There’s a Story in There: Using Census Data to Tell a Story About Our Communities

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Post-War era promised prosperity, consumer goods, suburbanization
But at the same time, policies at the federal, state, and local levels put up barriers that blocked opportunity.

• Unequal access to mortgages and credit
• Unequal access to G.I. benefits
• Segregated public housing and restrictive zoning
• Interstates cut through neighborhoods
• Unequal access to municipal services
• Limited access to unions
A picture of the economy moving into the current generation.

Cumulative Growth

U.S. Net Productivity and Hourly Compensation
Data from the Economic Policy Institute
A picture of the economy moving into the current generation.

U.S. Net Productivity and Hourly Compensation
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U.S. Net Productivity and Hourly Compensation
Data from the Economic Policy Institute
The economy has continued to grow through the generations.

U.S. Net Productivity and Hourly Compensation
Data from the Economic Policy Institute
Starting decades ago, policy changes broke the link between economic growth and growth in wages.

U.S. Net Productivity and Hourly Compensation
Data from the Economic Policy Institute
What are policy changes that broke the link between economic growth and wages?

The Fed chairman says the relationship between inflation and unemployment is growing.

A widespread drop in prices might seem like a good thing, but the Fed and economists see it as another reason for concern.

Historic low in union membership falls to new low.

The typical full-time salary in America would be $102,000 if wages had kept up with growth — but the economy has roared 90% of workers.

The state’s minimum wage is going up minimally.

Minimum Wage Is Rising, but These Workers Are Being Left Behind.
Manufacturing jobs used to provide stable, well-paid, and often unionized work.

Table 1
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Manufacturing Industries
Classified by Size of Employment
1977

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SIC Code</th>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Firms</th>
<th>Employment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Electrical and Electronic Machinery</td>
<td>697</td>
<td>53,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Machinery except Electrical</td>
<td>1,590</td>
<td>51,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Fabricated Metal Products</td>
<td>1,166</td>
<td>51,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Instruments</td>
<td>421</td>
<td>50,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Apparel</td>
<td>761</td>
<td>41,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Printing and Publishing</td>
<td>1,434</td>
<td>41,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Transportation Equipment</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>33,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Rubber and Plastic Products</td>
<td>445</td>
<td>29,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Paper and Allied Products</td>
<td>393</td>
<td>29,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Food and Kindred Products</td>
<td>577</td>
<td>28,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Textile Mill Products</td>
<td>324</td>
<td>27,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Leather and Leather Products</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>26,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Chemicals and Allied Products</td>
<td>355</td>
<td>17,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Primary Metals</td>
<td>286</td>
<td>14,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Stone, Clay, Glass and Concrete Products</td>
<td>309</td>
<td>11,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Furniture and Fixtures</td>
<td>339</td>
<td>8,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Lumber and Wood Products</td>
<td>363</td>
<td>5,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Petroleum Refining and Related Products</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>1,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Tobacco Manufacturers</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* SIC: Standard Industrial Classification, 1972


Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Incomes for people at the bottom or middle have stagnated in recent decades.

Massachusetts Income data from Economic Policy Institute and Estelle Sommeiller and Mark Price, *The New Gilded Age: Income Inequality in the U.S.*
Economic growth has benefited people at the top much more than others in recent decades.

Cumulative Growth

- At the bottom 20%
- Median (50%)
- At the top 1%

Massachusetts Income data from Economic Policy Institute and Estelle Sommeiller and Mark Price, *The New Gilded Age: Income Inequality in the U.S*
Black and Latinx workers more likely stuck in lower wage jobs.

Massachusetts Wages, Adjusted for Inflation
Data from Economic Policy Institute, U.S Census Bureau, Current Population Survey
$84,000 statewide median income, but wide disparities persist by race and geography.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statewide Median Household Income by Race</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>$102,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White (not Hispanic)</td>
<td>$91,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>$54,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or More Races</td>
<td>$66,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American</td>
<td>$35,000-49,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic (all races)</td>
<td>$48,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Median Household Income for Selected Cities/Towns</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bellingham</td>
<td>$96,000-110,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marlborough</td>
<td>$76,000-91,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Framingham</td>
<td>$82,000-90,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milford</td>
<td>$80,000-93,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklin</td>
<td>$108,000-128,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natick</td>
<td>$106,000-125,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holliston</td>
<td>$127,000-148,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northborough</td>
<td>$130,000-151,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hopedale</td>
<td>$105,000-116,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudbury</td>
<td>$186,000-204,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hudson</td>
<td>$89,000-103,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westborough</td>
<td>$110,000-128,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data from U.S. Census Bureau
American Community Survey, 2016-2020 estimates
People who are poor or near poor (<200% FPL)

- Marlborough: 22%
- Framingham: 20%
- Westborough: 14%
- Milford: 19%
- Waltham: 20%

Children who are poor or near poor (<200% FPL)

- Marlborough: 28%
- Framingham: 29%
- Westborough: 16%
- Milford: 30%
- Waltham: 28%
As many as 1 out of 4 households pay 50%+ of income on rent in some communities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selected Cities: Renters Paying 50%+ on Rent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Framingham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marlborough</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waltham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westborough</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worcester</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data from U.S. Census Bureau
American Community Survey, 2016-2020 estimates
Income inequality over the years has led to wealth inequality.

**White household net worth**
- (2019 U.S. $188,000)
- (2015 E. Mass. $247,000)

**Black household net worth**
- (2019 U.S. $24,000)
- (2015 E. Mass. $8)

2019: Median Net Worth, U.S. Federal Reserve Bank Survey of Consumer Finance
2015: Median Wealth, Boston Federal Reserve Bank, *The Color of Wealth*
If we ignore these disparities, we risk leaving more of our increasingly diverse child population behind.

Massachusetts Child Population 0-18 by Race/Ethnicity Over Time
Data from U.S. Census Bureau, Kids Count Data Center
The Commonwealth found itself at a crossroads in 2020, with a spotlight shining on inequities.
Factors such as employment and housing are significant drivers of exposure to COVID-19.

— Mass. Department of Public Health
Long-standing inequities in access to good jobs and housing played a role in COVID’s spread.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Population % People of Color</th>
<th>% Residents Poor or Near-Poor</th>
<th>Median Income</th>
<th>Renters Paying 50%+ on Rent</th>
<th>Unemployment Rate April 2020</th>
<th>COVID Case Rate as of 7/28</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>$84,000</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>$75-77,000</td>
<td>23-25%</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Framingham</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>$82-90,000</td>
<td>16-22%</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marlborough</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>$76-91,000</td>
<td>15-26%</td>
<td>15.2%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milford</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>$80-93,000</td>
<td>19-32%</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springfield</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>$40-43,000</td>
<td>26-31%</td>
<td>21.1%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waltham</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>$90-101,000</td>
<td>14-20%</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westborough</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>$110-128,000</td>
<td>16-29%</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worcester</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>$49-54,000</td>
<td>24-28%</td>
<td>17.1%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COVID relief: A $115 billion partnership between the state and federal government.

- Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act: $21 million, March 6, 2020
- Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act: $51.7 billion, March 18, 2020
- Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act: $16.3 billion, March 27, 2020
- Families First Coronavirus Response Act: $3.2 billion, April 24, 2020
- Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act: $393 million, December 27, 2020
- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA): $39.6 billion, March 11, 2021
Even before the pandemic, existing benefits helped keep children out of poverty.

U.S. Child Monthly Poverty Rates Based on the Supplemental Poverty Measure

When EITC and federal Child Tax Credit payments get distributed
A series of federal COVID relief measures directly reduced child poverty.

U.S. Monthly Child Poverty Rates Based on the Supplemental Poverty Measure

- **Jan 2020 to Jan 2021**: EITC and federal Child Tax Credit payments distributed
- **Jan 2021 to Mar 2021**: “Stimulus checks”
- **Mar 2021 to May 2021**: EITC and federal Child Tax Credit payments distributed
- **May 2021 to Jun 2021**: $600 a week federal unemployment supplement expires
- **Jun 2021 to Aug 2021**: “Stimulus checks”
- **Aug 2021 to Nov 2021**: Monthly federal Child Tax Credit checks continue
- **Nov 2021 to Jan 2022**: EITC and federal Child Tax Credit payments distributed
- **Jan 2022 to May 2022**: Monthly federal Child Tax Credit checks continue
- **May 2022 to Jul 2022**: “Stimulus checks”
- **Jul 2022 to Sep 2022**: Monthly federal Child Tax Credit checks continue
- **Sep 2022 to Nov 2022**: EITC and federal Child Tax Credit payments distributed
- **Nov 2022 to Jan 2023**: Monthly federal Child Tax Credit checks continue

**18.7%** to **16.6%**
A series of federal COVID relief measures directly reduced child poverty.

U.S. Monthly Child Poverty Rates Based on the Supplemental Poverty Measure

- EITC and federal Child Tax Credit payments distributed
- $600 a week federal unemployment supplement expires
- “Stimulus checks”
- “Stimulus checks”
- EITC and federal Child Tax Credit payments distributed
- Monthly federal child tax credit checks continue
- Monthly federal child tax credit checks stop
- EITC and federal Child Tax Credit payments distributed
- 18.7%
- 16.6%

Jan 2020, Mar 2021, May 2022
We tell the story of our communities with data from the Census Bureau.
A final few words about the 2020 Census and data.

- The pandemic dramatically affected data collection in 2020 – both the decennial Census and the annual American Community Survey. Massachusetts grassroots efforts increased participation.
- The 2020 Census likely missed 1 out of 20 young children.
- Population estimates based on the Census are used to distribute funding.
- At stake:
  - Accuracy
  - Equity
  - Power
  - Lots and lots of money
Much of federal funding is affected by Census counts.

ARPA Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Funds  
$8.7b COVID relief

Emergency Rental Assistance Program  
$894m COVID relief

Special Education  
$321m + $67m COVID relief

Title 1 funding for low-income school districts  
$259m

Child care block grants  
$150m + $383m COVID relief

Fuel assistance (LIHEAP)  
$139m + $215m COVID relief

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)  
$81m