

BLACK FAMILY MEDIAN INCOME UP SIGNIFICANTLY SINCE 1982 RECESSION, CENSUS BUREAU REPORTS

Real median income of Black families has increased significantly since 1982 when the last economic recession ended, according to the Department of Commerce's Census Bureau.

The median income in 1986 for all Black families (\$7,600) and for Black married-coupled families (\$26,580) increased by about 14 percent from 1982.

Black families with a female householder, no husband present, had a median income in 1986 of \$9,300, up 9.8 percent from 1982.

Since 1982, real family income has grown by 10.2 percent for all White families and 11.3 percent for White married-couple families. The median incomes of all Hispanic families and married-coupled families both increased by about 9 percent. The differences between the percentage increases for White and Black families were not statistically different from comparable Hispanic families.

Neither the number of poor nor the poverty rate changed significantly for Blacks or Whites between 1985-1986. The number of Hispanics in poverty did not change, but the rate declined. The poverty rate in 1986 for Blacks was 31.1 percent (9.0 million) compared with 27.3 percent for Hispanics (5.1 million) and 11.0 percent for Whites (22.2 million).

The 1986 poverty rate for Blacks was lower than during the most recent peak in 1983 when it was 35.7 percent.

The 1986 poverty rate for Whites has declined since 1983 when it was 12.1 percent. The 1986 poverty rate among persons of Hispanic origin was not different from the 1983 rate.

The 1986 poverty level for a family of four was \$11,203.

The income and poverty data are based on money income only, before any deductions, and do not include the value of non-cash benefits, such as food stamps, public housing, and Medicaid.

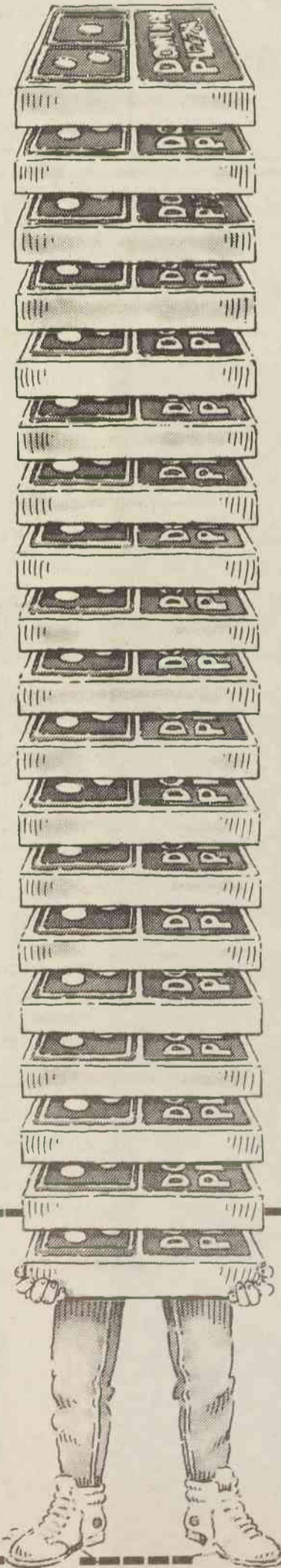
As in all surveys, the data are subject to sampling variability and other sources of error.

Copies of Money Income and Poverty

Status of Families and Persons in the United States: 1986, Series P-60, No. 157 (advance report), may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.



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