U.S. Household Incomes
A Snapshot

Date last updated: December 8, 2017

Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco
Education & Outreach
Households include all family and non-family members living in the same house or apartment.

Household income is the sum of all money income earned by all members of the household ages 15 and up.

Mean (average) HH income is a calculated value =

\[
\text{Mean HH Income} = \frac{\text{Total $ HH Income}}{\text{Total # of HHs}}
\]

Median HH income is the value that lies at the center of all HH incomes (ranked from lowest to highest), where half the values lie above and half lie below.

The income distribution may be unbalanced or “skewed” in one direction (positive or negative), causing the mean and the median to be unequal.
Distribution of U.S. Household Income
Total Money Income in 2016

2016 Median = $59,039
2016 Mean = $83,143

This group includes households reporting income greater than or equal to $200K.

What are the Facts?

1. If you ignore the last group (incomes equal to or greater than $200,000), how would you describe the shape of the household income distribution? (See slide 3)

2. What percentage of U.S. households earned between $75,000 and $79,999 per year in 2016? (See slide 3)

3. What was the dollar amount difference between median and mean (average) household income in 2016? (See slide 3)

4. What percentage of U.S. households earned less than $59,039? What percentage earned greater than $59,039? (See slide 2 or 3)

5. Why do you suppose household incomes of $200,000 or greater are grouped together?

View an in-depth talk about income inequality on our YouTube Channel

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