

Rich and Poor in the United States

- * Minimum annual salary of someone in the top 4 per cent of American workers: \$100,000.
- * Number of US billionaires: 268.
- * Percentage of households with zero or negative net worth: 18.
- * Portion of total financial wealth owned by the top 20% of US households: 91%.
- * Portion of US households who own their home: 66.3%
- * Net equity in owner-occupied housing: 18.2%
- * Annual compensation of the twenty highest-paid US executives: \$2,024,000,000,000.
- * Total consumer debt in the US: \$1,742,000,000,000.
- * Percentage increase, respectively, in inflation, worker pay and CEO pay from 1990-99: 27.5, 32.3, 535.0.
- * Chance that a person who died in 1997 was subject to payment of a Federal estate tax: 1 in 50.
- * Portion of US elementary school teachers, police officers, licensed practical nurses or janitors who would qualify to purchase a median priced home based on median income: 0.
- * Portion of net worth of US households held by African Americans: 1%.
- * Portion of children below the poverty line who live with someone who works full time, year-round: 34%.
- * Portion of total homeless population who are families with children: 40%.
- * Chance that an urban lot in the US will be vacant: 1 in 6.6.
- * Number of abandoned structures per 1,000 residents in Bridgeport, Connecticut: 1.

Taken from Ed Dodson's paper "The Wealth of Our Nation and our Cities", which was presented at the Bridgeport Conference. The entire paper, with references, is available online at http://www.geocities.com/cgoconfct2003/dodson_wealth_of_our_nation_copy.html.