

# Income and Poverty in Hawaii: 2008

---

The U.S. Census Bureau released income and poverty data from its American Community Survey on September 22, 2009 and September 29, 2009. Data are available to areas with population of 65,000 and above in 2008, Kauai County fell beyond the scope of the data availability. The following is a brief summary of the data released related to Hawaii:

## Income

Hawaii's median household<sup>1</sup> income was \$67,214 in 2008, ranked the 5<sup>th</sup> in the nation among all the states and District of Columbia.

By county, Honolulu County had the highest median household income at \$70,951, followed by Maui County at \$67,619, and Hawaii County at \$54,044.

Whites had the highest median household income at \$69,763 followed by Asians at \$67,170, and then by Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders at \$61,154. Households with householder age 45-64 years of age had the highest median household income at \$77,678 while those with householder age under 25 had the least median household income at \$37,115.

Hawaii families had a median family income of \$78,659 in 2008, ranked the 6<sup>th</sup> place among all the states. Honolulu County had the highest median family income at \$81,670, followed by Maui County at \$77,598, and Hawaii County at \$67,056. Married couple families had the highest median family income at \$87,372, while families with female householder without husband had the lowest median family income at \$48,884.

Median income for non-family households was \$39,518 in 2008, only 50.2% of median family income.

Per capita income at the state level was \$29,386 in 2008, higher than the U.S. average of \$27,589. Honolulu County had the highest per capita income at \$30,205, followed by Maui County at \$29,128, and Hawaii County at \$25,070.

---

<sup>1</sup> A household consists of all the people who occupy a housing unit. A household includes the related family members and all the unrelated people who share the housing unit. There are two major categories of households: "family" and "nonfamily". A family is a group of two people or more (one of whom is the householder) related by birth, marriage, or adoption and residing together. All such people (including related subfamily members) are considered as members of one family. A family is a subset of a household.

## Poverty

6.0% of Hawaii families fell below poverty level in 2008 as compared with 9.7% for the U.S. Asian families had the lowest poverty rate at 4.4%, while Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islander families had the highest poverty rate at 13.6%. Poverty rate for married couples was 3.3%, while for families with female householder no husband present, poverty rate was 17.1%.

9.1% of Hawaii's population was below poverty level as compared with 13.2% for the U.S. Hawaii's poverty rate was the fifth lowest in the nation among all the states. By county, Maui County had the lowest poverty rate at 8.1%, while Hawaii County had the highest poverty rate at 13.3%.

**Table 1. Selected Income and Poverty Indicators and Ranking in the U.S.: 2008**

Indicator	U.S.	Hawaii	Rank in U.S. 1/
Median Household Income (In 2008 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars)	52,029	67,214	5
Median Family Income (In 2008 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars)	63,366	78,659	6
Percent of Households With Retirement Income	17.2	22.3	3
Percent of Households With Cash Public Assistance Income	2.3	3.1	9
Median Earnings for Male Full-Time, Year-Round Workers (In 2008 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars)	45,556	45,577	20
Median Earnings for Female Full-Time, Year-Round Workers (In 2008 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars)	35,471	36,709	15
Percent of People Below Poverty Level in the Past 12 Months (For Whom Poverty Status is Determined)	13.2	9.1	47
Percent of Related Children Under 18 Years Below Poverty Level in the Past 12 Months	17.8	9.6	50
Percent of People 65 Years and Over Below Poverty Level in the Past 12 Months	9.9	6.8	49
Percent of Children Under 18 Years Below Poverty Level in the Past 12 Months (For Whom Poverty Status is Determined)	18.2	10.0	50

1/ Ranking among 50 states and District of Columbia. For income categories, highest income state ranks 1. For poverty categories, state with the lowest poverty rate ranks 51.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey.