

# Low Income

The Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity and the State Demographer's Office, uses the U.S. Census Bureau as one of its main sources for Population Data and Data Terminology. The U.S. Census Bureau does not use the term "Low Income" as a term of measure for its income data collected from the American Community Survey (ACS) or the Current Population Survey (CPS), etc. Therefore, when looking for census data based on the term "Low Income", you will likely be asked to define the income parameters which constitute your definition of "Low Income".

The reason for this is that the data collected by the U.S. Census Bureau is not qualified as low, medium, or high, but present as ranges of income as presented:

**Table: S1901**

**INCOME IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS (IN 2014 INFLATION-ADJUSTED DOLLARS)** ⓘ  
**2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates**

Subject	Phoenix city, Arizona							
	Households		Families		Married-couple families		Nonfamily households	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
<b>Total</b>	520,856	+/-3,352	329,835	+/-3,025	214,948	+/-3,131	191,021	+/-2,767
<b>Less than \$10,000</b>	9.0%	+/-0.3	7.6%	+/-0.3	3.0%	+/-0.3	13.9%	+/-0.6
<b>\$10,000 to \$14,999</b>	5.6%	+/-0.3	4.2%	+/-0.3	2.3%	+/-0.2	8.4%	+/-0.5
<b>\$15,000 to \$24,999</b>	11.6%	+/-0.3	10.3%	+/-0.3	7.5%	+/-0.4	14.5%	+/-0.6
<b>\$25,000 to \$34,999</b>	11.4%	+/-0.3	10.6%	+/-0.4	9.0%	+/-0.4	13.1%	+/-0.5
<b>\$35,000 to \$49,999</b>	14.9%	+/-0.3	13.8%	+/-0.4	12.5%	+/-0.4	16.6%	+/-0.6
<b>\$50,000 to \$74,999</b>	17.6%	+/-0.4	18.1%	+/-0.5	19.3%	+/-0.6	15.7%	+/-0.5
<b>\$75,000 to \$99,999</b>	10.9%	+/-0.3	11.9%	+/-0.4	14.4%	+/-0.5	8.4%	+/-0.4
<b>\$100,000 to \$149,999</b>	11.2%	+/-0.3	13.4%	+/-0.4	17.7%	+/-0.6	6.1%	+/-0.4
<b>\$150,000 to \$199,999</b>	3.9%	+/-0.2	5.1%	+/-0.2	7.1%	+/-0.3	1.6%	+/-0.2
<b>\$200,000 or more</b>	3.9%	+/-0.2	5.1%	+/-0.2	7.3%	+/-0.3	1.6%	+/-0.2
<b>Median income (dollars)</b>	46,881	+/-448	53,976	+/-643	69,782	+/-825	34,957	+/-746
<b>Mean income (dollars)</b>	65,770	+/-577	74,099	+/-782	90,874	+/-1,049	47,668	+/-984
<b>PERCENT IMPUTED</b>								
<b>Household income in the past 12 months</b>	32.9%	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
<b>Family income in the past 12 months</b>	(X)	(X)	33.8%	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
<b>Nonfamily income in the past 12 months</b>	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)			

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

This example from the American Community Survey shows how the data is presented. The data, as with other Census Bureau surveys, which present income data, does not present levels of income (low, medium, or high), but show all income in ranges. Therefore, it is not possible to accurately determine "Low Income" from the data that is presented. The income data is relative to the amount of other income levels in the area or jurisdiction being researched. Levels of income (low, medium, or high) must be determined by the researcher/data user.