

Wealth by race, 1983-2004 (thousands of 2004 dollars)

Race	1983	1989	1992	1995	1998	2001	2004
Average wealth*							
<i>Black</i>	\$54.20	\$57.10	\$61.30	\$50.50	\$67.50	\$70.80	\$101.40
<i>White</i>	287.90	340.60	329.60	300.40	371.90	496.80	534.00
<i>Black-to-white ratio</i>	0.19	0.17	0.19	0.17	0.18	0.14	0.19
Median wealth							
<i>Black</i>	\$5.50	\$2.50	\$13.90	\$9.10	\$11.60	\$11.40	\$11.80
<i>White</i>	82.90	98.40	82.60	75.60	94.60	113.50	118.30
<i>Black-to-white ratio</i>	0.07	0.03	0.17	0.12	0.12	0.10	0.10
Households with zero or negative net wealth (%)							
<i>Black</i>	34.1%	40.7%	31.5%	31.3%	27.4%	30.9%	29.4%
<i>White</i>	11.3	12.1	13.8	15.0	14.8	13.1	13.0
<i>Black-to-white ratio</i>	3.0	3.4	2.3	2.1	1.9	2.4	2.3
Average financial wealth**							
<i>Black</i>	\$27.30	\$27.90	\$34.90	\$26.30	\$43.60	\$46.10	\$61.50
<i>White</i>	212.10	257.50	253.80	233.60	295.30	394.30	402.50
<i>Black-to-white ratio</i>	0.13	0.11	0.14	0.11	0.15	0.12	0.15
Median financial wealth							
<i>Black</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.20	\$0.20	\$1.40	\$1.20	\$0.30
<i>White</i>	23.10	31.20	25.40	22.40	43.60	44.90	36.10
<i>Black-to-white ratio</i>	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.03	0.01

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

** Financial wealth is liquid and semi-liquid assets including mutual funds, trusts, retirement, and pensions.

Source: Wolff (2006).

Table 5.5 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.

