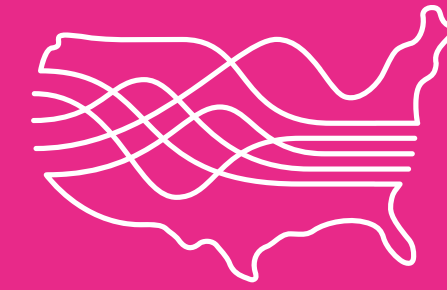




# State *of the* Union In Numbers

A data-driven, nonpartisan snapshot  
of the state of our union

**FEBRUARY 2, 2020**



USA **FACTS**



# State *of the* Union In Numbers

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snapshot of the state of our union

As required by Article II of the US Constitution, the President of the United States delivers a State of the Union from time to time, featuring a budget report, the president’s legislative proposals, and national priorities. Every president since Woodrow Wilson (except for Herbert Hoover) has delivered at least one State of the Union speech before a joint session of Congress.

After the president outlines an opinion about how the country is progressing, the opposing political party may provide a rebuttal. With two different views on The State of the Union, it might be difficult for citizens to determine if the country is moving in the right or wrong direction.

USAFacts has developed a State of the Union in Numbers covering areas of American life typically addressed in the State of the Union but focusing solely on the numbers. We provide historical data for perspective — using the data to advocate for the change you want to see in the country is up to you. The state of the union is in your hands.

USAFacts is a nonpartisan, not-for-profit civic initiative with a comprehensive library of digestible government data for all Americans. We are passionate about numbers and provide bias-free analysis centered on facts, not forecasts. We do not answer to a board or any political group and have no agenda other than improving American debates — and, by extension, American democracy — with government data.

Government data is limited, not always timely, and sometimes inconsistent. We show the most recent data available as of the writing of this report. Our sources will release updates and restatements of data after publication of this report. When official sources of data disagree, we work with experts to choose the best series to report. For consistency, where noted, we adjust for inflation to the most recent year available in each chart. The data in this report is up to date as of January 31, 2020.

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## POPULATION

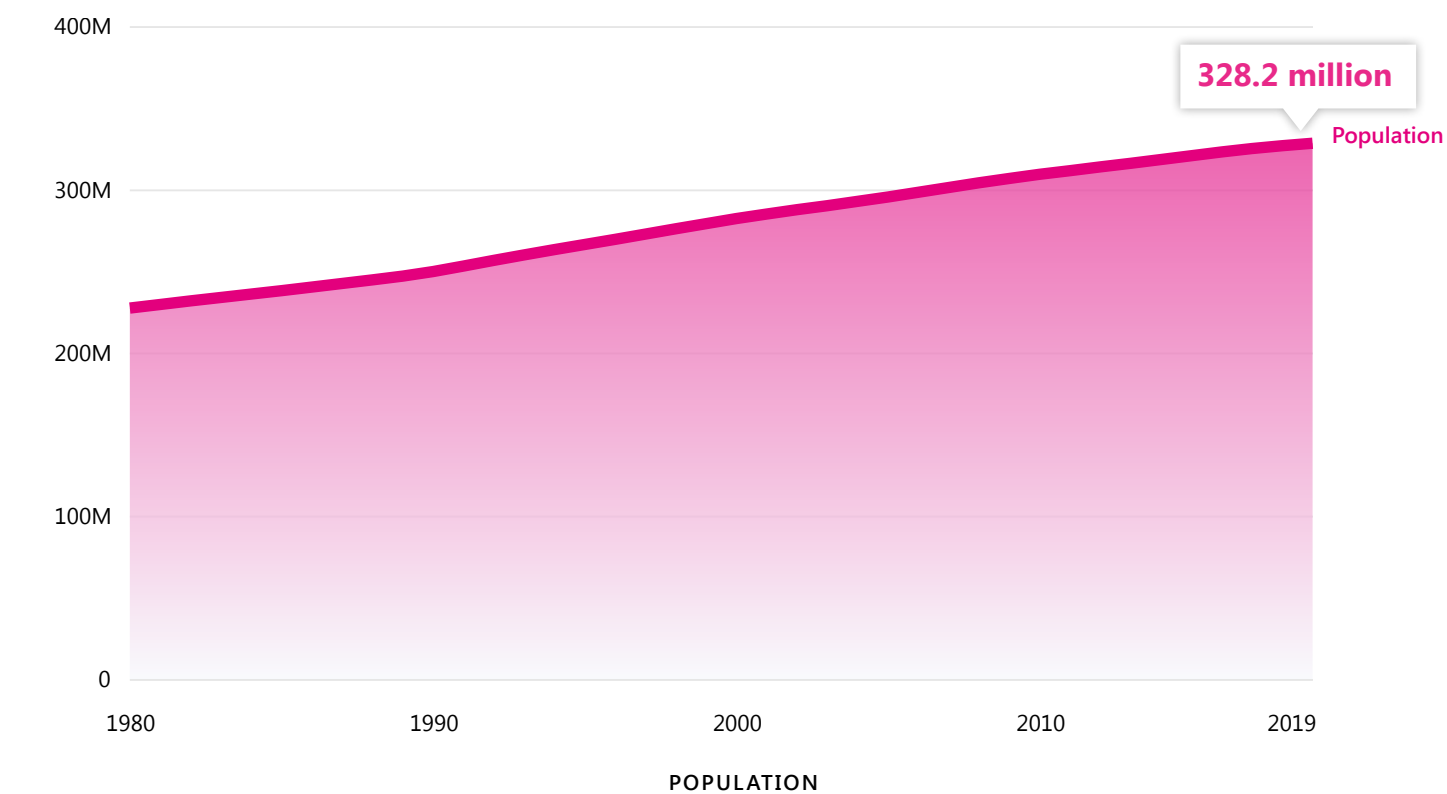
# How is the population changing and growing?

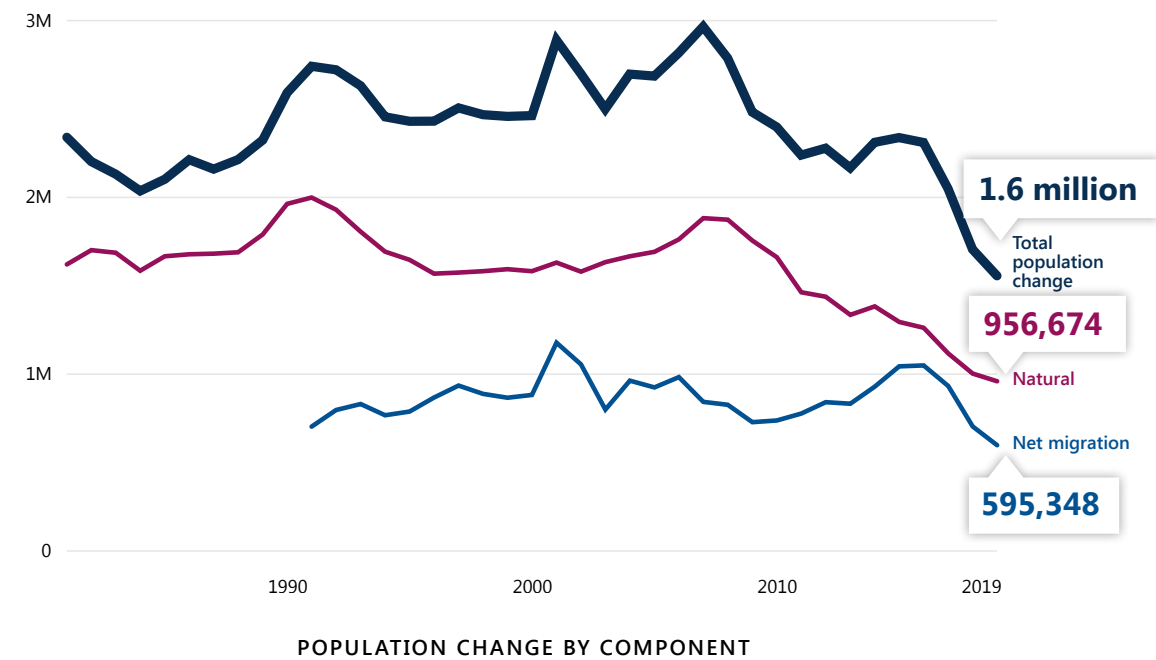
**In 2019, 328 million people lived in the United States.**

That's a 45% increase since 1980.

Sources

Census Bureau

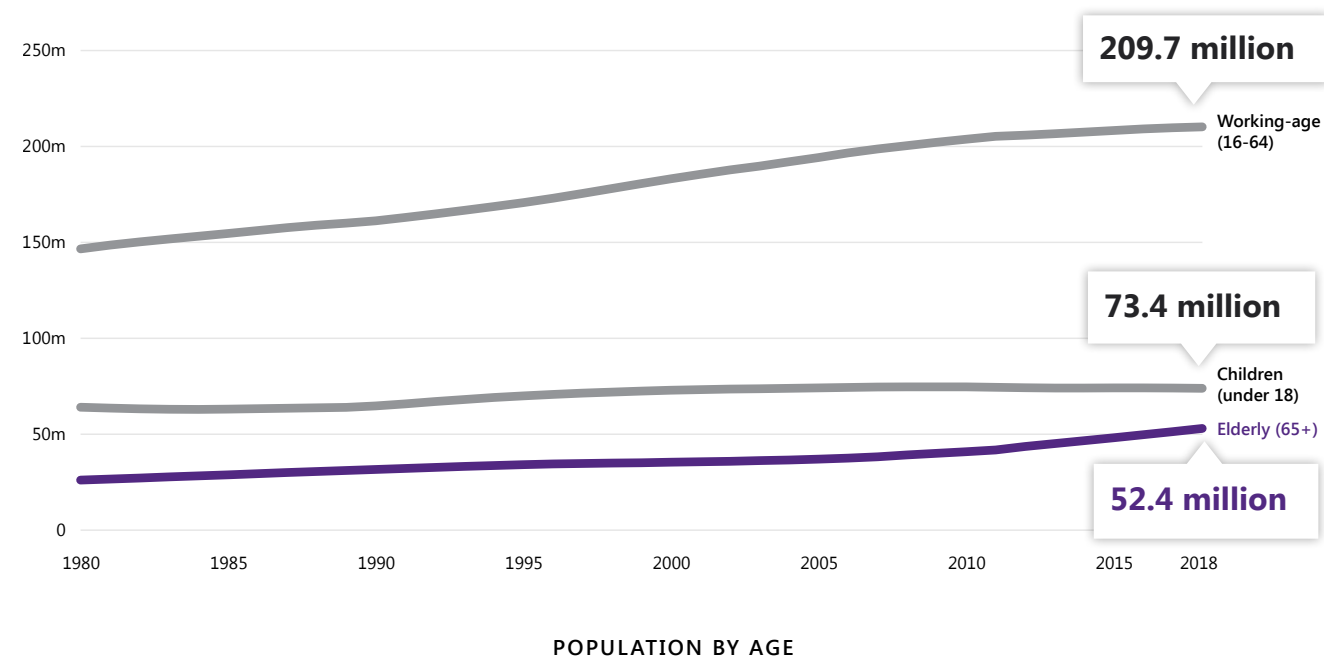




**Our population grew by 1.6 million from 2018 to 2019, with 38% of growth coming from immigration.**

This 0.5% annual population growth rate is the lowest since 1918.

Sources  
Census Bureau



**Our population is getting older.**

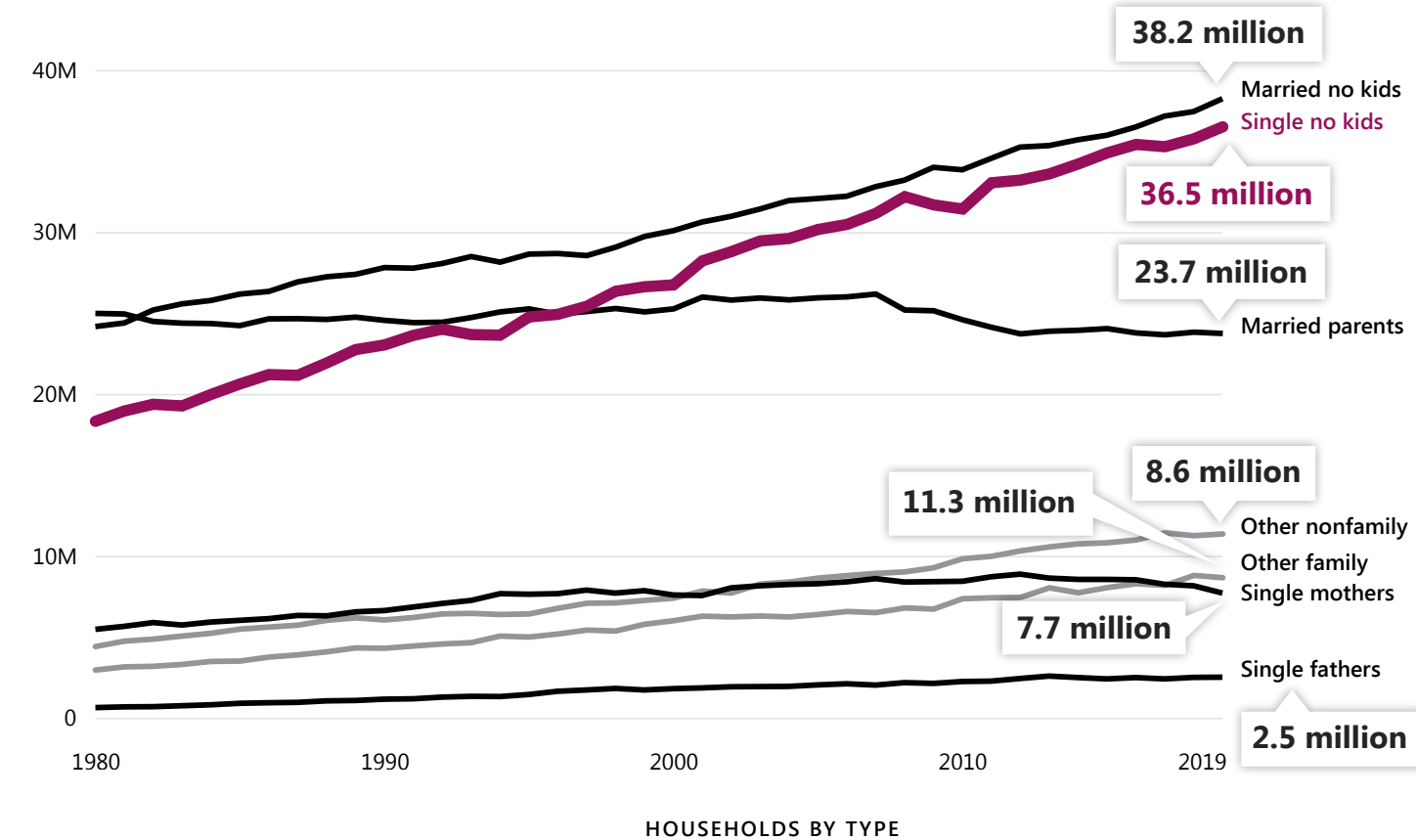
Since 1980, people 65 and older have increased from 11% to 16% of the total.

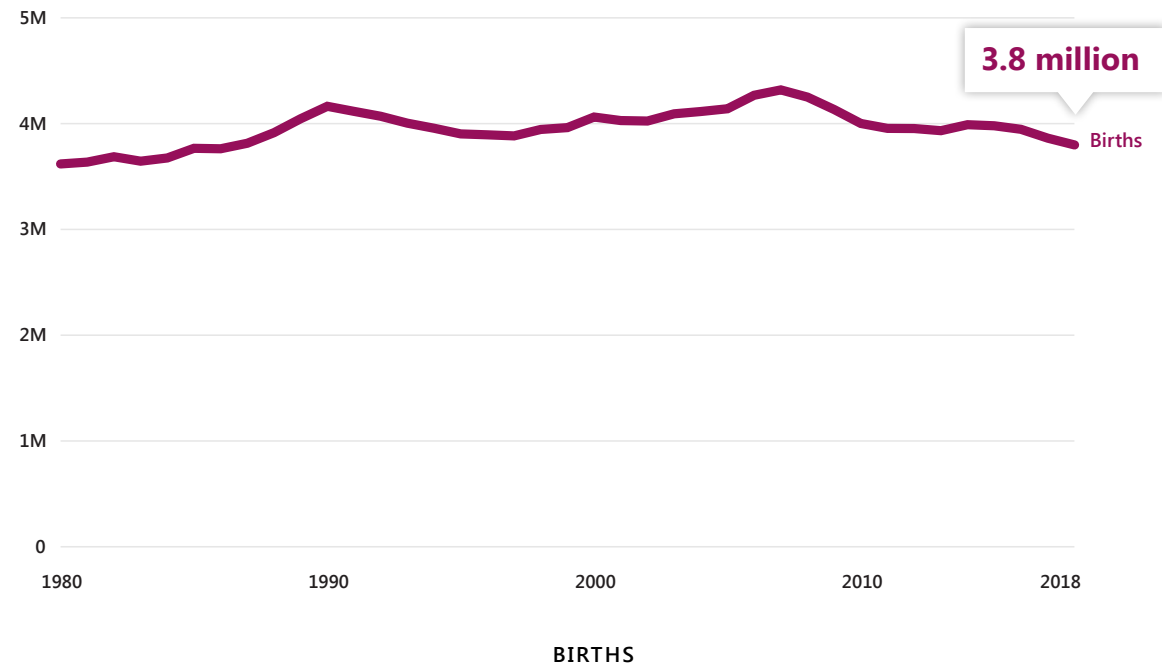
Sources  
Census Bureau

**A greater proportion of people are living alone than at any point since 1980.**

Now, 11% of the total population lives alone, up from 8%.

Sources  
Census Bureau

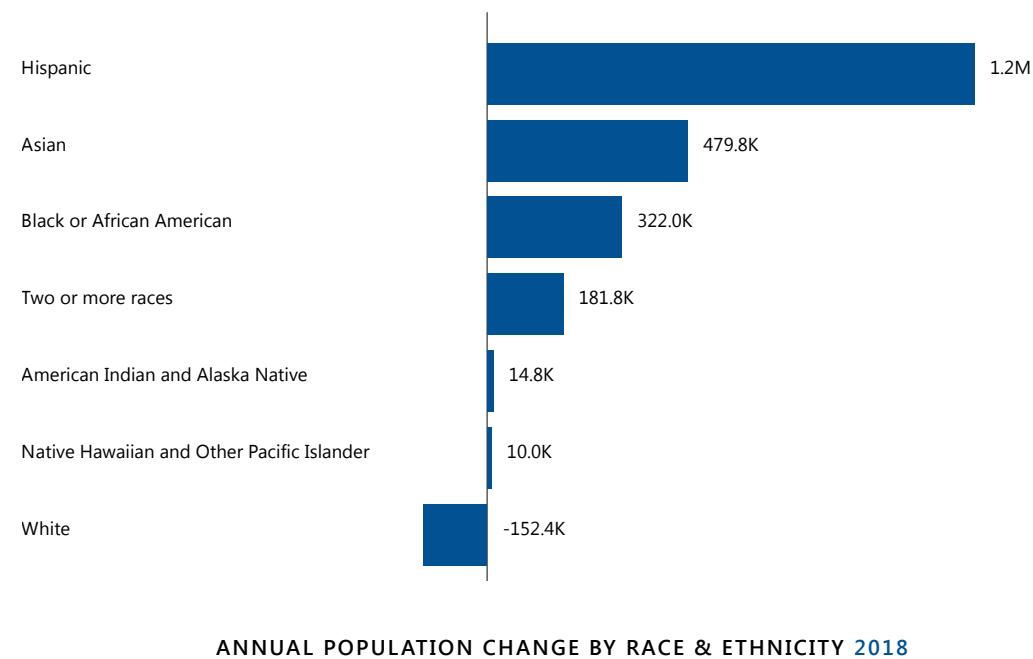




There were 12% fewer children born in 2018 than in the recent 2007 peak.

In 2018, there were 59.1 births per 1,000 females aged 15–44, a record low.

Sources  
Census Bureau



The absolute number of non-Hispanic white people has been falling since 2017.<sup>1</sup>

Sources  
Census Bureau

<sup>1</sup> Other than the number presented for Hispanic, all other totals are for the non-Hispanic population of each race; for example, White refers to non-Hispanic White

These demographic changes affect household income, employment, and other statistics presented in this report.





## BUDGET

# How much does the government spend and where does the money go?

## Federal revenue grew 2% in 2019.<sup>†</sup>

This is the first increase since 2015 and is equivalent to 16% of GDP (lower than the 17% annual average since 1980).

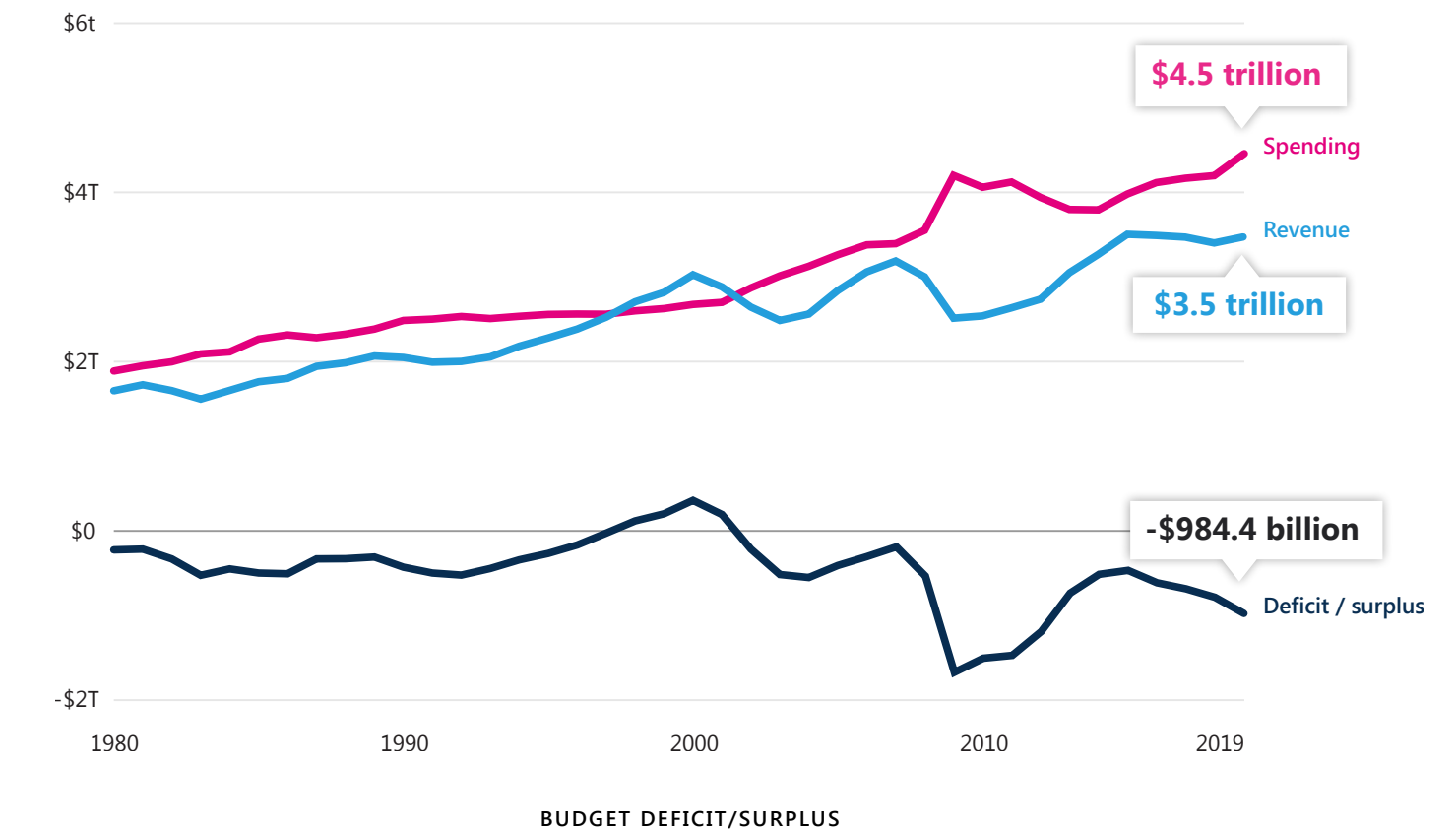
## Federal spending grew 6% in 2019.<sup>†</sup>

This is the largest spending increase outside of recession years in the last two decades and is equivalent to 21% of GDP (higher than the 20% annual average since 1980).

Sources

USAFACTS calculations using data from the Office of Management and Budget, the Department of the Treasury, and Budget and the US Census Bureau

<sup>†</sup> Adjusted for inflation.

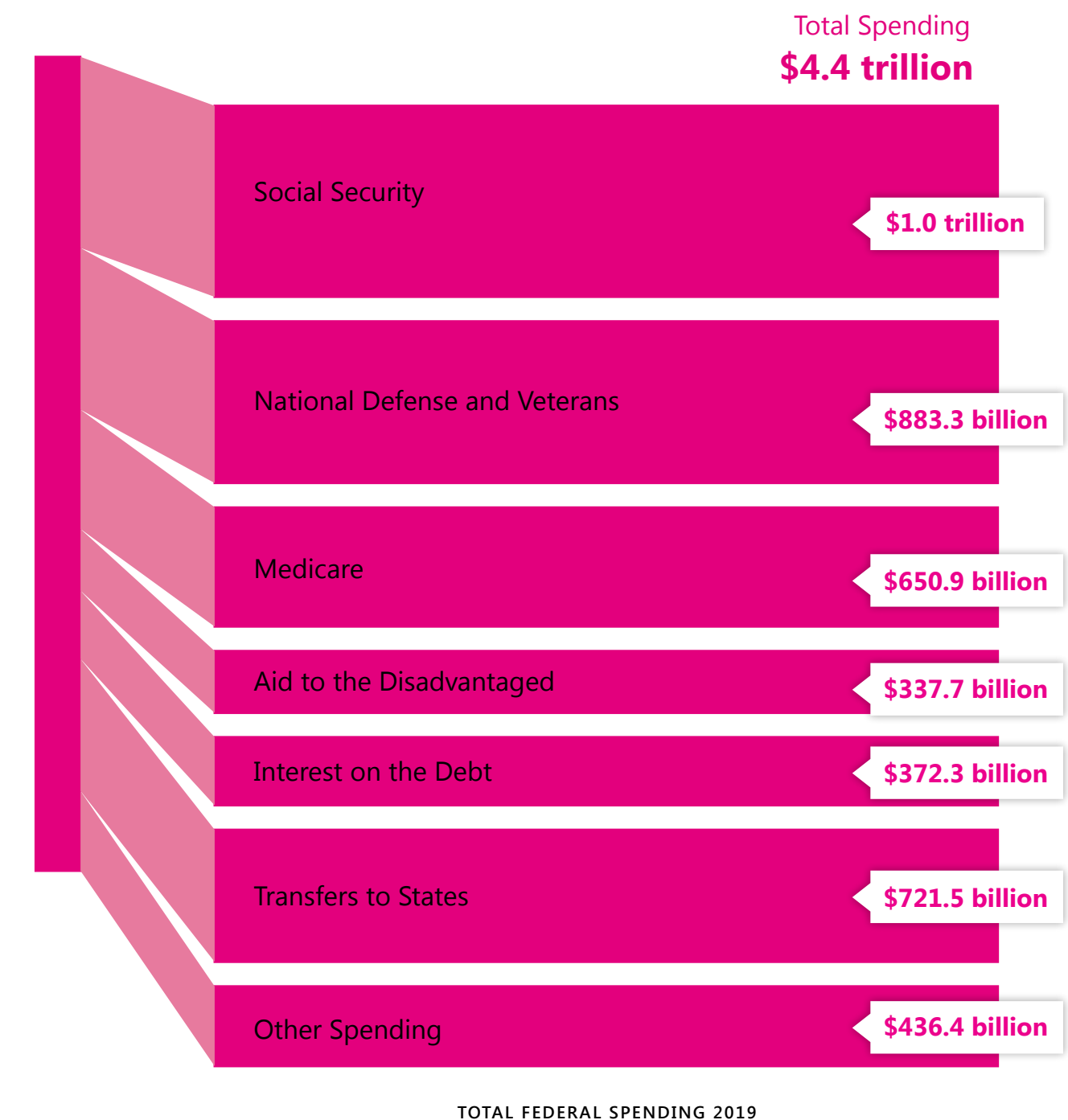
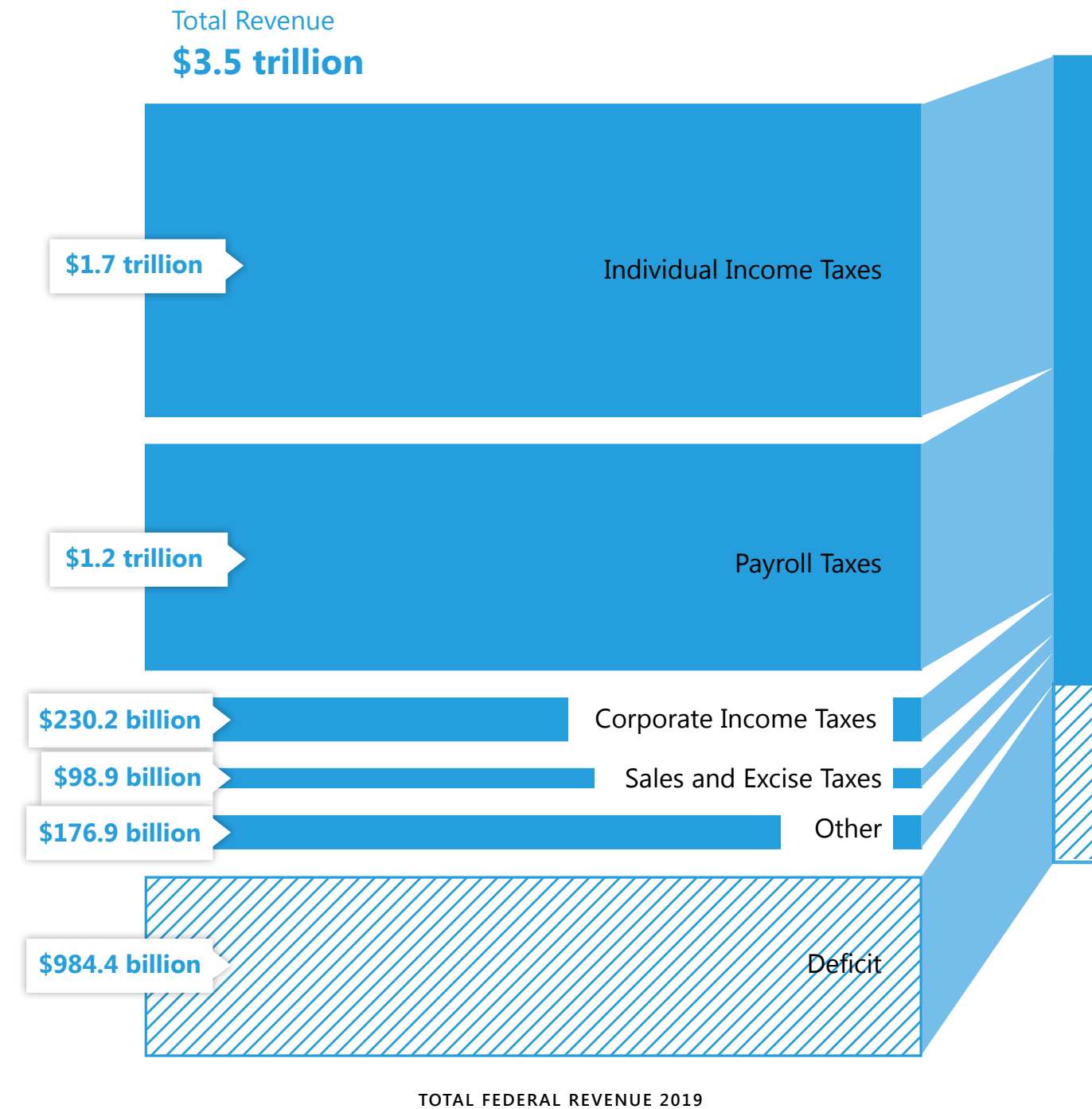


**The federal government collected \$3.5 trillion in revenue in 2019, or \$10,548 per person.**

Ninety-two percent came from individual income, payroll, and corporate income taxes.

Sources

USAFacts calculations using data from the Office of Management and Budget and the Department of the Treasury



**The federal government spent \$4.4 trillion in 2019, or \$13,547 per person.**

Medicare, Social Security, defense and veterans, debt interest, and assistance programs including food stamps and Medicaid accounted for 86% of spending. This includes funding distributed to states.

Sources

USAFacts calculations using data from the Office of Management and Budget and the Department of the Treasury



Since 2000, state and local governments have accounted for an average of **46%** of total government spending. A quarter of that spending is with funds transferred from the federal government.

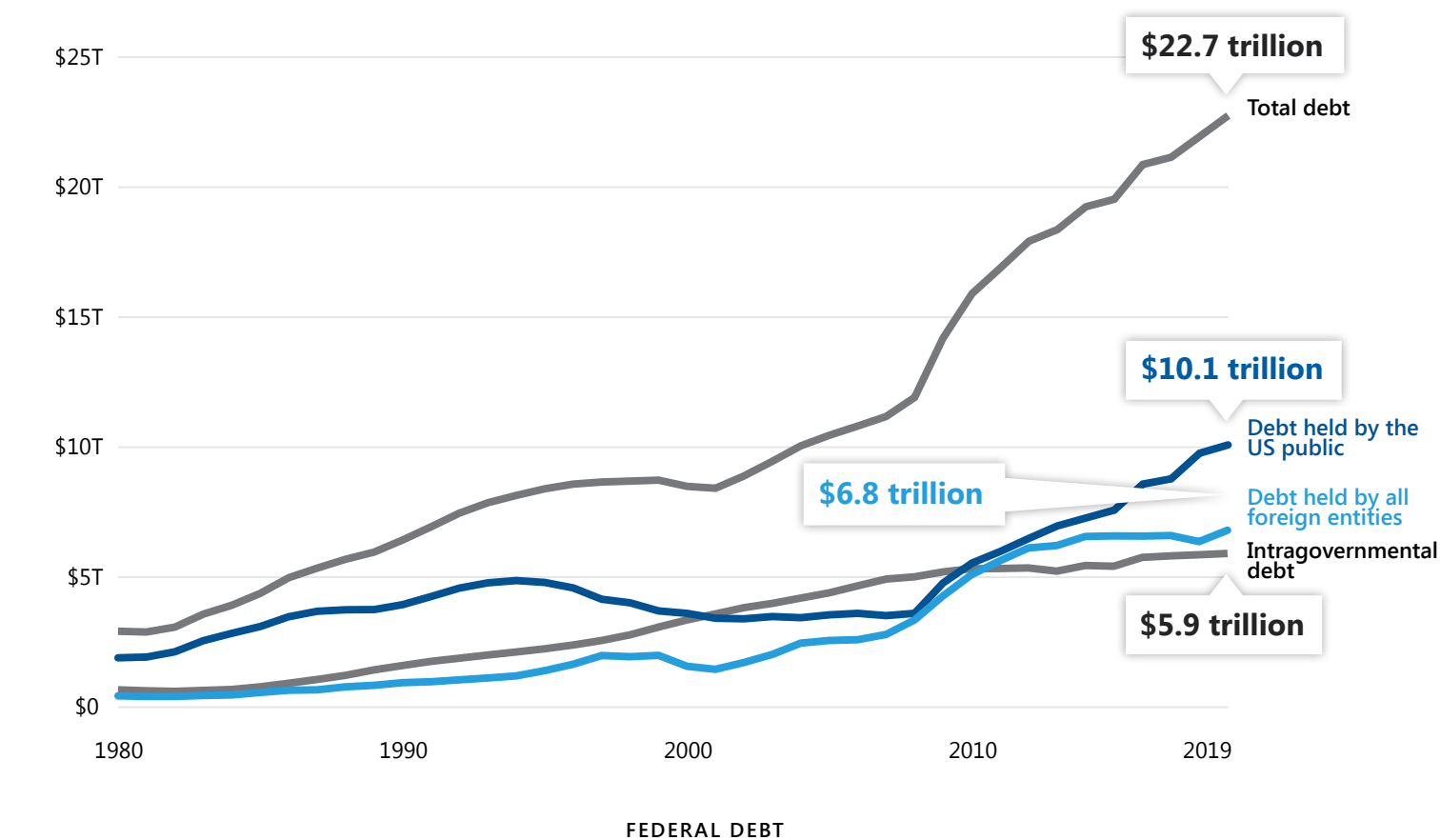
**We spent 28% more than we collected in revenue, creating a \$984 billion deficit.**

The federal debt grew to \$22.7 trillion, \$16.8 trillion of which is owed to the public.<sup>1</sup>

Sources

USAFacts calculations using data from the Department of the Treasury

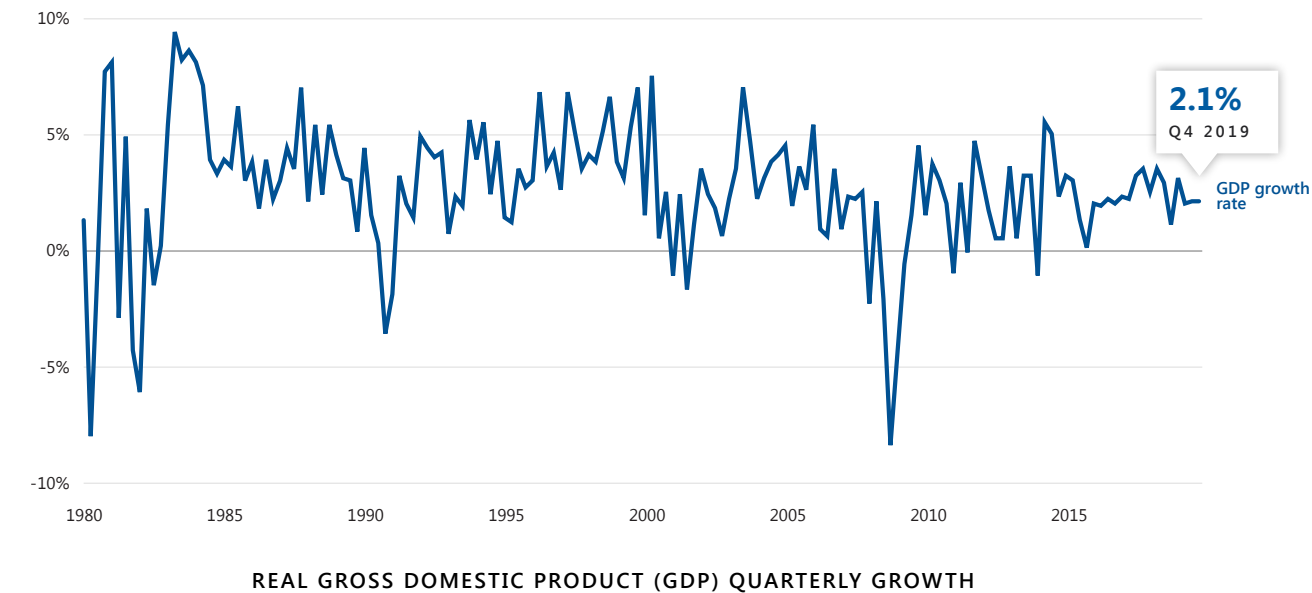
<sup>1</sup> Debt owed to the public is debt sold in credit markets in forms including bills, notes, and treasury bonds. Private US citizens, citizens of other nations and foreign governments can all hold this debt.





## ECONOMY & JOBS

# How strong is the US economy?

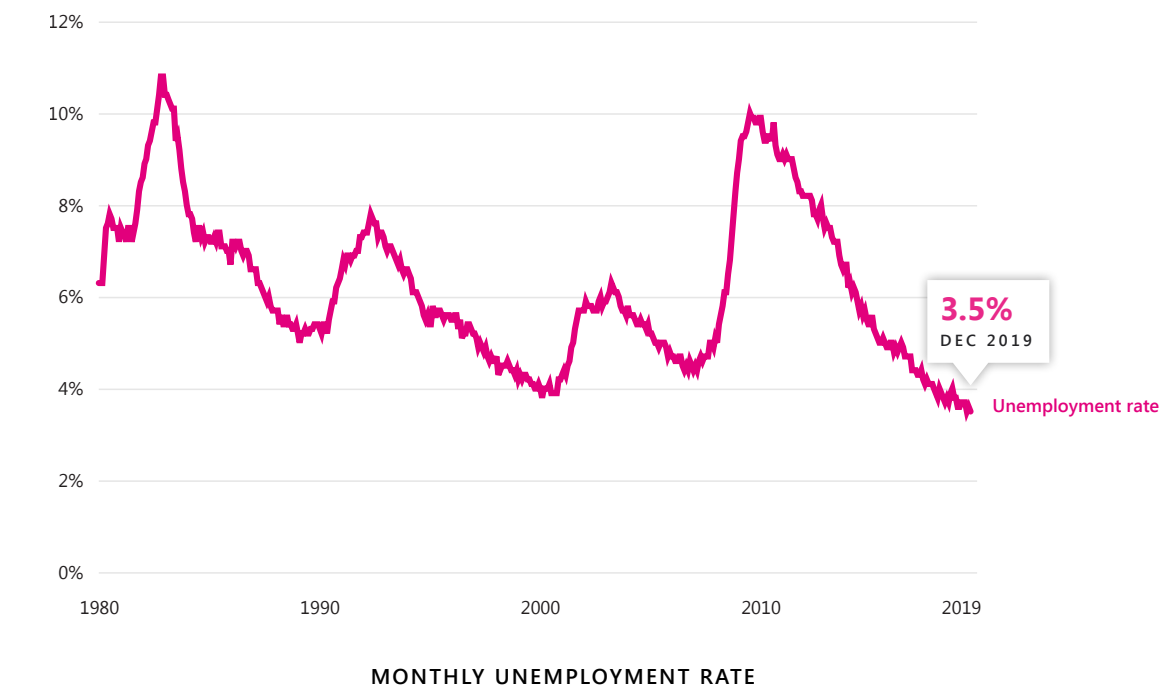


## GDP grew 2.3% in 2019.

This is consistent with the 2.1% average annual growth rate of the past 20 years. GDP reached \$21.4 trillion in 2019.

Sources

Bureau of Economic Analysis



## Monthly unemployment reached a 50-year low of 3.5% in 2019.

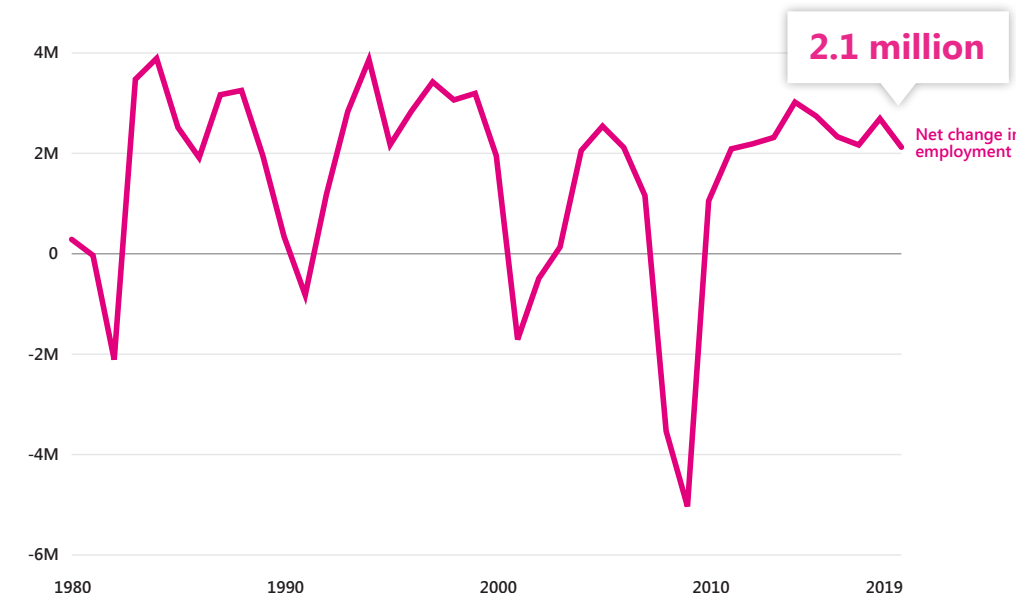
However, the labor force participation rate (meaning employed or looking for jobs) is lower than before the recession.

Sources

Bureau of Labour Statistics



# The S&P 500, Dow Jones, and NASDAQ stock indexes reached **all-time highs** in 2019.

ANNUAL NET CHANGE IN EMPLOYMENT<sup>1</sup>

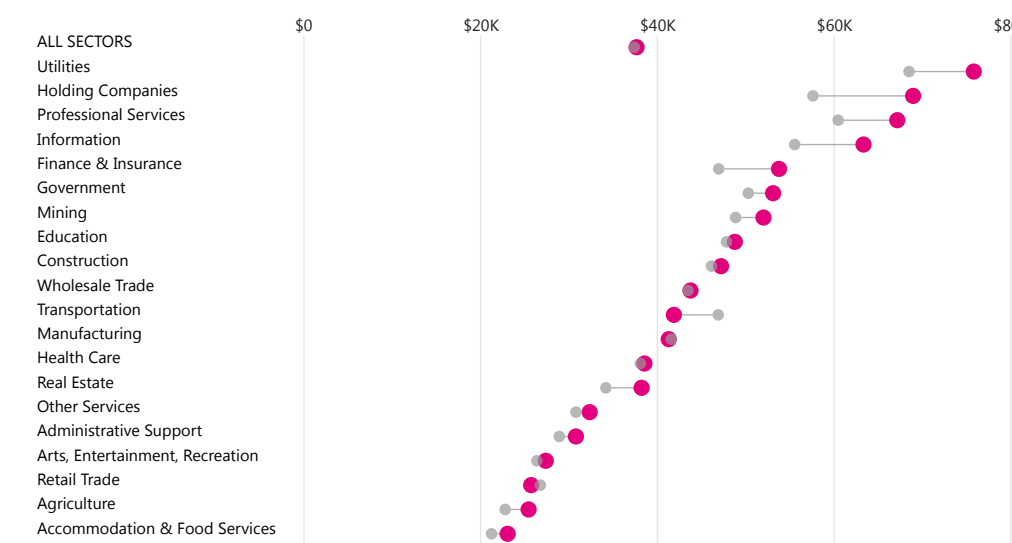
**The economy added 2.1 million jobs in 2019, a 1.4% increase from the total number of jobs at the end of 2018.**

Healthcare generated 398,000 jobs — more than any other industry — while manufacturing created 46,000 jobs.

Sources

Bureau of Economic Analysis, Bureau of Labor Statistics

<sup>1</sup> Change in employment is the difference in employment between December in one year and the December of the previous year.



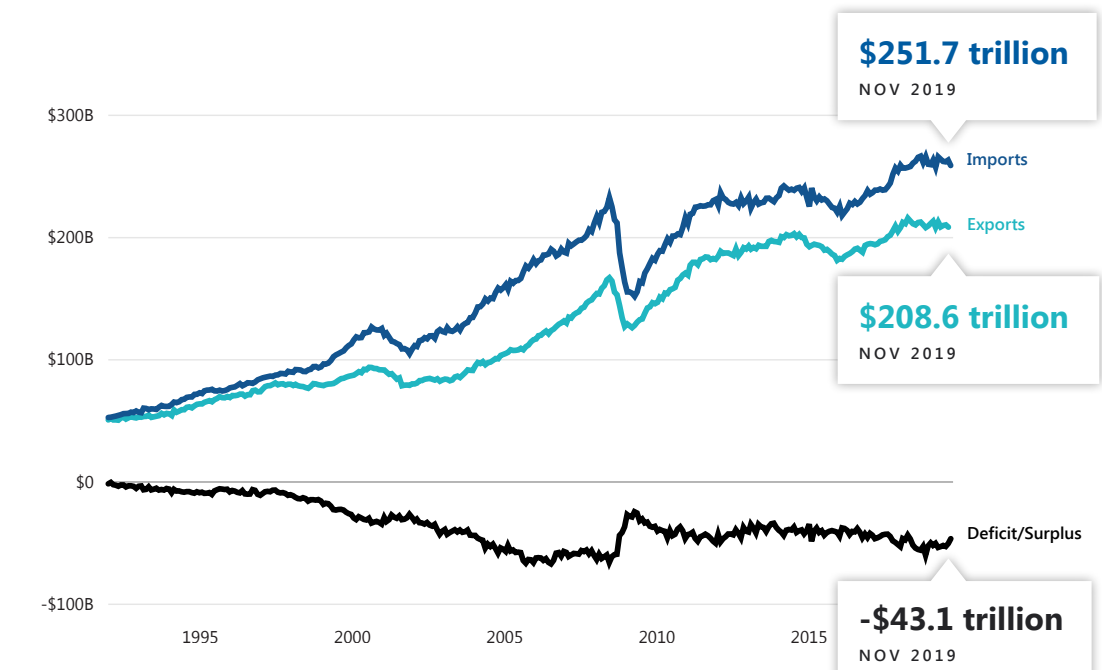
ANNUAL MEDIAN WAGES BY SECTOR 2004 VS. 2018

**Median wages increased 0.1%<sup>†</sup> from 2017 to 2018.**

They're up 1% since 2004, adjusting for inflation. Holding company wages increased 20% since 2004, whereas wages in retail and transportation decreased 4% and 11%, respectively.

Sources

Bureau of Labour Statistics

<sup>†</sup>Adjusted for inflation.

MONTHLY TRADE BALANCE

**From November 2018 to November 2019, we imported \$624 billion more in goods and services than we exported, a 1.1% increase from the previous 12 months.**

Our trade deficit with China in the third quarter of 2019 was \$77 billion, a 20% decrease from the same time in 2018.

Sources

Bureau of Economic Analysis



## STANDARD OF LIVING

# How has the standard of living for Americans changed? How does the government help the disadvantaged?

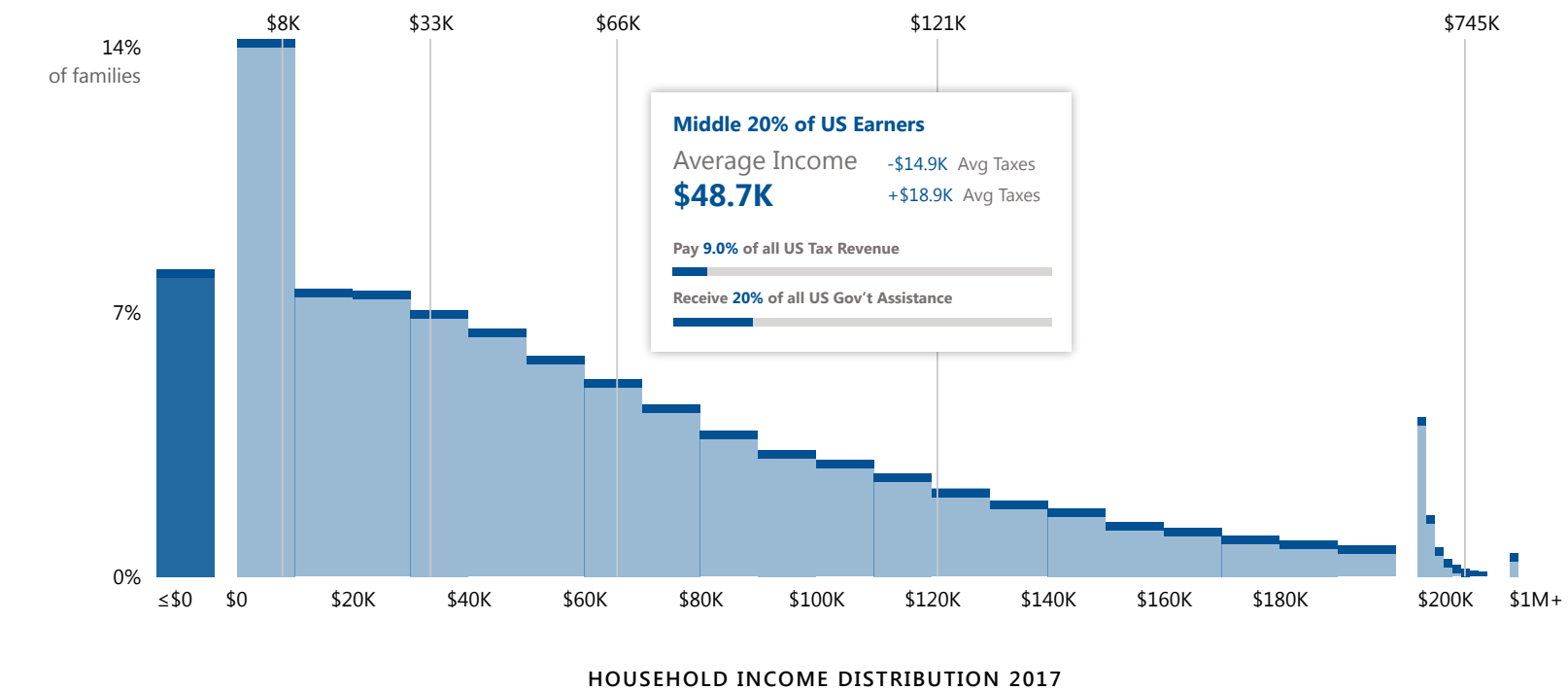
**Middle-class families (the middle 20% of income earners) average \$49,000 in market income from sources including wages, investments, and retirement.**

That's \$4,000 less than in 2000† — with a greater proportion coming from retirement savings like pensions and 401(K)s.

Sources

USAFACTS calculations using data from the Internal Revenue Service and the US Census Bureau

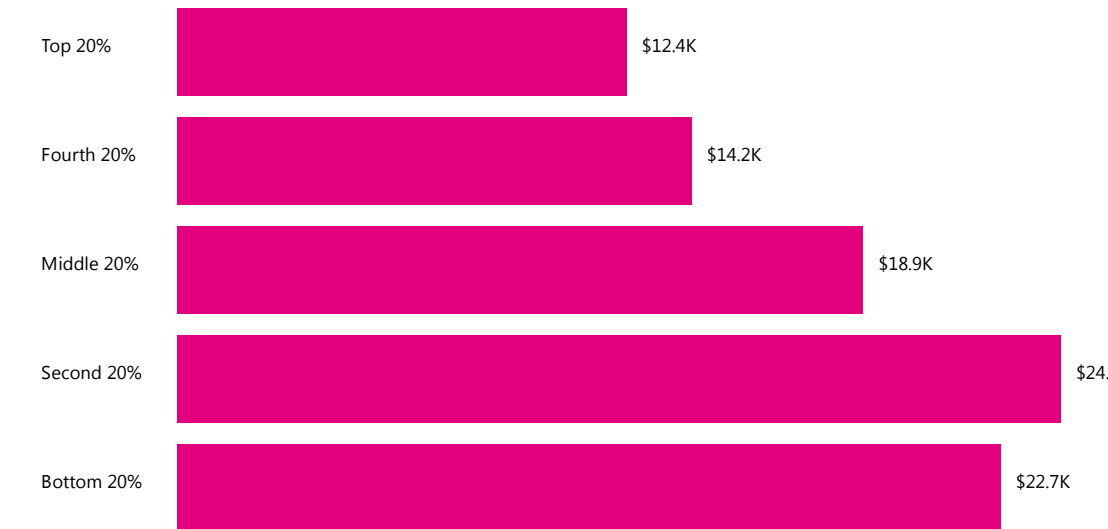
†Adjusted for inflation.



In 2017, families making a minimum of **\$33,000** were in the middle class<sup>1</sup>. This is **\$5,000 less** than the lowest middle-class<sup>1</sup> income in 2000.<sup>†</sup>

<sup>†</sup>Adjusted for inflation.

<sup>1</sup> Middle-class refers to the middle 20% of income earners.



GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE BY INCOME QUINTILE 2017

**Middle-class<sup>1</sup> families receive an average \$19,000 in government assistance from programs like Medicare, Social Security, and food stamps.**

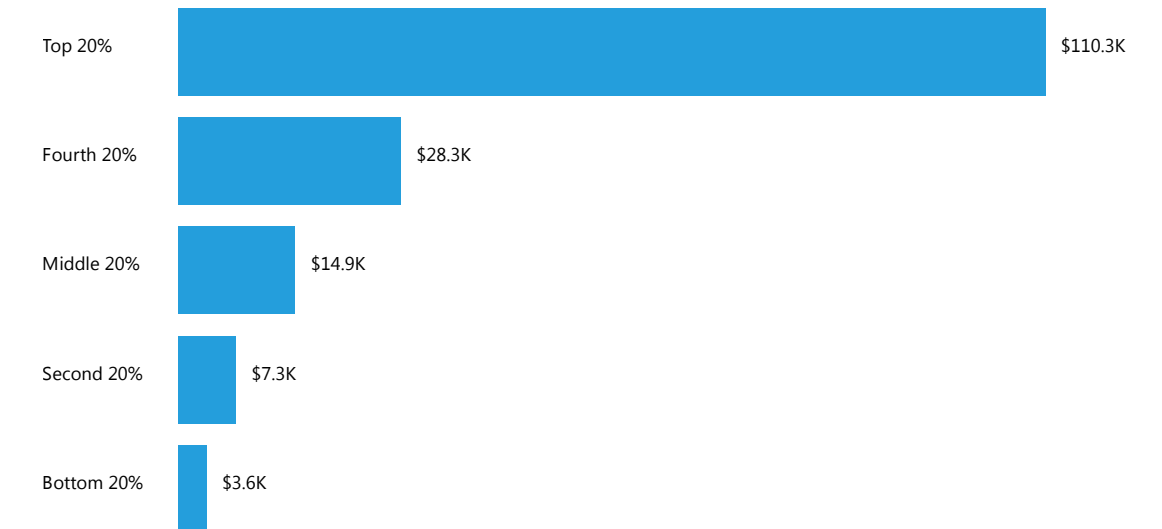
That's \$7,000 more than in 2000<sup>†</sup> — with a greater proportion coming in the form of healthcare and tax credits.

Sources

USAFacts calculations using data from the Internal Revenue Service and the US Census Bureau

<sup>†</sup>Adjusted for inflation.

<sup>1</sup> Middle-class refers to the middle 20% of income earners.



TAXES BY INCOME QUINTILE 2017

**On average, middle-class<sup>1</sup> families pay \$15,000 in combined federal, state, and local taxes.**

That's \$2,000 less than in 2000.<sup>†</sup>

Sources

USAFacts calculations using data from the Internal Revenue Service and the US Census Bureau

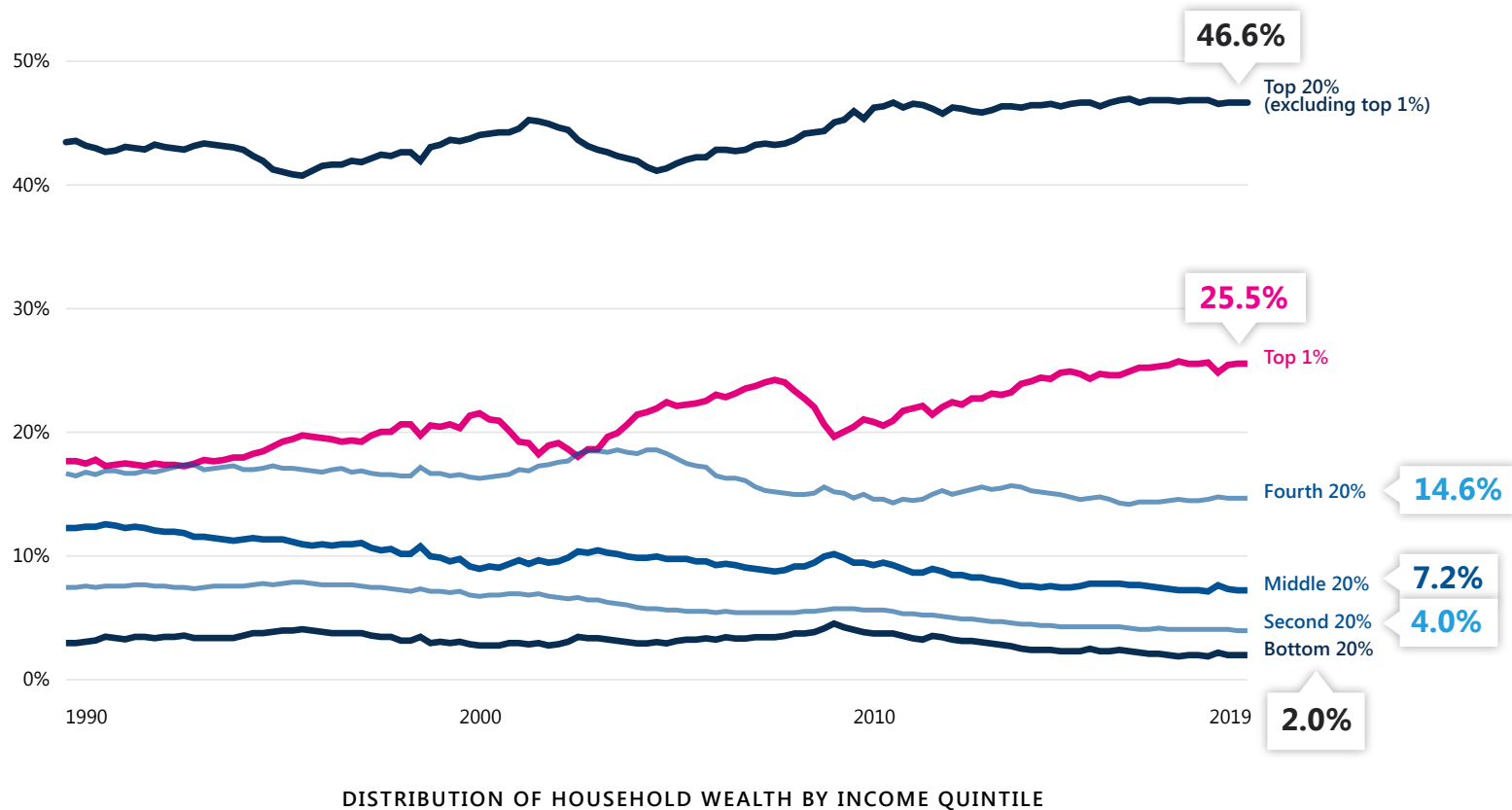
<sup>†</sup>Adjusted for inflation.

<sup>1</sup> Middle-class refers to the middle 20% of income earners.

# Middle-class families collectively own 7% of all wealth.

In 1989, the middle class owned 12%.

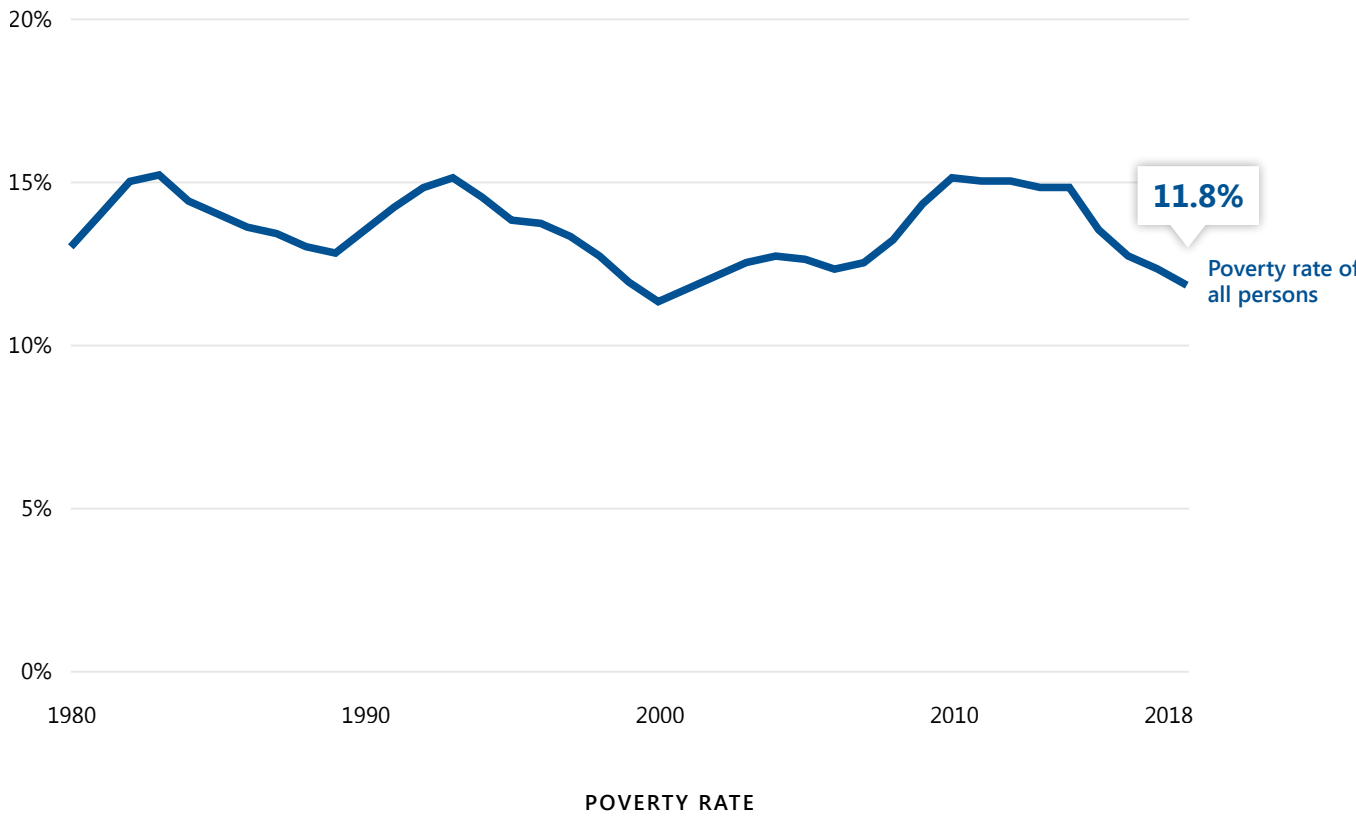
Sources  
The Federal Reserve



# The poverty rate decreased from 15% in 2010 to 11.8% in 2018.

The rate fell from 27.4% to 20.8% for Black people and 26.5% to 17.6% for Hispanic people.

Sources  
Census Bureau

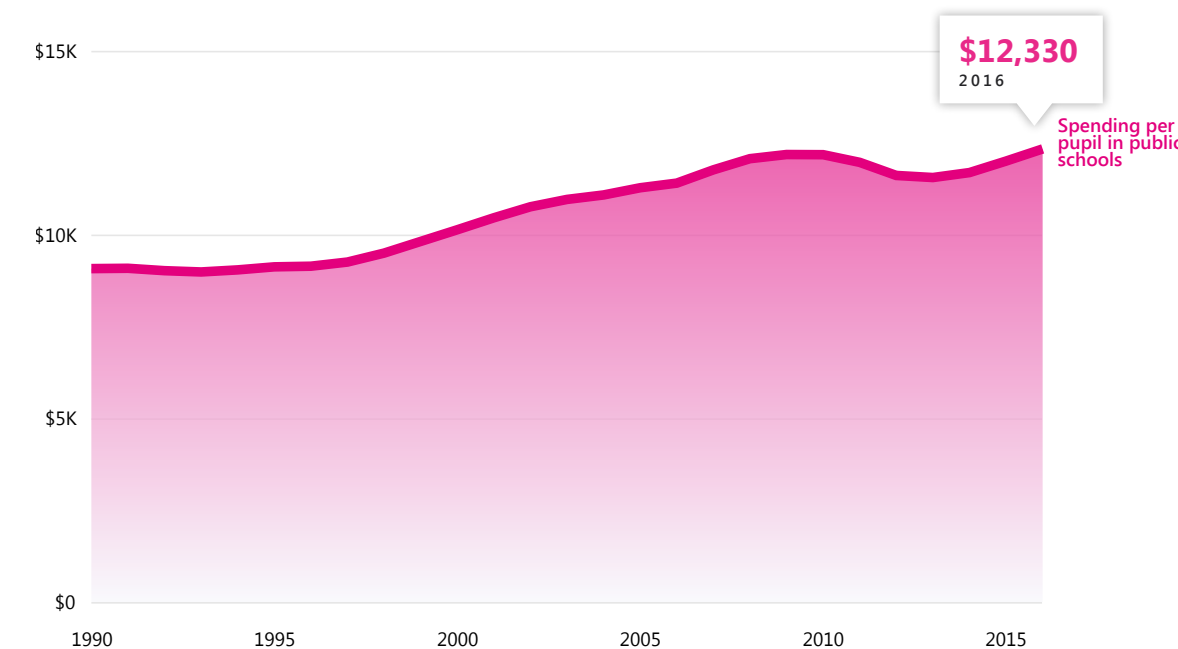






## EDUCATION

# How well is the government educating our population, and what is the cost?



K-12 EDUCATION SPENDING PER STUDENT

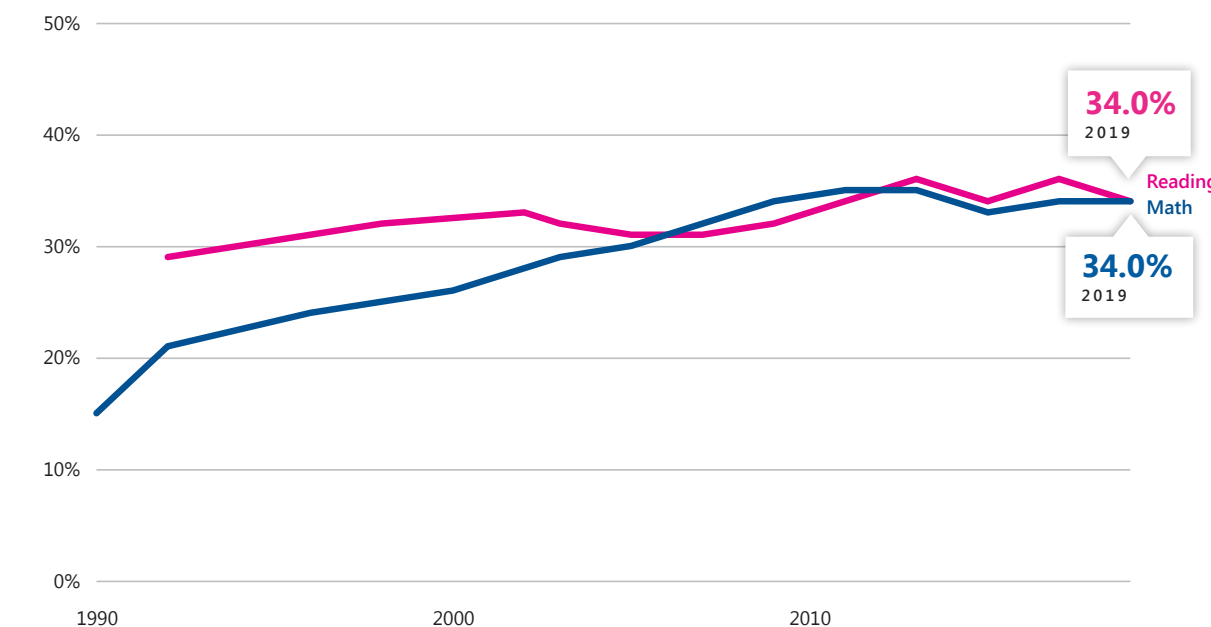
**Since 2000, spending per public school student increased 22% to over \$12,000.<sup>†</sup>**

State and local governments direct 99.7% of K-12 spending.

Sources

National Center for Education Statistics

<sup>†</sup>Adjusted for inflation.



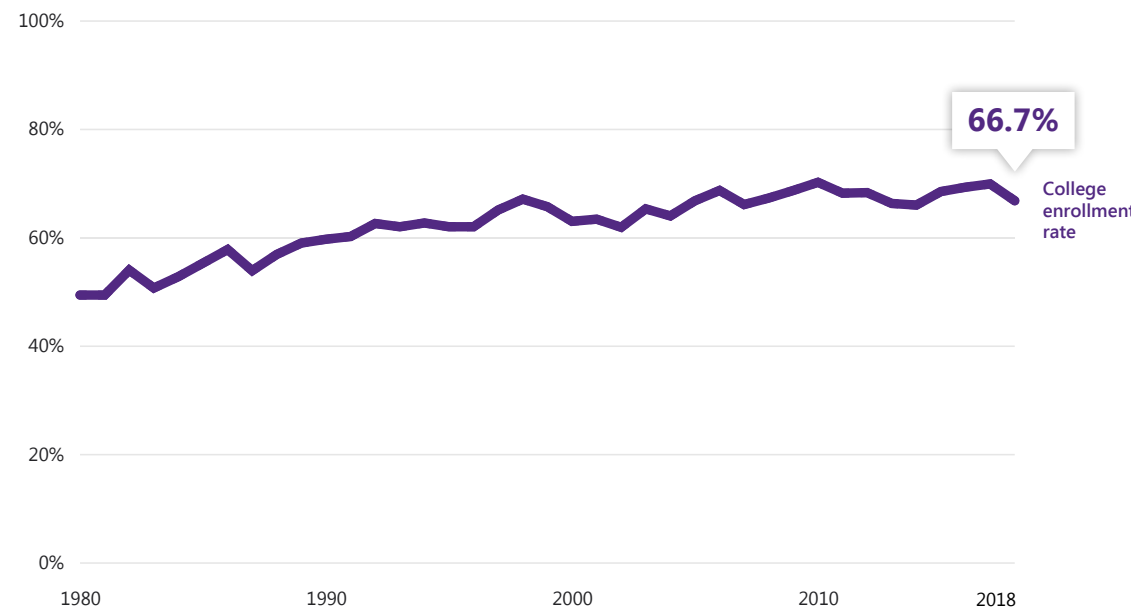
PERCENT OF 8TH GRADE STUDENTS AT OR ABOVE PROFICIENT

**Two-thirds of 8th graders are not proficient in math and reading.**

Nearly four out of five Black and Hispanic 8th graders are not proficient in these areas.

Sources

Sources: National Center for Education Statistics

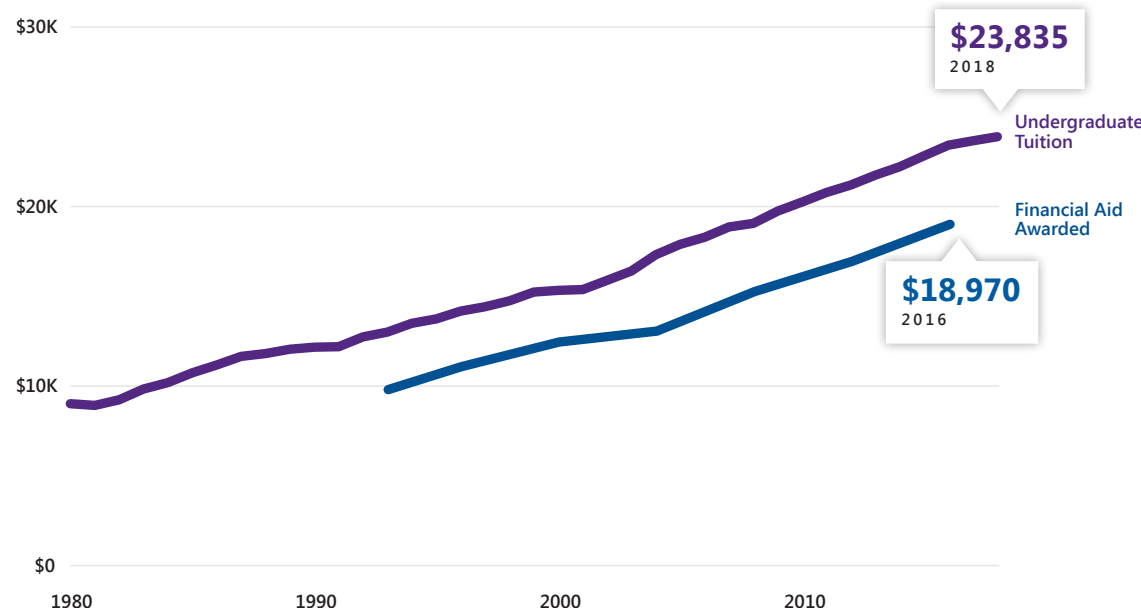


COLLEGE ENROLLMENT RATE AMONG RECENT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

## Two out of three high school graduates attend college.

Sixty percent of students at four-year colleges graduate within six years, and 32% of students at two-year colleges graduate within four years.

Sources  
National Center for Education Statistics



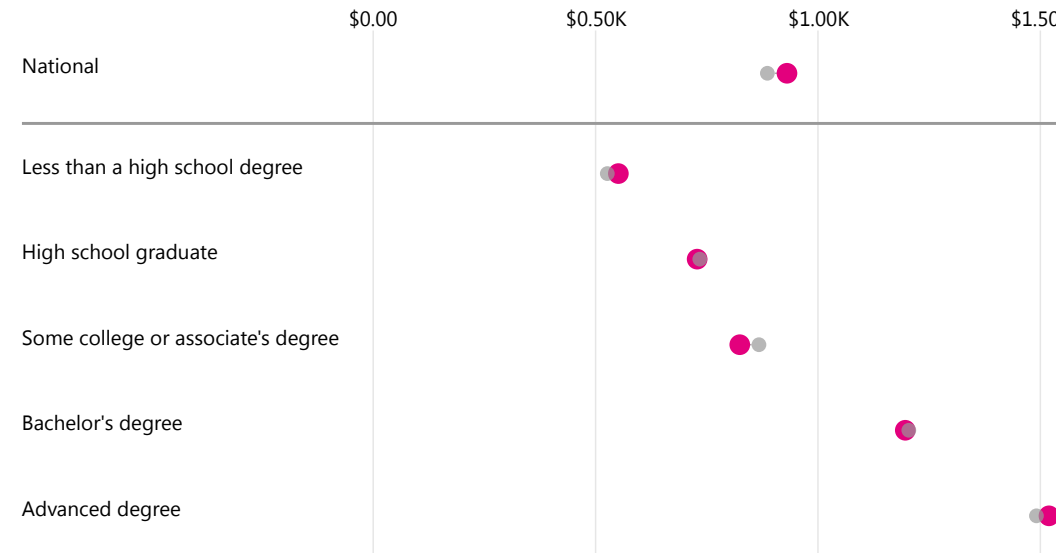
AVERAGE UNDERGRADUATE TUITION AND FINANCIAL AID AWARDED<sup>1</sup>

## College tuition<sup>2</sup> averaged \$23,835 in 2016, nearly double the cost in 1993.<sup>†</sup>

Government and institutions awarded students an average of \$11,810 in grant aid in 2016, also almost twice the 1993 average.<sup>†</sup>

Sources  
National Center for Education Statistics

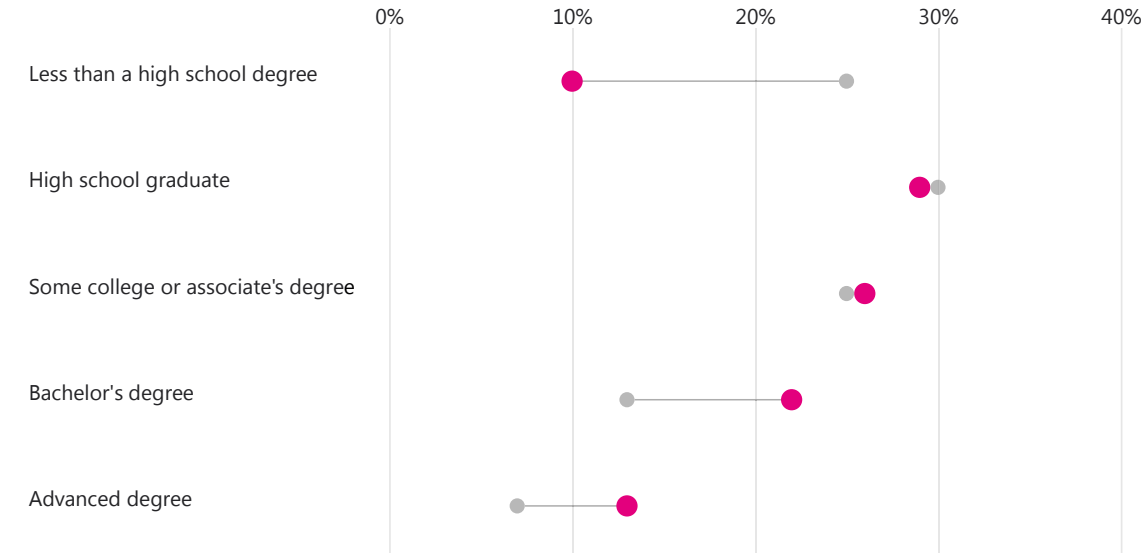
<sup>1</sup> Grant aid awarded is a subset of financial aid awarded.  
<sup>2</sup> Tuition is the average undergraduate tuition and fees and room and board rates charged for full-time students in degree-granting postsecondary institutions.  
<sup>†</sup> Adjusted for inflation.



MEDIAN WEEKLY EARNINGS BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT 1990 VS 2018

## People with a bachelor's degree earn 64% more than those with just a high school diploma.

Sources  
Bureau of Labour Statistics



EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF THE 25+ POPULATION 1990 VS 2018

## More than a third of the adult population has a bachelor's degree or higher.

That is 72% higher than in 1990.

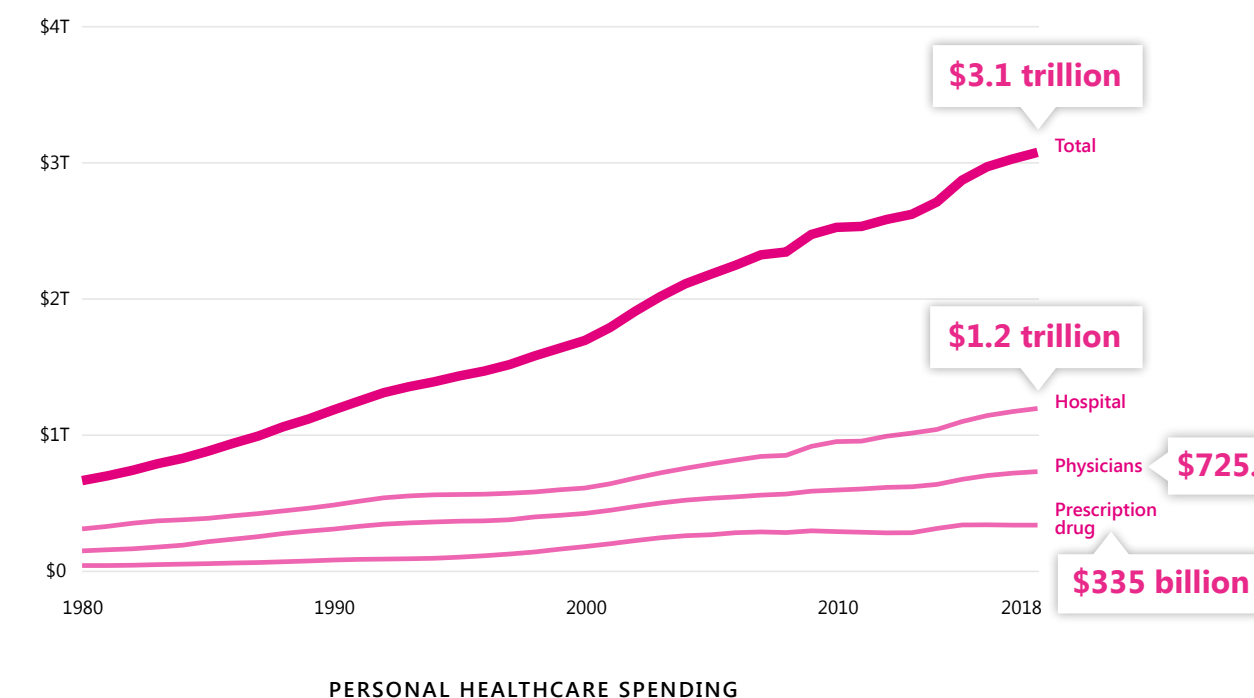
Sources  
National Center for Education Statistics





## HEALTH

# How do Americans receive health coverage, and are they becoming healthier?

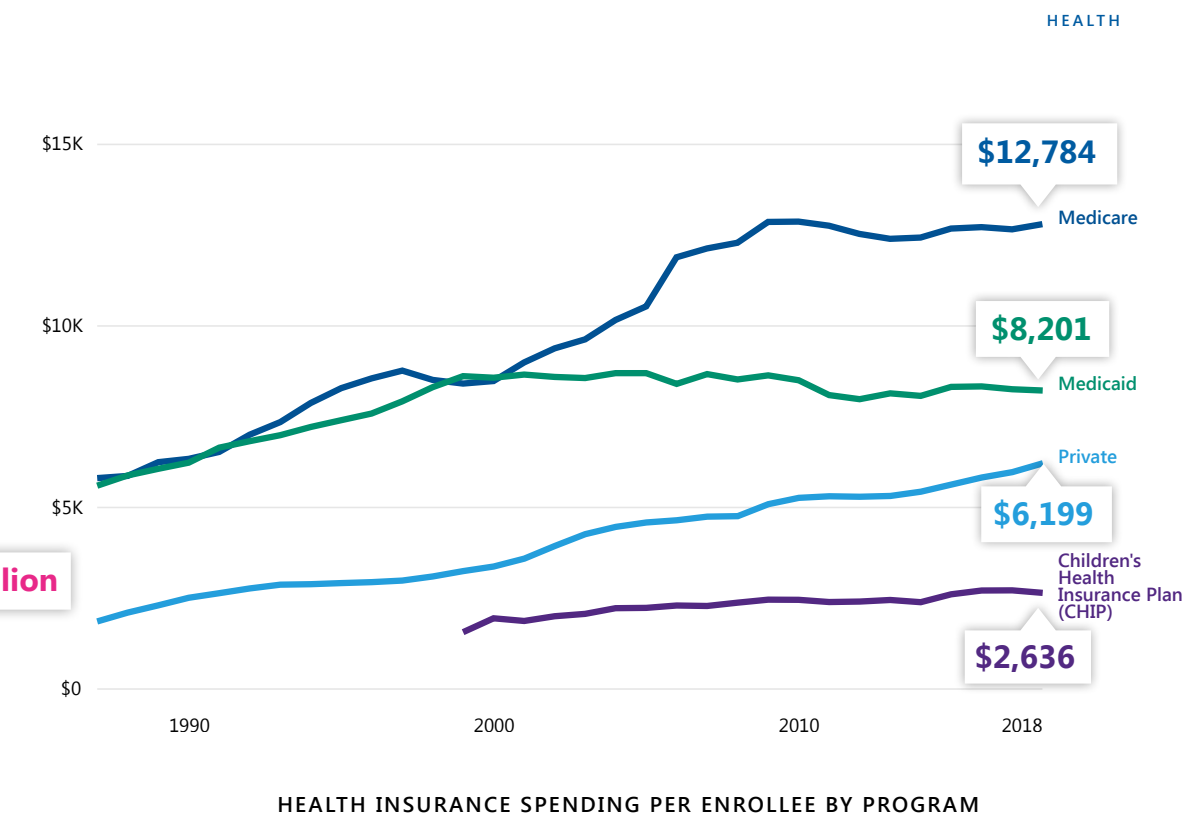


**Personal healthcare spending in 2018 reached \$3.1 trillion, or \$9,414 per capita.**

Most is spent on hospitals (39%), physicians (24%), and prescription drugs (11%), with the remainder spent on dental services, nursing care, and other health needs.

Sources

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services



**Average insurance spending is unequal across programs.**

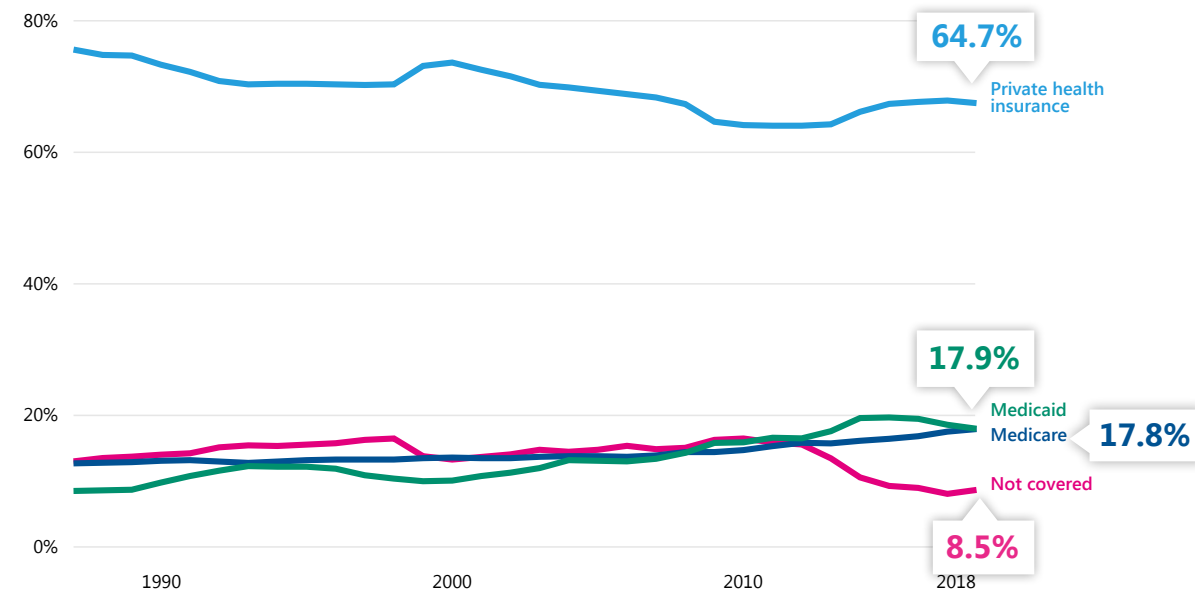
Medicare and Medicaid spend more per enrollee than private insurance while covering populations that are older and more impoverished, respectively. Per enrollee spending for Medicare and Medicaid has remained flat, however, while private insurance spending is increasing.†

Sources

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

†Adjusted for inflation.



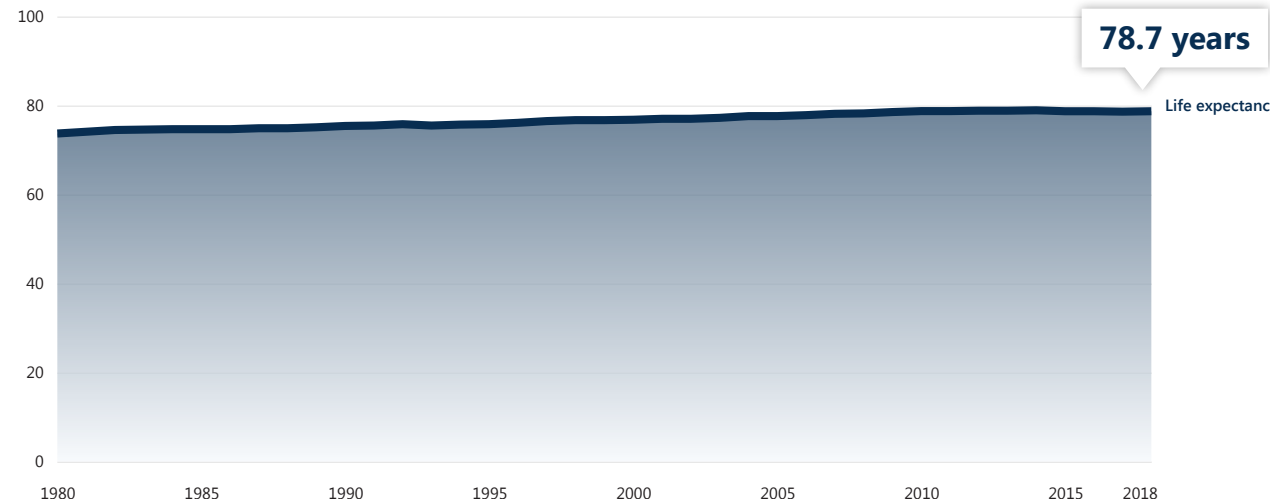


HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

**The percent of Americans who are uninsured increased to 8.5% in 2018, up from the 2017 low of 7.9%.**

Fewer Americans directly buy insurance or receive Medicaid coverage than in 2016.

Sources  
Census Bureau



LIFE EXPECTANCY

**Life expectancy increased for the first time since 2014, from 78.6 in 2017 to 78.7 in 2018.**

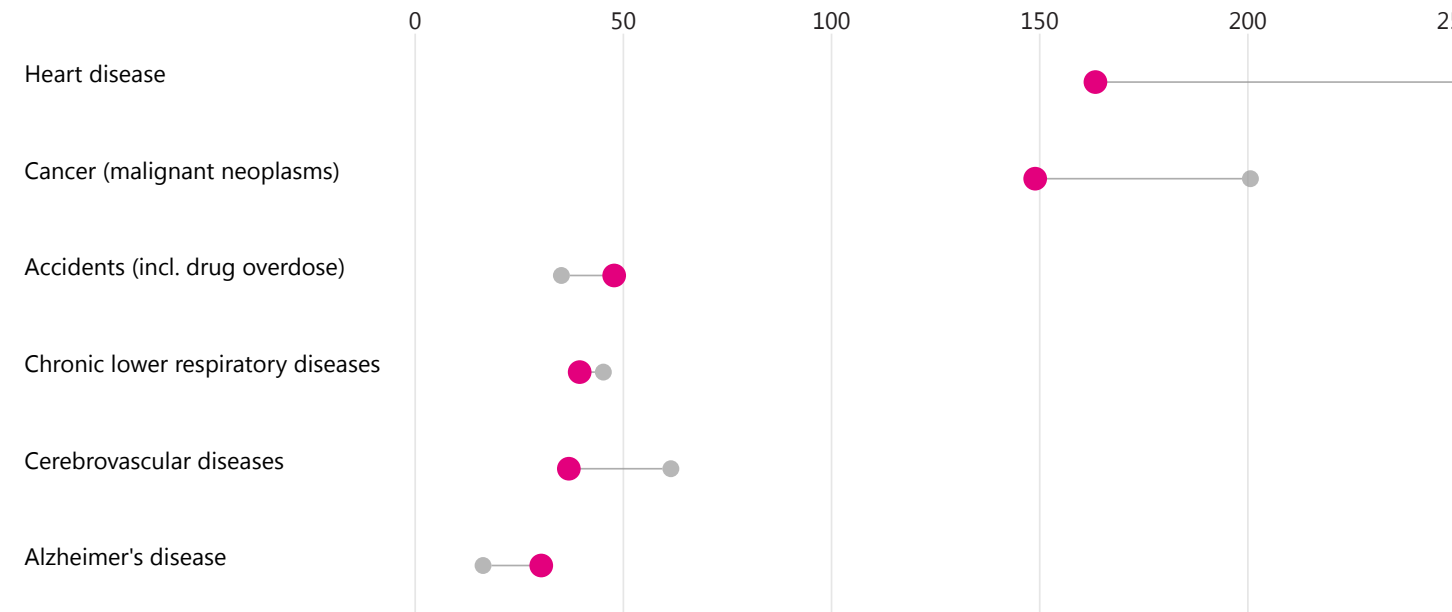
The life expectancy for non-Hispanic white people is more than three years longer than for Black people.

Sources  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**Nearly half of deaths are caused by heart disease and cancer.**

However, the fastest growing causes of death since 1999 are accidents (including drug overdoses) and Alzheimer's, for which age-adjusted death rates have increased 36% and 85%, respectively.

Sources  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

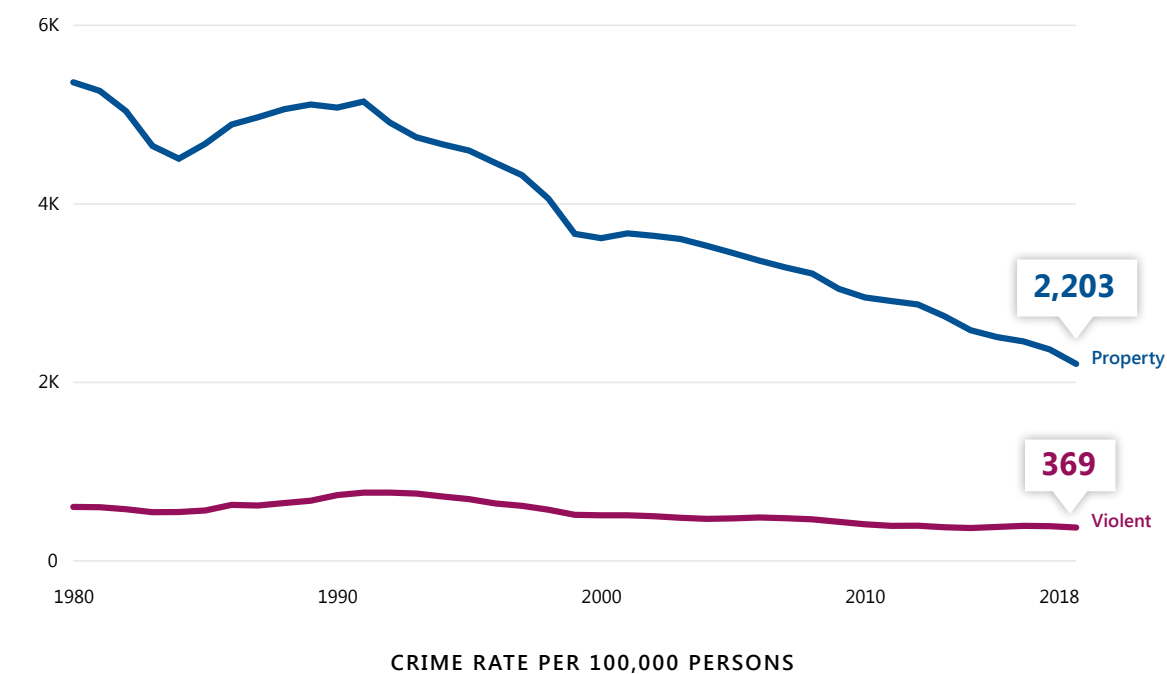


TOP CAUSES OF DEATH PER 100,000 PERSONS 1999 VS. 2018



## CRIME

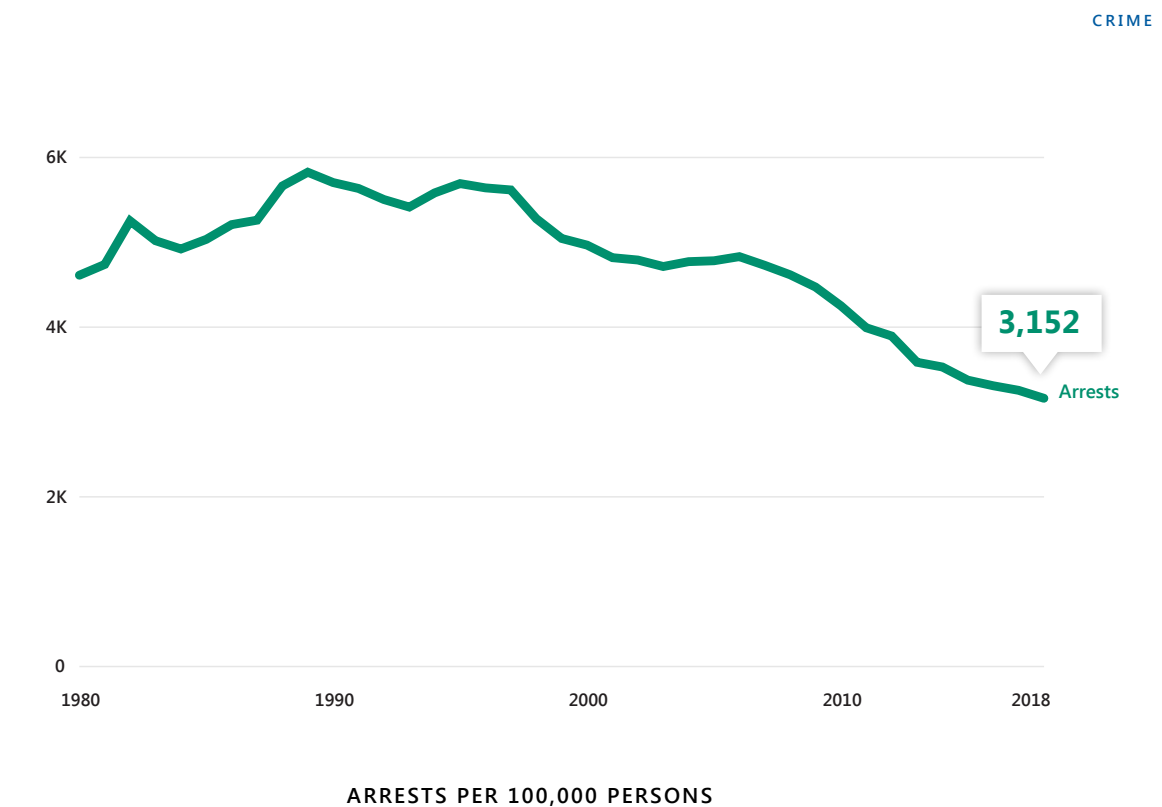
# Is our criminal justice system working and are we safer?



**Reported property and violent crime rates are falling, and are down more than 50% since their 1991 peaks.**

Violent crime rates reached a 20-year low in 2014 and remain near that low today.

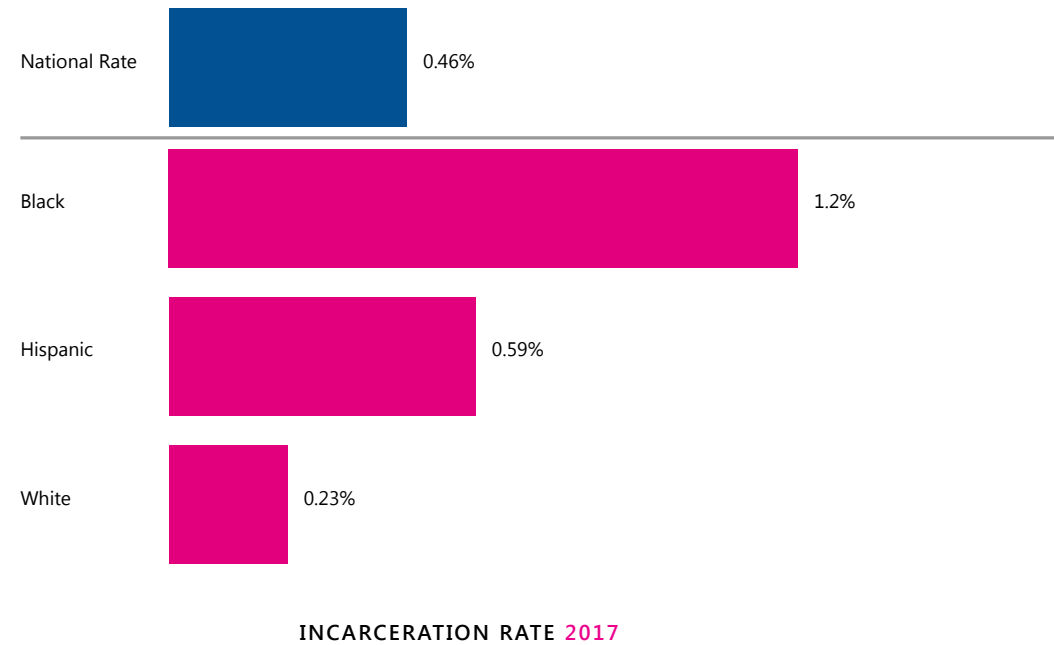
Sources  
Federal Bureau of Investigation



**Arrests are decreasing.**

Drug abuse arrests are rising and now outnumber property crime arrests.

Sources  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

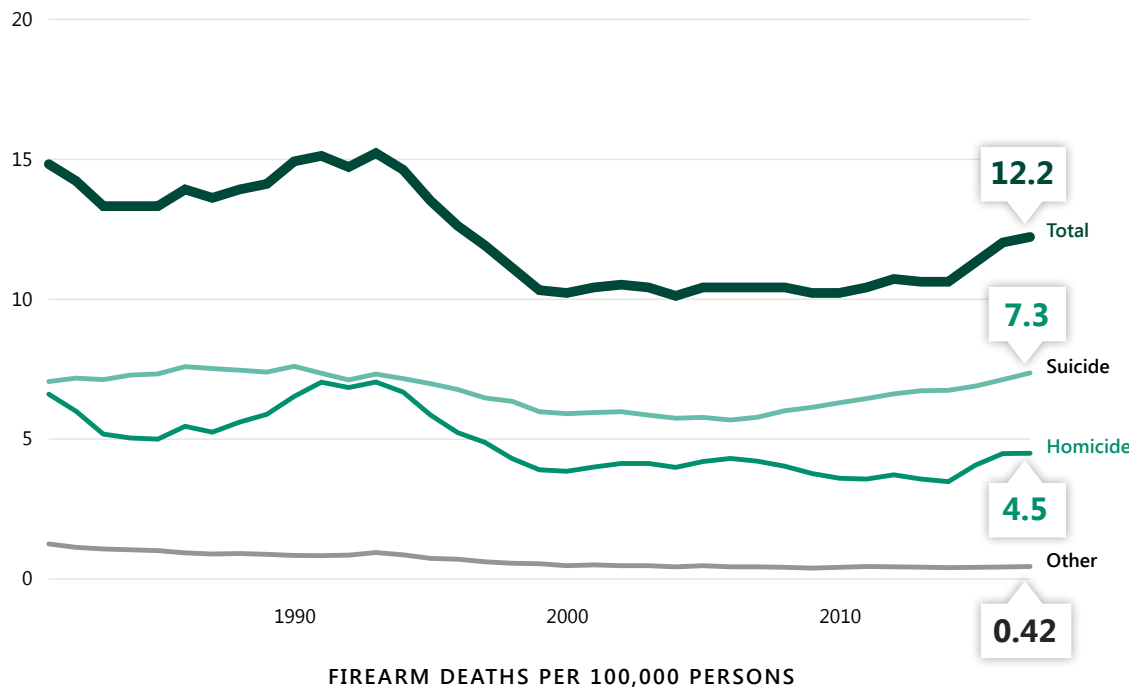


The number of prisoners is falling, and is down 8% from a peak in 2009.

Black and Hispanic people make up 55% of the prison population but 30% of the overall population. However, a smaller percentage of Black and Hispanic people are incarcerated than in 2000.<sup>1</sup>

Sources  
Bureau of Justice Statistics

<sup>1</sup> Incarceration rates by race/ethnicity are only available for prisoners with a sentence for more than one year, accounting for 97% of the total prisoner population in 2017. We assume the distribution of prisoners with a sentence of less than one year is sufficiently similar to that of the rest of the prisoner population and determine total prisoner counts by applying the distributions of race/ethnicity to the total prisoner population count.



Firearm deaths increased 18% from 2014 to 2017, accounting for 1.5% of all deaths.

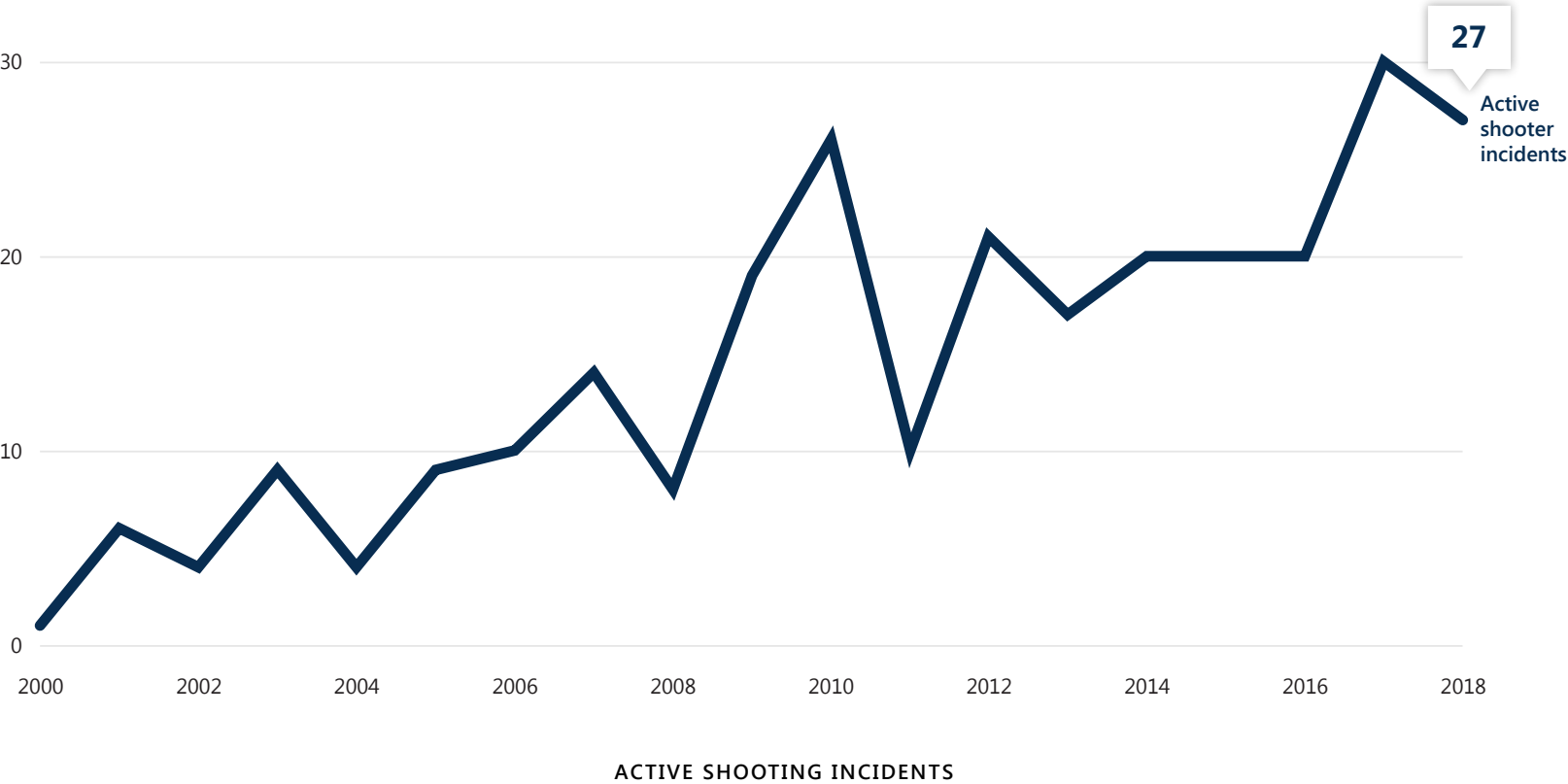
There were nearly 40,000 firearm deaths in 2017, more of which were suicides than homicides.

Sources  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Active shooter events are increasing but make up a small proportion of gun deaths.

According to the FBI, there were 27 active shooter events in 2018, killing 85 people — 1% of all firearm homicides.

Sources  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

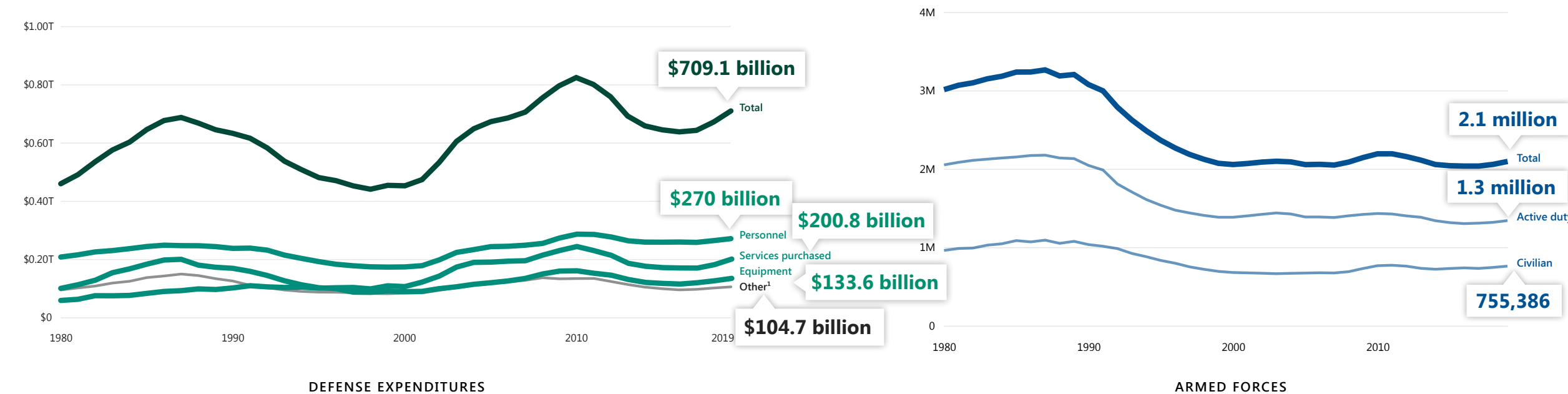






## DEFENSE

# What is the state of our military, and how are veterans faring?



## Defense spending increased in 2019 but is 14% lower than its 2010 peak.<sup>†</sup>

The largest portion (about 40%) compensates military and civilian personnel.

Sources

Bureau of Economic Analysis

<sup>†</sup>Adjusted for inflation.

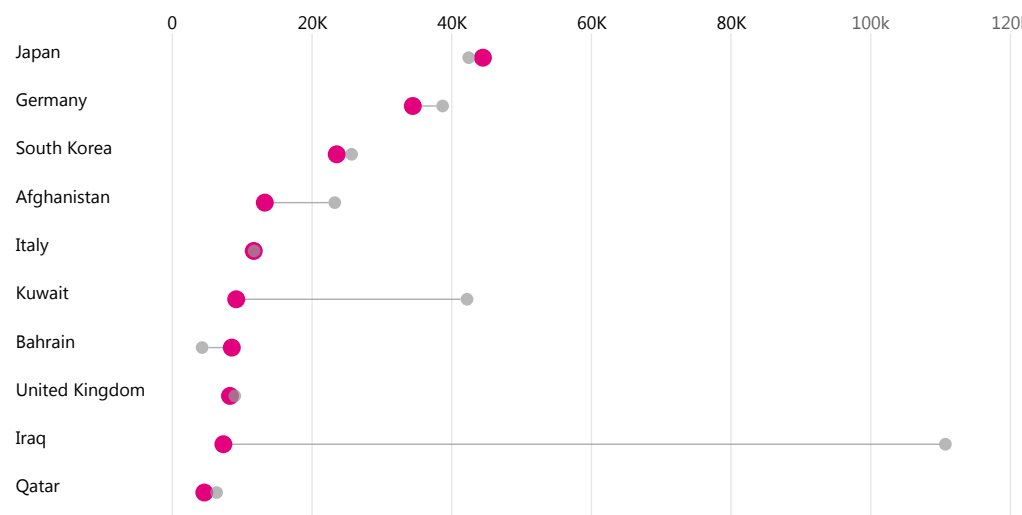
<sup>1</sup> Other represents spending on non-durable goods, intellectual property products, and investment in structures.

## The military is larger today than in 2016 but smaller than in 1980.

In 2019, there were 1.3 million active duty and 760,000 civilian members of the armed forces, a decrease of 38% and 31%, respectively, since 1987.

Sources

Department of Defense



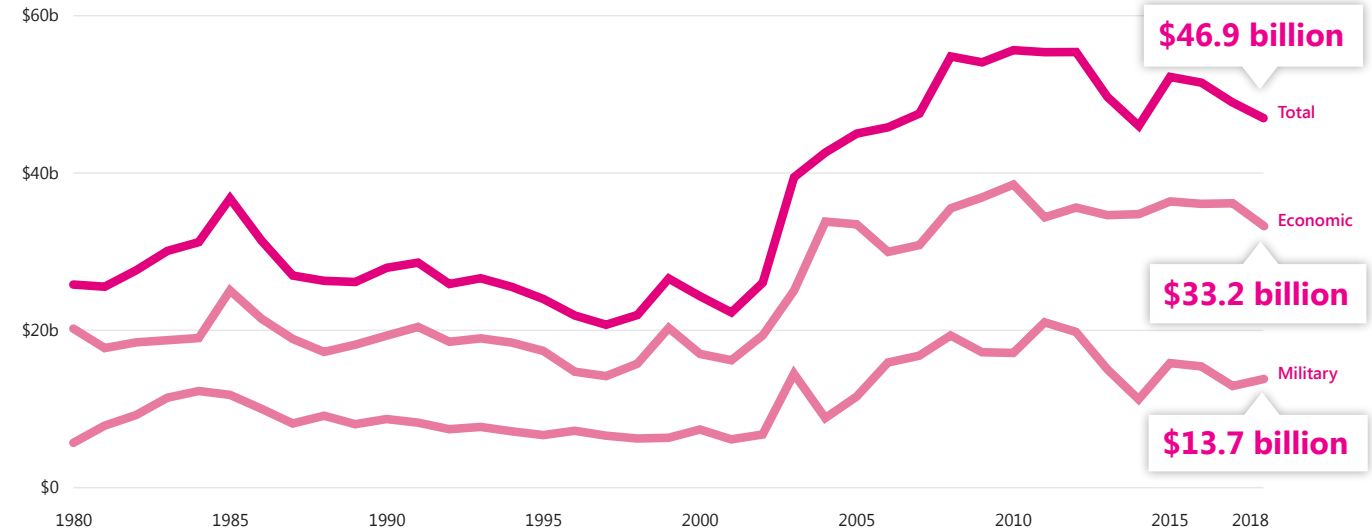
ACTIVE DUTY ABROAD BY TOP COUNTRIES 2008 VS. 2017<sup>1</sup>

**We have fewer troops abroad, particularly in the Middle East and Afghanistan.**

There were 195,077 active duty and reserve troops abroad in 2019, an 18% decrease from 2016 and 56% from 2008.

Sources  
Department of Defense

<sup>1</sup> This chart shows 2017 data because data for Iraq and Afghanistan is suppressed for 2018 and 2019.



FOREIGN AID OBLIGATIONS

**Foreign aid has declined slightly since 2008, and makes up less than 1% of the federal budget.<sup>†</sup>**

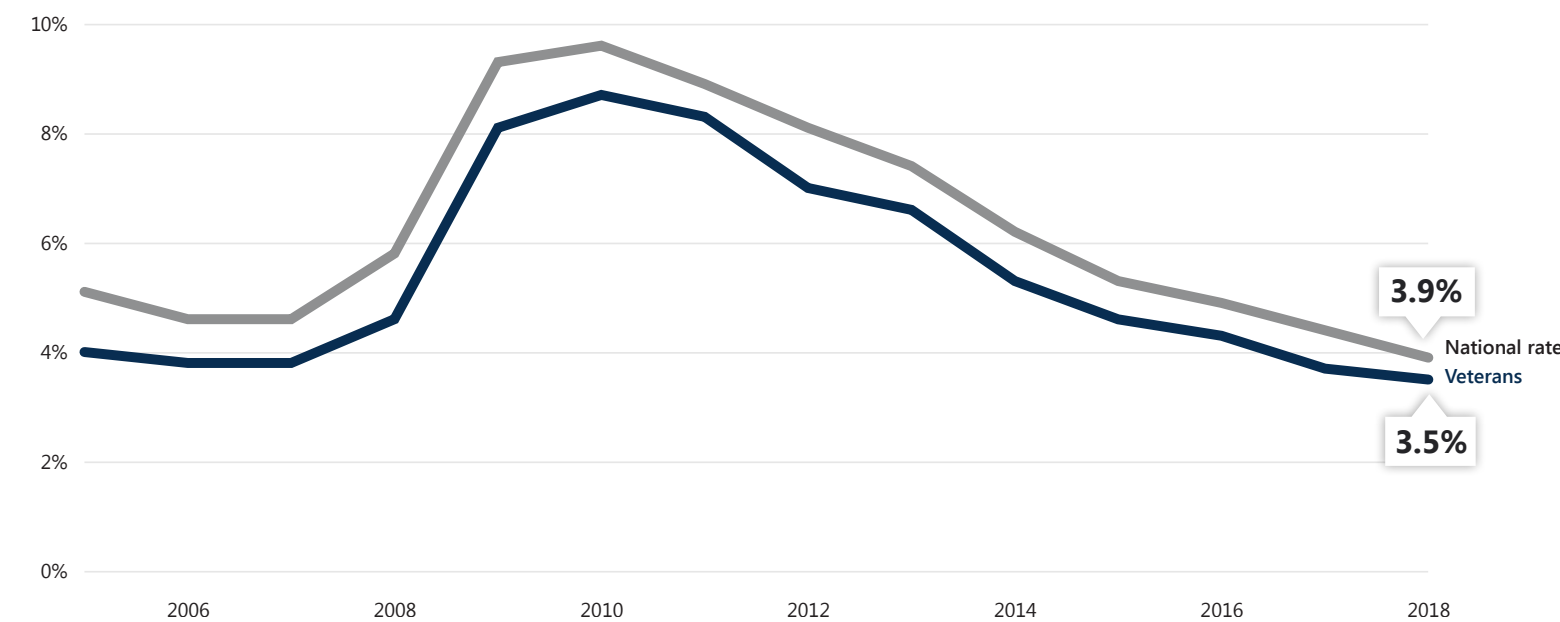
More than a quarter of aid is military assistance.

Sources  
United States Agency for International Development

<sup>†</sup>Adjusted for inflation.

**Veterans have higher levels of employment, lower rates of poverty, and higher rates of disability than the overall population.**

Sources  
Bureau of Labor Statistics



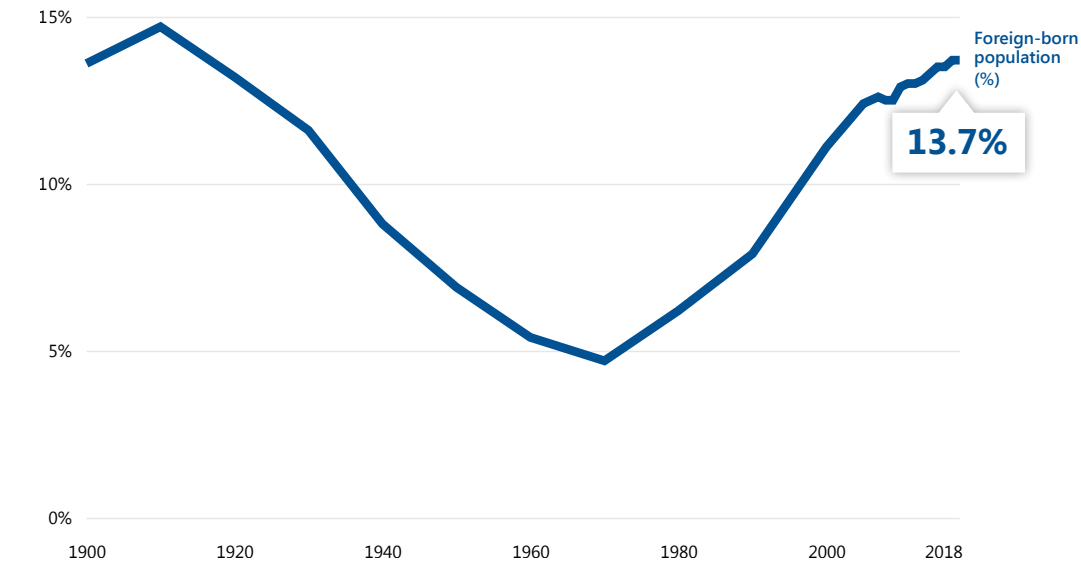
VETERAN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE





## IMMIGRATION

# How many people are coming to the US and who are they?



FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION AS A PROPORTION OF OVERALL POPULATION<sup>1</sup>

## We are again increasingly a nation of immigrants.

Fourteen percent of people in the US are foreign born, up from a low of 5% in 1970 and near the high of 15% in the early 1900s.

Sources

Census Bureau

<sup>1</sup> Data includes non-tourist visas, new arrival green cards, refugees, and asylees.

## IMMIGRATION

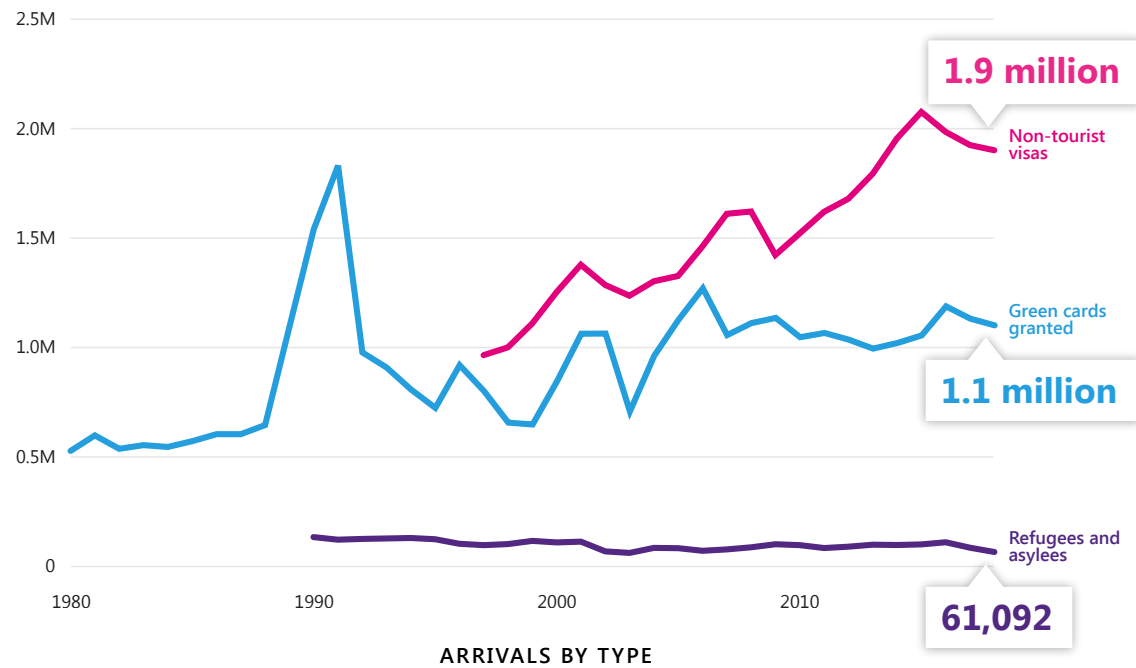


IMMIGRATION BY REASON 2018

## Excluding tourism, most people who come to the US on visas or green cards are temporary workers, students, or coming to be with their families.

Sources

US Department of State

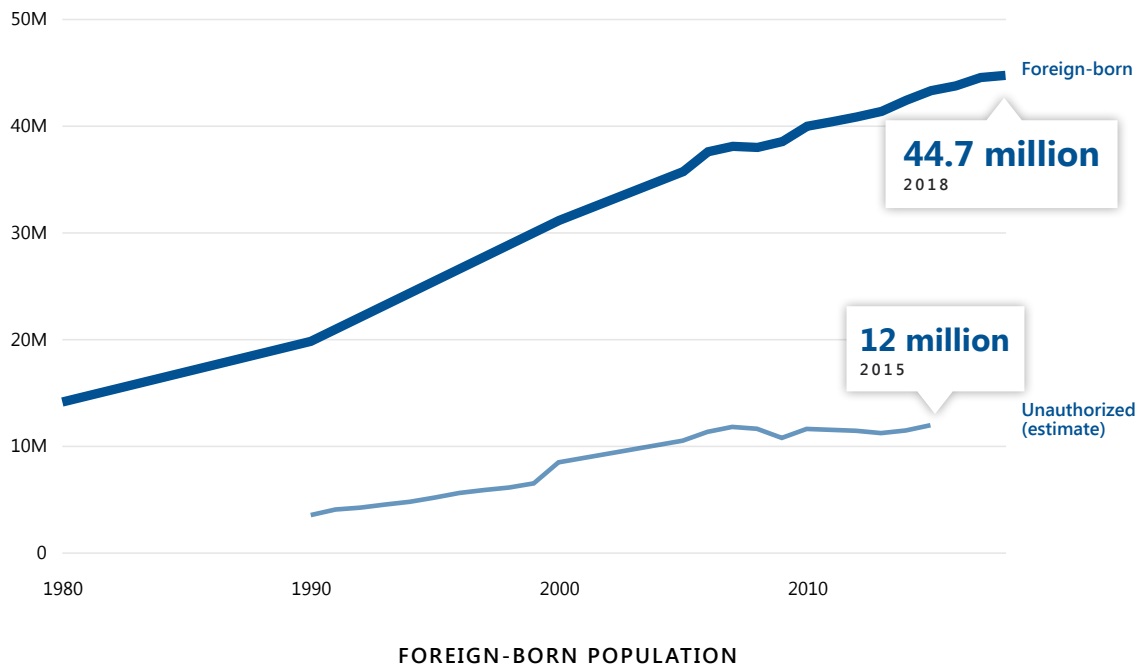


**The number of non-tourist<sup>1</sup> visas and green cards granted as well as the number of refugees and asylees admitted fell from 2017 to 2018.**

The number of refugees and asylees admitted fell 24%, while the number of green cards and non-tourist visas granted fell 3% and 1%, respectively.

Sources  
Department of Homeland Security

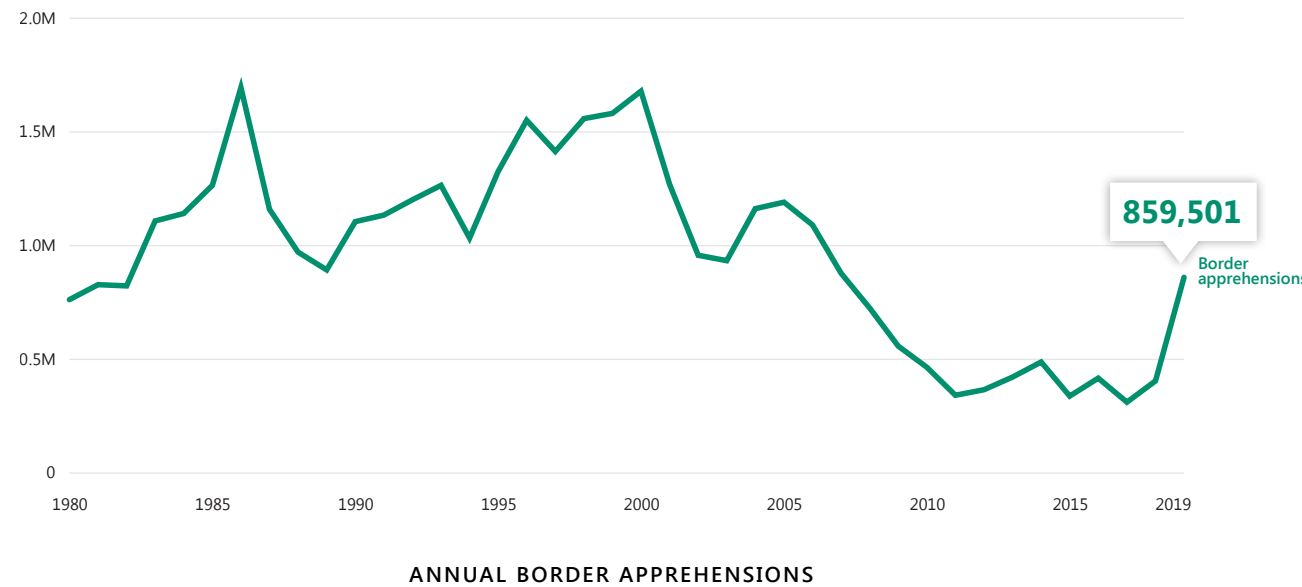
<sup>1</sup> Non-tourist visa data excludes temporary visitors for business or pleasure (including with Border Crossing Cards), transit aliens, and transit crew (airline, cruise ship, etc.).



**In 2015, the federal government estimated there were 12 million unauthorized immigrants in the country.**

The total foreign-born population was 43 million.

Sources  
Census Bureau



**Border apprehensions more than doubled from 2018 to 2019.**

In fiscal year 2019, 860,000 people were apprehended at the border — nearly 460,000 more than in 2018, but 800,000 fewer than the recent peak in 2000.

Sources  
Customs and Border Protection



**In 2018, immigration officials removed 337,000 people from the US.**

This is less than the 2013 peak of 433,000 but higher than any year before 2007.

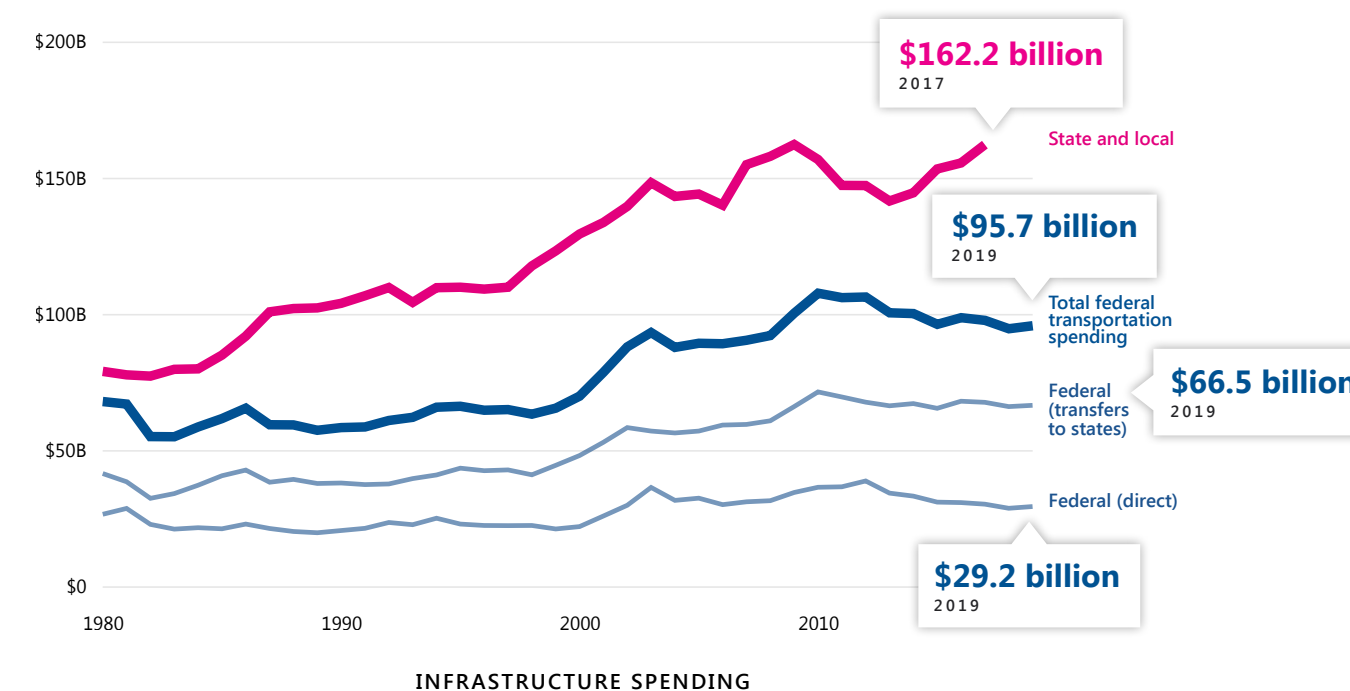
Sources  
Department of Homeland Security





## INFRASTRUCTURE

**What does America spend on infrastructure?  
Is the state of our infrastructure improving?**



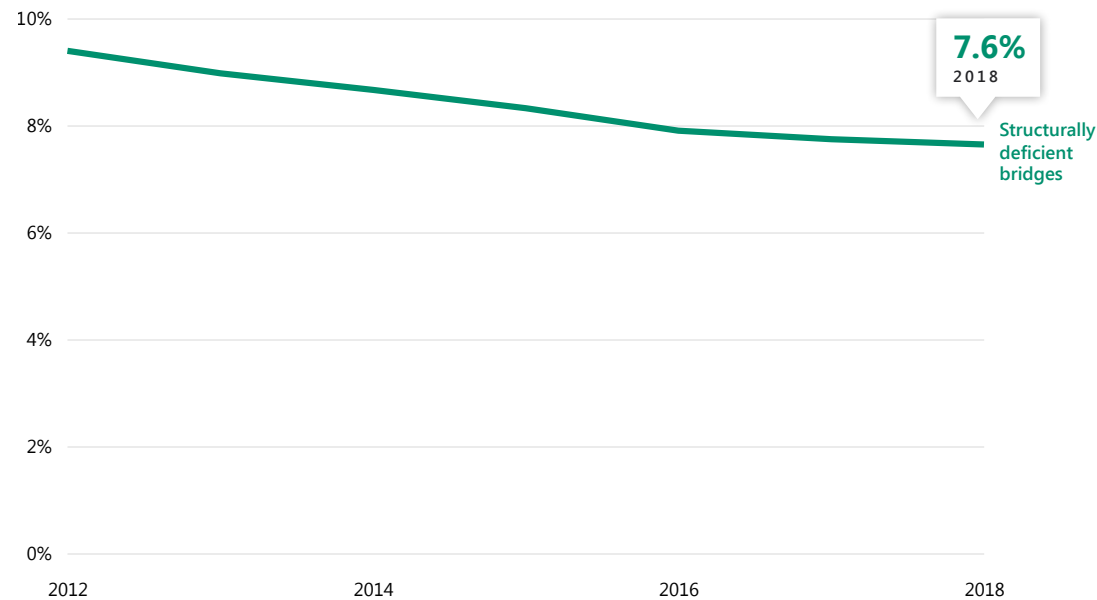
**In 2019, the federal government spent \$29 billion on infrastructure and transferred an additional \$67 billion in infrastructure spending to states.**

Most infrastructure spending comes directly from state and local governments, which recently spent \$162 billion on projects in 2017, excluding federal transfers.

Sources

USAFacts calculations using data from the Office of Management and Budget and the US Census Bureau

**Half of federal transportation spending goes to highways, with air and rail the next biggest categories.**



STRUCTURALLY DEFICIENT BRIDGES

## Our bridges are improving.

The proportion of bridges rated as poor decreased from 9.4% in 2012 to 7.6% in 2018.

Sources  
Bureau of Transportation Statistics

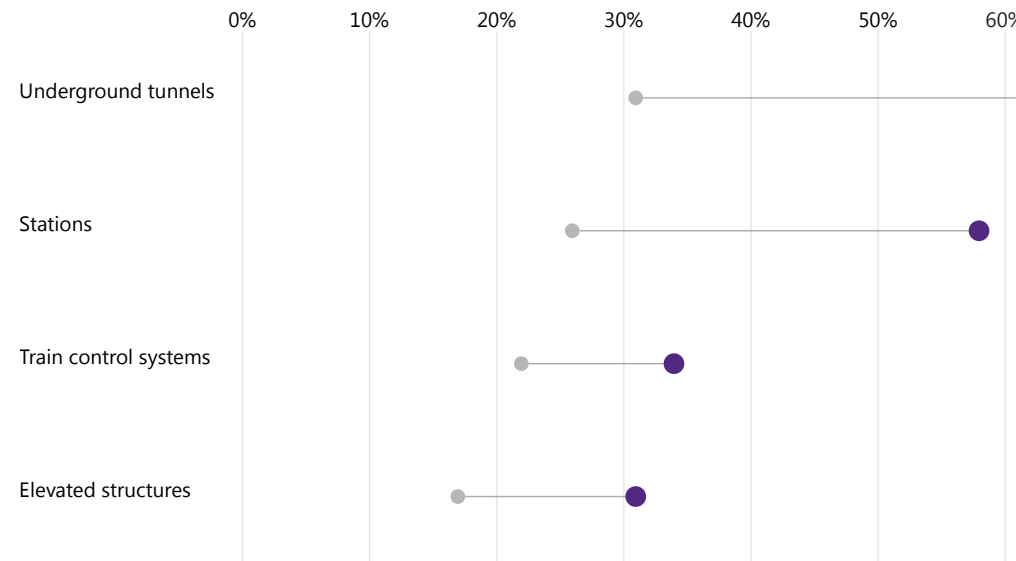


PERCENT OF ROADS IN UNSATISFACTORY CONDITION 2000 VS. 2018

## The condition of urban interstates and minor roads is improving.

Rural interstates and minor roads are improving as well, though to a lesser extent.

Sources  
Bureau of Transportation Statistics

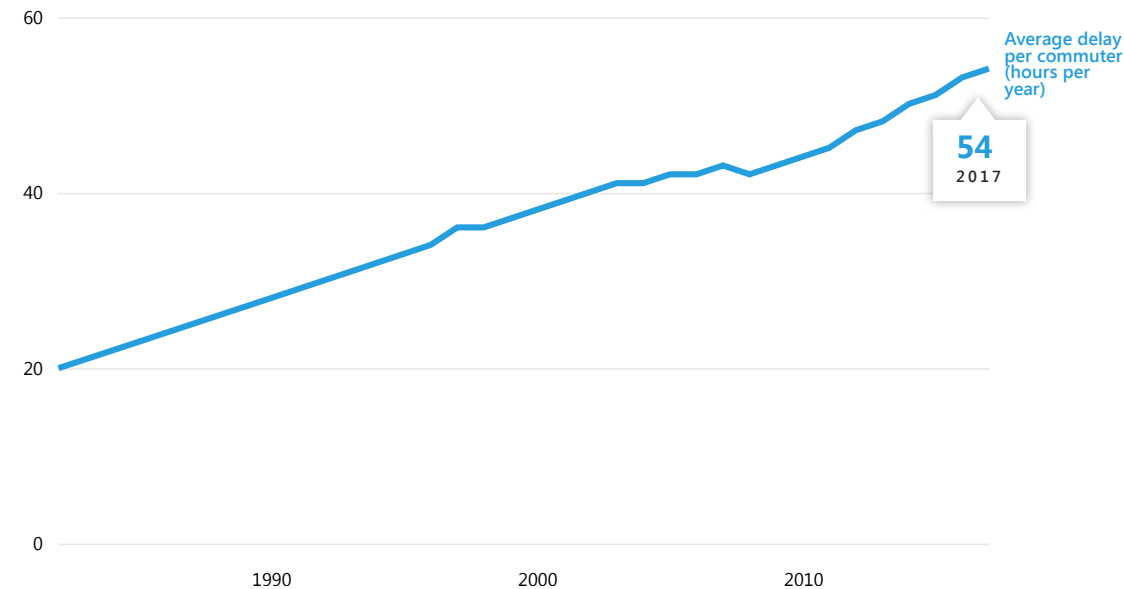


TRAIN INFRASTRUCTURE AND EQUIPMENT IN POOR CONDITION 2009 VS. 2014

## Train infrastructure is degrading.

Two-thirds of train tunnels and nearly one-third of train control systems and elevated structures were rated as poor or substandard as of last count.

Sources  
Bureau of Transportation Statistics



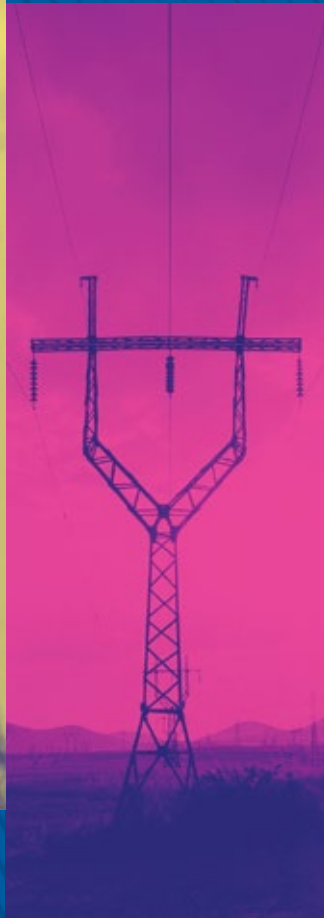
AVERAGE COMMUTER DELAY DUE TO HIGHWAY TRAFFIC

## In 2017, traffic congestion delayed vehicle commuters by an average of 54 hours a year.

In 1982, annual delays averaged 18 hours.

Sources  
Bureau of Transportation Statistics





## ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

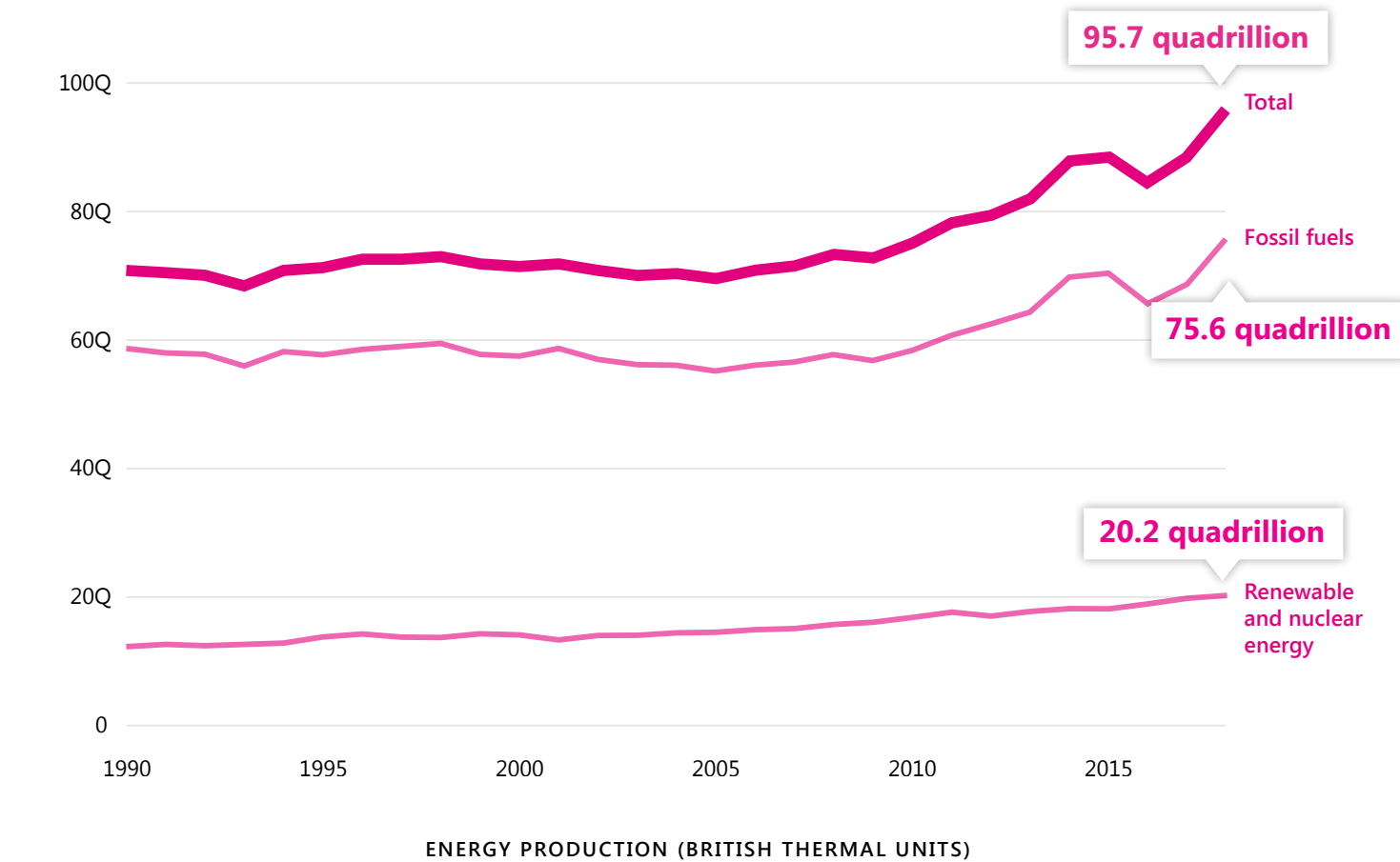
# What are our major sources of energy? What environmental challenges do we face?

## We are producing more energy than ever.

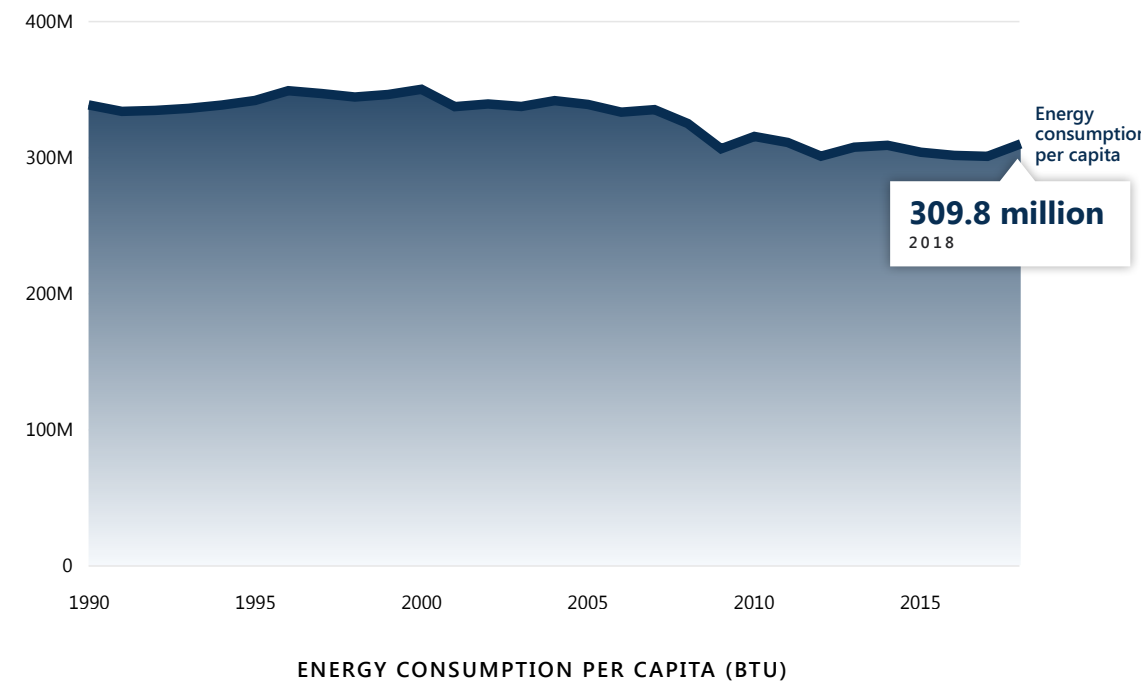
Fossil fuel production has grown, largely due to a 69% increase in natural gas production since 1980 despite an 18% decrease in coal production. Nuclear and renewable energy production has increased 147% since 1980 and now makes up 21% of energy production.

Sources

Energy Information Administration





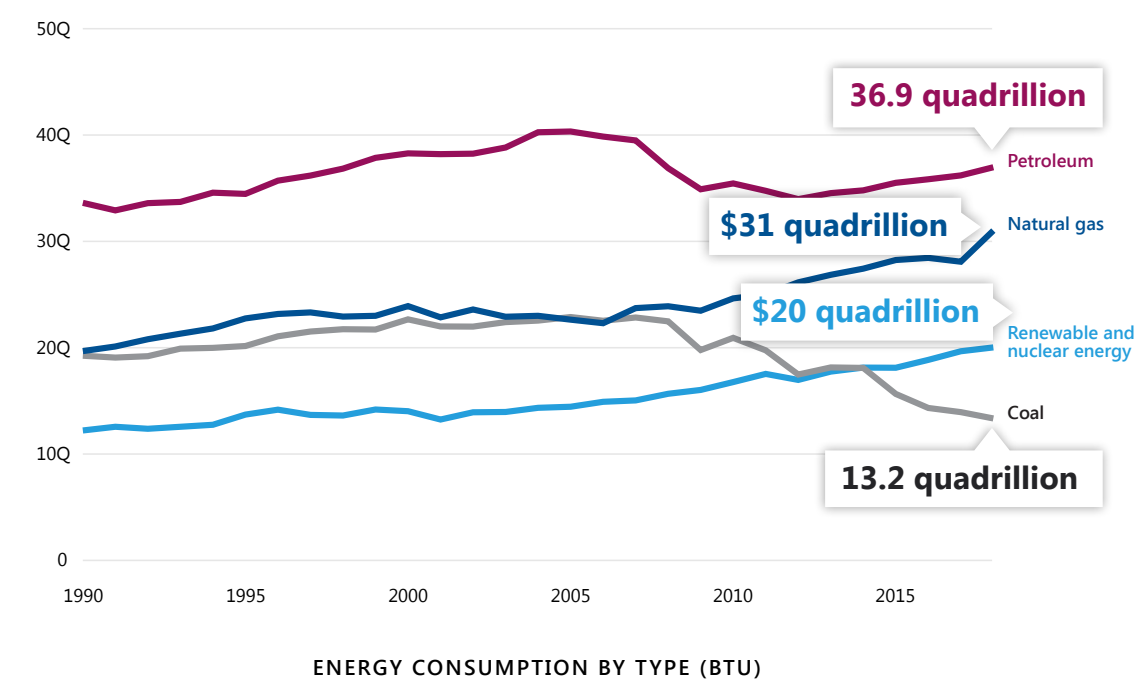


**Energy consumption per person in 2018 was 11% lower than in 2000.**

However, it has increased from 2017.

## Sources

Environmental Protection Agency



**The share of our energy consumption from nuclear and renewable sources has nearly doubled since 1980.**

Fossil fuels (petroleum, natural gas, and coal), however, continue to account for 80% of our energy consumption.

## Sources

Energy Information Administration

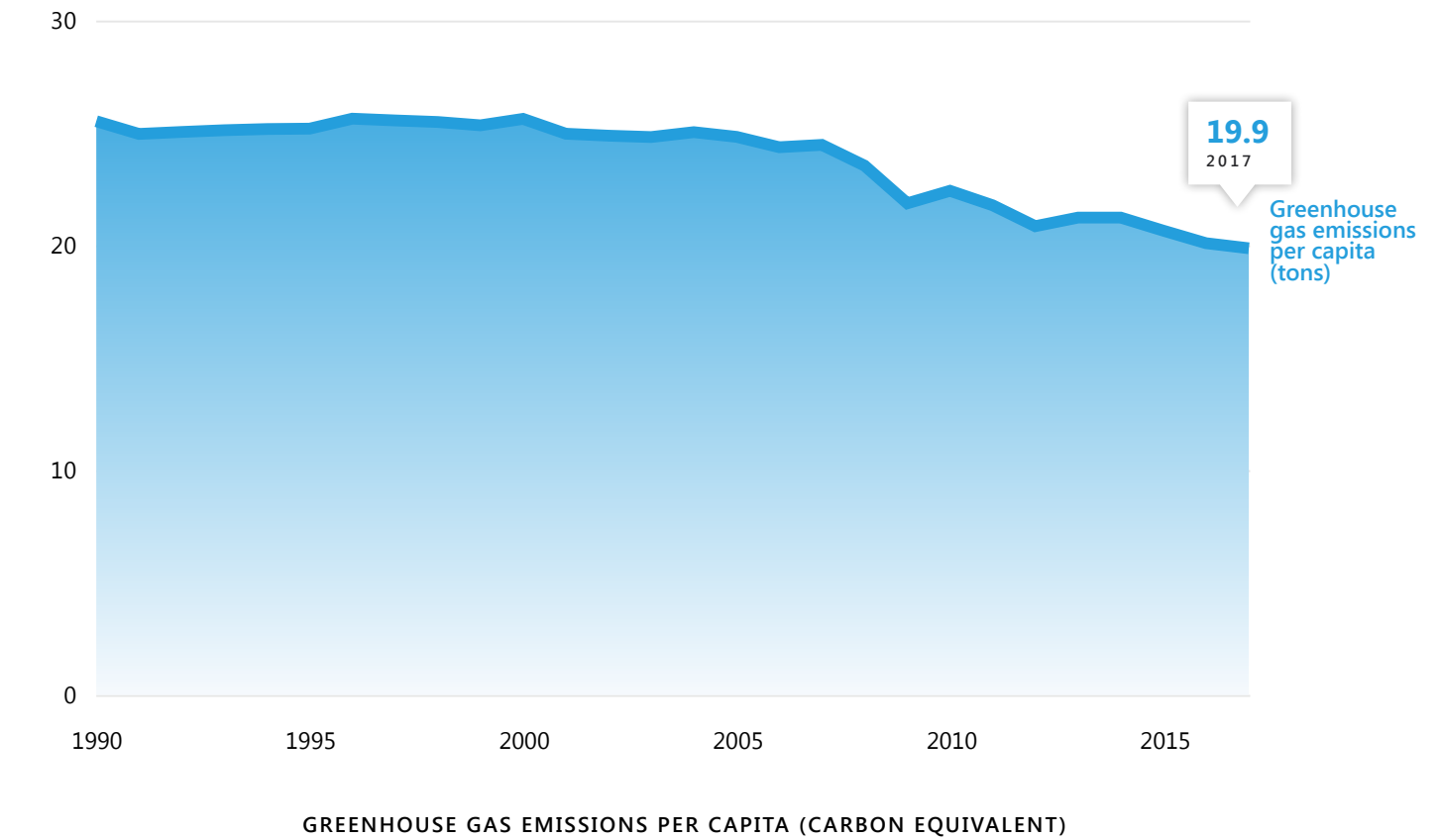
**We are emitting less greenhouse gases per person than in 1990.**

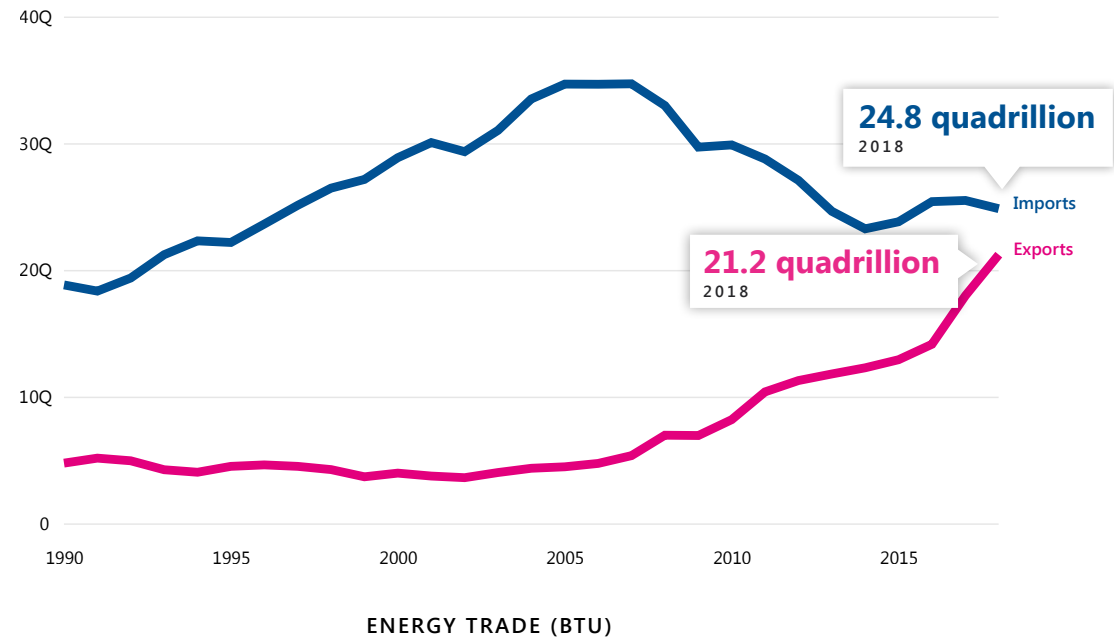
In 2017, the US made up 14% of the world's carbon dioxide emissions and emitted more metric tons of carbon dioxide (5.1 billion metric tons) than any country in the world other than China (10.4 billion metric tons).

## Sources

Environmental Protection Agency

USAFacts.org/state-of-the-union

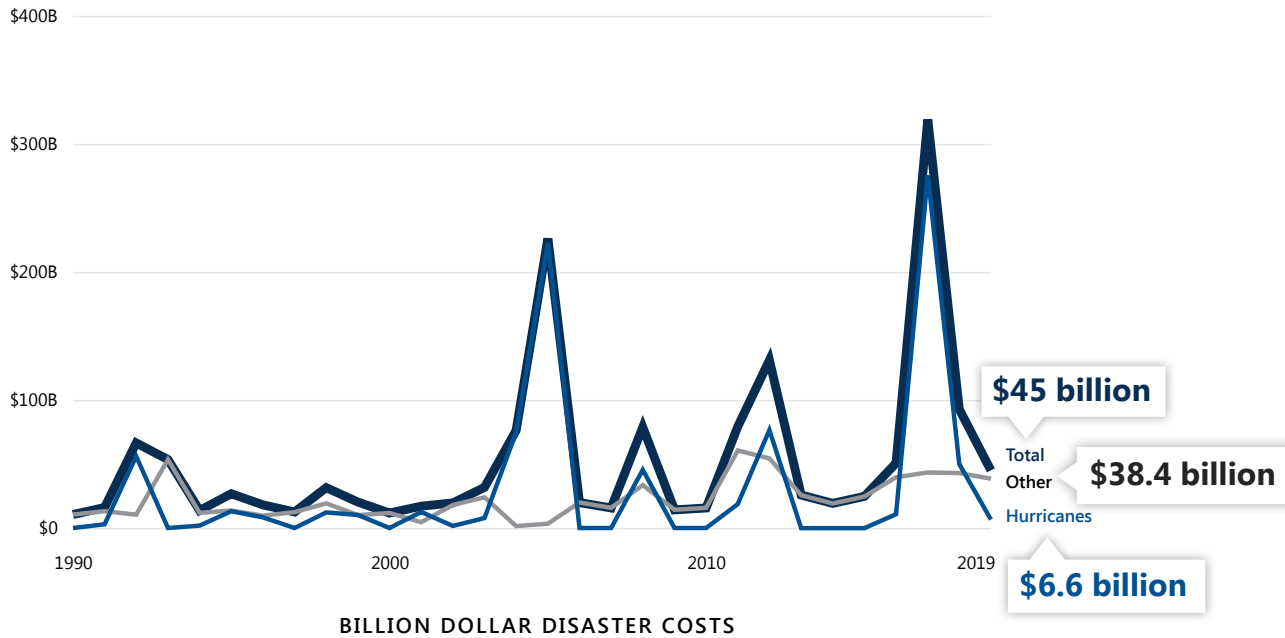




**We import 17% more energy than we export.**

We import 25% of the energy we consume; in 1980 we imported 20%.

Sources  
Energy Information Administration



**Last decade averaged twelve \$1 billion natural disasters per year.<sup>†</sup>**

The 2000s averaged six per year.

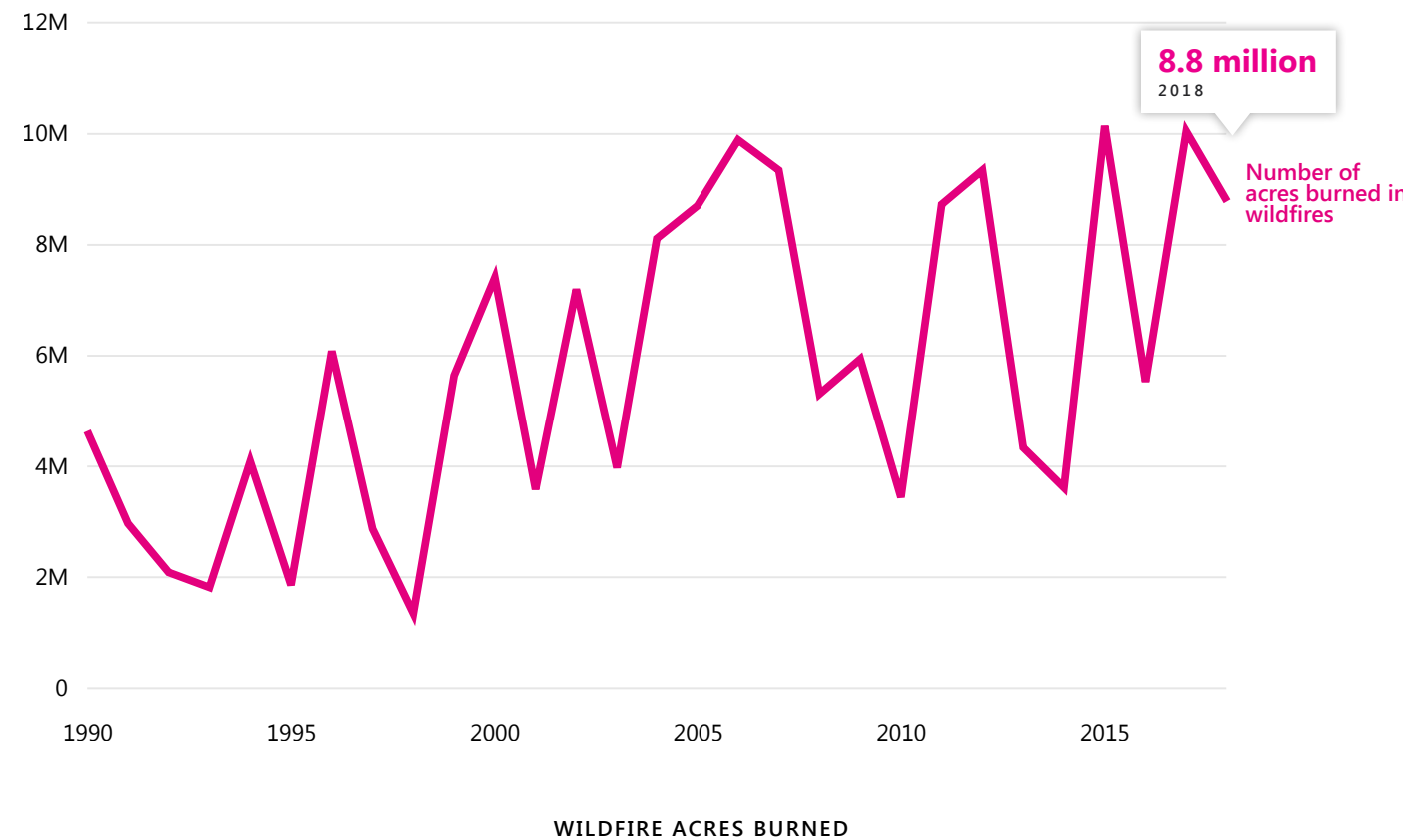
Sources  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

<sup>†</sup>Adjusted for inflation.

**Wildfires burned an average of 7 million acres of land per year last decade.**

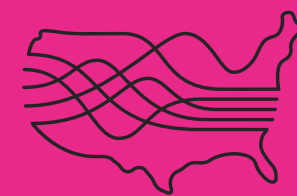
That's 2% higher than the annual average in the 2000s, and more than twice the annual average in the 1990s.

Sources  
National Interagency Fire Center



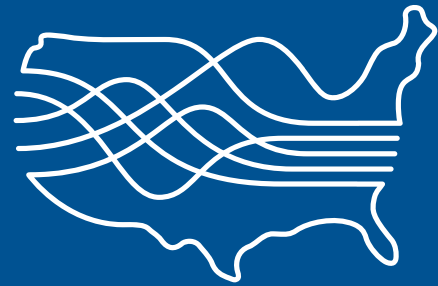
For the full State of the Union in Numbers, plus the methodology behind it, visit [\*\*usafacts.org/state-of-the-union\*\*](https://usafacts.org/state-of-the-union).

For even more nonpartisan, accessible data on government spending, policy, and American life, visit [\*\*usafacts.org\*\*](https://usafacts.org).



USA **FACTS**





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