



District of Columbia **STATE DATA CENTER**
MONTHLY
BRIEF September
2010

By
 Joy Phillips, Ph.D.

This report is based on data produced by the U.S. Census Bureau and may differ from data produced by other entities.

Income and Earnings in the District of Columbia

This report presents data on income and earnings in the District of Columbia based on information collected in the 2009 American Community Survey (ACS) conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. The data are based on a sample of District residents and are subject to sampling variability. The degree of uncertainty for an estimate arising from sampling variability is represented through the use of a margin of error. Statistical significance of comparable estimates is also shown.

Data Highlights

- Median household income in the District in 2009 increased to \$59,290, statistically different from the 2007 median of \$55,901 (Table 1).
- Mean household income and per capital income for 2009 were \$92,068 and \$40,797, respectively, but were not statistically different from the 2007 levels (Table 1).

- Percentage of households earning less than \$10,000 increased significantly from 2007 to 2009 from 9.9 percent to 11.6 percent (Table 1).
- There was a significant increase in the percentage of households earning over \$200,000 between 2007 and 2009 (8.9 to 10.1 percent) (Table 1).
- About one in three households (30.4 percent) reported incomes of \$100,000 or more in 2009 (Table 1).

Table 1. Household Income and Per Capita Income: District of Columbia 2007 to 2009

Income	Estimates			2007 – 2009 Statistical Significance
	2009	2008	2007	
Median Household Income (\$)	\$59,290	\$57,654	\$55,901	*
Mean Household Income (\$)	\$92,068	\$92,854	\$91,381	
Per Capita Income (\$)	\$40,797	\$41,926	\$41,771	
Income level by households (percent)				
Less than \$10,000	11.6%	11.2%	9.9%	*
\$10,000 to \$14,999	4.8%	4.2%	5.3%	
\$15,000 to \$24,999	7.8%	8.4%	9.1%	*
\$25,000 to \$34,999	7.9%	7.9%	9.1%	
\$35,000 to \$49,999	11.4%	12.4%	12.2%	
\$50,000 to \$74,999	15.3%	15.4%	15.2%	
\$75,000 to \$99,999	10.9%	11.3%	10.0%	
\$100,000 to \$149,999	13.0%	12.7%	13.0%	
\$150,000 to \$199,999	7.3%	6.5%	7.3%	
\$200,000 or more	10.1%	10.0%	8.9%	*

Note: An * indicates that the estimate is significantly different (at the 90% confidence level) than the estimate from the comparative year.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009 American Community Survey

Median household income in DC continues to rise despite economic downturn

- Among race groups, whites had the highest per capita income (\$65,865) and the highest median household income (\$99,401) in 2009 (Table 2).
- In 2009, Hispanics per capita income was \$26,026 and their median household income was \$46,821 (Table 2).

Table 2. Per Capita Income and Household Income by Race and Ethnicity: District of Columbia 2009

Subject	Mean Income (dollars)	Margin of Error
Per Capita Income by Race and Hispanic or Latino Origin		
Total Population	\$ 40,797	+/-1,138
One Race		
White	65,865	+/-2,779
Black	23,447	+/-995
American Indian and Alaska Native	55,840	+/-17,022
Asian	51,255	+/-6,273
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	N	N
Some Other Race	22,071	+/-5,986
Two or more races	24,456	+/-4,522
Hispanic or Latino origin (any race)		
	26,026	+/-3,473
Subject	Median Income (dollars)	Margin of Error
Household Income by Race and Hispanic or Latino Origin of Householder		
All Households	\$ 59,290	+/-1,710
One Race		
White	\$99,401	+/-4,097
Black	36,948	+/-1,734
American Indian and Alaska Native	137,713	+/-93,671
Asian	78,564	+/-11,968
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	N	N
Some Other Race	40,962	+/-12,556
Two or more races	51,197	+/-7,986
Hispanic or Latino origin		
	46,821	+/-7,280

Note: N – number of sample cases too small for display.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009 American Community Survey

- Income level was highest among persons 25 to 44 years old, followed by persons 45 to 64 years old, in 2009 (Table 3).
- Median household income of family households (\$71,208) was about \$20,000 more than for nonfamily households (\$51,734) in 2009 (Table 3).
- Family households with children under 18 years had median incomes (\$46,624) about half that of family households without children under 18 years (\$87,636) in 2009 (Table 3).

Table 3. Median Household Income by Age and Family Type: District of Columbia 2009

Subject	Median Income (dollars)	Margin of Error
Household Income by Age of Householder		
15-24 years	\$27,160	+/-8,462
25-44 years	69,524	+/-2,931
45-64 years	62,006	+/-3,751
65 years and over	42,495	+/-3,270
Family Households		
Families	\$71,208	+/-3,818
With own children under 18 years	46,624	+/-4,290
With no own children under 18 years	87,636	+/-6,283
Married-couple families	128,342	+/-6,134
Female householder, no husband present	35,575	+/-3,904
Male householder, no wife present	42,960	+/-7,234
Nonfamily Households		
Nonfamily households	\$51,734	+/-2,125
Female householder	48,366	+/-3,807
Living alone	43,531	+/-3,339
Not living alone	82,005	+/-16,063
Male householder	57,816	+/-5,498
Living alone	47,444	+/-5,532
Not living alone	111,358	+/-17,705

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009 American Community Survey

One in six District women earned more than \$100,000 in 2009

Table 4. Earnings by Income Level and Educational Attainment

Subject	Male	Margin of Error	Female	Margin of Error
Population 16 years and over with earnings				
Median earnings (dollars)	\$44,450	+/-2,517	\$39,106	\$1,659
Full-time year-round workers with earnings				
\$1 to \$9,999 or less	0.7%	+/-0.4	2.0%	+/-0.7
\$10,000 to \$14,999	2.4%	+/-0.9	2.8%	+/-0.9
\$15,000 to \$24,999	8.4%	+/-1.6	7.8%	+/-1.3
\$25,000 to \$34,999	10.7%	+/-1.7	13.8%	+/-1.8
\$35,000 to \$49,999	18.1%	+/-1.8	19.1%	+/-2.1
\$50,000 to \$64,999	11.5%	+/-1.7	14.7%	+/-1.8
\$65,000 to \$74,999	7.1%	+/-1.5	8.8%	+/-1.5
\$75,000 to \$99,999	13.1%	+/-1.4	14.0%	+/-1.8
\$100,000 or more	28.0%	+/-1.8	16.9%	+/-1.5
Median Earnings by Educational Attainment				
Population 25 years and over with earnings	\$50,625	+/-2,001	\$45,490	+/-2,213
Less than high school graduate	22,296	+/-3,485	18,970	+/-2,813
High school graduate	32,091	+/-3,035	22,931	+/-2,982
Some college or associate's degree	37,211	+/-2,632	35,928	+/-2,795
Bachelor's degree	62,283	+/-5,752	55,065	+/-6,845
Graduate or professional degree	98,256	+/-4,175	70,756	+/-3,559

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009 American Community Survey

- In 2009, for full-time, year-round workers, one in four men (28 percent) earned \$100,000 or more, compared to one in six women (16.9 percent). This was an improvement for women since 2007 when one in seven women earned \$100,000 or more (Table 4).
- The median earnings for men were higher than for women regardless of educational attainment. Women earned an average of 82 cents for every dollar a man earned in 2009 (Table 4).

Glossary

Sampling variability: Variation that occurs by chance because a sample is surveyed rather than the entire population.

Margin of Error: A margin of error (MOE) describes the precision of the estimate at a given level of confidence. The confidence level associated with the MOE indicates the likelihood that the sample estimate is within a certain distance from the population value. Confidence levels of 90 percent, 95 percent and 99 percent are commonly used. The Census Bureau statistical standard for published data is to use a 90-percent confidence level. The margin of error can be interpreted roughly as providing a 90 percent probability that the interval defined by the estimate minus the margin of error and the estimate plus the margin of error (the lower and upper confidence bounds) contains the true value.

Statistical Significance: The determination of whether the difference between two estimates is not likely to be from random chance (sampling error) alone. This approach will allow the user to ascertain whether the observed difference is likely due to chance (and thus is not statistically significant) or likely represents a true difference that exists in the population as a whole (and thus is statistically significant).



For more information contact:
D.C. Office of Planning State Data Center
1100 4th Street SW, Suite E650, Washington, DC 20024
202.442.7600 ph 202.442.7638 fax
www.planning.dc.gov

