



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.

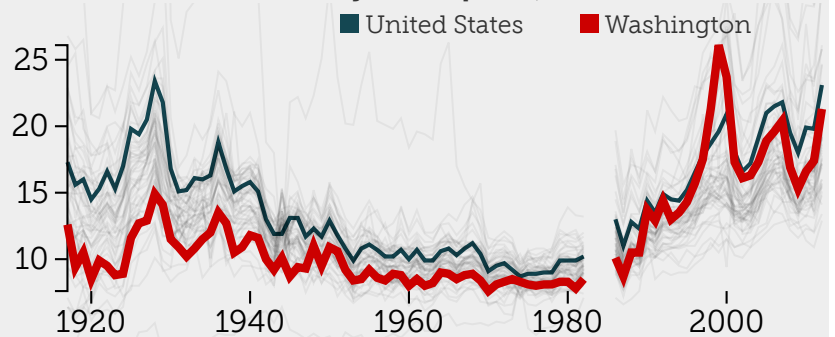
Change in income, 1979–2012:

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.

Share of all income held by the top 1%, 1917–2012



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