## Boston Income Trends:

Median family income increased from $\$ 34,377$ to $\$ 44,151$ - a $28 \%$ increase - but not enough to keep up with inflation which equaled $34 \%$ (Boston CPI-U) during the same period. Family incomes at the first and third quartiles (bottom $25 \%$ and top $25 \%$ ) also did not keep up with inflation, though family incomes at the third quartile came close, growing by $31 \%$ from $\$ 58,288$ to $\$ 76,364$, while those in the first quartile gained only $27 \%$ from $\$ 17,450$ to $\$ 22,105$.

- Household income did keep up with inflation during the decade rising by $\$ 10,449$ or $36 \%$ from $\$ 29,180$ to $\$ 39,629$. Household incomes at the first and third quartiles (bottom $25 \%$ and top $25 \%$ ) also kept pace with inflation, with first quartile incomes growing $35 \%$ from $\$ 13,031$ to $\$ 17,544$, and third quartile incomes gaining $41 \%$ from \$50,817 to \$71,676.

The increase in per capita income far outpaced inflation rising by $50 \%$ or $\$ 7,772$ from $\$ 15,581$ to $\$ 23,353$.
Full-time male workers earned $\$ 37,435$ compared to $\$ 32,421$ for full-time female workers - a $\$ 5000$ or $15 \%$ difference.
The percentage of households earning \$100,000 or more jumped from $4.7 \%$ in 1989 to $12.8 \%$ in 1999 . The percentage of families earning $\$ 100,000$ or more jumped from $6 \%$ to $14.5 \%$. Even after adjusting for inflation, the percentage of households and families earning over $\$ 100,000$ increased by $1.8 \%$ and $2.7 \%$ respectively.

The percentage of persons earning Social Security dropped from 21.1\% in 1989 to $18.7 \%$ in 1999.
The mean Social Security income was \$9,243.
The percentage of households with public assistance income dropped from 27,213 in 1989 to 9,766 in 1999, a drop from $11.9 \%$ of the households then to $4.1 \%$ now.
The percentage of households with retirement income dropped slightly from $11.9 \%$ in 1989 to $10.9 \%$ in 1999 . The mean retirement income in 1999 was $\$ 15,498$.

## 1. INCOME IN 1989-1999



Data Set: Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF 3) - Sample data and 1990 Summary Tape File 3 (STF 3) - Sample data
3. FAMILY INCOME


## 4. MEDIAN EARNINGS: Males and Female year-round workers - 1999



## 5. INCOME TYPE

| Year 1989 | Number | Year 1999 | Number |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Households | 227,958 | Households | 239,603 |
| With wage and salary income | 174,825 | With earnings | 189,454 |
| With nonfarm self-employment income | 20,746 | With nonfarm self-employment income |  |
| With farm self-employment | 998 | With farm self-employment |  |
| With Interest, Dividend, or Net | 84,045 | With Interest, Dividend, or Net |  |
| Rental Income |  | Rental Income |  |
| With Social Security income | 48,204 | With Social Security income | 44,831 |
| With public assistance income | 27,213 | With public assistance income | 9,766 |
| With retirement income | 27,176 | With retirement income | 26,234 |
|  |  | With Supplemental Security | 17,158 |
|  |  | Mean earnings | \$60,165 |
|  |  | Mean Social Security income | \$9,243 |
|  |  | Mean Supplemental Security Income | \$6,569 |
|  |  | Mean public assistance income | \$3,917 |
|  |  | Mean retirement income | \$15,498 |

