



Lopsided income growth in Washington

On average, income in Washington grew 31.2% between 1979 and 2007.

Income growth, 1979–2007:
31.2%

Good thing for everybody, right? Not quite. The top 1% snared a disproportionate share of that growth—59.1%. So their massive income growth far eclipsed income growth of the bottom 99%, whose raise was meager when you divide it over three decades.

Change in income, 1979–2007:
Top 1%: **222.3%** Bottom 99%: **13.9%**
Top 1%'s share of all growth: **59.1%**

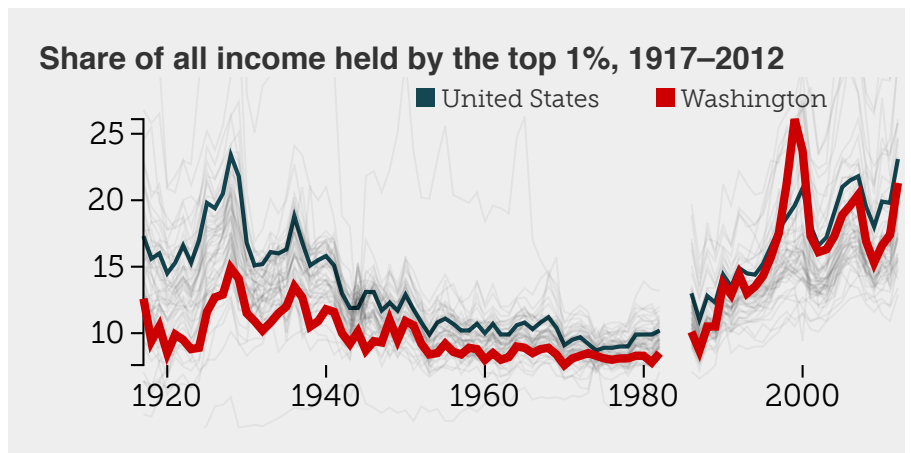
And unfortunately the Great Recession was no great leveler: The top 1% is recovering, but the bottom 99%'s income has actually gone down in the so-called recovery.

Change in income, 2009–2012:
Top 1%: **45.0%** Bottom 99%: **-3.5%**

Thus, the lopsided income growth from 1979 to 2007 extended through 2012.

Change in income, 1979–2012:
Top 1%: **188.5%** Bottom 99%: **-3.4%**

Due to this extended period of lopsided income growth, the share of all income held by the top 1% in recent years has approached or surpassed historical highs.



The upshot of these trends? A lopsided Washington economy, where top 1% average income is 27 times greater than the average income of the bottom 99%.

Average income in 2012:
Top 1%: **\$1,272,313** Bottom 99%: **\$47,517**
27 times greater