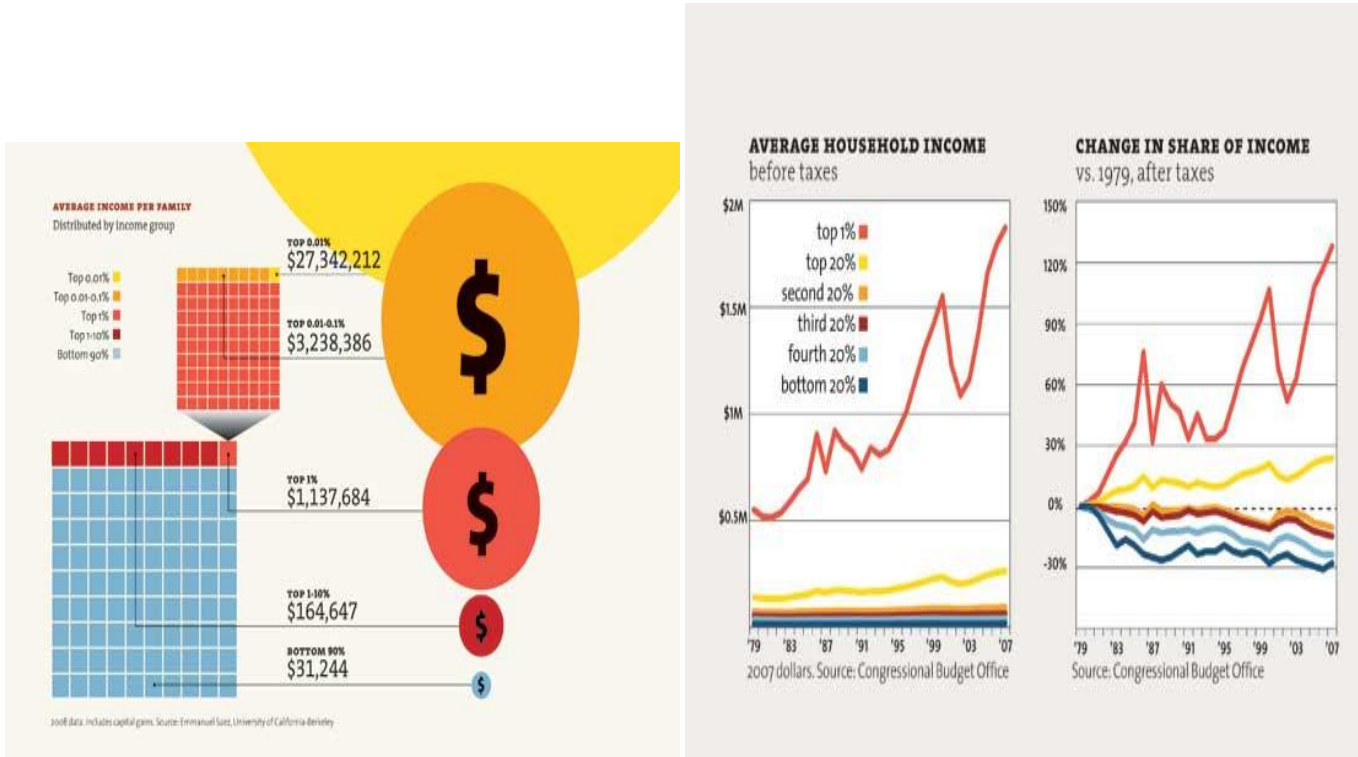


# Separate but unequal: Charts show growing rich-poor gap

By [Zachary Roth](#)— Wed., Feb 23, 5:13 pm ET

The Great Recession and the slump that followed have triggered a jobs crisis that's been [making headlines](#) since before President Obama was in office, and that will likely be with us for years. But the American economy is also plagued by a less-noted, but just as serious, problem: Simply put, over the last 30 years, the gap between rich and poor has widened into a chasm. Gradual developments like this don't typically lend themselves to news coverage. But Mother Jones magazine has crunched the data on inequality, and put together a [group of stunning new charts](#). Taken together, they offer a dramatic visual illustration of who's doing well and who's doing badly in modern America. Here are three samples: This chart shows that the poorest 90 percent of Americans make an average of \$31,244 a year, while the top 1 percent make over \$1.1 million:



- And this chart suggests most Americans have little idea of just how unequal income distribution is. And that they'd like things to be divvied up a lot more equitably:

