

Income and Income Sources

This survey accompanies a measure in the SPARQTools.org [Measuring Mobility toolkit](#), which provides practitioners curated instruments for assessing mobility from poverty and tools for selecting the most appropriate measures for their programs.

Age: Teen, Adult

Duration: 3-5 minutes

Reading Level: 6th to 8th grade

Number of items: 28

Answer Format: These questions are administered verbally by an interviewer. The questions have different answer formats and can be used individually.

Source:

Adapted and shortened for lower-income families:

U.S. Census Bureau (2015). *Current Population Survey Interviewing Manual*. Retrieved from

https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/methodology/intman/CPS_Manual_April2015.pdf.

U.S. Census (2017). *2016 Current Population Survey 2017 Annual Social and Economic (ASEC) Supplement Survey*. Retrieved from

<https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar17.pdf>.

Gross Income Estimate

Family Income

1. Which category represents the total combined income of all members of this FAMILY during the past 12 months? This includes money from jobs, net income from business, farm or rent, pensions, dividends, interest, social security payments and any other money income received by members of this family who are 15 years of age or older?

- a. Less than \$5,000
- b. 5,000 to 7,499
- c. 7,500 to 9,999
- d. 10,000 to 12,499
- e. 12,500 to 14,999
- f. 15,000 to 19,999
- g. 20,000 to 24,999
- h. 25,000 to 29,999
- i. 30,000 to 34,999
- j. 35,000 to 39,999
- k. 40,000 to 49,999
- l. 50,000 to 59,999
- m. 60,000 to 74,999
- n. 75,000 to 99,999
- o. 100,000 to 149,000
- p. 150,000 to more

Income by Source

Earned Income

2. How much did [name/you] earn from this employer before taxes and other deductions during [year]?

Enter dollar amount: _____ (enter 0 for none)

Ask only if the respondent "Doesn't know" or 'Refused':

3. Could you tell me if [name/you] earned:
- a. less than \$45,000
 - b. between \$45,000 and \$60,000
 - c. or over \$60,000

for the TOTAL yearly amount from this employer before taxes and other deductions during [year]?

4. Did [name/you] earn less than \$15,000 between \$15,000 and \$30,000 or over \$30,000 from this employer during {year}?

- a. Less than \$15,000
- b. Between \$15,000 and \$30,000
- c. Over \$30,000

5. Is this a weekly, every other week, twice a month, monthly, or yearly amount?

- a. Weekly
- b. Every other week
- c. Twice a month
- d. Monthly
- e. Yearly

6. For how many [weekly/every other week/twice a month/monthly] pay periods did [name/you] earn (fill from {above}) from this employer in {year}?

- a. Weekly: _____ (1-52)
- b. Every other week: _____ (1-26)
- c. Twice a month: _____ (1-24)
- d. Monthly: _____ (1-12)

7. According to my calculations [name/you] earned (total) altogether from this employer in {year} before deductions. Does that sound about right?

- a. Yes
- b. No

8. Does this amount include all tips, bonuses, overtime pay, or commissions [name/you] may have received from this employer in {year}?

- a. Yes
- b. No

9. How much did [name/you] earn in tips, bonuses, overtime pay, or commissions from this employer in {year}?

Enter dollar amount: _____

Child Support (Source)

10. During {year} did [you/ anyone in this household] receive any child support payments?

- a. Yes
- b. No

Read only if necessary:

11. Who received these payments?

12. What is the easiest way for you to tell us [name's/your] child support payments; weekly, every other week, twice a month, monthly, or yearly?

- a. Weekly
- b. Every other week (bi-weekly)
- c. Twice a month
- d. Monthly
- e. Yearly

13. How much did [name/you] receive (weekly/ every other week/ twice a month/monthly) in child support payments in {year}?

Enter dollar amount: _____

Regular Financial Assistance

14. Any regular financial assistance from friends or relatives not living in this household? (Do not include loans)

- a. Yes
- b. No

Read only if necessary:

15. Who received this assistance?

16. What is the easiest way for you to tell us [name's/you] regular financial assistance; weekly, every other week, twice a month, monthly, or yearly?

- a. Weekly
- b. Every other week (bi-weekly)
- c. Twice a month
- d. Monthly
- e. Yearly

17. How much did [name/you] receive (weekly/every other week/twice a month/monthly) in regular financial assistance in {year}?

Enter dollar amount: _____

Public Assistance

(Ask about type/source; then for each type/source ask amount)

18. At any time during {year}, even for one month, did [you/ anyone in this household] receive any FINANCIAL assistance from the following sources?

- a. Unemployment and Workers Compensation
- b. TANF (State Program Name)/General Assistance/Diversion payments
- c. SSI
- d. Food stamps (SNAP)
- e. WIC
- f. Energy assistance
- g. Housing assistance
- h. Child Care Assistance

For all sources that apply, ask:

19. What is the easiest way for you to tell us about the assistance payments [you/your family members]; weekly, every other week, twice a month, monthly, or yearly?

- a. Weekly
- b. Every other week
- c. Twice a month
- d. Monthly
- e. Yearly

20. During {year}, how much FINANCIAL assistance did [name's/your] receive (per week/every other week/twice a month/monthly)? {include amounts received on electronic benefit cards and vouchers}

Enter dollar amount: _____

Social Security, Disability, and Veterans Benefits

21. *(Ask about type/source; then for each type/source ask amount)*

At any time during {year}, even for one month, did [you/ anyone in this household] receive any FINANCIAL assistance from the following sources?

- a. Social Security Survivors Benefits
- b. Social Security Disability Benefits
- c. Veteran's Benefits

22. *{for all sources that apply, ask}* What is the easiest way for you to tell us about the assistance payments {you/your family members}; weekly, every other week, twice a month, monthly, or yearly?

- a. Weekly
- b. Every other week
- c. Twice a month
- d. Monthly
- e. Quarterly
- f. Yearly

23. During {year}, how much FINANCIAL assistance did [name's/your] receive (per week/every other week/twice a month/monthly)? {include amounts received on electronic benefit cards and vouchers}

Enter dollar amount: _____

Other Money Income

24. During {year}, did [you/ anyone in this household] receive cash income not already covered such as: income from foster child care, alimony, jury duty, armed forces reserves, severance pay, hobbies, or any other source?

- a. Yes
- b. No

Ask only if necessary:

Who received this income? _____

What was the source of this income? _____

What is the easiest way for you to tell us [name's/your] income from {source}; weekly, every other week, twice a month, monthly, or yearly?

- 1. Weekly
- 2. Every other week (bi-weekly)
- 3. Twice a month
- 4. Monthly
- 5. Yearly

25. How much did [name/you] receive (weekly/every other week/twice a month/ monthly) in income from {source} during {year}?

Enter dollar amount: _____

26. According to my calculations [name/you] earned (total) altogether from this employer in {year} before deductions. Does that sound about right?

- a. Yes
- b. No

27. Does this amount include all tips, bonuses, overtime pay, or commissions [name/you] may have received from this employer in {year}?

- c. Yes
- d. No

28. How much did [name/you] earn in tips, bonuses, overtime pay, or commissions from this employer in {year}?

Enter dollar amount: _____