

## **Washington Earnings Compared to the U.S. and Other Western States:**

### **A Report Based on the Census**

#### **Research Brief 33A: Washington's Total Earnings Compared to the U.S. and Other Western States**

In 1999, Washington State's mean earnings for all adults aged 18 to 64 (including those working and not working) were \$28,291, \$1,218 more than the mean earnings for the U.S. With the exception of California, Washington's mean earnings were higher than the earnings of other western states. In addition, with median earnings at \$20,000 in 1999, Washington State had the highest median earnings followed in order by Oregon, California, and Idaho. Read Research Brief 33A ...

#### **Research Brief 33B: Change in Total Earnings: Washington vs. the U.S. and Other Western States**

Between 1989 and 1999 Washington State's mean earnings for all adults aged 18 to 64 (including those working and not working) increased at a faster rate than the U.S. and other western states.

Washington's mean earnings grew by 20 percent between 1989 and 1999, followed in order by Oregon (19 percent), the U.S. (18 percent), Idaho (18 percent), and California (12 percent). While Washington State's median earnings were higher than those for the U.S. overall, the rate of growth between 1989 and 1999 was slower. Washington's median earnings increased by 12 percent, the third highest rate of increase among the four states examined. Read Research Brief 33B ...

#### **Research Brief 33C: Total Earnings by Sex: Washington vs. the U.S. and Other Western States**

Washington State's mean and median earnings for both men and women aged 18 to 64 (including those working and not working) were higher than the U.S. as a whole. Male and female mean earnings in Washington State were a close second to California's earnings and higher than Oregon's and Idaho's mean earnings. Washington's median earnings for men and women were higher than California's, Oregon's, and Idaho's median earnings. Read Research Brief 33C ...

#### **Research Brief 33D: Change in Total Earnings by Sex: Washington vs. the U.S. and Other Western States**

Compared to the U.S. as a whole, Washington State's mean and median total earnings for both men and women aged 18 to 64 (including those working and not working) increased at a faster rate between 1989 and 1999. In 1989, mean earnings for male Washington residents were just over \$1600 less than mean earnings for male California residents. By 1999 the difference between male mean earnings for California and Washington residents had all but disappeared. Male mean earnings for Washington residents grew at a faster rate between 1989 and 1999 than male mean earnings for California residents. Median earnings for male Washington residents were the highest among the four states examined and grew by seven percent between 1989 and 1999.

In 1999, women in California had higher mean earnings than women in Washington, but women in Washington experienced a greater rate of growth in earnings between 1989 and 1999. Mean earnings grew by 33 percent for women in Washington and Oregon compared to 19 percent growth in mean

earnings for women in California, and 10 percent growth in mean earnings for women in Idaho. Women in Washington had the highest median earnings in 1999 followed by Oregon, California and Idaho. Median earnings for women in Washington grew by 30 percent between 1989 and 1999 compared to 56 percent growth for women in Idaho, 35 percent growth for women in Oregon, and nine percent growth for women in California. Read Research Brief 33D ...

**Research Brief 33E: Washington's Full Time Total Earnings by Sex Compared to the U.S. and Other Western States**

In Washington, the ratio of women's mean and median full time earnings relative to men's were very similar to the U.S. as a whole. Women who worked full time in Washington earned on average 69 percent of what men who worked full time earned. At \$29,000, Washington women's full time median earnings were 73 percent or \$11,000 less than men's median full time earnings. The ratio of women's mean and median full time earnings to men's earnings was the highest in California, followed by both Oregon and Washington. Of the four states examined, women who work full time in Idaho earn the least compared to men. Read Research Brief 33E ...

## WASHINGTON EARNINGS COMPARED TO THE U.S. AND OTHER WESTERN STATES: A REPORT BASED ON THE CENSUS

Research Brief No. 33A  
March 2005

## Washington's Total Earnings Compared to the U.S. and Other Western States

By Erica Gardner

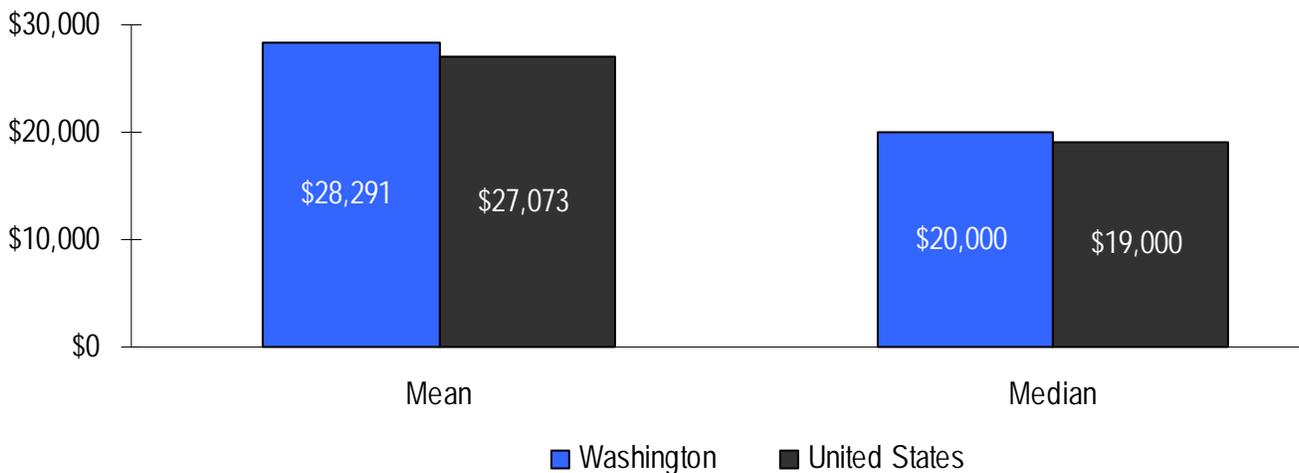
Using data from the 2000 five percent Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS), total earnings were examined for all adults aged 18 to 64 (regardless of their work status) in both Washington State and the U.S. In 1999, Washington's mean and median total earnings were higher than the U.S. as a whole (see Figure 1). Washington State's mean earnings were \$28,291 dollars, \$1,218 dollars more than the U.S. mean earnings. Washington State's median earnings were \$20,000 dollars, \$1,000 dollars more than the U.S. mean earnings (for more details on why mean earnings were greater than the median earnings see [Research Brief 26A: Total Earnings for All Adults Aged 18 to 64 in 1999](#)).

### Washington vs. Other Western States

Washington's mean earnings were comparable to California's mean earnings and higher than the mean earnings for Oregon and Idaho. At \$28,748 dollars, California's mean earnings were only \$457 dollars higher than Washington's mean earnings. The mean earnings for Oregon were \$25,280 dollars, \$3,011 dollars less than the mean earnings for Washington. Idaho had the lowest mean earnings of the four states examined. Mean earnings in Idaho were only \$22,755 dollars or \$5,536 dollars less than the mean earnings of Washington State residents.

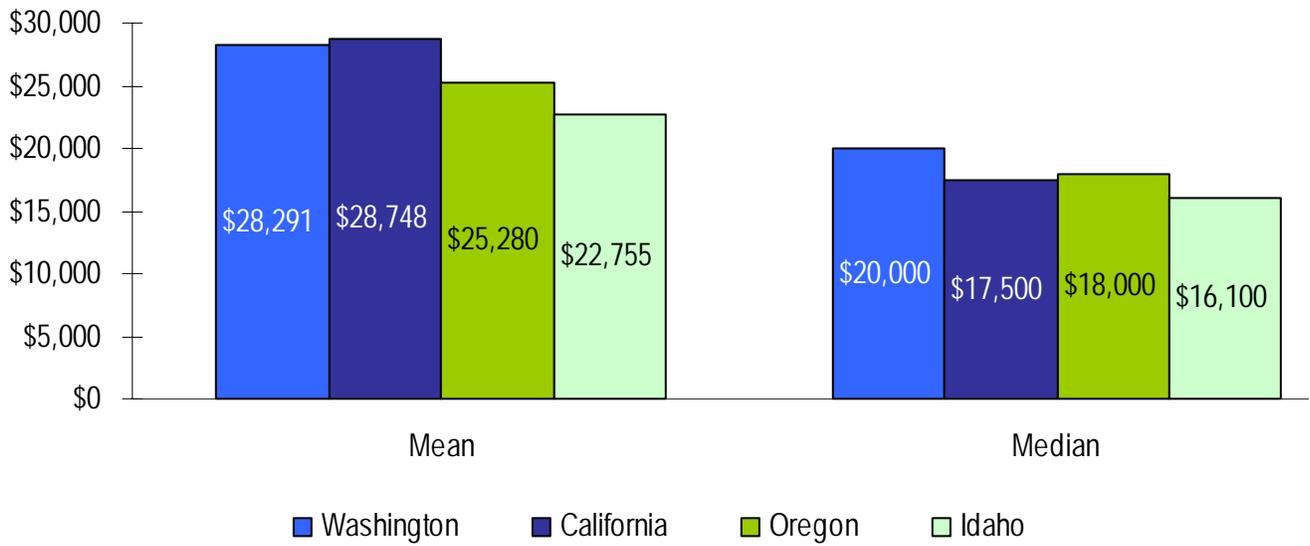
At \$20,000 dollars, Washington State had the highest median earnings among the four states examined. Oregon, with median earnings at \$18,000 dollars, had the second highest earnings. California had the third highest median earnings followed by Idaho.

**Figure 1: 1999 Mean and Median Total Earnings for Washington State and the United States**



The Washington State data used in this analysis come from the 2000 five percent Public Use Microdata Sample, (PUMS). More information on this survey can be found at the Census website: <http://www.census.gov/main/www/pums.html>.

**Figure 2: 1999 Mean and Median Earnings for Washington State and Other Western States**



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# WASHINGTON EARNINGS COMPARED TO THE U.S. AND OTHER WESTERN STATES: A REPORT BASED ON THE CENSUS

Research Brief No. 33B  
March 2005

## Change in Total Earnings: Washington vs. the U.S. and Other Western States

By Erica Gardner

Using data from the 1990 and 2000 five percent Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS), change in total earnings were examined for Washington and U.S. residents aged 18 to 64 (regardless of their work status). Compared to the U.S. as a whole, mean earnings for Washington State started at a higher level in 1989 and grew at a faster rate between 1989 and 1999 (see Table 1). Between 1989 and 1999, the mean earnings for Washington State increased by 20 percent or \$4,759 dollars. The mean earnings for the U.S. as a whole increased by 18 percent or \$4,114 dollars.

According to the data on mean earnings, Washington residents appear to be doing better than the U.S. as a whole, but one gets a slightly different impression when one looks at the median earnings.<sup>1</sup> While Washington State's median earnings were higher in 1989 and 1999 than the median earnings for the U.S. as a whole, Washington's median earnings did not grow as fast or by as much. Between 1989 and 1999, the median earnings for Washington State increased 12 percent or by \$2,103 dollars compared the 16 percent increase or the \$2,574 dollars gained in median earnings for the U.S. as a whole.

Table 1: Change Total Earnings: United States vs. Washington State

	1989*	1999	Change 1999- 1989*	% Change (1999/ 1989*-1)
<i>mean earnings</i>				
United States	\$22,965	\$27,073	\$4,114	18%
Washington	\$23,532	\$28,291	\$4,759	20%
<i>median earnings</i>				
United States	\$16,481	\$19,000	\$2,574	16%
Washington	\$17,897	\$20,000	\$2,103	12%

\* 1989 earnings shown in 1999 dollars

### Washington vs. Other Western States

In both 1989 and 1999, mean earnings were highest in California, followed in order by Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. Compared to California, Oregon, and Idaho, Washington had both the highest rate of increase in mean earnings between 1989 and 1999 as well as the greatest dollar gain (see Table 2). Oregon had the second highest rate of increase in mean earnings followed by Idaho and then by California.

The Washington State data used in this analysis come from the 1990 and the 2000 five percent Public Use Microdata Sample, (PUMS). More information on this survey can be found at the Census website:

<http://www.census.gov/main/www/pums.html>.

In 1989, Washington had the highest median earnings followed in order by California, Oregon, and Idaho. By 1999, the order changed a little with California and Oregon swapping places for second and third highest median earnings. Between 1989 and 1999, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho all experienced increases in median earnings, while California experienced a small decline. Idaho's median earnings increased 23 percent or \$3,060 dollars. In contrast, Washington's median earnings increased 12 percent or \$2,103 dollars.

**Table 2: Change in Total Earnings: Washington State vs. Other Western States**

	1989*	1999	Change 1999- 1989*	% Change (1999/ 1989*-1)
<i>mean earnings</i>				
Washington	\$23,532	\$28,291	\$4,759	20%
California	\$25,654	\$28,748	\$3,094	12%
Oregon	\$21,300	\$25,280	\$3,980	19%
Idaho	\$19,340	\$22,755	\$3,415	18%
<i>median earnings</i>				
Washington	\$17,897	\$20,000	\$2,103	12%
California	\$17,600	\$17,500	-\$100	-1%
Oregon	\$15,341	\$18,000	\$2,659	17%
Idaho	\$13,040	\$16,100	\$3,060	23%

\* 1989 earnings shown in 1999 dollars

1. For more details on why mean earnings were greater than the median earnings see [Research Brief 26A: Total Earnings for All Adults Aged 18 to 64 in 1999](#)).

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## WASHINGTON EARNINGS COMPARED TO THE U.S. AND OTHER WESTERN STATES: A REPORT BASED ON THE CENSUS

Research Brief No. 33C  
March 2005

## Total Earnings by Sex: Washington vs. the U.S. and Other Western States

By Erica Gardner

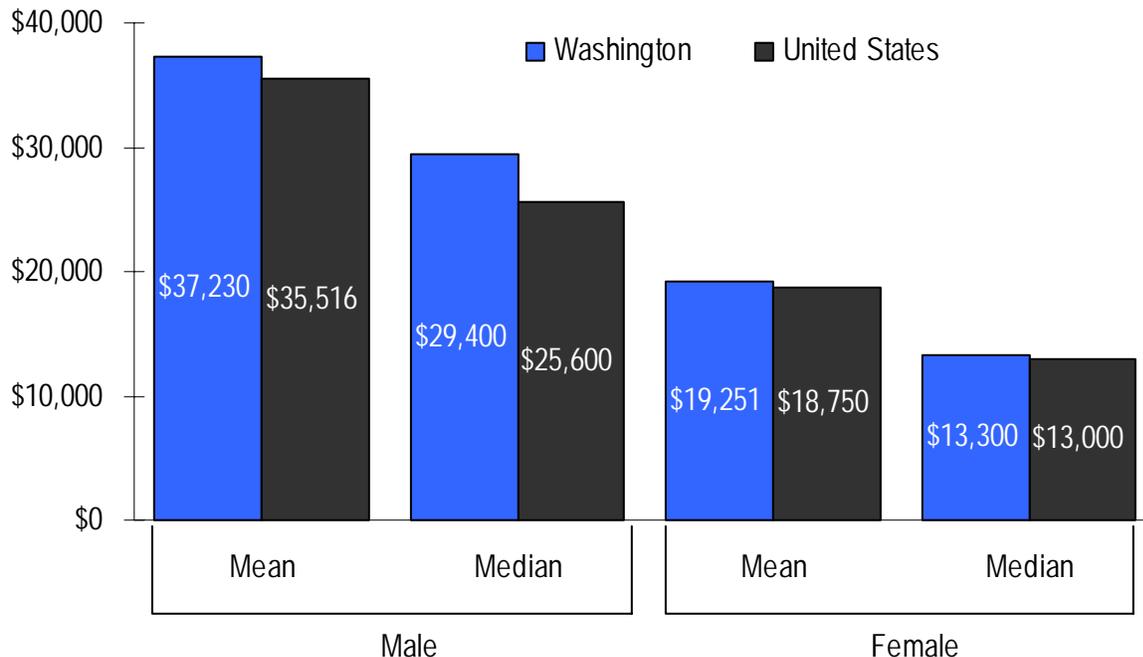
Using data from the 2000 five percent Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS), total earnings were examined by sex for all Washington and U.S. residents aged 18 to 64 (regardless of their work status). The mean and median earnings for Washington State residents exceeded the U.S. values for both men and women (see Figure 1). Washington women's mean and median earnings exceeded the U.S. mean earnings by \$501 dollars and \$300 dollars respectively.

With mean earnings of \$37,230 dollars, Washington's male mean earnings exceeded the U.S. male mean earnings by \$1,715 dollars. Washington's median earnings for males, at \$29,400 dollars, exceeded the U.S. male median earnings by \$3,800 dollars.<sup>1</sup>

### Washington vs. Other Western States

- The male mean earnings for Washington State were roughly the same as California's and higher than Oregon's and Idaho's (see Figure 2).
- Washington's male median earnings were \$4,400 dollars or more higher than the other three states examined.

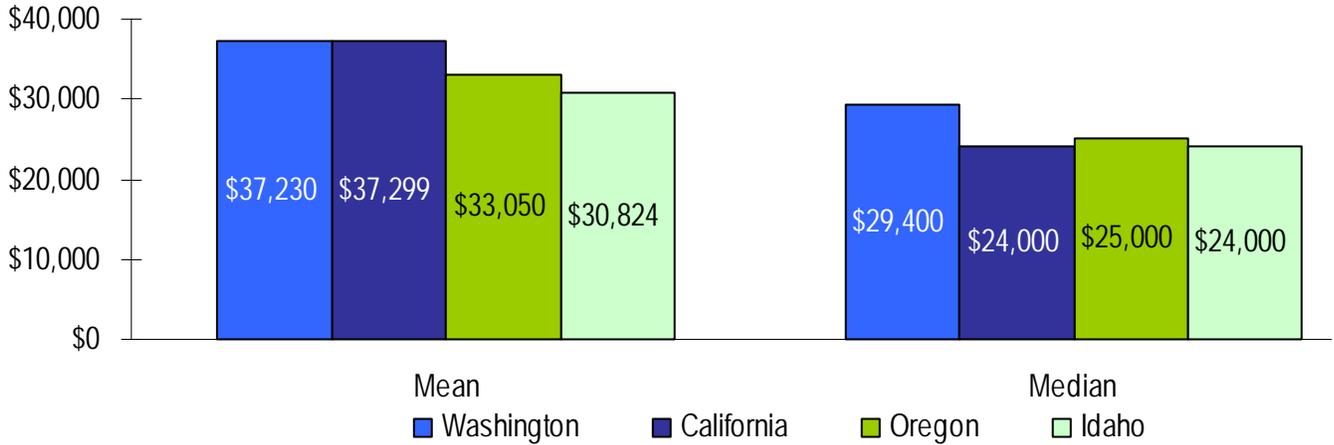
**Figure 1: 1999 Mean and Median Earnings by Sex for Washington State and the United States**



The Washington State data used in this analysis come from the 2000 five percent Public Use Microdata Sample, (PUMS). More information on this survey can be found at the Census website:

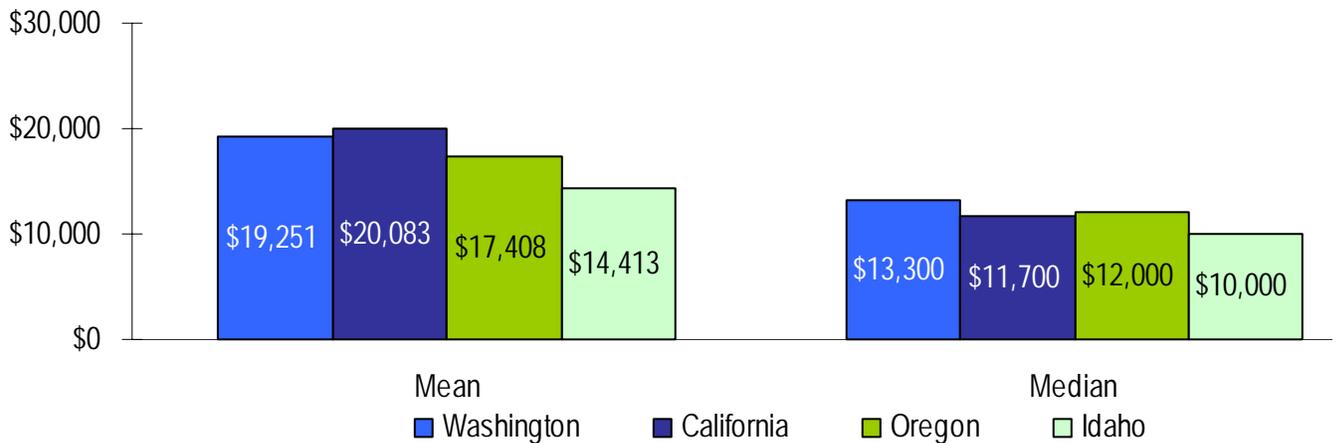
<http://www.census.gov/main/www/pums.html>.

**Figure 2: 1999 Male Earnings for Washington State and Other Western States**



- At \$20,083 dollars, California had the highest female mean earnings among the four states examined (see Figure 3). Washington had the second highest female mean earnings at \$19,251 dollars, followed by Oregon at \$17,408 dollars, and Idaho at \$14,413 dollars.
- Washington’s female median earnings were \$13,000 dollars, higher than the three other states examined by \$1,300 to \$2,300 dollars.

**Figure 3: 1999 Female Earnings for Washington State and Other Western States**



1. For more details on why mean earnings were greater than the median earnings see [Research Brief 26A: Total Earnings for All Adults Aged 18 to 64 in 1999](#)).

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# WASHINGTON EARNINGS COMPARED TO THE U.S. AND OTHER WESTERN STATES: A REPORT BASED ON THE CENSUS

Research Brief No. 33D  
March 2005

## Change in Total Earnings by Sex: Washington vs. the U.S. and Other Western States

By Erica Gardner

Using data from the 1990 and 2000 five percent Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS), change in total earnings by sex were examined for all Washington and U.S. residents aged 18 to 64 (regardless of work status). With the exception of women's mean income in 1989, male and female Washington residents had higher mean and median earnings than U.S. residents as a whole. Between 1989 and 1999, Washington's male median earnings increased 15 percent compared to a 13 percent increase experienced among male U.S. residents. Male median earnings increased seven percent in Washington compared to one percent in the U.S. as a whole.

Women's earnings increased at a much faster rate than men's during this period. Women's mean earnings increased 33 percent in Washington State compared to a 28 percent increase in the U.S. overall. Similarly, women experienced a 30 percent increase in their median earnings in Washington State compared to a 29 percent increase in the U.S. overall.

Table 1: Change in Total Earnings by Sex for Washington State and the U.S.: 1989-1999

	Males				Females			
	1989*	1999	Change 1999- 1989*	% Change (1999/ 1989*-1)	1989*	1999	Change 1999- 1989*	% Change (1999/ 1989*-1)
Mean								
Washington	\$32,482	\$37,230	\$4,748	15%	\$14,478	\$19,251	\$4,773	33%
U.S.	\$31,506	\$35,516	\$4,010	13%	\$14,621	\$18,750	\$4,129	28%
Median								
Washington	\$27,485	\$29,400	\$1,915	7%	\$10,227	\$13,300	\$3,073	30%
U.S.	\$25,312	\$25,600	\$288	1%	\$10,074	\$13,000	\$2,926	29%

\* 1989 earnings shown in 1999 dollars

### Change in Male Earnings: Washington vs. Other Western States

In 1989, California's male mean earnings were \$34,101 dollars, \$1,619 dollars higher than Washington's male mean earnings. Between 1989 and 1999, Washington's male mean earnings increased by 15 percent. In comparison, California's male mean earnings increased by nine percent. California's slower growth in male earnings caused the gap between California and Washington's male mean earnings to essentially disappear by 1999.

In both 1989 and 1999, Washington State had the highest male median earnings among the four western states examined. Washington and Idaho both experienced seven percent increases in male

The Washington State data used in this analysis come from the 1990 and 2000 five percent Public Use Microdata Sample, (PUMS). More information on these surveys can be found at the Census website:

<http://www.census.gov/main/www/pums.html>.

median earnings. Oregon experienced a three percent increase in male median earnings. California experienced a six percent decline in male median earnings during this period.

**Table 2: Change in Male Total Earnings for Washington State and Other Western States: 1989-1999**

	1989*	1999	Change 1999- 1989*	% Change (1999/ 1989*-1)
<b>Mean</b>				
Washington	\$32,482	\$37,230	\$4,748	15%
California	\$34,101	\$37,299	\$3,198	9%
Oregon	\$29,549	\$33,050	\$3,501	12%
Idaho	\$27,728	\$30,824	\$3,096	11%
<b>Median</b>				
Washington	\$27,485	\$29,400	\$1,915	7%
California	\$25,568	\$24,000	(\$1,568)	-6%
Oregon	\$24,289	\$25,000	\$711	3%
Idaho	\$22,372	\$24,000	\$1,628	7%

\* 1989 earnings shown in 1999 dollars

### **Change in Female Earnings: Washington vs. Other Western States**

Compared to men, women had lower mean and median earnings in 1989 and 1999, but women experienced greater earnings growth during the period. Like the men, California had the highest female mean earnings in 1989, followed by Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. Between 1989 and 1999, Washington's female mean earnings increased by 33 percent while California's female mean earnings only increased by 19 percent. As a result of California's slower growth rate, the gap between California and Washington's female mean earnings declined from \$2,429 dollars in 1989 to \$832 dollars in 1999.

In 1989 California had the highest female median earnings at \$10,738 dollars, followed by Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. Between 1989 and 1999, California had the slowest growth rate (nine percent) of the four states examined. In contrast, Washington's female median earnings increased by 30 percent, Oregon's female median earnings increased by 35 percent, and Idaho's female median earnings increased by 56 percent during the same period. As a result of California's slow rate of earnings growth for women, both Washington and Oregon passed California female median earning value in 1999.

Table 3: Change in Female Total Earnings for Washington State and Other Western States: 1989-1999

	1989*	1999	Change 1999. 1989*	% Change (1999/ 1989*-1)
Mean				
Washington	\$14,478	\$19,251	\$4,773	33%
California	\$16,907	\$20,083	\$3,176	19%
Oregon	\$13,121	\$17,408	\$4,287	33%
Idaho	\$13,121	\$14,413	\$1,292	10%
Median				
Washington	\$10,227	\$13,300	\$3,073	30%
California	\$10,738	\$11,700	\$962	9%
Oregon	\$8,915	\$12,000	\$3,085	35%
Idaho	\$6,392	\$10,000	\$3,608	56%

\* 1989 earnings shown in 1999 dollars

1. For more details on why mean earnings are often greater than the median earnings see: [Research Brief 26A: Total Earnings for All Adults Aged 18 to 64 in 1999](#).

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## WASHINGTON EARNINGS COMPARED TO THE U.S. AND OTHER WESTERN STATES: A REPORT BASED ON THE CENSUS

Research Brief No. 33E  
March 2005

## Washington's Full Time Total Earnings by Sex Compared to the U.S. and Other Western States

By Erica Gardner

Using data from the 2000 five percent Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS), total earnings for full time workers were examined for Washington State residents aged 18 to 64 by sex and then compared to U.S. residents as a whole as well as other western states.<sup>1</sup>

- In 1999, Washington State's mean and median earnings for full time workers exceeded the U.S. values (see Table 1).
- In Washington, women's mean earnings were 69 percent of men's earnings, which is two percentage points higher than the U.S. as a whole.
- Women's median full time earnings in Washington were 73 percent of men's median full time earnings, one percentage point lower than the U.S. as a whole.
- Women's earnings were closer to men's earnings at the bottom of the earning distribution than at the top. The large gaps between men's and women's earnings at the top of the earnings distribution explain why women's full time earnings were a higher percentage of men's full time earnings at the median rather than at the mean.<sup>2</sup>

Table 1: 1999 Mean and Median Full Time Earnings By Sex: Washington State vs. United States

	Men	Women	Men- Women	Women's Full Time Earnings as a Percentage of Men's Full Time Earnings
Mean				
Washington	\$50,056	\$34,418	\$15,638	69%
United States	\$48,615	\$32,761	\$15,854	67%
Median				
Washington	\$40,000	\$29,000	\$11,000	73%
United States	\$36,000	\$26,700	\$9,300	74%

### Total Earnings by Sex for Full Time Workers: Washington State vs. Western States

Comparing the mean and median full time earnings by sex of other western states to those of Washington State one finds:

- California had the highest mean full time earnings for both men and women and the highest median full time earnings for women in 1999 (see Table 2). Washington had the highest median full time earnings for men and the second highest median earnings for

The Washington State data used in this analysis come from the 2000 five percent Public Use Microdata Sample, (PUMS). More information on these surveys can be found at the Census website:

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women. Washington had the second highest full time mean earnings for both men and women.

- Women's full time earnings as a percentage of men's full time earnings were highest in California. Looking at mean full time earnings, women in California earned 72 percent of what men earned. On average, women that worked full time in Washington earned 69 percent of what men that worked full time earned.
- Among full time workers in California, women at the median earned 77 percent of what men at the median earned. In comparison, women at the median in Washington earned 73 percent of what men at the median earned.

Table 1: 1999 Mean and Median Full Time Earnings By Sex: Washington State vs. Other Western States

	Men	Women	Men- Women	Women's Full Time Earnings as a Percentage of Men's Full Time Earnings
<b>Mean</b>				
Washington	\$50,056	\$34,418	\$15,638	69%
California	\$53,215	\$38,142	\$15,073	72%
Oregon	\$45,415	\$31,346	\$14,069	69%
Idaho	\$40,693	\$26,583	\$14,110	65%
<b>Median</b>				
Washington	\$40,000	\$29,000	\$11,000	73%
California	\$38,800	\$30,000	\$8,800	77%
Oregon	\$35,100	\$26,000	\$9,100	74%
Idaho	\$32,000	\$22,500	\$9,500	70%

1. Full time work is defined as working 35 or more hours a week, 45 or more weeks a year, and having non-zero earnings. Part time work is defined by non-zero earnings, and working less than 35 hours a week or less than 45 weeks a year. No earnings is simply defined as having zero earnings.
2. For more details on why mean earnings were greater than the median earnings see: [Research Brief 26A: Total Earnings for All Adults Aged 18 to 64 in 1999.](#)

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