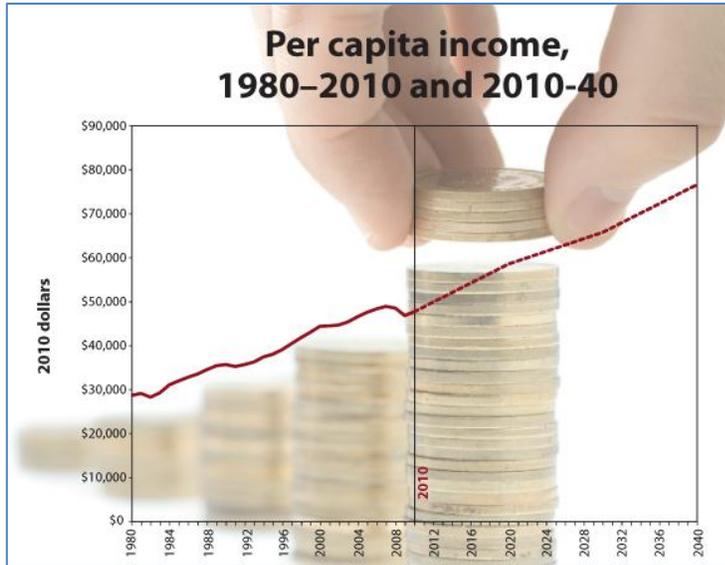


Growing Inequality in Income, Wealth, and Life Expectancy
Charts compiled by Edith Rasell
Minister for Economic Justice, Justice and Witness Ministries, UCC
raselle@ucc.org; 866-822-8224

Figure 1: Income in the U.S. rises steadily but many people don't share in these gains.

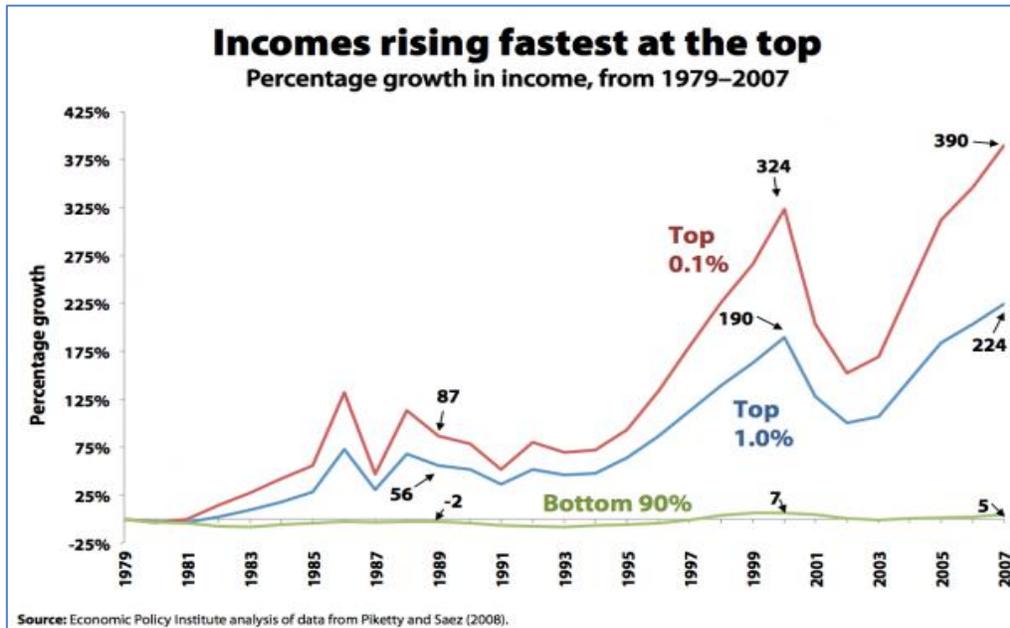


Since 1980, per capita income has risen from about \$29,000 to \$48,000 in 2010, adjusted for inflation. It is expected to reach \$75,000 in 2040.

Many people and households have been struggling financially over the past 30 years. But, until the past few years, the U.S. economy has been experiencing strong growth.

Economic Policy Institute
http://www.epi.org/publication/we_arent_going_broke/

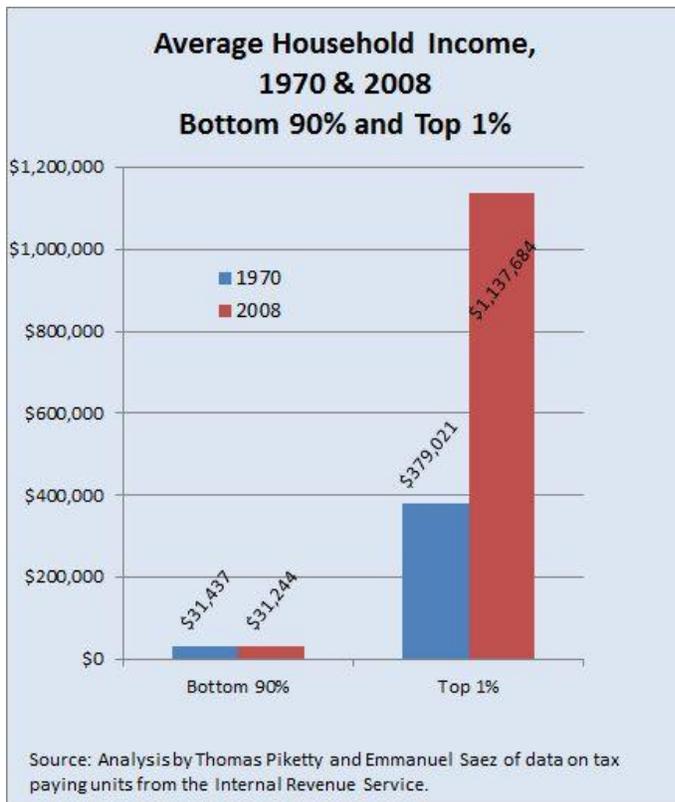
Figure 2
Growth in income, 1979-2007: top 1% of households, top 1/10th of 1%, and bottom 90%



Note the 91-99% households are not shown.

Economic Policy Institute
<http://www.epi.org/publication/data-income-gains-support-99ers/>

Figure 3: Average income, 1970 and 2008, bottom 90% and top 1% (actual 2008 dollars)

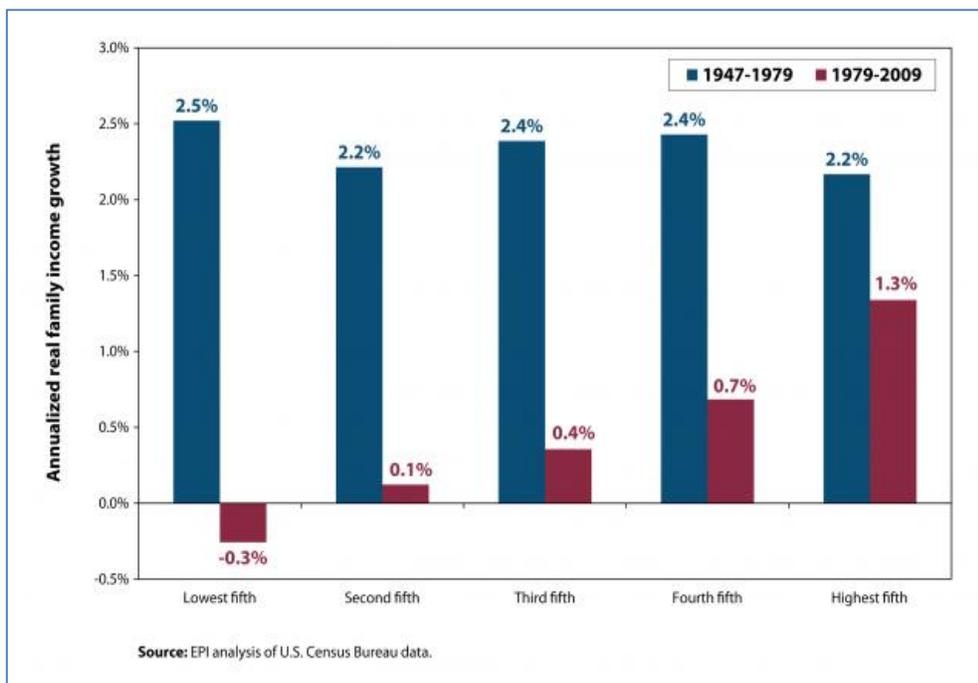


Among the bottom 90%, average income has actually declined, adjusted for inflation.

Over these years, the GDP of the US doubled. If the income had been equally shared, each of the households in the bottom 90% would have had 30% more income in 2008: about \$40,000 on average.

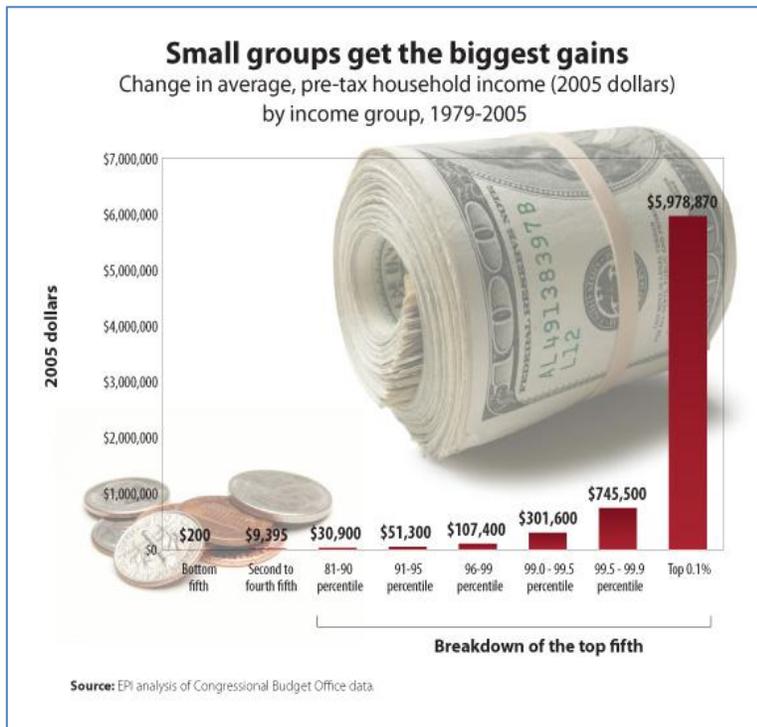
See “Unemployment is our Nation's Problem, not the Deficit” at http://www.ucc.org/justice/financial-crisis/U_not_deficit.html

Figure 4: Change in income, 1947-79 and 1979-2009, for each fifth of families



During 1947-79, families at all income levels had fairly equal average annual growth in income. But during 1979-2009 there were marked differences. Those at the top had much faster income growth than those in the middle and bottom. Among the very highest income families, growth would have been even faster than 1.3% each year.

Figure 5: From 1979 to 2005, the very highest income households had largest gains.

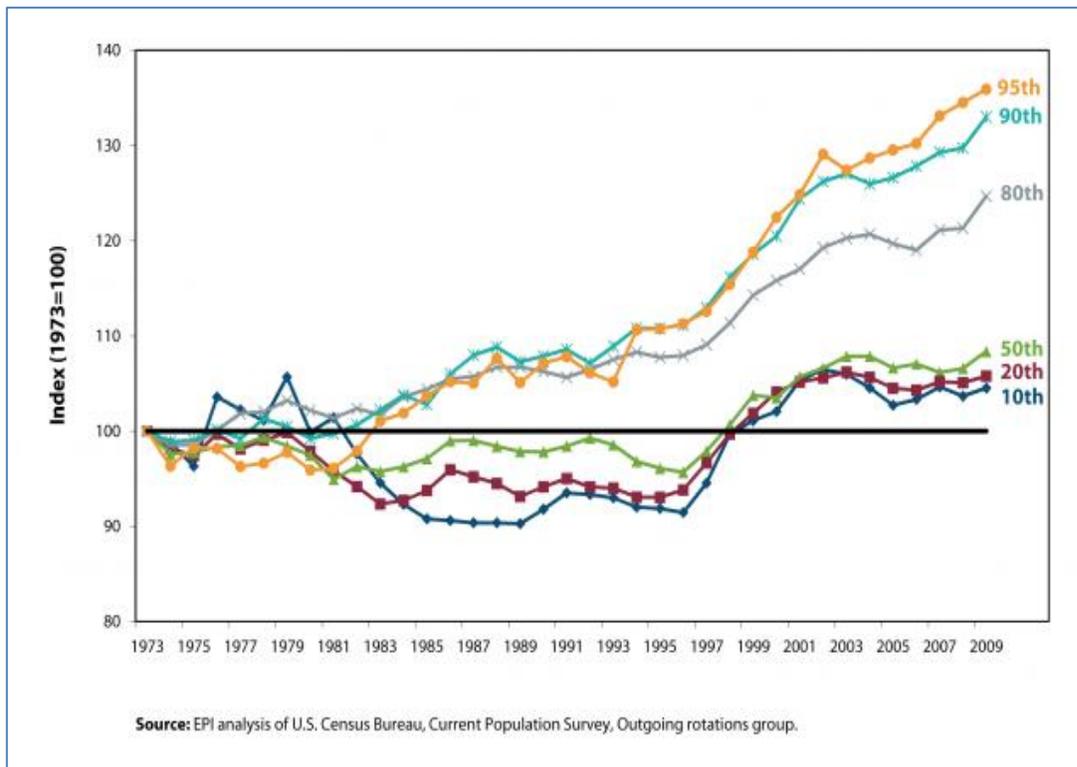


This graph is similar to the previous one but it breaks out various levels in the top fifth and shows actual dollar amount.

The numbers in the two figures are not identical because the beginning and ending points are slightly different.

Economic Policy Institute
http://www.epi.org/publication/swa_preview_income_inequality_in_dollars_and_cents/

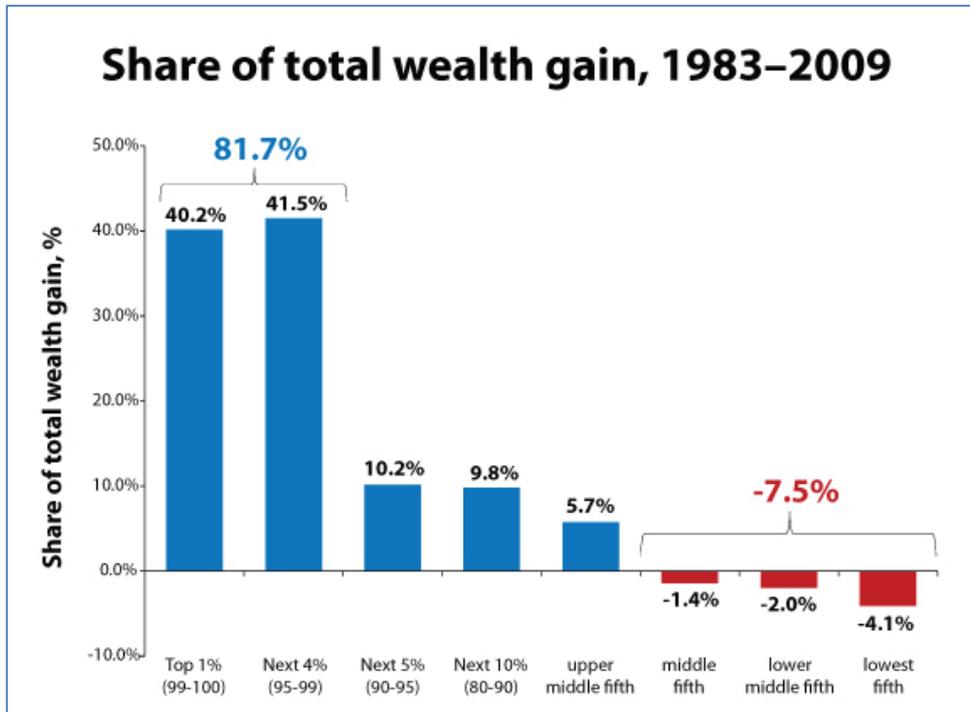
Figure 6: Change in wages for workers across the wage/salary spectrum, 1973-2009.



Note the inequality: larger wages rise faster than the lower ones.

Economic Policy Institute
<http://stateofworkingamerica.org/subjects/wages/>

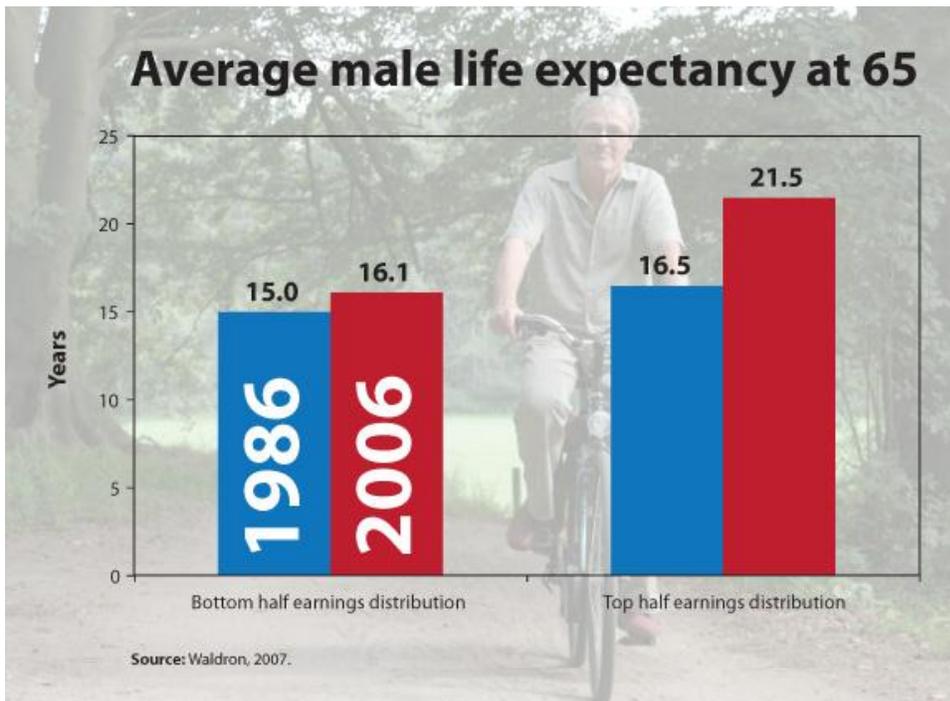
Figure 7: The nation's gain in WEALTH shared among households



Of the entire gain in national wealth between 1983 and 2009, 81.7% went to the top 5% of wealth holders. Over 40% went to the top 1%. Among the bottom 60% of households, wealth in 2009 was below the level of 1983. (This was in part due to the financial crisis and decline in the prices of homes)

Economic Policy Institute
<http://www.epi.org/publication/large-disparity-share-total-wealth-gain/>

Figure 8: Growing inequality in life expectancy



As inequality in income and wealth has grown, so too has inequality in life expectancy. The increase in longevity for the top half of the earnings distribution is much greater than for the lower half.

Economic Policy Institute
http://www.epi.org/publication/rich_man_poor_man/