

The Middle Class: A Losing Economic Struggle

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Research Question

In the past few decades the middle class has begun melding into the upper class and more significantly the lower class. The question now is how long will it take before the middle economic class is completely gone. This kind of change can be detrimental to middle class lifestyles as the price of goods increase however the pay for the family decreases or remains stagnant. If another serious case of inflation takes place it could be destructive for the former middle class.

Hypothesis

Over the coming decades, will the middle class divide and merge into the upper or lower class?

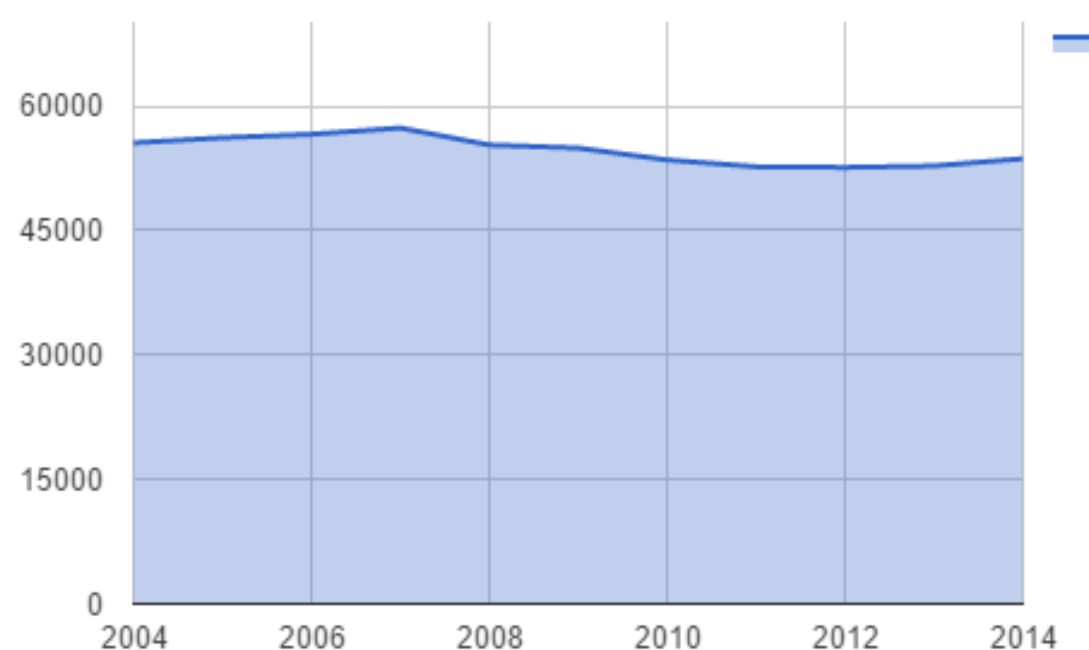


Background

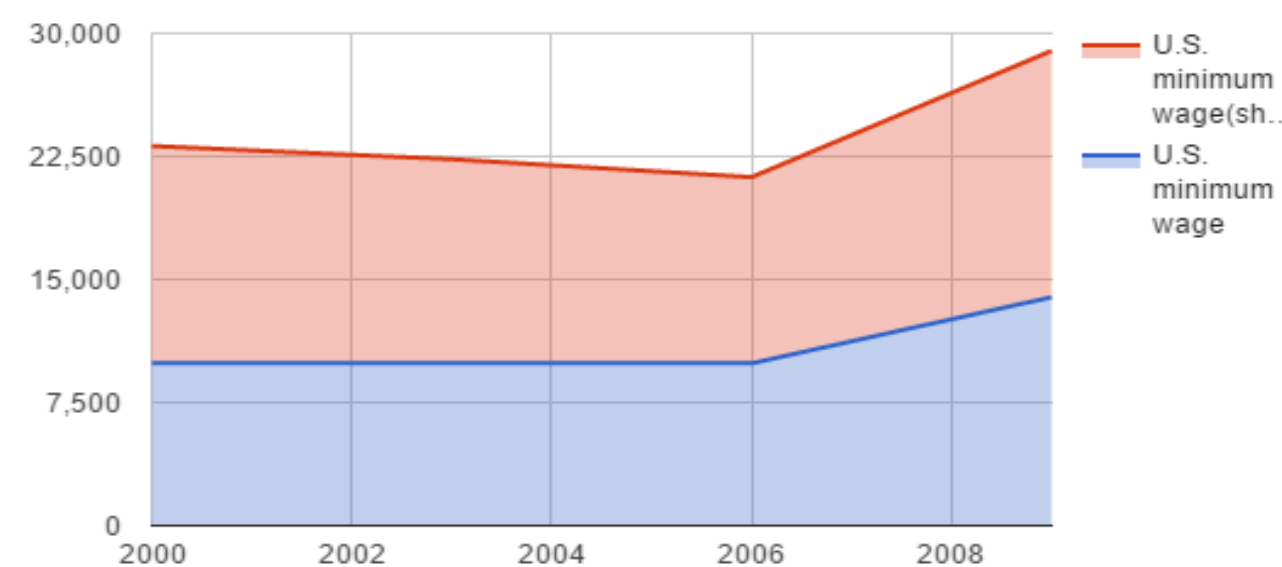
- The largest portion of the U.S. population is in the “middle class” followed by the “lower class” and lastly the upper class.
- The lower and upper classes have seen some income increase in past years.
- Contributing factors to economic class can be: Salary, marital status, housing, education, children, etc.

Gathered Data

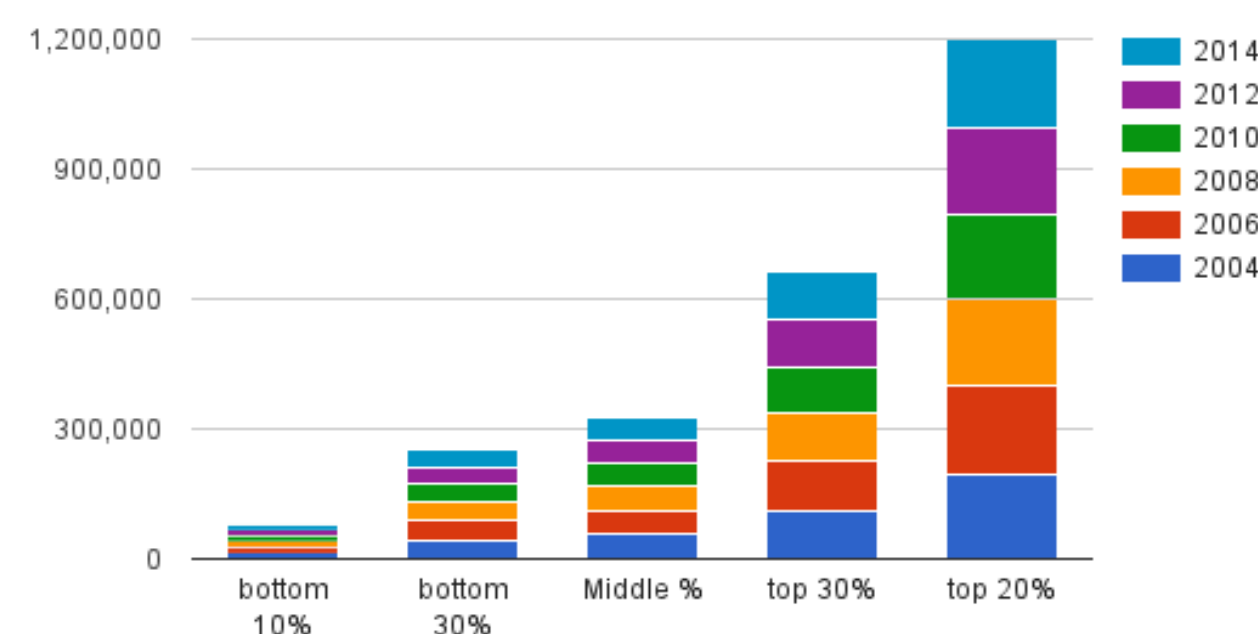
Median wages for the past decade



U.S. minimum wage and U.S. minimum wage (showing inflation)



Income Gaps In Percentiles



Results

1. The income for the Middle class has remained generally stagnant for the past decade.
2. Both the minimum wage lower class and the top 20% upper class have had increased income in past years.
3. In the 2015 census wealth inequality publication the top two quintiles take up about 72% of U.S. income dispersion.

Methodology

Most of the data gathered is from The Census Bureau publications made in the past decade. After the data was gathered from the Census and labor department I went through and entered the data into Google sheets presentations. In order to answer the research question I needed to find not only one set of data but numerous sets to prove it right. This topic is pretty important to me because I am in the middle class currently and it is good to understand one's current placement.

Conclusion

From this standpoint the “middle class” is eventually going to cease to exist. The exact spread of time before the U.S. is reverted into an almost Feudalistic state is hard to determine. The current dismantling of the middle class could be slowed by future deflation: however predictions for an economic downturn in upcoming years does not seem likely.