

Census: Median income, poverty rate unchanged

By Annie Lowrey, New York Times

WASHINGTON – For the first time in half a decade, median household income did not decrease and poverty did not increase in 2012, the Census Bureau said in the release of a major annual report on poverty, insurance and earnings.

The report depicts an economy that has so far failed to improve the lot of most households, with growth failing to lift incomes and leaving about 46.5 million Americans in poverty.

Median household income, adjusted for inflation, halted its fall at \$51,017, about where it was the previous year. That is down about 9 percent from an inflation-adjusted peak of \$56,080 in 1999, though the real economy has grown about 28 percent since then. Income is also down about 8.3 percent since 2007, when the economy started to contract.

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