

Americans Are Well Educated

More than half the adult population has some college experience.

The educational attainment of Americans has increased dramatically over the past few decades. Just 30 years ago, more than half of adults had not even graduated from high school. The parents of the baby-boom generation changed that, encouraging their children to finish high school and go to college. The well-educated baby-boom generation lifted the educational level of the population as a whole.

Among men, the proportion with a high school diploma ranges from a low of 72 percent among men aged 65 or older to more than 88 percent among men aged 45 to 54. The share of men with a college degree peaks among those aged 45 to 54 at 32 percent. Boomer men are better educated than younger men because, as young adults during the Vietnam War, many boomers stayed in college to avoid the draft.

Only 13 percent of women aged 65 or older have a college degree, versus 32 percent of women aged 25 to 34. Although women overall are less likely to be college graduates than men (26 versus 29 percent), among 25-to-34-year-olds women are more likely than men to be college graduates (32 versus 28 percent).

■ Because the educational attainment of young women is higher than that of young men, women's incomes will continue to gain on men's.

Young women are better educated than young men

(percent distribution of people aged 25 to 34 by educational attainment and sex, 2003)

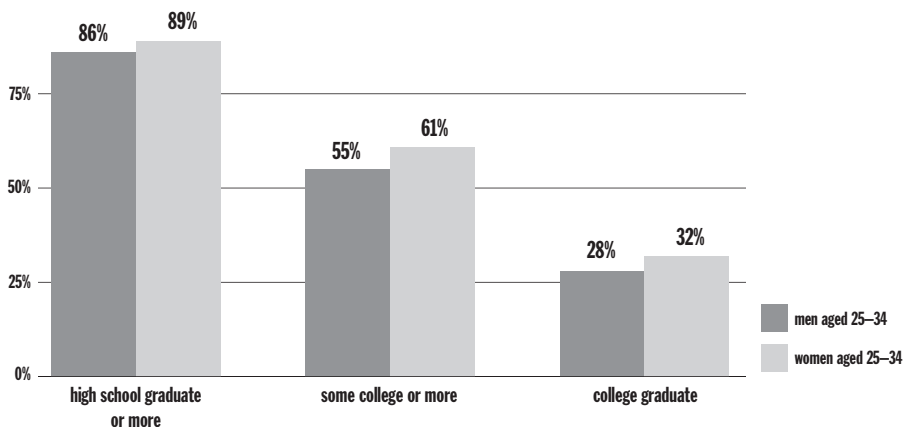


Table 1.1 Educational Attainment by Age, 2003

(number and percent distribution of people aged 25 or older by educational attainment and age, 2003; numbers in thousands)

	total	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 or older
Total people	185,183	39,242	44,074	40,234	27,400	34,234
Not a high school graduate	28,601	5,076	5,281	4,407	4,060	9,777
High school graduate only	59,291	11,392	13,894	12,451	9,167	12,387
Some college, no degree	31,764	7,609	7,661	7,302	4,652	4,540
Associate's degree	15,147	3,377	4,264	3,812	2,105	1,589
Bachelor's degree	33,213	8,849	8,915	7,576	4,254	3,619
Master's degree	12,157	2,216	2,883	3,354	2,230	1,474
Professional degree	2,803	490	686	716	434	477
Doctoral degree	2,209	236	488	616	496	373
High school grad. or more	156,584	34,169	38,791	35,827	23,338	24,459
Some college or more	97,293	22,777	24,897	23,376	14,171	12,072
Bachelor's degree or more	50,382	11,791	12,972	12,262	7,414	5,943
Total people	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Not a high school graduate	15.4	12.9	12.0	11.0	14.8	28.6
High school graduate only	32.0	29.0	31.5	30.9	33.5	36.2
Some college, no degree	17.2	19.4	17.4	18.1	17.0	13.3
Associate's degree	8.2	8.6	9.7	9.5	7.7	4.6
Bachelor's degree	17.9	22.5	20.2	18.8	15.5	10.6
Master's degree	6.6	5.6	6.5	8.3	8.1	4.3
Professional degree	1.5	1.2	1.6	1.8	1.6	1.4
Doctoral degree	1.2	0.6	1.1	1.5	1.8	1.1
High school grad. or more	84.6	87.1	88.0	89.0	85.2	71.4
Some college or more	52.5	58.0	56.5	58.1	51.7	35.3
Bachelor's degree or more	27.2	30.0	29.4	30.5	27.1	17.4

Source: Bureau of the Census, 2003 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement, Educational Attainment in the United States: 2003, Detailed Tables for P20-550, Internet site <http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/education/cps2003.html>; calculations by New Strategist

Most Americans Feel Very Good or Excellent

Just 15 percent say their health is only fair or poor.

Overall, 55 percent of adults say their health is very good or excellent, ranging from a high of 65 percent among people aged 25 to 34 to a low of 37 percent among people aged 65 or older. Among the oldest Americans, the 37 percent who rate their health as very good or excellent surpasses the 28 percent who say their health is only fair or poor.

The higher their education, the better people feel. Fully 70 percent of college graduates say their health is very good or excellent compared with just 28 percent of people who did not graduate from high school. One reason for the poorer health of the less educated is that older Americans are disproportionately represented among those with the least education.

■ As the highly educated baby-boom generation ages, the percentage of older Americans who say their health is very good or excellent may rise.

The majority of people under age 65 say their health is very good or excellent

(percent of people aged 18 or older who say their health is “very good” or “excellent”)

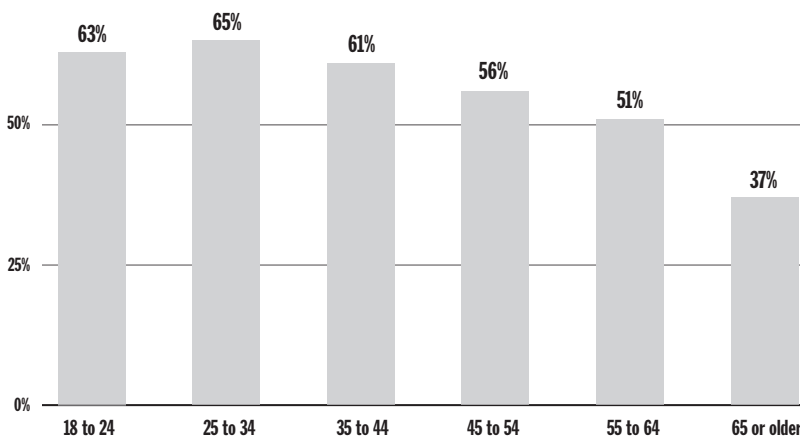


Table 2.1 Health Status, 2003

How is your general health?

(percent of people aged 18 or older responding by selected characteristics, 2003)

	excellent	very good	good	fair	poor
Total people	21.8%	33.6%	29.5%	10.9%	3.9%
Sex					
Men	22.5	33.2	29.8	10.2	3.5
Women	20.9	33.6	29.2	11.6	4.0
Age					
Aged 18 to 24	25.1	37.6	29.4	6.9	0.9
Aged 25 to 34	27.3	37.6	27.7	6.5	1.2
Aged 35 to 44	24.2	37.1	27.8	8.0	2.1
Aged 45 to 54	21.6	33.9	28.4	10.8	4.3
Aged 55 to 64	19.8	30.8	29.3	13.3	6.3
Aged 65 or older	11.2	25.4	34.1	19.5	8.8
Race and Hispanic origin					
Black	18.5	27.6	34.6	13.5	5.2
Hispanic	17.7	25.3	34.1	14.7	3.5
White	22.9	36.0	27.7	9.2	3.5
Other	23.1	29.0	31.5	11.0	4.6
Multiracial	17.5	28.4	29.8	14.3	5.5
Household income					
Under \$15,000	11.9	20.7	31.4	22.3	12.8
\$15,000 to \$24,999	14.9	25.7	35.3	17.7	6.1
\$25,000 to \$34,999	18.1	32.7	33.2	12.1	3.6
\$35,000 to \$49,999	21.5	36.7	30.3	8.2	2.2
\$50,000 or more	30.2	40.8	23.0	4.9	1.1
Education					
Not a high school graduate	9.9	18.5	34.1	23.6	10.5
High school graduate	17.1	30.7	34.5	13.0	4.4
Some college	21.0	36.7	29.3	9.7	3.2
College graduate	31.3	38.7	22.4	5.1	1.6

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Prevalence Data, Internet site <http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/brfss/>; calculations by New Strategist

Homeownership Is at a Record High

Rates have grown the most for the oldest householders.

The percentage of householders who own their home is at a record high, thanks to the aging of the population and low mortgage interest rates. In 2003, 68.3 percent of householders owned their home, up from 63.9 percent in 1990.

Since 1990, householders aged 65 or older have experienced the biggest gain in homeownership, a 4.2 percentage point increase. Behind the rise in homeownership among the oldest Americans is the entry of a more affluent generation into the 65-or-older age group. Homeownership peaks at more than 80 percent among householders aged 55 or older.

Married couples account for 63 percent of the nation's homeowners. Eighty-three percent of couples owned their home in 2003—the highest rate of homeownership among all household types. Every type of household experienced an increase in homeownership between 1990 and 2003.

■ Since older Americans are most likely to own their home, homeownership rates will continue to climb with the aging of the population.

Homeownership rates are highest among older Americans

(percent of householders who own their home, by age, 2003)

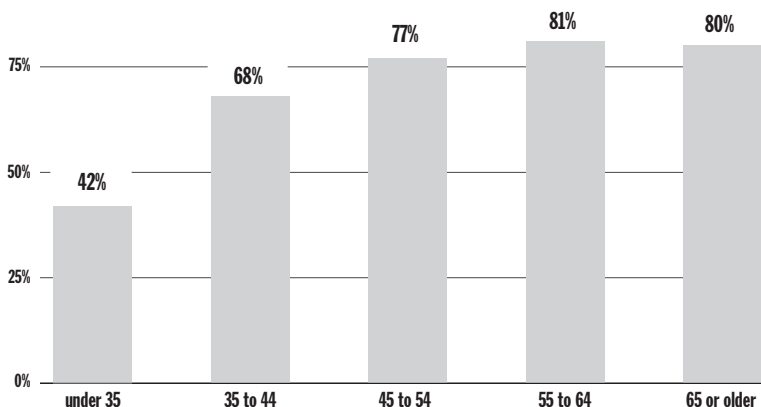


Table 3.1 Homeownership Rates by Age and Household Type, 1990 to 2003

(percent of households owning their home by age of householder and household type, 1990 to 2003; percentage point change, 1990–03 and 2000–03)

	2003	2000	1990	percentage point change	
				2000–03	1990–03
Total households	68.3%	67.4%	63.9%	0.9	4.4
Age of householder					
Under age 35	42.2	40.8	38.5	1.4	3.7
Aged 35 to 44	68.3	67.9	66.3	0.4	2.0
Aged 45 to 54	76.6	76.5	75.2	0.1	1.4
Aged 55 to 64	81.4	80.3	79.3	1.1	2.1
Aged 65 or older	80.5	80.4	76.3	0.1	4.2
Type of household					
Married couple	83.3	82.4	78.1	1.0	5.2
Female householder, no spouse present	49.6	49.1	44.0	0.5	5.6
Male householder, no spouse present	57.9	57.5	55.2	0.4	2.7
Women living alone	59.1	58.1	53.6	1.0	5.5
Men living alone	50.0	47.4	42.4	2.6	7.6

Source: Bureau of the Census, Housing Vacancies and Homeownership surveys, Internet site <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/housing/hvs/hvs.html>; calculations by New Strategist

Household Affluence Peaked in 2000

Despite the struggling economy, the proportion of households with incomes of \$100,000 or more is close to the record high.

The proportion of households with annual incomes of \$100,000 or more reached a peak of 15.2 percent in 2000—the highest level of affluence ever seen in the United States. The figure fell for the next two years, to 14.7 percent in 2002, as the recession reduced earnings. By 2003, however, the proportion was up again to 15.1 percent. In 1990, only 10.3 percent of households had incomes of \$100,000 or more, after adjusting for inflation.

At the other end of the income scale, the share of households with incomes below \$15,000 stood at 15.9 percent in 2003—higher than the all-time low of 14.7 percent reached in 1999, but still below the 17.0 percent of 1990. The percentage of households with incomes in the middle of the scale, between \$25,000 and \$74,999, fell from 49 to 45 percent between 1990 and 2003.

The near-record proportion of households with incomes of \$100,000 or more is a consequence of the baby-boom generation being in its peak earning years. Highly educated, dual-income couples in their forties and fifties are benefiting from their higher education and two-earner lifestyle.

■ The proportion of households with incomes of \$100,000 or more should remain close to record levels until the baby-boom generation begins to retire.

Household affluence is down only slightly

(percent of households with incomes of \$100,000 or more, 1990 to 2003; in 2003 dollars)

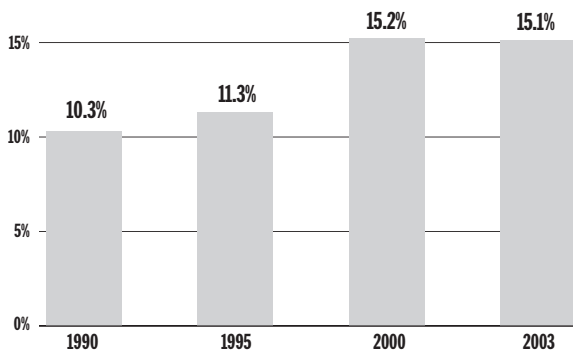


Table 4.1 Distribution of Households by Income, 1990 to 2003

(number of households and percent distribution by income, 1990 to 2003, in 2003 dollars; households in thousands as of the following year)

	total households	total	under \$15,000	\$15,000– \$24,999	\$25,000– \$34,999	\$35,000– \$49,999	\$50,000– \$74,999	\$75,000– \$99,999	\$100,000 or more
2003	112,000	100.0%	15.9%	13.1%	11.9%	15.0%	18.0%	11.0%	15.1%
2002	111,278	100.0	15.7	12.9	12.2	14.9	18.2	11.2	14.7
2001	109,297	100.0	15.3	12.9	12.1	15.2	18.4	11.2	14.9
2000	108,209	100.0	15.0	12.5	12.3	15.2	18.6	11.3	15.2
1999	106,434	100.0	14.7	13.0	12.1	15.2	18.5	11.4	15.0
1998	103,874	100.0	15.5	13.1	12.2	15.0	19.1	11.0	13.9
1997	102,528	100.0	16.4	13.4	12.3	15.5	18.7	10.7	12.9
1996	101,018	100.0	16.7	13.8	12.2	15.9	18.9	10.5	11.9
1995	99,627	100.0	16.8	14.2	12.4	16.2	18.7	10.4	11.3
1994	98,990	100.0	17.9	14.2	12.6	16.1	18.0	10.2	11.0
1993	97,107	100.0	18.0	14.0	13.1	16.0	18.4	9.9	10.6
1992	96,426	100.0	18.0	14.3	12.8	16.1	19.0	9.7	9.9
1991	95,669	100.0	17.6	13.7	13.2	16.4	19.1	9.9	10.0
1990	94,312	100.0	17.0	13.6	12.9	17.0	19.2	10.0	10.3

Source: Bureau of the Census, Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2003, *Current Population Report*, P60-226, 2004; Internet site <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/income03.html>

More Women, Fewer Men at Work

Women's labor force participation rate has climbed since 1990 while men's has declined.

Nearly 60 percent of women aged 16 or older were in the labor force in 2004, up 1.7 percentage points from the 58 percent of 1990. Among men, in contrast, labor force participation fell 2.8 percentage points.

Women's labor force participation grew the fastest among 55-to-64-year-olds—up 11 percentage points between 1990 and 2004 to 56 percent—as career-oriented baby-boom women entered the age group and early retirement became less common. The labor force participation rates fell among the youngest women as more went to college.

Among men, labor force participation rose only among those aged 55 or older, with a 2.6 percentage point gain for men aged 65 or older. The biggest decline occurred among the youngest men, whose participation dropped 12 percentage points as the sluggish job market encouraged more to go to school rather than hunt for a job.

■ Labor force participation rates declined in all but the 55-or-older age groups between 2000 and 2004 as the weak economy discouraged potential workers from even looking for a job.

More older men are working

(percent of men aged 55 or older in the civilian labor force by age, 1990 and 2004)

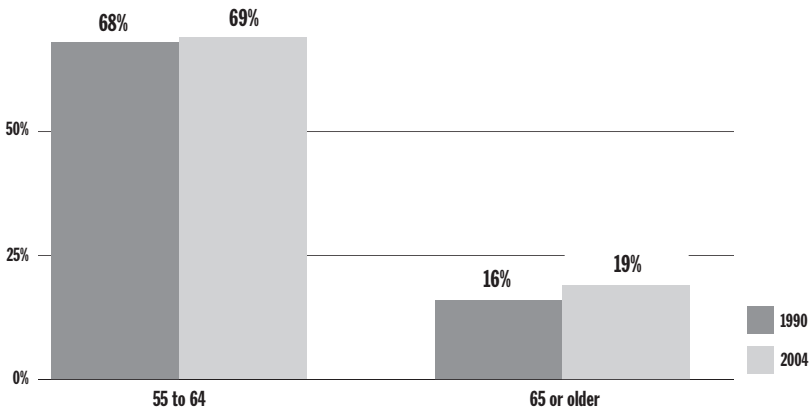


Table 5.1 Labor Force Participation by Sex and Age, 1990 to 2004

(civilian labor force participation rate of people aged 16 or older by sex and age, 1990 to 2004; percentage point change, 1990–2004)

	2004	2000	1990	percentage point change	
				2000–04	1990–04
Total men	73.3%	74.8%	76.1%	-1.5	-2.8
Aged 16 to 19	43.9	52.8	55.7	-8.9	-11.8
Aged 20 to 24	79.6	82.6	84.3	-3.0	-4.7
Aged 25 to 34	91.9	93.4	94.2	-1.5	-2.3
Aged 35 to 44	91.9	92.7	94.4	-0.8	-2.5
Aged 45 to 54	87.5	88.6	90.7	-1.1	-3.2
Aged 55 to 64	68.7	67.3	67.7	1.4	1.0
Aged 65 or older	19.0	17.7	16.4	1.3	2.6
Total women	59.2	59.9	57.5	-0.7	1.7
Aged 16 to 19	43.8	51.2	51.8	-7.4	-8.0
Aged 20 to 24	70.5	73.1	71.6	-2.6	-1.1
Aged 25 to 34	73.6	76.1	73.6	-2.5	0.0
Aged 35 to 44	75.6	77.2	76.5	-1.6	-0.9
Aged 45 to 54	76.5	76.8	71.2	-0.3	5.3
Aged 55 to 64	56.3	51.9	45.3	4.4	11.0
Aged 65 or older	11.1	9.4	8.7	1.7	2.4

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment and Earnings, January, 1991, and Current Population Survey data for 2000 and 2004; Internet site <http://www.bls.gov/cps/home.htm>; calculations by New Strategist

Married Couples Account for Just Over Half of Households

Their dominance is eroding as other household types grow faster.

Between 2000 and 2004, the number of married couples increased only 4 percent, less than the 7 percent gain for all households. Consequently, the married-couple share of households slipped from 52.8 to 51.5 percent. The number of married couples with children under age 18 grew even more slowly, rising just 3 percent during those years. Married couples with children account for only 24 percent of the nation's households, below the 26 percent share held by people who live alone.

Male-headed families are growing the fastest, up 17 percent between 2000 and 2004. Nevertheless, the 5 million male-headed families account for a tiny 4 percent of all households. They are greatly outnumbered by the 14 million female-headed families.

Nonfamily households grew 9 percent between 2000 and 2004, with male-headed nonfamily households growing slightly faster than their female counterparts. This pattern will reverse as the baby-boom generation enters the older age groups and an increasing number of women become widowed and live alone.

■ Single-person households are already one of the most common household types. Their importance will grow as the population ages.

Little growth for married couples

(percent change in number of households by type, 2000–04)

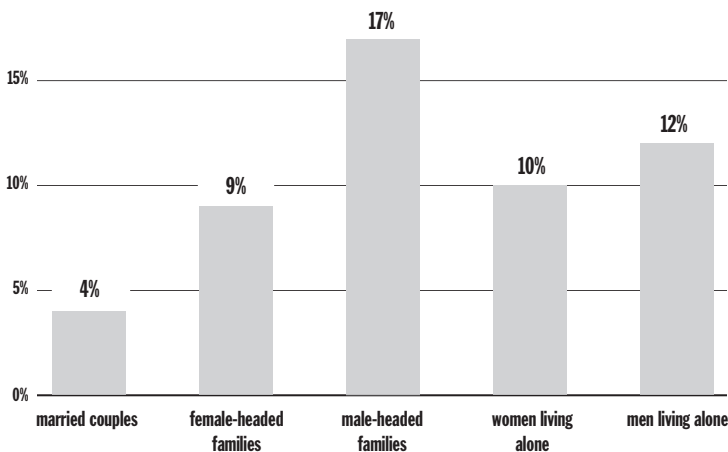


Table 6.1 Households by Type, 2000 and 2004

(number and percent distribution of households by household type, 2000 and 2004; percent change in number, 2000–04; numbers in thousands)

	2004		2000		percent change in number 2000–04
	number	percent distribution	number	percent distribution	
TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS	112,000	100.0%	104,705	100.0%	7.0%
Family households	76,217	68.1	72,025	68.8	5.8
Married couples	57,719	51.5	55,311	52.8	4.4
With own children under age 18	27,041	24.1	26,359	25.2	2.6
Female householder, no spouse present	13,781	12.3	12,687	12.1	8.6
With own children under age 18	9,593	8.6	8,727	8.3	9.9
Male householder, no spouse present	4,717	4.2	4,028	3.8	17.1
With own children under age 18	2,461	2.2	2,164	2.1	13.7
Nonfamily households	35,783	32.0	32,680	31.2	9.5
Female householder	19,647	17.5	18,039	17.2	8.9
Living alone	17,024	15.2	15,543	14.8	9.5
Male householder	16,136	14.4	14,641	14.0	10.2
Living alone	12,562	11.2	11,181	10.7	12.4

Source: Bureau of the Census, 2004 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement, Internet site <http://pubdb.census.gov/macro/032004/hhinc/toc.htm>; calculations by New Strategist

More Women than Men

Females outnumber males by nearly 5 million.

Although there are more females than males in the population, females do not begin to outnumber males until the 40-to-44 age group. Among people aged 85 or older, there are only 44 men for every 100 women. Males slightly outnumber females at younger ages because boys outnumber girls at birth. Women outnumber men at older ages because, throughout life, males have higher death rates than females. Research has shown that higher male death rates are due primarily to biological factors rather than lifestyle differences.

Between 2000 and 2003, the population grew 3 percent, to more than 290 million. The most populous five-year age group is 40 to 44, numbering nearly 23 million in 2003. This age group is larger than any other because it is filled with the youngest members of the baby-boom generation. The 55-to-59 age group grew the fastest between 2000 and 2003—up 16 percent as the oldest boomers aged into their late fifties. Another relatively large generation is now entering adulthood. Millennials, spanning the ages from 9 to 26 in 2003, are behind the 8 percent increase in the number of 20-to-24-year-olds since 2000.

■ Because death rates are higher for males than for females, women will always greatly outnumber men in old age.

Women increasingly outnumber men with age

(number of males per 100 females at selected ages, 2003)

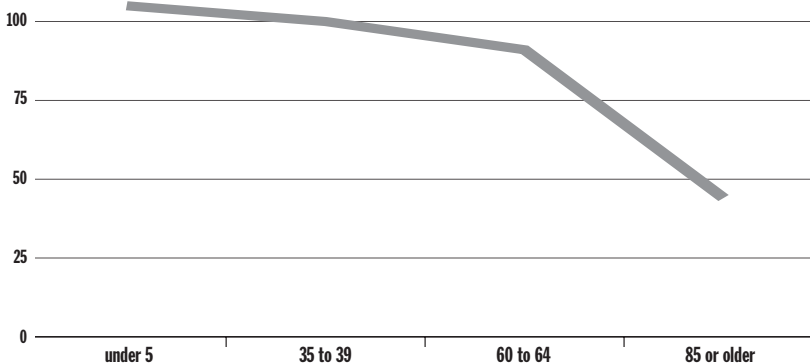


Table 7.1 Population by Age and Sex, 2003*(number of people by age and sex, and sex ratio by age, 2003; numbers in thousands)*

	total	female	male	sex ratio
Total people	290,810	147,773	143,037	97
Under age 5	19,769	9,664	10,105	105
Aged 5 to 9	19,775	9,655	10,120	105
Aged 10 to 14	21,193	10,337	10,857	105
Aged 15 to 19	20,477	9,959	10,519	106
Aged 20 to 24	20,728	10,064	10,664	106
Aged 25 to 29	19,168	9,395	9,773	104
Aged 30 to 34	20,705	10,255	10,450	102
Aged 35 to 39	21,408	10,681	10,727	100
Aged 40 to 44	22,963	11,555	11,407	99
Aged 45 to 49	21,761	11,030	10,731	97
Aged 50 to 54	19,043	9,731	9,313	96
Aged 55 to 59	15,794	8,133	7,661	94
Aged 60 to 64	12,106	6,342	5,764	91
Aged 65 to 69	9,746	5,221	4,526	87
Aged 70 to 74	8,591	4,767	3,824	80
Aged 75 to 79	7,453	4,354	3,099	71
Aged 80 to 84	5,416	3,361	2,055	61
Aged 85 or older	4,713	3,269	1,445	44
Aged 18 to 24	28,900	14,025	14,875	106
Aged 18 or older	217,766	112,119	105,647	94
Aged 65 or older	35,919	20,971	14,948	71
Median age (years)	35.9	37.2	34.5	–

*Note: The sex ratio is the number of men per 100 women; (–) means not applicable.**Source: Bureau of the Census, Internet site <http://www.census.gov/popest/national/asrh/NC-EST2003-as.html>; calculations by New Strategist*

Spending Rose 5 Percent between 1990 and 2003

The average household spent less in 2003 than in 1990 on many items, however.

Between 1990 and 2003, spending by the average household rose 5 percent, after adjusting for inflation. In 2003, the average household spent \$40,817, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Expenditure Survey.

The average household spent less in 2003 than in 1990 on many categories of products and services. Food spending fell 9 percent during those years, after adjusting for inflation. Both food-at-home (groceries) and food-away-from-home (restaurants) spending was down. Spending on alcoholic beverages fell 2 percent. Apparel spending was down 26 percent. The average household cut spending on gifts for people living in other households by a substantial 19 percent.

Spending rose on many nondiscretionary items between 1990 and 2003. Spending on property taxes was up 65 percent, for example, while spending on telephone services rose 18 percent. Spending on water and other public services was up 24 percent. Out-of-pocket spending on health insurance climbed 58 percent between 1990 and 2003, to \$1,252. Spending on drugs rose 36 percent. Although spending on entertainment was up 6 percent, spending on fees and admissions to entertainment events fell 2 percent.

■ Although many discretionary categories lost ground between 1990 and 2003, the average household boosted its cash contributions by 23 percent.

Households are spending less on many items

(percent change in spending by the average household on selected products and services, 1990 to 2003; in 2003 dollars)

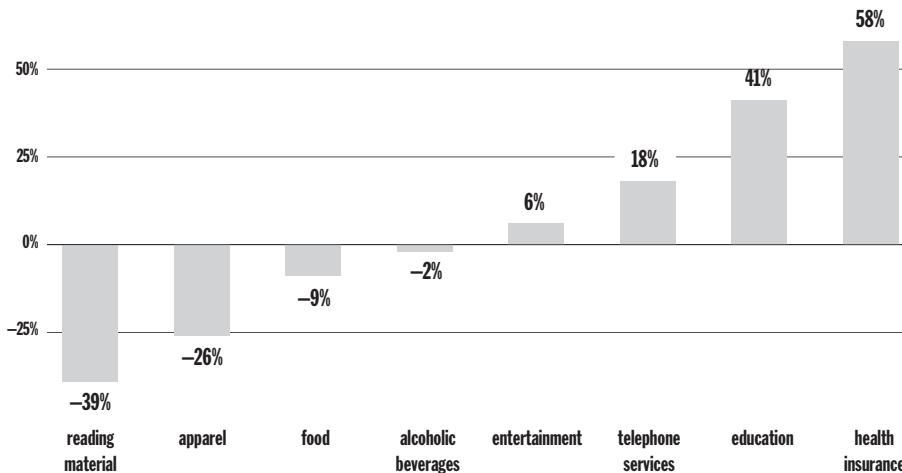


Table 8.1 Spending Trends, 1990 to 2003

(average annual spending of consumer units by product and service category, 1990, 2000, and 2003; percent change 1990–2003 and 2000–03; in 2003 dollars)

	2003	2000	1990	percent change	
				2000–03	1990–2003
Number of consumer units (in 000s)	115,356	109,367	96,968	5.5%	19.0%
Average before-tax income	\$51,128	\$47,693	\$43,521	7.2	17.5
Average annual spending	40,817	40,639	38,733	0.4	5.4
FOOD	5,340	5,510	5,863	-3.1	-8.9
Food at home	3,129	3,227	3,391	-3.0	-7.7
Cereals and bakery products	442	484	502	-8.7	-12.0
Cereals and cereal products	150	167	176	-10.0	-14.8
Bakery products	292	317	328	-8.0	-10.9
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	825	849	912	-2.9	-9.5
Beef	246	254	298	-3.2	-17.3
Pork	171	178	180	-4.1	-5.1
Other meats	102	108	135	-5.5	-24.5
Poultry	145	155	147	-6.4	-1.6
Fish and seafood	124	117	112	5.5	10.8
Eggs	37	36	41	1.9	-9.6
Dairy products	328	347	403	-5.5	-18.5
Fresh milk and cream	127	140	191	-9.2	-33.5
Other dairy products	201	206	212	-2.5	-5.0
Fruits and vegetables	535	557	557	-3.9	-3.9
Fresh fruits	171	174	173	-1.8	-1.3
Fresh vegetables	172	170	161	1.3	6.8
Processed fruits	108	123	127	-12.1	-14.9
Processed vegetables	84	90	96	-6.4	-12.1
Other food at home	999	990	1,018	0.9	-1.9
Sugar and other sweets	119	125	128	-4.8	-7.2
Fats and oils	86	89	93	-3.0	-7.3
Miscellaneous foods	490	467	459	5.0	6.9
Nonalcoholic beverages	268	267	291	0.4	-7.8
Food prepared by household on trips	36	43	48	-15.7	-24.6
Food away from home	2,211	2,283	2,472	-3.1	-10.5
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES	391	397	400	-1.6	-2.2
HOUSING	13,432	13,159	11,877	2.1	13.1
Shelter	7,887	7,599	6,600	3.8	19.5
Owned dwellings	5,263	4,916	4,030	7.1	30.6
Mortgage interest and charges	2,954	2,819	2,480	4.8	19.1
Property taxes	1,344	1,217	815	10.5	65.0
Maintenance, repairs, insurance, other expenses	965	881	737	9.5	30.9
Rented dwellings	2,179	2,173	2,092	0.3	4.2
Other lodging	445	511	476	-12.8	-6.6
Utilities, fuels, and public services	2,811	2,659	2,579	5.7	9.0
Natural gas	392	328	336	19.5	16.8
Electricity	1,028	973	1,034	5.6	-0.6

(continued)

Net Worth Rose for All Households

Net worth peaks in the 55-to-64 age group.

The median net worth of American households stood at \$86,100 in 2001, according to the Federal Reserve Board's Survey of Consumer Finances (the latest data available). Median net worth increased by 40 percent between 1992 and 2001, after adjusting for inflation.

Net worth, which is one of the most important measures of wealth, is what remains after a household's debts are subtracted from its assets. The booming stock market of the 1990s explains some of the rise in net worth between 1992 and 2001. A more important reason for the increase, however, is the rise in homeownership.

Not surprisingly, net worth is greatest for those with the highest incomes. Households with incomes in the top 10 percent of the household income distribution had a median net worth of more than \$800,000 in 2001.

Net worth rises with age as people pay off their debts. Householders under age 35 had a median net worth of just \$11,600 in 2001. Net worth peaks in the 55-to-64 age group at \$181,500.

■ The continuing rise in home values is sure to have added to household net worth since 2001.

Net worth is much greater for high-income households

(median net worth by household income percentile, 2001)

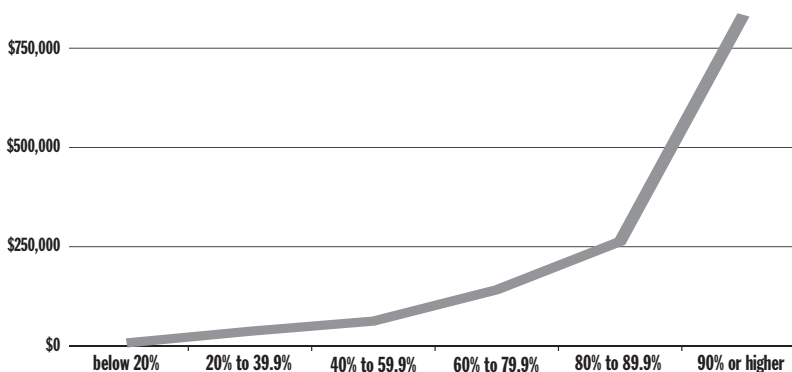


Table 9.1 Net Worth of Households, 1992 and 2001

(median net worth of households by selected characteristics, 1992 and 2001; percent change, 1992–2001; in 2001 dollars)

	2001	1992	percent change
Total households	\$86,100	\$61,300	40.5%
Household income percentile			
Below 20 percent	7,900	4,900	61.2
20 to 39.9 percent	37,200	34,400	8.1
40 to 59.9 percent	62,500	48,900	27.8
60 to 79.9 percent	141,500	93,200	51.8
80 to 89.9 percent	263,100	142,500	84.6
90 percent or higher	833,600	450,000	85.2
Age of householder			
Under age 35	11,600	11,400	1.8
Aged 35 to 44	77,600	55,100	40.8
Aged 45 to 54	133,000	96,800	37.4
Aged 55 to 64	181,500	141,100	28.6
Aged 65 to 74	176,300	121,700	44.9
Aged 75 or older	151,400	107,500	40.8
Education of householder			
No high school diploma	25,500	23,100	10.4
High school diploma	58,100	47,600	22.1
Some college	71,600	71,400	0.3
College degree	213,300	121,500	75.6
Race and Hispanic origin of householder			
Non-Hispanic white	120,900	86,200	40.3
Nonwhite or Hispanic	17,100	14,800	15.5

Source: Federal Reserve Board, Recent Changes in U.S. Family Finances: Evidence from the 1998 and 2001 Survey of Consumer Finances, *Federal Reserve Bulletin*, January 2003; calculations by New Strategist