

Changes in the distribution of wealth, 1962-2004

Wealth class*	1962	1983	1989	1998	2001	2004	Annualized growth			
							1962-83	1983-89	1989-2001	2001-04
Top fifth	\$680.8	\$1,001.9	\$1,178.7	\$1,305.8	\$1,711.6	\$1,822.6	1.8%	2.7%	3.2%	2.1%
<i>Top 1%</i>	5,622.8	8,315.2	10,547.9	11,825.1	13,537.8	14,791.6	1.9	4.0	2.1	3.0
<i>Next 4%</i>	890.2	1,375.4	1,522.1	1,670.2	2,616.4	2,676.7	2.1	1.7	4.6	0.8
<i>Next 5%</i>	416.1	598.2	655.4	722.5	999.9	1,054.7	1.7	1.5	3.6	1.8
<i>Next 10%</i>	235.1	323.0	366.1	399.7	523.0	576.3	1.5	2.1	3.0	3.3
Bottom four-fifths	\$40.1	\$57.5	\$58.1	\$65.1	\$78.9	\$82.5	1.7%	0.2%	2.6%	1.5%
<i>Fourth</i>	112.7	154.8	173.9	186.9	229.6	243.6	1.5	1.9	2.3	2.0
<i>Middle</i>	45.7	64.3	68.2	70.7	80.0	81.9	1.6	1.0	1.3	0.8
<i>Second</i>	8.0	14.5	11.9	12.9	14.9	14.4	2.9	-3.3	1.9	-1.0
<i>Lowest</i>	-6.1	-3.7	-21.3	-10.3	-8.7	-11.4	2.4%	-33.9	7.2	-9.2
Median	\$45.0	\$63.3	\$67.7	\$70.3	\$78.4	\$77.9	1.6%	1.1%	1.2%	-0.2%
Average	168.2	246.4	282.3	313.2	405.5	430.5	1.8	2.3	3.1	2.0

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

Source: Wolff (2006).

Table 5.3 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.

