

# The Star-Ledger

## Census: Newark's median income up by 28 percent

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Newark's median household income jumped by 28 percent over the past seven years, the second largest increase among New Jersey's cities, according to U.S. Census figures released today.

Two main factors appear to account for the increase in Newark's median household income: First, the number of \$100,000 households in the city rose by more than 2,400. Secondly, there was a 16 percent drop in the number of people with incomes more than 50 percent below poverty levels.

An expert in New Jersey urban issues said the demolition of Newark's high-rise housing projects in the late 1990s and early 2000 is one of the main reasons for the decline in the city's impoverished population.

"It skews the stats," said Roland Anglin, executive director of Rutgers' Initiative For Regional and Community Transformation. "A lot of those people were forced to relocate to Irvington and the Oranges. They were displaced. They were absolutely displaced."

Despite Newark's gains, New Jersey has lost its position as the nation's wealthiest state. Maryland took the top spot in the national rankings, with New Jersey falling to second, according to the Census.

New Jersey's median household income increased by about \$3,800, from \$61,672 in 2005 to \$64,470 in 2006, according to the data. But that was not enough to stay ahead of Maryland, which had a median household income of \$65,144 in 2006.

Rounding out the top five were Connecticut, Hawaii and New Hampshire - all in the same rankings they held a year ago.