



ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF THE GREAT RECESSION ON INCOME, POVERTY, AND HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE IN THE UNITED STATES

STATE-LEVEL DATA

For state-level data, the U.S. Census Bureau provides two-year averages. Therefore, when the report refers to a change in a particular statistic “over the course of the recession,” the change reflects the difference between the average value over the 2006-2007 time period, and the average value over the 2008-2009 period, of that statistic. If a statistic is said to have increased or decreased, it means that the change is statistically significant from zero at the 90-percent confidence level.

Poverty Status

- The poverty rate increased in 16 states over the Great Recession; Arizona had the largest increase. 13 states had increases of more than 2 percentage points.
- 17 states experienced increases in the number of people living below the poverty threshold during the recession.
- The increases in people in poverty were concentrated in the West, with an increase of 2.2 million, the South (increase of 2.1 million) and the Midwest (increase of 1.5 million).
- Over the recession, the number of people in poverty rose by 1.5 percent in the South, by 2.2 percent in the Midwest and 2.8 percent in the West.
- The percent of children living in poverty increased in 13 states, with 9 states reporting an increase of more than 4 percentage points.
- The percent of the 65 and older population living in poverty increased in 3 states, and decreased in 7 states.
- The percent of female-headed households living in poverty increased in 6 states and declined in 1 state.

Health Insurance Coverage

- Over the recession, the number of uninsured increased in 8 states, while the percentage of uninsured increased in 5 states.
- Texas was the state with the largest increase in the number of uninsured (426,000). Other states with an increase in the number of uninsured were California, Connecticut, Georgia, Michigan, Ohio, Rhode Island and South Dakota. Two states (Ohio and Rhode Island) had an increase in the percent of uninsured of at least 2.0 percentage points.
- Only Massachusetts experienced a significant reduction in both the number and percentage of uninsured.
- Over the recession, the share of the population with employment-based coverage declined in 19 states, while the share with government health insurance coverage increased in 27 states.

Household Income

- Real median household income dropped in 21 states over the Great Recession.
- In 8 states (Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Rhode Island, and West Virginia), the drop in income exceeded 7.0 percent. The typical household in Georgia experienced the greatest decline (13.1 percent).
- Income for the typical household increased over the Great Recession in only 3 states (North Dakota, Oklahoma, and Utah).
- 8 states in the South region (with includes 16 states and the District of Columbia) experienced a decline in real median household income. The Midwest and West regions also suffered disproportionately: 6 of the 12 Midwest states and 6 of the 13 states in the West experienced declines in income. Only one state in the Northeast region experienced a decline in income.

For additional information on changes at the state level in poverty status, household incomes, and health insurance coverage over the Great Recession, please see below table.

Table 2. Impact of the Great Recession on Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage at the State Level

	Employment and Income				Poverty						Health Insurance Coverage							
	Median Household Income		Payroll Employment	Unemployment Rate	Overall Poverty Rate		Population in Poverty		Children (younger than 18)		Without Health Insurance				Employer-Based Coverage		Government Coverage	
	2008-2009 Two year average	Change over the Great Recession	Change over the Great Recession (December 2007 to December 2009)	Change over the Great Recession (December 2007 to December 2009)	Percent of population living in poverty, 2008-2009 average	Change over the Great Recession	Number of people living in poverty, 2008-2009 average	Change over the Great Recession	Percent of children, under 18 years old, living in poverty, 2008-2009 average	Change over the Great Recession	Number of people without health insurance coverage, 2008-2009 average	Change over the Great Recession	Percent of population without health insurance coverage, 2008-2009 average	Change over the Great Recession	Percent of population with employer-based health insurance coverage, 2008-2009 average	Change over the Great Recession	Percent of population with government health insurance coverage, 2008-2009 average	Change over the Great Recession
2009 Dollars	Percent Change	Thousands	Percentage Points	Percent	Percentage Points	Thousands	Thousands	Percent	Percentage Points	Thousands	Thousands	Percent	Percentage Points	Percent	Percentage Points	Percent	Percentage Points	
United States	\$ 49,945	-3.2 *	-8,743	5.0	13.8	1.4 *	41,699	4,831 *	19.9	2.2 *	48,507	2,181 *	16.0	0.5 *	57.1	-2.4 *	29.8	2.4 *
Alabama	\$ 42,144	0.3	-156	7.0	15.4	1.0	723	67	24.8	4.1	675	56	14.4	0.8	58.6	-2.6	33.4	3.9 *
Alaska	\$ 62,675	0.1	2	2.4	9.9	1.7	68	13	12.5	2.4	128	12	18.8	1.4	56.6	-2.4	31.5	1.4
Arizona	\$ 46,238	-6.1 *	-288	4.9	19.6	5.2 *	1,276	369 *	28.8	8.8 *	1,273	36	19.5	-0.1	50.0	-4.6 *	32.6	2.6
Arkansas	\$ 37,987	-6.9 *	-53	2.6	17.1	1.3	485	48	23.3	0.4	526	41	18.5	1.1	48.6	-3.7 *	35.0	2.9 *
California	\$ 56,466	-3.1 *	-1,371	6.5	15.0	2.5 *	5,491	982 *	20.6	2.6 *	7,084	382 *	19.3	0.8	51.8	-1.9 *	29.1	2.5 *
Colorado	\$ 58,321	-4.8 *	-145	3.0	11.7	1.9	577	105 *	16.3	3.3	771	-42	15.6	-1.2	59.9	-1.3	24.7	4.1 *
Connecticut	\$ 64,644	-2.6	-96	3.9	8.2	-0.2	284	-8	10.1	-1.9	380	55 *	11.0	1.6 *	66.0	-2.2	25.8	-0.6
Delaware	\$ 51,312	-8.6 *	-29	5.0	10.9	1.6	96	16	16.3	3.5	106	5	12.1	0.4	63.8	-4.0 *	30.7	3.0 *
District of Columbia	\$ 54,260	4.2	2	6.4	17.2	-0.9	102	-2	30.2	-0.4	66	6	11.2	0.6	58.9	-1.5	32.1	0.6
Florida	\$ 45,159	-5.9 *	-803	7.0	13.9	1.9 *	2,523	364 *	19.7	3.4 *	3,868	130	21.2	0.5	50.0	-3.5 *	31.6	2.9 *
Georgia	\$ 44,696	-13.1 *	-338	5.2	16.9	3.8 *	1,626	393 *	22.4	1.9	1,844	184 *	19.2	1.6	56.6	-3.4 *	26.7	0.4
Hawaii	\$ 58,469	-10.4 *	-42	3.8	11.2	2.9 *	140	35 *	16.6	5.6 *	100	-3	8.0	-0.2	65.7	-3.5 *	36.9	5.4 *
Idaho	\$ 47,009	-6.0 *	-54	5.6	13.0	3.2 *	197	52 *	18.4	5.6 *	234	16	15.4	0.7	57.4	-2.4	26.4	0.4
Illinois	\$ 52,961	-0.2	-426	5.5	12.8	2.5 *	1,627	327 *	19.4	4.8 *	1,765	27	13.9	0.1	60.8	-3.4 *	27.6	3.5 *
Indiana	\$ 45,324	-6.9 *	-228	5.1	15.2	4.0 *	962	255 *	24.8	8.2 *	837	105	13.2	1.6	60.6	-6.2 *	30.1	5.5 *
Iowa	\$ 50,337	-1.1	-65	2.6	10.1	0.5	302	19	14.2	0.3	313	22	10.4	0.6	63.2	-1.5	27.1	-
Kansas	\$ 46,206	-6.3 *	-59	2.5	13.2	0.9	360	26	17.5	-1.0	347	7	12.7	0.2	58.9	-1.4	28.2	0.3
Kentucky	\$ 41,828	1.0	-104	5.1	17.0	0.8	725	54	23.4	1.1	688	83	16.1	1.5	56.1	-2.2	32.7	1.4
Louisiana	\$ 42,423	4.0	-54	3.5	16.2	-0.3	712	18	21.4	-1.8	790	-58	18.0	-2.2	53.1	1.1	30.4	-
Maine	\$ 47,276	-3.6	-33	3.4	11.7	1.1	153	14	17.1	3.3	135	16	10.3	1.2 *	56.7	-3.3 *	39.2	3.0 *
Maryland	\$ 63,828	-5.9 *	-118	3.9	9.1	0.6	512	32	11.1	-0.1	731	-38	13.0	-0.7	67.4	-1.1	24.3	0.6
Massachusetts	\$ 59,732	0.1	-151	4.9	11.1	-0.5	722	-11	16.9	1.5	323	-175 *	5.0	-2.9 *	68.3	1.9	33.2	4.8 *
Michigan	\$ 47,797	-7.0 *	-402	7.4	13.5	1.4	1,325	126	19.9	2.3	1,251	154 *	12.7	1.7 *	64.0	-3.2 *	28.9	0.9
Minnesota	\$ 55,404	-7.6 *	-150	2.7	10.5	1.7	541	89	16.5	4.1 *	450	-3	8.7	-0.1	63.2	-3.9 *	28.2	3.4 *
Mississippi	\$ 35,693	-5.5	-71	4.4	20.6	-1.0	592	-34	27.7	-3.1	510	-62	17.7	-2.0	46.7	-3.0	38.4	-

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Missouri	\$ 47,316	-0.4	-137	4.3	14.4	2.3 *	853	152 *	21.3	1.4	827	76	14.0	1.0	58.1	-2.4	30.2	1.9
Montana	\$ 41,587	-6.4 *	-25	2.8	13.2	-	128	5	20.1	3.7	153	-	15.8	-0.6	51.5	-2.1	31.9	2.6
Nebraska	\$ 50,065	-1.9	-28	1.7	10.2	0.2	182	5	14.9	1.8	208	-16	11.7	-1.1	62.3	0.1	28.3	-
Nevada	\$ 52,985	-5.0	-170	7.8	11.9	2.3 *	311	65 *	17.2	3.9	517	48	19.8	1.4	59.5	-2.5	23.2	2.3 *
New Hampshire	\$ 65,028	-4.3	-23	3.5	7.4	1.8 *	97	23 *	9.5	3.5 *	135	-8	10.4	-0.6	69.3	-1.9	23.0	2.0 *
New Jersey	\$ 64,918	-3.8	-228	5.5	9.3	0.5	797	45	13.3	1.7	1,286	-58	14.9	-0.7	65.4	-0.4	23.3	2.3 *
New Mexico	\$ 42,742	-3.4	-44	4.6	19.3	3.9 *	381	81 *	27.6	6.9 *	449	8	22.7	-	45.8	-3.0	35.1	3.0 *
New York	\$ 50,243	-1.4	-319	4.2	15.0	0.7	2,876	163	22.7	3.0 *	2,779	188	14.4	0.8	56.2	-3.4 *	33.6	2.5 *
North Carolina	\$ 42,337	-3.1	-283	6.0	15.4	0.7	1,431	107	22.0	1.2	1,553	6	16.7	-0.5	54.6	-1.3	32.3	3.1 *
North Dakota	\$ 49,759	7.6 *	5	1.3	11.4	1.0	71	8	15.8	1.4	71	2	11.3	0.1	60.4	-0.3	25.3	1.1
Ohio	\$ 46,318	-7.0 *	-423	5.2	13.5	1.0	1,542	133	19.9	1.0	1,476	246 *	12.9	2.0 *	62.3	-3.9 *	28.8	1.3
Oklahoma	\$ 45,907	6.7 *	-56	3.2	13.3	-1.0	476	-27	21.0	1.2	579	-68	16.1	-2.3	55.2	2.0	34.0	1.7
Oregon	\$ 50,315	-1.4	-148	5.4	12.0	-0.4	457	-4	16.3	0.3	649	1	17.0	-0.4	57.2	-0.7	27.9	2.7 *
Pennsylvania	\$ 49,690	-2.3	-256	4.3	11.0	0.2	1,356	21	14.9	-1.0	1,310	104	10.6	0.9	62.5	-1.6	30.3	2.6 *
Rhode Island	\$ 52,337	-7.6 *	-37	6.7	12.9	2.9 *	133	29 *	20.8	5.1	125	23 *	12.0	2.3 *	59.8	-4.3 *	31.5	0.5
South Carolina	\$ 41,548	-5.4 *	-135	6.8	13.9	1.2	621	75	18.7	0.4	737	40	16.4	0.2	55.7	-1.4	31.7	1.4
South Dakota	\$ 48,615	0.9	-8	1.9	13.6	3.5 *	108	30 *	19.2	5.3 *	104	18 *	13.0	2.0	56.7	-2.2	31.5	3.1 *
Tennessee	\$ 40,034	-6.8 *	-218	5.2	15.8	0.9	977	85	22.4	1.8	947	102	15.2	1.2	52.0	-3.9 *	35.5	2.5
Texas	\$ 46,895	0.1	-307	3.8	16.6	0.1	4,048	189	24.3	0.9	6,259	426 *	25.6	0.8	48.9	-2.5 *	27.7	2.4 *
Utah	\$ 60,396	6.4 *	-86	3.5	8.6	-0.8	239	-6	11.4	-1.2	389	-2	14.0	-1.1	67.2	2.7	18.7	-0.5
Vermont	\$ 51,416	-1.4	-13	2.7	9.2	0.3	56	2	10.9	1.0	59	-7	9.6	-1.1	61.0	-2.2	36.8	4.1 *
Virginia	\$ 61,126	0.2	-164	3.6	10.5	1.9 *	815	158 *	14.8	1.5	988	-83	12.7	-1.3	63.7	-0.6	29.4	1.2
Washington	\$ 58,404	-1.3	-186	4.6	11.0	2.0 *	730	149 *	15.6	4.5 *	839	97	12.6	1.1	60.1	-3.1 *	31.2	2.2
West Virginia	\$ 39,170	-7.2 *	-28	5.0	15.2	0.1	273	2	21.5	-1.1	262	12	14.5	0.7	58.3	-1.1	38.1	3.1 *
Wisconsin	\$ 51,122	-5.4 *	-187	4.0	10.3	-0.3	572	-6	14.3	-1.3	531	65	9.6	1.0	63.8	-3.4 *	30.1	4.4 *
Wyoming	\$ 52,803	5.1	-13	4.7	9.7	-0.8	52	-2	11.6	-1.7	79	6	14.7	0.6	58.5	-2.0	28.1	1.5

Notes: "-" represents or rounds to zero.

* denotes changes statistically significant from zero at the 90-percent confidence level.

Percent change over the Great Recession compares the 2006-2007 two year average to the 2008-2009 two year average.

The Federal Poverty Line for a family of 4 in 2009 is \$21,756.

Sources: Joint Economic Committee Majority Staff based data from U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements, 2007-2010.