Do Men Make Less Than They Did Forty Years Ago?

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WONKBLOG

Wages aren’t stagnating, they’re plummeting
By Dylan Matthews, Published: July 31, 2012 at 11:10 am  E-mail the writer

OP-ED COLUMNIST
Why Men Fail
By DAVID BROOKS
Published: September 10, 2012  463 Com

You’re probably aware of the basic numbers: College education have increased over the past three decades. China is the world’s factory. You get the memo.

In 1954, 96 percent of the American men between the ages of 25 and 29 were in the labor force. Participation rates dropped sharply in the 1960s and 1970s and have been in a 40-year decline ever since. Millions of men are pulled out of the workforce now, as the Chinese import their goods and the machines of Japan and South Korea take their jobs.

NOTE: Men Ages 25-64. Adjusted for inflation using CPI-U.
The “Official” Numbers

- CPS Historical Income Table P-41. “Work Experience—All Workers by Median Earnings and Sex: 1967 to 2012”
- Male workers age 14+ from 1967-1978, 15+ from 1979 forward; civilians only until 1989, then includes Armed Forces members living off base
- CPI-U-RS to adjust for inflation
Median Annual Earnings Among Men, 1969-2011
(1969=1.0)

Published Census Bureau Estimates
(Age 14+ or 15+)
Median Annual Earnings Among Men, 1969-2011
(1969=1.0)

Age 25-64, Using CPI-U-RS

1.3
1.2
1.1
1.0
0.9
0.8
0.7
Median Annual Earnings Among Men, 1969-2011
(1969=1.0)

Age 25-64, Using CPI-U-RS
Using CPI-U
Median Annual Earnings Among Men, 1969-2011
(1969=1.0)

- Using CPI-U & Including Only Discouraged & Additional Disabled Non-Workers
- Using CPI-U-RS & Including Only Discouraged & Additional Disabled Non-Workers
- Using CPI-U-RS & Including Non-Workers
- Using CPI-U & Including Non-Workers

Values range from 0.7 to 1.3
Median Annual Earnings Among Men, 1969-2011
(1969=1.0)

Using CPI-U-RS & Including Only Discouraged & Additional Disabled Non-Workers
Median Annual Earnings Among Men, 1969-2011
(1969=1.0)

- Using PCE
- Using PCE & Excluding Self-Employed
- Using CPI-U-RS & Including Only Discouraged & Additional Disabled Non-Workers
Median Annual Earnings Among Men, 1969-2011
(1969=1.0)

- Total Compensation, Men 25-64 Who Worked, Were Discouraged, or Constituted Growth in Disabled, Using PCE
- Published Census Bureau Figures, Earnings, All Men Who Worked, Using CPI-U-RS
- Earnings, All Men 25-64, Using CPI-U
Median Annual Earnings Among Women, 1969-2011
(1969=1.0)

- Total Compensation, Women 25-64 Who Worked, Were Discouraged, or Constituted Growth in Disabled, Using PCE
- Published Census Bureau Figures, Earnings, All Women Who Worked, Using CPI-U-RS
- Median Compensation, Men
Do Men Make Less Than They Did Forty Years Ago?

Thank You!

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Annual Household Income Growth

![Bar chart showing annual household income growth for different income quintiles and years. The chart compares the income growth from 1948-1979 and 1979-2007. The bars indicate higher income growth for the top 5% compared to other quintiles for both time periods.]
Annual Household Income Growth
Annual Household Income Growth

- 1979-1989
- 1989-2007

Income Growth Comparison across Different Income Groups:

- Bottom Fifth
- Next-Highest
- Middle Fifth
- Next-Highest
- Top 5%

Growth rates vary significantly between different income groups and time periods.
Income Growth, 1989-2007

- Without Any Capital Gains
- With Accrued Gains from Stocks & Housing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Annual Growth Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bottom Fifth</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Next-Highest</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle Fifth</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Next-Highest</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top 5%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
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</tbody>
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