

NEW CENSUS DATA SHOW FEW GAINS FOR CALIFORNIA

New Census data show that the economic recovery that began in 2001 has resulted in minimal gains for low- and middle-income Californians. Four years into the economic recovery, 2005 household incomes remained below those of 2001 and the 2005 share of Californians in poverty remained higher than in 2001. In addition, the share of Californians without health coverage increased in 2005 and continued to be among the highest in the nation.

K E Y F A C T S

- **Household income rose modestly in 2005, but remained below that of 2001.**

The income of the median or typical California household – the household at the middle of the income distribution – rose by \$887 from \$50,868 in 2004 to \$51,755 in 2005, after adjusting for inflation.¹ Nationally, the inflation-adjusted income of the typical household rose by \$509 from \$45,817 in 2004 to \$46,326 in 2005.² However, in both California and the nation as a whole, the 2005 median household income remained below that of 2001, which marked the end of the recent recession. The state’s 2005 typical household income was \$365 below that of 2001, while the nation’s 2005 typical household income was \$243 below that of 2001. This trend marks a departure from that of the early 1990s recovery. Four years into the recovery which began in 1991, the state’s typical household income was \$24 above what it was in 1991.

Four-Year Period:	Dollar Change by Fourth Year of Recovery (2005 Dollars)	Percent Change
1991 to 1995	\$24	0.1%
2001 to 2005	(\$365)	-0.7%

A different Census Bureau survey, the American Community Survey (ACS), shows that California’s typical household income ranked 9th among the 50 states in 2005, with New Jersey posting the highest household income (\$61,672) and Mississippi posting the lowest household income (\$32,938).³

- **The share of Californians in poverty was constant in 2005, but remained above that of 2001.**

More than one in eight Californians (13.2 percent) had incomes below the federal poverty level (FPL) in 2005, the same share as in 2004, but notably higher than the share in 2001 (12.6 percent).⁴ Between 2001 and 2005, the share of Californians in poverty rose by 0.6 percentage points. In the nation as a whole, the share of people in poverty also increased,

rising from 11.7 percent in 2001 to 12.6 percent in 2005.⁵ This contrasts with the recovery of the early 1980s. Four years into that recovery, the poverty rate declined by 1.4 percentage points. However, the poverty rate increased by one percentage point four years into the early 1990s recovery.

Change in Poverty Rate During First Four Years of Economic Recoveries			
Four-Year Period:	Poverty Rate at End of Recession	Poverty Rate Four Years Later	Percentage Point Change
1982 to 1986	14.1%	12.7%	-1.4
1991 to 1995	15.7%	16.7%	1.0
2001 to 2005	12.6%	13.2%	0.6

Data from the ACS show California had the 20th highest poverty rate among the 50 states in 2005. New Hampshire had the lowest poverty rate (7.5 percent) and Mississippi had the highest rate (21.3 percent).⁶ In addition, the ACS data show that the poverty rate was highest (28.2 percent) for California households headed by a single adult with children and lowest (3.4 percent) for married couples without children.⁷

- **The share of California’s children in poverty increased between 2001 and 2005.**

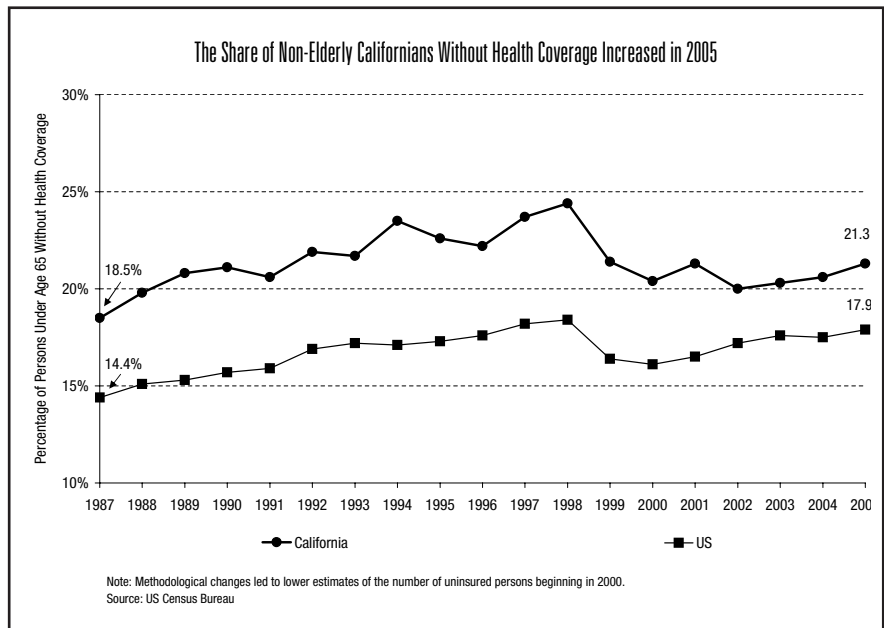
The child poverty rate increased in both California and the nation as a whole between 2001 and 2005. The share of California’s children in poverty rose from 16.4 percent in 2001 to 18.5 percent in 2005.⁸ During the same period the share of the nation’s children in poverty increased from 16.3 percent to 17.6 percent. This marks a change from the early 1990s recovery when the share of California’s children in poverty declined by 0.1 percentage points by the fourth year.

Change in Child Poverty Rate During First Four Years of Economic Recoveries			
Four-Year Period:	Poverty Rate at End of Recession	Poverty Rate Four Years Later	Percentage Point Change
1991 to 1995	25.1%	25.0%	-0.1
2001 to 2005	16.4%	18.5%	2.1

California had the 17th highest child poverty rate of the 50 states in 2005. Mississippi had the highest rate (30.7 percent), while New Hampshire had the lowest rate (5.5 percent).⁹

- **The share of Californians lacking health coverage increased in 2005.**

In 2005, 6.841 million Californians under age 65 (21.3 percent) lacked health coverage, up from 6.567 million (20.6 percent) in 2004.¹⁰ Only five states – Arizona, Florida, Louisiana, New Mexico, and Texas – had higher shares of uninsured non-elderly residents than California in 2005. Nationally, 17.9 percent of people under age 65 lacked health coverage in 2005, up from 17.5 percent in 2004. The share of California’s children without health coverage also increased in 2005. A full 1.349 million of California’s children (13.8 percent) lacked health coverage in 2005, up from 1.166 million (12.2 percent) in 2004.¹¹



The share of non-elderly residents without health coverage has generally increased since 1987 in both California and the nation as a whole. In 1987, 18.5 percent of non-elderly Californians lacked health coverage and 14.4 percent of the nation's non-elderly had no health coverage.¹²

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ENDNOTES

- ¹ US Census Bureau, Current Population Survey data, *Table H-8: Median Household Income by State: 1984 to 2005*, downloaded from <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/income/histinc/h08.html> on August 30, 2006.
- ² US Census Bureau, *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage: 2005* (August 2006), downloaded from <http://www.census.gov/prod/2006pubs/p60-231.pdf> on August 29, 2006.
- ³ US Census Bureau, American Community Survey data, downloaded from <http://factfinder.census.gov/> on August 29, 2006.
- ⁴ US Census Bureau, Current Population Survey data, *Table 21: Number of Poor and Poverty Rate, by State: 1980 to 2005* downloaded from <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/histpov/hstpov21.html> on August 29, 2006.
- ⁵ US Census Bureau, *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage: 2005* (August 2006), downloaded from <http://www.census.gov/prod/2006pubs/p60-231.pdf> on August 29, 2006.
- ⁶ US Census Bureau, American Community Survey data, downloaded from <http://factfinder.census.gov/> on August 29, 2006.
- ⁷ US Census Bureau, American Community Survey data, *Table B17010: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months of Families by Family Type by Presence of Related Children Under 18 by Age of Related Children*, downloaded from <http://factfinder.census.gov/> on August 29, 2006.
- ⁸ US Census Bureau, Current Population Survey data, downloaded from <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/histpov/histpovtb.html> on August 29, 2005.
- ⁹ US Census Bureau, Current Population Survey data, *Table POV46: Poverty Status by State: 2005, Below 100% and 125% of Poverty – People Under 18 Years of Age*, downloaded from http://pubdb3.census.gov/macro/032006/pov/new46_100125_03.htm on August 29, 2006.
- ¹⁰ US Census Bureau, Current Population Survey data, *Table HI-6: Health Insurance Coverage Status and Type of Coverage by State – People Under 65: 1987 to 2005*, downloaded from <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/hlthins/historic/index.html> on August 29, 2005.
- ¹¹ US Census Bureau, Current Population Survey data, *Table HI-5: Health Insurance Coverage Status and Type of Coverage by State – Children Under 18: 1987 to 2005*, downloaded from <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/hlthins/historic/index.html> on August 29, 2005.
- ¹² US Census Bureau, Current Population Survey data, *Table HI-6: Health Insurance Coverage Status and Type of Coverage by State – People Under 65: 1987 to 2005*, downloaded from <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/hlthins/historic/index.html> on August 29, 2005.

**Appendix 1: Median Household Income and Poverty Rates
for California Counties and Cities, 2005**

	Median Household Income	Poverty Rate	Child Poverty Rate
Alameda County	\$61,014	11.8%	14.6%
Alameda (City)	\$65,758	9.9%	11.6%
Berkeley	\$48,123	20.5%	10.4%
Fremont	\$81,582	6.6%	8.1%
Hayward	\$55,649	12.5%	15.9%
Livermore	\$96,632	6.2%	8.2%
Oakland	\$44,124	18.3%	25.3%
Pleasanton	\$101,022	4.2%	6.8%
San Leandro	\$55,235	7.4%	8.0%
Union City	\$77,542	9.7%	17.3%
Butte County	\$36,602	19.6%	22.8%
Chico	\$32,436	28.6%	27.5%
Contra Costa County	\$69,487	8.1%	11.2%
Antioch	\$65,882	9.9%	15.3%
Concord	\$60,458	9.4%	12.6%
Richmond	\$52,794	15.6%	24.4%
El Dorado County	\$63,147	7.7%	7.7%
Fresno County	\$41,899	20.7%	30.1%
Clovis	\$56,863	12.3%	15.5%
Fresno (City)	\$37,800	24.3%	34.8%
Humboldt County	\$33,093	15.8%	16.0%
Imperial County	\$35,533	21.5%	27.7%
Kern County	\$40,224	21.2%	29.4%
Bakersfield	\$45,174	18.1%	26.0%
Kings County	\$41,095	21.3%	27.3%
Lake County	\$40,067	20.1%	31.4%
Los Angeles County	\$48,248	16.3%	23.3%
Alhambra	\$47,340	15.0%	16.3%
Baldwin Park	\$42,432	20.0%	29.5%
Bellflower	\$41,507	15.4%	24.7%
Burbank	\$51,516	10.1%	9.9%
Carson	\$61,654	10.2%	16.1%
Compton	\$39,009	21.9%	29.7%
Downey	\$42,191	10.3%	9.1%
El Monte	\$36,630	23.7%	31.6%
Glendale	\$49,750	8.2%	10.6%
Hawthorne	\$41,629	22.2%	27.0%
Inglewood	\$34,962	18.1%	25.1%
Lakewood	\$66,186	5.3%	6.0%

Appendix 1 (Continued)

	Median Household Income	Poverty Rate	Child Poverty Rate
Lancaster	\$44,277	20.1%	30.2%
Long Beach	\$43,746	19.2%	27.6%
Los Angeles (City)	\$42,667	20.1%	29.2%
Lynwood	\$34,738	28.6%	38.9%
Norwalk	\$51,137	10.1%	13.0%
Palmdale	\$46,536	17.7%	25.4%
Pasadena	\$51,233	14.1%	19.2%
Pomona	\$41,805	13.4%	20.2%
Redondo Beach	\$85,594	2.6%	3.1%
Santa Clarita	\$74,759	6.4%	7.0%
Santa Monica	\$55,274	7.1%	2.0%
South Gate	\$40,653	14.3%	20.6%
Torrance	\$66,999	6.5%	7.9%
West Covina	\$52,603	14.0%	25.6%
Whittier	\$54,555	10.0%	16.4%
Madera County	\$46,787	16.6%	26.1%
Marin County	\$78,919	5.9%	6.5%
Mendocino County	\$41,734	18.2%	24.0%
Merced County	\$40,281	18.1%	25.2%
Merced (City)	\$32,791	24.3%	35.5%
Monterey County	\$57,081	14.4%	19.3%
Salinas	\$50,165	20.1%	25.6%
Napa County	\$65,260	7.0%	8.2%
Napa (City)	\$57,040	8.8%	11.2%
Nevada County	\$51,615	6.3%	5.4%
Orange County	\$65,953	8.8%	11.2%
Anaheim	\$52,158	11.7%	16.2%
Buena Park	\$58,057	8.2%	8.5%
Costa Mesa	\$53,361	11.9%	16.1%
Fullerton	\$58,228	7.8%	9.5%
Garden Grove	\$52,229	13.1%	17.8%
Huntington Beach	\$72,141	6.3%	10.1%
Irvine	\$82,827	10.5%	7.4%
Lake Forest	\$84,081	5.3%	2.5%
Mission Viejo	\$90,855	3.4%	3.2%
Newport Beach	\$97,428	6.4%	6.0%
Orange (City)	\$69,695	7.8%	8.9%
Santa Ana	\$47,438	17.3%	22.7%
Tustin	\$56,631	5.3%	7.5%
Westminster	\$58,938	9.4%	11.2%

Appendix 1 (Continued)

	Median Household Income	Poverty Rate	Child Poverty Rate
Placer County	\$62,080	5.5%	7.2%
Roseville	\$62,291	4.6%	5.7%
Riverside County	\$52,253	11.4%	15.4%
Corona	\$68,049	7.2%	9.4%
Hemet	\$32,060	13.4%	18.2%
Indio	\$38,878	20.9%	33.0%
Moreno Valley	\$56,111	13.2%	17.2%
Murrieta	\$63,028	6.7%	9.3%
Riverside (City)	\$50,416	14.1%	16.7%
Temecula	\$67,903	6.8%	6.9%
Sacramento County	\$51,793	13.6%	19.7%
Citrus Heights	\$49,636	7.1%	7.0%
Elk Grove	\$82,784	2.8%	3.0%
Folsom	\$78,317	4.1%	5.8%
Sacramento (City)	\$44,867	19.2%	29.1%
San Bernardino County	\$49,026	15.0%	19.8%
Apple Valley	\$51,119	15.1%	21.6%
Chino	\$68,705	6.8%	3.8%
Chino Hills	\$93,133	2.9%	3.1%
Fontana	\$58,481	14.5%	20.7%
Hesperia	\$50,298	16.2%	20.9%
Ontario	\$46,344	14.9%	19.5%
Rancho Cucamonga	\$71,967	6.7%	7.1%
Redlands	\$52,111	10.7%	15.1%
Rialto	\$50,446	11.8%	14.6%
San Bernardino (City)	\$33,915	28.1%	38.3%
Upland	\$57,194	14.6%	28.3%
Victorville	\$42,374	17.7%	21.0%
San Diego County	\$56,335	11.0%	15.9%
Carlsbad	\$78,037	4.0%	4.6%
Chula Vista	\$55,610	9.1%	11.4%
El Cajon	\$47,050	14.4%	20.4%
Escondido	\$51,857	9.5%	11.7%
Oceanside	\$55,382	6.3%	5.0%
San Diego (City)	\$55,637	13.5%	19.8%
San Marcos	\$67,313	7.0%	8.2%
Vista	\$49,294	14.8%	24.1%
San Francisco County	\$57,496	12.2%	13.4%

Appendix 1 (Continued)

	Median Household Income	Poverty Rate	Child Poverty Rate
San Joaquin County	\$49,391	14.6%	19.7%
Stockton	\$41,118	20.1%	28.1%
Tracy	\$70,643	6.6%	7.5%
San Luis Obispo County	\$49,721	14.8%	17.1%
San Mateo County	\$74,546	7.4%	9.7%
Daly City	\$59,199	6.7%	9.3%
Redwood City	\$67,829	13.5%	18.7%
San Mateo	\$76,704	7.0%	4.8%
Santa Barbara County	\$55,970	12.3%	16.7%
Santa Barbara (City)	\$61,182	13.7%	19.7%
Santa Maria	\$45,200	19.3%	27.5%
Santa Clara County	\$76,810	8.3%	10.6%
Mountain View	\$75,411	6.6%	8.8%
San Jose	\$70,921	10.0%	13.1%
Santa Clara (City)	\$71,284	9.3%	10.1%
Sunnyvale	\$74,449	7.9%	9.9%
Santa Cruz County	\$58,640	11.8%	15.4%
Shasta County	\$42,227	13.3%	19.6%
Redding	\$42,891	10.8%	12.8%
Solano County	\$62,213	9.3%	13.1%
Fairfield	\$60,680	10.1%	13.8%
Vacaville	\$66,747	4.7%	6.2%
Vallejo	\$54,706	12.1%	18.4%
Sonoma County	\$58,330	9.1%	11.4%
Santa Rosa	\$51,454	10.9%	15.6%
Stanislaus County	\$47,525	14.4%	18.9%
Modesto	\$45,769	13.4%	18.6%
Turlock	\$48,468	9.2%	11.1%
Sutter County	\$49,913	9.7%	8.4%
Tulare County	\$38,722	23.4%	32.1%
Visalia	\$45,023	20.0%	29.2%
Ventura County	\$66,859	9.9%	14.6%
Oxnard	\$48,952	16.5%	26.7%
San Buenaventura	\$57,574	10.9%	17.2%
Simi Valley	\$78,692	4.0%	3.3%
Thousand Oaks	\$90,503	8.3%	8.4%
Yolo County	\$50,157	15.7%	15.2%
Yuba County	\$37,695	12.8%	16.5%

Note: Includes counties and cities for which 2005 data are available.

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey