



USA **FACTS**



2019 Annual Report

Our nation, in numbers.



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USAFacts 2019 Annual Report

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About USAFacts

Our nation, in numbers.

If you're looking to gain insight on our government by the numbers, look no further. In this year's annual report, we've summarized the most recent data on population trends, government finances, and outcomes related to government activities. USAFacts is a not-for-profit, non-partisan resource built for interested people like you. Red or blue, left or right, or anywhere in between, it doesn't matter. We believe understanding the numbers is the cornerstone to a healthy and productive democracy. Our goal is to help inform active citizenship and fact-based debate.

Explore. Get the facts. Get engaged.

usafacts.org



Follow @USAFacts



Our mission

Our mission is to provide Americans with a portrait of the US population, government finances, and the outcomes of government activities. Everything we do is grounded in these five principles:

Factual

We only use official government data.

Unbiased

We have no partisan agenda or commercial motive.

Comprehensive

We integrate federal, state, and local government data, where available, to show the full picture.

Contextual

We show historical trends and other relevant statistics.

Comprehensible

We present data in a clear and understandable way.

Government data is limited, not always timely, and sometimes inconsistent. We show the most recent data available as of the writing of this report. Our sources will release updates and restatements of data after publication of this report. When official sources of data disagree, we work with experts to choose the best series to report. For consistency, where noted, we adjust for inflation to 2017 dollars using the Consumer Price Index. We combine federal, state, and local data, meaning some values will differ from reports from others. To ensure accuracy, we procured independent external verification that the figures in this Annual Report were transferred correctly from our database (or other base sources.) Please visit USAFacts.org for details on our methodology. Source information for charts and data in this report are on pages 76-78.



There are over 90,000 governments in the US, including states, territories, counties, cities, towns, school districts, and other special districts, each with a different authority and purpose. **We work to simplify them into a single view.**

About our data

We have compiled federal, state and local data from over 70 government sources and 120 databases.

Most used sources:

Census Bureau

Bureau of Economic Analysis

Bureau of the Fiscal Service

Bureau of Labor Statistics

Federal Reserve

Internal Revenue Service

Office of Management and Budget

Some of our additional sources:

Agency for International Development

Consumer Product Safety Commission

Department of Agriculture

Department of Commerce

Department of Defense

Department of Education

Department of Energy

Department of Health and Human Services

Department of Homeland Security

Department of Housing and Urban Development

Department of the Interior

Department of Labor

Department of Justice

Department of State

Department of Transportation

Department of the Treasury

Department of Veterans Affairs

Environmental Protection Agency

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

Federal Election Commission

Federal Trade Commission

Government Accountability Office

National Archives and Records Administration

National Labor Relations Board

National Science Foundation

Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Securities and Exchange Commission

Small Business Administration

Social Security Administration

United States Congress – Joint Committee on Taxation

United States Courts

United States Postal Service

The changing American experience

Dear Reader,

Our government's mission is clearly outlined in the US Constitution: to establish justice and ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity. What may be less clear is how to measure progress toward that more perfect union. Certainly, we need our government to make decisions based on the facts; government numbers provide historical progress, or lack thereof, with more accuracy and context than any other available source. At a time when the most basic facts of public life are subject to dispute, this common understanding is more important than ever.

I founded USAFacts in 2017 because I wanted to know how the government collects and spends money on behalf of Americans and if it was contributing to a better quality of life. I wanted that information to be available to the public and easy to understand, so we put it all on a website, USAFacts.org. We also assemble that data each year in an annual report, to allow you to form your own views of how our government is serving citizens, so that you can decide and advocate for where we should go as a country.

The most recent data tells us our government collected \$5.1 trillion from taxpayers and other sources and spent \$5.9 trillion; that equates to \$18,114 for every person living in the US. Since only half of spending is driven by the federal government, we look at combined spending by federal, state and local governments. Without the big picture of government in its entirety, it is hard to tell which part is responsible for outcomes like keeping Americans healthy, fixing our roads, or educating our nation's children.

This year in our Annual Report, we focus on who lives in the United States and the quality of their lives – who is born in here and who moves here, who goes to college, starts families and careers, stays healthy or gets sick, lives in affluence or poverty or in between, and grows old. These numbers represent our families, our neighbors, our communities, and ourselves. They show how we are changing: making progress in areas like education, where 69.8% of students graduating high school in 2017 attended college (up more than 20 points since 1980), and falling back in areas like homeownership, which has decreased 5 points over the past decade to 64% in 2016.

Although this report should be read in its entirety to understand the state of our nation, here are a few numbers that caught special attention from me:

America is going through significant demographic changes.

We are growing older; the median age of Americans is rising. Seniors now make up 16% of the population (up from 11% in 1980), and children under 18 make up 23% of the population (down from 28%). Seniors earn less in wages than other Americans, which is one factor that depresses national median household income. America is becoming more diverse. White (non-Hispanic) people are 61% of the population today, down from 76% in 1990. And our population is growing nearly equally from people moving to the US (48% of population growth from 2017-2018) as it is from births exceeding deaths (52% of growth). The US is currently made up of more first-generation immigrants (14%) than it has been since the early 1900s.

The American household is shrinking.

More people are living alone in America, a greater share of the population is divorced, and there are more single-parent families and households without children. All of this is leading to a shrinking average household size, meaning fewer wage earners per household, again pushing down median household income.

Families in the middle 20% receive more from the government in 2017 than they did in 2000.

Families and individuals in the middle 20% of income earners make 9% less in wages and salaries than they did in 2000; however, they also receive 59% more in transfers from the government and pay 12% less in taxes. This decline in wages and salaries was true for every family type in the middle 20% except the elderly, who saw a 13% increase in wages over this time period, possibly due to higher employment among this group (18.6% employment in 2017 compared to 12.5% in 2000). An earnings gap persists between genders, with women earning 80.5 cents to every dollar earned by their male counterparts in 2017, although it has improved from 74 cents in 2000.

While educational outcomes are improving for all students, the outcomes of our school system vary widely by race and ethnicity.

Since 1992, eighth-grade math scores have improved 19 percentage points and reading scores 7 percentage points. Black and Hispanic students are now twice as likely to have completed college than in 1993. However, test scores vary widely by race: 55% of Asian students are proficient in reading compared to 45% of White students, 23% of Hispanic students, and 18% of Black students.

(continued on next page)

Crime and incarceration rates are falling but differ among demographic groups.

Rates of violent crime and property crime have fallen by more than half since 1991. However, arrest rates for drug crimes increased 25% and are now the most common arrest. Although the incarceration rate is falling across races, Black Americans, despite accounting for 12% of the population, make up 27% of arrests and 33% of prisoners today.

As seniors become a larger share of the American population, they are working longer and earning more, and government is spending more for their health and well-being.

Compared to 1980, seniors today are 55% more likely to be employed and make up an increasing share of the workforce. As a result, in 2017 the average family with a head of household over 65 made \$32,214 from employment (compared to \$20,790 in 2000) and received \$20,492 in Social Security (compared to \$19,997 in 2000). Social Security and Medicare, the largest government programs to aid seniors, now account for 26% of Federal government spending, up from 18% in 1980.



Health care spending per person is increasing, but life expectancy is falling and the age that people die is staying the same.

We spend \$2.9 trillion, or \$9,107 per person, on healthcare in the United States, an increase of 59% since 1999. Over this same period, however, we haven't seen improvements in our life expectancy, which has decreased each of the past three years, or in the average age we die, which has only increased by 0.7 years since 1999 to 73.1.

As we choose leaders who make decisions about how to spend our money and manage our nation, we need to understand how our country is changing and how those changes impact the policies we pursue. We must continue to find data, organize it, and make it accessible and understandable to the public. A new federal law mandates that federal agencies make their data machine-readable by 2020. That's an amazing step forward for researchers like us, who have analyzed government data from PDFs, CDs, and other archaic sources to bring it all together for you.

We hope you will use these numbers to challenge your assumptions and strengthen your understanding of our society. Use data when you watch the news, when doing research, when teaching students, when writing laws, when scrolling through social media, and especially when voting. We'll give you the numbers. You get to decide.

Thank you for your attention to the facts.

Sincerely,
Steve Ballmer



Big things happened in 2018:

Following the data will reveal the impact in the coming years.

USAFACTS' mission is to present a complete picture of the US through the data our government collects and publishes. This data covers everything from taxes and other revenue to economic and health outcomes and is impacted by real-world events like legislation, policy shifts, protests, natural disasters, and other factors. USAFACTS is able to use data to provide context around these events: how did the tax bill affect government revenue? Are natural disasters getting more destructive and more common? What are the impacts of tariffs on the economy? These are all questions we hope to illuminate both in this report and on USAFACTS.org.

Although this data can help us better judge the outcomes and impacts of these events, **in many cases we cannot show you what happened in 2018 because that data has not yet been collected, organized, and published by the government.** We must continue to expand our collection and examination of data to learn and provide context around the events that shape America.

Tax Cuts And Jobs Act

What Happened: The Tax Cuts And Jobs Act (TCJA) was signed into law by President Trump on December 22, 2017. The law made sweeping changes to the tax code for both individuals and corporations. Specifically, the law nearly doubled the standard deduction for individuals, affecting an estimated 28.5 million people, which is 20% of all tax filers. The law also capped the State And Local Tax (SALT) deduction to \$10,000, affecting 10 million filers who had previously claimed SALT deductions above the new cap. The TCJA reduced the top corporate tax rate from 35% down to 21% and made several other changes to the corporate tax code like expanding pass-through tax deductions, repealing the corporate alternative minimum tax (AMT), and imposing new limits on business interest deductions.

Numbers to Watch: The TCJA changed tax policy at the start of 2018 and may affect government revenue, annual budget deficits, total government debt, and the ways individuals and corporations spend and save. Prior to passage of the law in 2017, the federal government took in \$3.2 trillion in taxes while running a \$665 billion deficit. According to estimates from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), deficits could increase over the next ten years by \$1.1 to \$2.3 trillion, depending on economic growth. Many of the individual tax cut provisions and changes to business expensing are set to expire in 2025, but if they are extended through the entire 10-year budget window through 2028, the bill could have a larger impact on the federal deficits. One of the most debated aspects of the TCJA was the SALT cap, which affects many taxpayers living not only in higher-taxed states like New York, Connecticut, and California, but also affects smaller states where the average SALT deduction was above \$10,000, including Iowa, Nebraska, and Maine. Total national SALT deductions fell from \$104 billion to \$34 billion between 2017 and 2018, but the full effects on individual tax filers will take several years to measure.

Continued Troop Withdrawal From Afghanistan

What Happened: The Trump Administration announced in December 2018 that it would begin the process of withdrawing approximately 7,000 troops from Afghanistan. The United States began the war in Afghanistan on October 7, 2001, just weeks after the September 11 attacks. Over the past 18 years, the number of US troops in Afghanistan has fluctuated, peaking at around 100,000 in 2010-11. Since then, there has been a steady drawdown of troops. Although the Pentagon stopped disclosing the total number of troops in Afghanistan in December 2017, there were an estimated 15,000 at the time of the Administration's announcement.

Numbers to Watch: In 2017, 215,259 out of a total of 1.3 million active duty military were stationed abroad. Meanwhile, the nation's defense spending included \$491 billion for goods, services, and compensation of personnel. The Department of Defense has estimated that the war in Afghanistan costs \$45 billion per year, and reducing the troop total could lower the agency's expenses. In addition to dollars spent on our troops, the Department of Defense reported 29,389 contractors in Afghanistan at the end of 2018, and those individuals are not counted among troop totals reported by the Pentagon.

Federal Government Shutdowns

What Happened: In 2018, the US Federal Government underwent several "shutdowns." A government shutdown occurs when Congress does not appropriate funding to pay for the operations of specific government agencies and programs. Historically, these shutdowns only affect a portion of government, and often allow essential functions to continue unabated. The first 2018 shutdown lasted three days, from January 20 to 22. The second shutdown lasted nine hours overnight on February 9-10 when Senator Paul (R-KY) filibustered a spending bill. The third shutdown became the longest in US history, beginning on December 22 and continuing for 35 days through January 25, 2019.

Numbers to Watch: GDP reached \$20.5 trillion in 2018, growing at a rate of 2.2% per capita after adjusting for inflation. Federal government spending and investment accounted for \$1.3 trillion, or 6.4% of GDP. The length and timing of shutdowns can have serious economic consequences when federal workers stop receiving paychecks and economic activity dependent on government operations halts. Although there is limited government data or estimates on the effects of the brief shutdowns in January and February 2018, the 35-day shutdown, which included missed paychecks over the holidays, reduced GDP by \$3 billion, according to a CBO estimate.

(continued on next page)

Wildfires And Hurricanes

What Happened: Deadly and otherwise destructive natural disasters require local, state, and federal emergency responses and long-term rebuilding. Disaster declarations are becoming more frequent: half of the most expensive disaster declarations over the past 40 years occurred in the past decade. In 2018, wildfires in California collectively burned over 1.6 million acres of land, equivalent to the entire state of Delaware, and included three of the ten most destructive wildfires in the state's history. Additionally, two major hurricanes made landfall in the southeastern US in 2018. Hurricane Florence hit North Carolina as a Category 1 hurricane on September 14 and dropped as much as three feet of rain in some locations, leading to widespread flooding. Hurricane Michael hit the Florida panhandle on October 10 as a high-end Category 4 hurricane, bringing storm surge as high as 14 feet and near-record wind.

Numbers to Watch: In 2018, total federal government expenditures for fire suppression costs reached a record \$3 billion in 2018, a nearly 100 percent increase over 2008. However, the long-term damage to areas hit by these natural disasters can be significantly higher, as these disasters can impact migration, jobs, agriculture, and property values, and unleash serious health impacts for vulnerable populations. In Florida, the Carolinas, and elsewhere, Hurricanes Florence and Michael caused an estimated combined \$49 billion in damages and economic losses. It will be years before sufficient data exists to measure the true toll these disasters have levied.

Marijuana Legalization

What Happened: Thirty-one states have reassessed the criminality of marijuana, including selective enforcement, decriminalization, approval of medical use, or full legalization for recreational use. In 2018, Michigan became the 10th state to fully legalize recreational marijuana, while Utah, Missouri, and Oklahoma voted to approve medical marijuana, and Vermont became the first state to legalize marijuana through their legislature. Outside of the US, Canada fully legalized marijuana use, and Mexico's Supreme Court ruled the country's recreational marijuana prohibition was unconstitutional, paving the way for potential legalization.

Numbers to Watch: 1.6 million people were arrested for drug-related offenses in 2017, the largest category of arrests for the fifth year in a row. Decriminalization and legalization of marijuana directly affect the criminal justice system where 40.4% of drug arrests were related to marijuana. In addition, changes to drug laws may impact state revenues, as states that have legalized marijuana also tax it. For example, Colorado state revenue from marijuana taxes, fees, and licenses increased from \$67 million in 2014 to \$266 million in 2018. Combined state excise taxes reached \$122 billion in 2016, 11% of all state taxes collected. Those figures could increase with legal marijuana sales.



Tariffs

What Happened: President Trump announced a series of tariffs on goods imported from foreign countries in 2018. A tariff is a fee imposed on a specific good and paid to the government by the entity bringing the good into the United States. The Trump Administration first imposed tariffs on washing machines and solar panels, and then targeted steel and aluminum imported by Canada and Mexico (later expanded to more countries), followed by additional tariffs on 800 goods imported from China. These tariffs were met with retaliatory tariffs by China on US food producers. The decision to impose these tariffs generated substantial debate over the utility and effectiveness of tariffs, as well as questions about how long the tariffs would need to last to achieve the stated aims.

Numbers to Watch: At the end of 2018, the total US trade deficit (goods, services, and income) reached \$488 billion, an increase of 6% from 2017 after adjusting for inflation. The Administration put tariffs in place as a means to lower the trade deficit with China, which increased 10% between 2017 and 2018 to reach \$401 billion, our nation's largest deficit. Tariffs could also have an impact on government revenue. Revenues from customs and duties totaled \$34.6 billion in 2017, 1% of total federal revenue. Finally, many US companies have global supply chains, buying and selling goods from countries targeted by tariffs. Increased importation costs could result in impacts on business profits, jobs, and wages.



We the people.

USAFacts organizes its view on government based on the framework set out in the US Constitution, organized into **four missions**:

Preamble to the US Constitution

We the people of the United States,
in order to form a more perfect union,

Establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility,

Crime and disaster: physical safety of Americans

Consumer and employee safeguards: protection from financial crime, wrongdoing, or malfeasance by businesses

Child safety & miscellaneous social services: protection of children from dangerous family situations

Provide for the common defense,

National defense and support for veterans: military forces and services to support our veterans

Foreign affairs and foreign aid: economic, military, and other support to countries around the world

Immigration and border security: immigration policy and protection of our nation's borders

Promote the general welfare,

Economy & infrastructure:

Economic stimulation, including policies, and investments in infrastructure and research & development

Standard of living and aid to the disadvantaged:

Income, taxes, transfers to citizens, and what people can purchase

Health:

Public health and the health care industry which is affected by government regulation and payments

Government-run businesses:

Operation of the post office, hospitals, and airports, among others

Secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity,

Education:

Investment in children, our workforce, and human capital

Wealth and savings:

Financial security, savings policy, mandating investment in Social Security & Medicare, and debt

Sustainability and self-sufficiency:

Regulation, policies, and taxes on industry to help protect the planet and ensure energy and food supply

The American Dream:

Promoting equality and a chance to move up economically, and participation in democracy

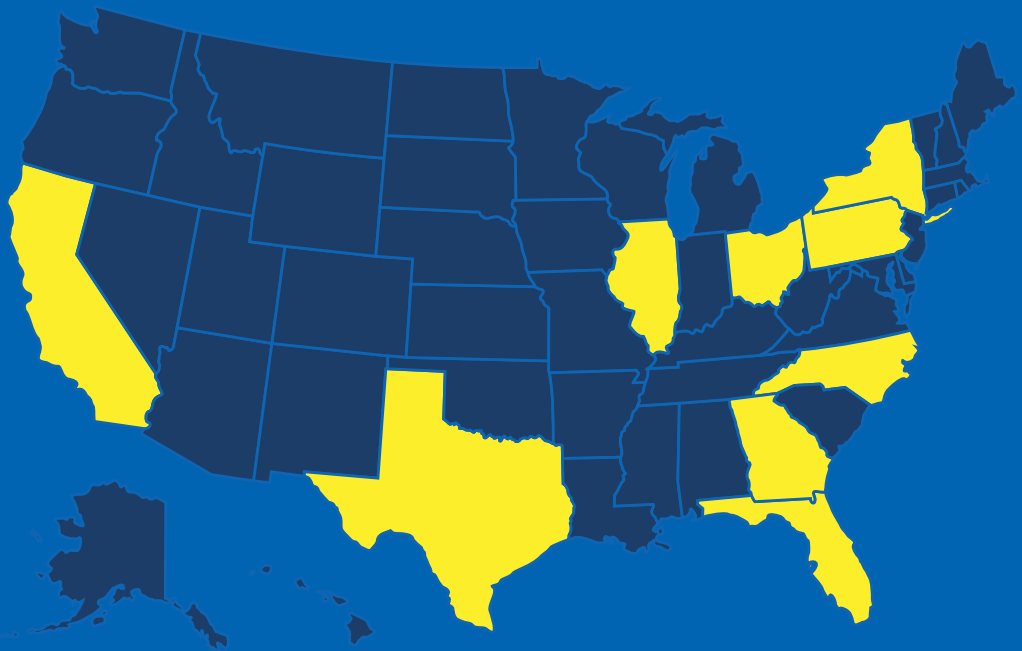
do ordain and establish this Constitution
for the United States of America.

Population

Figure 1

Do you know 51.1% of the total US population lives in these nine states?

California	12.1%
Texas	8.8%
Florida	6.5%
New York	6.0%
Pennsylvania	3.9%
Illinois	3.9%
Ohio	3.6%
Georgia	3.2%
North Carolina	3.2%



Total US population (excluding territories) in 2018: **327.2 million**

Our population has grown by 100 million people since 1980, but growth is slowing.

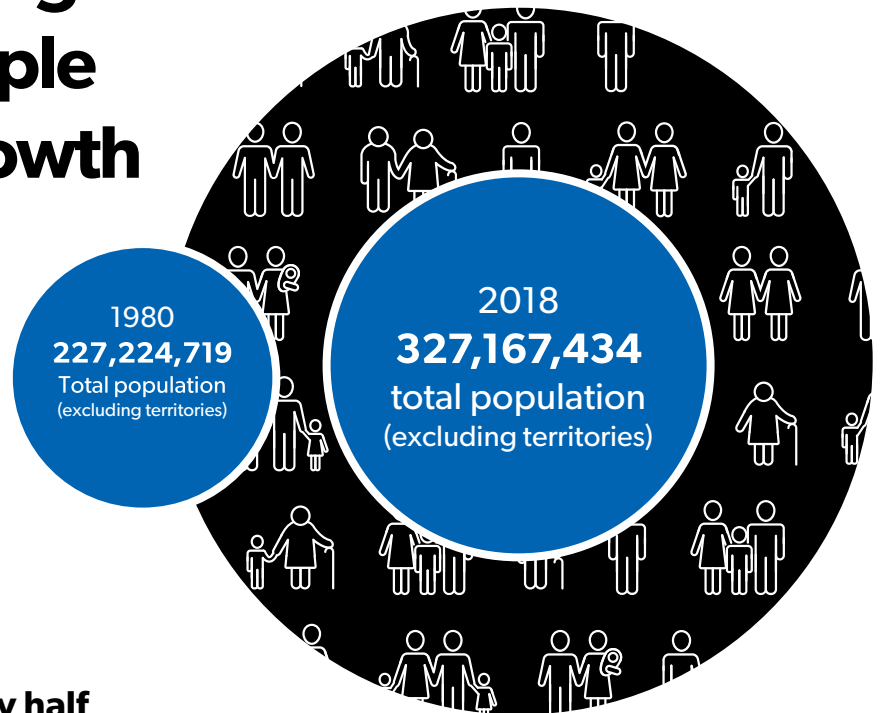
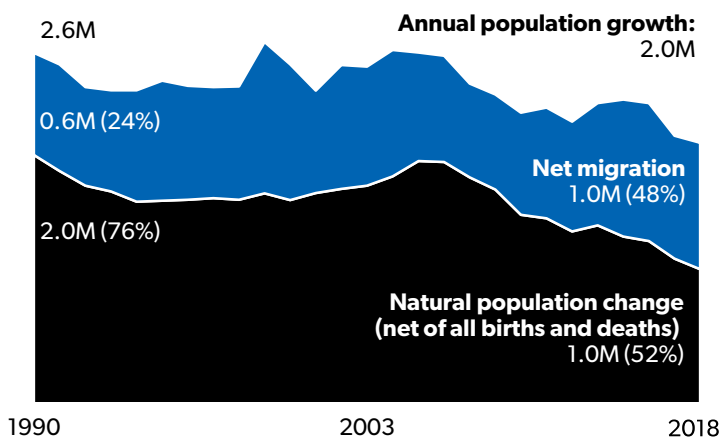
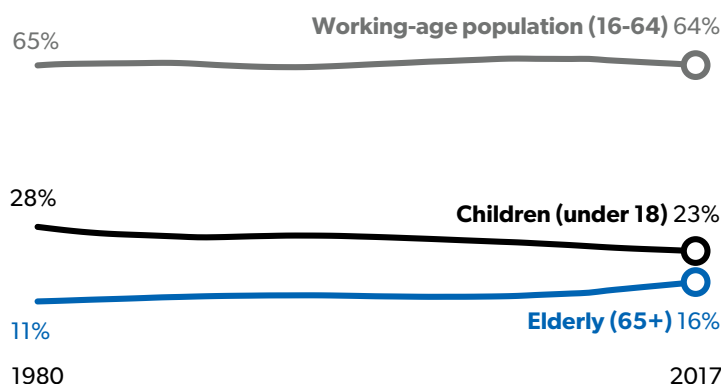


Figure 2
As population growth slows, nearly half of annual increase is from immigration.



In July 2018, the Census Bureau estimated the American population to be 327,167,434. This was an increase of 2,020,313 people since July 2017 from 3,855,500 births, 2,814,013 deaths, and 978,826 net new immigrants. Total population is increasing by an average of 1% yearly, while the total number of deaths are increasing at the same annual average rate, births have, on average, shown no annual rate increase since 1980. As a result, in 2018, the rate of population growth was slower than any year as far back as 1980. In addition, the population change was nearly evenly split between “natural” population change (births minus deaths) and by net immigration (people coming to the country minus people leaving), a shift from 1990 when three-quarters of the change was from births minus deaths (Fig. 2).

Figure 3
An increasing proportion of the population is elderly (over 65 years of age).



Following this trend, an increasing percentage of our population is foreign-born (13.7%), up from a low point of 4.7% in 1970. This population makeup is not new for the US; however, as from 1860-1910, the percent of the foreign-born population oscillated between 13% and 15%.

Our population is getting older with the median age in 2017 reaching 38 years compared to 30 years in 1980. As births remain steady despite population growth, children under 18 make up a smaller percentage of the population today than they did in 1980, while the population over 65 years old makes up a higher proportion (Fig. 3).

Today, there are 4.1 working-age Americans to every person over 65, down from 5.7 in 1980, a consequential shift for payroll tax-funded programs for the elderly such as Social Security and Medicare.

The average American today looks and lives differently than they did 30 years ago. Today, 61% of the population is non-Hispanic White, down from 76% in 1990 (Fig. 4). Meanwhile, the Hispanic and Asian populations have doubled as a percentage of the total over that time. The Census added the "other race" category and the option to report multiple races in 2000 when about 4 million Americans identified themselves as such. That number more than doubled to nearly 8.7 million, or 2.7% of the population, in 2017.

Today 35% of Americans over age 25 have a bachelor's degree or higher, an increase from 20% in 1990 (Fig. 5). An additional 10% of the population over 25 has an associate's degree. The population with less than a high school degree has dropped, from a quarter in 1990 to about one-tenth in 2017. Educational attainment differs by race and ethnicity, with Asian and non-Hispanic Whites more likely to have finished four years of college than the Black or Hispanic populations (Fig. 6).

Larger proportions of Americans are living in the South and West (Fig. 7), 38% and 24% of the total population in 2018 respectively (up five percentage points each since 1980.) Although the South remains the most populous region, the West has moved from the least populated region of the US to the second most populous region in the last 38 years.

Figure 4

The nation is becoming more racially and ethnically diverse.

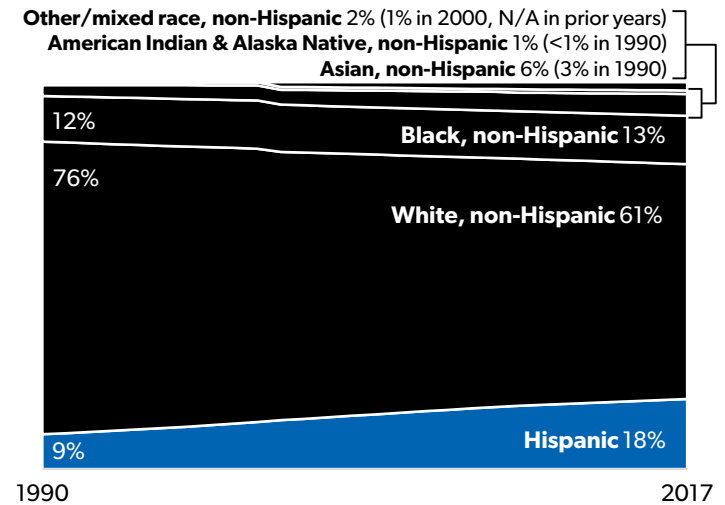


Figure 5

The population is becoming more educated.

(Educational attainment among population ages 25+)

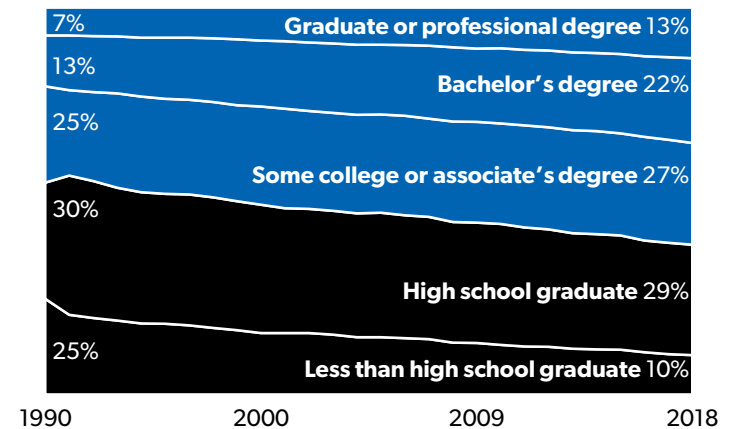
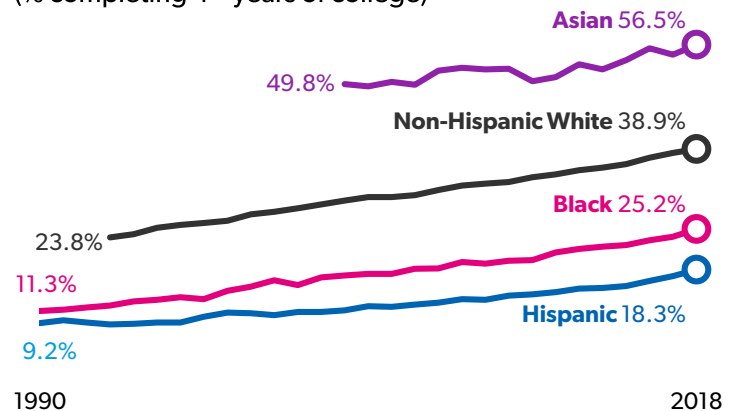


Figure 6

Years of school completed differs by race and ethnicity, but all have improved.

(% completing 4+ years of college)



Numbers have been rounded to the nearest decimal.

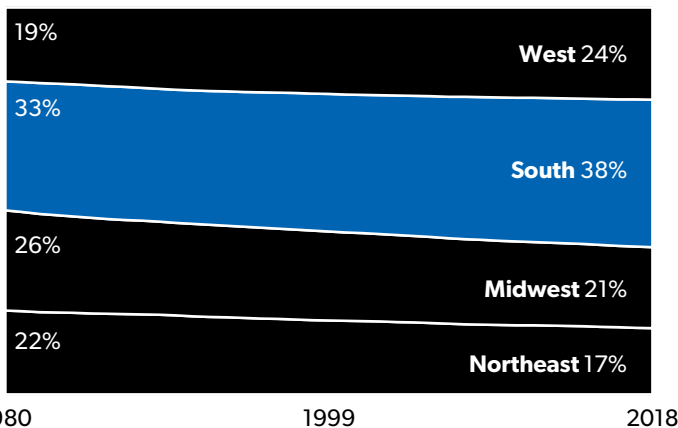
The US Census is our nation's most critical resource for measuring the American population and understanding our daily lives.

2020 marks the next decennial survey, but the Census Bureau conducts the American Community Survey, American Housing Survey, Current Population Survey, and others daily.

The Census asks individuals to choose one or more races (White, Black, Asian, American Indian or Alaska Native, or Other) and also asks whether or not individuals are of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin. Everyone is classified by both race and ethnicity. Though the Census Bureau has been researching different approaches to capturing race and ethnicity, they do not plan to change the identity categories for the 2020 decennial census.

Figure 7

The US population is shifting to the West and South.



More Americans are living alone, and fewer have kids.

As our population continues to grow, the living situations of Americans are changing. Today, the average household and family are both smaller than they were in 1980 (Fig. 8). More Americans are living alone, and single-person households make up 28% of all households compared to 23% in 1980 (Fig. 9). Fewer than half of households today are married couples (48%) compared to 61% of all households in 1980. In addition, fewer households have kids, with married- and single-parent households declining from 38% of all households in 1980 to 27% in 2018. Divorce rates are also increasing, likely further driving down household size (Fig. 10).

Figure 8
Family and household sizes are decreasing.

(Persons per family and household)

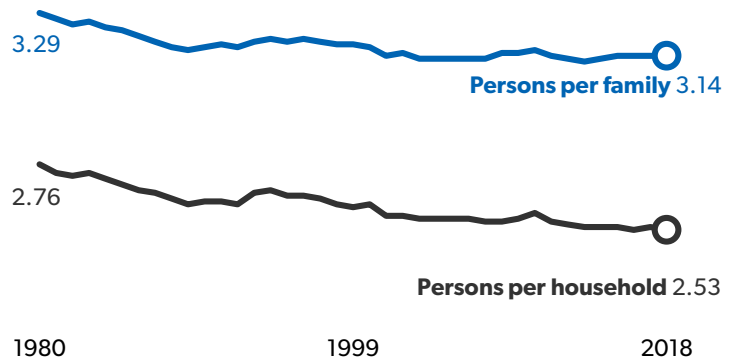
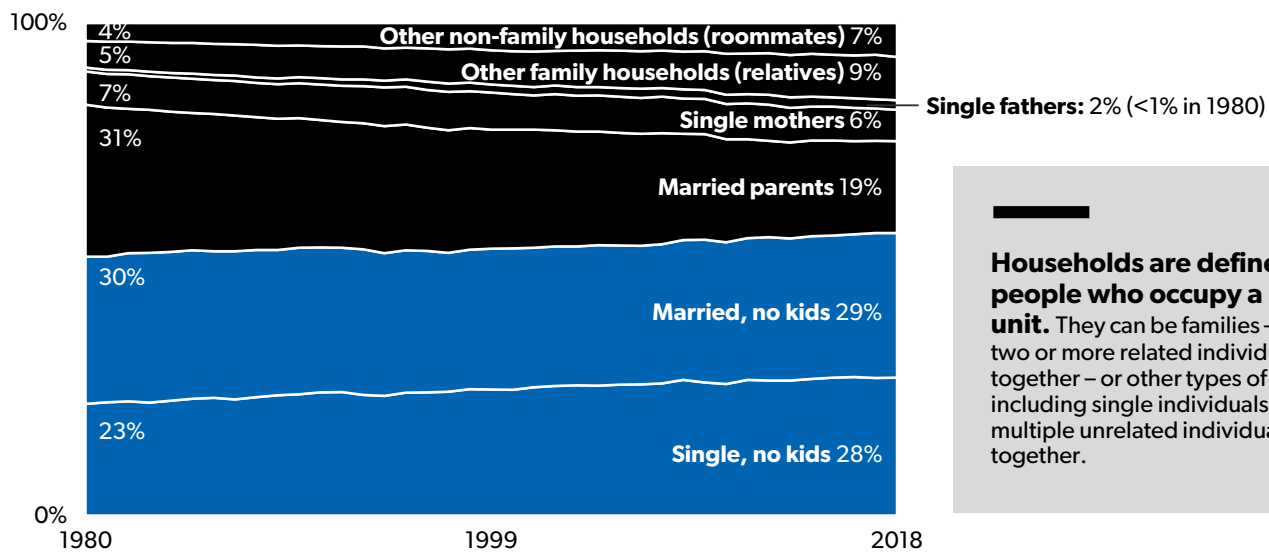


Figure 9

More households are single. Fewer households are having kids.



Households are defined by the people who occupy a housing unit. They can be families – defined as two or more related individuals living together – or other types of households including single individuals living alone or multiple unrelated individuals living together.

Figure 10

Divorce rates are increasing.

(Currently divorced as % of ever married)

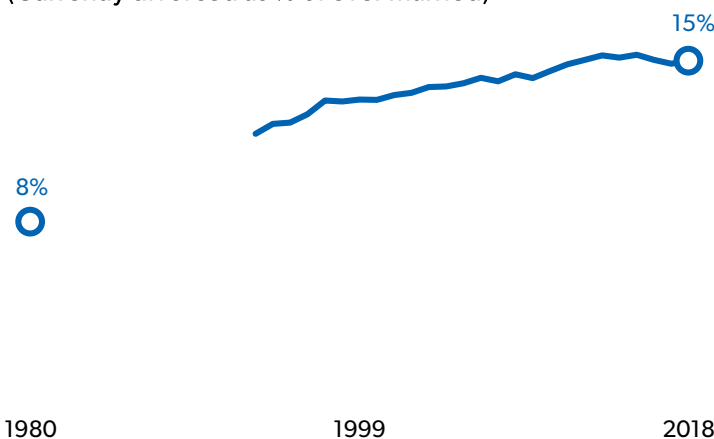
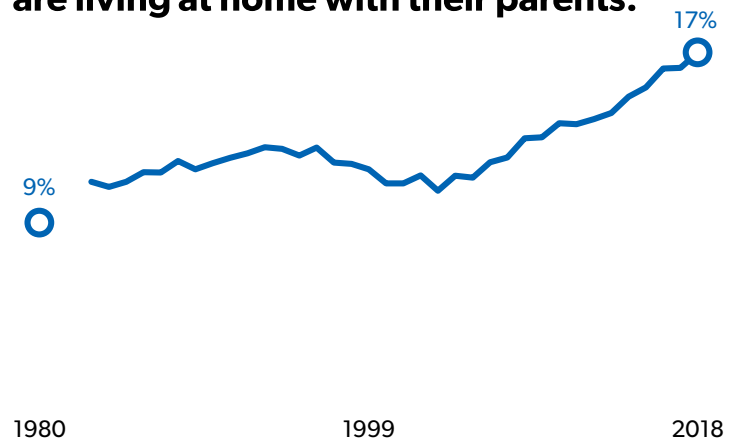


Figure 11

More young adults (age 25 to 34) are living at home with their parents.



One in five residents in Florida, Maine, and Puerto Rico is elderly (over age 65).

Figure 12

Elderly population ages 65+: 5-year change (2012-2017)

15.7% of the US population is over age 65, and has increased 1.9%.
Puerto Rico, Maine, and Vermont saw increases of over 2.9%.

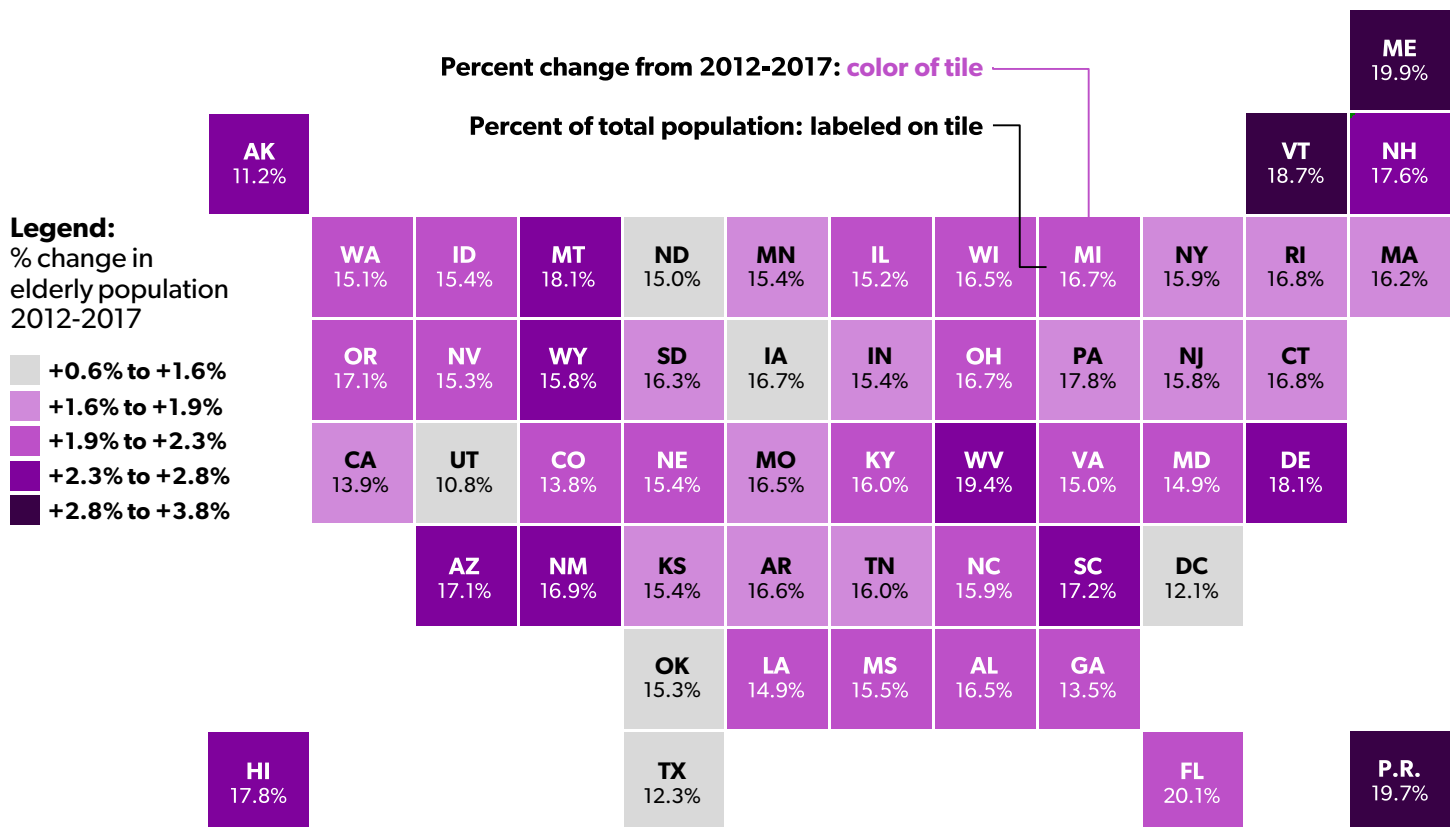


Figure 13

Population under age 18: 5-year change (2012-2017)

23% of the US population is under age 18, and has decreased 0.9%.
North Dakota and Washington, D.C. are the only two places with an increase.

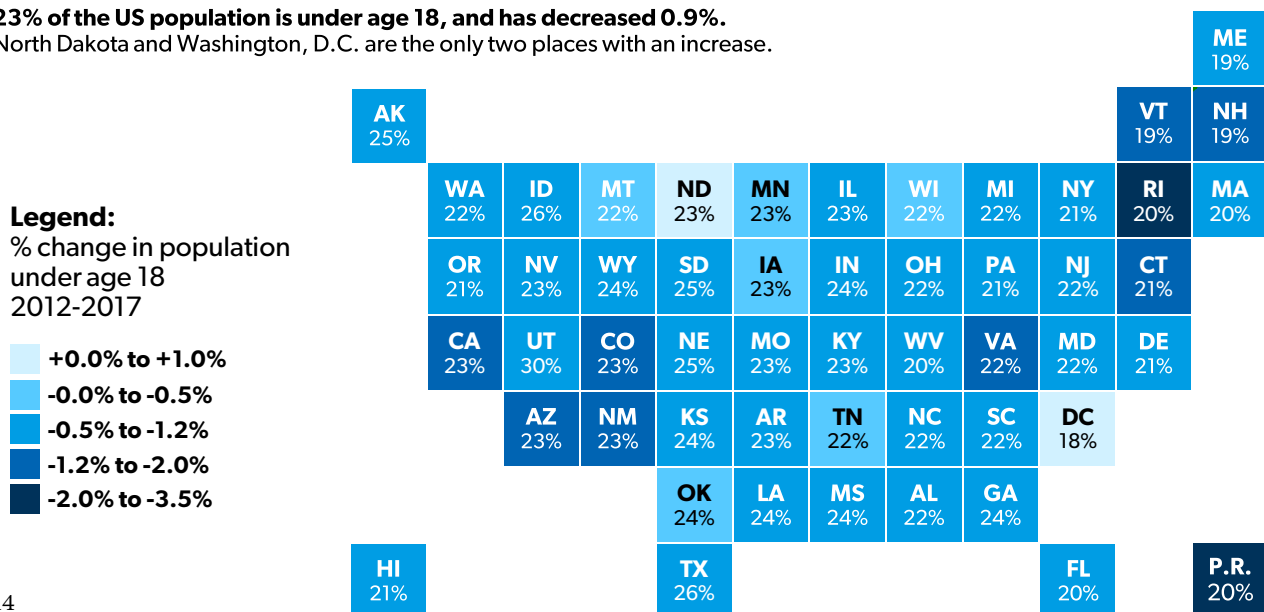
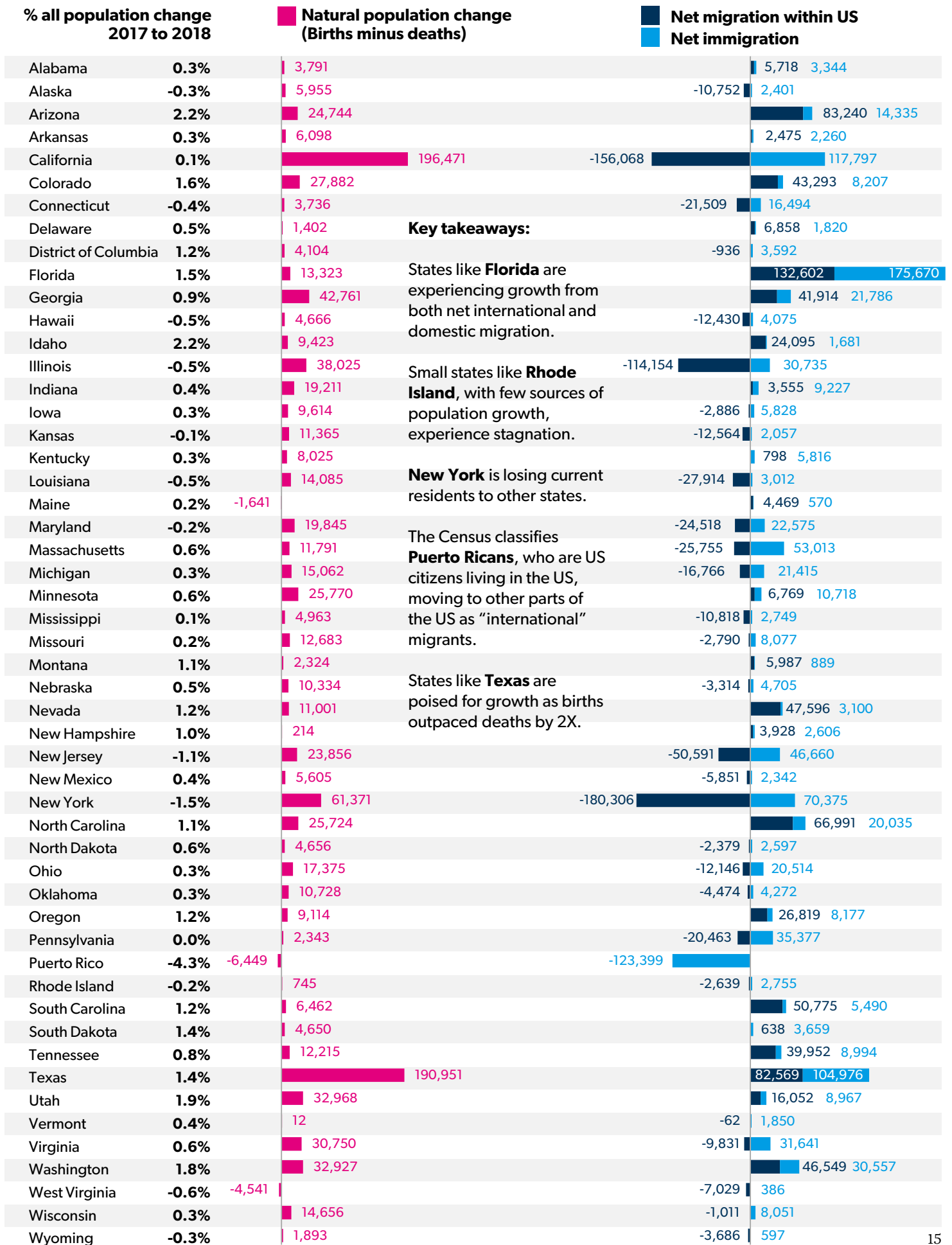


Figure 14

Components of population change (2017 to 2018)



Key takeaways:

States like **Florida** are experiencing growth from both net international and domestic migration.

Small states like **Rhode Island**, with few sources of population growth, experience stagnation.

New York is losing current residents to other states.

The Census classifies **Puerto Ricans**, who are US citizens living in the US, moving to other parts of the US as "international" migrants.

States like **Texas** are poised for growth as births outpaced deaths by 2X.

Government finances:

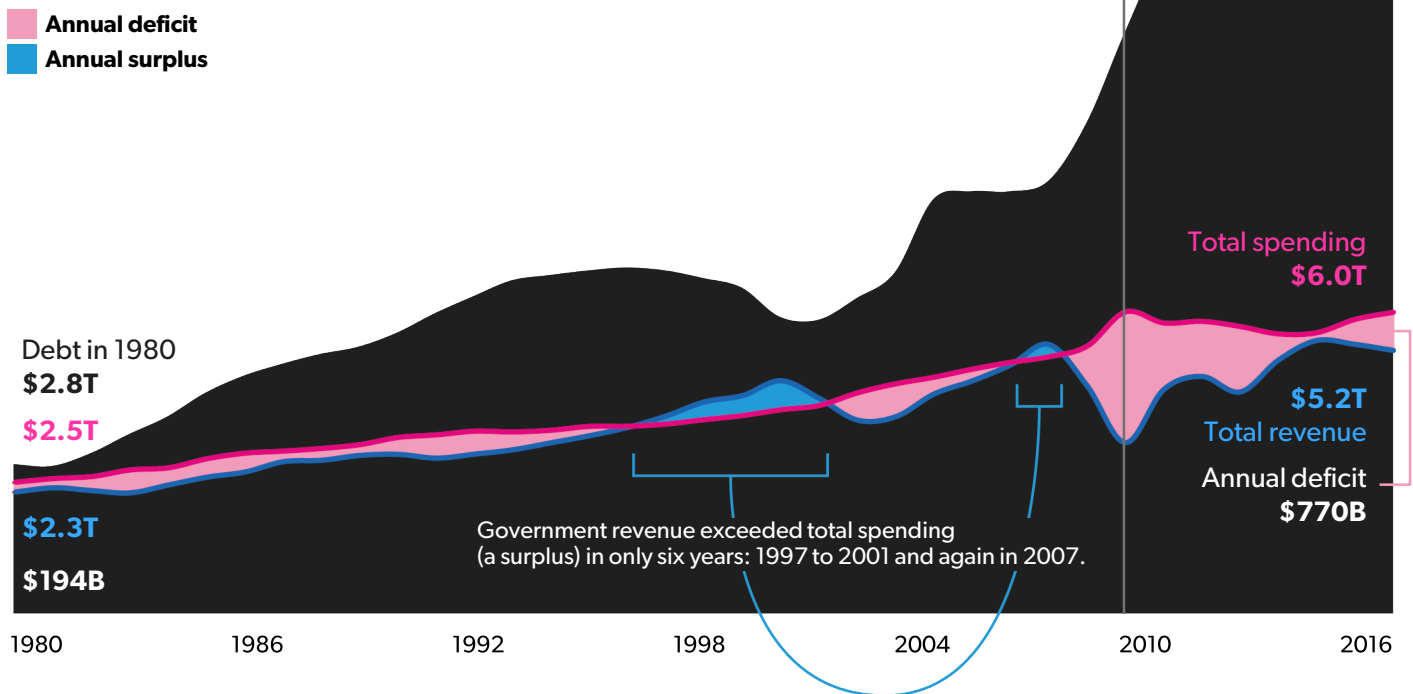
As spending increases and revenues fall, national debt reaches an all-time high.



Government spending has exceeded revenue in all but six years since 1980.

Figure 15
Total government spending, revenue, annual deficit, and total debt*
 (Adjusted to 2017 dollars for comparison)

*Federal, state and local debt held by the public excludes intergovernmental debt and accrued interest



Combined federal, state, and local government debt held by the public increased by a factor of six since 1980 as our government ran deficits in most years over that time (Fig. 15). Tax revenue, the largest and most consistent source of government revenue, exceeded spending only in 2000.

In 2016, federal, state, and local governments ran a combined deficit of \$770 billion, close to our total government spending on national defense and veterans in that same year. Most of this deficit comes from the federal government spending \$597 billion more than it brought in during that year. All states except Vermont are required to balance their budget; however, states do run deficits some years due to unbudgeted oscillations in income from their investments.

Although the most recent data available for combined government deficits is from 2016, the federal government has since run deficits of \$665 billion in 2017 and \$779 billion in 2018 – more than the GDP of Saudi Arabia.

Total government debt held by the public in 2017 reached \$52,086 per person, an increase of 62% over the last decade from \$32,121 in 2008 (adjusted for inflation). This combined government debt of \$16.9 trillion in 2017 is equal to 85% of GDP. The largest share is owed to foreign entities, followed by US households and businesses, the Federal Reserve, and state and local governments, in that order.

Total debt (Fig. 15) is the sum of federal, state, and local debt owed to the public. This calculation of government debt excludes money government borrows from the Social Security trust fund to pay other expenses, and money the federal government owes state and local governments. We exclude these when looking at government as a whole because both are debt that one part of government owes to another part and not to external creditors. For this reason, it is less than the commonly discussed federal debt.

Government tax revenue per capita increased 54% since 1980, after adjusting for inflation.

Federal, state, and local governments combined took in \$5.2 trillion in 2016 (adjusted to 2017 dollars for comparison purposes). This represents a loss of \$121 billion in revenue from the prior year, as tax revenue remained flat while non-tax revenue fell (Fig. 16). The government collected approximately \$14,998 in tax revenue per person in 2016, a decrease from the previous year but an increase of 54% compared to \$9,749 in 1980.

The composition of total government revenue has changed little over time. Individual income taxes accounted for 38% of government funding in 2016 compared to 37% in 1980. Payroll taxes were the second largest source of government revenue at 22% and include dedicated revenue streams for Social Security, Medicare and Unemployment Insurance. Sales and excise taxes accounted for 13% of government revenue, and property taxes accounted for 10%.

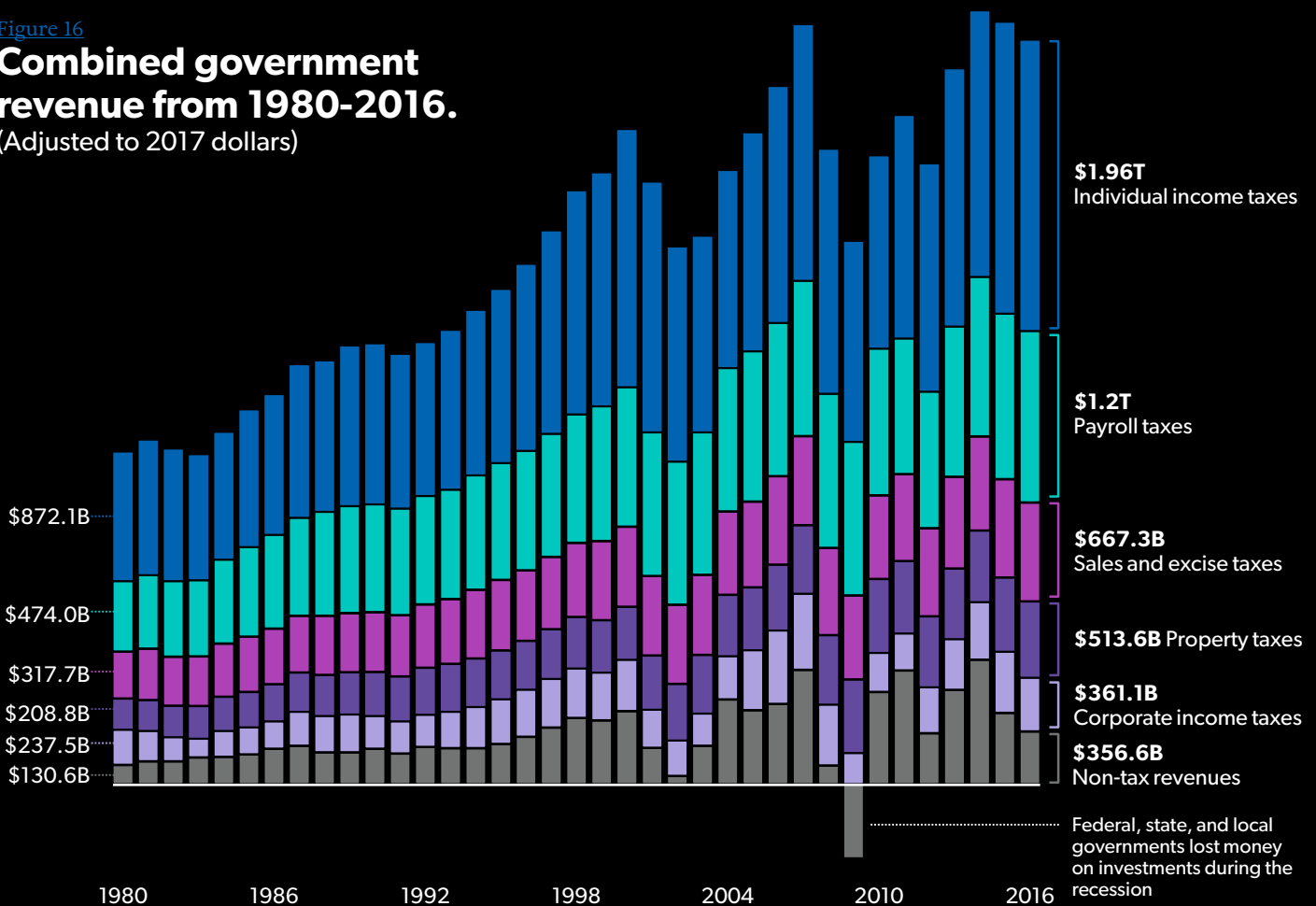
The government collected \$361.1 billion in corporate income taxes in 2016. Corporate income taxes accounted for 7% of total government revenue in 2016, down from 10% in 1980.

While taxes are the largest source of government revenue, the government also collects several forms of “non-tax revenue,” for example, by selling or leasing land and natural resources or investing government funds. In 2016, non-tax revenue made up 7% of all revenue. Non-tax revenue fell below zero during the recession in 2009 after investments made by state and local governments (primarily of pension funds) lost value.

Figure 16

Combined government revenue from 1980-2016.

(Adjusted to 2017 dollars)



Government spending per capita increased 65% in real terms since 1980.

The makeup of US government spending provides insight into the goals and functions of government and how they have changed over time. In 2016, these programs accounted for most government spending:

- 16%: programs for the disadvantaged (incl. Medicaid, SNAP, etc.)
- 16%: Social Security
- 15%: education
- 13%: national defense and veterans
- 10%: Medicare
- 6%: retirement for government employees
- 5%: crime and disaster
- 5%: debt service

Combined, these areas made up 86% of all spending in 2016, up from 75% in 1980. The remainder is spent on areas including consumer protection, foreign aid, energy, the environment, border security, public health, economic stability, and general government (<5% each) (Fig. 17).

Much of this increase from 1980 to 2016 was driven by spending on health programs like Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP, which combined increased from 7.0% of total government spending in 1980 to 19.3% in 2016. Meanwhile, defense and veterans spending fell from 18.6% to 13.1% of government spending over that same period.

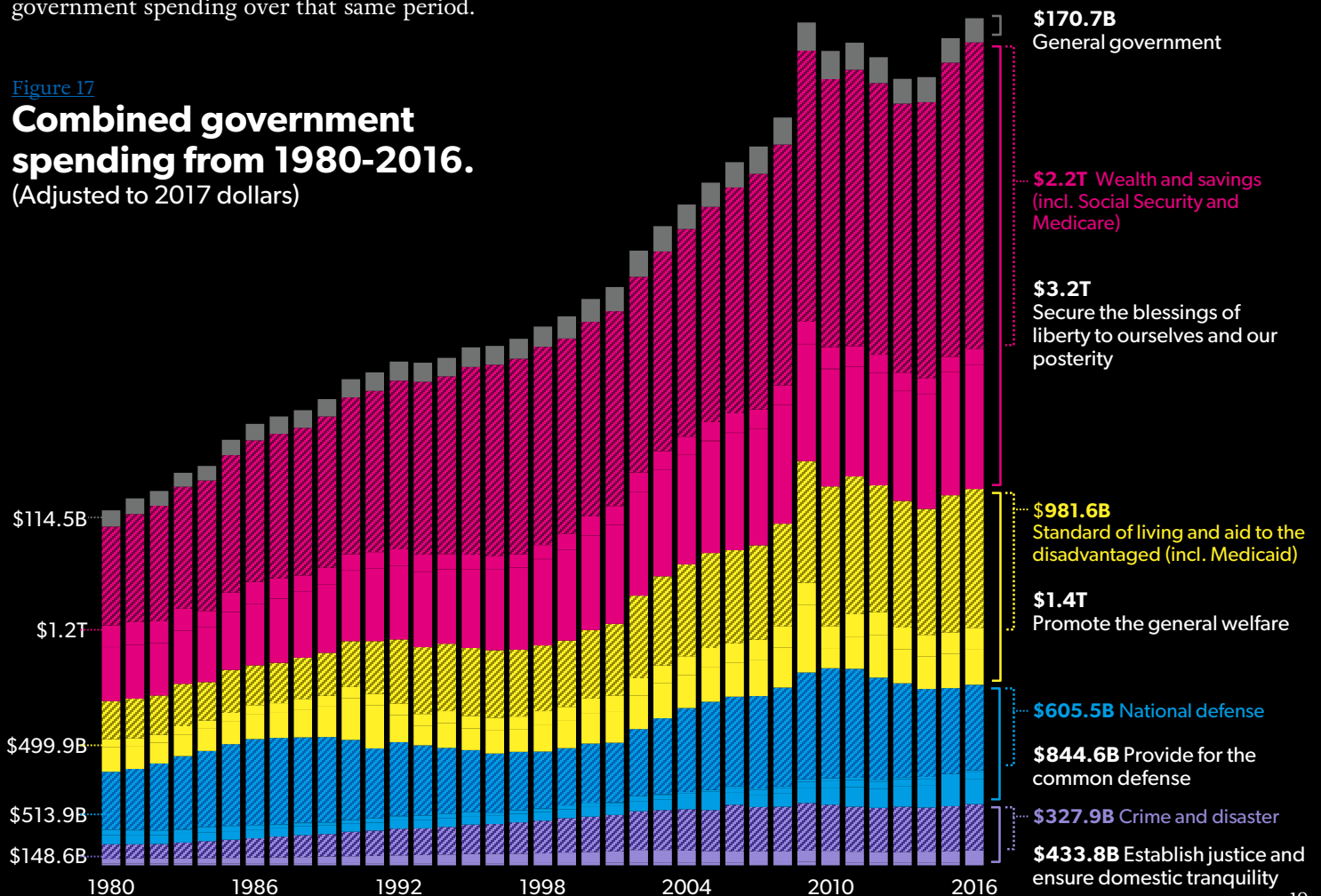
2016 spending levels increased 2.5% over 2015 after adjusting for inflation. The largest year-over-year increases were for Medicare (up 8%), Social Security (up 2%), and interest on the debt (up 5%). Some of the largest decreases in spending were for SNAP and other nutritional programs on which the government spent \$5 billion less in 2016 as compared to 2015, and foreign affairs and foreign aid, which fell by \$4 billion.

Combined government spending in 2016 reached \$18,486 per capita, a 65% increase from 1980 when it was \$11,177, adjusted for inflation.

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) allows states to expand Medicaid eligibility to cover more of the uninsured. States initially received large federal subsidies, but these funds decrease over time. **As of February 2019, 36 states and the District of Columbia have expanded Medicaid.**

Figure 17

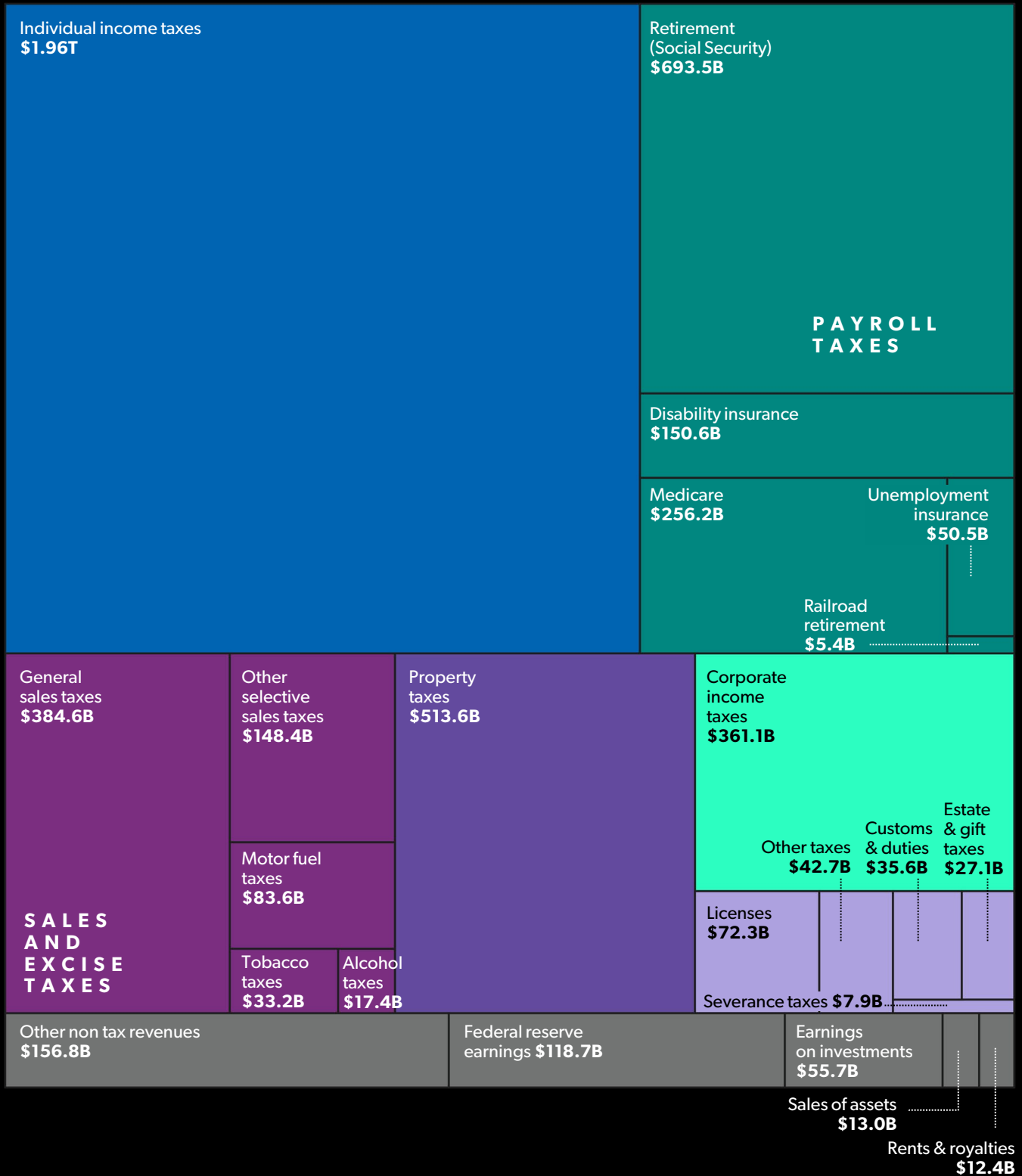
Combined government spending from 1980-2016. (Adjusted to 2017 dollars)



2016 government revenue: \$5.1 trillion

\$5.2 trillion, adjusted for inflation to 2017 dollars

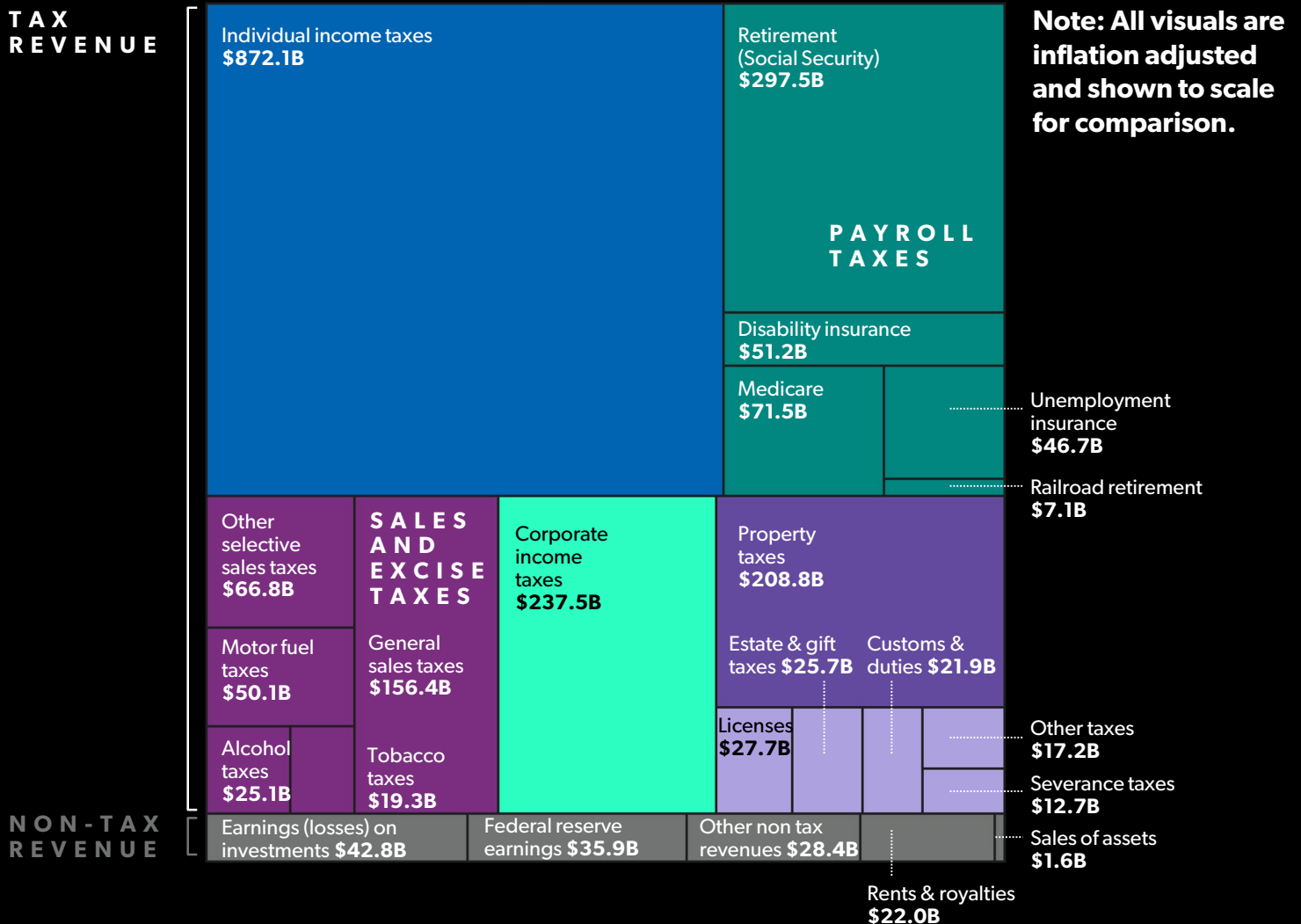
Figure 18



1980 government revenue: \$770 billion

\$2.3 trillion, adjusted for inflation in 2017 dollars

Figure 19



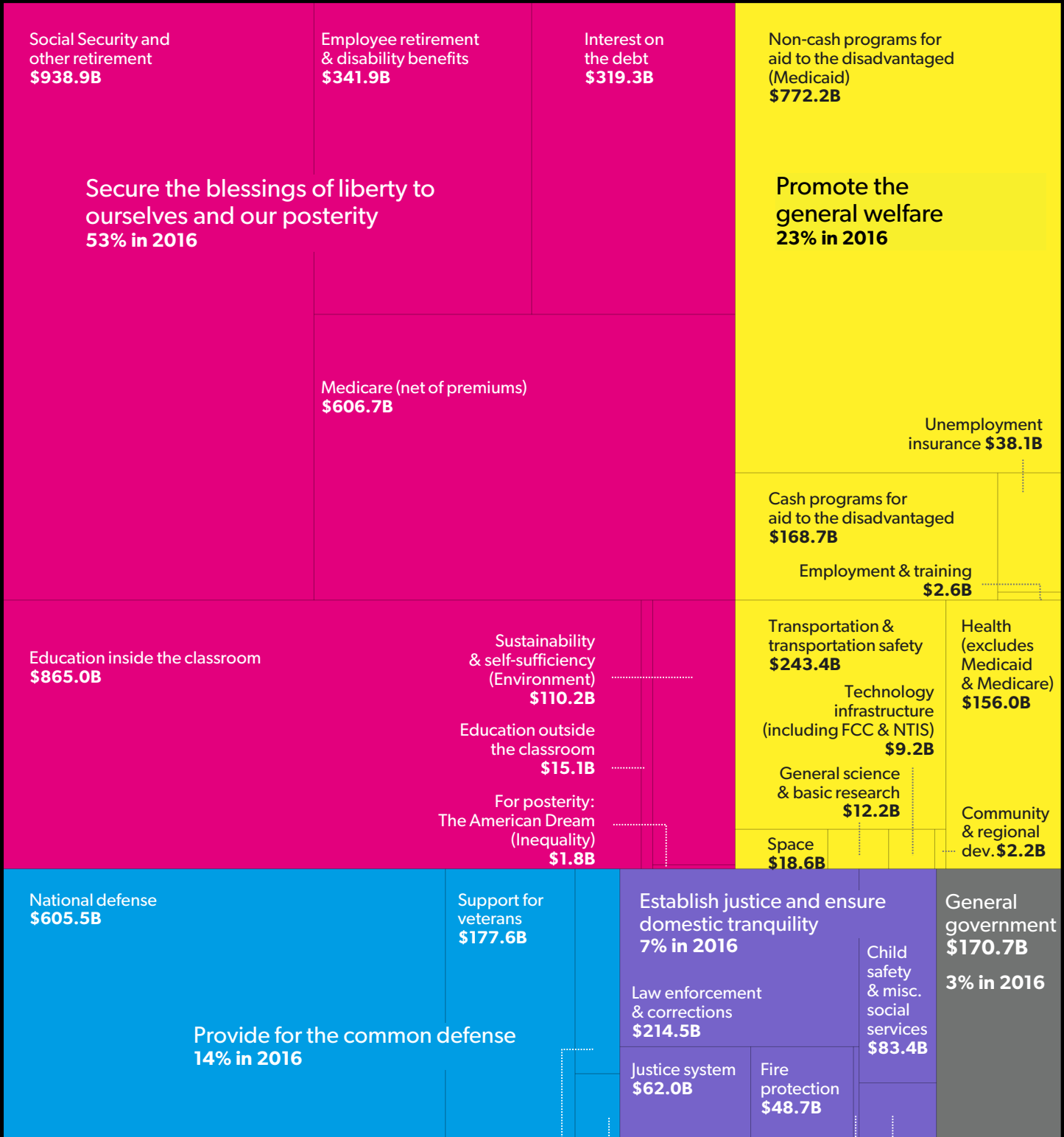
Payroll taxes are taxes that the federal government places on wages and salaries to finance programs such as Social Security, Medicare, and Unemployment Insurance.

Employers and employees each pay matching proportions of Social Security and Medicare taxes, while only employers pay Unemployment taxes. Self-employed individuals pay both the employee and employer share of these taxes.

2016 government spending: \$5.9 trillion

\$6.0 trillion, adjusted for inflation to 2017 dollars

Figure 20



Note: visual does not include \$73.8B in programs where offsetting collections exceeded spending for general commerce, banking and finance, housing support, and USPS.

Foreign affairs & foreign aid \$46.2B

Immigration & border security \$15.1B

Disaster relief (net): \$2.7B

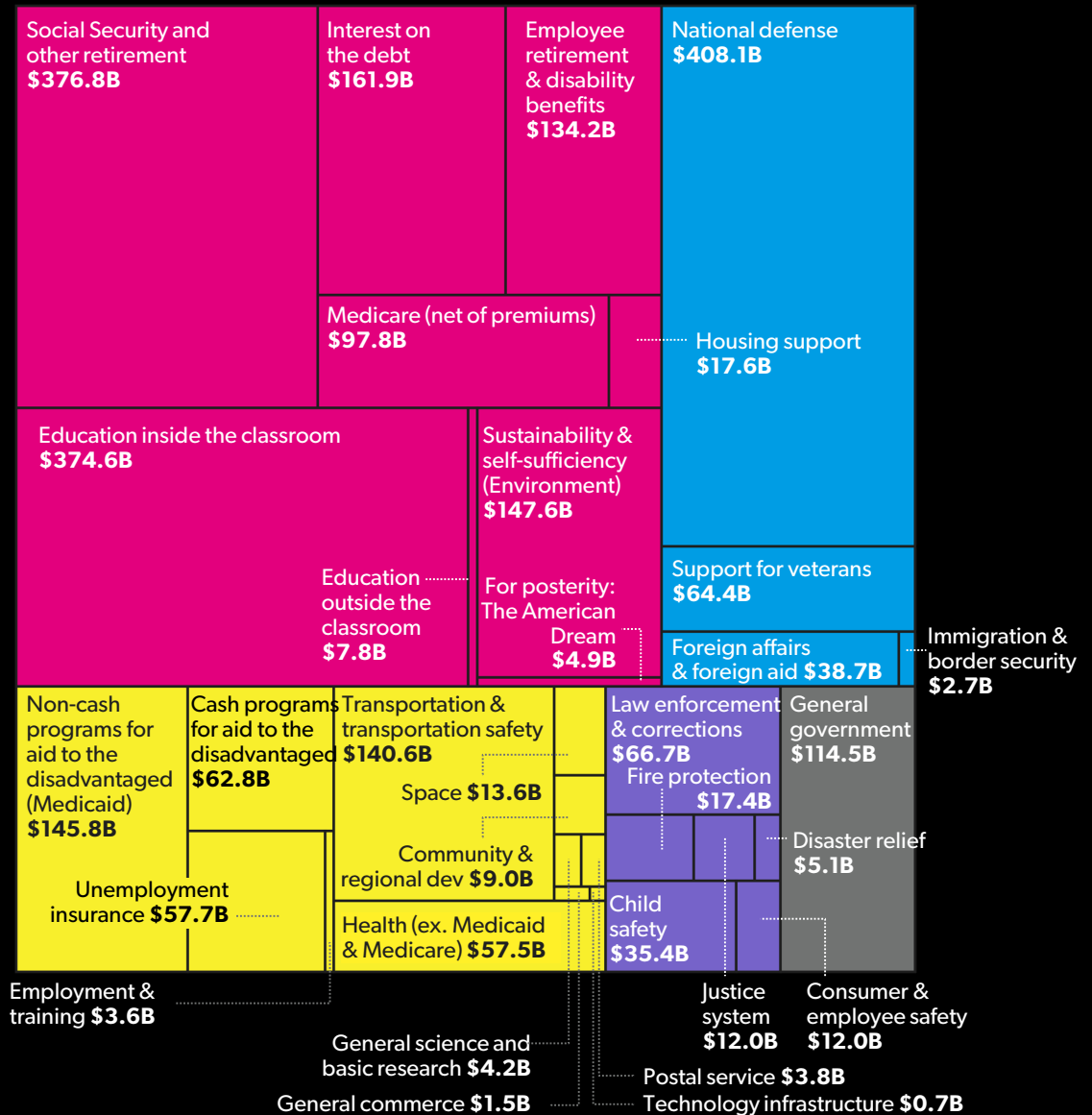
Consumer & employee safety: \$22.5B

1980 government spending: \$833 billion

\$2.5 trillion, adjusted for inflation to 2017 dollars

Figure 21

Note: All visuals are inflation adjusted and shown to scale for comparison.



Government spending reached \$6.0 trillion in 2016, the equivalent of \$18,485 per person.
(Up from \$11,177 in 1980.)

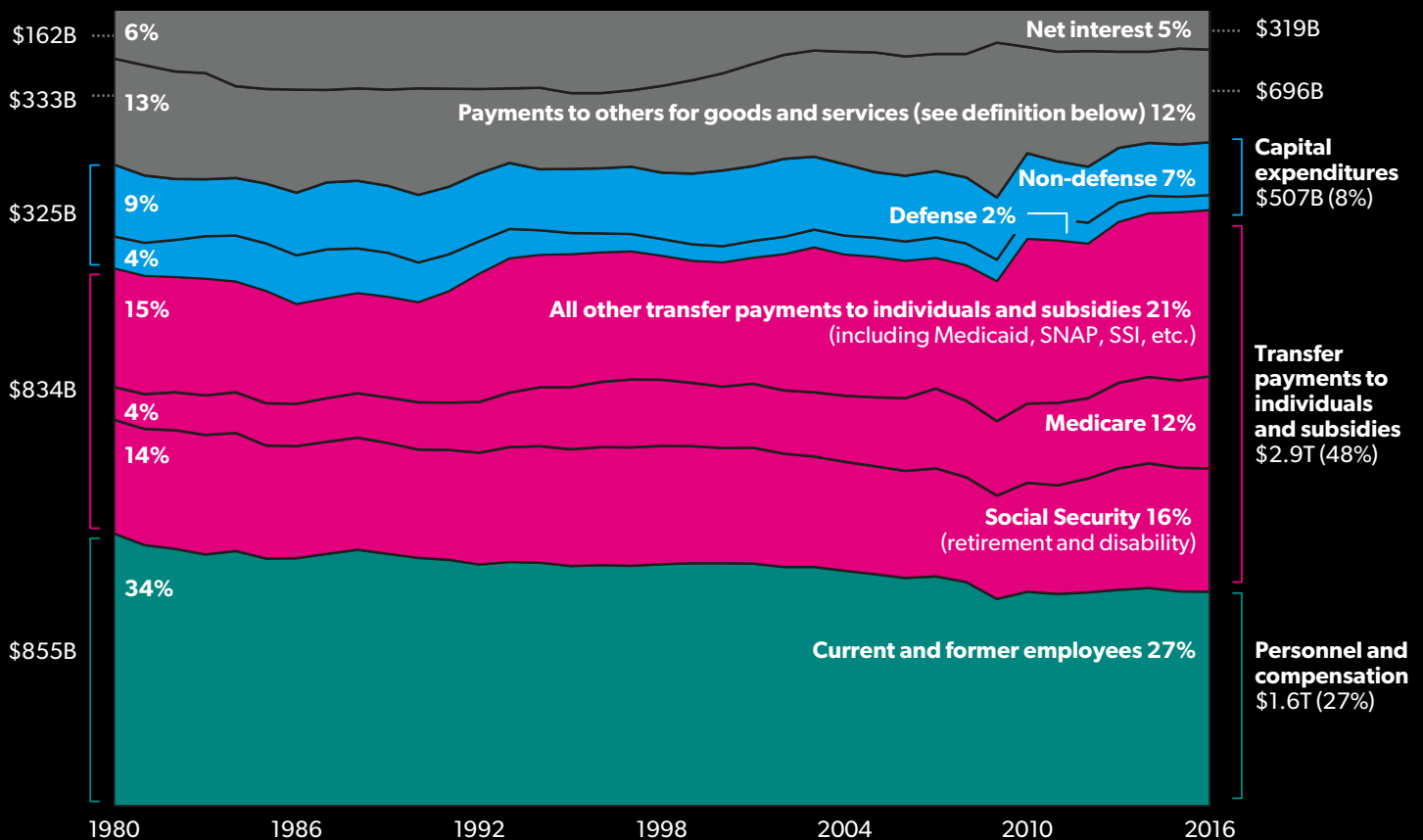
Note: visual does not include \$0.8B in programs where offsetting collections exceeded spending for banking and finance.

Nearly half of government spending supports the elderly or disadvantaged as either a cash transfer or a subsidy for a service on their behalf.

Figure 22

A different look at government spending.

See how spending for federal, state, and local governments divides into functional areas. (Inflation adjusted in 2017 dollars, shown as a percent of total spending)



“Payments to others for goods and services” is money the government spends on things that help it do its job. This includes anything from a Member of Congress buying a stapler for the office, to a public school paying for food services, to the military purchasing a plane to fight in a war.

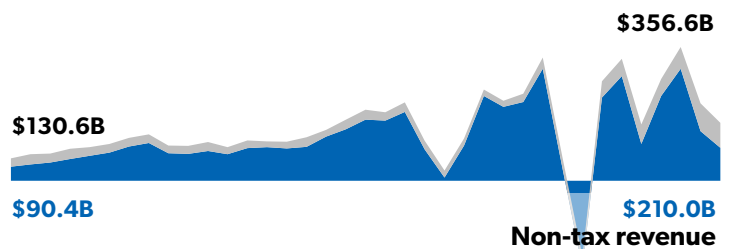
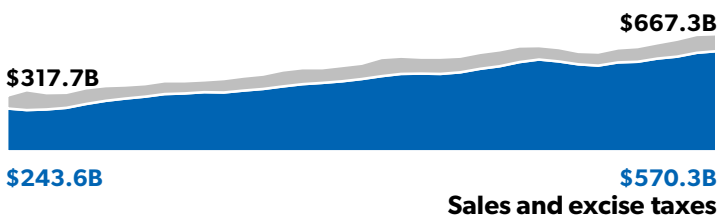
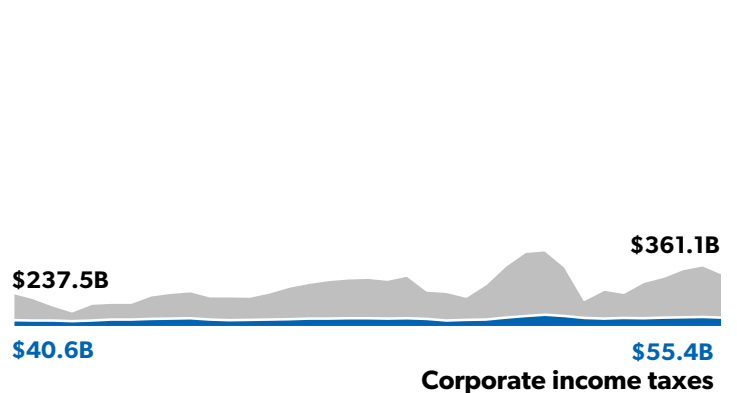
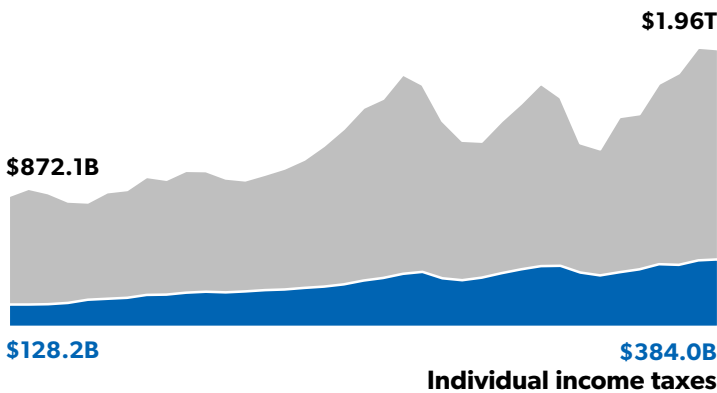
State and local revenues make up just over one third (35.3%) of all government revenue.

Figure 23

Compare types of revenue by government from 1980 to 2016.

(Adjusted to 2017 dollars)

■ Federal revenue
■ State and local revenue



(The government collects "non-tax revenue" through means such as the sale or leasing of land and natural resources or investing government funds. Figure excludes intragovernmental transfers.)



Four top-level categories are not shown, due to scale of state and local revenue:

- **<1B\$** Customs and duties
(State and local receives 0% of total \$35.6B customs and duties)
- **<1B\$** Payroll taxes
(State and local receives 0% of total \$1.2T payroll taxes)
- **\$5.3B** Estate and gift taxes
(State and local receive 20% of total \$27.1B estate and gift taxes)
- **\$32.5B** Other taxes
(State and local receive 76% of total \$42.7B other taxes)

The federal government transferred \$661 billion in grants to state and local governments in 2016.

While state and local revenue help fund social services and other programs, the federal government also plays a significant role in funding these programs through transfers to state and local governments. In 2016, the federal government provided \$661 billion in grants to states and local governments, accounting for 25% of all state and local government spending and 11% of total government spending (Fig. 24). D.C., Alaska, Wyoming, and Vermont received the largest grants per capita.

Figure 24

Grants to State and Local Governments & Territories \$660.8B

Non-Cash Programs for Aid to the Disadvantaged	\$460.2B
Medicaid and CHIP (Children’s Health Insurance)	\$383.2B
Housing Assistance	\$29.6B
Child Care Assistance	\$5.3B
Other Non-Cash Aid	\$42.1B
Transportation	\$63.9B
Elementary and Secondary Education	\$35.9B
Child and Social Services	\$29.4B
Cash Programs for Aid to the Disadvantaged	\$17.1B
TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families)	\$16.2B
Other Cash Aid	\$0.9B
Community and Regional Development	\$7.3B
Vocational Education	\$1.7B
Other Grants	\$45.3B

Data from the Census is used to allocate transfers from federal to state and local governments.

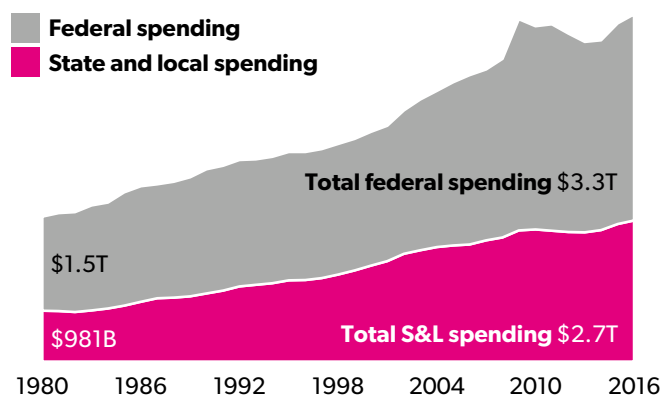
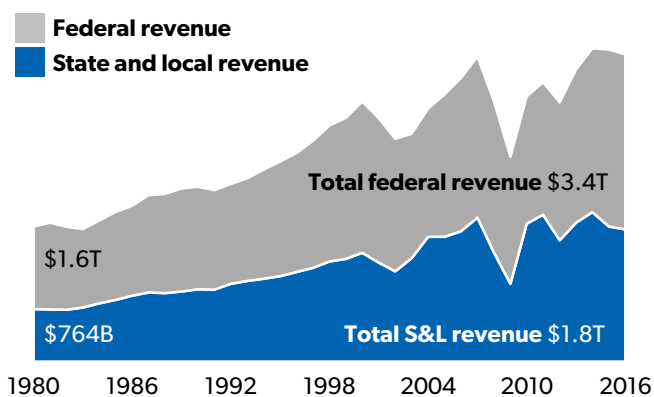
According to a 2017 study from the Census Bureau, “132 programs used Census Bureau data to distribute more than \$675 billion in funds during fiscal year 2015.” Census data is used in the process of transferring funds to state and local governments specifically to:

- Define the characteristics of populations and organizations who can receive funds
- Allocate funds to eligible individuals and organizations
- Monitor the outcomes of various programs

Figure 25

Revenue and spending by level of government

(Adjusted to 2017 dollars)



Note: USAFacts attributes spending to the government entity that last spends it, meaning transfers from federal to state and local governments are portrayed above as spending by state and local governments.

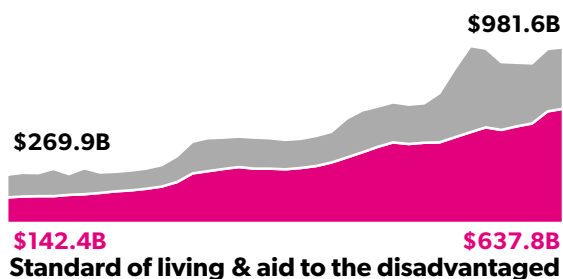
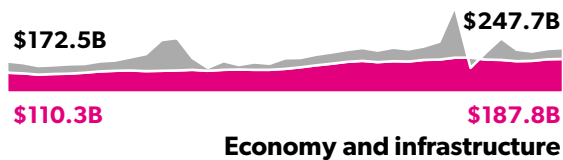
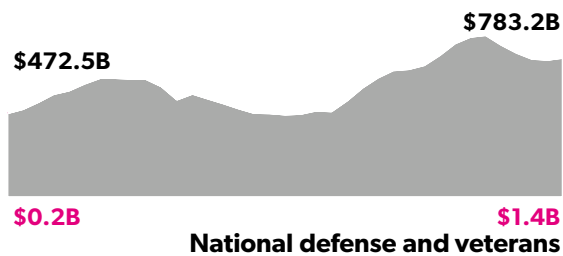
45% of government spending is from state & local governments.

Figure 26

Compare categories of spending by government from 1980 to 2016.

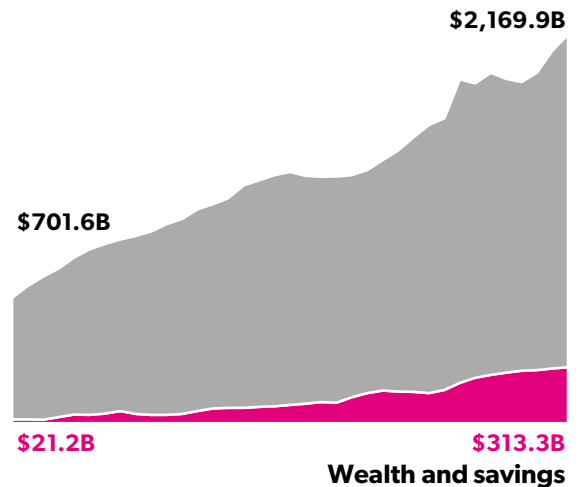
(Adjusted to 2017 dollars)

■ Federal spending
■ State and local spending

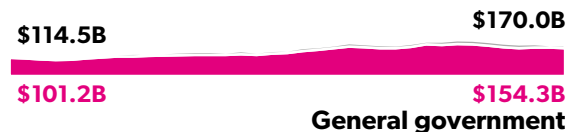


Three top-level categories are not shown, due to scale of state and local spending:

- **<1B\$** Immigration and border security (State and local spends <1% of total \$15.1B)
- **<1B\$** Foreign affairs and foreign aid (State and local spends <1% of total \$46.2B)
- **\$15.1B** Consumer and employee safety (State and local spends 67% of total \$22.5B)



*Net of loans and fees, where federal government sometimes takes in more than it spends due to the way it counts outlays for credit programs.



Some states spend twice as much per capita compared to their counterparts.

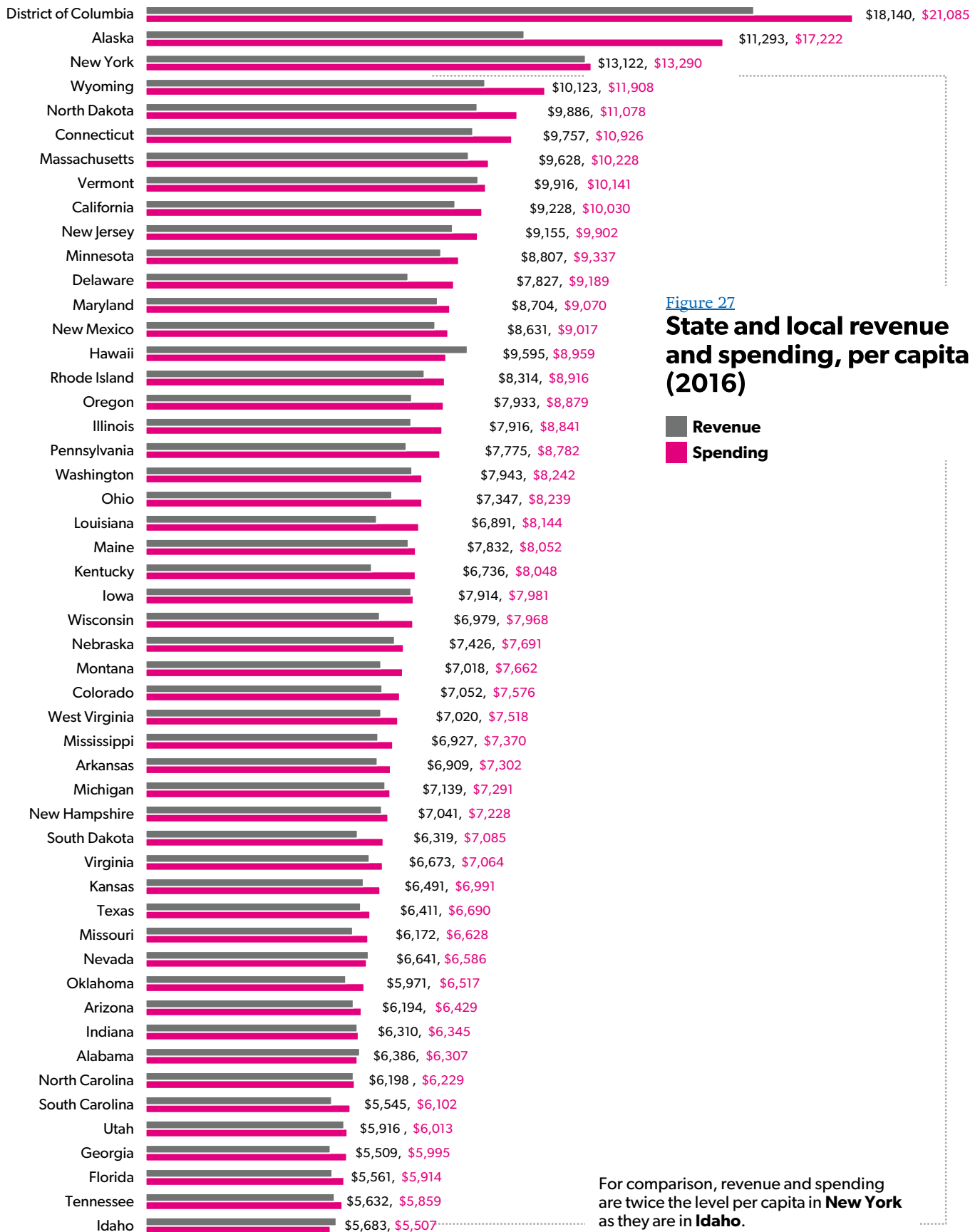


Figure 27
State and local revenue and spending, per capita (2016)

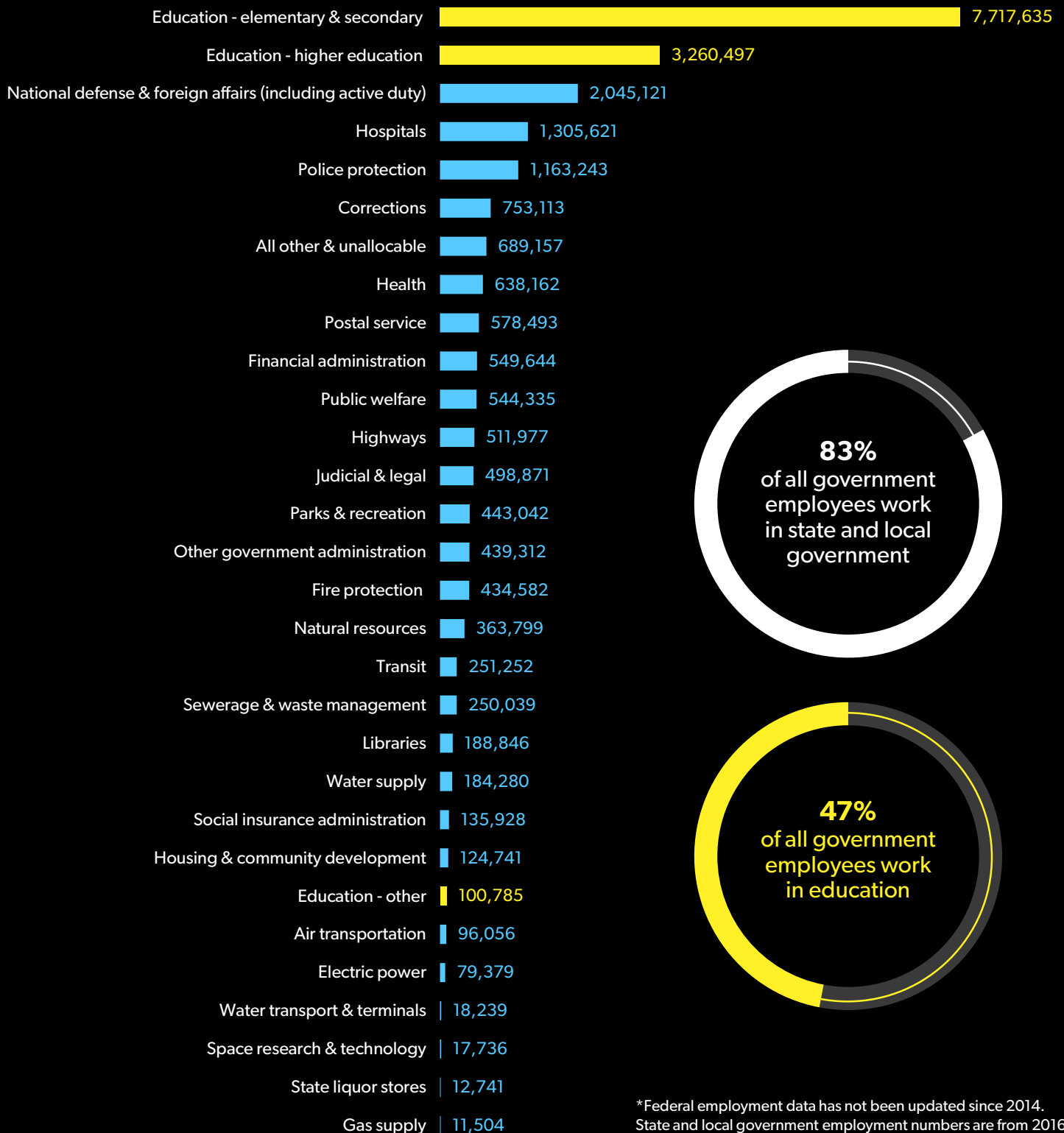
■ Revenue
 ■ Spending

For comparison, revenue and spending are twice the level per capita in **New York** as they are in **Idaho**.

Federal, state, and local governments employ over 23 million people; 47% are in education.

Figure 28

Government employment (2016)*



*Federal employment data has not been updated since 2014. State and local government employment numbers are from 2016.

Economy and business



The economy grew steadily in 2018.

The US GDP rose to \$20.5 trillion in 2018, an increase of 2.9% in real terms compared to 2017 (Fig. 29), equal to the highest annual growth rate in the last decade. GDP per capita grew 2.2% and reached \$61,275 per person in 2018.

Total national income is equal to all income earned by Americans and is an important measure of how economic growth is “felt” by workers and businesses. National income reached \$17.5 trillion in 2018.

Gross Domestic Product is the value of all goods and services produced in the US. This number is generally used to measure the health of the economy as either expanding or contracting. A recession is defined as a decline in GDP in two consecutive quarters.

Adjusting for inflation, national income grew 2.3% from the previous year. The distribution of national income has changed since 1980. 62% is distributed to employees in the form of compensation, down from 67% in 1980. In addition, profits that are kept by companies and not given to workers, shareholders, or the government, have risen to 5% (from 3%) while corporate income taxes have fallen from 3% to 1% of national income. Dividends (which includes those paid out to investors as well as profits for S-corps), however, have more than doubled from 3% of the share of national income to 7% in 2018. Tax legislation passed in 2017 that went into effect at the beginning of 2018 lowered the corporate tax rate from 35% to 21%. That same year, taxes on corporate income fell by 33% while undistributed corporate profits increased 46% in real terms, while no other category changed by more than 5% (Fig. 31).

Figure 29
GDP (gross domestic product)

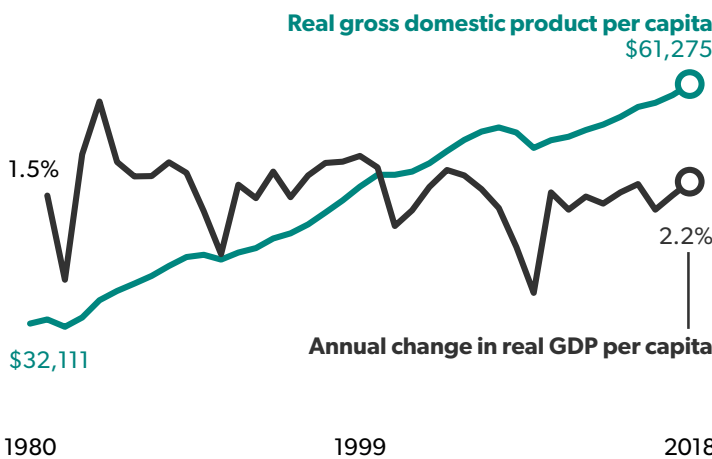


Figure 30
Private fixed investment & employment

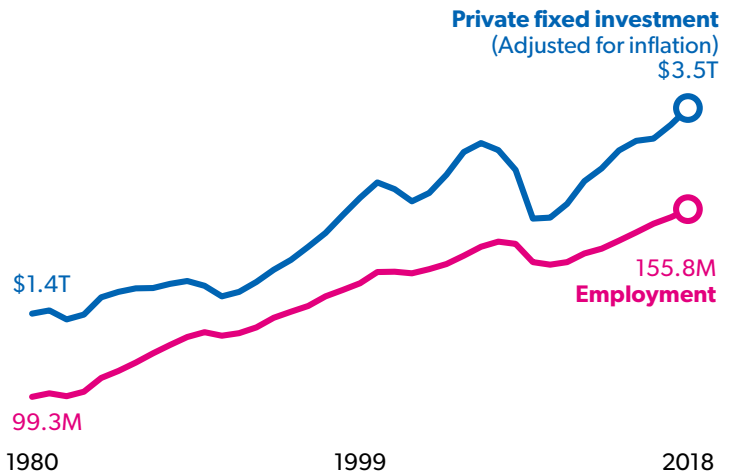
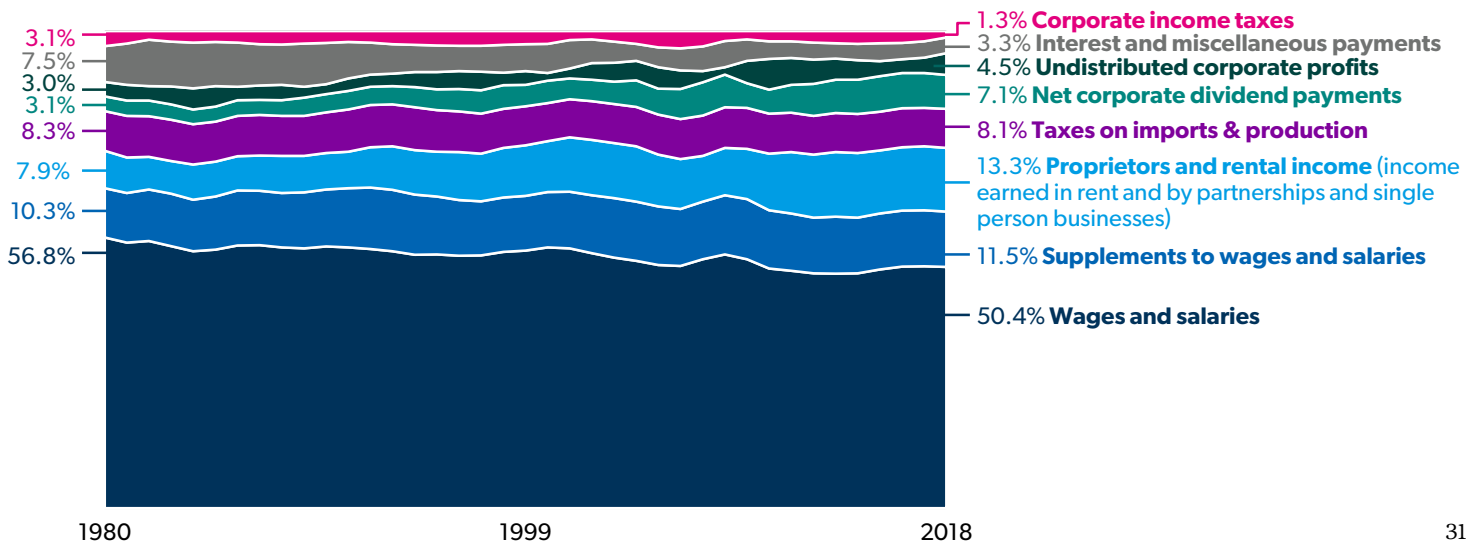


Figure 31
What happens to all income earned by Americans and businesses?



Results of economic growth differ by industry.

The national GDP grew 15.5% between 2007, the peak of the GDP before the recession, and 2017, from \$16.87 trillion to \$19.49 trillion.

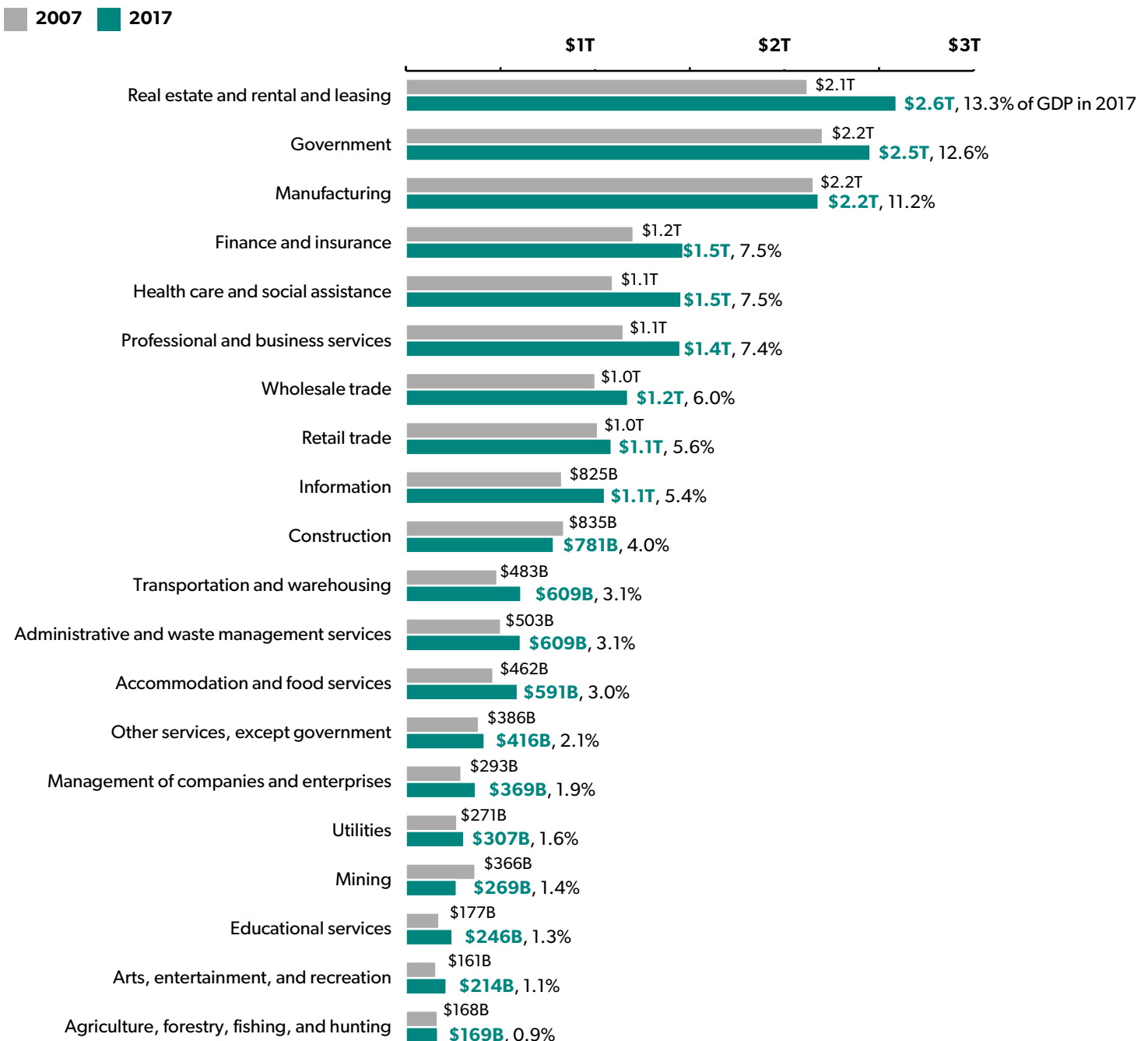
During this period, the real estate and rental and leasing industry grew 22.1 percent, from \$2.12 trillion to \$2.59 trillion, becoming the largest industry in terms of value added to the GDP (Fig. 32).

Manufacturing saw 1.2% growth, from \$2.16 trillion to \$2.18 trillion, and fell from being the second-largest industry in the nation to third.

Two industries have seen their share of the GDP fall – mining, which dropped 26.7% from \$366 billion to \$269 billion, and construction, which fell 6.4% from \$835 billion to \$781 billion.

Figure 32

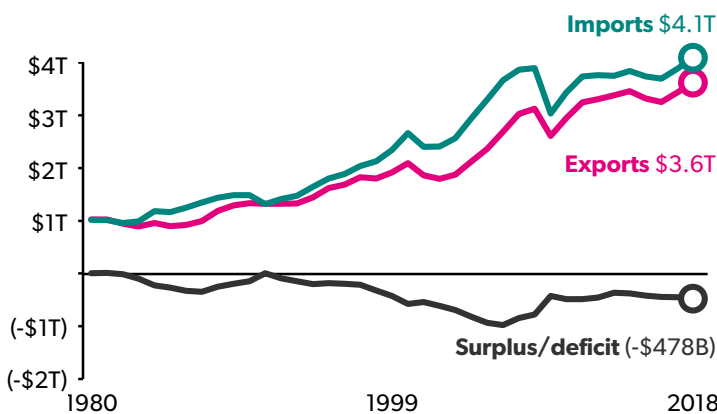
GDP and percent of total GDP, by industry



The trade deficit is expanding.

The US trade balance can be calculated many ways, with the broadest measure consisting of exports minus imports of goods, services, and income receipts. When including all three of these categories of imports and exports, the US has run a trade deficit annually since 1992 (Fig. 33). In 2018, the US ran a trade deficit of \$488.5 billion. Adjusted for inflation, this is the largest trade deficit since 2011. This deficit is primarily due to the US importing more goods than it exports, although the nation is a net exporter of services.

Figure 33
US trade balance since 1980
(Adjusted for inflation)



The United States' largest trade relationships (calculated as exports plus imports) are with Canada (\$861 billion), China (\$802 billion), Mexico (\$728 billion), the UK (\$499 billion), and Japan (\$440 billion) (Fig. 34). Of those five, the US runs a trade deficit with China, Mexico, and Japan, while running a surplus with Canada and the UK. Our trade deficit with China has increased by 203% since 2003 and 12.6% in 2017 to reach a high of \$401.1 billion in 2018.

Figure 34
Trade balance with top 5 trading partners
(Adjusted for inflation)

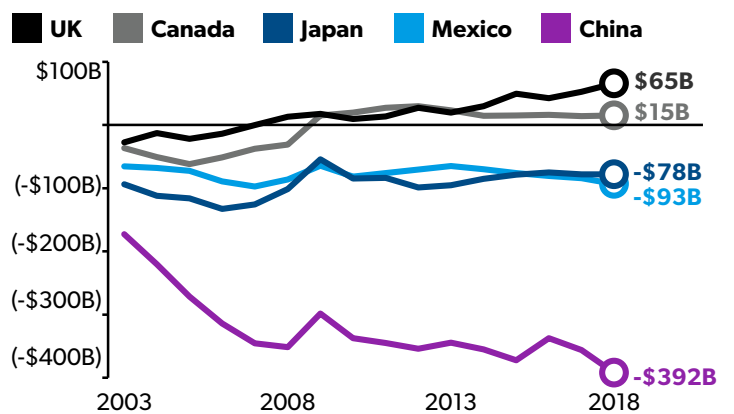
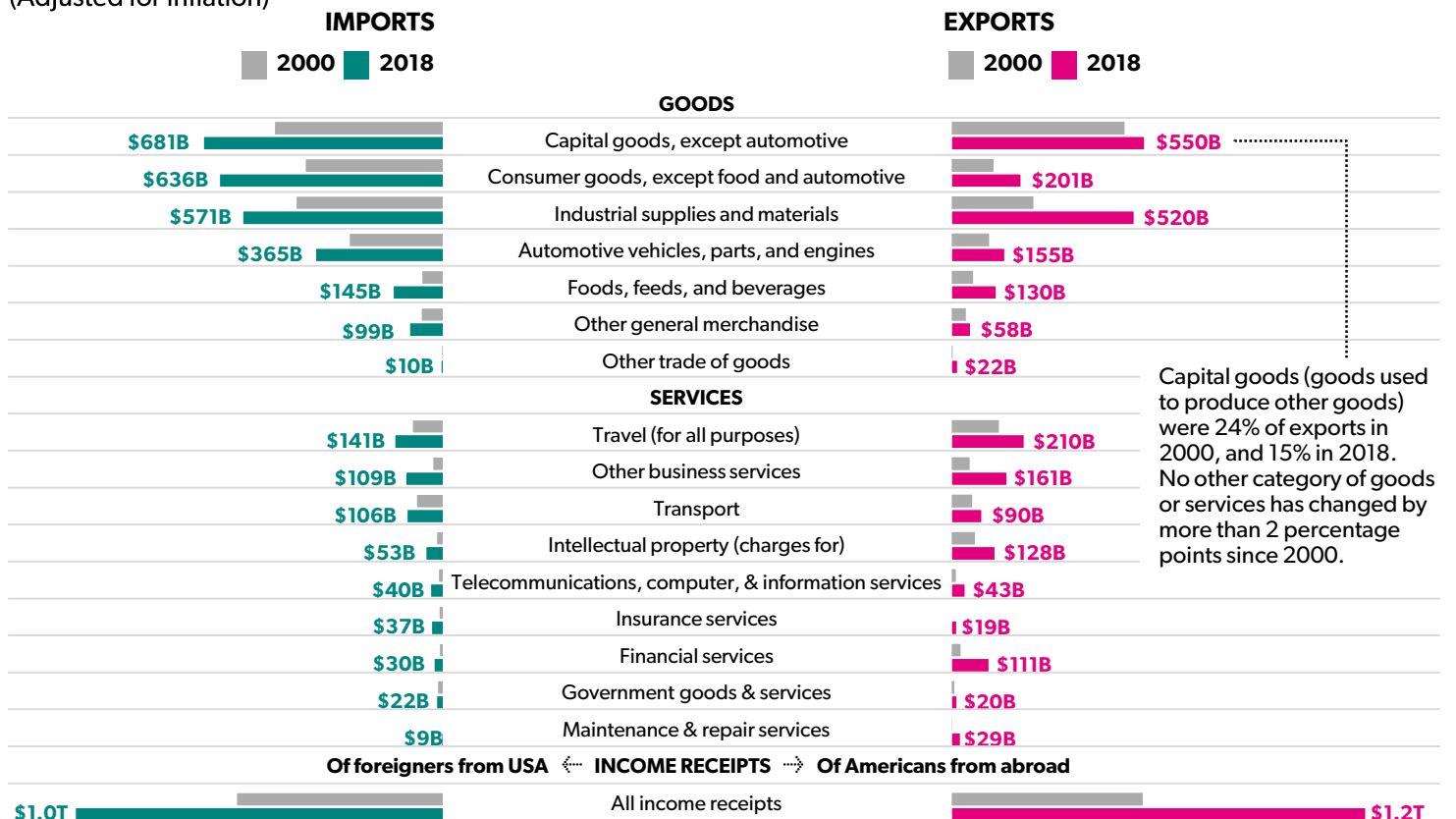


Figure 35
Imports and exports, by category
(Adjusted for inflation)



The standard of living of Americans



Including government transfers, total income has gone up for families since 2000.

Figure 36

Average total income earned, adjusted for inflation

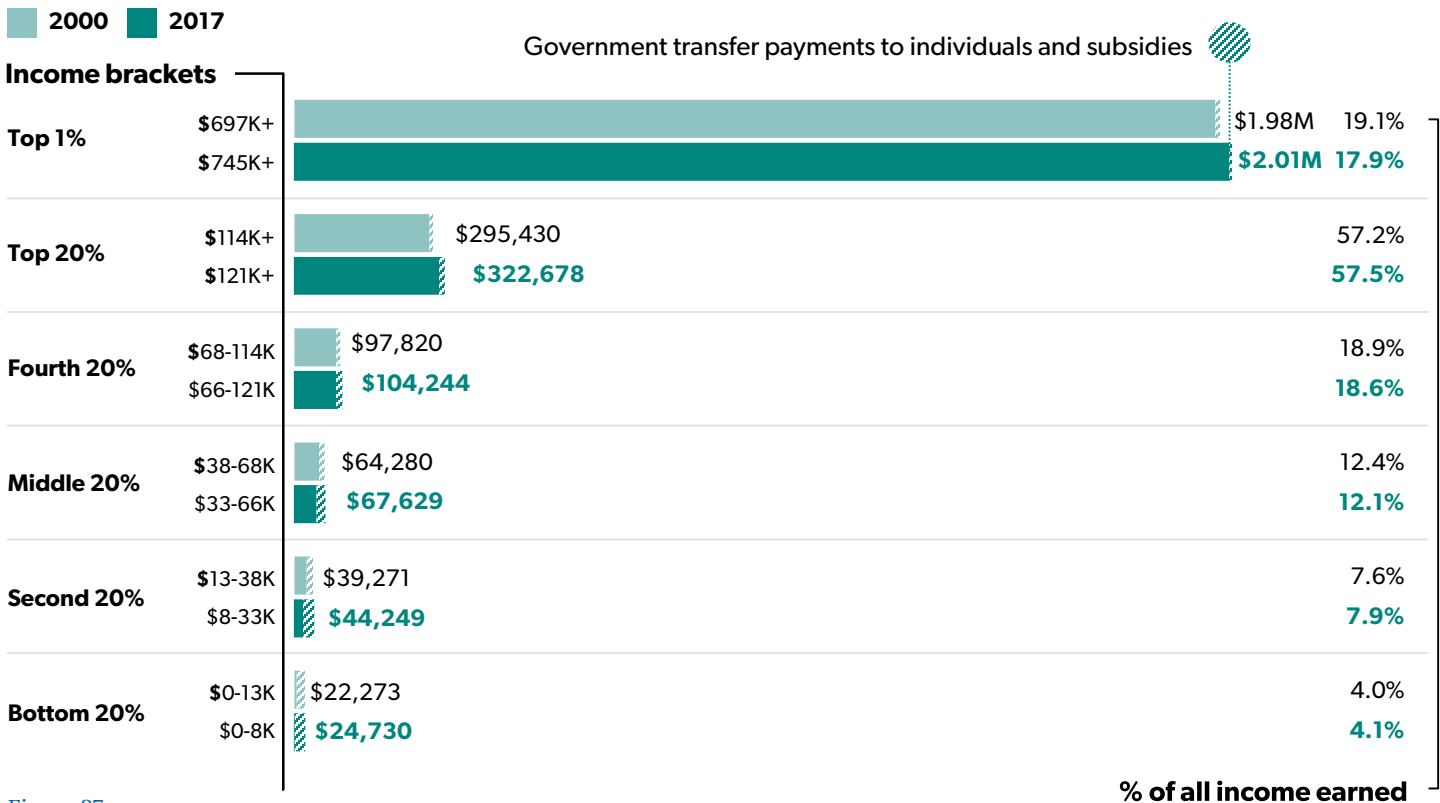


Figure 37

Average total taxes paid, adjusted for inflation

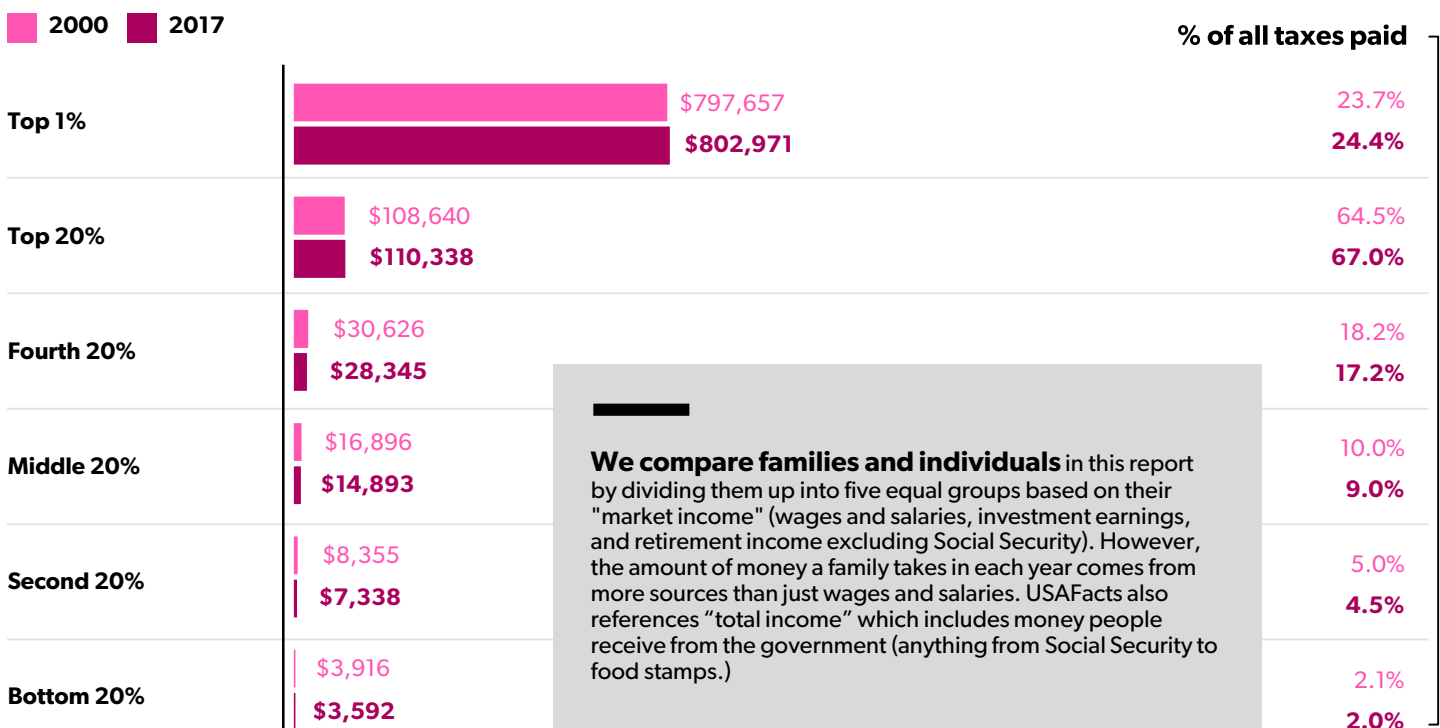
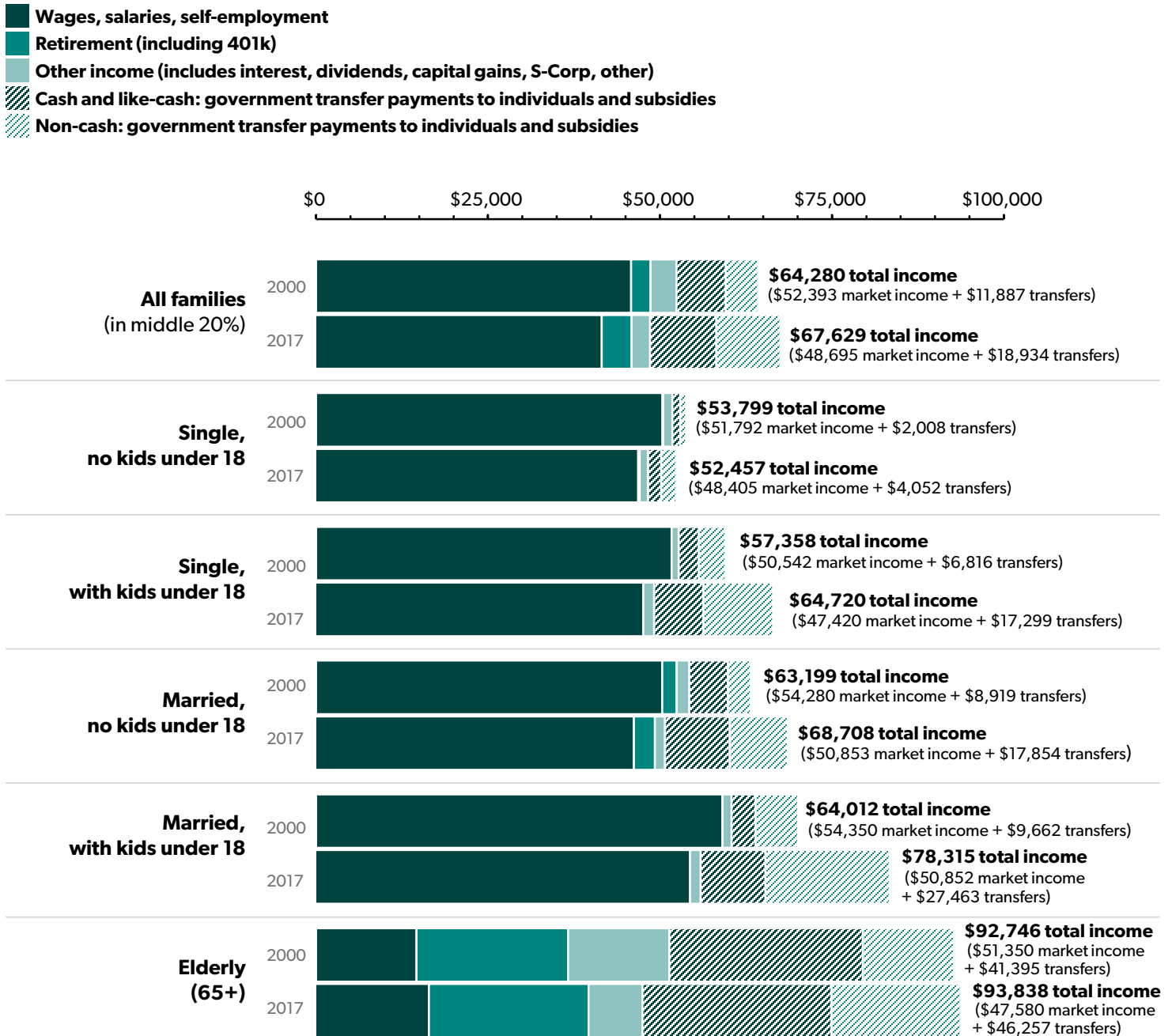


Figure 38

Incomes of the middle 20%, by family type (2000 and 2017)



Average incomes of the middle 20% (Adjusted for inflation)

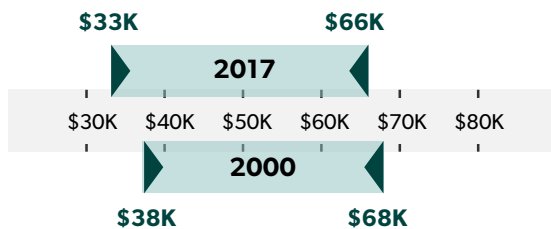
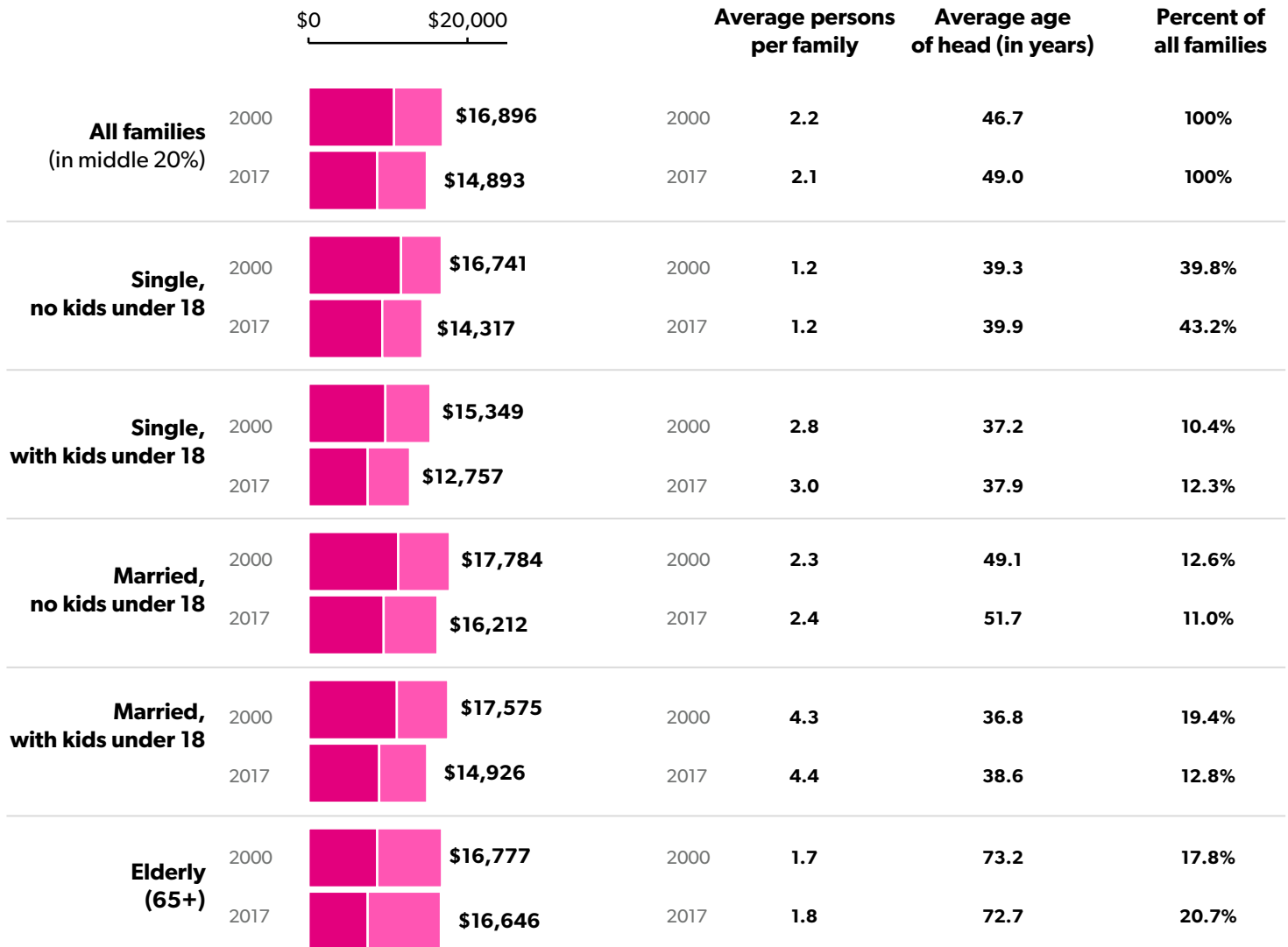


Figure 39

Taxes of the middle 20%, by family type (2000 and 2017)

- Federal taxes (income taxes, payroll taxes, other, and indirect taxes)
- State and local taxes (income taxes, sales taxes, property taxes, other, and indirect taxes)



Employment is on the rise among elderly (65+) and non-White populations.

Total employment reached 155.8 million in 2018, an increase of 6.7% since 2007, before the recession. Employment as a percent of total population (the civilian, noninstitutional population used in employment figures) reached 60.4% in 2018, not quite reaching its pre-recession high of 63.1% in 2006. The working-age (16-64 years old) employment rate is 70.7%, below its peak of 74.1% in 2000 (Fig. 40).

As the elderly population grew from 11% of the population to 16%, the elderly have also become a larger part of the employed population (doubling from 3.0% of employed individuals in 1980 to 6.2% in 2018). Employment among this group reached 18.9% in 2018 and did not fall during the recession as it did with the remainder of the population.

The gaps in employment between genders, races, and ethnicities are increasingly getting smaller (Fig. 43). Women have increasingly entered the workforce, bringing the genders closer to equal employment, although an 11 percentage point gap still exists (Fig. 41). The employment rates between the White and Black populations reached its smallest gap yet in 2018 (Fig. 42).

The employment-population ratio is calculated by dividing total employment in a place or among a group by the total civilian, non-institutional population of that place or group. It generally excludes the military and incarcerated individuals, among others.

Figure 40
Employment-population ratio, by age

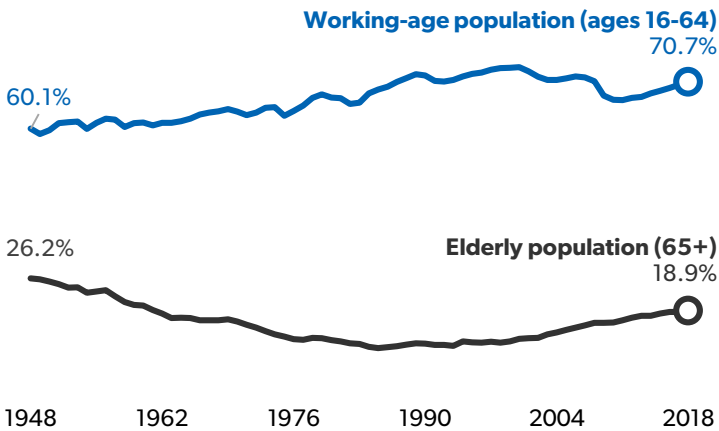


Figure 41
Employment-population ratio, by gender

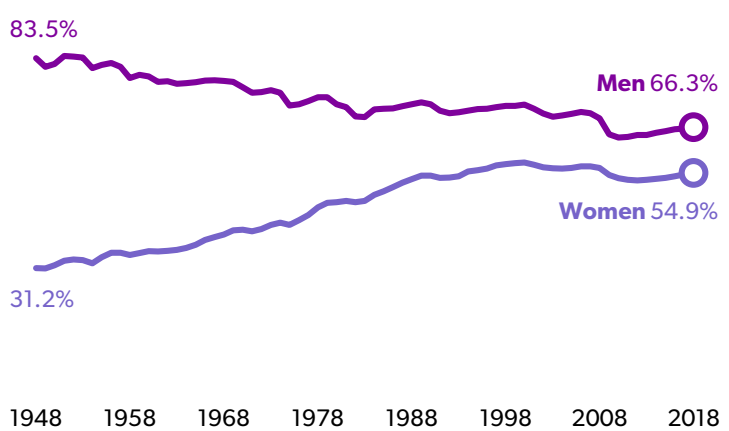


Figure 42
Employment-population ratio, by race

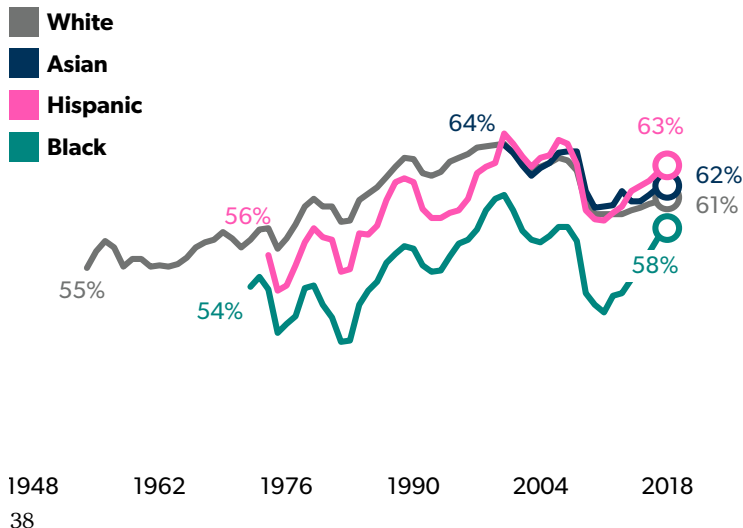
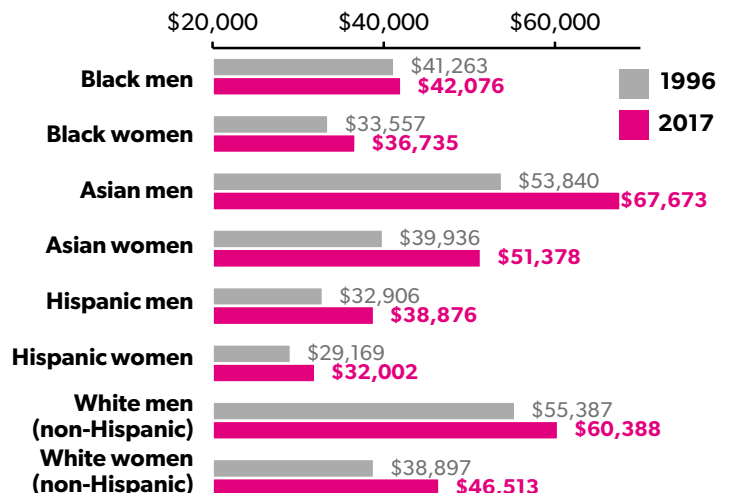


Figure 43
Median earnings by race and gender
Full-time, year-round workers



The median wage reached \$37,719 in 2018, up from \$37,460 in 2001.

Figure 44

Median annual wages (Adjusted for inflation)

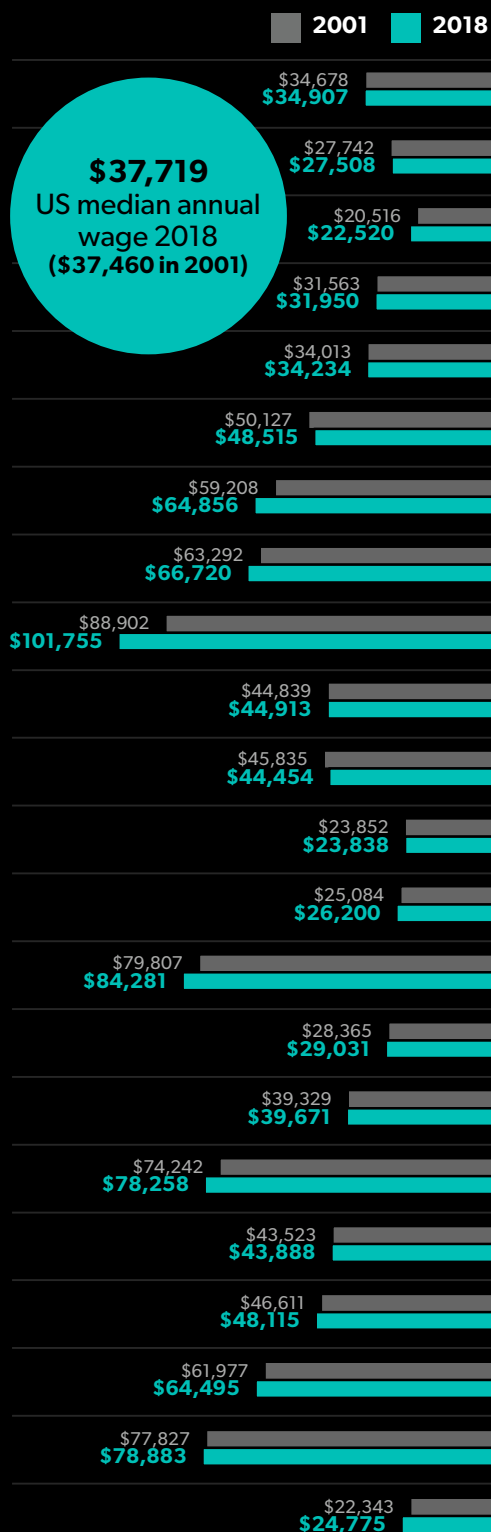
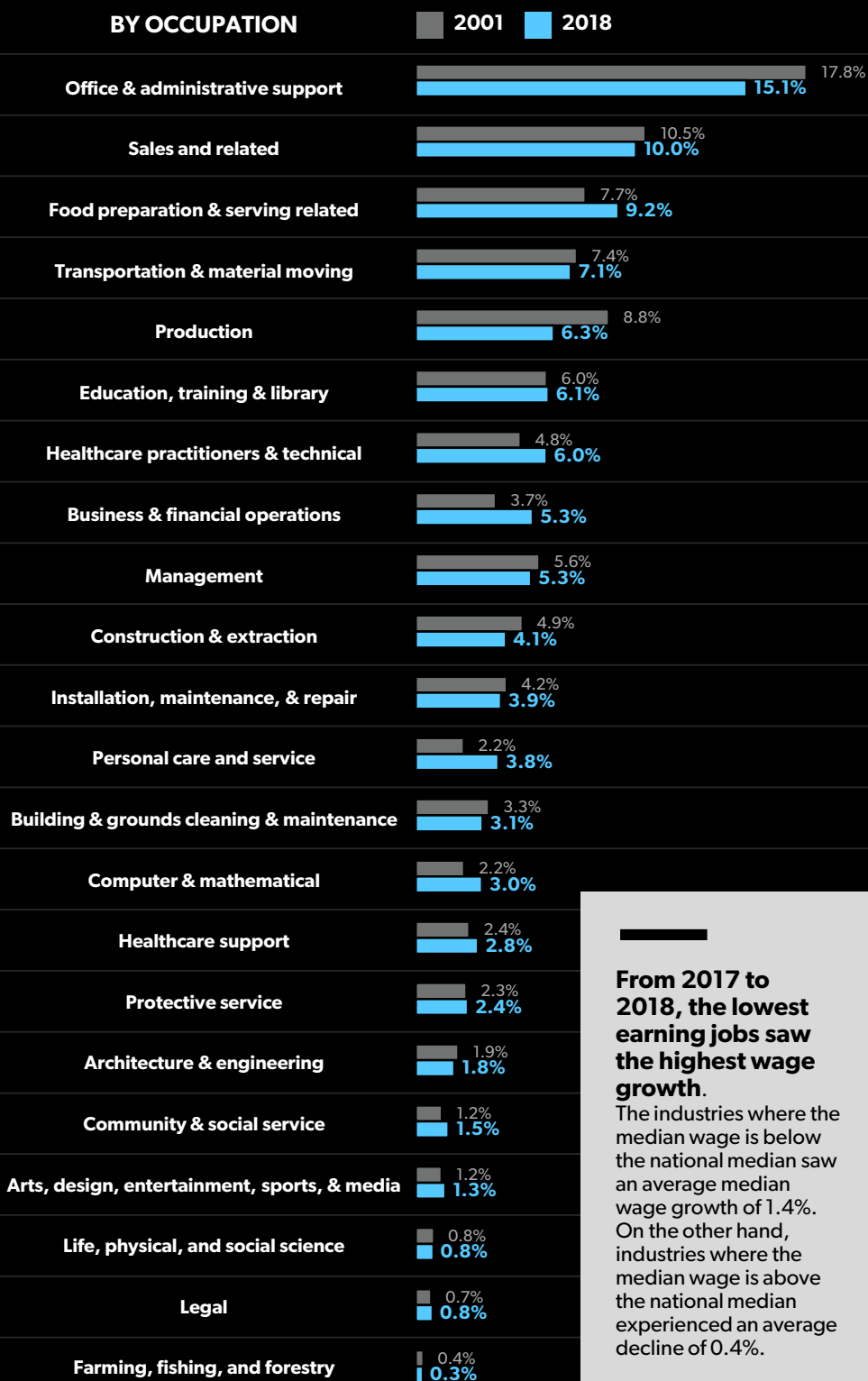


Figure 45

Percent of all jobs, by occupation



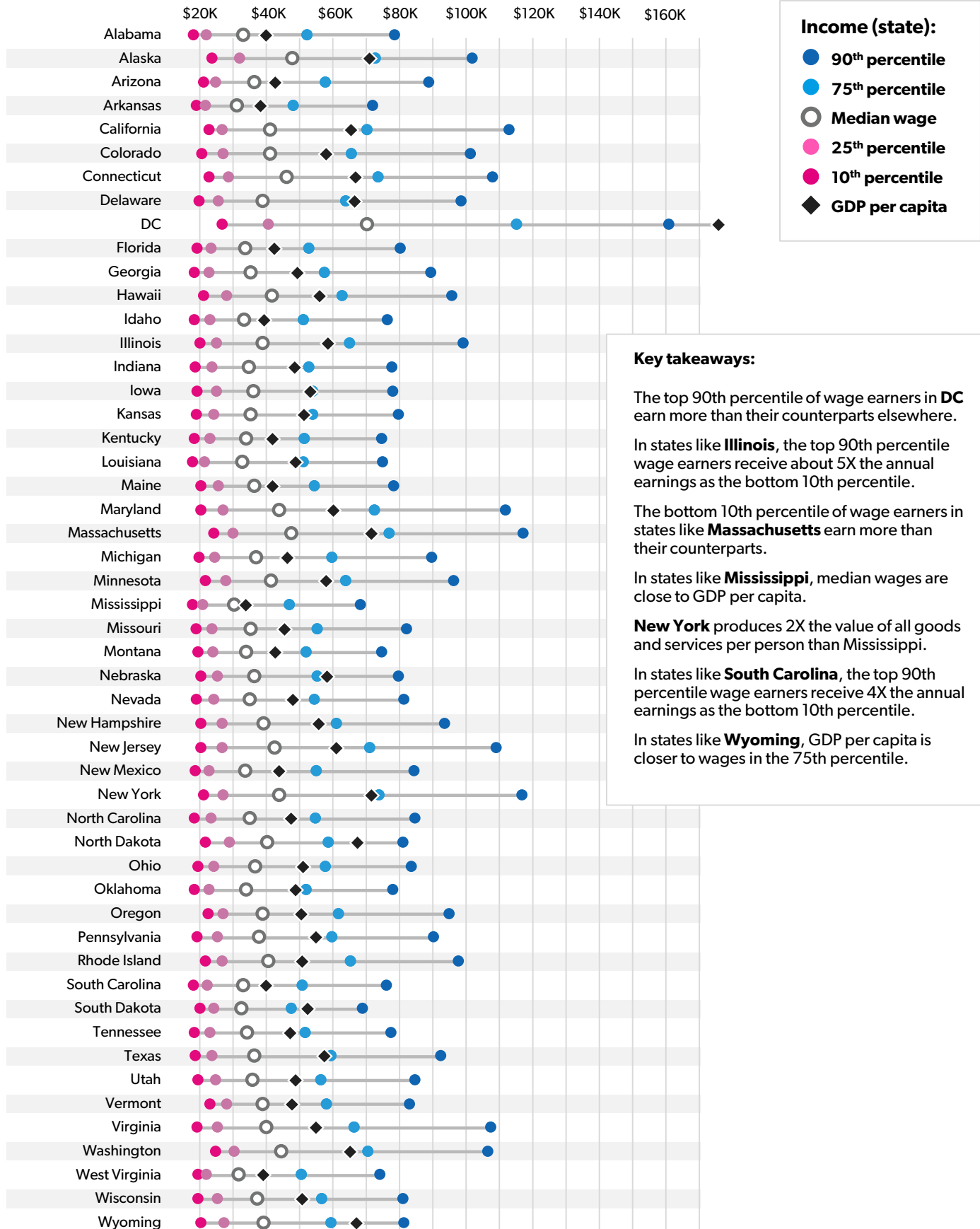
From 2017 to 2018, the lowest earning jobs saw the highest wage growth.

The industries where the median wage is below the national median saw an average median wage growth of 1.4%. On the other hand, industries where the median wage is above the national median experienced an average decline of 0.4%.

The distribution of wages varies by state.

Figure 46

Median wage and GDP per capita (2017)



Health and housing are the largest spending categories for all families.

Health, housing, food, and transportation account for a majority of personal spending. However, for many categories, the amount spent varies by income level. The wealthiest 20% of American families and individuals spend more than two-and-a-half times as much on housing and transportation as the lowest 20% of income earners, and 69% more on food (Fig. 47). In total, the top 20% spend an average of \$16 per person each day for food and \$2,319 each month per household for housing, compared to the bottom 20% who spend on average \$9 per person each day for food and \$488 per household each month for housing. Spending on health, the largest category of spending across income groups, differs less, with the top 20% spending only 7% more per person than the bottom 20%. Health spending is much more equal across income groups compared to other categories of expenses, as private and government health insurers pay a large portion of healthcare costs for the 91.2% of the population with insurance coverage.

The total amount of per-capita non-mortgage debt, adjusted for inflation, held by Americans, has declined by 15% since 2003, from \$14,376 to \$12,216 in 2017. Non-mortgage debt includes student loans, credit cards, auto loans, and other borrowing. While overall non-mortgage debt has decreased, the composition has shifted. Debt from auto loans and credit cards have both decreased (Fig. 48). Home equity loan debt increased following the 2008 recession and has remained at recession levels. Student loan debt has also increased since 2008.

Figure 48
Debt composition, per household

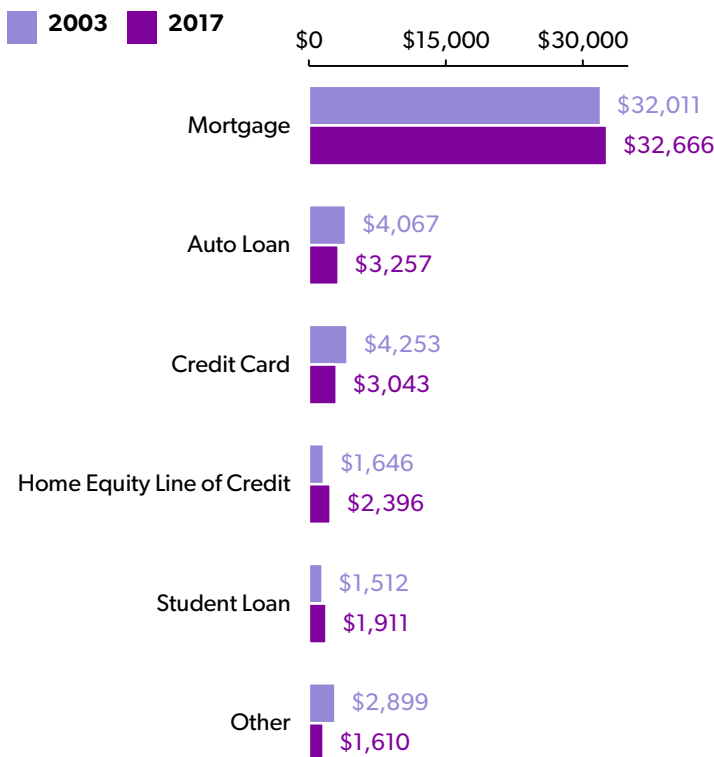
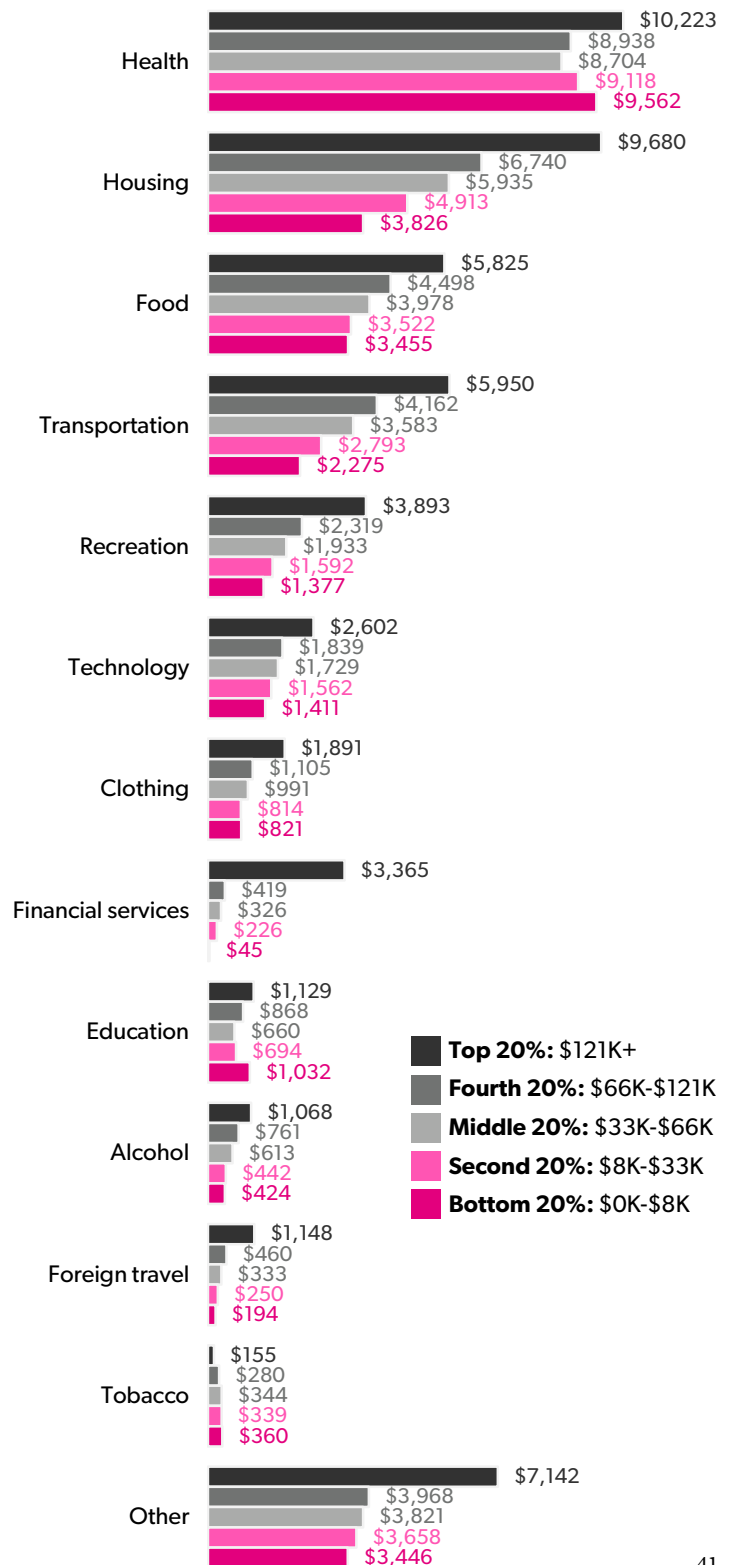


Figure 47
Average consumption per person, by household income level (2017)



Americans increasingly have access to retirement benefits.

In 2018, 71% of workers had access to public and private employer-provided retirement benefit plans and 55% of workers participated in an employer-provided plan (Fig. 49). Employees at smaller employers, defined as having less than 100 workers, had access to retirement benefits 55% of the time in 2018, compared to 86% of employees at large employers. Union employees are more likely to have access to retirement benefits than non-union employees: 95% of union workers receive retirement benefits compared to 67% of non-union workers. However, union participation is on the decline; 22% of workers were represented by a union in 2018, compared to 28% in 2000.

Retirement plans for most Americans are changing. Access to pensions with a defined benefit is declining, from 31% in 2008 to 26% in 2018 (Fig. 50). Over this same period, access to defined contribution plans, such as 401(k)s, has risen from 52% in 2008 to 60% in 2018. As of 2016, 21 million people were participating in public pension programs from state and local government agencies, 5.3 million in public pension programs from federal government agencies, and as of 2015, 40.1 million in private employer-provided pension programs.

As of 2017, 8.4 million households, or 6.5% of all households, were unbanked (Fig. 51). Unbanked households do not have access to financial services, such as savings accounts, credit or debit cards, or non-employer-based retirement accounts.

Figure 50

Access to retirement plans with defined benefits vs. contributions

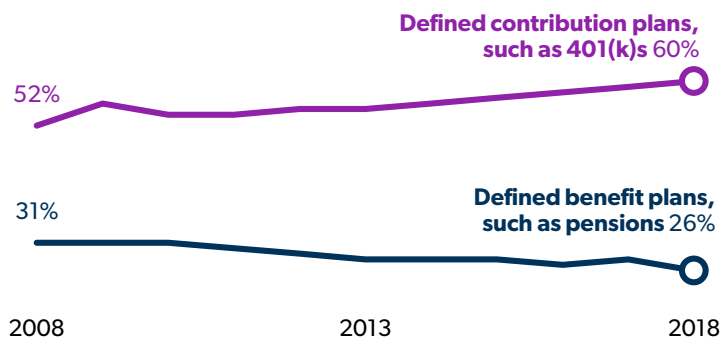


Figure 51

Unbanked households, by race (2017)

as a % of each population

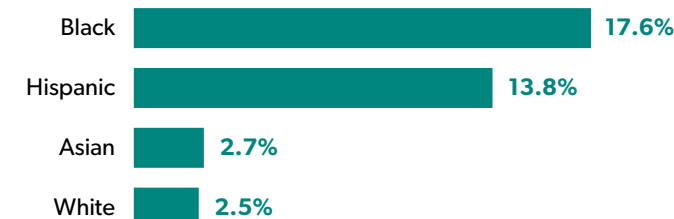
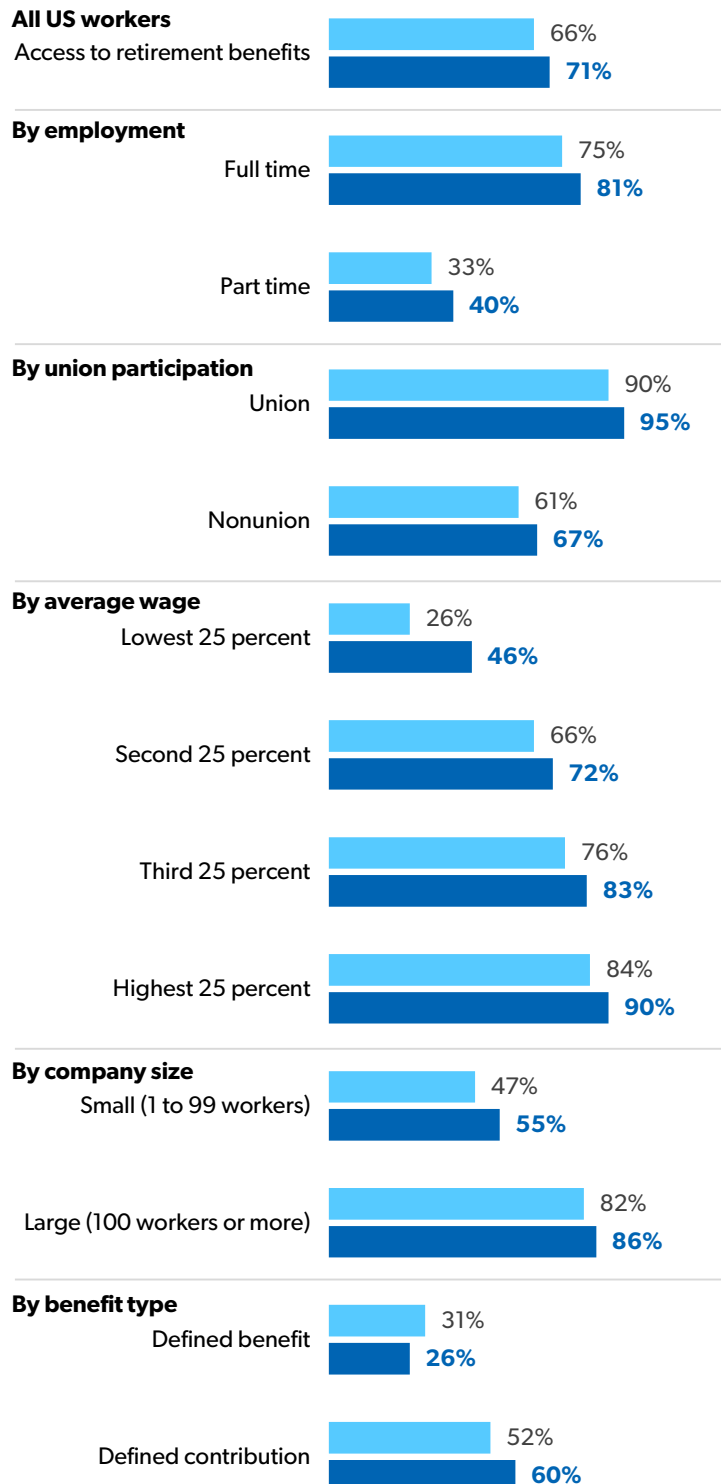


Figure 49

Not including Social Security, 71% of workers had access to employer-provided retirement benefits in 2018.

2008 2018

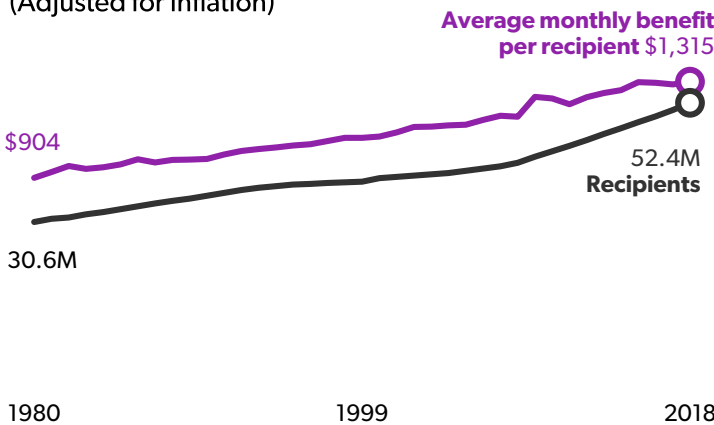


Government spending on retirement programs is on the rise.

Since the financial reforms of the early 1980s, the Social Security trust funds have taken in more money from taxes than they have paid out in benefits, resulting in a contribution to savings each year. However, this trend reversed in 2018 when the program spent more than it made. As life expectancies rise and baby boomers begin to reach the age of retirement, this trend is expected to continue. The retirement age, which is currently set at 66 years and 2 months, may need to increase to help fund government obligations to of an aging population.

Seniors today are much better off as a group as compared to previous years. In 1959, 1 in 3 seniors lived below the poverty line; today that statistic is fewer than 1 in 10. In 2017, elderly families in the lowest 40% of income earners on average receive more from government than from other sources of income (Fig. 54).

Figure 52
Social Security (Old Age & Survivors Insurance)
(Adjusted for inflation)



The primary public vehicle for retirement benefits is Social Security; 52 million Americans collected an average of \$15,784 each in Social Security benefits in 2018 (Fig. 52).

As of 2017, the average cost per Medicare enrollee was \$13,185—an increase of \$398 since 2008, adjusted for inflation (Fig. 53). However, with 58 million enrollees—28% more than in 2008—program costs grew to \$695 billion in 2018. Medicare is also partially funded through payroll taxes. Employees and employers each pay 1.45% of an employee’s salary towards Medicare and 6.2% towards Social Security. The Social Security tax is removed on earnings above \$132,900, whereas the Medicare tax is applied to all income and includes an additional 0.9% tax on earnings of individuals with incomes above \$200,000 (single) and \$250,000 (married).

Figure 53
Medicare (Adjusted for inflation)

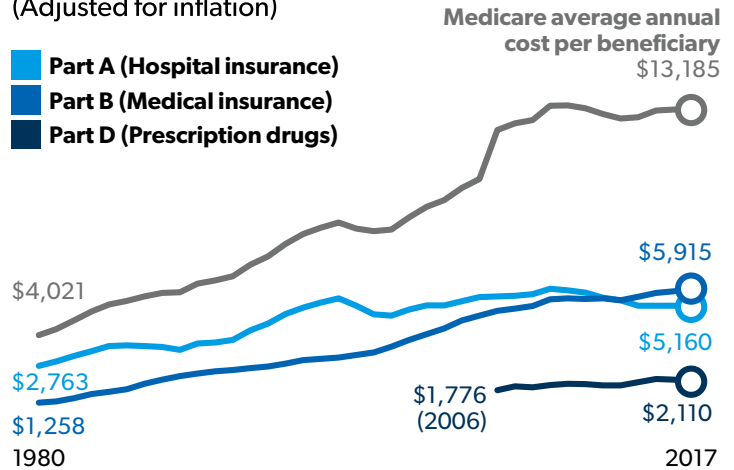
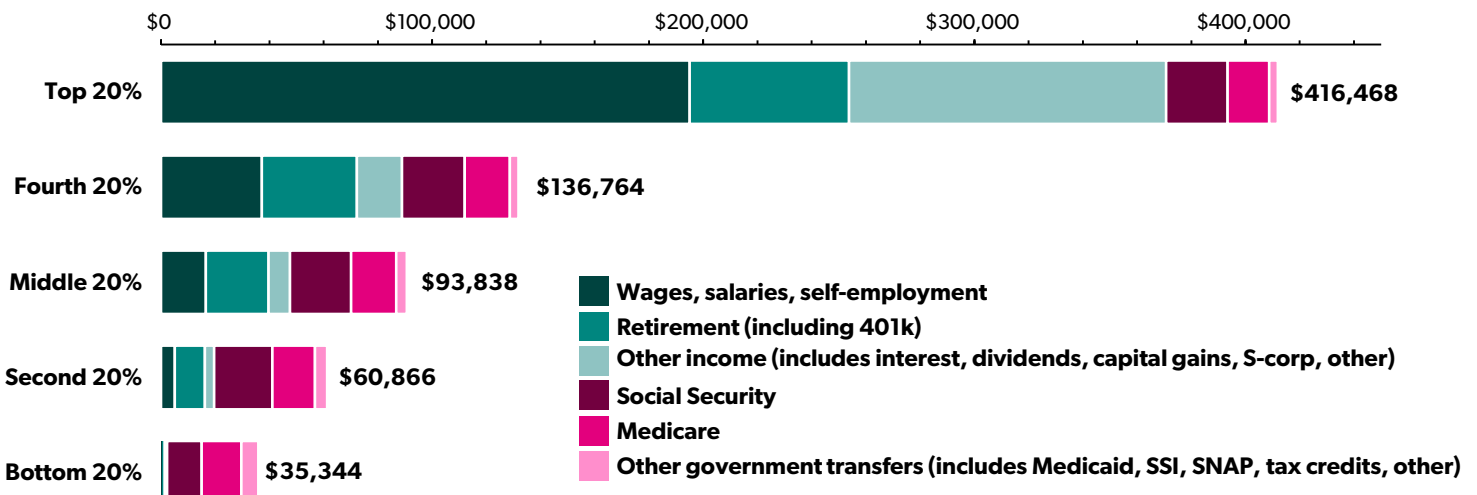


Figure 54
Average elderly population (65+) income (2017)



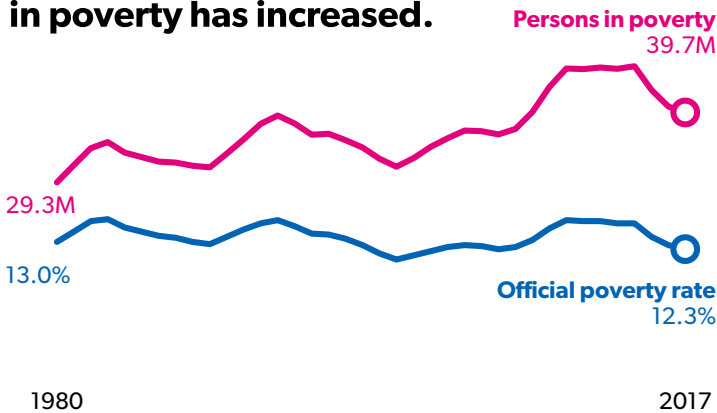
Supporting the disadvantaged



Poverty rates are decreasing, but they are not equal across races, family types, or age groups.

Figure 55

While the poverty rate is down, the total number of persons in poverty has increased.



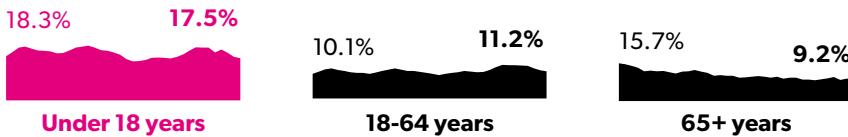
In 2017, 34.4% of single mothers lived in poverty, an improvement from 42.9% in 1980 (Fig. 56). Single mothers in 2017 were more than twice as likely to be in poverty than single fathers, experiencing poverty rates of 34.4% and 16.2% respectively.

The Official Poverty Measure used by the government to identify an individual or family as impoverished is calculated by comparing their pre-tax income (including income from some government programs such as Social Security and unemployment) to the cost of a minimum food diet multiplied by three. In 2018, a family of four was considered in poverty if their income was less than **\$25,465**.

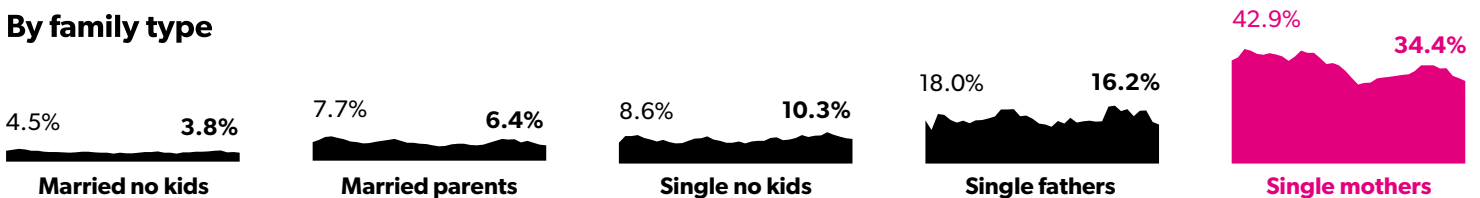
Figure 56

Poverty rate of all persons (as a percent of group), 1980 to 2017

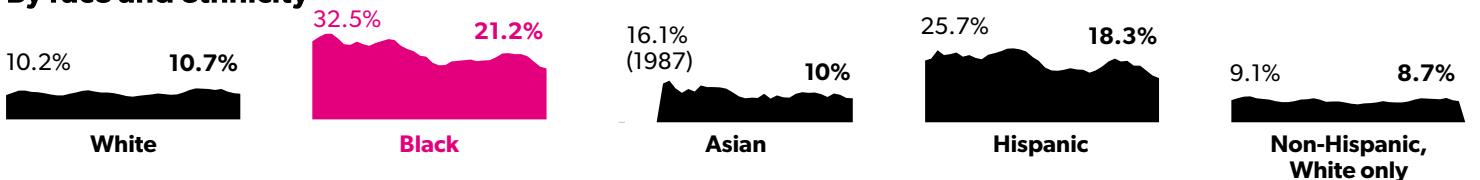
By age



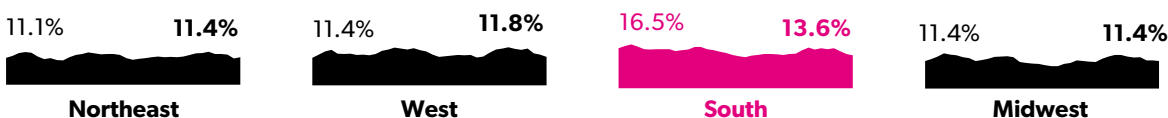
By family type



By race and ethnicity



By region



13 million children, nearly 1 in 6, are in poverty.

The number of children living below the federal poverty line decreased 0.5 percentage points from 2016 to 2017 (Fig. 57). The child poverty rate has fluctuated since 1980, hitting its highest rate in 1993 at 22.7% and its lowest rate in 2000 at 16.2%.

Between 2010 and 2017, the number of homeless K-12 students increased from 0.93 million to 1.35 million. 14% of them are staying at shelters, transitional housing, or are awaiting foster care (Fig. 58). 76% have had to “double up,” meaning they are staying with friends and family due to loss of permanent housing.

Since 1998, the rate of children living in foster care per 100,000 children has fallen from 783 to 601 (Fig. 60). This rate hit its lowest in 2012 at 538 but has gradually risen since then. Additionally, the percentage of children in foster care who are White has increased by 9 percentage points, from 35% to 44%, while the percentage of children in foster care who are Black has fallen by 20 percentage points, from 43% to 23% (Fig. 59).

Figure 57
In 2017, 17.5% of children were living below the federal poverty line.

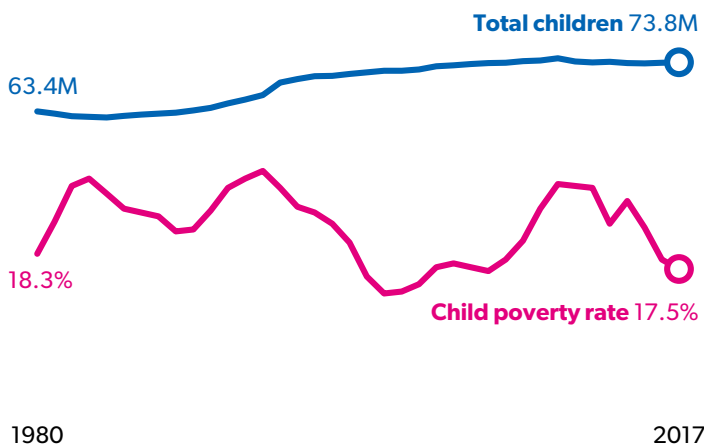


Figure 58
The number of homeless students has increased 45% in 7 years.

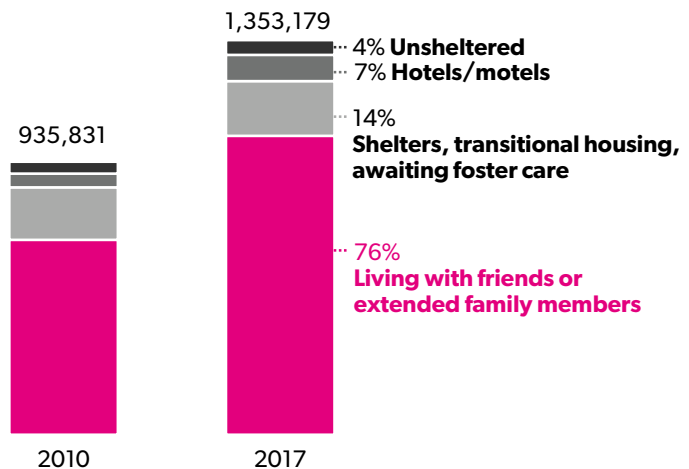


Figure 59
An increasing percentage of children in foster care are White.

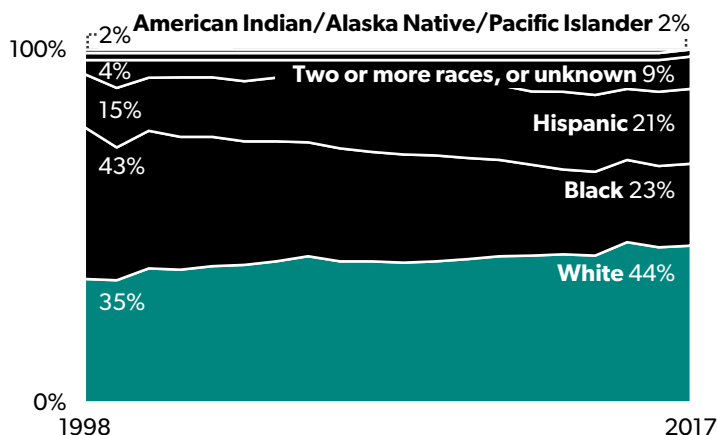
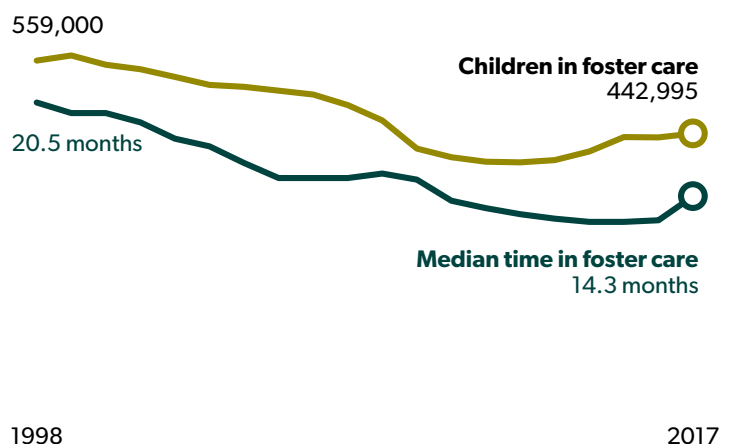
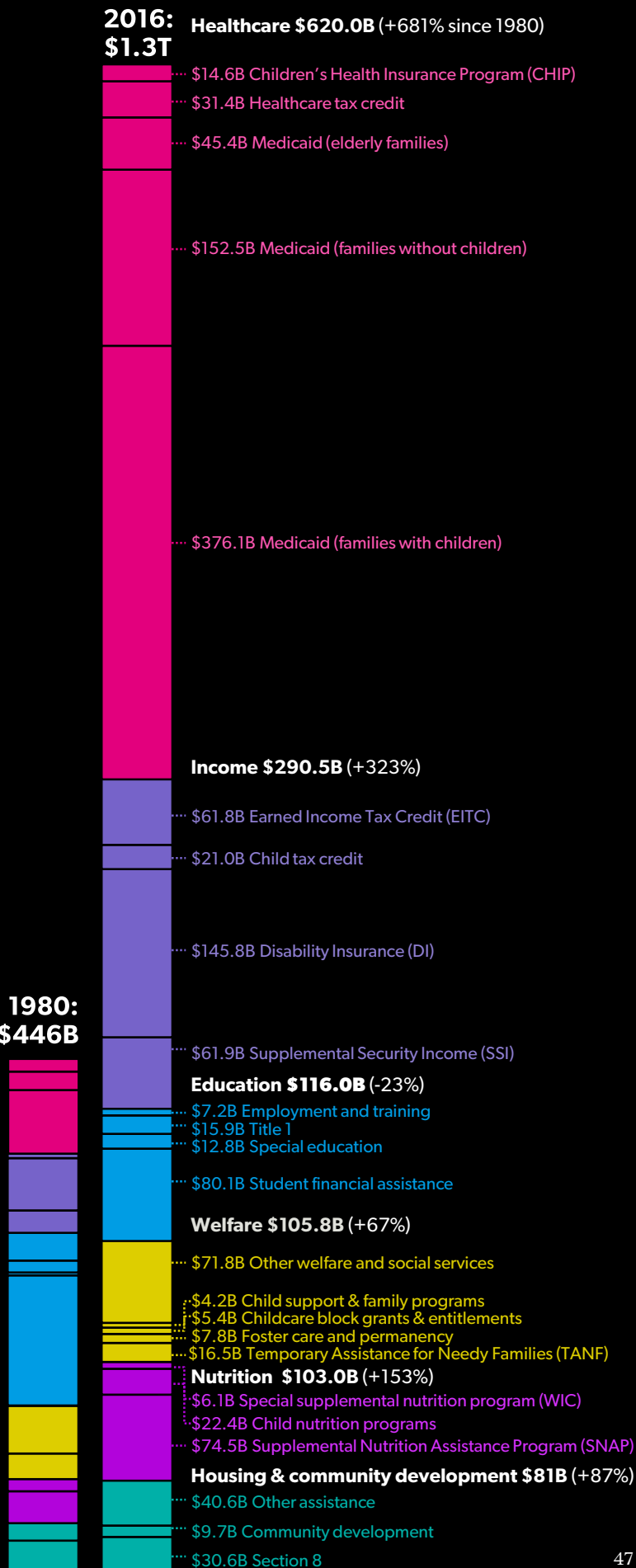
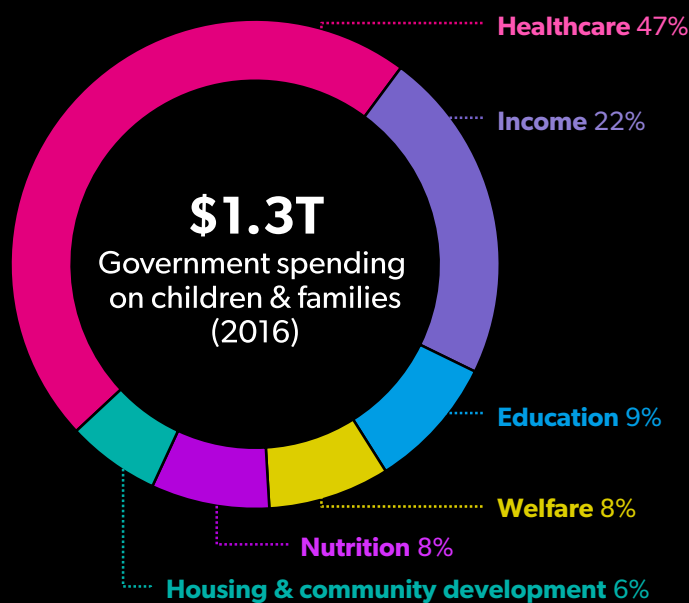


Figure 60
There are fewer children in foster care.



Government spent \$1.3 trillion in 2016 on aid to the disadvantaged.

Figure 61
Federal, state, and local government spending on children and families, by program, 1980 to 2016
 (Adjusted for inflation)



Government programs for the disadvantaged are reaching more people.

Health care for low-income children is usually covered by the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) or Medicaid. In 2017, 9.5 million children were enrolled in CHIP and in 2016, the most recent year available, 28.1 million children were enrolled in Medicaid. Overall, 73.8 million people are enrolled in Medicaid with an average of \$8,024 spent per enrollee.

Given America's compulsory K-12 education system, schools play a significant role in combating hunger. The number of children receiving free or reduced-price school lunches overtook the dropping number of those paying full price in 1992, a trend that has since grown (Fig. 63). 22 million children (39% of K-12 students) received free or reduced-price school lunch in 2016, an increase of 13 percentage points since 1980.

Additional low-income assistance programs include the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), commonly referred to as food stamps, and Supplemental

Security Income (SSI), which provides assistance to elderly, blind, and disabled people with little or no income. SNAP monthly benefits have increased by 21%, from \$102 per month in 1989 to \$123 per month in 2018 (Fig. 62). SNAP recipients are currently 12% of the population, down from a high of 15% in 2012. In 2017, 8.2 million people received SSI payments, with \$6,964 spent per person.

Though Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding has remained relatively constant in inflation-adjusted dollars, the number of children and adults it serves has decreased dramatically, from 12.6 million in 1996 to 2.6 million in 2016 (Fig. 64). At the same time, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) was claimed by 27.4 million tax filers in 2016, an increase from 19.5 million in 1996. The EITC provides a tax reduction/refund to low-wage working families. The credit is calculated based on income, marital status, and the number of dependent children, and ranges from \$519 to \$6,431. 29 states and the District of Columbia also offer versions of the EITC for state taxes.

Figure 62

SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)

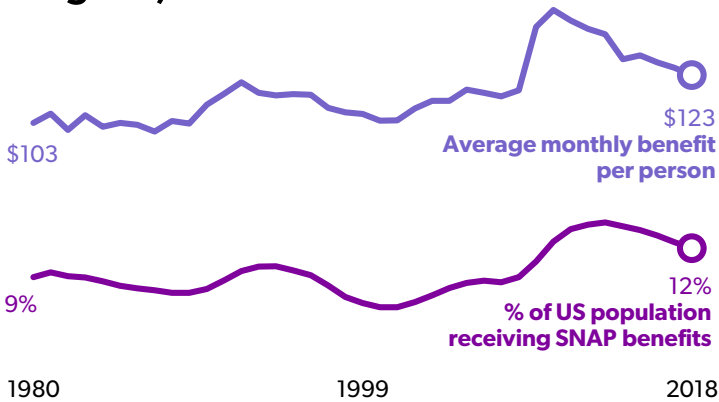


Figure 63

Students receiving free or reduced lunch (as a percent of all students)

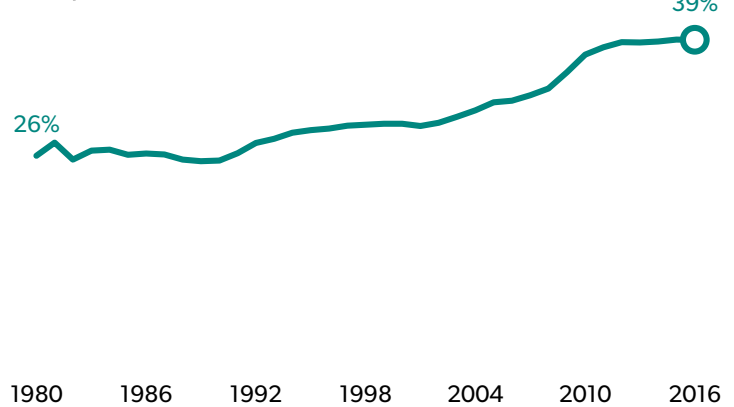
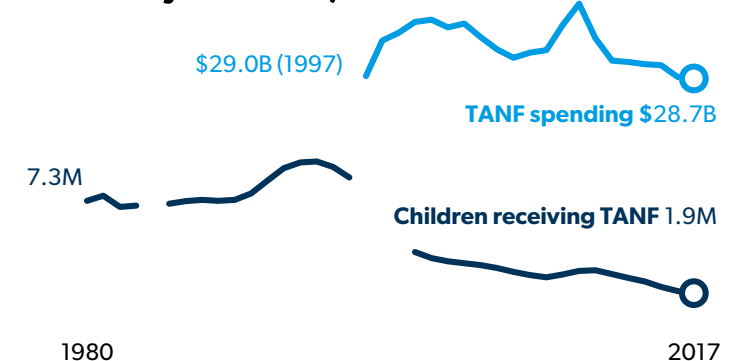


Figure 64

TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)



Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is a welfare block grant administered by states that replaced the Aid to Families with Dependent Children in 1996 as part of broader welfare reform. Previously, such federal welfare cash programs were more prescriptive and narrow in scope.

Poverty programs

(All benefits adjusted for inflation)

Figure 65

SSI (Supplemental Security Income)

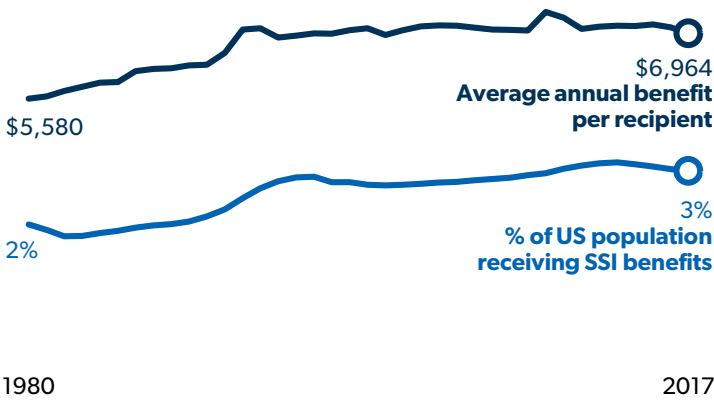


Figure 66

Disability insurance

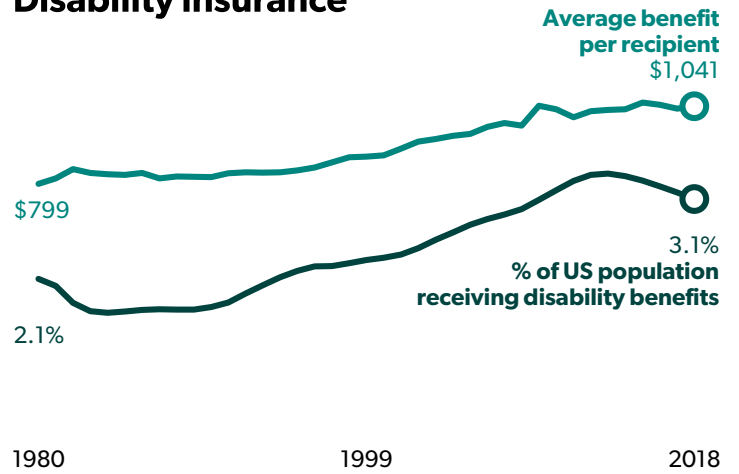


Figure 67

Unemployment benefits

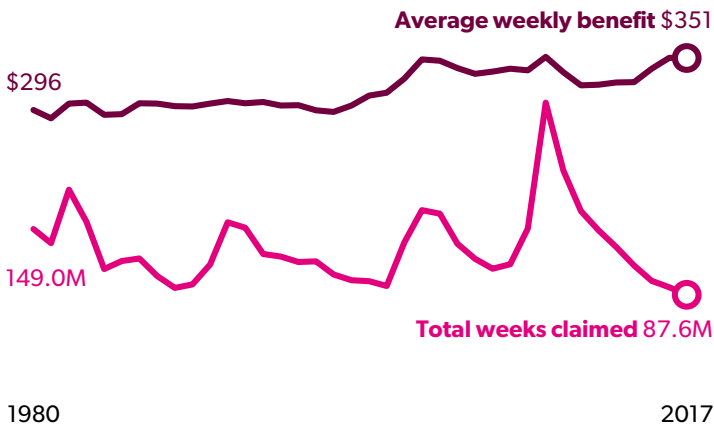


Figure 68

EITC (Earned Income Tax Credit)

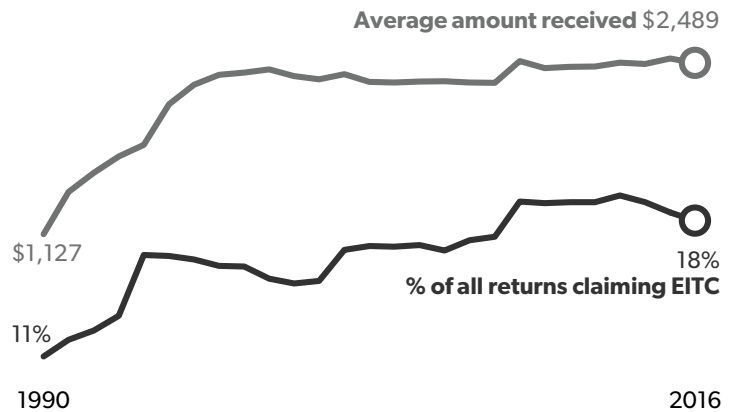


Figure 69

CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program)

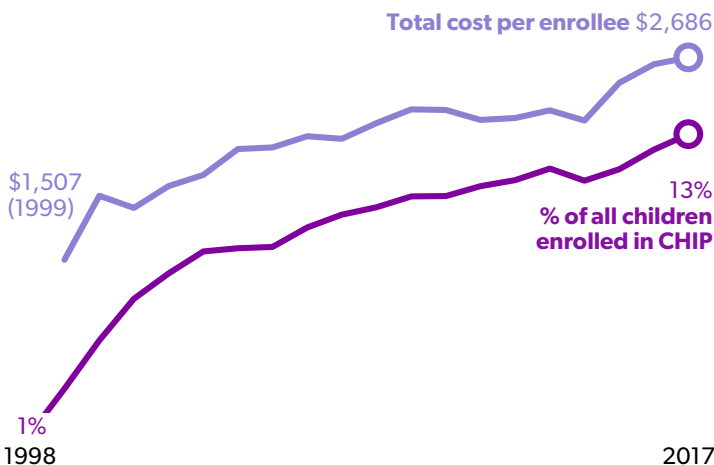
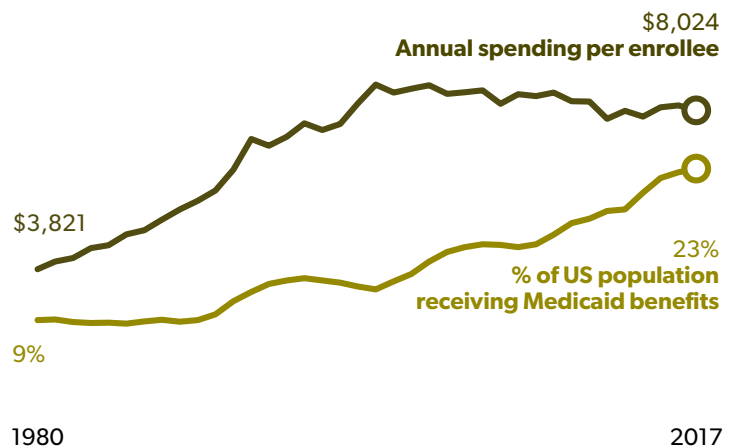


Figure 70

Medicaid



Educating our nation



Education spending continues to increase, while 1 in 3 eighth-graders are proficient in math and reading.

Enrollment in early-childhood education programs has increased from roughly 1 in 3 children under five enrolled in 1970 to 2 in 3 children today (Fig. 71). Of children enrolled, 65% are participating in a full-day program. In 1970, only 17% were participating in full-day programs.

Combined government spending on K-12 education per public K-12 student has increased 34% from \$8,796 to \$11,788 between 1990 and 2015, the most recent year of data (Fig. 72). Meanwhile, the student/teacher ratio fell from 19.1 in 1980 to 16.1 in 2015. Between 2000 and 2012, average class size remained mostly steady for elementary school classes, increasing from 21.1 to 21.2. Larger changes were seen in secondary schools, where the class size increased from 23.6 to 26.8 students per class.

The dropout rate decreased from 12% in 1990 to 6% today. While eighth-grade test scores increased from 1990 to 2017, proficiency is currently 34% and 36% for both math and reading, respectively (Fig. 73). There are, however, differences in proficiency by race; 44% of White eighth-graders are proficient in math compared to 13% of Black eighth-graders.

Figure 71
More children ages 3-5 are enrolled in full-day preschool and kindergarten.

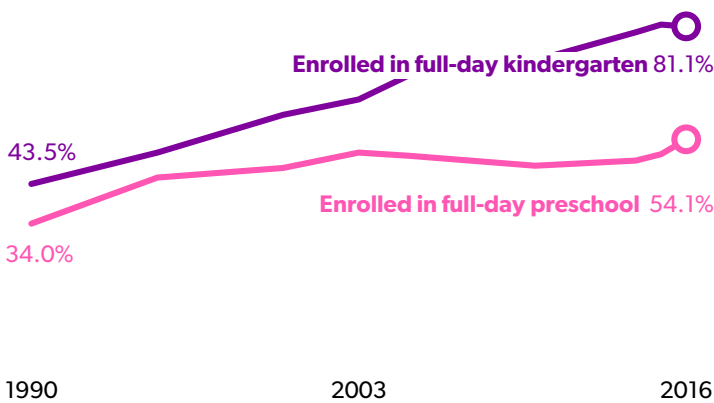


Figure 72
K-12 public education spending per student increased since 1990, while the student/teacher ratio has decreased. (Adjusted for inflation)

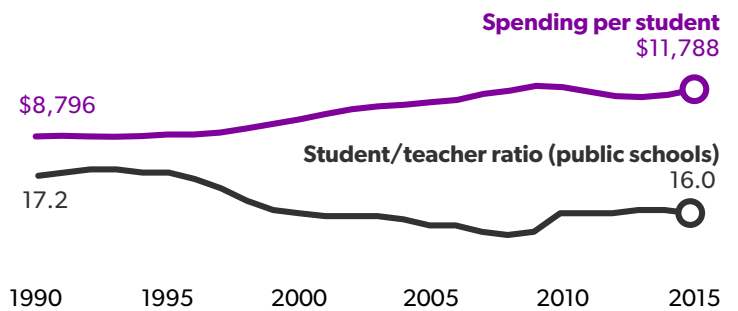
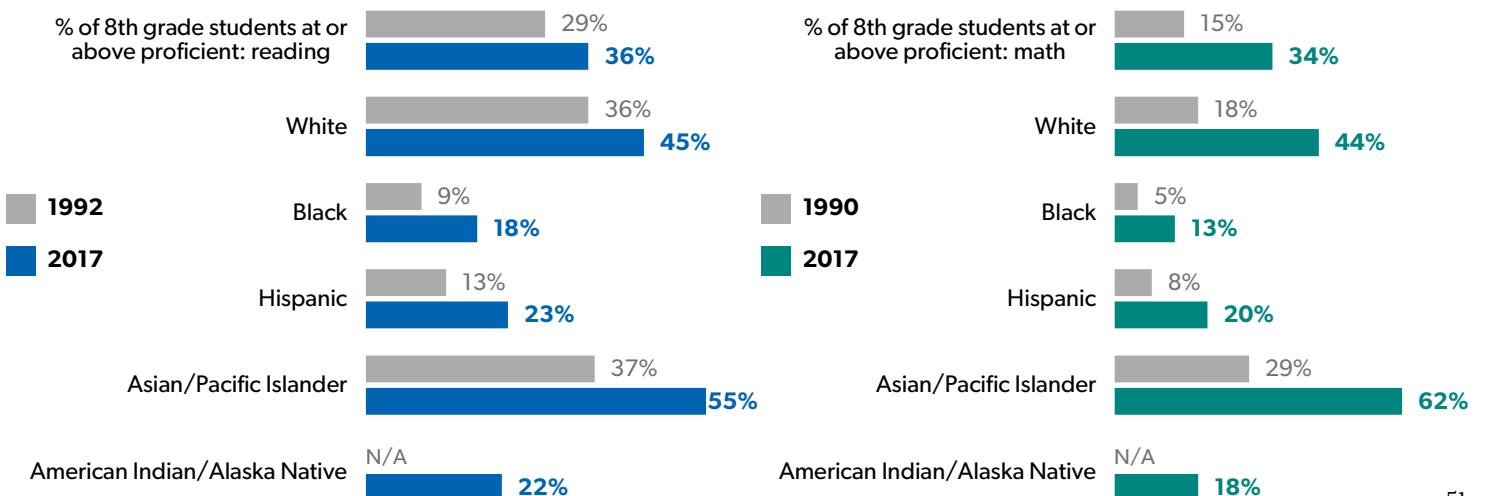


Figure 73
8th grade reading and math proficiency, by race



Higher education is getting more expensive, and students are sharing more of the burden.

More recent high school graduates are attending college. In 1980, 49.2% of recent graduates aged 16-24 enrolled in college within a year of high school graduation. In the 2016-2017 school year, that percentage rose to 69.8%.

Government spending per enrolled student in higher education reached \$12,852 in 2016, an increase of 50% from \$8,550 in 1980, adjusted for inflation. However, total expenditures of public higher-education institutions increased 205% in this same time period. As a result, students are sharing more of the cost of education. Today students pay 21% of the revenue of all public colleges and universities, up from 13% in 1981. Average tuition costs have increased 93% since 1993, from \$6,300 in 1993 to \$12,300 in 2016. To offset some of this cost increase, the average financial aid award has increased 95% since 1993, from \$9,500 in 1993 to \$18,600 in 2016 (Fig. 75). Non-federal loans have increased 132% since 1993, the most of any source of

financial aid. Average award amounts from federal sources have increased 64%, while average award amounts from non-federal sources have increased 99%.

Unlike grants, loans have to be repaid, and students are graduating with more debt than in the past. In the 2015-2016 school year, 61.8% of undergraduate degree completers had received a loan, up from 52.5% in the 1999-2000 school year. Meanwhile, the average cumulative loan amount has grown 22%, from \$20,440 in 1999-2000 to \$24,930 in 2015-2016, adjusted for inflation.

For bachelor's degrees, business continues to be the most popular major, comprising 19% of degrees completed in 2016 (Fig. 76). Healthcare-related bachelor's degrees have consistently increased, from 7% in 1981 to 12% in 2016. Social sciences and history have declined, from 11% in 1981 to 8% in 2016.

Figure 74

College enrollment

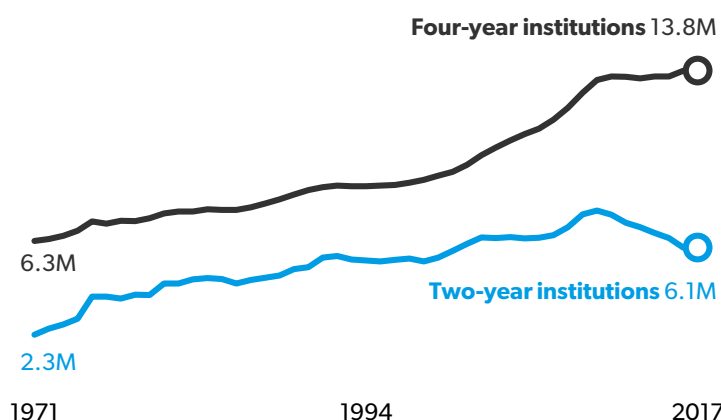


Figure 76

Business remains the most popular college degree, while education and social sciences degrees have declined.

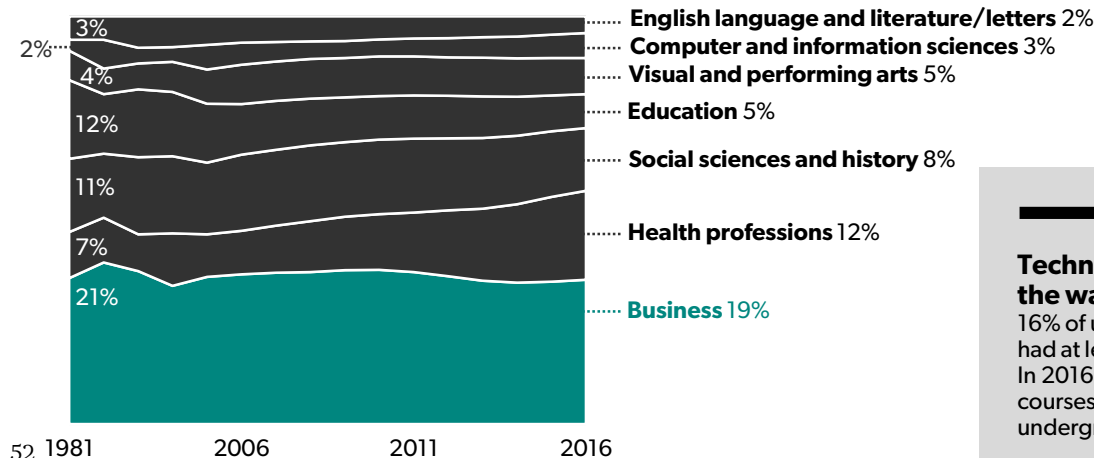
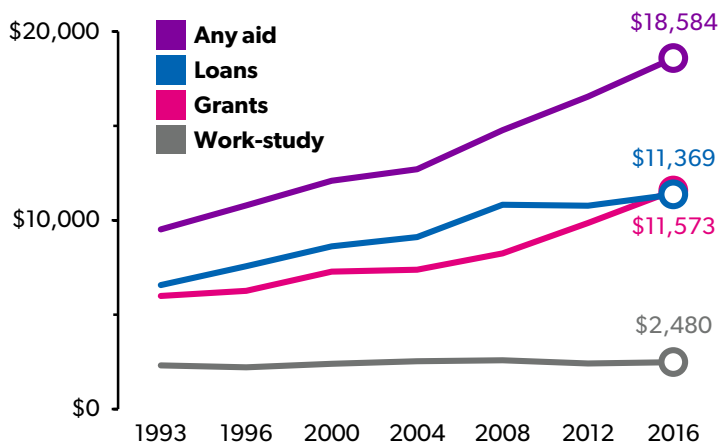


Figure 75

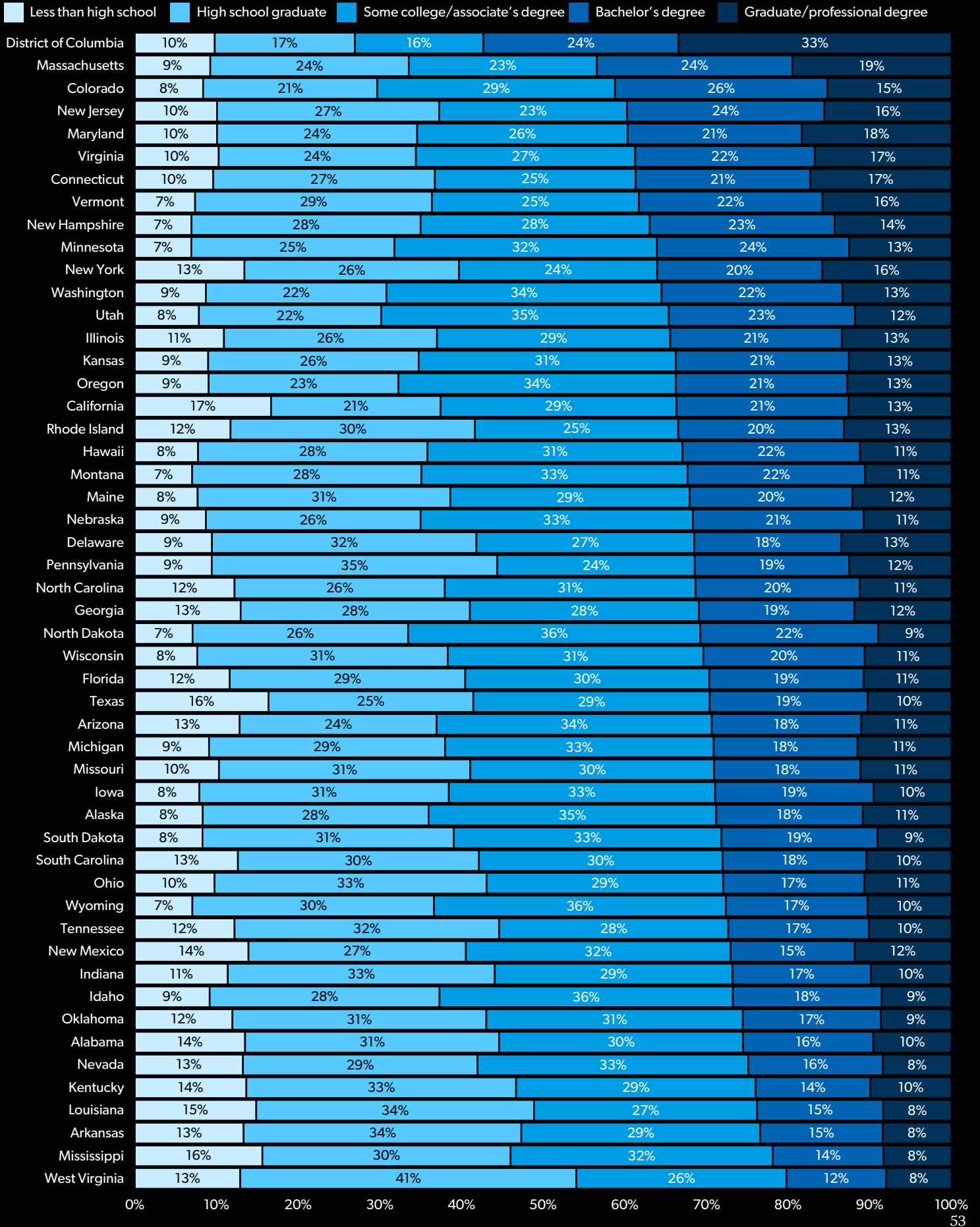
Average amount of financial aid, by type (Adjusted for inflation)



Technology is changing the way we learn. In 2004, 16% of undergraduate students had at least one online course. In 2016, 43% did. Fully distance/online courses are also increasing, from 5% of undergraduates in 2004 to 11% in 2016.

Figure 77

Educational attainment of the population over age 25, by state (2017)



Health

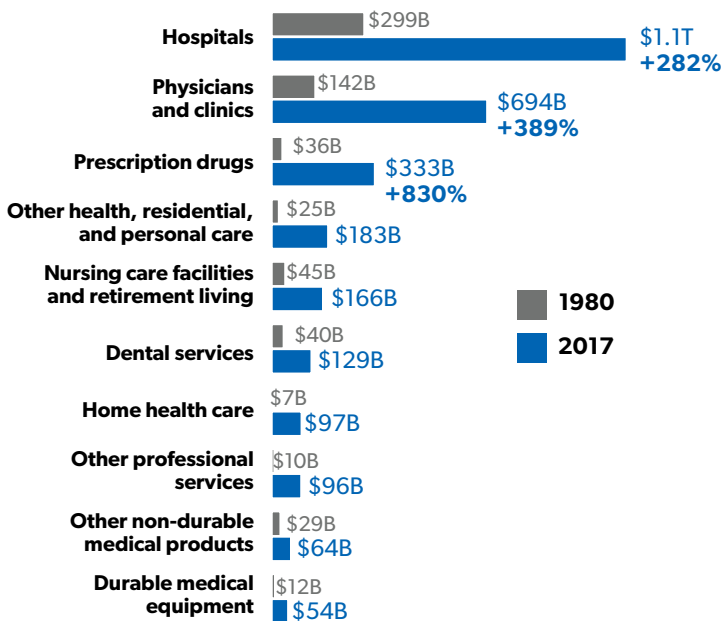


National spending on personal health care reached \$9,107 per person, up 221% since 1980 after adjusting for inflation.

Figure 78

Personal health care spending by category

(Adjusted for inflation)



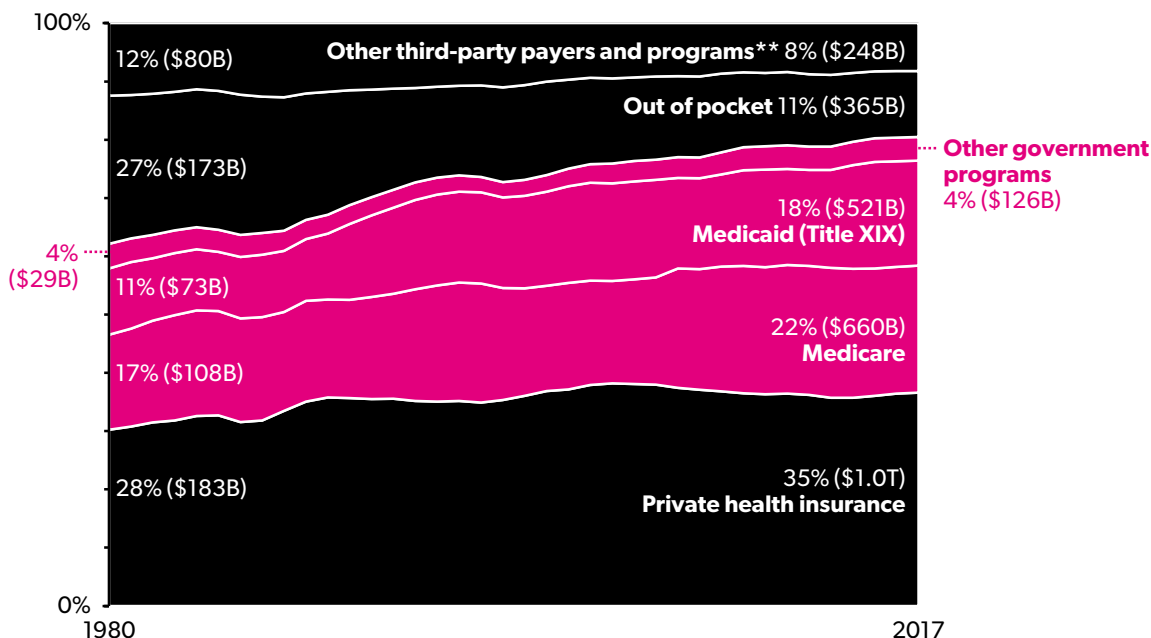
Total national health expenditures in 2017 totaled \$3.5 trillion, or 17.9% of GDP, a 360% increase from 1980 when it was \$255 billion and 8.9% of GDP. \$3.0 trillion of this is spent on health care for individuals, also known as personal health care (see definition below), and it has grown at a similar rate (up 359% since 1980). Government is the largest payer of personal health care costs, with five major programs paying for 43%, up from 31% in 1980 (Fig. 79). Out of pocket costs, today make up 11% of total costs, down from 27% in 1980.

Personal health care expenditures is the portion of all national health expenditures that is spent on health care specifically for people. It includes everything spent by insurance companies, the government, individuals, and third parties for hospital care, prescription drugs, home health care, and other products and services that directly relate to the health of a person. It excludes costs of administration of health insurance, government public health, investment in structures, and research and development.

Figure 79

Government is the largest payer of health care costs.

Health care funding sources, by percent of total. (Adjusted for inflation)



* All spending on people, excluding investment in structures and research and development.

**Includes worksite health care, workers compensation, and other government programs such as Indian Health Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, maternal and child health programs, and school health.

Government health insurance programs cost more than private insurance, but the cost of private insurance is rising faster.

Adjusted for inflation, private health insurance cost per person has increased in all but one year since 1988, while per-person costs of Medicare and Medicaid have plateaued. Since 2006, Medicare costs per person have increased annually by an average of 0.6%, Medicaid costs per person have decreased by 0.2%, but private insurance costs per person have increased by an annual average of 2.6% (Fig. 81). Direct-purchase insurance purchases fell as a percent of total health insurance in 2017, for the first time since the Affordable Care Act was signed into law in 2010. The uninsured rate remained the same between 2016 and 2017.

While two-thirds of people are covered by private insurance plans (67%), these plans only pay 40% of hospital costs. Government health insurance covers 38% of the population, but pays 48% of hospital costs (Fig. 81, 82).

Figure 80
Health care insurance coverage, by type

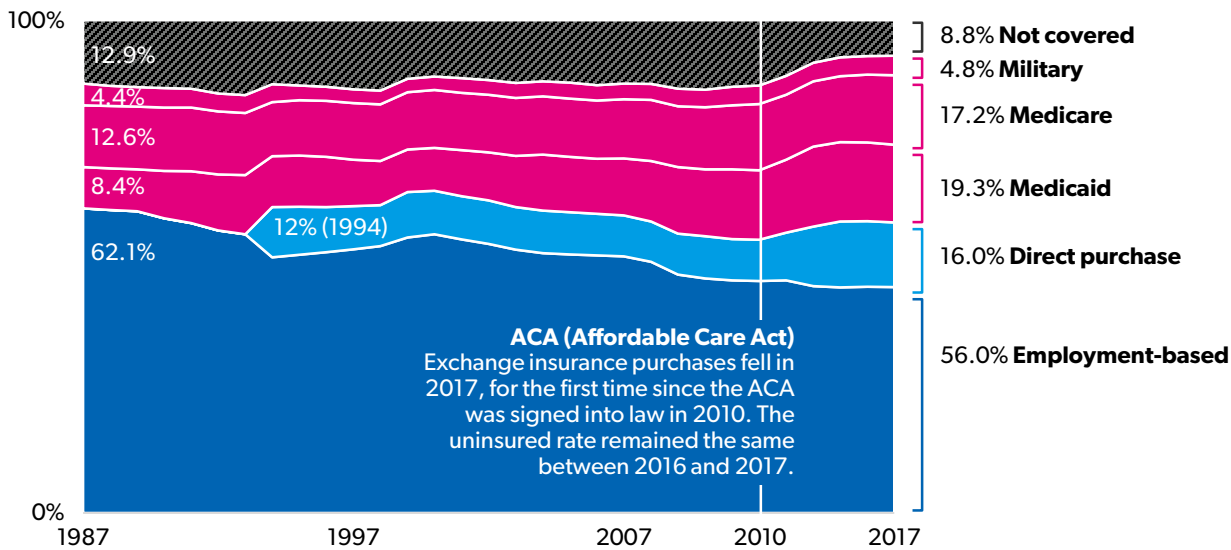


Figure 81
Health care spending per person, by payor
(Adjusted for inflation)

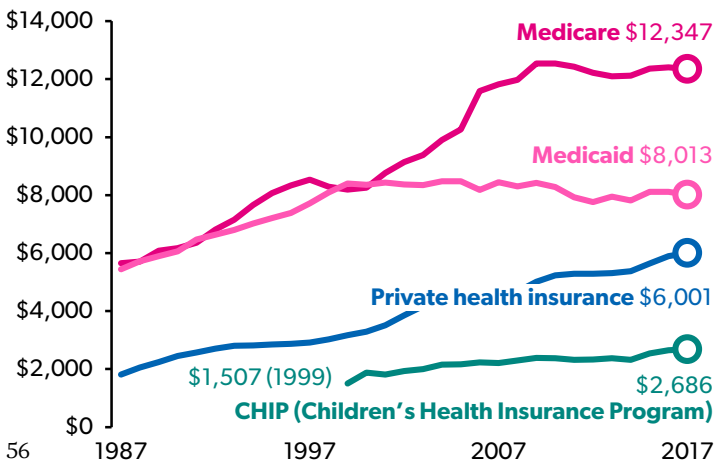
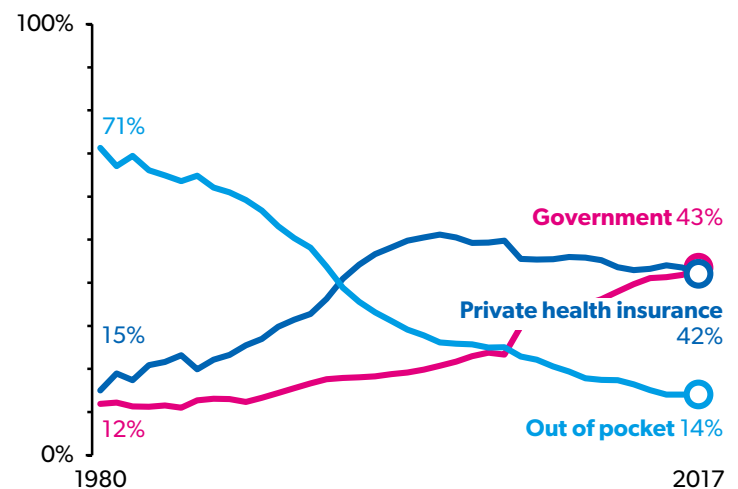


Figure 82
Prescription drug costs, per payor



Despite increasing health care costs, health outcomes are showing limited improvement.

Since 1999, health spending per capita rose 59% after adjusting for inflation. At the same time, however, life expectancy has risen 1.9 years while the average age that people die has risen only 0.7 years. Despite increases in health care spending, life expectancy has gone down for three consecutive years (Fig. 85).

The percentage of individuals who are overweight or obese reached 66.9% in 2017 (Fig. 83), the highest it has been since the government began measuring this outcome with the CDC's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey in 1996. At that time, only 52.2% of the population was overweight or obese.

The median cost per hospital stay increased from \$4,815 in 2000 to \$6,917 in 2016 (in 2017 dollars), an increase of 44%. Hospital visits are increasing in cost despite the median length per stay remaining the same at three days. A smaller percentage of the population is going to hospitals, with discharges falling from 12.5 per 100 people in 2000 to 11.0 per 100 people in 2016.

Figure 83
Health risk factors

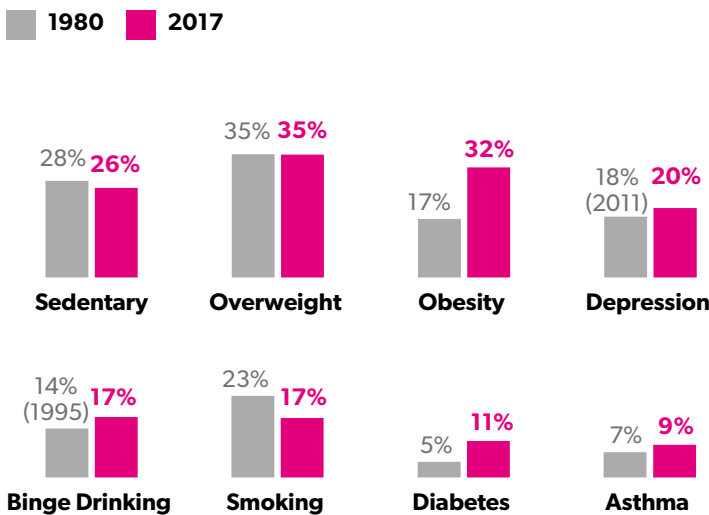


Figure 84
Life expectancy in years, by race

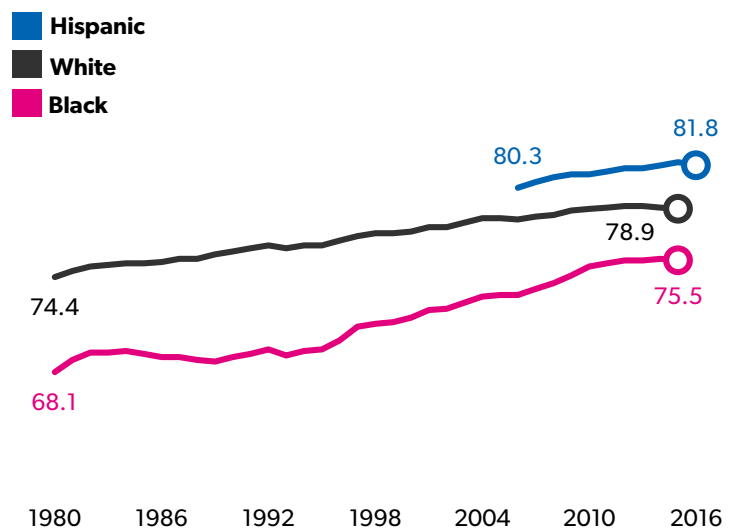


Figure 85
Longevity

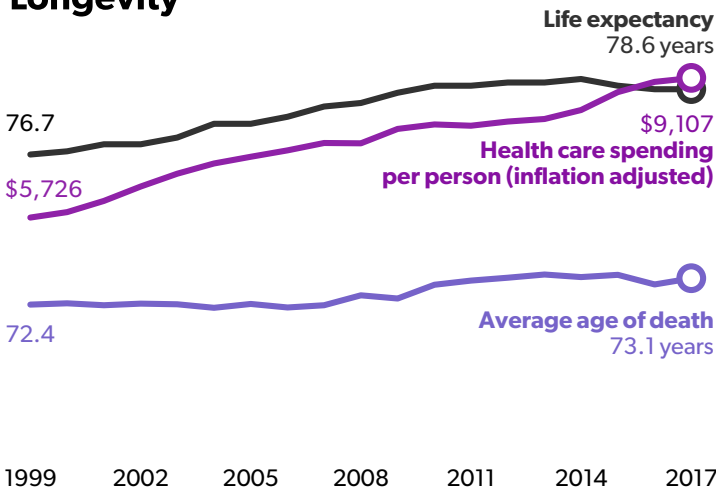
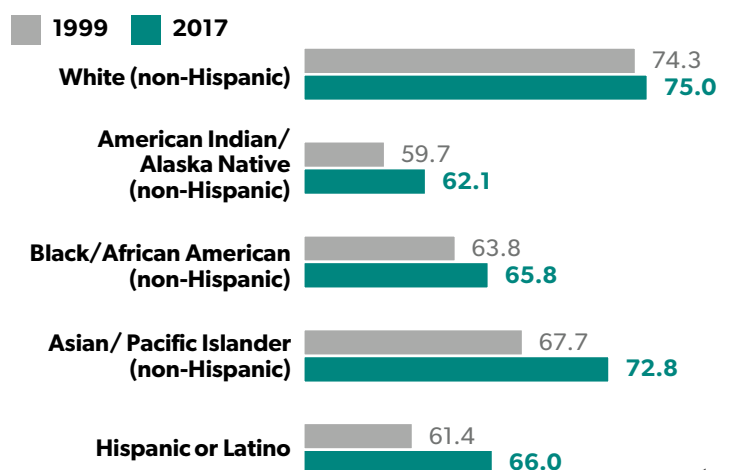


Figure 86
Average age at death, by race



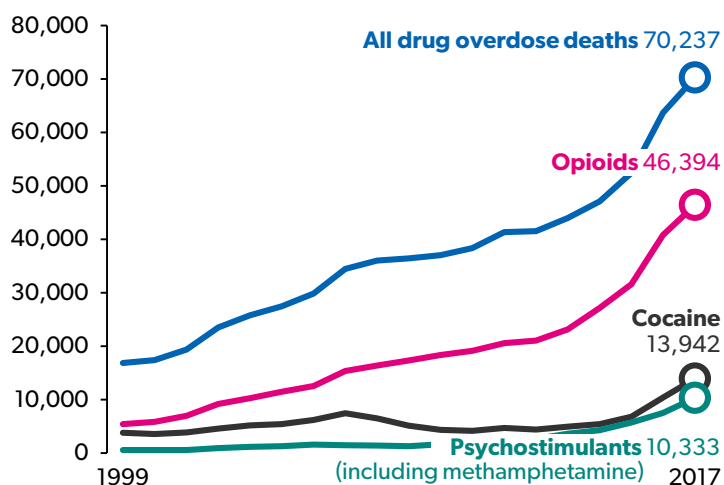
Opioid deaths increased 121% in the last five years, but deaths from cocaine and methamphetamines are increasing faster.

Drug overdose deaths are up 317% since 1999, while the US population has only increased 17% during that same time period (Fig. 87). There were 70,237 deaths from drug overdoses in 2017, with opioid-related deaths accounting for 66% of all drug overdose deaths. The number of opioid-related deaths has more than doubled since 1999 when they made up only 32% of overall drug overdose deaths.

The recent uptick in drug deaths is not just due to opioids. Deaths from opioids have increased by 753% since 1999, but deaths from cocaine and methamphetamines have increased by approximately 456% during this same time. From 2012 to 2017, opioid deaths increased by 121%, but deaths related to cocaine increased 217%, and deaths related to methamphetamine increased 292%.

Figure 87

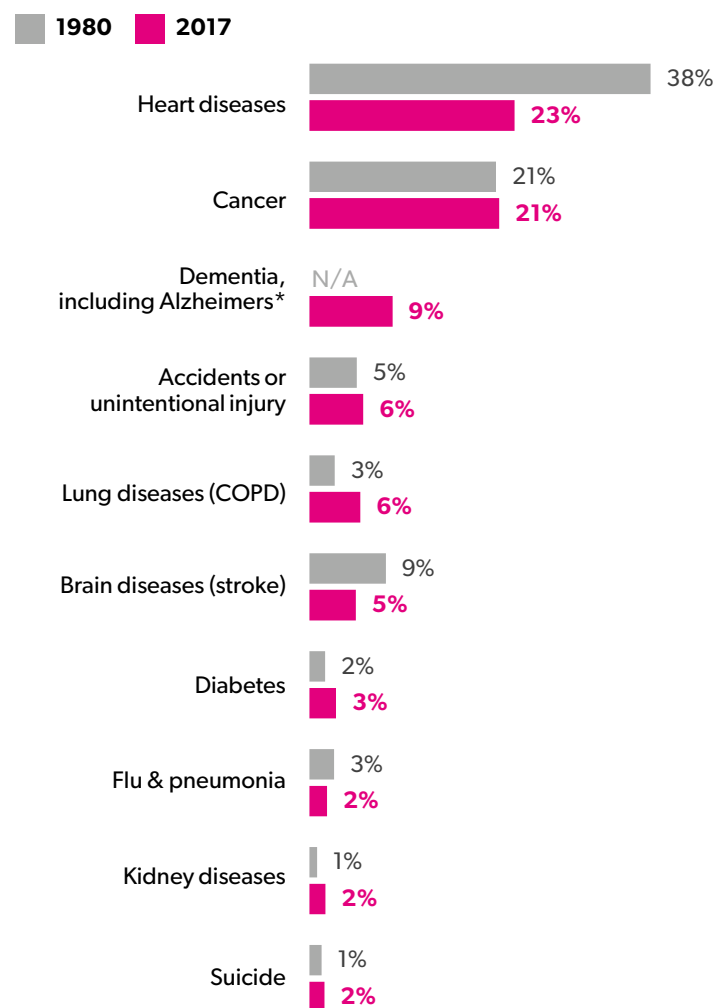
Drug overdose deaths



Fentanyl, a synthetic opioid that is 80 to 100 times stronger than morphine, can be added to heroin to increase its potency or is often disguised as highly potent heroin. Due to its highly potent nature, fentanyl results in overdose deaths for many users who believe that they are purchasing heroin. A 2018 report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) revealed a dramatic increase in overdose deaths involving fentanyl from 2011 to 2016. According to the CDC, the number of drug overdose deaths involving fentanyl was stable in 2011 (1,663) and 2012 (1,615) and began to increase in 2013 (1,919), rising to 18,335 deaths in 2016. From 2013 through 2016, the number of deaths approximately doubled each year.

Figure 88

Leading causes of death (By percent of deaths)



*All four types of dementia (unspecified, Alzheimers, Vascular, and other) were combined.

Crime and incarceration



Violent and property crime rates have fallen, but drug abuse arrests have grown.

In the last 40 years, the violent crime rate reached its highest point in 1991 at 758 per 100,000 people and then fell to its lowest point in 2014 at 362 per 100,000 people, a decrease of 52%. Violent crime has since begun to increase, reaching 383 per 100,000 people in 2017. Property crime rates have also fallen (Fig. 89). In 1991, there were 5,140 reported property crimes (this includes larceny, burglary, and auto-theft, among others) per 100,000 people.

Property crimes dropped to just 2,362 per 100,000 people in 2017. Although arrests for property and violent crimes have decreased compared to 1980, arrests for drug crimes per 100,000 people have nearly doubled in that time period (Fig. 90). In 2017, more people were arrested for drug crimes than for property crimes. 85% of arrests for drug crime were related to possession, up from 78% in 1980. In 2017, over 40% of drug-related arrests in the US were related to the possession or sale of marijuana.

Fraud complaints per 100,000 people (white-collar crimes reported directly to the Federal Trade Commission) rose between 2000 and 2017, yet actual arrests of fraud per 100,000 people fell in the same time period (Fig. 92).

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program within the FBI divides offenses into two groups: Part I and Part II offenses. The FBI collects full crime rates for Part I offenses, but only collects arrest data for Part II offenses. Fraud and drug abuse violations are both classified as Part II offenses.

Figure 89

Property and violent crime have fallen (per 100,000 people)

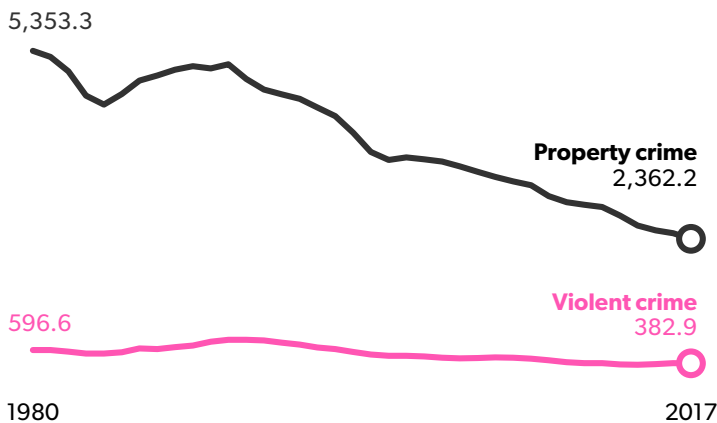


Figure 90

Arrests for drug crime have grown. (per 100,000 people)

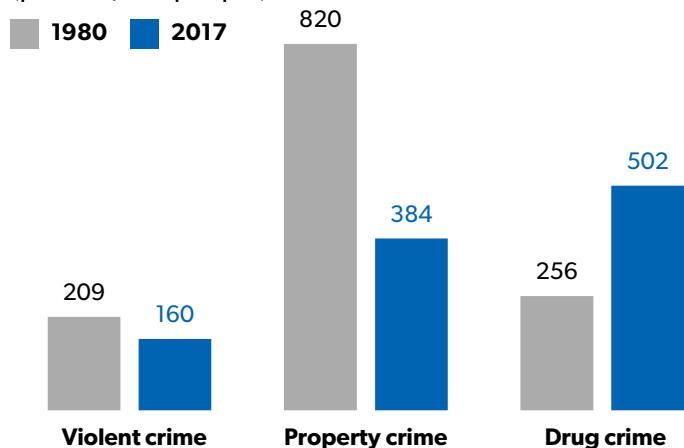


Figure 91

Arrests, by race (per 100,000 people)

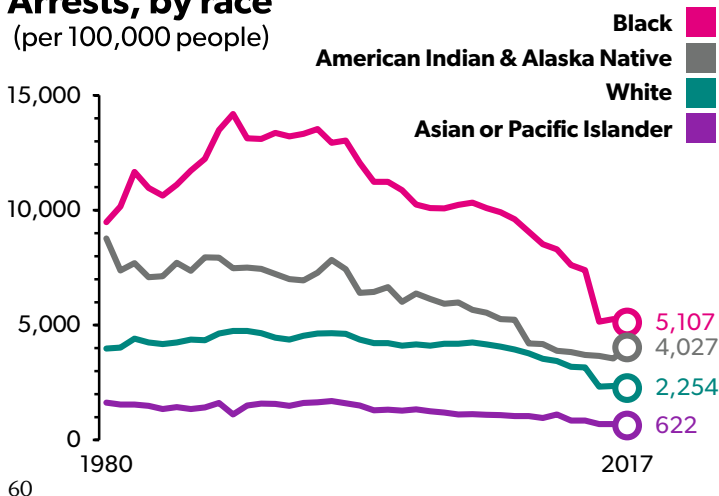
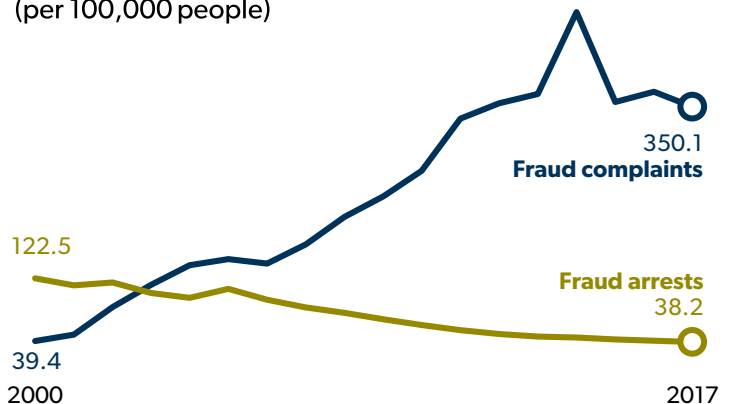


Figure 92

Consumer fraud complaints increased, as fraud arrests decreased. (per 100,000 people)

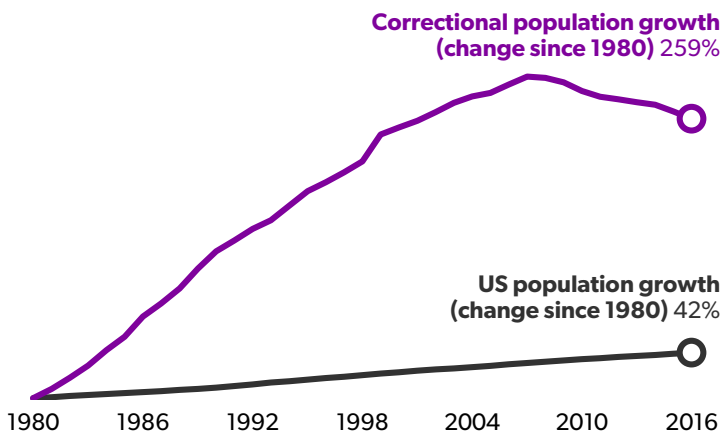


The correctional population has outpaced population growth by a factor of 6.

The US correctional population, which includes persons in jails, prisons, and under community supervision, grew 259% since 1980, while the overall US population has grown by just 42% over that time (Fig. 93). The incarcerated population (confined individuals) has grown by 329% since 1980. However, these trends slowed in the decade preceding 2016. The US correctional population fell by 726,100 people, and the incarcerated population fell by 134,000 people between 2007 and 2016.

Figure 93

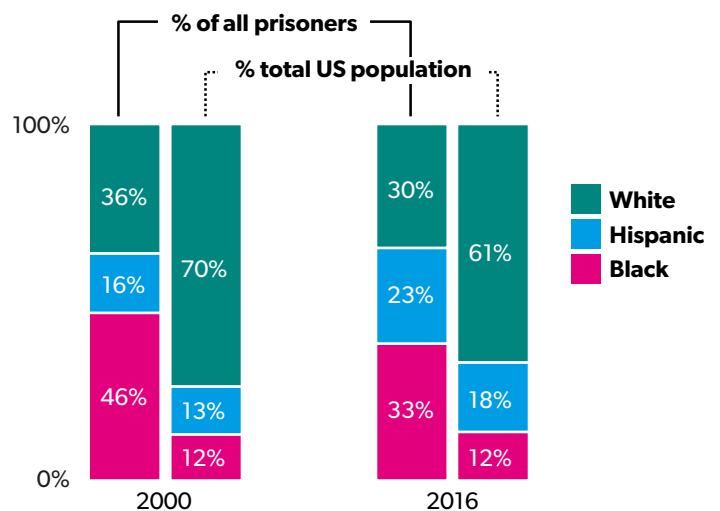
The correctional population has grown six times more than the US population.



In 2016, Blacks made up 27% of all arrests and 33% of all prisoners while only making up 12% of the total population. Hispanics, meanwhile, constituted 18% of all arrests and 23% of all prisoners, while making up 18% of the total population (Fig. 94). Despite the incarceration rate (the incarcerated population divided by the total population) of Blacks falling more than that of Whites between 2000 and 2016, Blacks were still more than five times as likely to be incarcerated than Whites in 2016 (1.25% incarceration rate for Blacks, 0.23% incarceration rate for Whites).

Figure 94

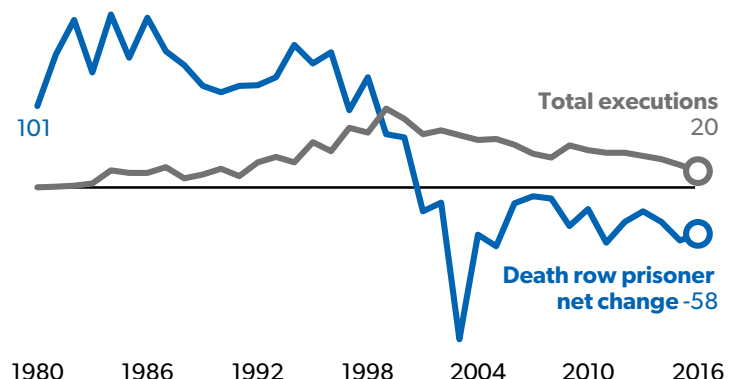
Black and Hispanic individuals are incarcerated at higher rates than White individuals, relative to total population.



Only five states in the US carried out an execution in 2016. Since 2001, there has been a slow but consistent decline in death row inmates. Executions in the US peaked in 1999 and have steadily declined since. Death sentences remain a controversial topic in many areas of the country. However, several state governors have leveraged their clemency power to eliminate the death penalty, most recently in California where Governor Gavin Newsom suspended the state's death penalty, offering a reprieve to California's 737 death row inmates. Additionally, two recent Supreme Court cases, *Atkins v. Virginia* and *Roper v. Simmons*, that restricted the death penalty for individuals deemed intellectually disabled or under 18.

Figure 95

Prisoners under sentence of death have been falling since 2001.



Firearm deaths make up 1% of all deaths but grew faster than the population since 2014.

Firearm suicides have been steadily increasing since 2006 and are the largest contributor to firearm deaths. In 2017, suicides due to firearms reached 23,854, a 47.8% increase since 1981 which is slightly outpacing population growth. Although firearm homicides fell between 1993 and 1999 and remained relatively flat until 2014, they have begun to increase, from 11,008 in 2014 to 14,542 in 2017, outpacing population growth in that period (Fig. 96). After the number of individuals murdered with a firearm peaked in 1993 at 18,523, the US passed a series of national and state laws to crack down on the sale and possession of firearms, including the 1994 assault weapons ban.

Firearm deaths have and continue to occur more commonly amongst Blacks (Fig. 99). In 2017, Blacks were twice as likely to die as a result of a firearm relative to Whites, at 24 deaths per 100,000 people to 12, respectively. This disparity has been growing since 2014 when Blacks had 18 firearm deaths per 100,000 people compared to Whites having 11. Legal intervention firearm deaths, which include police officer-involved shootings, doubled between 1981 and 2017. However, these deaths only account for a small percentage of the overall firearms deaths at 272 in 1981 and 553 in 2017 (Fig. 97).

Figure 96
Suicides are the largest driver of firearm deaths and have been since 1981.

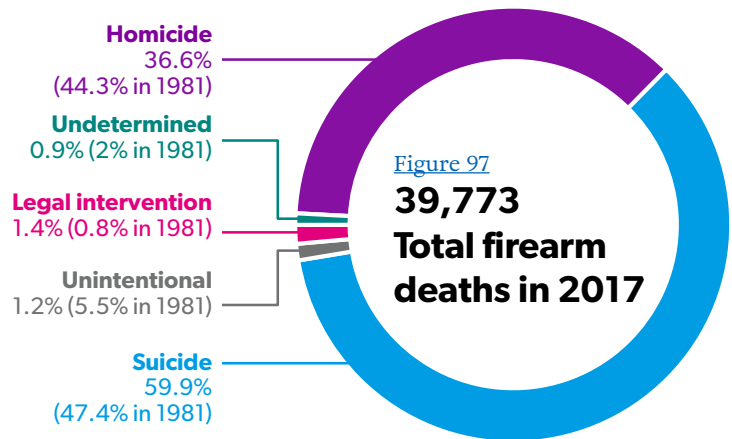
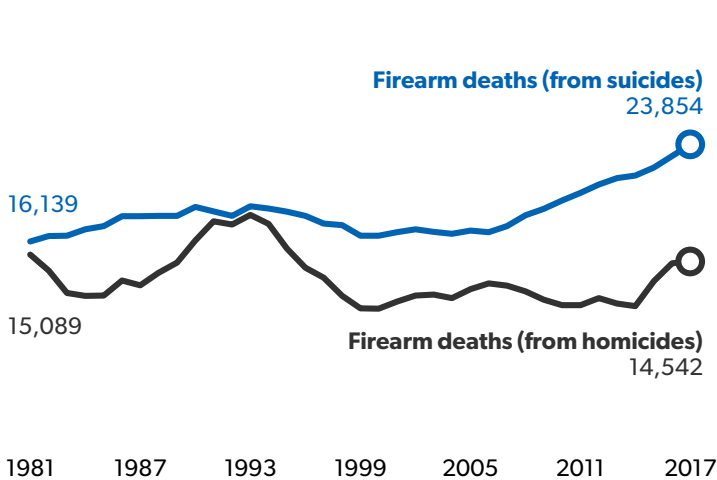


Figure 98
More firearms are being manufactured and sold.

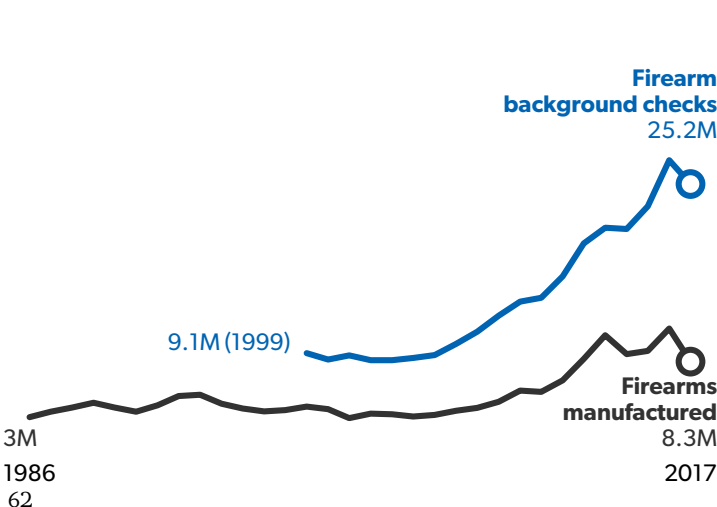
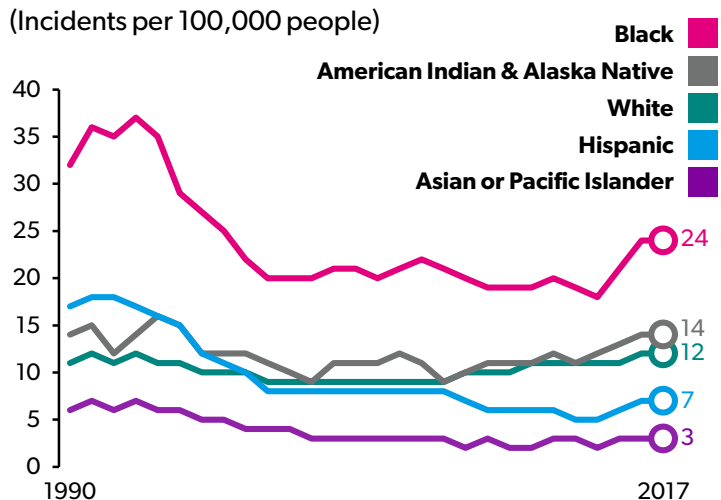


Figure 99
Black individuals are more likely to die from firearms.



Military, foreign aid, and immigration



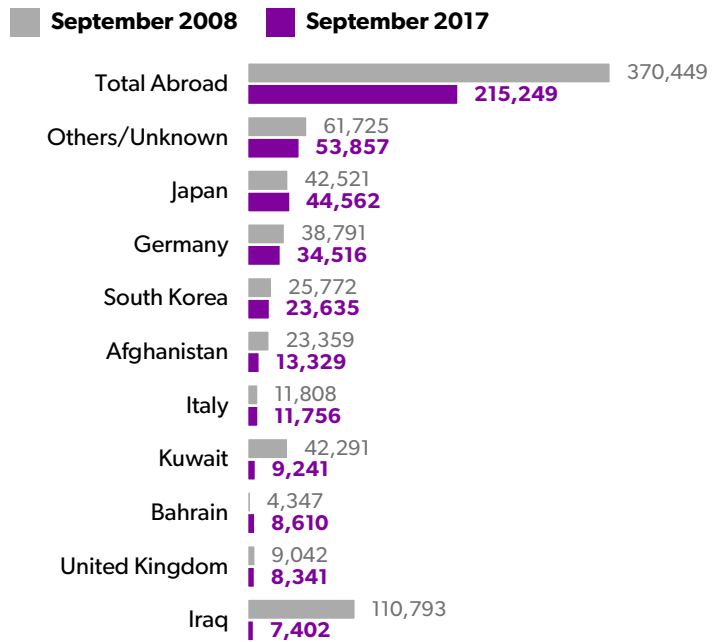
The US military presence is shrinking abroad.

The US has maintained a global military presence over the past 70 years, but in recent years the number of active duty military abroad has declined. In 2017, there were 215,249 active duty members abroad, down 41.9% from September 2008. In Iraq, troop levels declined 93% from over 100,000 in 2008 to less than 10,000 in 2017 (Fig. 100).

The total number of active duty military personnel declined 36.2% since 1980, with significant decreases in all branches except the Marine Corps, which held steady (Fig. 102). In 2018, there were 1,317,325 active duty military down 8.4% from 2003, when there were 1,437,450 active duty military members—the highest level since the 9/11 attacks (Fig. 101).

Figure 100

Troops abroad



In April 2018, the Pentagon stopped reporting troop levels in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Syria, three countries considered highly active combat zones in the world with a significant US military presence. The most recent figures for these countries reported approximately 15,000 troops in Afghanistan, 9,000 in Iraq, and 1,700 in Syria (Dec. 2017).

Figure 102

Armed forces by branch

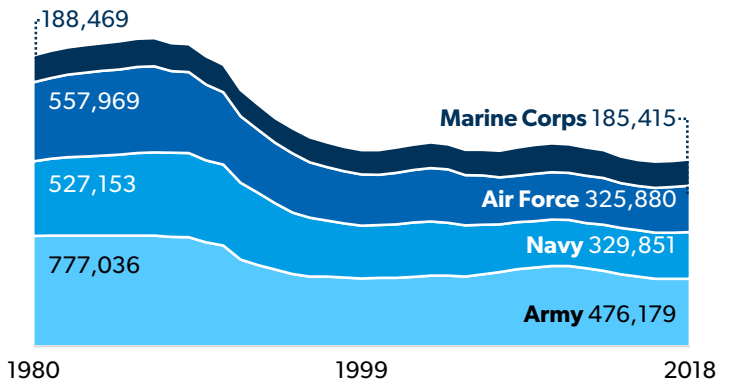


Figure 101

Military employees by type

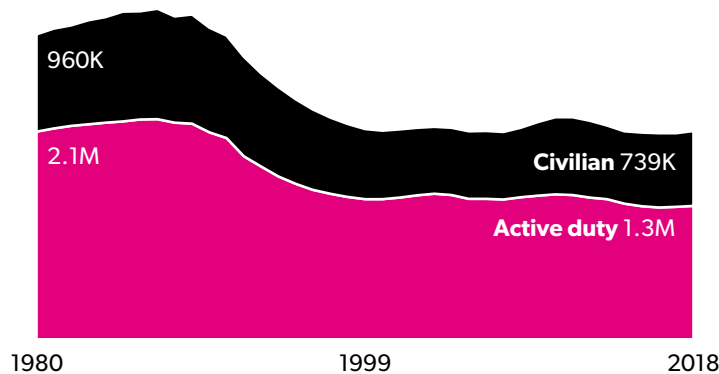
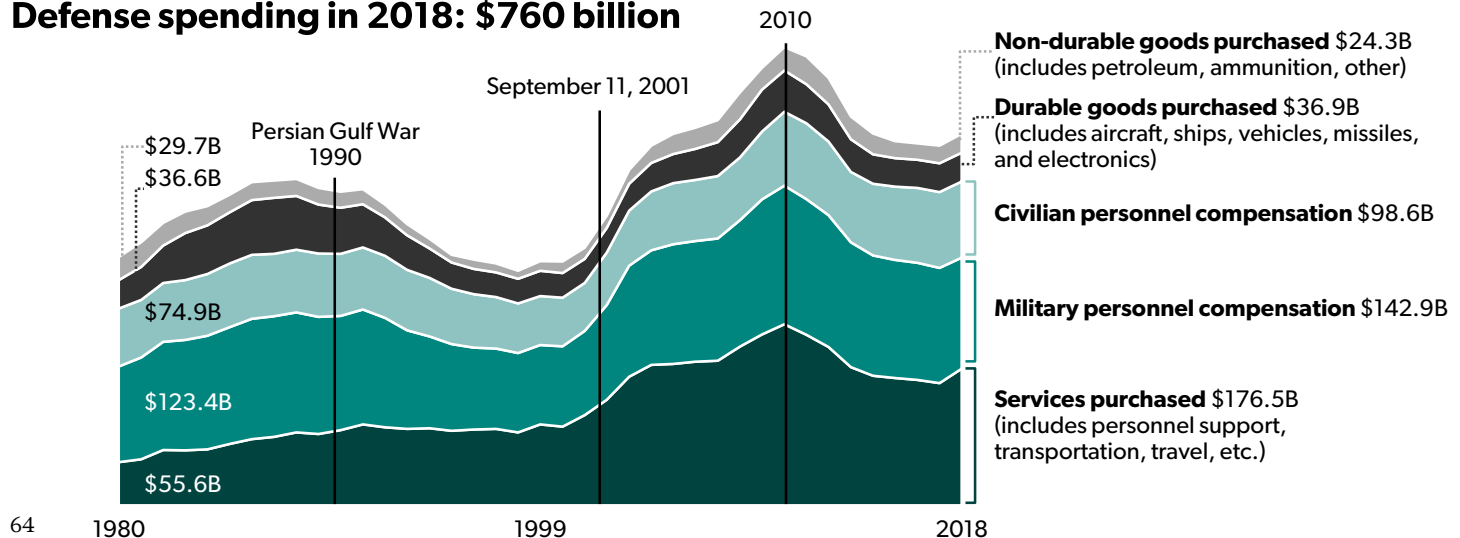


Figure 103

Defense spending in 2018: \$760 billion



Veterans have higher employment and wages compared to the general public.

Veteran median income was 42% greater than the civilian median income in 2005 and was 35% greater than civilian median income in 2017. Although there is still a wage gap between male and female genders, in 2017, female veterans made more than their civilian counterparts at just over a \$10,000 dollar difference, or a 44% difference, while male veterans in 2017 earned closer to their civilian counterparts with a median income 12% greater (Fig. 105).

VA spending per veteran has increased by 35% since 2000 in real terms. In 2017, there were approximately 20 million US military service veterans.

Veterans who served in the Middle East during the first Gulf War and the Global War on Terror comprise 40.2% of living veterans. The rest of today's living veterans can be classified as having served in the Vietnam era, Korean era and World War II era at 35.7%, 8.1%, and 3.4%, respectively. Since 2005, the number of veterans with any disability has gradually increased from 26.2% to 29.5% in 2017.

Veterans have gradually become more diverse. The proportion of White veterans has decreased from 85.5% in 2000 to 82.2% in 2017 while the proportion of Black veterans has increased from 9.7% in 2000 to 11.8% in 2017.

Figure 104
Unemployment rate by veteran status and gender, 2000-2018

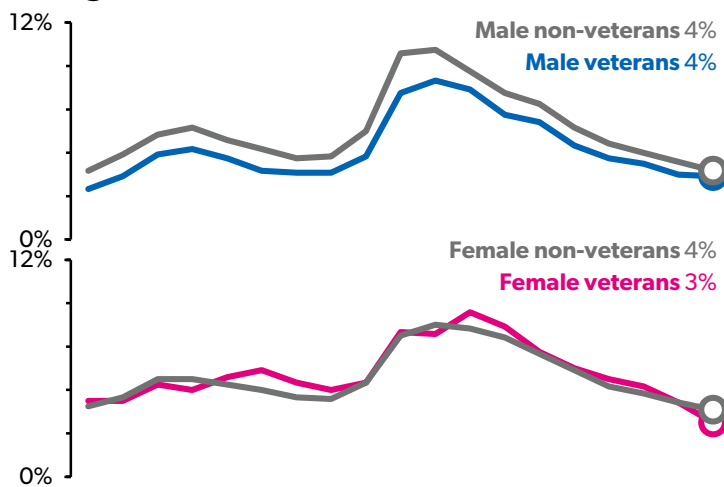


Figure 105
Median income by veteran status and gender, 2005-2017
(Adjusted for inflation)

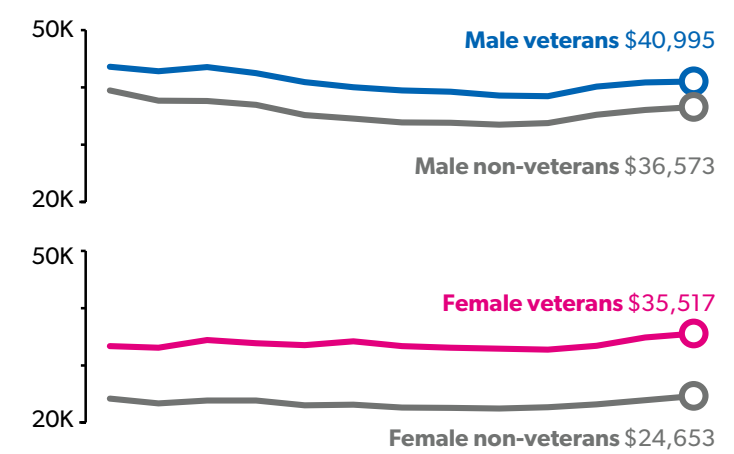


Figure 106
Veterans by age group

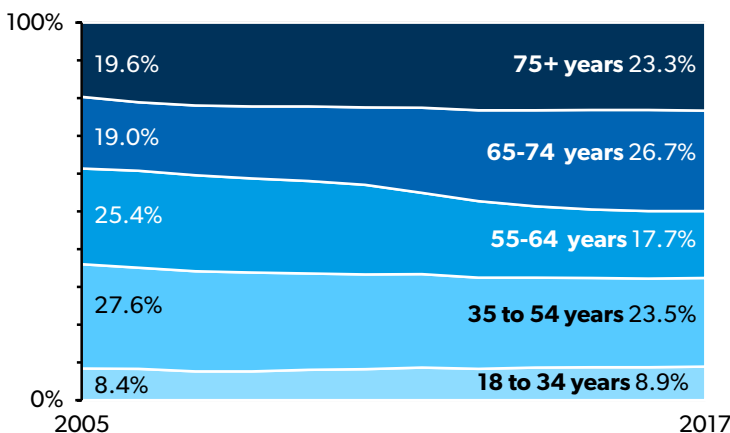
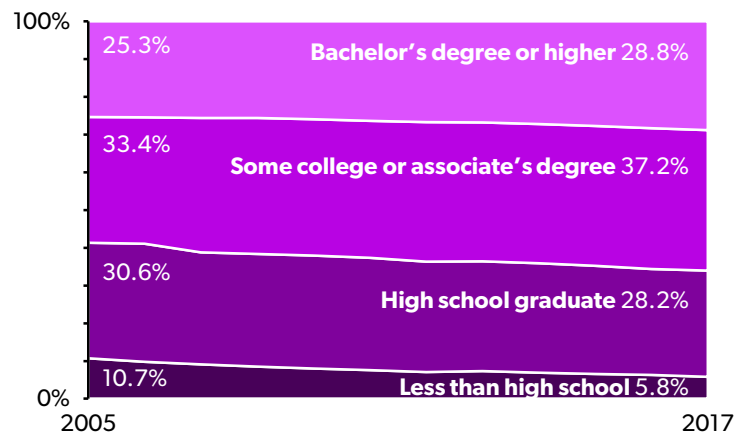


Figure 107
Veterans by educational attainment



In 2017, the US spent less than 1% of its budget on foreign aid.

Aid priorities have shifted qualitatively and geographically since 2010. Spending on economic and military assistance dropped \$2.6 billion (down 7%) and \$1.9 billion (down 12%), respectively (Fig. 108). While contributions to governance programs dropped \$7.4 billion, or 26.6%, humanitarian programs were funded 38% more in the same period (Fig. 109).

From a regional perspective, the US directed 34% more aid to sub-Saharan Africa in 2017 than in 2010, totaling \$12.7 billion (Fig. 110). A plurality of the aid money, 29.1%, supported emergency response while 26.1% went to HIV/AIDS. In that same time, aid to South and Central Asia declined 54%.

Figure 108
Foreign aid spending, by top category

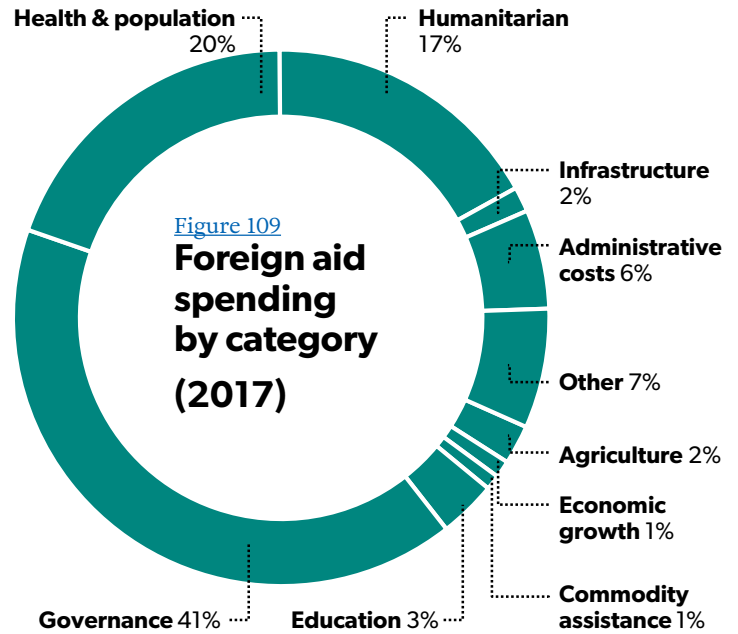
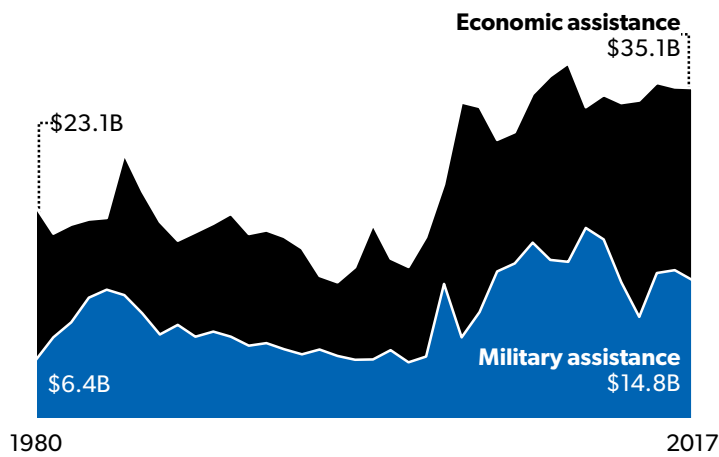
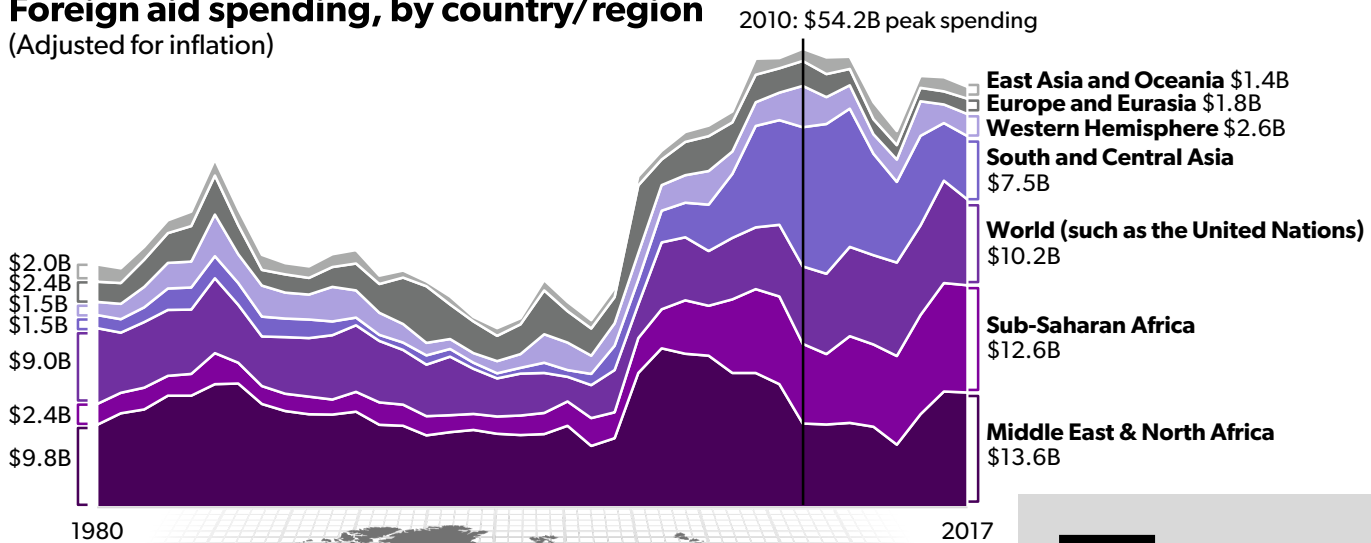


Figure 110
Foreign aid spending, by country/region
(Adjusted for inflation)



In 2014, the US began withdrawing troops from Afghanistan. Correspondingly, foreign aid to the country declined 61% between 2010 and 2017.

14% of residents are born outside the US, returning to historic levels.

About 44 million people in the US are foreign-born, nearly half of whom are naturalized citizens (49.3%) (Fig. 111). They are older, on average than the native-born population, with a median age of 44.8 compared to 36.2. Almost half of the foreign-born (44.3%) are Hispanic, and over a quarter are of Asian descent (27.1%). The foreign-born are more likely to have jobs in agriculture, construction, manufacturing, and professional, scientific, and management industries, and have lower median earnings than their native-born counterparts.

Approximately 12 million unauthorized immigrants live in the US as of the most recent government study from 2015 (Fig. 112). The size of the unauthorized population has remained relatively stable since 2005, following an increase around the turn of the century. Some unauthorized immigrants choose to move back to their country of origin; however, the government doesn't publish the number of unauthorized individuals leaving the US.

The US Customs and Border Patrol, responsible for patrolling 8,000 miles of land and coastal borders, apprehended 404k individuals who were not lawfully in the United States in 2018, down from 1.7 million in 2000 (Fig. 113). In addition to overland border crossings, many unauthorized immigrants come to the US on visas that they then overstay. The Department of Homeland Security estimates there were 700k visa overstays in 2017, which is 1.3% of legal visas issued. Of overstays, 22% are from Canada and Mexico. The overstay rate for visa holders from these countries is the same as the average for all countries, but they account for a much larger share of legal visa holders.

Estimating the number of unauthorized immigrants in the US is difficult but not impossible. The currently accepted methodology takes the total number of immigrants in the US, subtracts those in the country legally, and adds between 10 and 15%, dependent on other factors.

Figure 111
Percent of the population that is foreign-born

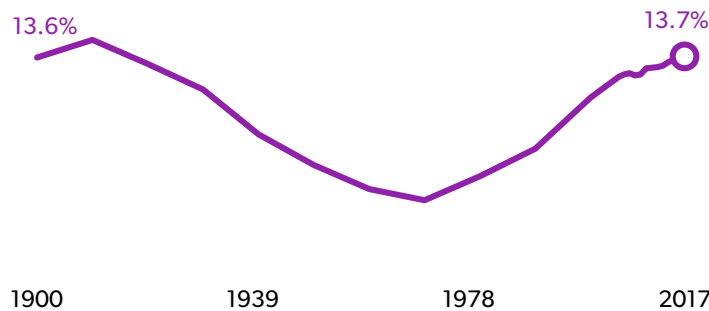


Figure 112
Estimated unauthorized immigrants in the US

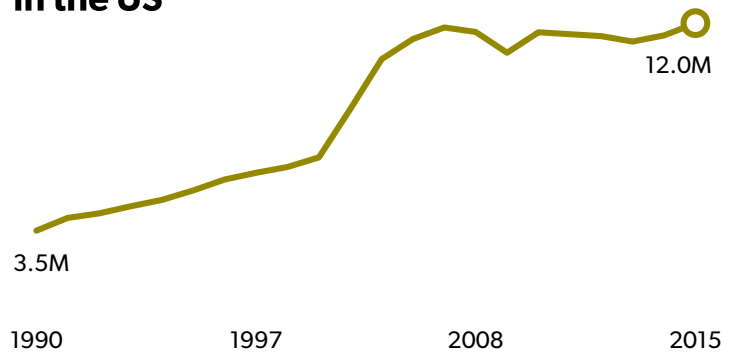


Figure 113
Border security

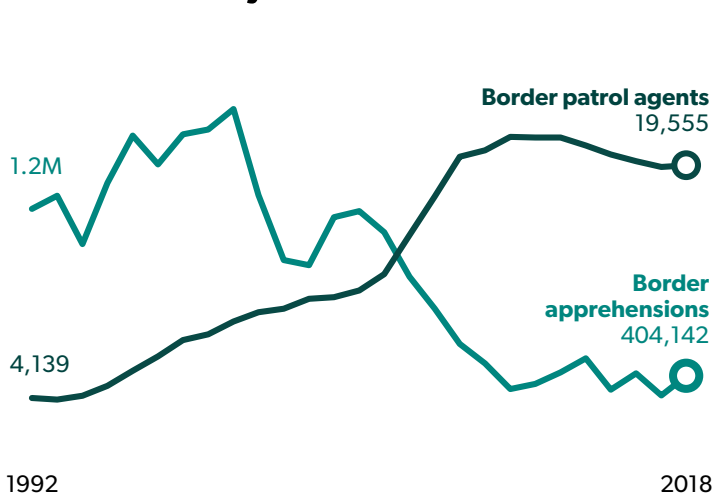
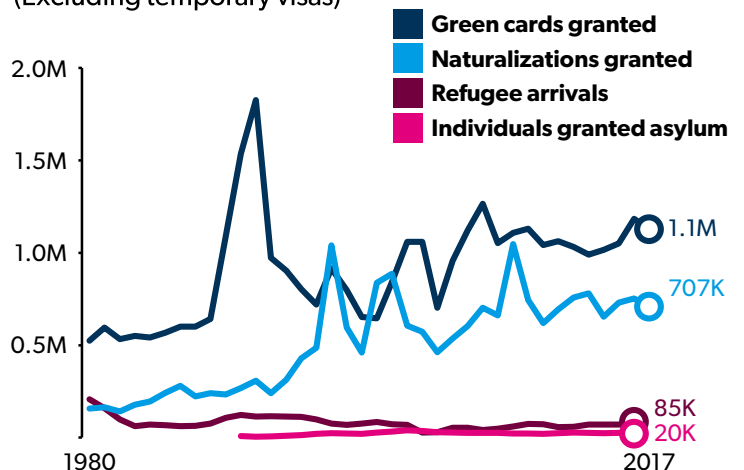


Figure 114
Immigration, by type
(Excluding temporary visas)



Transportation, infrastructure, energy, and natural disasters



People are traveling farther, with fewer fatalities.

Transportation of people and goods in our economy is at historically safe levels. Across transportation modes, people are traveling farther than ever, with fewer accidents. On roads in 2016, Americans drove twice the distance they did in 1980 (Fig. 115). Americans flew 2.3 billion commercial airline miles in 1980, while today traveling 6.3 billion miles in the skies. Transit miles doubled from 2.2 billion miles in 1980 to 4.6 billion in 2017. Rail freight miles rose modestly to 34 billion, up 5 billion from 1980.

Despite recent international jet incidents, commercial airline fatalities have become exceedingly rare in the United States, dropping from 58.2 fatalities per 100 million commercial air carrier miles logged in 1960 to 0 in 2017, where it has remained since 2014. Rail, pipeline, waterway, and transit crashes and crash fatalities are also extremely rare.

Unlike commercial air travel, highway vehicles have not come close to a zero-fatality level within the US.

Figure 115

Vehicle miles traveled, in trillions

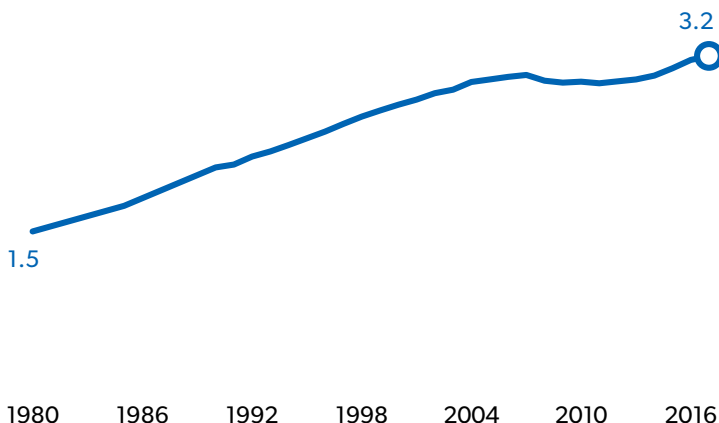
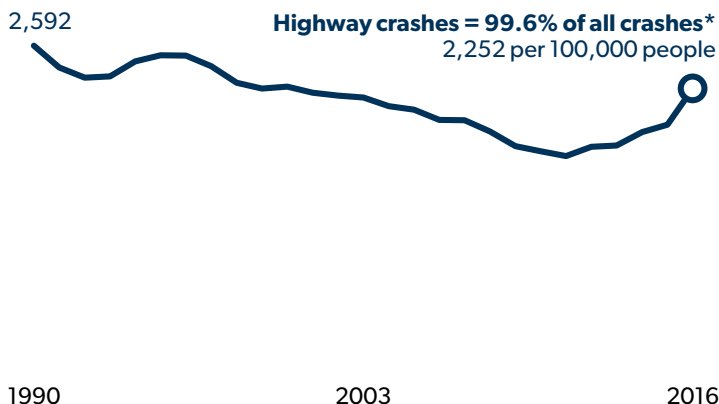


Figure 117

Transportation crashes



*Note: survey methodology changed in 2015

Highway vehicles accounted for 95% of the 39,032 transportation fatalities in 2017 (Fig. 118). While highway vehicles are riskier than other modes, they also remain at a historically safe level in terms of fatalities.

On per billion vehicle miles traveled, highway crash fatalities have continued trending downward: 50.64 in 1960, 33.45 in 1980, 15.27 in 2000, and 11.56 in 2017. Notably, the trend for drivers killing pedestrians has recently reversed: after declining from 5.28 fatal crashes per billion vehicle miles in 1980, it fell to a low of 1.39 per billion in 2009 but rose again to 1.86 in 2017. Highway crashes are also a cause for concern with the trend reversing beginning in 2011 (Fig. 117).

Highway transportation fatalities as a result of alcohol-impaired driving have fallen from 53% in 1985 to 39% in 2017. With 90% of Americans buckled up in 2017, safety belts saved 14,668 lives in 2016, five times as many lives as the estimated 2,756 lives saved by airbags (Fig. 116).

Figure 116

Estimated cumulative lives saved, by type of safety device (1995 to 2016)

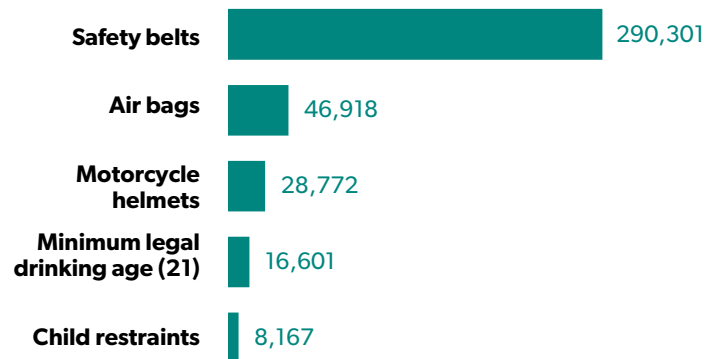
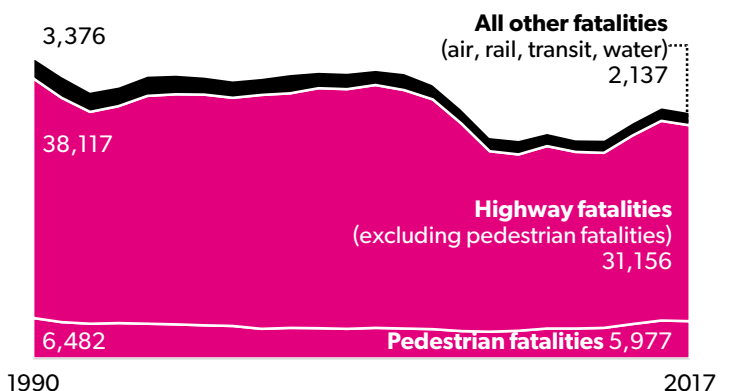


Figure 118

Highway fatalities have fallen from 17.9 to 11.6 per 100,000 people



Americans drive solo to work, despite long delays and rough roads.

Patterns of people moving goods and services through our economy have changed drastically since the 1990s.

Since 1980, the US population grew by 43%, the same amount that vehicle miles traveled grew in rural areas. But the number of miles driven in urban areas grew by 163%. Vehicle registrations outgrew population, increasing 66% over the same period.

Americans overwhelmingly commute to work alone in cars, with three-quarters (76.4%) of the estimated 153 million people going to work every morning in America driving solo (Fig. 122). Though driving (including carpools) as a share of all commuting shrank a few percentage points since the early nineties, there was a net increase of 39 million people using vehicles to get to work since 1993. In 2017, just 5% took public transit, and nearly 3% walked or bicycled.

Working from home is becoming more common. From 2007 to 2017, people reporting to work from home increased from 5.7 million to 8 million, a 40% increase.

Roughly half of all urban collectors (roads with speed limits of 35-55 miles per hour) traveled some 223 billion miles in 2017 were rated as unacceptably bumpy by a measure of road roughness (Fig. 120). One-quarter of urban arterials, traveled some 1.1 trillion miles by urban drivers in 2017 with speed limits of 50-70 miles, were rated unacceptable. This urban road trend has held steady for the last decade. Rural roads remain in better shape than urban ones. Conversely, bridges have seen a significant decrease in structural deficiencies over time.

Since the 1990s, delays per commuter have increased, reaching a peak just before 2009. As of 2014, delays remained relatively level at 42 hours per commuter (Fig. 121).

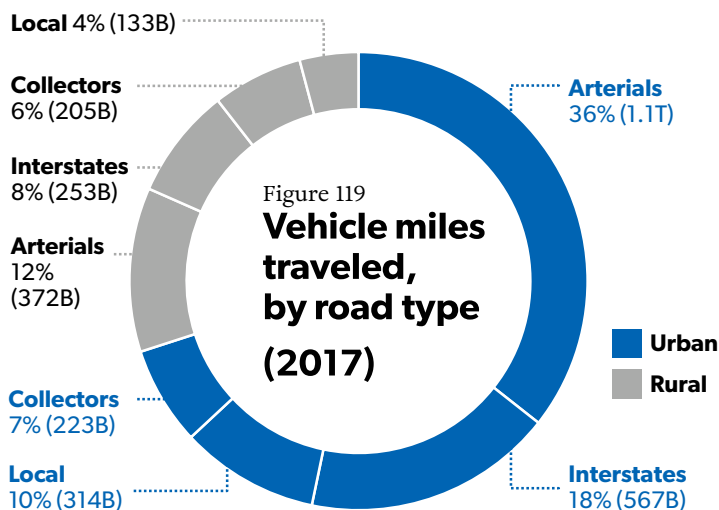


Figure 120

Unsatisfactory roads are primarily located in well-traveled urban areas.

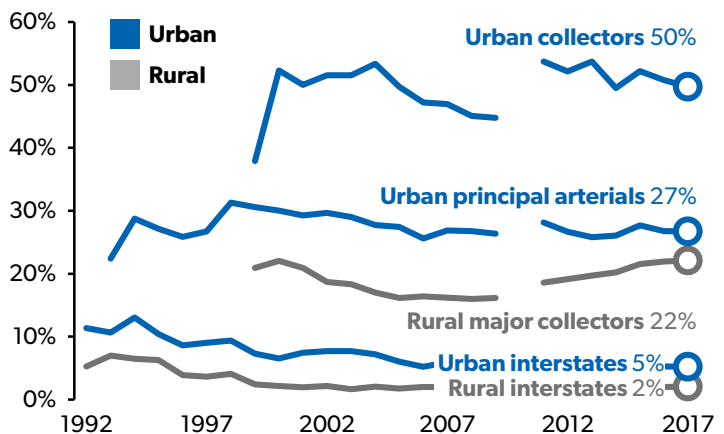


Figure 121

The average delay per commuter is 42 hours per year.

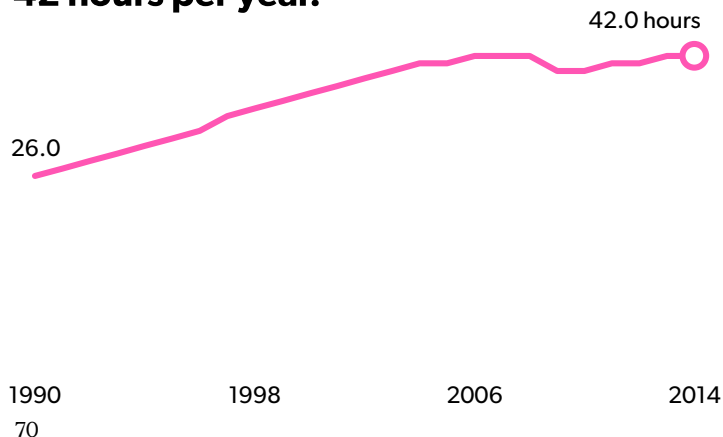
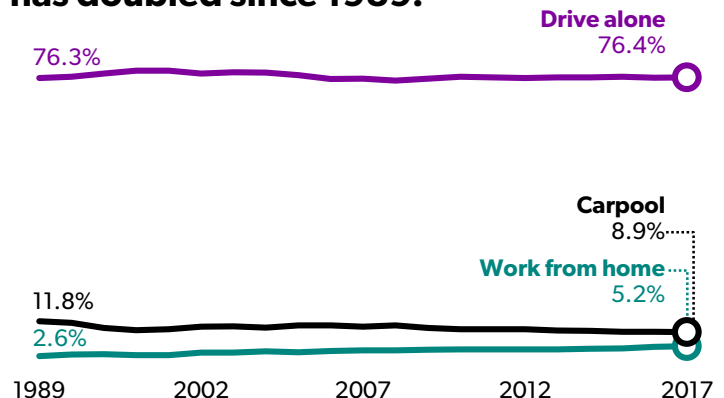


Figure 122

Commuting to work: working from home has doubled since 1989.



Energy use per capita has decreased, with transportation replacing power as the leading producer of greenhouse gas emissions.

Individual Americans use less energy than they did in 1980, from 344 million BTUs per capita to 301 million in 2017 (Fig. 125). However, the nation overall consumed 97.9 quadrillion BTUs in 2017, which is 25% more energy than it used in 1980.

Most of our power portfolio (78 quadrillion BTUs, or 79.9%) comes from fossil fuels (Figs. 123, 124), the primary driver of US emissions. Among fossil fuels, coal consumption dropped 39% from its 2005 peak. Natural gas grew over the same period by 24%, rising to more than double coal's consumption at 28.0 quadrillion BTUs. Petroleum consumption fell post-recession, but has since continued its increase to 36.3 quadrillion BTUs.

In 2017, Americans emitted 5.3 billion metric tons of CO₂, the equivalent of 1.1 billion passenger cars a year, a 14.0% drop from its 2007 peak. Transportation produced 5.5 metric tons of CO₂ emissions per person and electric power added 5.3 metric tons of CO₂ per person.

According to the Department of Energy, the US produced 15% of all global CO₂ in 2014, second to China (30%). **Since the Industrial Revolution, the US produced 26% of all the world's carbon emissions.** European Union countries in combination produced 20%, and China 12%.

Figure 123

Energy production, by type (Quadrillions of BTUs)

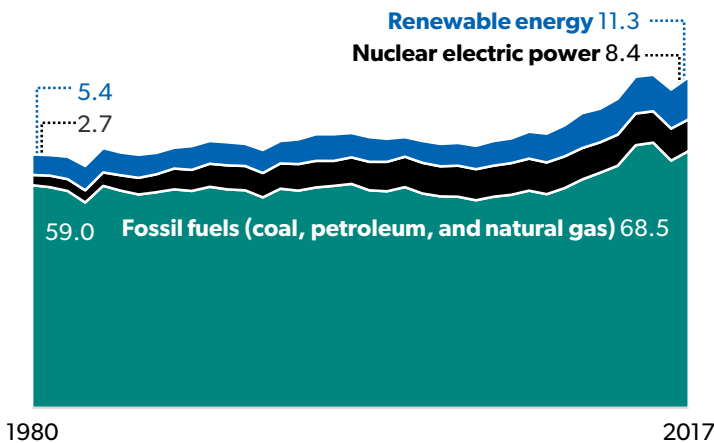


Figure 124

Energy consumption, by type (Quadrillions of BTUs)

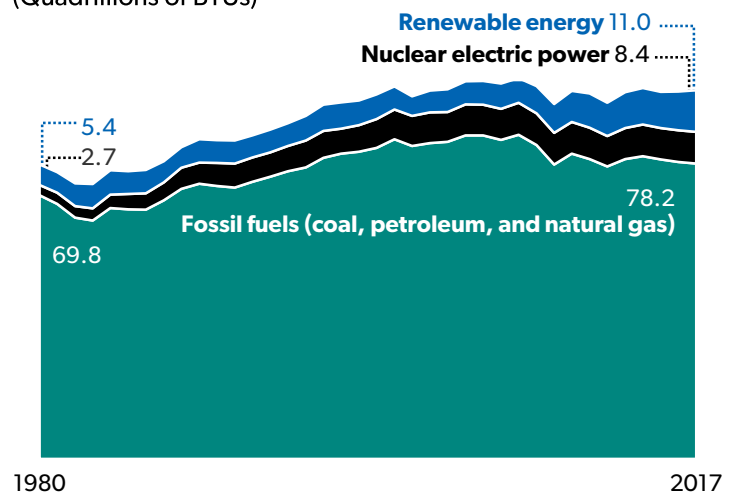


Figure 125

Energy consumption, per capita (Millions of BTUs)

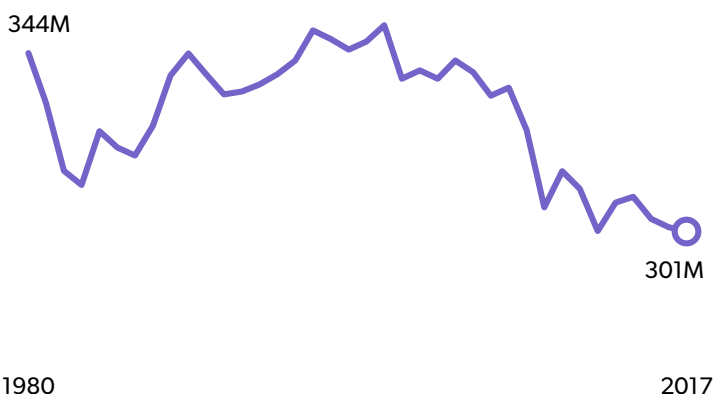
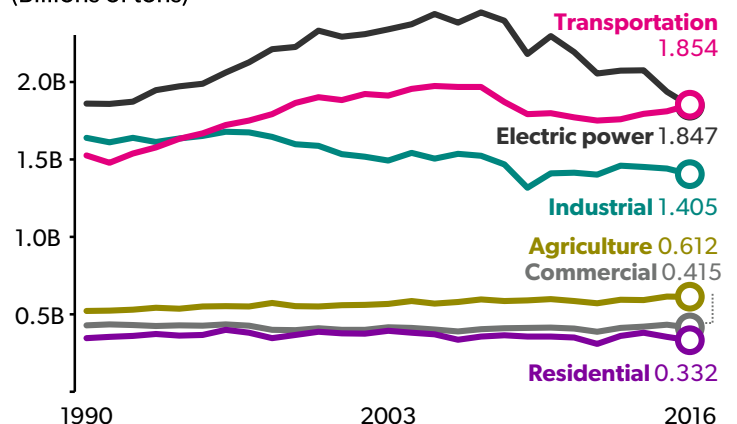


Figure 126

Greenhouse gas emissions, by source (Billions of tons)



The US is diversifying its power supply and becoming more energy-independent.

As of 2017, renewables (solar, wind, hydroelectric, geothermal, and biomass) provided 12.8% of the US power supply, an increase from 8.1% of all power generated in 1980. Biomass is the leading renewable energy source, accounting for 5.1% of 2017 power production. Solar power grew by 12 times since 2007, but only generated 0.9% of power in 2017. Nuclear power provided 8.6% of the nation's power, up from 3.5% in 1980. Meanwhile, fossil fuels supplied 77.7% of American power in 2017, down from 89.4% in 1980. Petroleum continues to be the largest source of energy consumption, with natural gas being a second and rising source.

The energy trade gap was at its highest in 2005 when the US imported a net 3.61 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. In 2018, it exported 696 billion cubic feet more than it imported. The petroleum gap was 70% lower in 2017 than its 4.58 billion-barrel high in 2005, down to 1.38 billion barrels.

Figure 127

Total energy imports and exports

(Quadrillions of BTUs)

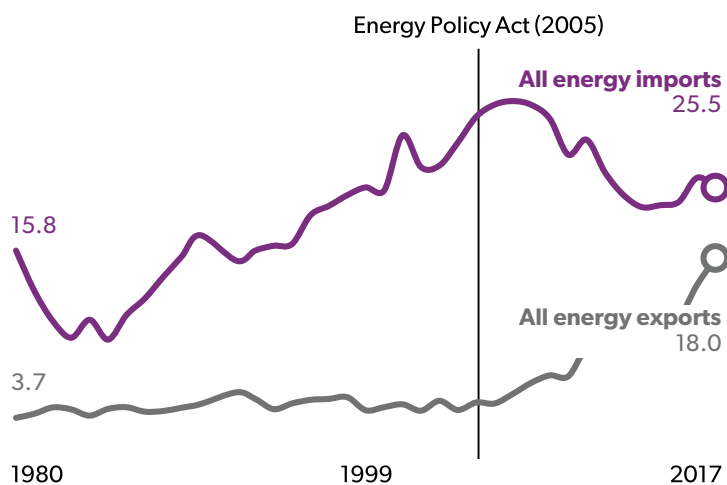


Figure 128

Net trade balance of fossil fuels

(Quadrillions of BTUs)

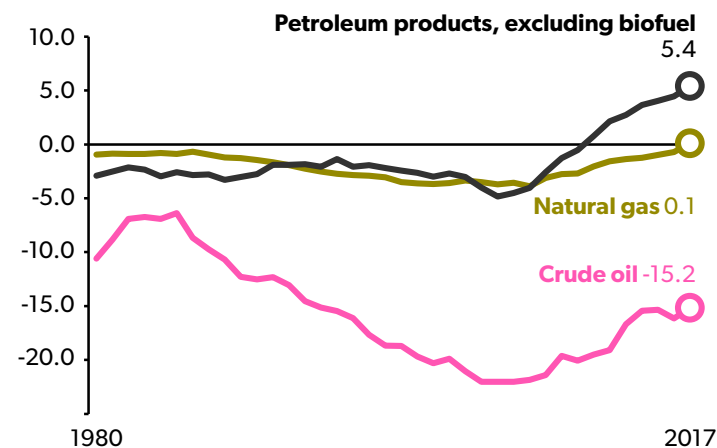
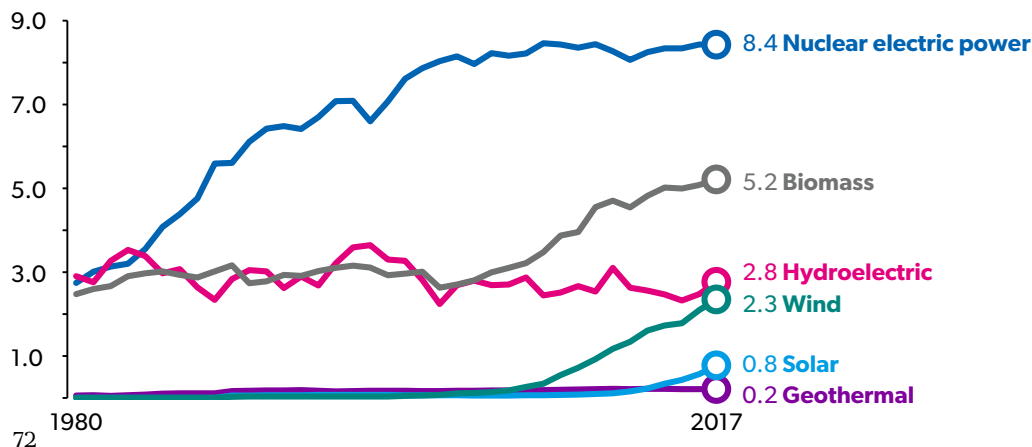


Figure 129

Production of renewable and nuclear energy

(Quadrillions of BTUs)



We are experiencing more fire and severe storm declarations, while hurricanes remain the deadliest and most costly natural disasters.

We are declaring more natural disasters due to extreme weather, with 137 incidents declared in 2017 and 124 in 2018 (Fig. 132). Since 1999, there were 1,052 more fire declarations and 529 more severe storm declarations than in the same 20-year prior period. In the same time period, flood declarations fell by 129.

Five of the most expensive disaster declarations since 1980—Hurricanes Harvey, Maria, Sandy, and Irma and the 2012 drought/heat wave—happened within the last ten years (Fig. 133).

Figure 130
Disaster aid
(Federal Emergency Management Agency)

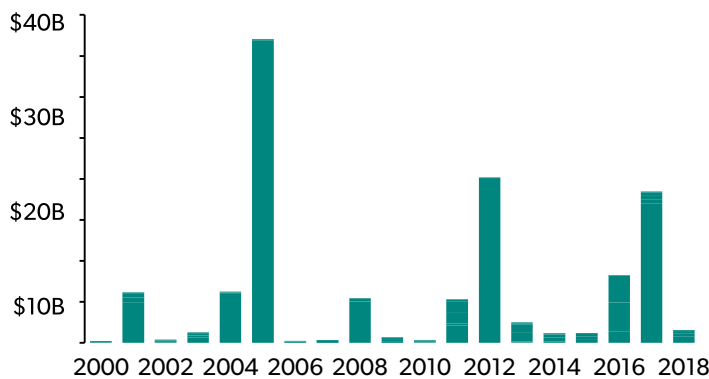
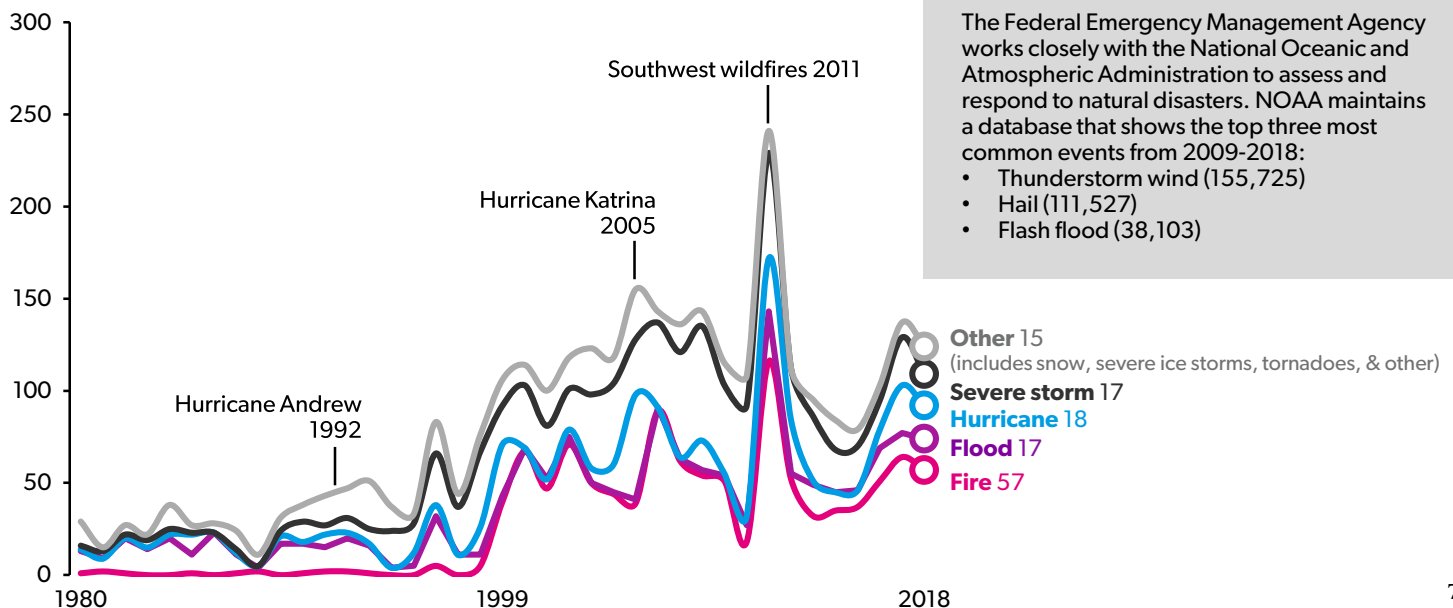


Figure 132
Disaster declarations by type



Since 2000, the most expensive types of disasters according to FEMA disaster aid data are hurricanes, severe storms, fires, floods, and severe ice storms. The number of billion-dollar disasters is increasing, with a significant uptick in the number of expensive severe storms (Fig. 134). US disaster aid in 2017 spiked to \$18.6 billion, which nearly matched 2012's need for \$20.6 billion in assistance.

Hurricanes are the deadliest major disaster event type in the United States. Hurricane Maria caused a reported 2,981 deaths in 2017, making it much more fatal than Hurricane Katrina (1,833 deaths) in 2005 (Fig. 131).

Figure 131

Deadliest disasters	Number of deaths:
Hurricane Maria (September 2017)	2,981
Hurricane Katrina (August 2005)	1,833
Central/Eastern Drought/Heatwave (Summer-Fall 1980)	1,260
Eastern Drought/Heatwave (Summer 1999)	502
US Drought/Heatwave (Summer 1988)	454
Southeast/Ohio Valley/Midwest Tornadoes (April 2011)	321
East Coast Blizzard and Severe Weather (March 1993)	270
Southern Drought/Heat Wave (Summer 1998)	200
Blizzard/Floods (January 1996)	187
Midwest/Southeast Tornadoes (May 2011)	177

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Corrections and restatements since original publication on April 30, 2019:

Page 55: "\$2.9 trillion of this is spent on health care for individuals" was incorrectly rounded and corrected to \$3.0 trillion.
Page 48, Figure 64: Labels for TANF spending line were incorrectly noted in millions and corrected to billions.
Page 64, Figure 103: Defense spending totals adjusted incorrectly. Corrected inflation adjustment applied.



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