

New Study: Men in Their 30s Earn About \$5K Less Than Father's Generation

By Peter Grier

The Christian Science Monitor
If the American dream means doing better than your parents did, then Mike Brockman's not living it. Single, with a 10-year-old daughter, he's a server at a Black Angus restaurant in Mesa, Arizona. His father at his age had a good, steady job as a machinist at TRW.

than in Canada and many European countries, notes John Morton, managing director of Program Planning and Economic Policy for the Pew Charitable Trusts.
But for immigrants, "the economic assimilation machine is, in fact, still very strong," says Mr. Morton, who is helping lead a long-term Pew project on the American dream's health.

Today "there aren't the kind of jobs available you used to get with a high school education, and work yourself up," says Mr. Brockman. "Now you have to have training or experience to start - then you can work your way up from there."

The phrase "American dream" is relatively recent. It was popularized in the 1930s by historian James Truslow Adams, who in his day was a widely read author on the major themes and figures of the nation.

Norman Payne, on the other hand, thinks the American dream is alive and well. An immigrant from Panama, he's lived in the U.S. for 16 years, and June 28 in Boston he was sworn in as a U.S. citizen.

Yet the idea expressed by the phrase, that the U.S. was a land of opportunity where generation after generation would keep doing better and better, has always been the "gyroscope of American life," writes Southern Methodist University political scientist Cal Jillson in his book "Pursuing the American Dream."

Mr. Payne works in customer service at Kodak and has high hopes for his young son and daughter.

In some periods, the American dream has seemed more attainable than in others, says Mr. Jillson. Most recently, it was alive and well in the era from the end of World War II through the early 1970s.

"I don't think the American dream has changed," he says. "I am trying to do everything I can do so that they can do better than I did."

But since 1973, median family income has been essentially flat, says Mr. Jillson.

Two hundred and thirty-one years after the 13 colonies declared their independence from Great Britain, is the United States still the land of opportunity, the light of hope for the poor of the world?

"This is one of those periods in American history when to many ... the American dream seems illusory," Mr. Jillson says.

The economic dream that has united a diverse population for generations, that children would be more prosperous than their parents, is in question as perhaps never before.

Some polls back up this contention. In a recent CBS News survey of 17- to 29-year-olds, only 25% of respondents said their generation would be better off than their parents; 48% said they would be worse off.

Yet the nation's overall standard of living remains high. Immigrants, both legal and illegal, arrive every year by the tens of thousands, testament to the U.S. economy's continuing dynamism.

The American dream is "obsolete," says Adam Gandelman, a Boston bike messenger. "It's a scam."

Less mobility in U.S.
Overall, there is actually less economic mobility in the U.S.

Single-earner families see fall in pay

Income figures show that the days are gone when a single, stable income, typically earned by the father, was enough to launch the next generation to greater prosperity, according to a Pew report on economic mobility released this spring.

Today, men in their 30s earn about \$5,000 less in real terms than did their fathers' generation, according to Pew.

That fits with Mr. Brockman's experience. Neither he, nor his father, were graduated from college. Nor did his grandmother, but she worked her way up from a secretarial position to the executive ranks at GE.

"I couldn't get the job my dad had at [age] 30 without a degree, or waiting in line for years," he says.

Overall family income is a different story. Families with men in their 30s today have about \$4,000 more in annual income than did their parents' generation.

"The main reason that family incomes have risen is that more women have gone to work, but-tressing the incomes of men by adding a second earner," notes the Pew economic mobility report.

Katy Curtis, a real estate agent in north Scottsdale, Arizona, did not work when she was in the family-rearing stage of life. "And we survived quite well," she says.

But her two daughters, now in that 30-something cohort, are finding life economically more difficult, she says. They see new cars and plasma TVs and other accoutrements everywhere, and they want them, too.

"I think there are more demands made upon them materialistically, and it's harder," says Ms. Curtis. "Things have gone up in price, and I don't think salaries are commensurate with that."

Some experts point out that income measures today are an inexact gauge of family well-being.

Cash, for example, is just one part of compensation.

"Total compensation includes such increasingly important components of workers' pay as health benefits, contributions to retirement plans, and paid vacations," writes Heritage Foundation labor expert James Sherk in a recent analysis of economic mobility.

And the use of the Consumer Price Index to calculate inflation-adjusted pay is a mistake, according to Mr. Sherk. Economists should use the more accurate implicit price deflator instead.

"The result of this mistake is that wage growth will almost always appear to lag far behind productivity growth, even when workers are making gains," writes Mr. Sherk.

Nor does everyone judge the American dream to be purely based on monetary gain.

Mike Heitmann is a Kansas City resident visiting his wife's family in Boston, his four daughters in tow.

"The American dream is having a strong family and living in a place where we have freedoms like we do in the U.S.," says Mr. Heitmann. "Family is the most important thing."

More to American dream than money

Wallace Sheppard will return to Iraq for his third tour there in October. The Army serviceman, based in Fort Campbell, Kentucky, is also in Boston as a tourist.

"I define [the American dream] as being happy," he says. "Money doesn't really matter if you make enough to sustain your family."

And for the masses in many other parts of the world, whether they are huddled or not, the Statue of Liberty still stands as their dream destination.

Joseph Nemorin today is a line cook at Nick's Italian Restaurant on Ocean Drive in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He's been there 17 years.

He arrived in the U.S. from Haiti when he was 17. Today, he is a legal, permanent resident who says he has done better than his parents. He expects his children will do better than he has, because they were born in America.

The American dream is available for those who come to the U.S. for the right reason, he says.

"If you come to work, you don't get in trouble ... you should be doing fine, just like me."

Faye Bowers in Phoenix, Bill Frogameni in Fort Lauderdale, and Bina Venkataraman in Boston contributed to this report.

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'Live-release' Walleye Fishing Tournaments Raise Concerns



Outdoor Matters

A column from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources

With big fish, big prizes, and big business, modern walleye fishing tournaments have become the NASCAR of the fishing world.

But do they also have a big impact on our walleye populations?

The "live-release" tournament format developed by organizers over the past several years requires contestants to use a properly aerated live well and make every effort to keep the walleyes alive for release after the weigh-in. A weight deduction is taken for any fish that is unable to swim upright in the official bump tank.

Do these efforts really work? How many of these fish survive once released?

This is the topic of a multistate research project being conducted in cooperation with FLW Outdoors, one of the premier walleye tournament organizers in North America. The impact study is being conducted by graduate students at the University of Minnesota, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is one of five state partners.

Researchers visited several FLW Outdoors walleye tourna-

ment sites in Michigan last year and have been going out again this year to gather more data, reported Dave Fielder, DNR fisheries research biologist at the Alpena Great Lakes Fisheries Research Station, who is Michigan's liaison on the project.

"The researchers collect reference fish, in advance by electrofishing, which temporarily stuns the fish, allowing for their capture without the stress of hook and line techniques," Mr. Fielder said. "These fish are marked and then put in floating net pens right alongside some of the tournament-caught fish."

The primary goal of the impact study, he said, is to compare survival between the control fish and the caught fish after five days.

Other elements of the research project include a laboratory analysis to determine indicators of how successful the release of a fish will be, Mr. Fielder said. A study has been designed to assess the attitudes of the angling community on its views of competitive fishing on public waters.

"The inclusion of the angler

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At all 5 Sites
Begin Earning Entries
July 17th, 2007
Draws will be on August 24th in Sault Ste. Marie & Manistique
Draws will be on August 25th in St. Ignace, Christmas & Hessel

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Kewadin Casinos
Sault Ste. Marie Presents
Cash & Car Giveaway
July 29th
Random and Free Entry Draws for
Cash from 2-8p.m.
Grand Prize
A 2007 FUEL ECONOMY CAR
8:30 p.m.

Upcoming Events

Kewadin Casinos
Hessel, Michigan
13th Anniversary
Cook Out, CASH & MORE!
July 28th, 2007
Cook Out 5-8 p.m.
Draws 8-11 p.m.
Grand Prize draw for
ATV 4-Wheeler at 11 p.m.

Tournaments

Shores
Poker Play Cash Days
Monday thru Saturday
July 9th - December 8th, 2007
3 Ways to Win
Over \$16,500 in Cash Prizes!
\$30,000 Backjack Tournament
Aug. 10-12, 2007
Sault
\$35,000 Craps Tournament
Aug. 3-5, 2007
Manistique
\$8,000 Spin To Win
Aug. 10-12, 2007

Entertainment



TRAVIS TRITT
FRIDAY, AUGUST 10TH
SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN

Sault Ste. Marie

OUTDOOR CONCERT
July 20, 2007
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Tickets on sale NOW



TANYA TUCKER
SATURDAY, AUGUST 25TH
ST. IGNACE, MICHIGAN



ALICE COOPER
SATURDAY,
AUGUST 18TH
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MICHIGAN

Promotions cannot be changed without prior approval by the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Gaming Commission. Promotions can be cancelled at Management's discretion.

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Upcoming Events

Kewadin Casinos
Christmas, Michigan
Lucky #13
Anniversary
August 4th, 2007
Free Entry & Random Draws for
CASH!
GRAND PRIZE
2008 Polaris Ranger!

Rapids Lounge Entertainment

Sault Ste. Marie
Comedy starts at 8pm - Thurs.
July 19 - Jim Wiggins & Troy Hammond
July 26 - Tracy Smith & Squishyman (Kevin Barber)
Live Music start at 9pm Fri. & Sat.
July 27 & 28 - Uncle Ugly

Nothern Pines Entertainment

St. Ignace
Wednesday Comedy Shows start at 9pm
July 18 - Jim Wiggins & Troy Hammond
July 25 - Tracy Smith & Squishyman (Kevin Barber)
Music starts at 9pm
July 20 & 21 - Detour
July 27 & 28 - Bad Side
Manistique Comedy Night
Every Friday Night
July 20 - Jim Wiggins & Troy Hammond
Live Entertainment Friday
July 27 & 28 - 2nd Hand Band