from Forbes Magazine Best Paid CEOs 100 Top Celebrities CFO Magazine Best Paid CFOs BusinessWeek Magazine Top-Paid CEOs...And 10 Who Aren't CEOs

"IRS Top 400" from Statistics of Income Division Internal Revenue Service The 400 Individual Income Tax Returns Reporting the Highest Adjusted Gross Incomes