

Changes in the distribution of wealth, 1962-2004

Wealth class*	1962	1983	1989	1998	2001	2004	Percentage-point change			
							1962-83	1983-89	1989-2001	2001-04
Top fifth	81.0%	81.3%	83.5%	83.4%	84.4%	84.7%	0.4	2.2	0.9	0.2
<i>Top 1%</i>	33.4	33.8	37.4	38.1	33.4	34.3	0.3	3.6	-4.0	1.0
<i>Next 4%</i>	21.2	22.3	21.6	21.3	25.8	24.6	1.2	-0.8	4.2	-1.2
<i>Next 5%</i>	12.4	12.1	11.6	11.5	12.3	12.3	-0.2	-0.5	0.7	0.0
<i>Next 10%</i>	14.0	13.1	13.0	12.5	12.9	13.4	-0.9	-0.1	-0.1	0.5
Bottom four-fifths	19.1%	18.7%	16.5%	16.6%	15.6%	15.3%	-0.4	-2.2	-0.9	-0.2
<i>Fourth</i>	13.4	12.6	12.3	11.9	11.3	11.3	-0.8	-0.3	-1.0	0.0
<i>Middle</i>	5.4	5.2	4.8	4.5	3.9	3.8	-0.2	-0.4	-0.9	-0.1
<i>Second</i>	1.0	1.2	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.2	-0.3	-0.1	0.0
<i>Lowest</i>	-0.7	-0.3	-1.5	-0.6	-0.4	-0.5	0.4	-1.2	1.1	-0.1
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%				

* Wealth defined as net worth (household assets minus debts).

Source: Wolff (2006).

Table 5.2 from: Mishel, Lawrence, Jared Bernstein, and Heidi Shierholz, *The State of Working America* 2008/2009. An Economic Policy Institute Book. Ithaca, N.Y.: ILR Press, an imprint of Cornell University Press, 2009.

