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## Trends in Median Household Income Among New York City Latinos in Comparative Perspective, 1990 - 2011

Laird Bergad

*Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies*

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# CLACLS

Center for Latin American, Caribbean & Latino Studies

## Trends in Median Household Income among New York City Latinos in Comparative Perspective, 1990 - 2011

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The Center for Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies is a research institute that works for the advancement of the study of Latin America, the Caribbean, and Latinos in the United States in the doctoral programs at the CUNY Graduate Center. One of its major priorities is to provide funding and research opportunities to Latino students at the Ph.D. level.

The Center established and helps administer an interdisciplinary specialization in Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies in the Masters of Arts in Liberal Studies program.

The Latino Data Project was developed with the goal of making information available on the dynamically growing Latino population of the United States and especially New York City through the analysis of extant data available from a variety of sources such as the U.S. Census Bureau, the National Institute for Health, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and state and local-level data sources.

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## Executive Summary

In September 2013 the U.S. Census Bureau released a widely-cited report indicating that median household income among the nation's population had not improved since 2000 according to recently-released 2012 data. This was one result of the economic crisis that the U.S. experienced beginning in late 2007.<sup>1</sup> Despite the fact that the recession 'bottomed out' in economic terms in June 2009 the report indicated there had been no recovery in median household income levels by 2012 and that these have remained stagnant or continued their decline.

This report examines trends in median household incomes among New York City's Latino population between 1990 and 2011, and considers these in comparative perspective with the City's other major race/ethnic groups as well as with Latinos across the United States.<sup>2</sup>

Between 1990 and 2011 median household incomes among the City's entire population fell by -4.7%. The Latino population experienced a decline in median household incomes of -3.6% over this period compared with -9.2% among Asians. There was a slight increase of 2.8% for non-Hispanic whites and there was a marginal rise of 0.7% in the median household incomes of New York City's non-Hispanic black population.

The precise impact of the recession which began in 2007 may be measured by examining data between 2005 and 2011. These revealed that median household income among all of the City's race/ethnic groups fell. The total population experienced a decline of -5.6%. For Latinos there was a decrease of -5.5% between 2005 and 2011 compared with -2.4% among non-Hispanic whites, -2.2% for non-Hispanic blacks, and -7.4% for the City's Asian population.

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<sup>1</sup> See Carmen DeNavas-Walt, Bernadette D. Proctor, Jessica C. Smith, "Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2012" (U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration, U.S. Census Bureau, September 2013) available on the internet at <http://www.census.gov/prod/2013pubs/p60-245.pdf>.

See the article in the New York Times of September 17, 2013 "Household Incomes Remain Flat Despite Improving Economy" available on the internet at [http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/18/us/median-income-and-poverty-rate-hold-steady-census-bureau-finds.html?pagewanted=1&\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/18/us/median-income-and-poverty-rate-hold-steady-census-bureau-finds.html?pagewanted=1&_r=1).

<sup>2</sup> This study uses the American Community Survey PUMS (Public Use Microdata Series) data for all years considered here released by the Census Bureau and reorganized for public use by the Minnesota Population Center, University of Minnesota, IPUMSusa, (<https://usa.ipums.org/usa/index.shtml>). See Public Use Microdata Series Steven Ruggles, J. Trent Alexander, Katie Genadek, Ronald Goeken, Matthew B. Schroeder, and Matthew Sobek. Integrated Public Use Microdata Series: Version 5.0 [Machine-readable database]. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, 2010.

These data are different from those used by the Census Bureau in its report which was based on data from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. (See methodological appendix for an explanation). While the absolute median household incomes presented here differ from the Census Bureau's report, the trends are similar.

All dollar values have been adjusted for inflation into 2012 values. The study ends in 2011 because the PUMS data for 2012 had not been released when this report was written.



There were variations in trends among the City's largest Latino national subgroups. Between 1990 and 2011 New York City's growing Mexican population experienced a very stark -23.1% decline in median household incomes, although from 2005 to 2011 the fall was much lower at -2.0%. Ecuadorians had the lowest overall decline: -1.3% between 1990 and 2011 and a slight rise of 1.5% between 2005 and 2011. They were the only Latino national-origin group which had an increase in median household incomes after 2005. The City's Puerto Rican community saw a very marginal increase of 0.7% between 1990 and 2011, but between 2005 and 2011 the decline was -6.2%. For Dominicans there was an overall fall of -12.7% from 1990 to 2011, and a decline of -5.2% between 2005 and 2011. Finally, the median household income of Colombians fell -3.3% between 1990 and 2011 and -7.1% from 2005 to 2011.

Manhattan was the only New York City borough which experienced an increase in median household incomes between 1990 and 2011 at 18.0%, although there was a decline of -9.7% from 2005 to 2011. This was largely due to an extraordinary rise of 38.5% in the median household incomes of Manhattan's non-Hispanic whites between 1990 and 2011 and a 18.9% increase in median household incomes among the borough's Asian population. All other boroughs experienced declines in median household incomes between 1990 and 2011 ranging from -1.5% in Brooklyn to -13.9% in the Bronx.

The median household incomes of the City's Latino population fell in every borough between 1990 and 2011, although there was a slight rise in Manhattan (2.6%) and in Queens (0.3%) between 2005 and 2011.

These data suggest that despite the fact that such economic indicators as the Dow Jones Industrial average and the Standard and Poor's 500 Index are near record levels, the levels of economic well-being of the vast majority of New York City's population has been stagnant or declining over the past two decades, despite pockets of extraordinary wealth, especially among non-Hispanic whites and Asians. The data also suggest that the recession of 2007 - 2009 merely accentuated trends in the City which had been developing since 1990. Although median household incomes did fall after 2007 they had been stagnant or declining marginally over the two preceding decades.

**Trends in Median Household Income by Race/Ethnicity, 1990 - 2011**

Median household incomes for all households across the United States stagnated in real terms between 1990 and 2011 declining by -0.6% from \$60,546 to \$60,200. In New York City, there was a more significant decline of -4.7% from \$63,149 to \$60,180.

At the national level there were declines in median household incomes among non-Hispanic blacks (-3.7%) and Latinos (-4.2%) and gains of 3.3% among both non-Hispanic whites and Asians. (See table 1 and figures 1 and 2).

Table 1  
Median Household Incomes by Race/Ethnicity in the United States, 1990 - 2011  
(in inflation-adjusted 2012 dollars)

	1990	2000	2010	2011	Change in % 1990 - 2011
Total Households	\$ 60,546	\$ 64,372	\$ 63,105	\$ 60,200	-0.6%
Non-Hispanic White	\$ 63,879	\$ 69,160	\$ 68,256	\$ 65,994	3.3%
Non-Hispanic Black	\$ 40,994	\$ 46,018	\$ 43,050	\$ 39,474	-3.7%
Asian	\$ 77,889	\$ 81,396	\$ 85,050	\$ 80,478	3.3%
Latino	\$ 48,972	\$ 52,003	\$ 50,400	\$ 46,920	-4.2%

Over this same time period there were marginal rises in the median household incomes among the New York City’s non-Hispanic white (2.8%) and non-Hispanic black populations (0.7%). But for Asians (-9.2%) and Latinos (-3.6%) median household incomes declined in real terms from 1990 to 2011. (See table 2 and figures 3 and 4).<sup>3</sup>

There was also a fundamental difference in the median income hierarchy in New York City compared with the nation. Across the United States Asians earned the highest incomes and non-Hispanic blacks the lowest. However, in New York City non-Hispanic whites had the greatest median household incomes between 1990 and 2011 and Latinos had the lowest. (Compare figures 2 and 4).

<sup>3</sup> For detailed data on median household income by race/ethnicity and Latino nationalities by New York City borough see the statistical appendix to this report.

**Table 2**  
 Median Household Incomes by Race/Ethnicity in New York City, 1990 - 2011  
 (in inflation-adjusted 2012 dollars)

	1990	2000	2010	2011	Change in % 1990 - 2011
Total Households	\$ 63,149	\$ 59,850	\$ 61,845	\$ 60,180	-4.7%
Non-Hispanic White	\$ 78,348	\$ 79,800	\$ 84,000	\$ 80,580	2.8%
Non-Hispanic Black	\$ 55,004	\$ 53,200	\$ 52,500	\$ 55,386	0.7%
Asian	\$ 67,382	\$ 63,707	\$ 63,210	\$ 61,200	-9.2%
Latino	\$ 44,422	\$ 45,632	\$ 46,463	\$ 42,840	-3.6%

**Figure 1**  
 Median Household Income by Race/Ethnicity in the United States, 1990 - 2011  
 (in inflation adjusted 2012 dollars)

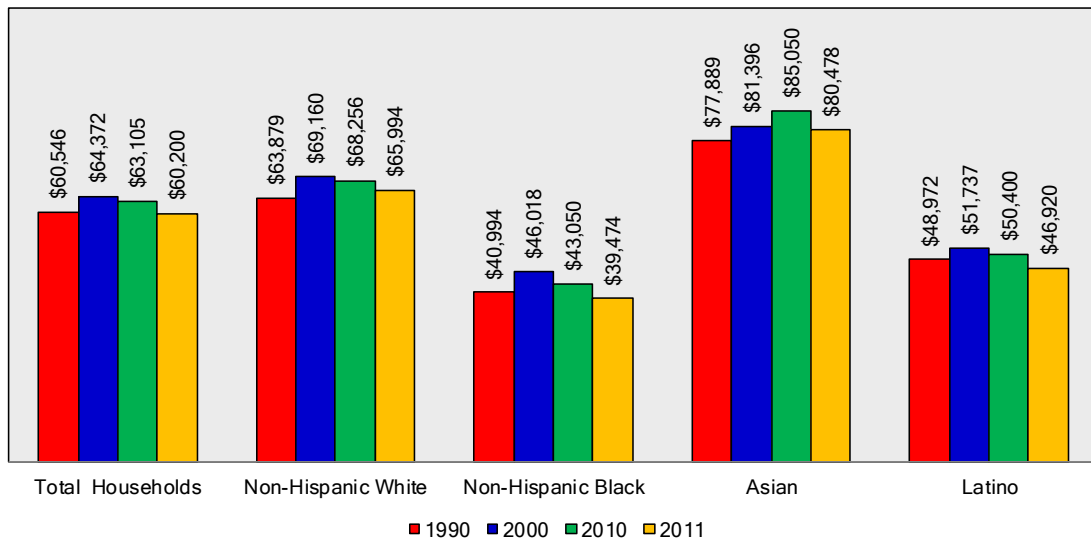


Figure 2  
Trends in Median Household Income by Race/Ethnicity in the United States, 1990 - 2011  
(in inflation adjusted 2012 dollars)

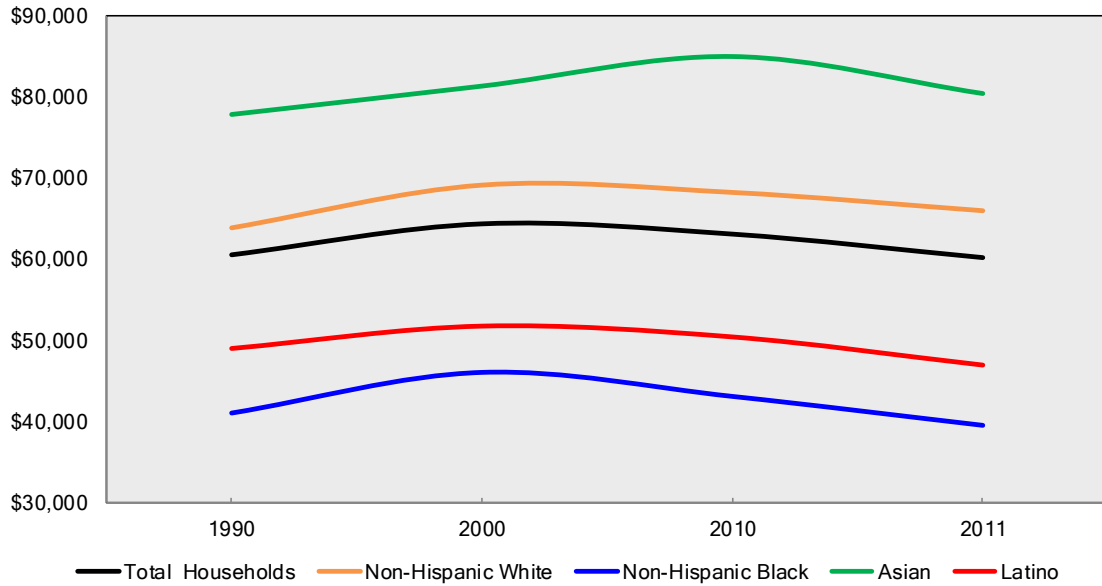


Figure 3  
Median Household Income by Race/Ethnicity in New York City, 1990 - 2011  
(in inflation adjusted 2012 dollars)

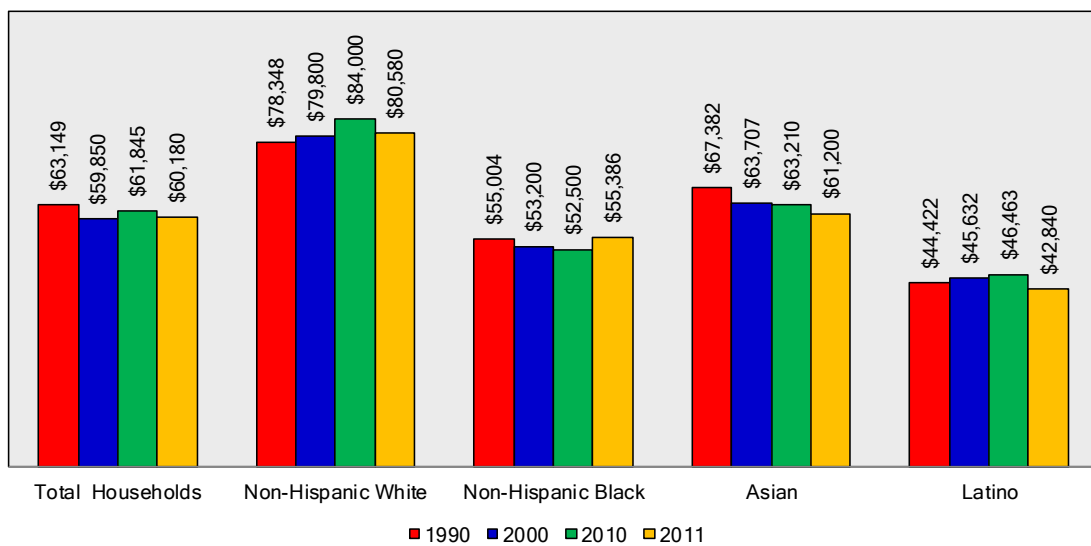
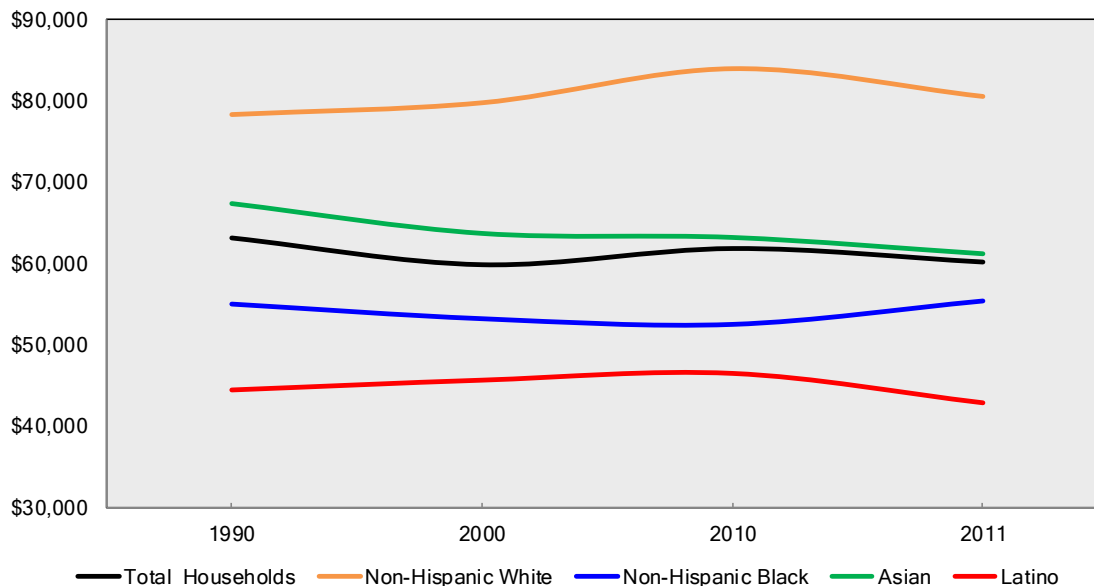


Figure 4  
Trends in Median Household Income by Race/Ethnicity in New York City, 1990 - 2011  
(in inflation adjusted 2012 dollars)



### Trends in Median Household Income by Latino Nationality, 1990 - 2011

With the exception of Puerto Ricans, who experienced a rise of 3.4% in median household incomes across the United States from 1990 to 2011, every other group saw a decline although among Colombians it was a marginal -0.7%. For Mexicans, who represent approximately two-thirds of the nation’s Latinos, there was a -5.1% fall in median household incomes. For Ecuadorians the decline was -4.7% and for Dominican households it was -3.3% from 1990 to 2011. (See table 3).

The patterns in New York City were very different. The Mexican community of the City experienced a cataclysmic -23.1% drop in their median household incomes between 1990 and 2011. This was largely due to the large-scale immigration of foreign-born Mexicans who had lower educational attainment and skill levels than the extant Mexican community in 1990. The Mexican-origin population of the city increased from about 58,000 in 1990 to over 340,000 in 2010 and most of this increase was because of immigration and high birth rates among the foreign-born population. Widespread employment in comparatively lower paying jobs lead to the decline in median household income noted above.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> See Laird W. Bergad, “Demographic, Economic and Social Transformations in the Mexican-Origin Population of the New York City Metropolitan Area, 1990 - 2010” Center for Latin American, Caribbean & Latino Studies, CUNY, Latino Data Project Report 49, September 2013 available at <http://web.gc.cuny.edu/lastudies/>

Table 3  
 Median Household Incomes by Largest Latino Nationalities  
 in the United States, 1990 - 2011  
 (in inflation-adjusted 2012 dollars)

	1990	2000	2010	2011	Change in % 1990 - 2011
Mexican	\$ 47,520	\$ 50,540	\$ 48,300	\$ 45,084	-5.1%
Puerto Rican	\$ 45,777	\$ 49,875	\$ 50,820	\$ 47,328	3.4%
Colombian	\$ 61,653	\$ 62,510	\$ 64,995	\$ 61,200	-0.7%
Ecuadorian	\$ 62,832	\$ 65,968	\$ 65,100	\$ 59,874	-4.7%
Dominican	\$ 44,000	\$ 46,763	\$ 47,250	\$ 42,534	-3.3%

Dominicans were the other Latino national subgroup in New York City who suffered significant declines in median household incomes of -12.7% between 1990 and 2011. For Puerto Ricans there was a very slight rise of 0.7%. There was a decline of -1.6% among Ecuadorian households. (See table 4). Figures 5 through 8 present graphic images of trends in median household incomes among Latino nationalities in the United States and New York City.

Table 4  
 Median Household Incomes by Largest Latino Nationalities  
 in New York City, 1990 - 2011  
 (in inflation-adjusted 2012 dollars)

	1990	2000	2010	2011	Change in % 1990 - 2011
Mexican	\$ 58,626	\$ 53,160	\$ 48,195	\$ 45,084	-23.1%
Puerto Rican	\$ 38,498	\$ 39,900	\$ 38,220	\$ 38,760	0.7%
Colombian	\$ 56,672	\$ 56,658	\$ 64,838	\$ 54,825	-3.3%
Ecuadorian	\$ 55,827	\$ 57,323	\$ 62,580	\$ 55,080	-1.3%
Dominican	\$ 39,706	\$ 42,427	\$ 42,000	\$ 34,680	-12.7%

Figure 5  
 Median Household Income by Largest Latino Nationalities in the United States, 1990 - 2011  
 (in inflation adjusted 2012 dollars)

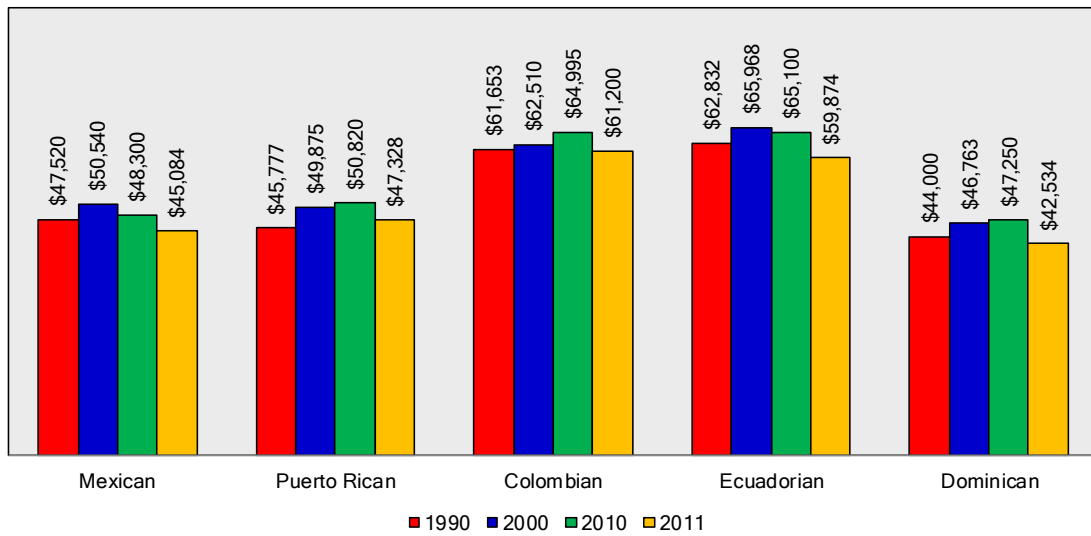


Figure 6  
 Trends in Median Household Income by Largest Latino Nationalities in the United States, 1990 - 2011  
 (in inflation adjusted 2012 dollars)

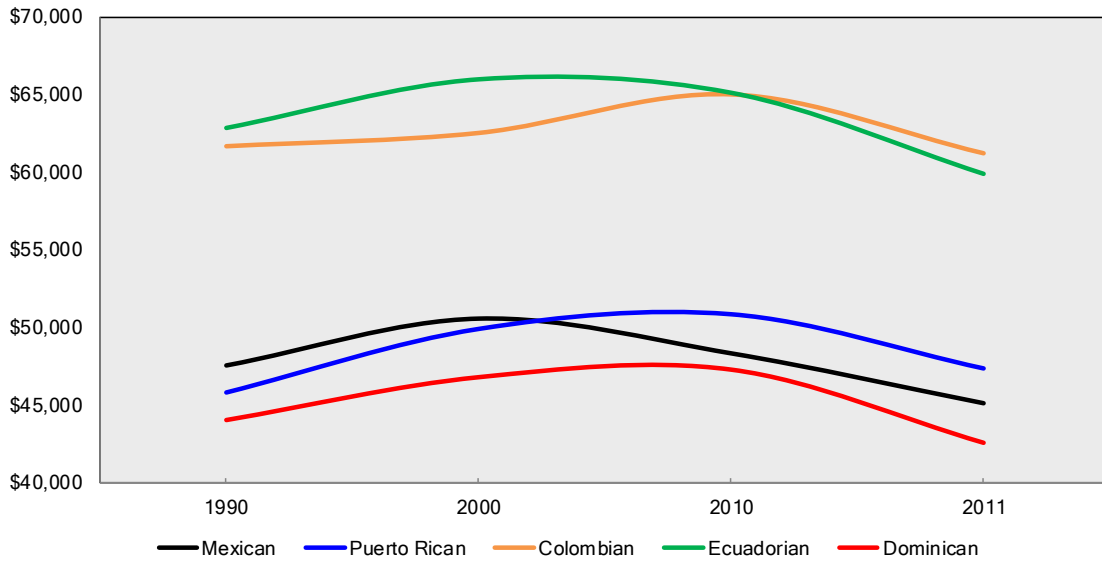


Figure 7  
 Median Household Income by Largest Latino Nationalities in New York City, 1990 - 2011  
 (in inflation adjusted 2012 dollars)

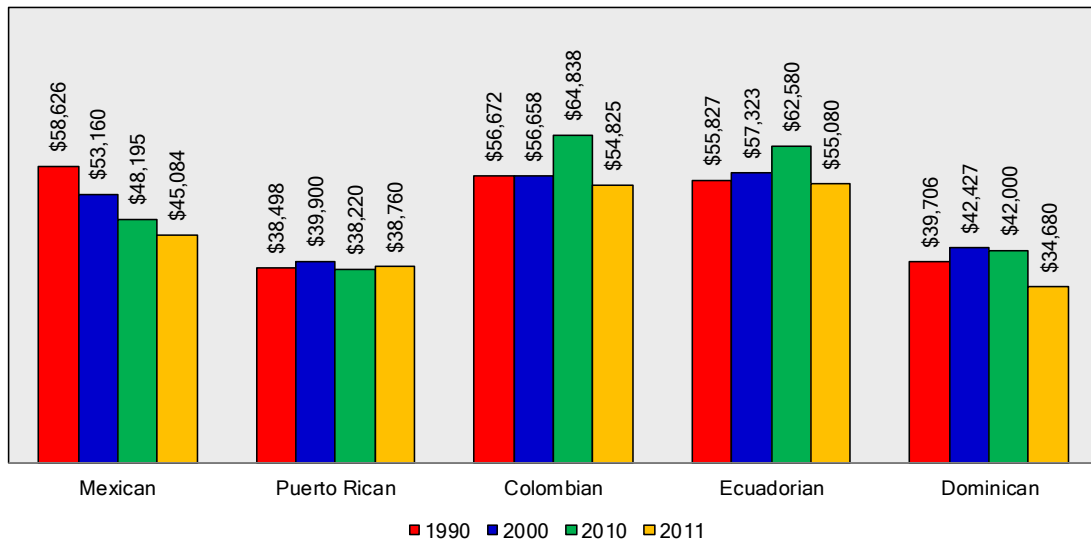
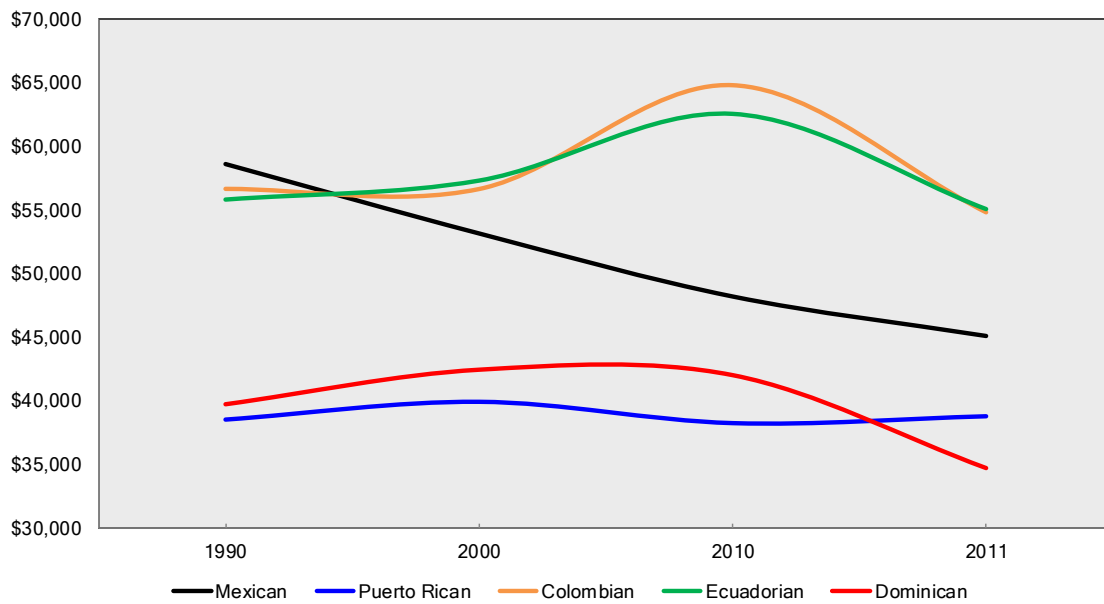


Figure 8  
 Trends in Median Household Income by Largest Latino Nationalities in New York City, 1990 - 2011  
 (in inflation adjusted 2012 dollars)





The hierarchy in median household incomes was similar across the United States and in New York City with Colombian and Ecuadorian households earning significantly more than Mexican, Puerto Rican, and Dominican households by 2011. In the City, Mexicans had significantly higher incomes in 1990, even greater than Colombians and Ecuadorians. However, these Mexican median household income levels fell continuously after 1990, and while somewhat higher than among Puerto Ricans and Dominicans in 2011, there was a clear approximation to these lower-earning national sub groups and a very sharp downward trend.

### **Measuring the Impact of the Economic Crisis of December 2007 - June 2009: Median Household Income, 2005 - 2011<sup>5</sup>**

There was a dramatic downturn in median household incomes throughout the United States between 2005 and 2011 and this affected all race/ethnic groups. This was in sharp contrast with the overall rise in median household incomes in the period between 1990 and 2005. From 1990 to 2005 these incomes rose 9.1% for all households; between 2005 and 2011 they fell by -8.9% a clear indicator of the impact of the economic downturn between late 2007 and 2009. Additionally, by 2011 the nation's income medians had not recovered to pre-recession levels.

Patterns were similar for all race/ethnic groups. Latinos earned median household incomes which were 6% higher in 2005 than in 1990; but by 2011 these income levels decline by -9.6% from 2005. Non-Hispanic blacks experienced a 9.4% increase in median household incomes between 1990 and 2005 and a -12.0% decline from 2005 to 2011. Non-Hispanic whites saw their median household incomes fall -6.8% between 2005 and 2011 after a 10.8% rise between 1990 and 2005. Finally, Asians, whose incomes grew by 9.1% from 1990 to 2005, experienced a decrease of -5.3% between 2005 and 2011. (See table 5 and figures 9 and 10). The sharpest declines for all groups were after 2007.

Among Latino nationalities throughout the United States, Puerto Ricans had the greatest increase in median household incomes between 1990 and 2005 at 17.5%; and the largest decline from 2005 to 2011, -12.0%. Mexicans had the second largest decline (-9.0%) between 2005 and 2011 after experiencing a rise of 4.3% in the previous period. Ecuadorians increased their median household incomes between 1990 and 2005 by 3.7% only to see a decline after 2005 of -8.1%. Colombians had an overall growth of 3.4% from 1990 to 2005, and a fall of -4.0% between 2005 and 2011. Finally, Dominicans, the poorest Latino national subgroup in the nation, experienced a meager 1.9% increase between 1990 and 2005 and a loss of -5.1% from 2005 to 2011. (See

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<sup>5</sup> For a general discussion of the recession which began in December 2007 and ended in official terms in June 2009 according to government sources see the February 2012 report of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, "The Recession of 2007 - 2009" available at: <http://www.bls.gov/spotlight/2012/recession/>

table 6 and figures 11 and 12). By 2011 none of these Latino nationalities had seen their median incomes return to pre-recession levels.

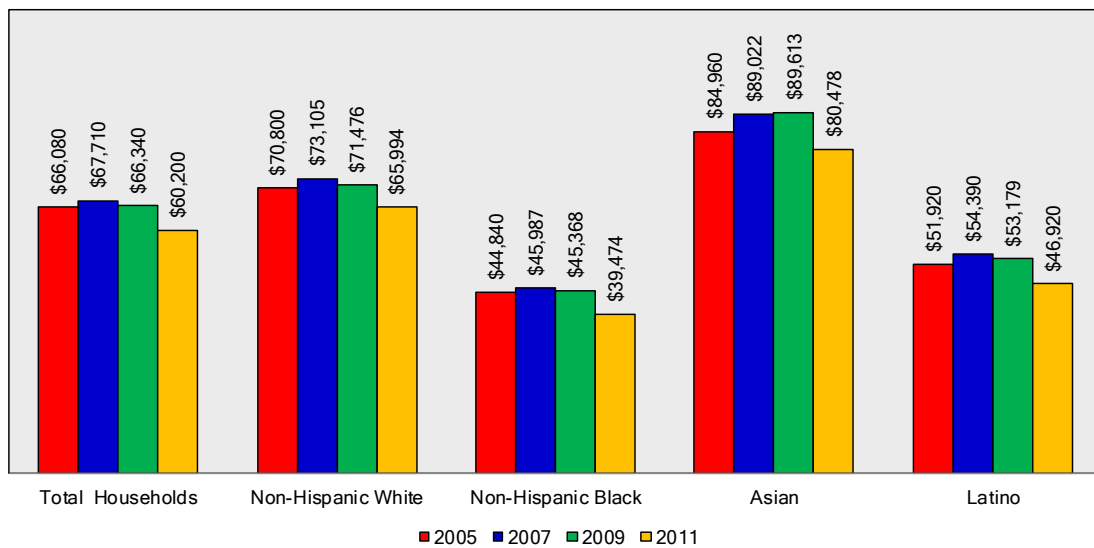
Table 5

Median Household Incomes by Race/Ethnicity in the United States  
 A Comparison of the 1990 - 2005 and 2005-2011 Periods  
 (in percentage increases or decreases)

	1990 - 2005	2005 - 2011
Total Households	9.1%	-8.9%
Non-Hispanic White	10.8%	-6.8%
Non-Hispanic Black	9.4%	-12.0%
Asian	9.1%	-5.3%
Latino	6.0%	-9.6%

Note: These data were calculated using inflation-adjusted 2012 dollars.

Figure 9  
 Median Household Income by Race/Ethnicity in the United States, 2005 - 2011  
 (in inflation adjusted 2012 dollars)



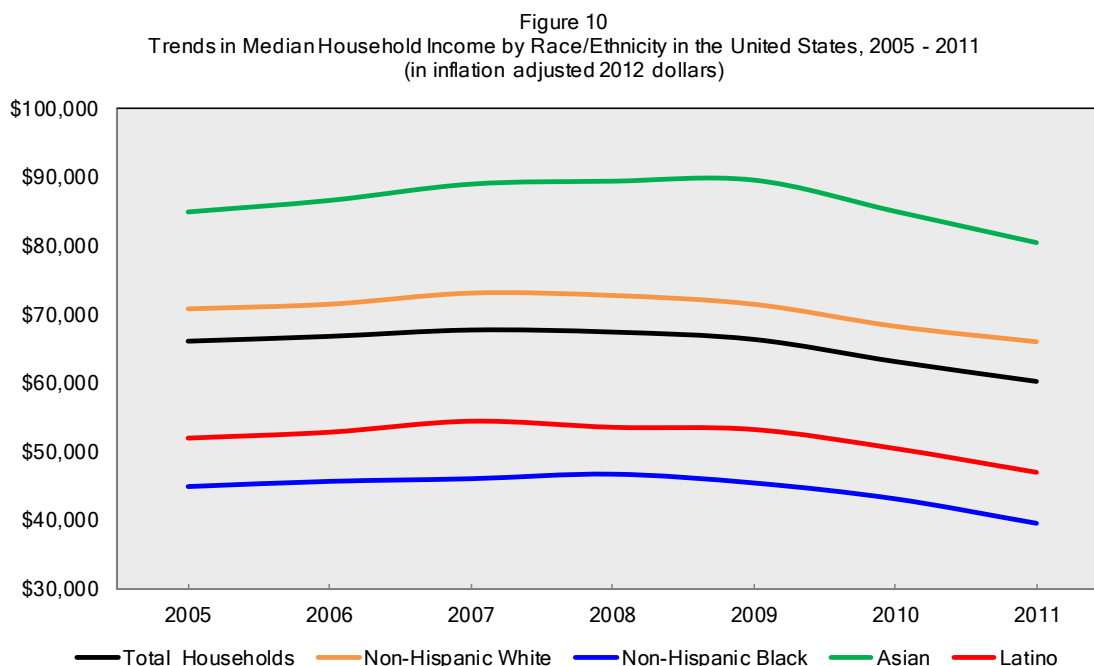


Table 6

Median Household Incomes by Latino Nationality in the United States  
A Comparison of the 1990 - 2005 and 2005-2011 Periods  
(in percentage increases or decreases)

	1990 - 2005	2005 - 2011
Mexican	4.3%	-9.0%
Puerto Rican	17.5%	-12.0%
Colombian	3.4%	-4.0%
Ecuadorian	3.7%	-8.1%
Dominican	1.9%	-5.1%

Note: These data were calculated using inflation-adjusted 2012 dollars.

Figure 11  
 Median Household Income by Largest Latino Nationalities in the United States, 2005 - 2011  
 (in inflation adjusted 2012 dollars)

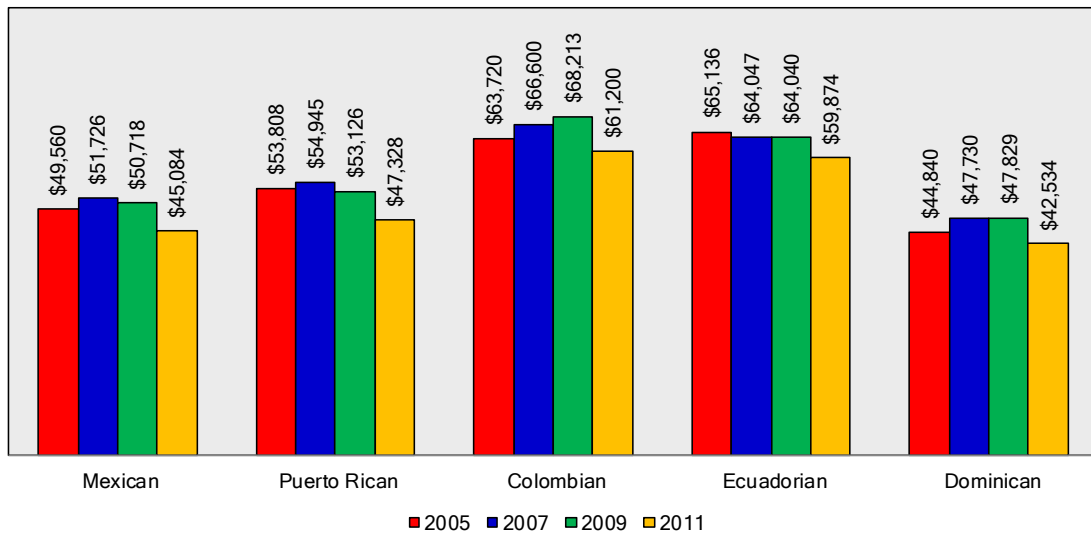
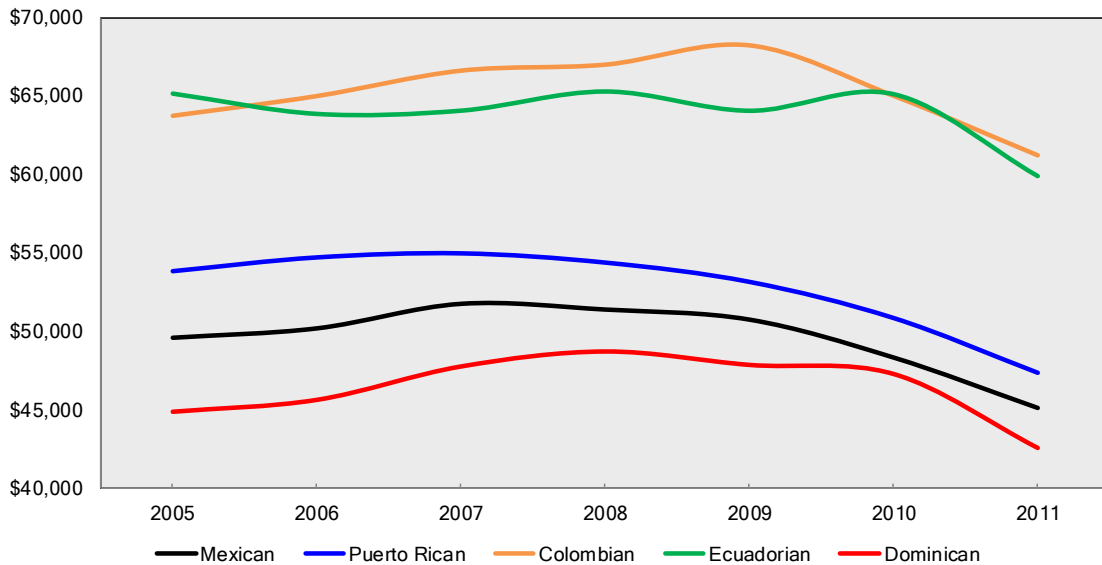


Figure 12  
 Trends in Median Household Income by Largest Latino Nationalities in the United States, 2005 - 2011  
 (in inflation adjusted 2012 dollars)



In New York City the patterns in household income change between both 1990 and 2005 and 2005 and 2011 were somewhat different from those found across the United States. First and foremost all households in New York City experienced a very slight increase in their median incomes from 1990 to 2005 (0.9%) compared with a 9.1% rise throughout the United States. Second, New York households experienced a fall in median incomes of -5.6% between 2005 and 2011 which was not quite as severe as the -8.9% found in the U.S. in the same period.

Latinos saw their median household incomes decline by -5.5% in the City from 2005 to 2011 and this compared to -7.4% among Asians, -2.4% for non-Hispanic whites, and -2.2% among non-Hispanic blacks. For Latinos this drop was not as high as found in the United States which was -9.6%. (See table 7).

Table 7

**Median Household Incomes by Race/Ethnicity in New York City**  
**A Comparison of the 1990 - 2005 and 2005-2011 Periods**  
 (in percentage increases or decreases)

	1990 - 2005	2005 - 2011
Total Households	0.9%	-5.6%
Non-Hispanic White	5.4%	-2.4%
Non-Hispanic Black	3.0%	-2.2%
Asian	-1.9%	-7.4%
Latino	2.0%	-5.5%

Note: These data were calculated using inflation-adjusted 2012 dollars.

Another major difference was in the hierarchy of median household incomes by race/ethnicity. In the United States as a whole Asians were the highest income earners while in New York City it was non-Hispanic whites and this was the case in all periods, not only 2005 - 2011. Additionally, non-Hispanic blacks were the poorest group in the U.S. while in New York City it was Latinos. (See figures 13 and 14).

Figure 13  
 Median Household Income by Race/Ethnicity in New York City, 2005 - 2011  
 (in inflation adjusted 2012 dollars)

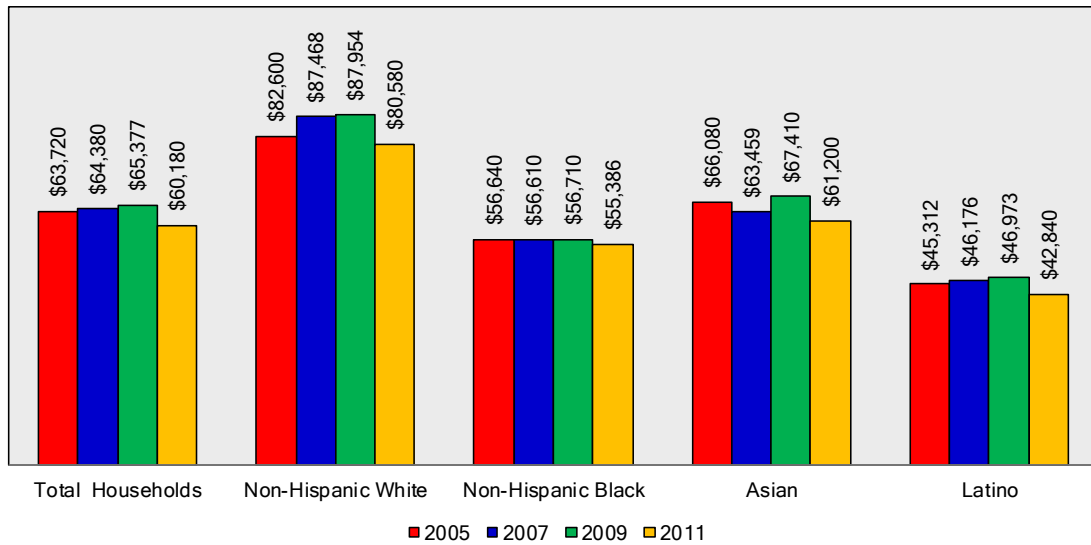
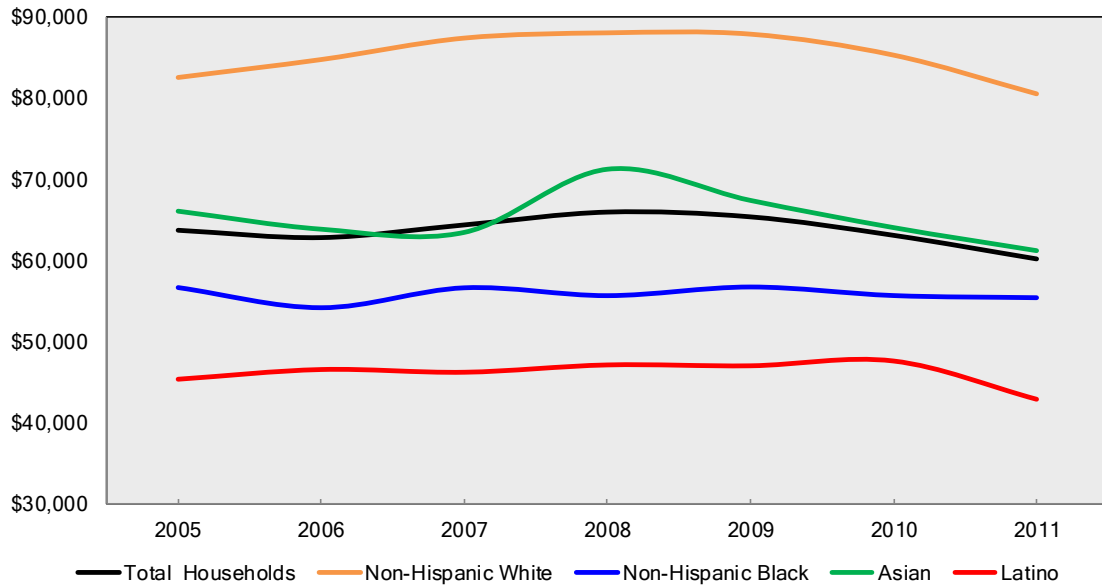


Figure 14  
 Trends in Median Household Income by Race/Ethnicity in New York City, 2005 - 2011  
 (in inflation adjusted 2012 dollars)



These data must be framed within the context of the economic recession of 2007 - 2009 and its impact on the City’s population. There is no question that there was a downturn in median household incomes for all race/ethnic groups in the City after 2005. However, this decline was part of a longer process of stagnation and marginal changes in median household incomes which date back at least to 1990. Between 1990 and 2000, well before the onset of the economic crisis of late 2007, median household income in inflation-adjusted dollars had declined for the City’s entire population. In fact, between 2000 and 2010, despite the recession of 2007 - 2009, median incomes for every race/ethnic group in the City increased to some extent or declined slightly, although there was a subsequent decline between 2010 and 2011. (See table 8 for precise data). Thus, over the long term, the recession of 2007 - 2009 had a somewhat limited impact on median household incomes in New York City. The decline was accentuated to be sure, but it was part of a longer-term process which was at least two-decades old.

Table 8  
 Median Household Incomes by Race/Ethnicity in New York City  
 A Comparison of the 1990 - 2000 and 2000-2010 Periods  
 (in percentage increases or decreases)

	1990 - 2000	2000 - 2010
Total Households	-5.2%	3.3%
Non-Hispanic White	1.9%	5.3%
Non-Hispanic Black	-3.3%	-1.3%
Asian	-5.5%	-0.8%
Latino	2.7%	1.8%

Note: These data were calculated using inflation-adjusted 2012 dollars.

For the City's Latino nationalities there was also a departure in the patterns found across the United States. Among Puerto Ricans in the City, the largest Latino nationality, the decline in median household incomes between 2005 and 2011 was somewhat smaller at -6.2% than the national-level decline of -12.0% among Puerto Rican households. However, the increases among Puerto Ricans in the previous period, 1990 - 2005, of 7.3% in the City were also smaller than the 17.5% national-level rise.

The tendencies in median household incomes among the City's Dominican population were also different than found at the national level. First, and foremost, prior to the onset of the recession, Dominicans experienced significant declines in median household incomes. Between 1990 and 2005 these dropped by -7.9% followed by a -5.2% fall from 2005 to 2011. Thus, the recession of 2007-2009 had absolutely no impact on household incomes among Dominicans living in New York City. Previous downward trends simply continued.

As noted previously the City's Mexican-origin population had suffered an extraordinary -21.5% drop in median household income between 1990 and 2005, and this was followed by a decline of -2.0% between 2005 and 2011. Thus, as was the case with Dominicans the recession does not seem to have had any negative impacts among the City's Mexican households. In fact the rate of decline slowed.

For Ecuadorians, there was actually an increase in median household incomes between 2005 and 2011 of a modest 1.5%, and this followed a decline of -2.8% from 1990 to 2005. Again, the recession had no effect on household income among the City's Ecuadorians.

Colombians experienced a decline in their median household incomes of -7.1% between 2005 and 2011 after a 4.1% rise from 1990 to 2005.

Thus, in the City the economic downturn of 2007-2009 affected the major Latino national subgroups in different ways. Puerto Ricans and Colombians saw prior gains wiped away. But for Mexicans, Dominicans, and Ecuadorians there seems to have been little impact. The precise reasons for these different patterns are not clear from the data examined for this report.

By 2011 Puerto Ricans and Dominicans were at the bottom of the household income-earning hierarchy; Mexicans in the middle; and Colombians and Ecuadorians were at the top. (See table 9 and figures 15 and 16).



Table 9

Median Household Incomes by Latino Nationality in New York City  
 A Comparison of the 1990 - 2005 and 2005-2011 Periods  
 (in percentage increases or decreases)

	1990 - 2005	2005 - 2011
Mexican	-21.5%	-2.0%
Puerto Rican	7.3%	-6.2%
Colombian	4.1%	-7.1%
Ecuadorian	-2.8%	1.5%
Dominican	-7.9%	-5.2%

Note: These data were calculated using inflation-adjusted 2012 dollars.

Figure 15  
 Median Household Income by Largest Latino Nationalities in New York City, 2005 - 2011  
 (in inflation adjusted 2012 dollars)

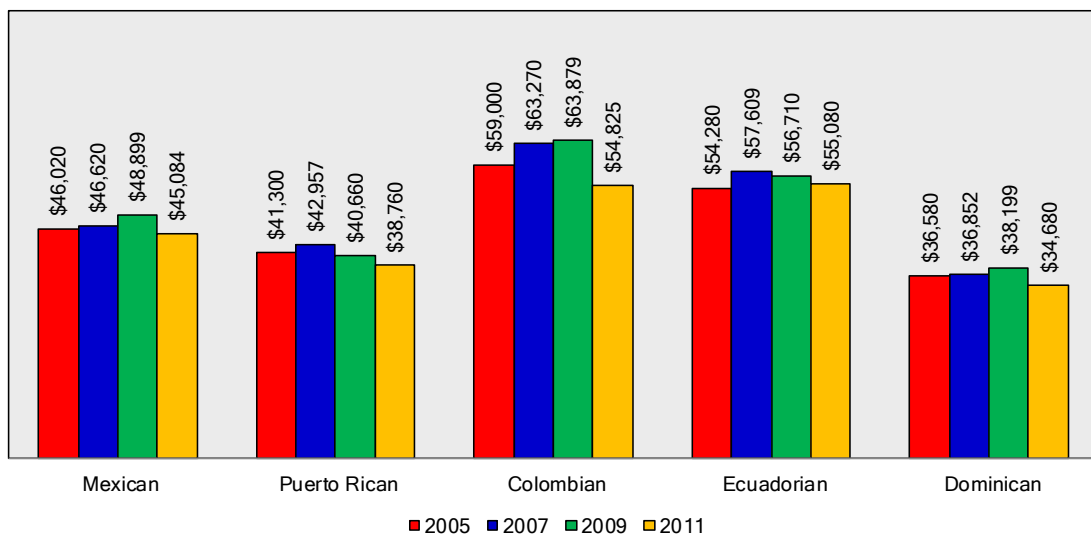
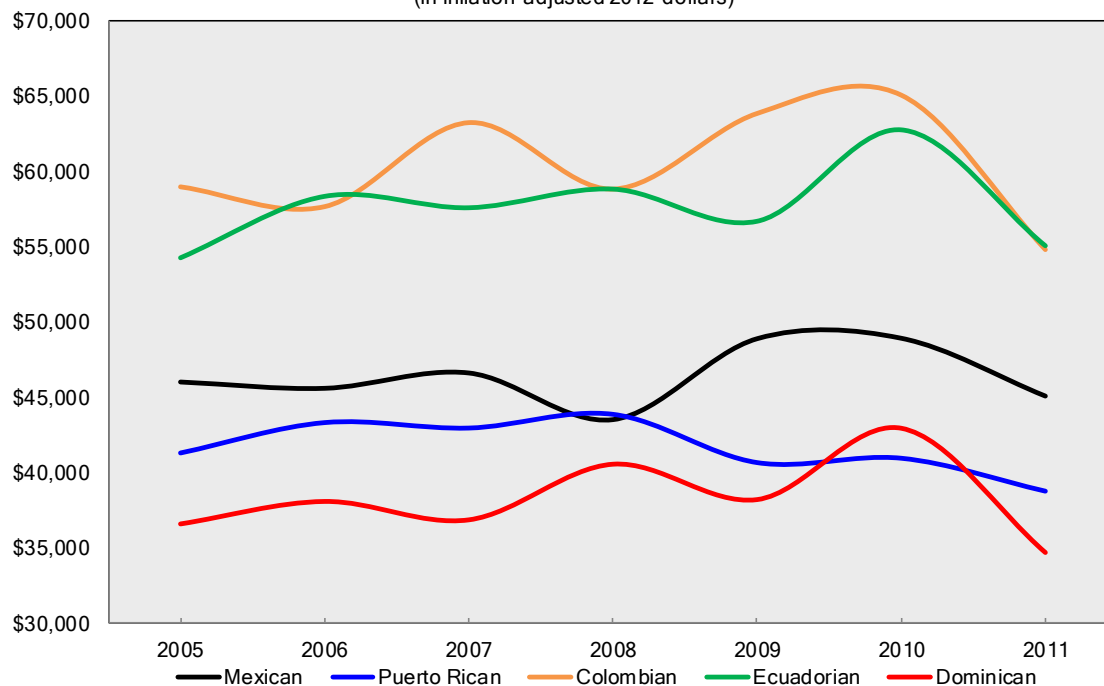


Figure 16  
Trends in Median Household Income by Largest Latino Nationalities in New York City, 2005 - 2011  
(in inflation adjusted 2012 dollars)



**Conclusion**

This study indicates that, for Latinos in New York City, the changes in median household incomes between 1990 and 2011 departed somewhat from those found across the United States. While the overall trend downward was similar, a decline of -4.2% throughout the nation and a fall of -3.6% among the Latino population of the City, the impact of the recession of December 2007 - June 2009 was different.

Latinos throughout the U.S. experienced a real increase in median household incomes in inflation-adjusted 2012 dollars between 1990 and 2005 of 6.0%. Over this same period the median household incomes of New York City Latinos rose by 2.0%. However, after 2005, paradoxically perhaps, Latinos in the City lost -5.5% of their median household incomes to 2011, a percentage which was lower when compared with the -9.6% decline among Latinos at the national level over the same period. In both the City and across the nation Latinos earned less median household incomes in 2011 than in 1990 in inflation-adjusted dollars. The precise reasons for this deteriorating situation are not revealed by the data examined for this study. They are in all likelihood related to the long-term concentration of income among the wealthiest households of all race/ethnic groups in the U.S. and in the City. Nevertheless, the economic downturn that

began in December 2007 resulted in a drop in median household incomes among Latinos, but these were part of long-term stagnant or downward trends.

One other aspect should be noted. Latinos had the lowest median household incomes in the City in all years between 1990 and 2011. In the U.S. as a whole non-Hispanic blacks were at the bottom of the median household income hierarchy.

The City's five largest Latino national subgroups experienced different patterns of median income change. Puerto Ricans did better in that their median household incomes increased ever so slightly by 0.7% over this period. However, Puerto Ricans, along with Dominicans, were the poorest of the City's Latino nationalities. Dominicans suffered a -12.7% decline in median household incomes between 1990 and 2011.

Mexicans experienced the largest drop, -23.1%. A factor was the large-scale arrival of poorer Mexican immigrants to the City after 1990 who found jobs, to be sure, but in lower-paying entry level occupations. Colombians and Ecuadorians were the City's highest-earning Latino nationalities, but they both earned less in 2011 than in 1990 -3.3% for Colombians and -1.3 % among Ecuadorian households.

The absence of improvements in median incomes among the City's Latinos between 1990 and 2011 is clear. However, this does not mean that those at the upper levels of the income-earning hierarchy did not improve their situations. Latinos are no by any means a homogeneous community in the City from a socioeconomic perspective. Medians indicate that 50% of households earned more and 50% earned less than the median. In order to better understand the economic performance of the City's Latino population CLALCS will be studying changes in income distribution patterns for a more complete understanding of longer-term economic trends, and the impact of the recession of 2007 - 2009. This report will be released sometime in November 2013 or early December.

Statistical Appendix

Table 10  
 Median Household Incomes by Race/Ethnicity by New York City Borough  
 1990 - 2011  
 (in inflation-adjusted 2012 dollars)

Total Population

	1990	2000	2010	2011
Bronx	\$ 46,802	\$ 44,196	\$ 42,000	\$ 40,290
Manhattan	\$ 60,496	\$ 66,088	\$ 81,900	\$ 71,400
Staten Island	\$ 89,760	\$ 84,794	\$ 94,605	\$ 85,680
Brooklyn	\$ 56,672	\$ 53,200	\$ 53,970	\$ 55,794
Queens	\$ 73,920	\$ 67,963	\$ 68,250	\$ 68,340
New York City	\$ 63,149	\$ 59,850	\$ 61,845	\$ 60,180

Non-Hispanic Whites

	1990	2000	2010	2011
Bronx	\$ 69,150	\$ 68,695	\$ 64,470	\$ 64,770
Manhattan	\$ 95,040	\$ 114,380	\$ 126,105	\$ 131,584
Staten Island	\$ 93,999	\$ 92,036	\$ 100,700	\$ 92,208
Brooklyn	\$ 67,918	\$ 63,973	\$ 63,000	\$ 67,218
Queens	\$ 77,440	\$ 74,480	\$ 76,650	\$ 77,522
New York City	\$ 78,348	\$ 79,800	\$ 84,000	\$ 80,580

Non-Hispanic Blacks

	1990	2000	2010	2011
Bronx	\$ 49,280	\$ 47,880	\$ 44,940	\$ 46,308
Manhattan	\$ 39,600	\$ 38,570	\$ 39,270	\$ 42,208
Staten Island	\$ 49,863	\$ 53,200	\$ 54,600	\$ 60,282
Brooklyn	\$ 52,800	\$ 51,205	\$ 52,500	\$ 50,592
Queens	\$ 78,132	\$ 73,090	\$ 69,300	\$ 76,500
New York City	\$ 55,004	\$ 53,200	\$ 52,500	\$ 55,386

Asians

	1990	2000	2010	2011
Bronx	\$ 56,320	\$ 59,850	\$ 52,763	\$ 49,980
Manhattan	\$ 51,480	\$ 55,946	\$ 74,025	\$ 61,200
Staten Island	\$ 107,360	\$ 100,482	\$ 90,374	\$ 82,697
Brooklyn	\$ 59,664	\$ 51,870	\$ 54,495	\$ 56,100
Queens	\$ 75,680	\$ 69,160	\$ 66,150	\$ 63,240
New York City	\$ 67,382	\$ 63,707	\$ 63,210	\$ 61,200

Latinos

	1990	2000	2010	2011
Bronx	\$ 35,418	\$ 36,974	\$ 35,070	\$ 32,630
Manhattan	\$ 38,720	\$ 41,363	\$ 45,927	\$ 38,250
Staten Island	\$ 70,840	\$ 63,793	\$ 81,375	\$ 68,340
Brooklyn	\$ 41,852	\$ 42,560	\$ 44,100	\$ 40,596
Queens	\$ 62,586	\$ 59,850	\$ 61,635	\$ 59,160
New York City	\$ 44,422	\$ 45,632	\$ 46,463	\$ 42,840

Table 11  
 Median Household Incomes by Latino Nationality by New York City Borough  
 1990 - 2011  
 (in inflation-adjusted 2012 dollars)

Mexicans

	1990	2000	2010	2011
Bronx	\$ 49,752	\$ 44,821	\$ 42,000	\$ 37,842
Manhattan	\$ 56,320	\$ 55,328	\$ 71,400	\$ 47,124
Staten Island	\$ 86,240	\$ 43,225	\$ 52,500	\$ 32,640
Brooklyn	\$ 52,210	\$ 47,548	\$ 44,205	\$ 39,168
Queens	\$ 71,724	\$ 61,446	\$ 58,800	\$ 54,060
New York City	\$ 58,626	\$ 53,160	\$ 48,195	\$ 45,084

Puerto Ricans

	1990	2000	2010	2011
Bronx	\$ 33,679	\$ 33,915	\$ 30,891	\$ 31,620
Manhattan	\$ 33,862	\$ 30,856	\$ 31,500	\$ 33,721
Staten Island	\$ 68,640	\$ 73,084	\$ 90,143	\$ 71,400
Brooklyn	\$ 35,200	\$ 37,639	\$ 37,800	\$ 36,720
Queens	\$ 67,055	\$ 62,776	\$ 57,750	\$ 56,610
New York City	\$ 38,498	\$ 39,900	\$ 38,220	\$ 38,760

Colombians

	1990	2000	2010	2011
Bronx	\$ 49,104	\$ 42,560	\$ 64,733	\$ 47,634
Manhattan	\$ 55,616	\$ 60,116	\$ 76,246	\$ 49,572
Staten Island	\$ 71,921	\$ 69,160	\$ 77,700	\$ 87,210
Brooklyn	\$ 46,798	\$ 56,791	\$ 54,600	\$ 69,972
Queens	\$ 59,840	\$ 56,791	\$ 65,100	\$ 53,040
New York City	\$ 56,672	\$ 56,658	\$ 64,838	\$ 54,825

Ecuadorians

	1990	2000	2010	2011
Bronx	\$ 35,288	\$ 51,737	\$ 70,350	\$ 49,980
Manhattan	\$ 42,824	\$ 51,072	\$ 63,735	\$ 48,042
Staten Island	\$ 45,584	\$ 53,200	\$ 107,940	\$ 57,120
Brooklyn	\$ 56,677	\$ 49,210	\$ 49,350	\$ 46,308
Queens	\$ 64,141	\$ 63,574	\$ 62,580	\$ 61,200
New York City	\$ 55,827	\$ 57,323	\$ 62,580	\$ 55,080

Dominicans

	1990	2000	2010	2011
Bronx	\$ 33,440	\$ 37,639	\$ 34,650	\$ 27,540
Manhattan	\$ 36,907	\$ 41,230	\$ 42,525	\$ 33,150
Staten Island	\$ 105,803	\$ 49,915	\$ 67,200	\$ 63,240
Brooklyn	\$ 40,480	\$ 40,565	\$ 46,200	\$ 33,252
Queens	\$ 54,588	\$ 55,860	\$ 64,785	\$ 60,180
New York City	\$ 39,706	\$ 42,427	\$ 42,000	\$ 34,680

## Methodological Appendix

The report issued by the U.S. Census Bureau, Carmen DeNavas-Walt, Bernadette D. Proctor, Jessica C. Smith, “Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2012” (U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration, U.S. Census Bureau, September 2013), utilizes data from the Current Population Survey (CPS). This report uses data from the American Community Survey (ACS).

One major difference in the two data sets is the size of the sample. The CPS collects data over the course of a year from about 100,000 ‘addresses’ across the United States. The ACS collects data on about 3,000,000 ‘addresses’ in the same time frame.

The CPS is conducted by telephone and personal-visit interviews, asks a detailed series of questions on income, and is voluntary. The ACS is mandatory and includes responses obtained by mail, telephone, and personal-visit interviews. (See “Fact Sheet - Differences Between CPS ASEC and ACS” at:

<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/about/datasources/factsheet.html>

Because of the larger sample size the ACS was used as the raw data for this report. This is especially important because the samples from New York City are significantly larger, and the ACS permits an analysis of the City’s major Latino nationalities which the CPS does not because of its small sample size.

The raw data from the ACS were analyzed using IBM SPSS Statistics (formerly SPSS, Statistical Package for the Social Sciences).

The absolute median household income figures (adjusted for inflation into 2012 dollars for all years) derived from these yearly ACS data files differ substantially from the data from the CPS and published in the above-cited report. The reasons for this differentiation are not entirely clear. However, the trends indicated over time are similar, although the time frame in the Census Bureau report is fairly limited and focuses on 2011 and 2012 despite presentation of historical data. For the purposes of this report a larger time frame has been utilized so that trends may be established for both longer (1990 - 2011) and shorter (2005 - 2011) time periods. The latter clearly measures the impact of the post-2007 recession.

This report ends in 2011 because the ACS data for 2012 were not released by IPUMS as of the writing of this report.

All income values have been converted into 2012 dollars using the inflation calculator of the Bureau of Labor Statistics. (See [http://www.bls.gov/data/inflation\\_calculator.htm](http://www.bls.gov/data/inflation_calculator.htm)).